

The week from 07th December 2025 to 13th December 2025

Researchers have identified a new species of wolf snake, *Lycodon irwini*, on Great Nicobar Island. Named in honour of wildlife expert Steve Irwin, the species is glossy black, slender, and long-tailed. This non-venomous snake can reach up to 1.2 metres in length and primarily preys on small reptiles.

Lando Norris, racing for McLaren, secured his first Formula One world championship title in Abu Dhabi on December 7, 2025, ending Max Verstappen's four-year streak. Finishing third in the final race—behind Verstappen and fellow contender Oscar Piastri—won him the title by a slender margin of two points.

The IMF's June 2025 report, 'Growing Retail Digital Payments' has identified India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the world's largest fast-payment system in terms of transaction volume. According to ACI Worldwide's 2024 report Prime Time for Real Time, UPI accounts for nearly 49% of all global real-time payment transactions.

India achieved a landmark in sustainable transport with the launch of its first indigenous hydrogen-powered train. Designed and manufactured entirely in India, the 10-coach Broad Gauge train delivers 2,400 kW via two 1,200 kW Driving Power Cars, making it the world's longest hydrogen train on Broad Gauge. Powered by green hydrogen, it emits zero CO₂, with water vapour being the only emission!

The World Bank has granted USD 305 million to support Haryana's Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development, a Rs 3,646 crore initiative targeting measurable improvements in air quality by 2030. Implementation will be managed by ARJUN, a specialised SPV, focusing on key measures including 500 electric buses, 200 EV charging stations, cleaner industrial practices, and sustainable agriculture.

Andrej Babis, leader of the ANO movement, has been sworn in as the Czech Republic's new Prime Minister after forming a majority coalition with Freedom and Direct Democracy and Motorists for Themselves, securing 108 of 200 seats. The 16-member Cabinet is expected to pursue a more EU-sceptic and Hungary-Slovakia aligned policy direction with reduced support for Ukraine.

Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, has become the youngest player in history to earn a FIDE chess rating, achieving the milestone at just 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days. He was officially listed by FIDE after scoring points against the required number of rated players, debuting with a strong rating of 1572 well above the 1400 threshold.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee cut the repo rate by 25 basis points, lowering it from 5.5% to 5.25%, effective immediately, as announced by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The committee had paused rate changes in the last two meetings. Earlier, between February and June, the MPC had reduced the repo rate by 100 bps across three successive cuts, bringing it down from 6.5% to 5.5%.



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