

International

Italy moves to criminalize femicide with life sentence in landmark draft law.

The Italian government approved a draft law that, for the first time, introduces the legal definition of femicide in the country's criminal law and punishes it with life imprisonment.

The move aims to combat rising violence against women in Italy by strengthening measures against gender-based crimes.

Sri Lankan President, IMF Chief discuss economic reforms & debt recovery.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake held a meeting with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, reaffirming the island nation's commitment to economic reforms under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

As Sri Lanka reaches the halfway mark of its 48-month EFF arrangement, President Dissanayake expressed gratitude for the IMF's support in overcoming the 2022 economic crisis.

EAM S Jaishankar inaugurates Indian Consulate at Belfast in Northern Ireland.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the Indian Consulate at Belfast in Northern Ireland.

The Consulate in Belfast will explore further bilateral cooperation in trade, technology, business and education.

The External Affairs Minister also met Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Emma Little Pengelly and Junior Minister Aisling Reilly in Belfast. They discussed possibilities for deepening India's engagement with Northern Ireland, especially in skills, Cyber, Tech, creative industries and manufacturing.

Pakistan govt announces March 31 as deadline for Afghan Citizen Card holders to voluntarily leave the country.

The Pakistan government has announced the 31st of March this year as the deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders to voluntarily leave the country.

The move is a part of multiphase relocation strategy targeting Afghan migrants, including those residing in Islamabad and Rawalpindi and awaiting resettlement in third countries.

National

Labour, Employment Ministry urges platform workers to register on e-Shram portal to access benefits of AB-PMJAY.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment urged platform workers to register on the e-Shram portal for formal recognition and access to AB-PMJAY benefits, offering ₹5 lakh health coverage per family annually. The Union Budget 2025-26 includes provisions for worker registration, ID cards, and healthcare. India's gig economy is projected to employ over one crore workers by 2024-25, growing to 2.35 crore by 2029-30.

Business and Economy

Penalties on 4 Non-Banking Fin Companies for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on four Non-Banking Financial Companies – Peer to Peer (NBFC-P2P) lending platforms for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines. Rang De P2P was fined ₹10 lakh for unauthorized loan disbursements. Finzy faced a ₹10 lakh penalty for multiple violations. Visionary Financepeer was penalized ₹16.60 lakh for non-compliance, and Faircent received the highest penalty of ₹40 lakh for compliance deficiencies.

Government imposes 10% duty on masoor, allows duty-free import of yellow peas until May 31.

The government has imposed a 10% import duty on lentils (masoor) and extended duty-free imports of yellow peas until May 31 to boost domestic supply. The 10% duty includes 5% basic customs duty and 5% AIDC, effective March 8. Previously, lentil imports were duty-free. The duty-free yellow peas import scheme, introduced in December 2023, has been extended thrice, now valid until May 31. In 2024, India imported 30 lakh tonnes of yellow peas out of a total 67 lakh tonnes of pulses. These measures aim to stabilize supply and prices in the domestic market.

Sports

Siddhant Banthia and his partner Alexander Donski clinch ATP Kigali Challenger title.

In tennis, India's Siddhant Banthia and his partner Alexander Donski of Bulgaria have clinched the ATP Kigali Challenger title in Kigali, Rwanda. The Indian-Bulgarian duo defeated the third-seeded pair, Geoffrey Blancaneaux of France and Kolar Zdenek of Czechia, in the summit clash.

This marks Banthia's first ATP Challenger title. With the win, he has achieved a career-high ranking of 196 and also became the 11th Indian to break into the top 200 in the ATP doubles rankings.

International Masters League T20: India Masters defeat West Indies Masters.

In the International Masters League T20, India Masters defeated West Indies Masters by 7 runs at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Stuart Binny was announced Player of the Match for his economic bowling.

Badminton: Ayush Shetty falls in Orléans Masters Semifinal, ends India's campaign.

In badminton, India's Ayush Shetty lost his semifinal match of the Men's Singles Semifinal of the Orléans Masters in the French city of Orléans. He went down 13-21, 15-21 against Lin Chun-Yi of Taiwan.

Shetty, ranked 48th in the world, was the lone Indian remaining in the tournament.