

## International

### France Delivers 1st Mirage 2000-5 Jets to Ukraine

France has officially delivered its first batch of Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets to Ukraine.

After months of training Ukrainian pilots, France will now assist Ukraine in defending its airspace.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced the transfer of Mirage 2000-5 jets to Ukraine as part of France's military cooperation with Kyiv.

### Malawian President Orders Withdrawal of Troops from Congo

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera has ordered Defence Force Commander Paul Valentino Phiri to begin preparations for the withdrawal of Malawian troops from the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The Malawian troops are part of a Southern African Development Community mission to help the DRC government fight rebels in the east.

### BIMSTEC Digital Conclave Begins in Colombo

A 2-day-long BIMSTEC digital conclave kicked off in Colombo with the theme Building Digital Public Infrastructure for Shared Prosperity.

The conclave includes panel discussions in which eminent leaders and experts from digital economy sectors from the region share their insights.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is an international organisation that promotes economic cooperation between seven countries in South and Southeast Asia.

### India Builds HICDP Kuri Health Post-Birthing Centre in Nepal

Nepal and India's friendship takes one step forward by laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Kuri Health Post-Birthing Centre Building at Khaniyabas Rural Municipality in Dhading.

Kuri Health Post-Birthing Centre is being built with the Government of India's financial assistance at the project cost of NRs.25.10 million under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation'. The Government of India's grant under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation' is being utilised to construct a Health Post-Birthing Centre and other allied

facilities. The project is being taken up as a High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP).

## National

### India's Renewable Energy Capacity Reaches Historic Milestone of 100 GW in Solar Power

India has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 Giga Watt (GW) of installed solar power capacity, reinforcing its position as a global leader in renewable energy.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said in a statement that this achievement is a testament to the nation's commitment to a cleaner, greener future. It marks a significant step toward realizing the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030, set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India has also made significant strides in solar manufacturing. In 2014, the country had a limited solar module production capacity of just 2 GW. Over the past decade, this has surged to 60 GW in 2024, establishing India as a global leader in solar manufacturing.

### PM Modi Holds Extensive Meeting of the Advisory Board of WAVES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an extensive meeting of the Advisory Board of WAVES, the global summit that brings together the world of entertainment, creativity and culture.

He interacted with top professionals from India and the world, including actors Amitabh Bachchan, Diljit Dosanjh, Rajnikanth, Shah Rukh Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Chiranjeevi, Anil Kapoor, Akshay Kumar and Anupam Kher. He also interacted with music director A. R. Rahman, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Chairperson of Mahindra and Mahindra Anand Mahindra, and others.

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of Indian Art History Congress begins in Noida

The 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Indian Art History Congress has begun in Noida. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the three-day event.

The conference aims to be a platform that brings together conversations on the various forms of artistic and performative representations of the epics. The theme for this year event is "Rendering of Indian Epics in Art and

Culture,” which aims to highlight the diverse forms of artistic expressions based on the epics.

### **Business and Economy**

#### **RBI Reduces Interest Rates for First Time in Nearly 5 Years**

Almost after 5 years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points, from 6.50 per cent to 6.25 per cent. Governor Sanjay Malhotra made the announcement today in Mumbai, following a three-day meeting of the MPC.

As a result, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate will be set at 6.00 per cent, while the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate will both remain at 6.50 per cent. The MPC has also unanimously decided to maintain a ‘neutral’ stance, focusing unambiguously on aligning inflation with the target while supporting growth.

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The 25 basis points rate cut to 6.25 per cent comes after the last rate reduction in May 2020. The most recent revision occurred in February 2023, when the policy rate was raised by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent.

### **Sports**

#### **FIFA suspends Pakistan Football Federation after Failure to Amend Constitution**

The International Football Federation (FIFA) has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) after it failed to amend its constitution as required for the smooth and fair governance of the sport in the country. This is the Pakistan Football Federation’s third suspension since 2017.

Since June 2019, Pakistan’s football has been managed by a FIFA-appointed Normalisation Committee, which was tasked with organizing elections and addressing parallel factions within the football setup. However, the

committee has failed to effectively implement these plans.

#### **Indian men’s doubles pair Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan Enter Chennai Open Doubles Final**

Indian men’s doubles pair Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan have reached the finals of Chennai Open Tennis. They defeated top seeds Ray Ho of Taiwan and Matthew Christopher Romios of Australia in the first semifinal 7-6, 7-6.

However, another Indian pair of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth lost to the Japanese pair of Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi in the second semifinal 2-6, 7-6, 8-10.

#### **9th Asian Winter Games Kick Off in Harbin**

The Ninth Asian Winter Games (AWG) 2025 has begun at Harbin, the capital city of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

A record 34 countries and regions are competing in the games. The 88-member Indian contingent, which includes 59 athletes and 29 team officials, will participate in the games.

#### **15 year old Maaya Rajeshwaran storms into women’s singles semifinals of WTA Mumbai Open**

In Tennis, Maaya Rajeshwaran has stormed into the semifinal in women’s singles of the L&T Mumbai Open in Mumbai. The 15-year-old Maaya defeated Mei Yamaguchi of Japan 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the quarterfinals. She is now the only Indian in contention for the top prize in the singles and will take on Jil Teichmann of Switzerland in the semifinal.

In Women’s doubles, Prarthana Thombare and Arianne Hartono defeated Eden Silva and Anastasia Tikhonova 2-6, 6-4, 10-2 in the semifinal to make it to the title clash for the second year running.