

International

Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa wins UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025.

The Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa has been announced as the laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025. The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize is a tribute to all journalists who continue to inform us despite numerous risks and threats to their personal safety.

The award ceremony will take place in Brussels, Belgium, on the sidelines of the World Conference on Press Freedom on 7 May 2025.

UAE schools to teach AI starting in kindergarten.

The United Arab Emirates will introduce artificial intelligence as a mandatory subject across all government schools beginning next academic year, positioning the nation at the forefront of educational innovation in preparation for an increasingly technology-driven future. The program will span the entire educational journey from kindergarten through Grade 12, making the UAE one of the first nations globally to implement such extensive AI education.

India jumps four places to rank 130th on Human Development Index: UNDP report.

India ranked 130th on the Human Development Index, out of 193 countries and territories, according to the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR) released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The country's HDI score rose from 0.644 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, driven by improvements in health, education, and income. Despite this, India remains in the medium human development category.

India's life expectancy also rose to 72 years in 2023 from 67.7 in 2022, while expected schooling years increased to 13 from 12.6, with average schooling years increasing to 6.9 from 6.57. Meanwhile, the per capita Gross National Income (GNI) jumped from \$6,951 to \$9,047 (PPP 2021).

Iceland, with an HDI value of 0.972, ranked at the top of the Index, followed by Norway and Switzerland. South Sudan was at the bottom at 193 with 0.388.

National

Indian Armed Forces launch 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

The Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', post midnight, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed. The Ministry of Defence in a statement, said, altogether, nine sites were targeted.

The Ministry further added that its actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature and no Pakistani military facilities have been targeted.

IAF to conduct two-day mega military exercise near Pakistan border in Rajasthan.

The Indian Air Force will carry out a two-day mega military exercise in Rajasthan, along the International Border with Pakistan, from May 7. The IAF has termed it a pre-planned routine training exercise that will involve all the frontline fighter jets, including Rafale, Sukhoi-30 and Jaguar aircraft.

The exercise is scheduled to begin at 3:30 PM on May 7 and will continue until 9:30 PM tomorrow, restricting airspace in the affected areas.

Civil defence mock drill to be conducted across 244 districts of the country.

The Centre had asked the states to conduct mock drills under the name 'Operation Abhyaas' on May 7 to evaluate civil defence preparedness in the country. It has decided to organize the civil defence exercise and rehearsal across the 244 categorized civil defence districts of the country. The conduct of the exercise is planned up to the village level. The civil defence exercise is aimed at assessing the operational efficacy and coordination of various civil defence measures.

The mock drill will assess the effectiveness of air raid warning systems, operationalization of Hotline or radio communication Links with the Indian Air Force, as well as it will test the functionality of control rooms

India's first AI data center park launched in Nava Raipur.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai laid the foundation of the nation's first artificial intelligence (AI)-based Data Centre Park that will come up on 14 acres of land in new capital city Nava Raipur. The data centre has been designed with a focus on environment protection. It will follow green and energy-efficient technologies.

Operated by RackBank Datacenters Private Limited, it will include a 2.7-hectare area developed as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). In addition to data storage and processing and artificial intelligence, the park will provide advanced services in fields of health technology, defence, FinTech, and data analytics.

K V Rabiya, icon of Kerala's literacy mission, dies at 59.

K V Rabiya, known for her prominent role in Kerala's adult literacy programme, died at her home in Malappuram. She was 59. Rabiya fought against heavy odds and personal tragedies, right from childhood, to work relentlessly for the betterment of the differently abled and inspired thousands of women to enter the world of letters.

In 2022, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for social work. She received several honours, including the Kannagi Devi Stree Shakti Puraskar, instituted by the Child Welfare Department of the Union government, in 2000. She also won the Youth Volunteer against Poverty award, jointly instituted by the Union Youth Affairs Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme.

Andhra Pradesh to set up country's first Transmedia Entertainment City in state.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

CreativeLand Asia (CLA) to conceptualise and operationalise 'Creatorland', India's first Transmedia Entertainment City in the state.

Creatorland will have immersive theme parks, gaming zones, global cinema co-production zones and it will also help drive job creation, skill development, tourism and digital innovation.

Intel India, IndiaAI Mission tie up to bolster AI capabilities and skilling.

Intel India and the Central government's IndiaAI mission have joined hands to launch an initiative focused on bolstering AI capabilities and skills nationwide.

The partnership, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to empower young individuals, professionals, startups, and public sector leaders, enabling them to leverage AI's potential for societal advancement and effective governance

The collaboration will focus on four key programmes: YuvaAI, StartupAI, IndiaAI Dialogues, and enabling Bhashini for scaling to remote regions.

Business and Economy

India, U.K. conclude 'mutually beneficial' Free Trade Agreement.

In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, along with a Double Contribution Convention.

The free trade agreement will unlock new potential for the two nations to jointly develop products and services for global markets. It will enable comprehensive market access for goods across all sectors. India will significantly gain from tariff elimination on about 99 percent of the tariff lines covering almost hundred percent of the trade value.

The FTA will boost manufacturing and export opportunities in sectors like textiles, leather, footwear, toys, gems, jewellery and engineering goods among others. This will improve Indian goods competitiveness in the UK and in other countries

Sumitomo Mitsui to acquire 51% stake in Yes Bank.

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation is likely to pick up 51% stake in Yes Bank. The Japanese bank is reportedly in talks with several key equity holders including the State Bank of India (SBI) which controls 24% stake in the bank.

Goldsikka unveils gold-melting ATM.

Hyderabad-based 'Goldsikka' has unveiled an AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM offering users the ability to buy, sell, exchange, lease, digitise and monetise gold and gold jewellery. The machine offers an integrated Augmented Reality (AR) experience, allowing users to virtually try on jewellery before making a purchase.

Goldsikka launched India's first real-time Gold ATM in 2022. The company has already set up 14 Gold ATMs (which dispense gold and silver coins) across India and three ATMs in other countries

FSIB recommends Sanjay Joshi as CMD of Oriental Insurance Company.

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Sanjay Joshi for the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Oriental Insurance Company Limited. The position was vacant following the retirement of R.R. Singh in February 2025. Joshi, a 1989-batch officer, is currently General Manager at United India Insurance Company.

Sports

Khelo India Youth Games: Maharashtra leads medal tally.

In Khelo India Youth Games, the Maharashtra team has reached the number one position with six gold and a total number of 19 medals in its kitty. The Rajasthan team with six gold, one silver and one bronze is in second position. Karnataka which has bagged 18 medals including five gold has the third position in the medal tally.