

## International

### Thousands flee Thailand-Cambodia border after deadly clashes.

Thousands of civilians along the Thailand-Cambodia border are fleeing after an escalation of violence between the two countries. Thailand's military has launched air attacks along its disputed border with Cambodia as the Southeast Asian neighbours traded blame for clashes that killed one Thai soldier and four Cambodian civilians.

The attacks marked the latest outbreak of violence between the neighbours after a ceasefire that ended five days of deadly clashes in July 2025. At least 48 people were killed during the hostilities, while an estimated 300,000 were displaced temporarily.

### India to host 20th UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee Session at Red Fort.

India will host the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) from 8th to 13th of December at the Red Fort in New Delhi. India has nominated Diwali – the festival of light, brotherhood, compassion, and collective celebration – as its submission for the UNESCO Intangible Heritage list this year.

## National

### Fifth edition of Joint Military exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti -2025" started in Rajasthan.

The Fifth edition of the Joint Military exercise between India and Malaysia, "Exercise Harimau Shakti-2025", commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan. The exercise is being conducted from 05 to 18 December 2025. The aim of this exercise is to jointly rehearse the conduct of Sub-Conventional Operations

under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The scope of the exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations. Both sides will practice tactical actions such as cordon, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, etc. In addition, Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting and Yoga will also form part of the exercise curriculum.

### UMEED portal for Waqf properties officially closed after six-month window.

The UMEED Central Portal for management of Waqf Properties has been officially closed for uploads on the 6th of this month. The Ministry of Minority Affairs informed that the portal has completed its 6-month window, as per the UMEED Act, 1995 and the clear directions of the Supreme Court. The Ministry noted that over 5 lakh Waqf properties were initiated on the portal, while over 2 lakh properties were approved by the designated approvers.

UMEED stands for the United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.

### IGNCA unveils Abhijeet Joag's book on India's cultural identity.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has launched the book "Bharat: That Is India – Reclaiming Our Real Identity" by Abhijeet Joag in New Delhi. The event was attended by Bihar's Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, IGNCA Trust President Ram Bahadur Rai, among others.

### Indian Army hosts Inno-Yoddha 2025 to promote soldier-led innovation.

The Indian Army has conducted its annual Idea and Innovation Competition and Seminar, Inno-Yoddha 2025, in New Delhi. The event was attended by Lieutenant General Pushpendra Pal Singh, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, who felicitated the selected innovators.

These soldier-driven solutions aim to strengthen operational readiness, logistics efficiency and training standards across the Indian Army. It added that over the past five years, the Army's innovation ecosystem has delivered notable results.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Fino Payments Bank gets RBI nod to become a small finance bank.**

Fino Payments Bank has received Reserve Bank of India's in-principle approval for conversion into a small finance bank, making it the first one among its peers to do so. Fino, the only publicly listed entity in the payments bank space, would now be able to lend after the conversion, something which payments banks are not allowed to do.

### **PNB launches premium RuPay metal credit card 'Luxura'.**

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced a new RuPay metal credit card, 'Luxura', aimed at customers in the premium segment. The launch was announced at an event in New Delhi, where the bank also named Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its first female brand ambassador.

The metal card includes a rewards programme that offers welcome and milestone points linked to specific spending thresholds. It also provides hotel- and dining-related benefits through partner networks.

### **SEBI approves registration of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust.**

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has received Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI's approval for registration of Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust. This significant step aims to unlock the monetization potential of the National Highway assets while creating a high-quality, long-term investment instrument primarily targeting retail and domestic investors.

Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust is a public Infrastructure Investment Trust aimed at enabling broad-based public participation in national highway monetisation.

### **RBI asks banks to ringfence non-core business.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to submit a detailed roadmap by March 2026 on how they will ringfence their core banking operations from riskier non-core businesses, marking a shift in regulatory approach to strengthen group-level risk management. Under the revised framework, banks may continue to operate multiple lending entities within the group—such as specialised finance arms—provided they obtain approval from their respective boards. The regulator has asked lenders to secure board clearance and implement the new structure by 31 March 2028.

Separately, the central bank relaxed rules for non-financial holding companies to conduct businesses like mutual funds, insurance, pension fund management, investment advisory and broking. The entities can intimate the RBI within 15 days following the board decision against the previous requirement for prior approval.

### **Centre plans RRB listings in FY27, two banks to debut.**

The Central government has directed state-run lenders to prepare for the stock market listing of their sponsored regional rural banks (RRBs) in the next fiscal year. At least two RRBs, likely including Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, are being considered for market debut in the first half of FY27.

This move follows a consolidation exercise that reduced the number of regional rural banks.

### **Unclaimed deposits in Oct reduced by ₹760 cr: RBI deputy gov S C Murmu.**

Unclaimed deposits in October saw a reduction of around Rs 760 crore as a result of a government campaign and incentives to banks from the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI), Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu said during the post-MPC press meet.

Recently, in the Lok Sabha, the minister of state for finance said the RBI has undertaken various public awareness campaigns through print, radio, and digital media to educate the public about the scheme. RBI had launched the centralised web portal UD GAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access Information) for the public. According to the portal, as of July 1, 2025, there were 8,59,683 users registered and accessing the UD GAM portal. The portal facilitates registered users to search unclaimed deposits or amounts across multiple banks in one place in a centralised manner.

### **Govt may seek bids for \$7 billion IDBI Bank stake this month.**

India is poised to seek bids for its \$7.1 billion majority stake in IDBI Bank Ltd., a key step in its long-running effort to privatize the previously distressed lender and accelerate a divestment push.

India is aiming to sell 60.72% in the Mumbai-based lender, which amounts to about \$7.1 billion at IDBI Bank's current market price. The bank, once burdened by heavy bad loans, has emerged from a major cleanup and returned to profitability in recent years after capital support and aggressive recoveries helped it cut non-performing assets sharply.

### **Russia's Gazprombank, Alfa Bank seek RBI approval to set up India branches.**

Russian lenders Gazprombank and Alfa Bank have sought clearance to begin operating in India. Alfa Bank is Russia's largest privately-owned lender and has been under Western sanctions since 2022, when Moscow launched its full invasion of Ukraine.

Gazprombank, partially owned by energy firm Gazprom, primarily handled payments

for Moscow's energy exports until it was placed under sanctions last year.

Both banks have sought a licence from India's central bank to open branches in the country.

## **Sports**

### **Lando Norris wins First Formula One world title.**

Lando Norris finished third in the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP 2025 and thus won the Formula World Drivers' Championship for the first time in his career, ending Red Bull's Max Verstappen's hold on the title. Norris is the first McLaren driver to have won the title since Lewis Hamilton in 2008. Norris only needed to finish on the podium of the season-ending race to seal the victory, and he finished third, behind teammate Oscar Piastri in second and race-winner Verstappen.

### **Badminton: Sanskar Saraswat clinches Men's Singles Title at 2025 Guwahati Masters.**

Sanskar Saraswat won the men's singles title at the 2025 Guwahati Masters. He defeated his compatriot Mithun Manjunath 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in the final. This victory marks Sanskar's first Super 100 title. In the men's doubles event, the Indian pair of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and K. Sai Pratheek went down to the Malaysian duo of Aaron Tai and Kang Khai Xing, losing 13-21, 18-21 in the final.

### **Indian shooter Suruchi Singh wins Women's 10 metre air pistol gold with junior world record at ISSF World Cup Final in Doha.**

India made a strong start at the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final today, with Suruchi Singh securing the women's 10m air pistol gold and setting a new junior world record. Compatriot Sainyam added silver. Suruchi shot 245.1 in the final, surpassing Manu Bhaker's six-year-old junior world record of 244.7.