

Ming Dynasty Chinese military general Cao Qin stages a coup against the Tianshun Emperor

Battle of Gangut: Russian Navy wins its first major victory during the Great Northern War against Sweden



Iraqi government forces slaughter over 3,000 Assyrians in the village of Simele in northern Iraq, commemorated as Assyrian Martyrs' Day

Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering, the precursor to Sony, begins selling its first transistor radios in Japan



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May India-Philippines friendship get stronger and stronger in the times to come!

@narendramodi

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On the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, we remember those who perished & stand with their families. Today, the risk of nuclear conflict is growing & the weapons that brought such devastation are once again treated as tools of coercion. Remembering the past is about protecting peace today & in the future.

@antonioguterres

03



Over 14,800 patients in Gaza are still in urgent need of specialised medical care. We urge more countries to step forward to accept patients and for medical evacuations to be expedited through all possible routes.

@DrTedros

04



For eight straight consecutive summer games, no one has won more medals than @TeamUSA... We want to keep it that way

@POTUS

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)



Security and relief personnel heaving rocks and removing debris to build a crossing across a stream of dense sludge during a search and rescue operation

Indian army searches for scores missing after deadly Himalayan flood

● At least four people were killed and more than 50 are unaccounted for

● Torrential monsoon rains have hampered rescue efforts

● Videos broadcast on Indian media showed a terrifying surge of muddy water sweeping away multi-storey apartment blocks

AFP | New Delhi, India

The Indian army brought in sniffer dogs, drones and heavy earth-moving equipment yesterday to search for scores of people missing a day after deadly Himalayan flash floods.

At least four people were killed and more than 50 are unaccounted for after a wall of muddy water and debris tore down a narrow mountain valley, smashing into the town of Dharali in Uttarakhand state,



People stand beside a damaged road at a village near Uttarkashi

rescue officials said on Wednesday.

Climate change experts warned that the disaster was a "wake-up call" to the effects of global warming.

Deadly floods and landslides

are common during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change, coupled with urbanisation, is increasing their frequency and severity.

Torrential monsoon rains

have hampered rescue efforts, with communication limited and phone lines damaged.

However, the assessment of the number missing has been reduced as soldiers and rescue teams reached marooned individuals. Around 100 people were reported as unaccounted for late on Tuesday.

"The search for the missing is ongoing," said Mohsen Shahedi from the National Disaster Response Force.

Videos broadcast on Indian media showed a terrifying surge of muddy water sweeping away multi-storey apartment blocks in the tourist region on Tuesday afternoon.

Shahedi said more than 50 people were missing from Dharali, while 11 soldiers were unaccounted for from the nearby downstream village of Harsil.

"Additional army columns, along with army tracker dogs, drones, logistic drones, earthmoving equipment etc., have been moved... to hasten the efforts," the army said.

Military helicopters were flying in essential supplies, it said, as well as picking up those stranded after roads were swept away even though rain and fog made flights difficult.

UPI's record-breaking day highlights India's digital payments boom

TDT | agencies

India's digital payment revolution reached a new peak on August 2, 2025, as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) clocked over 707 million transactions in a single day — its highest ever. The milestone was confirmed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signalling the platform's explosive growth and central role in the country's financial ecosystem.

UPI, which had been averaging around 650 million daily transactions through July, saw a surge at the beginning of August. Experts believe the spike was driven by routine rent transfers, salary payments, and utility bill settlements that typically occur



at the start of each month.

The new record marks a dramatic rise in UPI's adoption. In 2023, the platform was averaging 350 million transactions a day. That figure rose to 500 million by August 2024 and has now comfortably crossed the 700 million mark. The Government of India has set an ambitious target of hitting 1 billion daily transactions by 2026.

The real-time payment system, which allows seamless peer-to-peer and merchant transactions via mobile apps, has become the default choice for digital payments in India. Over 85 per cent of all digital transactions in the country now happen through UPI, with merchant payments accounting for nearly 62 per cent of the total volume — indicating strong uptake by businesses both large and small.

Powered by apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm, BHIM, and banking applications including SBI Yono, ICICI iMobile, and HDFC PayZapp, UPI links multiple bank accounts to a single mobile interface. Users can transfer funds using just a

mobile number or UPI ID, eliminating the need to input card details or bank information.

The platform is not just reshaping India's financial landscape but is also challenging global payment giants such as Visa and Mastercard in terms of daily volume. Unlike traditional card networks that use delayed settlement models, UPI processes payments in real time — offering a faster, more efficient alternative.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also voiced support for reintroducing Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions — at least for high-value merchant payments — to ensure the long-term viability of the platform.

Internationally, India is looking to replicate UPI's success. At the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed linking UPI with payment systems in other member nations to promote cross-border trade, business, and tourism. He also offered to share India's experience in building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), suggesting a pilot study to tailor solutions to regional needs.

UPI's global ambitions were further cemented last year when it was formally launched at the Eiffel Tower during the Republic Day reception in Paris — a symbolic step in India's effort to make UPI a global standard for digital transactions.

Tennessee man with heart implant executed, complained of pain

Washington, United States

A convicted murderer with a heart defibrillator complained that he was in pain while being put to death by lethal injection in the southern US state of Tennessee, according to witnesses to the execution.

Byron Black, 69, was executed on Tuesday at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison for the 1988 murders of his girlfriend, Angela Clay, 29, and her daughters Latoya, 9, and Lakeisha, 6.

Black's lawyers had sought prior to his execution to have the defibrillator deactivated, arguing that it could shock his heart back into rhythm while he was being put to death.

A state court ruled in Black's favor last month but was overruled by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Journalists who witnessed the execution said Black lifted his head shortly after the dose of pentobarbital was injected and said "Oh, it's hurting so bad."

"I'm so sorry," they quoted his spiritual advisor, who was in the death chamber, as saying.

Speaking at a press conference following the execution, the witnesses said Black appeared to be in distress but it was not clear if that was because of the lethal drugs or the defibrillator, which also served as a pacemaker.

There have been 28 executions in the United States this year, the most since 2015, when 28 inmates were also put to death.

Twenty-three of this year's executions have been carried out by lethal injection, two have been by firing squad and three by nitrogen hypoxia, which involves pumping nitrogen gas into a face mask, causing the prisoner to suffocate.