

International

Thailand, Cambodia sign ceasefire agreement to halt fighting

Thailand and Cambodia have signed a ceasefire agreement to halt fighting along their disputed border. Thai Defence Minister Natthapon Nakpanich and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Seiha signed the agreement at a border checkpoint in Thailand's Chanthaburi province. Both countries agreed on a joint statement during a special meeting of their border committee. Clashes had intensified earlier this month after a July ceasefire collapsed.

The dispute centres on long-contested border areas, including zones near the Preah Vihear temple.

Kosovo votes in bid to end year-long political impasse

Kosovo will hold a parliamentary election on December 28, 2025, as nationalist Prime Minister Albin Kurti's party seeks a majority to end a year-long political deadlock that has paralysed parliament and delayed international funding.

The vote is the second this year in Europe's youngest nation after Mr. Kurti's Vetevendosje party fell short of a majority in February. Months of failed coalition talks prompted President Vjosa Osmani to dissolve Parliament in November and call for an early election.

French film legend Brigitte Bardot dies at 91

French film legend Brigitte Bardot, a cinema icon of the 1950s and 1960s, who walked away from global stardom to become an animal rights advocate, has died at the age of 91. Bardot became a global star after appearing in "And God created Woman" in 1956, and went on to appear in about 50 more movies before giving up acting.

National

National Test House signs MoU with DRDO's DMSRDE to strengthen research and testing cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Test House (NTH) and Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE) to strengthen cooperation in the areas of research, testing and training.

Under the agreement, both institutions will extend mutual support in testing and evaluation services, particularly in cases where specialised facilities are not available in-house. The collaboration is also expected to promote knowledge sharing and skill development among scientific and technical personnel.

NTH is an institution under the Department of Consumer Affairs, which provides testing, inspection and quality assurance services for a wide range of industrial and consumer products in accordance with national and international standards.

President Murmu creates history, undertakes sortie on submarine INS Vagsheer

President Droupadi Murmu has undertaken a sea sortie on INS Vagsheer (S26), India's sixth and final Kalvari-class submarine, from Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka. President Murmu, who is the supreme commander of the Indian Armed Forces, was accompanied by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and other officials of the Indian Navy. She became only the second Indian head of state to undertake such a voyage, following Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2006.

Supercomputer launched at IIT-Patna to boost research

The first Param Rudra supercomputer in Bihar has gone live at Indian Institute of Technology, Patna, under the National Supercomputing Mission, marking a

milestone moment for the state. Designed using the Rudra Server, the system can handle complex simulations, large datasets, and advanced analytics required for modern research.

Business and Economy

FinMin asks banks, financial institutions to promptly report vigilance matters

The Finance Ministry has directed public sector banks and financial institutions, including insurance companies, to promptly report vigilance-related matters concerning whole-time directors (WTDs) of their respective companies. The directive from the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the ministry follows several instances where adverse information about board-level appointees was not promptly reported.

PNB reports Rs 2,434 cr loan fraud

State-owned Punjab National Bank has reported a loan fraud of Rs 2,434 crore committed by former promoters of SREI Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) and SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd (SIFL) to the banking sector regulator, the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has reported a case of borrowing fraud to the RBI against the erstwhile promoters of SEFL and SIFL, amounting to Rs 1,240.94 crore and Rs 1,193.06 crore, respectively.

These two entities with financial debt amounting to Rs 32,700 crore went through resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the new promoter National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) acquired them in December 2023.

Bandhan Bank re-appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as executive director

Bandhan Bank Limited has announced that it has received the necessary regulatory clearance to re-appoint Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh as executive director for a fresh three-year term.

The new term for Mr. Kesh is set to commence on March 31, 2026. Beyond his role as executive director, he will continue to function as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and a Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) of the Bank.

Gold and Silver prices surge to new heights in Indian bullion market

In the Indian bullion market, gold and silver prices surged to new heights, extending their unstoppable rally. Silver prices soared 15 per cent last week to scale a fresh record high of 2,42,000 per kilogram (kg) in the futures market, before closing at 2,39,787 rupees per kg for the March contract.

In domestic markets, gold futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) for the February contract recorded its highest-ever close at 1,39,873 rupees per 10 grams, registering a weekly gain of 4.2 per cent. It also hit a new all-time high of 1,40,465 rupees per 10 grams during the week.

PMO directs Coal India to list all subsidiaries by 2030

To improve governance and accountability, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has directed the Coal ministry to map and list all the subsidiaries of state-run CIL by 2030. The move aims to streamline governance, enhance transparency and unlock value through asset monetisation in the coal Public Sector Undertaking (PSU). Coal India Limited (CIL) accounts for over 80% of domestic coal output.

IRDAI to crack down on mis-selling as Insurance Bill 2025 tightens norms

India's insurance regulator is set to tighten the screws on mis-selling, with new legal amendments empowering the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to impose stricter rules on commission disclosure and conflicts of interest across the industry. The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, empowers Irdai to regulate commission disclosures and

conflicts of interest, particularly in bancassurance. These changes aim to improve transparency and protect policyholders from unsuitable product pushing.

Sports

World Rapid Championship 2025: Magnus & Aleksandra Goryachkina win titles

Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina have emerged as the winners at the World Rapid Chess Championship 2025 held at Doha, UAE. In the open event, Carlsen was the clear first. The Norwegian finished with 10.5 points, one more than the second-placed Vladislav Artemiev of Russia.

In the women's tournament, Aleksandra Goryachkina, Zhu Jiner and Humpy Koneru tied for first place. The title was settled in a blitz playoff, in which Goryachkina defeated Zhu by a 1½-½ score to secure the title.

For India, Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy won bronze in the open and women's sections, respectively.

India beat Sri Lanka by 30 runs in fourth T20I

In Women's Cricket, India has successfully defended a massive target of 222 to win a 30-run victory over Sri Lanka in the fourth T20I of the five-match series at Thiruvananthapuram, extending their unassailable lead to 4-0 with one game still to be played. Batting first, India scored 221 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.

Tennis: Kyrgios beats Sabalenka in 'Battle of the Sexes' showdown

Australia's Nick Kyrgios has beaten Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-3 in a "Battle of the Sexes" exhibition match held 50 years after the 1973 clash between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. The women's world number one put up a stiff fight, but was certainly hamstrung by the single-serve rule. Kyrgios, who was definitely tested fitness-wise, just had enough in his bag of tricks to pull off the result.