

International

Albania Holds Parliamentary Elections

Albania holds its parliamentary elections today, in which Prime Minister Edi Rama is seeking an unprecedented fourth term in office. A total of 3.7 million Albanian citizens are eligible to elect 140 members of parliament, with the Albanian diaspora participating in the ballot for the first time.

Prime Minister Edi Rama and his ruling Socialist Party are both aiming for a historic fourth term after a campaign dominated by promises to join the European Union.

US Announces Trade Deal With China

The United States has announced a trade deal with China in Geneva, Switzerland. The US Secretary of the Treasury, Scott Bessent, said the talks with China were very productive. He also thanked the Swiss government for hosting the talks. The United States has a massive 1.2-trillion-US-dollar trade deficit, and this deal will help towards resolving this deficit.

International Nurses Day Observed Honouring Florence Nightingale

International Nurses Day is being celebrated on May 12 around the world to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) commemorates this important day each year. The theme for this year is 'Our nurses. Our future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies'.

National

NASA-ISRO Radar Satellite to Launch Next Month: ISRO Chief

Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan has said that the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar satellite is likely to be launched next month. He said the radar satellite has two major payloads and has a microwave remote sensing satellite. He said one payload has been made by the US and another by India. He also stated that on May 18, the RA-SAT, a C-band synthetic radar satellite, will be launched by PSLV, and next month, Gaganyatri will be sent to the International Space Station to gain some experience.

India Gifts 15 Electric Vehicles to Nepal for Mountain Dialogue

India had gifted 15 electric vehicles to Nepal to facilitate the organisation of 'Sagarmatha Sambad' (mountain dialogue).

The Nepal Government is hosting Sagarmatha Sambad in Kathmandu from May 16-18 on the theme 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity'.

Sarvam AI Launches Bulbul-v2, Its Voice Model With Support for 11 Indian Languages

Indian AI startup Sarvam has unveiled its latest AI model called Bulbul-V2, a text-to-speech (TTS) model that supports 11 Indian languages. Bulbul-v2 is the company's flagship text-to-speech model that has been specifically designed for Indian languages and accents. It is the first startup chosen by the Central Government to build India's sovereign large language model (LLM) as part of the broader IndiaAI mission.

Indian Navy Receives First Anti-Submarine Vessel From GRSE

The Indian Navy has received 'Arnala', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs), at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.

The vessel has been designed and built indigenously by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) under a collaborative public-private initiative with L&T Shipyard. The ASW SWC are set to replace the existing Abhay-class corvettes currently in service.

Business and Economy

India, Chile Sign Terms of Reference for New Trade Deal

India has signed the terms of reference with Chile for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The mutually agreed terms were signed by Juan Angulo, Ambassador of Chile in India, and Vimal Anand, joint secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Anand is also the chief negotiator for the India-Chile CEPA on behalf of India. India's bilateral trade with Chile stood at \$3.6 billion in 2024-25 as of February 2025.

Canara Bank Net Profit Up 33% to ₹5,004 Crore

Canara Bank posted a 33.19% year-on-year (YoY) increase in net profit to ₹5,004 crore for the March quarter of FY25, up from ₹3,757.23 crore a year ago. The Q4 saw the bank's total interest income increase to ₹31,002.04 crore, a 7.62% YoY growth over ₹28,807.35 crore in the previous year.

Global Ratings Agency Upgrades India's Rating

Morningstar DBRS, a global ratings agency, has upgraded its rating of India's long-term and short-term debt on the basis of the country's structural reform efforts, fiscal consolidation, resilient banking system, and high potential growth rate.

India's long-term rating was raised to BBB from BBB (low), while short-term rating was raised to R-2 (high) from R-2 (middle).

Adani Green Becomes World's 1st Renewable Energy IPP to Turn Water Positive

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has become the world's first renewable energy (RE) Independent Power Producer (IPP) to turn water positive across its entire operational portfolio, that exceeds a massive 14 GW capacity. It is the first and only among top global 10 (in terms of operational RE portfolio) companies to ever reach this milestone.

Being water positive means adopting practices that not only save water but also increase water availability in the surroundings. For industries, this means replenishing more fresh water to nature than they consume in their operations

Sports

India Wins Women's ODI Tri-Series

India crushed Sri Lanka by 97 runs and won the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series title after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana scored a sublime century.

Batting first, India posted a commanding 342 for seven. The Indian bowlers then completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245.

French MotoGP 2025: Zarco Becomes First Frenchman in 71 Years to Win Grand Prix

Johann Zarco became the first Frenchman in 71 years to win the French Grand Prix. Zarco won by a huge margin of nearly 20 seconds ahead of Ducati's Marc Marquez, while Gresini Racing's Fermin Aldeguer came third for his first MotoGP podium.

India Bags 7 Medals at Archery World Cup in Shanghai

Seasoned archer Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe bagged bronze medals as India finished their campaign with seven medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, China. In a tense bronze medal match, Deepika defeated Tokyo Olympic team gold medallist Kang Chaeyoung of Korea with a 7-3 scoreline. Her victory marked India's first medal of the year in the women's recurve category and her 12th individual World Cup medal.