

International

China Commissions Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Fujian to expand naval power.

China has officially commissioned its third and most advanced aircraft carrier, Fujian, after successful sea trials, marking a major milestone in its naval modernization drive. Commissioned at a naval base in Hainan in the presence of President Xi Jinping, the Fujian is the first indigenously designed and built carrier, equipped with a cutting-edge electromagnetic launch system similar to that of U.S. Ford-class carriers.

Denmark to ban social media for under-15s to protect youth mental health.

Denmark has announced a new policy banning social media use for children under 15, allowing access only for 13–14-year-olds with parental approval.

Popular platforms like Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok are widely used by Danish children, who spend nearly 2 hours and 40 minutes online daily.

The move mirrors Australia's 2024 decision to restrict social media for users under 16.

India-EU FTA talks end in New Delhi with focus on balanced, inclusive trade.

The latest round of India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations concluded in New Delhi after a week-long session that began on the 3rd of this month.

Officials discussed a wide range of areas, including goods, services, investment, sustainable development, and trade rules.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal met EU Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand to review progress.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade deal that supports growth and equitable benefits.

India and the UK discuss enhanced cooperation in the law and justice sector.

A delegation from the UK Ministry of Justice met officials from India's Ministry of Law and Justice in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral cooperation in legal affairs.

The discussions focused on legislative drafting, repealing obsolete laws, tribunal reforms, gender justice, and training programs for officers from both nations.

Both sides also reviewed the operational aspects of their existing agreement, reaffirming their commitment to deeper collaboration in promoting effective legal and judicial systems.

India sends 20 tonnes of relief aid to Cuba after hurricane Melissa.

India dispatched 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Cuba in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

A special aircraft carrying the relief materials arrived in Havana today, including a BHISHM Medical Trauma Unit, essential medicines, generators, tents, bedding, kitchen and hygiene kits, and solar lanterns.

The Indian Embassy in Havana reaffirmed India's solidarity and long-standing friendship with Cuba, emphasizing its commitment to humanitarian cooperation and support in disaster recovery efforts.

Obituary

Nobel Laureate James Watson, DNA co-discoverer, passes away.

James Watson, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who co-discovered the double-helix structure of DNA with Francis Crick in 1953, has died at 97.

Their discovery, based partly on Rosalind Franklin's X-ray work, revolutionized molecular biology and earned Watson, Crick, and Maurice Wilkins the 1962 Nobel Prize.

Born in Chicago, Watson taught at Harvard and later led Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

National

HAL signs \$1-billion deal with GE Aerospace for 113 Fighter Jet Engines.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a \$1-billion (₹8,870 crore) agreement with GE Aerospace to procure 113 F404-GE-IN20 jet engines for India's Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A programme.

Deliveries will commence in 2027 and conclude by 2032.

The deal includes a comprehensive support package for 97 LCA Mk1A jets approved by the Defence Ministry under a ₹62,370-crore contract.

Despite recent trade tensions with the U.S., this agreement reinforces India-U.S. defence collaboration and strengthens India's indigenous fighter jet programme.

India becomes world's third-largest metro network, says Minister Manohar Lal.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal announced that India now ranks third globally in metro connectivity, with a network spanning over 1,100 kilometres, including IRCTC-linked routes. Speaking at the 18th Urban Mobility India Conference 2025 in Gurugram, he said ongoing underground pipeline projects could soon make India the second-largest metro network, surpassing the U.S.

The government also plans to introduce pod taxis, air taxis, and ropeway systems in Delhi. He highlighted metro-driven environmental benefits, including a 17 lakh-unit reduction in air pollutants and savings of 27 crore commuting hours annually.

Business and Economy

India's auto retail sales hit record high in October, surge 41%: FADA.

India's automobile retail sales soared 40.5% year-on-year in October 2025, reaching an all-time high, according to the Federation

of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

The growth was led by a 51.76% rise in two-wheelers (31.5 lakh units), 11.35% in passenger vehicles (5.57 lakh), 17.7% in commercial vehicles, and 14.2% in tractors. FADA President C.S. Vigneshwar attributed the surge to festive demand, rural recovery, and GST rate cuts—including the reduction of small-car GST to 18%, making ownership more affordable and boosting consumer sentiment.

Indian banks stronger and more mature than a decade ago: RBI Governor Malhotra.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that India's banking system is now far more mature and resilient than it was a decade ago, thanks to reforms focused on recognition, resolution, and recapitalization.

Speaking at an SBI event, he noted that credit and deposits tripled, while the CRAR improved from 13.5% (2015) to 17.5% (2025), and CET-1 rose from 10.43% to 14.73%.

GNPA and NNPA fell sharply to 2.3% and 0.5%, respectively. Profitability surged, with Return on Assets rising from -0.24% to 1.37% and Return on Equity from -2% to 14%.

He also supported easing restrictions on acquisition financing, emphasizing balanced regulation and stronger supervision to sustain growth.

World Bank urges deeper financial reforms to achieve India's \$30 trillion economy vision.

The World Bank, in its latest Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) report, emphasized that India must accelerate financial sector reforms to realize its \$30 trillion economy goal by 2047.

The report noted that since the last Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) in 2017, India's financial system has become more resilient, diversified, and inclusive.

However, it stressed the need for continued reforms to enhance private capital mobilization, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and support sustained economic growth and investment.

Sports

Rathika Suthanthira Seelan storms into NSW Open semifinals.

India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan advanced to the semifinals of the NSW Open squash tournament in Sydney with a commanding straight-game win over Australia's Karen Bloom.

The 24-year-old from Chennai, seeded second, defeated her opponent 11-8, 11-7, 11-4 in just 22 minutes during the quarterfinals of the PSA Challenger event.