

International

President Trump warns of reciprocal tariffs as July 9 deadline nears for trade deals.

US President Donald Trump has said that he will impose reciprocal tariffs again on countries that fail to reach an agreement with America by July 9, when the 90-day pause ends. President Trump announced a pause in the tariffs for imports from all trading partner countries that had not hit back with retaliatory levies on American goods. These include about 75 countries that have chosen to reach out to the Trump administration to negotiate some kind of a deal. India is discussing a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the US.

Mauritius becomes first African country to sign ISA's Country Partnership Framework.

Mauritius has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF. This partnership aims to provide a structured approach for collaboration between ISA and Mauritius on solar energy initiatives, aligning with the country's national priorities.

The CPF is a strategic initiative developed by ISA to facilitate long- and medium-term cooperation with its member countries.

Pakistan deports over 11,000 Afghan refugees since April 1.

Pakistan has deported over 11 thousand Afghan refugees after a deadline for their voluntary return expired last week. In January, Pakistan announced that all Afghan Citizen Card holders should leave the country by March 31 or face deportation. Pakistani Authorities have launched a drive from April 1 to expel those falling into the category.

National

NIA secures successful extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Tahawwur Rana.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has successfully secured the extradition of

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the mastermind of the deadly 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, after years of sustained and concerted efforts to bring the key conspirator behind the 2008 mayhem to justice. A special flight carrying the terror attack mastermind landed at Palam Airport in Delhi.

Rana is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani, and operatives of designated terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami, to carry out the devastating terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008. A total of 166 persons were killed and over 238 injured in the deadly attacks.

India & Nepal sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture.

On the sidelines of the 3rd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial level meeting, India's Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, Ram Nath Adhikari, signed an MoU on 'Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture between India and Nepal'.

This agreement aims to strengthen the ongoing collaboration between the two nations, particularly in areas such as enhancing crop productivity, improving post-harvest management and agri-marketing systems, and promoting climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.

India, Russia approve six strategic projects to boost investment ties.

India and Russia have agreed on six new strategic projects to boost bilateral investment cooperation. The decision was taken during the eighth session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects held in New Delhi. The session aimed at strengthening economic ties between India and Russia by identifying and advancing collaborative projects in sectors of mutual interest.

Centre enhances material cost by 9.5% under PM POSHAN scheme.

Centre has enhanced the material cost by 9.50 percent under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme. The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under which hot cooked meals are served to over

eleven crore students studying in Balvatika and classes 1 to 8 in government and government-aided schools.

The new rates will be applicable across all the States and UTs with effect from the 1st of next month. The Central Government will bear the additional cost of 954 crore rupees in 2025-26 due to this enhancement.

Global Technology Summit 2025 to begin in New Delhi with theme 'Sambhavna'.

The 9th edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025 will be held in New Delhi. The theme for this year's Summit is Sambhavna – meaning possibilities- and will explore how emerging technologies can drive inclusive growth, strengthen digital governance, and deepen cross-border partnerships. The three-day summit will feature over 40 public sessions, including keynote addresses, ministerial conversations, expert panels, and strategic conversations.

More than 150 speakers from over 40 countries will join discussions on the most pressing tech challenges and opportunities facing the world today.

Business and Economy

RBI to make regulatory sandbox facility available 'on tap'.

The RBI has proposed making its Regulatory Sandbox 'Theme Neutral' and 'On Tap', allowing continuous access for eligible fintech innovations. This move aims to foster ongoing innovation beyond the limited-time thematic cohorts launched since 2019.

This new approach will allow eligible fintechs to apply and test their innovations at any time, without waiting for specific cohorts or themes.

Tata Steel recognised as 2025 Steel Sustainability Champion by worldsteel for the eighth consecutive year.

The World Steel Association (worldsteel) has recognised 14 companies as Steel Sustainability Champions for their work in 2024. Tata Steel has been recognised as a Steel Sustainability Champion 2025 by worldsteel for the eighth consecutive year. Tata Steel is among a select group of steel-producing companies that have been named 2025 Steel Sustainability

Champions at worldsteel's Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Board of Members held in Sydney, Australia.

The evaluation process considers key sustainability indicators such as material efficiency, environmental management systems, lost time injury frequency rate, employee training, investments in innovative processes and products, and economic value distribution.

RBI prescribes norms for gold loans as part of new regulations.

In a bid to safeguard the interests of borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued draft guidelines on prudential norms and conduct-related aspects for gold loans urging lenders to have uniform documentation for such instruments. This will ensure consistency in customer treatment, risk assessment, and asset valuation practices.

The RBI announced that regulations for issuing gold loans will be harmonised across all regulated entities among four other regulatory and developmental policies in the banking ecosystem.

India's forex reserves rise to \$676.3 billion.

India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$676.3 billion as of April 4, the highest level in five months and gaining for a fifth consecutive week. The reserves provide an import cover of about 11 months.

The reserves rose by \$10.9 billion in the reporting week, the most in a month, after increasing by a cumulative \$26.7 billion in the prior four weeks.

India's exports surge to record \$820 billion in 2024-25.

India's goods and services exports have crossed a record 820 billion US dollars in the financial year 2024-25, despite economic uncertainties in global markets. Commerce Ministry said this represents a close to 6 percent increase over the corresponding figure of 778 billion dollars for the previous financial year.

Neelam Dhungana Timsina appointed as acting Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank.

Deputy Governor Dr Neelam Dhungana Timsina has been appointed as the acting

governor of Nepal Rastra Bank for the time being. The Rastra Bank has been without a governor since the end of outgoing Governor Mahaprasad Adhikari's term on April 6.

Google accelerates AI innovation with Gemini update, Ironwood TPUs, and multi-agent agent Tools.

Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian unveiled a series of groundbreaking innovations, focusing heavily on artificial intelligence (AI), cloud infrastructure, and new tools for developers and enterprises.

Key announcements include advances in distributed cloud that lets users bring Gemini models on premises, seventh generation Tensor Processing Units (TPUs), and multi-agent ecosystems, setting the stage for the future of business AI.

One of the most prominent highlights was the introduction of Ironwood, Google's seventh-generation TPU, which delivers a staggering 42.5 exaflops of compute per pod. Ironwood, which utilises over 9,000 chips per pod, is tailored to meet the demands of sophisticated models like Gemini 2.5.

SEBI appoints high-level panel to review conflict of interest.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a high-level committee (HLC) to review conflict of interest among board members and employees of the securities market regulators, in line with the decision made at the board meeting last month. The committee will be chaired by Pratyush Sinha, a former chief vigilance commissioner.

The HLC shall comprehensively review and make recommendations for enhancing the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest, disclosures and related matters towards ensuring the high standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct of members and officials of the Board.

IOC to invest ₹61,000 crore in mega petchem project in Odisha.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest over ₹61,000 crore in setting up a mega petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha to

meet the rising demand for petrochemicals in the world's fastest-growing economy. IOC has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Odisha government at the State's investor meet, committing to invest ₹61,077 crore in the complex.

IMF reaches preliminary deal with Argentina on \$20 billion bailout.

The International Monetary Fund has reached a preliminary, staff-level agreement with cash-strapped Argentina on a \$20 billion bailout, providing a welcome reprieve to libertarian President Javier Milei as he seeks to overturn the country's old economic order.

As a staff-level agreement, the rescue package still requires final approval from the IMF's executive board, which was expected to meet in the coming days.

Sports

Shooting World Cup: Rudrankksh Patil, Arya Borse bag air rifle mixed team silver.

India's Arya Borse and Rudrankksh Patil have won the silver medal in the mixed 10-meter air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Indian duo lost 17-9 in the final to China's Wang Zifei and Song Buhan. With this achievement, India's medal tally stands at seven with four golds, two silvers, and one bronze, placing them second on the medal table just behind China.

IPL 2025: Kohli becomes first batter to score 1000 boundaries in tournament.

India's star batter, Virat Kohli became the first player to smash 1000 boundaries in the IPL tournament's rich history. Virat has now played in all 18 IPL seasons, reached the milestone during the Match against Delhi Capitals in Bengaluru.

Kohli's iconic moment came in the fourth over of RCB's innings when he launched DC skipper Axar Patel for a towering six over long-on, taking his tally to a staggering 1000 boundaries, comprising 721 fours and 279 sixes.