



Most Important Points for Daily News

➤ IIT-Madras Sets Record with Asia's Largest Wave Basin

IIT-Madras has successfully commissioned Asia's largest shallow wave basin at its Discovery campus in Thaiyur. This research facility is designed to address complex coastal engineering challenges and is expected to make significant contributions to marine science and engineering.

Developed with indigenous technology, the shallow wave basin is set to enhance the country's capabilities in port and waterway research without relying on foreign technology.



➤ Martin Guptill Announces Retirement from International Cricket

New Zealand's prolific opener, Martin Guptill, has officially retired from international cricket, concluding a distinguished 14-year career that began in 2009. Throughout his tenure, Guptill represented the Black Caps in 198 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 122 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), and 47 Test matches, amassing a total of 14,877 runs across all formats.



➤ Pravasi Bharatiya Express: A Gift to Indian Diaspora

On January, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a special state-of-the-art tourist train for the Indian diaspora, from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The launch coincides with the 110th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa on this date in 1915. The train, designed under the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY), aims to connect Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) with India's rich cultural and religious heritage by offering a fully sponsored tour across the country.





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➤ **Lebanon Elects General Joseph Aoun as President After 2-Year Deadlock**

Lebanon's parliament has elected General Joseph Aoun as the country's new president, effectively ending a two-year political vacuum. The election, held on January, 2025, concluded a prolonged period of political paralysis that began after the term of former President Michel Aoun ended in October 2022. General Aoun, who has led the Lebanese Armed Forces since 2017, secured 99 out of 128 votes in the second round of voting, surpassing the required majority.



➤ **Wildfires immobilize Los Angeles, a state in crisis**

In January 2025, Southern California is burning through the most devastating wildfire season in its history, with multiple major fires threatening Los Angeles County. The fires have caused widespread devastation, loss of life and severe disruption to daily life.



As climate change accelerates, gardens that are adaptable to such fires are being reclaimed, the region is facing a critical crisis. This article provides detailed information on the ongoing situation, the impact of the fires, and contributing documents.

➤ **Mo Farah to Lead 20th Mumbai Marathon as International Ambassador**

The Tata Mumbai Marathon, scheduled for January, 2025, is set to celebrate its 20th edition with a record-breaking 60,000 participants. In a significant development, Sir Mo Farah, the renowned British long-distance runner, has been appointed as the International Event Ambassador. Farah's involvement underscores the marathon's growing global stature and its commitment to promoting health and fitness.





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➤ India's Ranking in the Henley Passport Index 2025

India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2025 has dropped to 85th, five points lower than its 80th position in 2024. The index, based on data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), is a globally recognized tool for assessing passport mobility. Singapore retains its top spot for the second consecutive year, while Japan ranks second after holding the top position from 2018-2023.

