

## International

### Robert Francis Prevost has been elected the new Pope.

American prelate, 69 years old, Robert Francis Prevost has been elected the new Pope, becoming the first American pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church. He will take the pontifical name of Pope Leo XIV. The election, signified by white smoke from the Sistine Chapel chimney, came after the conclave of 133 cardinals selected his successor. The conclave required a two-thirds majority of 89 votes to elect a new Pope. Chicago-born Prevost is a member of the Augustinian order and has served in Peru. He was appointed Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America by Pope Francis in 2023.

### The 24th edition of the Airport Show & Global Airport Leaders Forum concludes.

A key event on the global aviation calendar, the 24th edition of the Airport Show & Global Airport Leaders Forum concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre, having brought together more than 140 exhibitors from over 20 countries and attracting over 6,000 visitors over its run. This year's edition spotlighted advancements in passenger experience, air traffic management, carbon reduction, digitalisation, and urban air mobility, reflecting the aviation sector's evolving priorities around sustainability and technology.

### World Red Cross Day celebrated

World Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, 2025, to commemorate the 197th Birth Anniversary of its founder, Jean Henry Dunant. The theme for this year is "Keeping Humanity Alive" – a call to celebrate those who give their time, and sometimes their lives, to ease the suffering of others and protect their inherent human dignity.

### The 11th edition of the Sea Trade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) begins in Dubai.

On May 6, 2025, the 11th edition of the Sea Trade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) conference began at the Dubai World Trade Centre with a significant

announcement from the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). The Indian Register of Shipping, a leading international classification society and a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), announced the opening of its new office in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. This expansion coincides with the IRS marking 25 years of operations in the UAE and its 50th anniversary globally.

### Alcatraz prison to reopen

Donald Trump, the US President, has directed his government to reopen and expand Alcatraz, the former prison on an island off the coast of California. The prison was closed in 1963, and Alcatraz Island is currently a tourist site. It lies near San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Alcatraz was originally a naval defence fort, and it was rebuilt in the early 20th Century as a military prison. The Department of Justice took it over in the 1930s, and it began taking in convicts from the federal prison system.

## National

### Indian armed forces target Air Defence Radars and systems at several locations in Pakistan

According to the Defence Ministry, Indian Armed Forces targeted Air Defence Radars and systems at several locations in Pakistan on the morning of May 8, 2025. The Air Defence system at Lahore has been neutralised. The Ministry said India's response has been in the same domain with the same intensity as that of Pakistan. Pakistan attempted to engage several military targets in northern and western India, using drones and missiles. These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS Grid and Air Defence systems. The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from several locations that prove the Pakistani attacks.

### India is the third-largest vehicle manufacturer in the world now

Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, said that India is the third-largest vehicle manufacturer in the world now. Mr Gadkari made these remarks while addressing the 4th International BBB Summit and Expo on Bioenergy Value Chain in New

Delhi. He highlighted that the country's automobile industry is constantly growing. The two-day summit is focused on promoting technologies that leverage the country's biomass resources. The summit is being attended by bureaucrats, academicians, scientists, technocrats, industrialists, researchers, and field experts in the bioenergy industry.

### Cloud-Seeding trials get Delhi government's approval.

At an outlay of three crore 21 lakh rupees, five cloud-seeding trials were approved by the Delhi Government to Combat Air Pollution. Cloud seeding is a scientific weather modification technique that involves dispersing agents like silver iodide into moisture-bearing clouds to induce precipitation. The project will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) Kanpur, which will oversee the planning, aircraft deployment, chemical dispersal, scientific modelling, and operational logistics

### 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Conference on space exploration.

India is hosting the 12th edition of the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) from 7th to 9th May 2025 in New Delhi.

The three-day global summit, themed "Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance," was inaugurated by the Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

### Economy/Business

#### The US Federal Reserve has kept its benchmark interest rates unchanged.

The American central bank, the US Federal Reserve, has kept its benchmark interest rates unchanged in the 4.25 per cent to 4.50 per cent range. The American central bank said in its policy statement that since the last meeting of the Fed in March, uncertainty about the economic outlook has increased further.

#### Competition Commission of India notifies new definitions to check predatory pricing.

The Competition Commission of India has notified new definitions to check predatory pricing and ensure fair competition. According to the Competition Act 2002, predatory pricing is where a good or service is priced below its cost, which is to be determined through regulations like the one just issued, with the aim of reducing competition and eliminating competitors.

#### Draft document of climate taxonomy unveiled.

With an aim to direct investment towards clean-energy projects and infrastructure better adapted to weather threats from climate change, the Finance Ministry has made public a draft document, 'Framework of Climate Finance Taxonomy'.

The objective of this taxonomy was to encourage investment in climate-friendly technologies and activities, thus enabling India to be Net Zero by 2070, but simultaneously encouraging long-term access to reliable and affordable energy.

#### Union Bank of India's net profit soars by 51 per cent year-on-year, for the fourth quarter.

India's fifth-largest public sector bank, Union Bank of India, reported a standalone net profit of ₹4,985 crore for the fourth quarter, up about 51 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), driven by strong growth in other income and a decline in tax expenses.

### Sports

#### The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Football Championship 2025

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Football Championship 2025 is scheduled to begin on May 9, 2025, at Yupia in Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh. Six countries are participating in the tournament. Group A includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives, while Group B consists of India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The championship will conclude on May 18.