

## International

### INS Sudarshini arrives in Malta during Global Voyage Lokayan-26.

Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini arrived at Valletta, Malta, as part of its transoceanic expedition Lokayan-26, covering a 22,000-nautical-mile global voyage.

The visit highlights strong maritime ties between India and Malta and supports India's MAHASAGAR vision for maritime cooperation.

The ship, which began its journey from Kochi in January, will next sail to France to participate in the Escale à Sète maritime festival.

### Sri Lanka makes QR Code Registration mandatory for fuel.

Sri Lanka has made QR code registration compulsory for all vehicles to receive fuel from filling stations.

The Energy Ministry said fuel will not be issued without a valid registered QR code. The move aims to manage limited fuel supplies amid disruptions in global fuel routes due to Middle East tensions and to curb hoarding and illegal racketeering.

## Important Days

### World Consumer Rights Day 2026 observed on March 15.

World Consumer Rights Day is observed globally on March 15 to raise awareness about consumer rights and promote fair trade practices.

The 2026 theme, "Safe Products, Confident Consumers," highlights the importance of product safety in both online and offline markets.

The day encourages stronger consumer protection measures and greater awareness so that buyers can make informed choices and safeguard their rights.

## National

### INS Trikand concludes port call at Mauritius.

Indian Naval Ship INS Trikand has concluded its port call at Port Louis, Mauritius.

During the visit, the ship participated in the 58th Mauritius National Day Parade with a marching contingent, naval band and helicopter fly-past.

The Defence Ministry said the visit reaffirms the strong maritime partnership between India and Mauritius and aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision to enhance regional cooperation and growth.

### National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries held in Srinagar.

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying organised a National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar on March 14, 2026.

The conference focused on exploring sustainable development and economic potential of cold-water fisheries in India, bringing together policymakers, experts and stakeholders to strengthen the sector's growth.

### Government Notifies Electricity (Amendment) Rules 2026.

The Government of India has notified the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending provisions related to Captive Generating Plants (CGPs) under the Electricity Rules, 2005.

The reforms aim to remove regulatory ambiguities, simplify compliance and improve ease of doing business for industries.

The amendments clarify ownership norms, introduce a uniform verification framework and support investments in captive and non-fossil fuel energy projects, strengthening industrial competitiveness and India's energy transition.

## Business and Economy

### India's services exports cross \$348 billion in FY26.

The government has said that India's services exports reached over \$348 billion during April–January of FY26, reflecting strong growth in the sector.

Services exports accounted for 10% of India's GDP in the first half of the financial year.

Software services remain the largest contributor, followed by business and consulting services. The government aims to increase India's share in global services trade to 10% by 2047.

## Sports

### India tops medal table at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026.

India finished first in the medal standings at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 – New Delhi leg, winning a total of 208 medals at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The host nation secured 75 gold, 69 silver and 64 bronze medals, while Russia finished second and Bosnia and Herzegovina third.

The event featured 257 athletes from eight countries and served as a key preparation platform for upcoming global para-athletics competitions.

### Four Indian boxers enter Finals of World Boxing Futures Cup.

Four Indian youth boxers have reached the finals of the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 in Bangkok after winning their semifinal bouts.

Chandrika (51kg), Gunjan (48kg), Joyshree Devi (54kg) and Ambekar Meetei (50kg) secured impressive victories to advance.

Meanwhile, Radhamani Longjam (57kg) settled for bronze after a narrow semifinal loss. The tournament serves as a qualification pathway for the Youth Olympic Games 2026 in Dakar, Senegal.

### India qualifies for Women's Hockey World Cup despite final loss.

India lost 0–2 to England in the final of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifier at the G.M.C. Balyogi Hockey Ground in Hyderabad.

England scored through Grace Balsdon and Elizabeth Neal.

Despite the defeat, India secured qualification for the Women's Hockey World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the Netherlands and Belgium from August 14 to 30.

Scotland also qualified after defeating Italy in the tournament.

### F1 cancels Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix

Formula 1 has announced that the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix scheduled for April have been cancelled due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

The sport's governing body, the FIA, said the races will not be replaced on the calendar.

F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali stated the decision was taken considering the current security situation, while the FIA emphasised that the safety of teams and personnel remains the top priority.