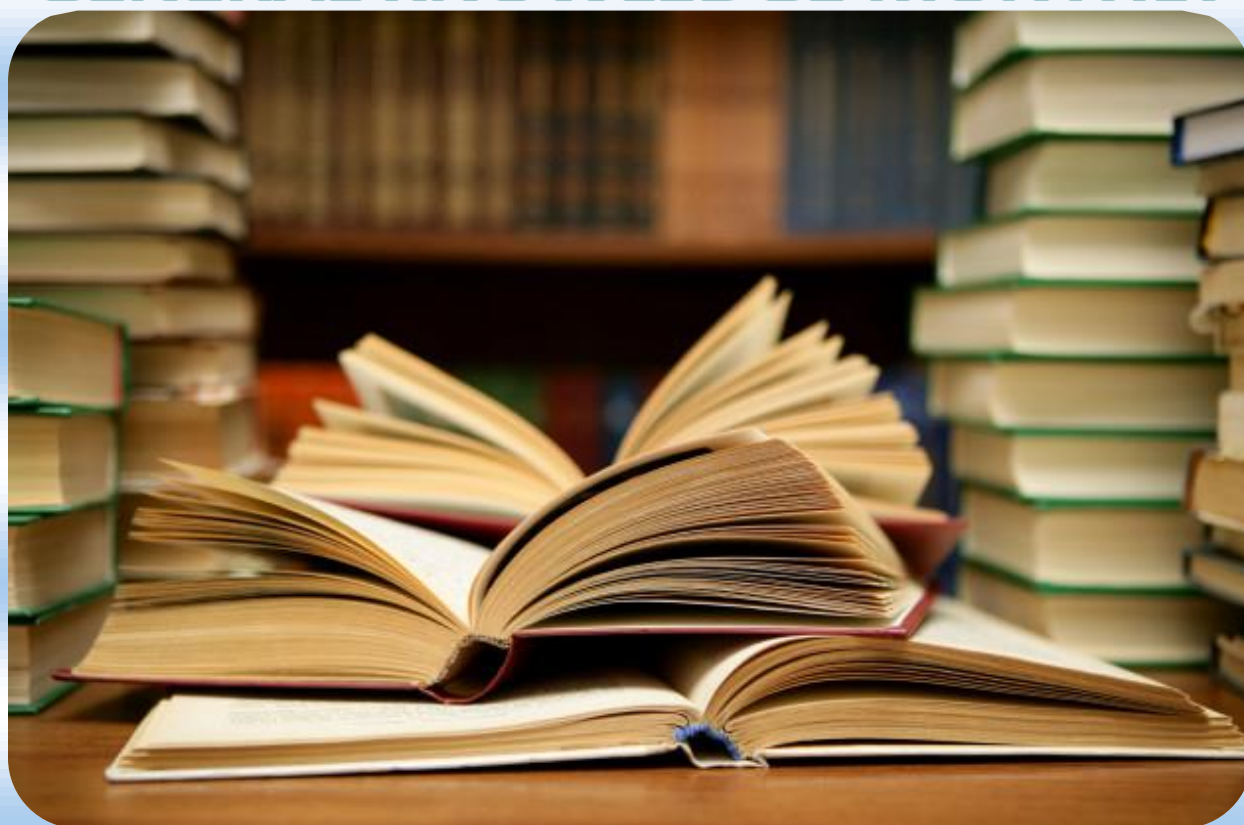


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER-2025

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Moody's affirms India's sovereign ratings, retains 'stable' outlook

Moody's Ratings on Monday has affirmed India's long-term local and foreign-currency sovereign ratings and retained its "stable" outlook, citing sustained strength in its economy and reliable domestic funding for its budget deficits. India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured rating remain at Baa3. The other short-term local-currency rating stands at P-3, it said.

India Opens First Mobile Tempered Glass Factory

Union Electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday (August 30, 2025) inaugurated Optiemus Infracom's tempered glass screen protectors factory in Noida with an outlay of ₹870 crore.



India Launches First Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling

National Highway Toll Plaza Latest News: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is planning to introduce Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at 25 National Highway fee plazas. The MLFF aims at improving toll revenue collection and creating a smarter, faster and more efficient National Highway (NH) network across the country. The Multi-Lane Free Flow tolling is a barrier-less tolling system.

India Launches Adi Vaani: AI Translator for Tribal Languages

The Tribal Affairs Ministry will soon launch "Adi Vaani", India's first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered translator for tribal languages, in a move aimed at preserving the country's rich linguistic diversity and empowering tribal communities. Developed by IIT Delhi, BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad and IIIT Nava Raipur, in collaboration with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), the initiative combines advanced AI tools with community participation to bridge communication gaps and safeguard endangered tribal languages.

NeGD Integrates 2,000 e-Gov Services Milestone Nationwide

New Delhi: The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has achieved another significant milestone by enabling the pan-India integration of e-Government services on the DigiLocker and e-District platforms. With this achievement, citizens across all 36 States and Union Territories can now seamlessly access close to 2,000 digital services anytime, anywhere, According to an official release.

India Set to Become Third Largest Economy in World

India Set To Become World's 3rd Largest Economy: RBI Governor RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra remark came at a time when India's GDP grew 7.8% in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal, the highest in five quarters before the imposition of heavy tariffs on the country by the United States. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said India will become the world's 3rd largest economy soon, and credited the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for boosting the country's growth.

ICC, Google Join Hands to Promote Women's Cricket

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced a partnership with Google to enhance fan engagement in women's cricket. The collaboration will allow the world cricket governing body to leverage Google's advanced technology and its commitment to supporting women's sports, thereby boosting fan engagement and accessibility, according to the ICC. The groundbreaking partnership comes at a crucial time for the women's game, with two major global events scheduled over the next 10 months.

India's GST Collection Rises to ₹1.86 Trillion in August

New Delhi: India's central and state governments collected a total of ₹1.86 trillion as goods and services tax (GST) in August, 6.5% more than a year ago, recording its second slowest pace so far this fiscal year, official data showed. The collections were hit by US tariff-related uncertainties and softer demand during the rainy season.



Tata Electronics, Merck Team Up for Semiconductor Growth

Tata Electronics Private Limited, a pioneering leader in India's electronics and semiconductor manufacturing sector, and Merck, a leading science and technology company, on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a strategic collaboration, to jointly develop capabilities in semiconductor materials, semiconductor fabrication infrastructure, and specialty chemical and gas distribution in India.

GST Council Announces Cuts Tax Slabs to Two

The GST Council on Wednesday rationalised the indirect tax structure, cutting the current four slabs down to two answering the Indian middle class' long-pending demand. In a landmark decision that promises to ease household budgets and lift consumer sentiment, the Council scrapped the 12% and 28% rates, retaining only the 5% and 18% slabs. Items earlier taxed at 12% and 28% will now largely migrate to the other two slabs, making a wide range of products cheaper.

India's Services Sector PMI Hits 15-Year High

India's services sector growth accelerated to a 15-year high in August on robust demand, which also pushed prices higher at the fastest rate in over a decade, a business survey showed on Wednesday (September 3, 2025). That comes after official data showed the sector grew at a much-higher-than-expected 7.8% rate last quarter. But the Trump administration's steep 50% tariff on U.S. imports of Indian goods threatens to dampen growth in the coming quarters.

Voluntary HUID-Based Silver Hallmarking Begins in India

After the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) revised the hallmarking standards for silver articles, Hallmarking Unique Identification (HUID)-based hallmarking for silver jewellery and articles on a voluntary basis started from September 1, 2025. The revised version, IS 2112:2025, replaced the earlier version of IS 2112:2014, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said in a statement.

UPI Limit Increased to ₹10 Lakh for Select Transactions

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has raised transaction limits on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for select categories, making high-value digital payments easier, with the changes coming into effect on September 15. According to NPCI, the per-transaction limit for entities under categories aligned to tax payments has been increased to Rs 5 lakh. The new ceiling will also apply to payments made through government e-marketplaces, as well as travel and other business or merchant-related transactions.

Skechers Signs Mohammed Siraj as Brand Ambassador

Skechers has roped in India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj as its latest brand ambassador, strengthening its expansion in the country's cricket market. Siraj, who plays for Gujarat Titans in the IPL and was India's highest wicket-taker in the recent Test series against England, will now compete in Skechers cricket footwear and feature in its performance and lifestyle campaigns.



India Unveils \$125 Billion Plan for High-Speed Road Network

India plans to expand its high-speed road network fivefold within a decade, investing ₹11 lakh crore (\$125 billion) to modernise infrastructure and slash logistics costs, people familiar with the matter said. The country will add 17,000 kilometers (10,563 miles) of access-controlled roads that allow motorists to travel at speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour, offering faster, safer and more efficient connectivity than conventional highways, said the people, who asked not to be identified citing rules.

CP Radhakrishnan Elected as India's 15th Vice President

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected as the 15th Vice-President of India on Tuesday (September 9, 2025) by a margin of 152 votes. The Opposition fell short of its own expected tally, even as 98.2% of the total electorate, comprising members of both Houses of Parliament, cast their ballot.



Himachal Declared Fully Literate with 99.3% Literacy

Earlier this week, Himachal Pradesh was declared to be a 'fully literate' state, becoming the fifth such state/Union Territory in India after Goa, Ladakh, Mizoram, and Tripura. None of these, however, boast 100% literacy. Himachal claims to have a literacy rate of 99.3%, Goa 99.72%, Mizoram 98.2%, Tripura 95.6%, and Ladakh 97%. So what does it mean to be 'fully literate'?



Abhimanyu Mishra: Youngest Grandmaster Who Defeated World Champion Gukesh

The royal rumble of teenage prodigies between Gukesh Dommaraju, the youngest world champion in chess history, and Abhimanyu Mishra ended with victory for the Indian-origin American GM in the fifth round of the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament in Samarkand.



Moody's: GST Reform to Boost Spending, Strain Revenues

The decline in India's effective goods and services tax (GST) rates is expected to boost private consumption, but the resulting loss of tax revenue could limit progress in fiscal consolidation and debt reduction. Moody's said the revenue forgone is likely to exceed government estimates in a report released on Tuesday. On September 3, the government announced an overhaul of the GST framework.

Indian Army's SAMBHAV Secures Operation Sindoor Communications

The Indian Army used its indigenously developed secure mobile ecosystem, SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version), in Operation Sindoor, revealed Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi. He also confirmed that the Army is now preparing for an upgrade. Speaking at the AIMA's 52nd National Management Convention, Gen Dwivedi said, "We are ready for accepting spiral development of equipment."

Fitch Upgrades India's FY25 Growth Forecast to 6.9%

Global rating agency Fitch has revised India's growth outlook for the fiscal year ending March 2026 to 6.9 per cent from its earlier projection of 6.5% in June Global Economic Outlook (GEO). "Domestic demand will be the key driver of growth, as strong real income dynamics support consumer spending and looser financial conditions should feed through to investment" noted the report.

ISRO Transfers SSLV Technology to HAL for Independent Production

ISRO signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Wednesday (September 10, 2025) for the transfer of technology for the production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV), marking a significant step in industry participation in the space sector.



Amit Shah, inaugurates Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday (September 11, 2025) launched the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), which accelerates the immigration process for pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders at five additional airports. After launching the FTI-TTP in five airports — Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kozhikode and Amritsar — Mr. Shah said travellers will no longer experience long queues or manual checking and will receive immigration clearance in just 30 seconds without delays.

IIM Ahmedabad Launches First Global Campus in Dubai

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has launched its first-ever international campus at Dubai international Academic City. The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, along with the Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan as well as India's Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir as well as other IIMA officials.

Namo Bharat Becomes India's Fastest Train

India has a new speed champion on the rails. The Nammo Bharat train, operating at a maximum speed of 160 km/h on the 55-km stretch of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), has officially become the fastest train in the country. Until now, semi-high-speed trains like the Gatimaan Express and Vande Bharat held the top spot, both running at 160 km/h on specific routes.



Insurance Surety Bonds for NHAI Cross ₹10,000 Cr Milestone

The issuance of Insurance Surety Bonds (ISB) that were introduced as an alternative to bank guarantees by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has crossed Rs 10,000 crore mark. "Till July 2025, 12 insurance companies have issued around 1,600 ISBs as 'Bid Security' and 207 ISBs as 'Performance Security' valued at around Rs. 10,369 crores for NHAI contracts," a statement by the highway builder said.

Srinivas Injeti Appointed Chairperson of NSE Governing Board with SEBI Approval

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has appointed Srinivas Injeti, Public Interest Director and retired IAS officer, as Chairperson of its Governing Board with SEBI's approval. Injeti, a 1983-batch officer, has over four decades of experience in regulation, governance, and financial services. He earlier served as Corporate Affairs Secretary, leading reforms in insolvency, company law, and corporate governance, and was the founding Chairperson of IFSCA, where he drove initiatives in global banking, fintech, and sustainable finance.

AIIMS First Govt College to Train on da Vinci Robot

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has installed a da Vinci Surgical Robot at its skills, e-learning and telemedicine (SET) facility to train doctors in robotic-assisted surgery, the institute said in a statement.



Jaismine Lamboria Wins Gold at World Boxing 2025

NEW DELHI: Liverpool witnessed a landmark moment for Indian boxing on Saturday night as Jaismine Lamboria stormed to gold in the women's 57kg category at the World Boxing Championships 2025, defeating Olympic silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland in a gripping final. Adding to India's glory, Nupur clinched silver in the women's +80kg division, rounding off one of India's finest campaigns on the world stage. Go Beyond The Boundary with our YouTube channel.

Apollo Tyres Becomes Team India's New Sponsor in ₹579 Cr Deal

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced Apollo Tyres as the new lead sponsor for Team India for a two-and-a-half-year period concluding in March 2028, after Dream11's exit. This marks tyre manufacturing company Apollo Tyres' first ever foray into Indian cricket, BCCI stated on its website. The cricket board added that the new partnership, secured after a bidding process, represents a substantial increase in sponsorship value, signifying the immense and growing commercial appeal of Indian cricket.

Myntra and Sourav Ganguly Launch 'Souragya' Ethnic Wear Brand

Fashion e-commerce platform Myntra is betting on celebrity partnerships and regional cultural heritage to capture India's lucrative festive wear market. The firm is launching a premium ethnic wear brand, Souragya, with former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly ahead of the Durga Puja shopping season. Souragya will feature nearly 100 styles of traditional Bengali garments, including sherwanis, kurtas, and ceremonial wear, targeting consumers seeking culturally authentic designs.

Election Commission Revamps EVM Ballot Paper Design

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Wednesday announced revising the guidelines on the designing and printing of the EVM ballot papers to make them more readable and voter-friendly, starting with the Bihar assembly election due in October-November.



UPI Increases Daily P2M Limit to ₹10 Lakh

India's UPI system has enabled high-value transactions, allowing users to pay up to ₹10 lakh a day for investments, insurance, travel, credit cards, and jewellery, starting today. It is simultaneously scrapping the P2P "collect request" feature from October to prevent fraud. The move, announced by the National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI), aims to make high-value Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payments faster and reduce reliance on slower channels like cheques.

SEBI Launches SWAGAT-FI to Attract Long-Term Foreign Investment

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed a single-window gateway called SWAGAT-FI for trusted foreign investors, in a move aiming to boost foreign investment and simplify regulatory compliance. The gateway has been designed to make India's capital markets more accessible to a select group of foreign investors objectively verified as low-risk. It will target government-owned funds, central banks, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral entities.

SBI Sells 13.18% Stake in Yes Bank to Japan's SMBC

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday said that it has completed the divestment of a 13.18% stake in Yes Bank Limited to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for a consideration of about Rs 8,889 crore. The transaction involved the sale of 413.44 crore equity shares of Yes Bank at Rs 21.50 per share. SBI said the sale was executed after SMBC secured the necessary approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 22, 2025, and from the Competition Commission of India on September 2, 2025.

Sentient AI Launches Open AGI Network for 2 Million Users

Artificial intelligence (AI) startup Sentient on Tuesday launched its open-source artificial general intelligence (AGI) network, opening access to 2 million waitlisted users and enabling multiple AI agents to collaborate in real time. The company said it will compete directly with players such as OpenAI and AWS as it has launched its first open AGI network where 40+ AI agents, models, and 50+ data sources collaborate in real time.

EPFO Launches 'Passbook Lite': Faster Claims, Real-Time Tracking

The website of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has a new feature called 'Passbook Lite' that eases tracking of PF accounts and speeds up claims processing. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Labour and Employment, announced the feature on Thursday as he said all key EPFO services will be available on a single login to improve transparency and efficiency for over 70 million pension subscribers.

Yommitra: ISRO's AI Half-Humanoid for Gaganyaan

The Vyommitra, designed by ISRO to fly aboard the uncrewed test mission of the Gaganyaan Spaceflight Mission, will be an AI (Artificial Intelligence) enabled half-humanoid robot, the national space agency chairman V Narayanan said here on Thursday. This half-humanoid robot will be the first to be launched this December-end as part of the Gaganyaan Mission of sending humans to the orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to the earth.

IRDAI Unveils "Bima Sugam" Insurance Marketplace

After months of anticipation, Bima Sugam, envisioned as the world's largest online marketplace for insurance products and services, has officially gone live. The launch was announced on Wednesday by the Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) with the unveiling of its official website. The BSIF clarified that the rollout of the platform's features will follow a phased approach. Initially, the website will serve as an information and guidance hub, while full-fledged transactions will be enabled over the coming months as insurers and ecosystem partners complete necessary integrations.

PhonePe Gets RBI Approval to Operate as Online Payment Aggregator

Digital payments firm PhonePe has received the final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an online payment aggregator. This will allow the Walmart-owned company to expand its presence among online merchants, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), it said in a statement on Friday. "With this authorisation, PhonePe is well-positioned to accelerate financial inclusion by providing accessible payment solutions to businesses that were previously underserved, particularly in the SME segment,".

Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound Selected as India's Official Entry to Oscars 2026

Director Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound is India's official entry for Oscars 2026 in the Best International Feature category. The film, featuring actors Ishaan Khattar, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor, is produced by Dharma Productions and executive-produced by Martin Scorsese.



Arshdeep Singh Becomes First Indian to Reach 100 T20I Wickets

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh entered the record books on Friday, becoming the first Indian bowler to reach 100 wickets in men's T20 internationals. The 26-year-old achieved the milestone in India's Asia Cup clash against Oman, that too, in his first outing of the tournament.



PM Modi Launches Next-Generation GST Reforms: A New Era of Savings and Self-Reliance

The GST reforms, which kicked in from Monday (September 22, 2025), will lead to a saving of 13% in the household bills for groceries and daily essentials, while a small car buyer could save around ₹70,000.



Smriti Mandhana Breaks Virat Kohli's Record for Fastest Indian Century in ODIs

Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana was on top of her game during the third and deciding ODI against Australia women at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi on Saturday. The southpaw broke an all-time record of Indian men's cricket team star batter Virat Kohli.



Jio Payments Bank Introduces “Savings Pro” Earn Up to 6.5%

In an industry-first move, Jio Payments Bank Limited, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited, has introduced ‘Savings Pro’, a feature that allows customers to earn higher returns on surplus funds in their bank accounts through automated investments in overnight mutual funds. The initiative aims to turn idle balances into productive investments, offering a seamless, fully digital experience.

Tirumala Gets India’s First AI-Based Command Centre for Pilgrims

TIRUMALA: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) launched India’s first AI-integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Vaikuntam Queue Complex, alongside a new Pilgrim Amenities Complex (PAC-5) Venkatadri Nilayam on Thursday



Anand Piramal Named Chairman of Piramal Finance

Anand Piramal has been appointed the chairman of Piramal Finance, the non-banking finance arm of the diversified business group. He replaces his father, Ajay Piramal. The decision to appoint executive director Anand as the chairman was taken by the board at its first meeting.



Ravichandran Ashwin Becomes First Indian to Join BBL

R Ashwin on Thursday became the first major Indian cricketer to join the Big Bash League by signing up with Sydney Thunder. Ashwin recently announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League, making him eligible to play in leagues around the world.



India Bids Farewell to the Iconic MiG-21 Fighter Jet

The legendary Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of the Indian Air Force's combat fleet for more than six decades, streaked through Indian skies for the last time on Friday (September 26, 2025) — its final adieu edged in history and many a remembrance. The sun shone bright, the skies cloudless and a brilliant blue, providing a picture perfect setting for the elaborate farewell to the Russian origin warhorse that was inducted into the IAF in the 1960s.

Mithun Manhas Elected 37th BCCI President

Mithun Manhas, the former Delhi captain, formally took over as the 37th president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) during its 94th annual general meeting (AGM) here on Sunday. Manhas, along with other BCCI office-bearers, including secretary Devajit Saikia, was elected unopposed during the AGM. The AGM also appointed former India bowlers R.P. Singh and Pragyan Ojha in place of S. Sharath and Subroto Banerjee in the senior men's selection panel.

Indian Cricket Team Won 9th Asia Cup title 2025

Tilak Varma has held his nerve with an unbeaten innings of 69 runs as he has steered India home in a five-wicket win over Pakistan in a gripping and controversial final of the Asia Cup 2025 in Dubai.



RBI Mandates 2 Factor Authentication for Digital Payments from April 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has strengthened digital payment security with new authentication guidelines which come into effect from April 1, 2026. The central bank has made two-factor authentication a must, with at least one credential being dynamically generated for each transaction to lower risks in both domestic and cross-border scenarios. At present, two-factor authentication is a combination of PIN and SMS OTP. From April 1, dynamic two-factor authentication will require one factor to be uniquely generated for each transaction.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

US Court Limits Presidential Tariff Powers Under IEEPA

A US appeals court has ruled that most tariffs issued by US President Donald Trump are illegal, setting up a potential legal showdown that could upend his foreign policy agenda. The ruling affects Trump's so-called "reciprocal" tariffs, imposed on most countries around the world.



India-China Relations Thaw as PM Modi and Xi Jinping Reconnect at SCO Summit

India and China should view each other as "partners" rather than "adversaries or threats", Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday, as he arrived for a two-day visit to Delhi. Wang met with Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar - only the second such meeting between the two sides since 2020.



Oscar Piastri Wins Dramatic 2025 Dutch Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri has won the Dutch Grand Prix to take a mighty 34-point lead in the Formula One championship as McLaren teammate and title rival Lando Norris saw his hopes go up in smoke. On a day of drama, with both Ferrari drivers crashing out in separate incidents, McLaren had been heading for a record-equalling fifth successive one-two win until Norris suffered late despair on the track on Sunday.



Nepal Bans 26 Unregistered Social Media Platforms

Nepal has imposed a ban on all the popular social media platform. Nepal has ordered the internet service providers to block access to all 26 major social media and communication platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn, Reddit, WhatsApp and Snapchat. The government took this decision after all the companies failed to register with the government within a seven-day deadline.

Nvidia to Invest \$100 Billion in OpenAI A Historic Push to AI Infra

ABILENE, Texas – Sam Altman had a deadline. OpenAI's CEO was headed to Texas to unveil his company's next big infrastructure push, and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang wanted in on the action.



At 102, Kokichi Akuzawa Becomes Oldest to Climb Mount Fuji

Kokichi Akuzawa has become the oldest person to climb to the top of Mount Fuji at the age of 102 – despite almost giving up during his trek. “I was really tempted to give up halfway through,” Akuzawa said. “Reaching the summit was tough, but my friends encouraged me, and it turned out well.



Russia Unveils Colon Cancer Vaccine After Promising Trial Results

Russia has declared its readiness to use Enteromix as a personalised cancer vaccine for clinical applications, after successful development through mRNA technology similar to COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccine has demonstrated outstanding results in initial testing, because it uses advanced mRNA technology which powers COVID-19 vaccines. The treatment provides a safer method to fight deadly cancers, by training the body to identify and fight cancer cells.

Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli Resigns Amid Violent Gen Z Protests

Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday (September 9, 2025) a day after 19 people were killed in police firing as Gen Z-led anti-corruption protests intensified across Kathmandu and other parts of the country.



Dell CFO Yvonne McGill to Depart in September 2025

Dell Technologies said on Monday its Chief Financial Officer Yvonne McGill will resign effective September 9 after roughly three decades with the company. David Kennedy, who has been with the PC maker for 27 years, will serve in the interim role. He is currently senior vice president of Global Business Operations, Finance. Dell unveils new AI servers powered by Nvidia chips to boost enterprise adoption

Larry Ellison Surpasses Elon Musk as World's Richest

Elon Musk briefly lost his title as the world's richest person to Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle and an ally of US President Donald Trump. Ellison's wealth surged to \$393bn (£290bn) on Wednesday morning, surpassing Musk's \$385bn (£284bn), according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.



Nepal to Get First Woman Prime Minister as Sushila Karki as Interim Leader

Nepal's former Supreme Court chief justice Sushila Karki has become the country's interim prime minister after deadly anti-corruption protests ousted the government. The 73-year-old was sworn in during a brief ceremony, becoming the first woman to lead the impoverished Himalayan nation after a deal was reached with protest leaders.



Albania Appoints World's First AI Cabinet Minister

For government officials, being called "heartless" is an occupational hazard. But Albania has chosen to turn that insult into a positive quality, by appointing an AI minister. Not a minister for artificial intelligence. Rather, a cabinet member who is, literally, the work of AI. The new addition is, like a pop star, known simply by the single name: Diella. Prime Minister Edi Rama introduced her as a member of his new cabinet on Thursday, four months after securing his fourth term in office in May elections.

South Korea, US Reaffirm Goal of Korean Peninsula Denuclearisation

Japan, South Korea and the United States have reaffirmed their "resolute commitment" to North Korea's "complete denuclearization," following hints by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that he is open to returning to talks with U.S. President Donald Trump — if Washington drops its demand that Pyongyang give up its nukes.

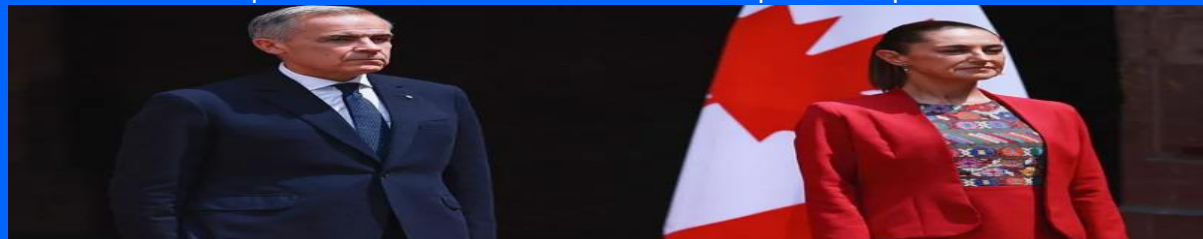


US Fed Cuts Rate by 25 bps, Signals Easing Cycle

The US Federal Reserve has cut interest rates for the first time this year, lowering its benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 4%-4.25% range. The move marks the beginning of a monetary easing cycle aimed at supporting a slowing labor market, even as inflation remains elevated. Fed said for further tweaks to the interest rates, the committee will assess incoming data, evolving outlook, and the balance of risks.

Canada and Mexico agree to deepen ties amid Trump trade war

Canada and Mexico have agreed to deepen ties, vowing closer co-operation on trade and security, as both countries grapple with rising economic pressure from the US. Following a meeting in Mexico City, Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum also expressed their commitment to a shared partnership with the US.



US Senators Introduce India Shrimp Tariff Act to Protect Seafood Industry

US Senators Bill Cassidy, and Cindy Hyde-Smith introduced the India Shrimp Tariff Act to protect Louisiana's shrimp and catfish industries against India's supply of cheap shrimp and produce into US markets. "People come from all over to try Louisiana gumbo, jambalaya, and shrimp and grits. That's because our shrimpers and catfish farmers meet high standards," said Dr. Cassidy.

