

International

Bangladesh's Interim leader Muhammad Yunus announces elections next year.

Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, has announced that the country's next national elections will be held in the first half of April next year. Dr. Yunus said the Election Commission will provide a detailed roadmap for the elections at an appropriate time. The chief adviser added that the government is taking all necessary measures to ensure a favourable environment for the polls.

US vetoes UN Gaza ceasefire resolution backed by 14 nations.

The United States has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, blocking a measure that had the support of all 14 other council members, including the United Kingdom. The resolution, which also called for unrestricted humanitarian access across Gaza, was introduced amid escalating concerns over the humanitarian crisis in the enclave. The US cited Hamas's failure to disarm as the main reason for opposing the draft. This marks the second time the US has used its veto power to block a ceasefire resolution on Gaza in recent months.

National

India, Italy agree to enhance agriculture and energy cooperation, investments.

India and Italy are set to boost collaboration in key sectors like aerospace, energy transition, and agriculture. Both nations aim to establish joint working groups in the automobile and space industries, while also exploring opportunities in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. Furthermore, they intend to facilitate the movement of skilled professionals between the two countries.

The two nations leaders also co-chaired the 22nd session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC).

AIIMS Delhi, IIT Delhi to establish Center of Excellence for AI in healthcare.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (AI-CoE). The new centre will focus on developing cutting-edge AI-driven solutions aimed at strengthening key national health programmes across India.

India, Vietnam decide to cooperate in media & entertainment sector.

India and Vietnam have agreed to step up cooperation in the media and entertainment sector during a meeting between the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L Murugan and a delegation of high-ranking officials from Vietnam in Delhi. In 2022, the two countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The India-Vietnam bilateral relations were elevated in 2016 to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vietnam.

Elon Musk's Starlink gets licence to start India services.

Elon Musk's Starlink has received a licence from the telecom department for providing satellite internet services in India, a key milestone that will take it closer towards launching commercial operations in the country. Starlink is the third company after Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications to get a licence from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to provide satellite internet services in the country.

Business and Economy

RBI cuts repo rate by 0.5%.

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee has voted 5:1 to reduce the policy repo rate by a bigger-than-expected 50 basis points to 5.50% with immediate effect. This is the RBI's third repo rate cut since February and will further reduce the interest burden for borrowers but will also cut the interest earned on savings by depositors. The RBI has also reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points, now standing at 3% will unlock ₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity to the banking system for lending to productive sectors of the economy.

The reduction in CPI inflation forecast to 3.7% for FY26 will likely increase real disposable income, supporting consumer sentiment.

RBI reduces qualifying asset threshold for NBFC-MFIs.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the qualifying asset threshold for non-banking financial companies – microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) to 60% from 75%, in a boost to the industry.

Qualifying assets of NBFC-MFIs shall constitute a minimum of 60% of the total assets (netted off by intangible assets), on an ongoing basis. If an NBFC-MFI fails to maintain the qualifying assets as per the threshold for four consecutive quarters, it shall approach the Reserve Bank with a remediation plan for taking a view in the matter.

RBI invites authors to write books in Hindi on Economics, Banking & finance.

The Reserve Bank of India has launched a ‘Scheme for Writing Books Originally in Hindi on Economics, Banking and Financial Subjects’ to encourage original writing and research in Hindi on these themes.

Under this scheme, working or retired professors, including Assistant and Associate Professors, from UGC-recognized Indian universities will be awarded three prizes of One lakh twenty-five thousand rupees each for authoring original books in Hindi on these subjects.

Sudarshan Venu to take over as chairman of TVS Motor.

TVS Motor Company board has named its current Managing Director Sudarshan Venu as also its incoming Chairman. Effective August 25, 2025, Mr. Venu will be appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director.

The appointment is in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the company’s sustained growth and strategic development during his tenure as the Director.

LIC raises stake in Dr. Reddy’s.

Life Insurance Corporation of India’s stake in Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories raced past the 8% mark recently with the country’s largest

institutional investor acquiring an additional, more than 2% in the generic drugmaker since October 2024.

From about 6.20%, the holding increased to 8.21% in a period of less than eight months through open market purchases. In terms of number of shares, LIC had acquired more than 1.67 crore during this period.

RBI to raise gold lending LTV to 85% for loans under ₹2.5 lakh: Malhotra.

Providing relief to small borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for gold-backed loans up to ₹5 lakh, while the LTV for loans below ₹2.5 lakh has been set at 85 per cent, and those between ₹2.5 lakh and ₹5 lakh at 80 per cent. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the relaxation will come with riders, and pointed out that both principal as well as interest will be included while computing the LTV as against the current industry practice of sticking only to the principal.

Sports

Spin bowler Piyush Chawla announces retirement from all forms of cricket.

Indian spin bowler Piyush Chawla has officially retired from all forms of cricket. In his 20-year professional career, he played three Tests, 25 ODIs and seven T20Is, with his last appearance for India coming back in 2012 at the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka. Chawla was part of the winning Indian squad during the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup and then 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.

Gukesh secures his fourth classical victory at Norway chess.

Dommaraju Gukesh has secured his fourth classical victory at the 2025 Norway Chess tournament. In a thrilling Round 9 encounter, he defeated China’s Wei Yi, climbing to 14.5 points and narrowing the gap between him and tournament leader Magnus Carlsen to just half a point. With nine rounds completed, and just one more to go, a win for Gukesh in the final round could crown the young Indian prodigy with his first Norway Chess title fitting follow-up to his World Championship triumph.