

NATIONAL**▪ Sikkim Introduces India's First Sabbatical Leave Scheme for Govt Employees**

Sikkim has become the first state in India to launch a Sabbatical Leave Scheme for government employees, providing them with opportunities for personal and professional growth while retaining job security. Introduced in August 2023, the scheme allows regular employees with 5+ years of service can take 365–1,080 days off with 50% basic pay while retaining seniority, and the government may recall them with one month's notice. Even temporary employees with 6 months' service are eligible, making the scheme progressive and inclusive.

▪ BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Debuts in New Delhi

The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival, 'SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody', held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, the event will feature artists from all seven BIMSTEC nations—India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand—celebrating unity in diversity through music.

▪ Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) Sets Guinness World Record

PM Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha set a Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore registrations in one month on the MyGov platform, marking the success of its 8th edition.

▪ Discovery of World's Rarest Blood Group – CRIB

Scientists from India and the United Kingdom have identified the world's rarest blood group, termed CRIB, in a 38-year-old woman from Kolar, near Bengaluru. This pathbreaking discovery is being hailed as a milestone in global healthcare, with the potential to revolutionize critical care, prenatal diagnostics, and blood donation protocols across the world.

▪ India Ranks Second in Global Fish Production

India has secured the second position in global fish production, with output rising by 103% in 2024–25 compared to 2013–14. The growth reflects the success of government schemes and rural participation in aquaculture.

▪ **India's First 'Make in India' Green Hydrogen Plant Commissioned at Kandla**

In a landmark step towards clean energy, the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) has commissioned the country's first indigenously developed green hydrogen plant at Kandla, Gujarat.

▪ **India Becomes World's 5th Largest Aviation Market**

India handled 241 million passengers in 2024, up 11.1% from 2023, overtaking Japan to become the fifth-largest aviation market, as per IATA's World Air Transport Statistics. The Mumbai–Delhi route ranked 7th globally among the busiest air routes. India now trails only the US (876M), China (741M), UK (261M), and Spain (241M).

▪ **PM Modi Inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan under Central Vista Project**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan–03, the first building under the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) project, a major part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan. This initiative aims to replace outdated structures like Shastri, Krishi, Udyog, and Nirman Bhawan with a modern, centralized, and efficient governance hub.

▪ **PM Modi Inaugurates Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference at Pusa, New Delhi, celebrating the legacy of the architect of India's Green Revolution. The three-day event (August 7–9), themed "Evergreen Revolution – The Path to Bio-Happiness", PM Modi emphasized the "Lab to Land" approach, highlighting initiatives like Krishi Chaupal and Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, which connect scientific innovations directly with farmers to ensure agricultural progress.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Krasheninnikov Volcano Erupts After 600 Years**

In a rare natural phenomenon, Russia's Krasheninnikov Volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula erupted today for the first time in 600 years, making it the volcano's first activity since the 15th century.

- **Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance**

The Republic of Moldova has become the 107th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its commitment to sustainable solar energy development.

LEGAL

- **Parliament Passes Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**

The Parliament of India has passed the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, replacing the nearly century-old 1925 Act. The Bill, defines the rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of carriers, empowers the Centre to issue directions and amend rules on bills of lading, and aligns India's shipping regulations with international practices. Aimed at simplifying procedures and boosting ease of doing business, the legislation provides a modern legal framework for exporters, importers, and shipping companies.

- **Punjab First State to Empanel Sign Language Experts in Judiciary**

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Punjab will formally empanel sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and extend the facility to POCSO cases as well.

SPORTS

- **Magnus Carlsen Wins Inaugural Chess Esports World Cup 2025**

Magnus Carlsen triumphed at the first Chess Esports World Cup in Riyadh, defeating Alireza Firouzja of Team Falcons.

- **India's First Franchise-Based Archery League Announced**

The Archery Association of India (AAI) will launch the nation's first franchise-based Archery League in October 2025. Featuring both compound and recurve archers, the 11-day event will be held at the Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi, marking a historic milestone for Indian archery.

▪ **India's First FIFA Talent Academy for Girls Launched in Hyderabad**

The AIFF and FIFA have inaugurated India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad under the Talent Development Scheme (TDS). The academy will provide world-class training, education, and wellness support, marking a major step toward strengthening India's youth football and future U17 World Cup ambitions.

▪ **Arunachal's Kabak Yano Scales Mount Kilimanjaro**

Celebrated mountaineer Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh has successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5,895 meters, as part of her Seven Summits expedition.

▪ **Annu Rani Wins Gold in Poland**

India's Annu Rani clinched gold in the women's javelin throw at the International Wiesław Maniak Memorial in Poland with a season-best effort of 62.59m, beating rivals from Turkey and Australia. Other Indian results: Pooja secured bronze in the 800m (2:02.95), while Jisna Mathew finished sixth in the 400m (54.12s).

AWARDS

▪ **PM Modi Launches Global M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in Delhi, launched the "M.S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace" to honour pioneering contributions to food security and sustainable agriculture worldwide. The first recipient is Nigerian scientist Dr. Arenare, recognized for his efforts in reducing hunger in Nigeria.