

## INTERNATIONAL

### **PM MODI RECEIVES FAO'S AGRICOLA MEDAL**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome, Italy. The medal was presented by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu. PM Modi dedicated the medal to India's millions of annadatas (food providers), including farmers, livestock rearers, fishers, and agricultural scientists.

**More about the Agricola Medal:** It is the highest honour conferred by the Director-General of the FAO. It is awarded to distinguished world leaders and individuals for exceptional and long-term contributions to global food security, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction and improved nutrition.

### **FIVE SCIENTISTS NAMED LAUREATES OF THE 2026 L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

Five female scientists have been named laureates of the 2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards. This year's laureates have been recognised for work in life and environmental sciences, including cardiovascular care, nutritional psychiatry, single-cell biology, agricultural biotechnology and tissue engineering.

The laureates include:

- ❖ Professor Liesl Zühlke was named laureate for Africa and the Arab States.
- ❖ The Asia and the Pacific award went to Professor Felice Jacka.
- ❖ Professor Sarah A Teichmann was named Europe laureate.
- ❖ The Latin America and the Caribbean award went to Professor Raquel Lia Chan of Argentina.
- ❖ Professor Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic was named North America laureate.

## NATIONAL

### **INDIA HOSTS PRAGATI 2026 EXERCISE**

The multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 commenced at Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. The two-week exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain. The exercise provides a common platform for participating armies to engage in professional exchange, learn from one another's experiences and build closer military-to-military ties.

Twelve friendly nations, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam are participating in the exercise.

### **INDIA, ITALY TO CELEBRATE 2027 AS 'YEAR OF CULTURE AND TOURISM'**

India and Italy will celebrate 2027 as the "Year of Culture and Tourism" to promote cultural exchanges and strengthen dialogue between the two ancient civilisations. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said the initiative will help deepen mutual understanding and further strengthen cultural diplomacy between the two countries. She also stated that India and Italy will also work towards further developing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

**More about Italy:** President: *Sergio Mattarella*; Prime Minister: *Giorgia Meloni*; Capital: *Rome*; Currency: *Euro (€)*

### **CBI LAUNCHES 'ABHAY'**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched ABHAY—an AI-Based Helpbot for Authentication of CBI notices—a first-of-its-kind, real-time notice verification system designed to protect the citizens from the growing menace of cyber fraud and digital arrest scams.

Cyber-enabled fraud emerged as a serious challenge confronting India's criminal justice system. The rapid advancement of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and deep fakes has made it increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens to distinguish between what is real and what is fabricated.

### **ANTI-TERRORISM DAY OBSERVED ON 21 MAY**

National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on 21st May to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The day is observed to generate awareness in the country among all sections of people, about the dangers of terrorism and violence and their effect on the people, society and the country as a whole.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

### **UN PROJECTS INDIA'S GROWTH AT 6.4% THIS YEAR**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) report revised downward India's economic growth forecast for 2026 to 6.4 percent

from its earlier projection of 6.6 percent, citing global uncertainties and economic shocks arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis. The report also lowered the world growth rate to 2.5 percent, down by 0.2 percentage points from the projection made in January before the Iran war.

## **INDIA, UAE BILATERAL TRADE CROSSES \$100BN MARK**

The bilateral trade between India and the UAE crossed the 100 billion US dollar mark with the help of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both countries have set a target of 200 billion US dollars bilateral trade by the year 2032. The trade agreement has significantly deepened economic ties between the two countries since its launch in 2022.

## **MAHINDRA, DBS BANK LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST GREEN DEALER FINANCING SCHEME**

Mahindra & Mahindra and DBS Bank India signed an MoU to launch India's first sustainability-linked dealer financing programme in the automotive sector, offering authorised Mahindra dealers preferential interest rates on vehicle loans tied to their environmental performance.

Under the programme, dealers will be ranked against a set of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) parameters drawn from Mahindra's Green Dealership Programme. These include greenhouse gas emissions monitoring, water consumption, renewable energy use, rainwater harvesting, waste management, availability of public EV charging facilities, and the volume of eSUVs sold.

## **RBI PROPOSES SAME NORMS OF DISCLOSURE FOR ALL BANKS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed standardising capital adequacy disclosures across lenders, bringing unlisted and foreign banks in line with listed peers. Under the draft norms, banks will be required to use uniform reporting formats and units to improve comparability of Basel-related disclosures.

The revised framework will apply to all commercial banks, including foreign bank branches operating in India. Under the proposal, banks will have to follow common templates for reporting capital adequacy details, capital composition, and risk-weighted assets. The central bank has also proposed that all figures be disclosed in rupees crore.

## **MOODY'S AFFIRMS INDUSIND BANK RATINGS**

Global ratings agency Moody's Ratings affirmed the ratings of IndusInd Bank and revised the lender's outlook to "stable" from "negative", citing stabilisation in senior leadership and easing pressure on funding and liquidity. The agency noted that the bank's funding and liquidity pressures had moderated, while profitability is expected to improve gradually over the next 12 to 18 months.

## **EX-FEDERAL BANK CEO SHYAM SRINIVASAN LAUNCHES BOOK**

Former Federal Bank managing director and CEO Shyam Srinivasan recently launched his debut book "Better Never Stops", offering a glimpse into leadership lessons shaped over more than three decades in banking. The book, described as part memoir and part guide, focuses on growth, resilience and self-improvement.

## **LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE RAISES STAKE IN INDIAN VENTURE**

Liberty Mutual Insurance increased its stake in Liberty General Insurance to 74%, strengthening its presence in India's non-life market. The move follows Liberty Mutual's earlier increase in shareholding from 49% to 55.4% in September 2025.

Liberty General Insurance is a joint venture between Summit Asia Investments Holdings, a Liberty Mutual group company, and Enam Securities, which now holds the remaining 26% stake. Foreign insurers have been consolidating ownership in Indian ventures after regulatory easing allowed higher foreign participation.

## **SPORT**

### **ARSENAL CROWNED PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**

Arsenal was crowned Premier League champions for the first time in 22 years after Manchester City failed to beat Bournemouth. It's the 14th English title for Arsenal, putting them behind only Liverpool and Manchester United at 20 each.

### **BHARAT SINGH RE-ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMONWEALTH CHESS ASSOCIATION**

Bharat Singh Chauhan of India was re-elected unanimously and unopposed as Chairman of the Commonwealth Chess Association (CCA) for the term 2026–2030. The elections were held during the Annual General Body Meeting of the Commonwealth Chess Association at Citrus Hotel, Wasakaduwa, Sri Lanka.