

International

Pakistan launches indigenous EO-2 satellite from China.

Pakistan has successfully launched its second indigenous Earth Observation satellite, EO-2, from China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre.

Developed by Suparco, the satellite will enhance high-resolution imaging and support national planning, disaster management, climate analysis and governance.

The launch marks a milestone in Pakistan's space programme and reflects growing technological self-reliance, achieved with strong China-Pakistan cooperation.

UK pledges fresh air defence support for Ukraine.

Britain has pledged hundreds of millions of dollars in air defence assistance to Ukraine to counter Russian attacks on energy infrastructure.

Around \$200 million will go to a NATO-backed scheme to procure U.S. weaponry, while the UK will also supply 1,000 British-made lightweight missiles worth over \$500 million.

The announcement came during a NATO defence ministers' meeting in Brussels as allies reaffirmed support for Ukraine.

Important Days

World Radio Day: 13th February.

World Radio Day is observed on 13 February to mark the establishment of United Nations Radio in 1946.

The 2026 theme, "Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice," emphasizes ethical use of AI while preserving human credibility in broadcasting.

UNESCO-declared, the day underscores radio's enduring role in education, disaster communication and inclusion. In India, public, private and community radio continue to connect diverse populations and support national development.

Obituary

Indian Motorsport Stalwart Sanjay 'Hardy' Sharma passes away.

Sanjay Sharma, Head of Motorsport and Corporate Communications at JK Tyres, passed away.

Widely known as "Hardy," he was a towering figure in Indian motorsport and played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of Formula One drivers Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok, as well as rally champion Gaurav Gill.

National

Indian navy takes charge of multinational CTF 154.

The Indian Navy has assumed command of Combined Task Force 154, a key training-focused multinational task force under the Combined Maritime Forces.

Commodore Milind M. Mokashi took over as Commander during a ceremony at CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain.

The development underscores growing regional trust in India's naval professionalism, operational expertise and role as a preferred security partner among CMF's 47 member nations.

Assam to inaugurate northeast's first emergency landing facility.

Assam will witness a landmark development with the inauguration of an Emergency Landing Facility on the Moran bypass in Dibrugarh district.

The first such facility in the Northeast, it will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister and can serve as an alternative runway for fighter jets, transport aircraft and helicopters during emergencies.

The facility will also strengthen humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations and national security preparedness.

DAC clears ₹3.6 lakh crore defence procurement proposals.

The Defence Acquisition Council has approved proposals worth nearly ₹3.6 lakh crore to strengthen the capabilities of India's Armed Forces.

Acceptance of Necessity was accorded for key acquisitions, including Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (Rafale), combat missiles and advanced systems for the Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard.

The Ministry also signed a ₹2,312 crore contract with HAL for eight Dornier aircraft, reinforcing Aatmanirbhar Bharat and enhancing maritime security.

Assam Rifles to induct indigenous dog breeds in K9 units.

Indigenous dog breeds from Tamil Nadu and the Northeast are set to replace foreign breeds in the Assam Rifles' dog squad by 2050.

Following a 2025 Home Ministry directive, the force is expanding its pilot project with Manipur's Tangkhul Hui dogs and has identified the Kombai breed of Tamil Nadu as a suitable partner.

Both breeds, known for disease resistance and tracking skills, are expected to be fully inducted by 2027 after training at the Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre.

Business and Economy

Retail inflation at 2.75% in January under new CPI series.

Retail inflation stood at 2.75% in January 2026 under the new Consumer Price Index series with 2024 as the base year, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

This is the first inflation reading under the revised series, which expands item coverage, updates weights based on the HCES 2023–24, and includes online marketplaces.

The revision reflects changing consumption patterns and is expected to make inflation data more representative and stable.

RBI proposes strict curbs on harsh loan recovery practices.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued draft guidelines to curb harsh loan recovery practices by banks and recovery agents. The proposed rules prohibit abusive language, excessive calls, intimidation, public humiliation and misleading claims. Banks must also set up dedicated grievance redress mechanisms.

Titled RBI (Commercial Banks – Responsible Business Conduct) Second Amendment Directions, 2026, the norms will take effect from 1 July 2026, with public comments invited before finalisation.

India–Malaysia enable UPI-based QR payments.

NPCI International Payments Ltd, the overseas arm of NPCI, has signed an agreement with Malaysia's Payments Network Malaysia (PayNet) to enable QR-based merchant payments between the two countries.

Under the arrangement, Indian travellers in Malaysia will be able to use UPI apps for seamless payments at DuitNow QR-enabled merchants, strengthening cross-border digital payment connectivity.

RBI Digital Payments Index rises to 516.76.

The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index increased to 516.76 in September 2025 from 465.33 a year earlier, highlighting rapid growth in digital payments adoption.

The rise was driven mainly by improvements in payment performance and payment enablers.

With March 2018 as the base year, the index is published semi-annually and tracks digital payment penetration through five key parameters, including infrastructure, performance and consumer centricity.

India's trade surplus with US may cross \$90 billion: SBI report.

India's trade surplus with the United States could exceed \$90 billion annually following the new trade deal, according to an SBI research report.

The surplus may rise by at least \$45 billion, equal to 1.1% of GDP, with potential forex savings of \$3 billion.

Indian exporters could boost shipments of key items by over \$97 billion, while the EU trade deal opens a \$260 billion duty-free textile market for India.

Sports

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar sets world record at Asian Shooting Championships.

Two-time Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar created a world record while winning gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026 in New Delhi.

He scored 362.0 to defend his title, as India swept the podium.

The Indian trio also clinched team gold, while Adriyan Karmakar won junior gold.