

International

Mark Carney sworn in as Canada's new PM.

Former central banker Mark Carney has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Canada. Fifty-nine-year-old Carney replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was in office for nine years. A new Cabinet of 13 men and 11 women was sworn in, smaller than Trudeau's 37-member team.

SpaceX & NASA launch Crew-10 mission to bring home stranded astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore.

SpaceX and NASA have launched a mission to bring back US astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS), where they have been stranded for nine months. The mission also launched four crew members to the ISS. Crew-10 marks the 10th crew rotation mission under SpaceX's human space transportation system and the 11th crewed flight to the ISS under NASA's Commercial Crew Program, including the Demo-2 test flight.

Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore have been stranded on the ISS for nine months after reaching there in June last year.

NASA reports alarming surge in global sea levels in 2024.

NASA has revealed that global sea levels have risen faster than anticipated in 2024. The US space agency reported that the rate of sea level rise last year reached 0.59 centimeters per year, surpassing the expected 0.43 centimeters. This acceleration is primarily due to the warming of ocean water, which causes it to expand, along with additional meltwater from glaciers and ice sheets.

It also highlighted that 2024 marked the warmest year on record, with Earth's oceans reaching their highest levels in three decades.

Since satellite measurements began in 1993, global sea levels have risen by 10 centimeters, and the rate of rise has more than doubled.

National

Centre launches first exploration licence auction for critical minerals.

In a move to boost India's mining sector, the Ministry of Mines, in collaboration with the Government of Goa, has launched India's first-ever auction of Exploration Licences. The auction will focus on 13 Exploration Licence blocks, covering critical minerals such as rare earth elements, Zinc, Copper, and Diamond. This transparent, online bidding process aims to accelerate systematic exploration and reduce India's dependence on mineral imports.

Yoga Mahotsav 2025 inaugurated to mark 100-day countdown to International Yoga Day.

Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav has inaugurated Yoga Mahotsav- 2025 in New Delhi, to mark the 100-day countdown to the 11th International Yoga Day, which will be held on 21st June across the globe. On the occasion, the Minister also announced that within 100 days, ten significant events will be organised in different parts of the country. He added, that under these events, Yoga Bandhan, a Yoga exchange program with 10 partner countries will be conducted. Mr Jadhav informed that the Yoga Sangam program will be organised at 10 thousand locations in the country.

Centre plans to turn North-east into next saffron hub.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said that Northeast is a key driver for India to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat and the region will also become the country's next saffron hub.

Dr. Singh said that the government's Mission Saffron initiative has since 2021

expanded saffron cultivation across Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya. He stated that this initiative will turn Northeast region as India's next saffron hub after Jammu and Kashmir's Pampore. The initiative strategically utilises uncultivated land, enhancing agricultural potential without disrupting existing crops.

Business and Economy

LIC, New India Assurance, GIC Re remain D-SIIs

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), The New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) have retained the domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) tag.

The three insurers have been identified as D-SIIs for 2024-25, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said on the decisions and discussions at its 129th meeting on March 12.

India's forex reserves surge by \$15.26 billion, cross \$653.96 billion mark.

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by 15.26 billion dollars, reaching over 653.96 billion dollars in the week ending March 7, bolstered by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) currency swap operations last month. Foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, were up by over 13.93 billion dollars to over 557.28 billion dollars. During the last week, gold reserves rose by 1 billion dollars, totalling over 74.32 billion dollars.

ISRO earns \$143 million from foreign satellite launches.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has generated nearly 143 million US dollars in foreign exchange revenue through satellite launches. ISRO launched a total of 393 foreign satellites and 3 Indian customer satellites on a commercial basis over the past decade. These satellites were

successfully launched aboard ISRO's PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles.

ISRO's impressive track record includes launching satellites for 34 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and several other developed nations.

Intel hires former board member Lip-Bu Tan as new CEO.

Intel Corporation has announced that its board of directors has appointed Lip-Bu Tan, as chief executive officer, effective March 18. He succeeds Interim Co-CEOs David Zinsner and Michelle (MJ) Johnston Holthaus. Tan will also rejoin the Intel board of directors after stepping down from the board in August 2024.

Gold hits \$3,000/oz for first time in historic safe-haven rally.

Gold broke through the key \$3,000 barrier on Friday for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the safe haven asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war.

Spot gold rose 0.1% to \$2,991 an ounce at 9:42 am after hitting an all-time high of \$3,004.86.

Canara Bank proposes to raise upto ₹4,000 crore through Basel III-Compliant Tier II Bonds.

Canara Bank was proposing to raise up to ₹4,000 crore through Basel III-compliant Tier II Bonds. According to a statement from the bank, the bond is rated AAA/Stable by CRISIL and CARE and will have a tenor of 10-years with five-year call option.

Amazon, Google sign pledge to support tripling of nuclear energy capacity by 2050.

Amazon and Google have signed a pledge to support the goal of at least tripling the world's nuclear energy capacity by 2050, on the sidelines of the CERAWEEK conference

in Houston. Shale company Occidental and Japanese heavy machinery maker IHI Corp also added their names to the pledge.

Bank unions firm on March 24-25 strike as talks with IBA fail

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) said its two-day nationwide strike on March 24 and 25 will be observed as scheduled since discussions with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) over key demands failed to yield any positive outcome.

In a meeting with the IBA, all UFBU constituents raised issues, including recruitment in all cadres and a five-day workweek. Still, the key issues remained unresolved, National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) General Secretary L Chandrasekhar said.

Patanjali Ayurved, DS Group to acquire Magma General Insurance for ₹4,500 crore

The board of Sanoti Properties LLP, jointly owned by billionaire businessman Adar Poonawalla and Rising Sun Holdings Pvt. Ltd., has approved the sale of its insurance subsidiary, Magma General Insurance Ltd. (erstwhile Magma HDI General Insurance Company Ltd.), along with Celica Developers and Jaguar Advisory Services (defined together with Sanoti Properties

LLP as majority sellers) to Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. and DS Group at a valuation of ₹4,500 crore, subject to regulatory approvals.

RBI fixes Sovereign Gold Bond redemption rate at ₹8,624 per unit

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the redemption price for the final redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) due on March 17, 2025 would be ₹8,624 per unit of SGB. This price has been fixed based on the simple average of closing gold price for the week March 10-13, 2025.

Sports

All England Open Badminton Tournament: Indian challenge ends.

India's challenge has ended in the All England Open Super 1000 Badminton Tournament in Birmingham. Lakshya Sen lost 10-21, 16-21 to China's Li Shi Feng in the quarterfinals.

The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also went down in quarterfinals 14-21, 10-21 to the Chinese pair of Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning.

Big names like PV Sindhu, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were ousted earlier.