

International

Indonesia gives full access to American firms in lieu of lowered tariffs.

US President Donald Trump has announced a new trade agreement with Indonesia, lowering proposed tariffs on Indonesian goods to 19 percent in exchange for full access for American firms. Indonesia, in turn, will buy 15 billion dollars in US energy, 4.5 billion dollars in agricultural goods, and 50 Boeing jets.

UN Chief says only 35% of SDGs on track for 2030.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has reported that only 35 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track to be met by the 2030 deadline. He said the drawback in meeting the deadline is a global development emergency. He highlighted achievements in education, clean energy, digital access, and social security, along with declines in child marriage and increased women's participation.

However, over 800 million people remain in extreme poverty, with nearly 18 per cent of the goals regressing. Climate change, the debt crisis, and conflicts are hindering progress, prompting a call for peace in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and West Asia.

India's Nimisha Priya's execution postponed.

The execution of Indian nurse Nimisha Priya that was scheduled to be carried out in Yemen has been postponed. Nimisha Priya has been on the death row in Yemen since 2018 for a 2017 murder of her then business partner. Negotiations are currently underway to settle the matter with the family of the victim.

National

Centre approves Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana to enhance agricultural productivity.

The Union Cabinet has approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana to enhance agricultural productivity with an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore for six years. The scheme aims to increase crop diversification and sustainable agricultural

practices, augment post-harvest storage, improve irrigation facilities and facilitate the availability of credit.

One hundred districts will be identified in the country under the scheme, which will be based on three key indicators – low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement. He said, the scheme will be implemented through the convergence of 36 existing schemes across eleven departments, and other State schemes.

National Young Chef Competition launched.

Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, Suman Billa said that India's culinary heritage is built on cultural memory and regional techniques. Launching the National Young Chef Competition (NYCC) in New Delhi, Mr. Billa stressed on reinforcing these traditions and also expanding India's footprint in the global fine dining space.

NYCC, a collaborative effort with the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations and the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council, is themed "Celebrating Indian Culinary Heritage: Blending Tradition with Innovation". It features zonal competitions across India culminating in a grand finale at IHM Pusa, New Delhi, in January next year.

Centre to form panel on Polavaram project, inter-state water issues between Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

The Centre has decided to constitute a high-level technical committee to examine concerns around the Polavaram Banakacherla Link Project (PBLP) and other pending inter-state water issues between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The committee, comprising senior officials and technical experts from both states and the Centre, will collaboratively assess outstanding issues and recommend equitable and technically viable solutions to ensure equitable and efficient water sharing.

The move follows a high-level meeting chaired by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil with both Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh and A Revanth Reddy of Telangana in New Delhi.

Sikkim declares Yakten as India's first Digital Nomad Village

A remote village in Sikkim's Pakyong district was officially declared India's first 'Digital Nomad Village', under the state government's 'Nomad Sikkim' initiative. Yakten village, situated in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas and known for its serene landscapes, has been developed in a way that it can host people who want to work remotely while being surrounded by nature, adding that the village has a good internet connection as well as nice surroundings.

India achieves 50% clean power capacity 5 years ahead of target.

India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of the target. Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said. He said, achieving 50 per cent non-fossil fuel capacity five years ahead of the 2030 target is a proud moment for every Indian.

Flagship programmes such as PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, solar park development, and the National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy have laid a strong foundation for this transformation.

India observes AI Appreciation Day on July 16.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Appreciation Day is being observed in India on July 16. The day celebrates the country's growing role in the global AI landscape. From tech hubs like Bengaluru and Hyderabad to rural areas, AI is transforming healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and industry in the country.

The Central government's AI for All vision and the National Strategy for AI aim to use AI not just for economic growth, but also to improve lives, ensure inclusion, and promote equity.

Infosys Foundation launches livelihood programme.

Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic and CSR arm of Infosys has launched the 'Infosys Springboard Livelihood Program' to enable half a million job seekers in India to find employment by 2030. The foundation also

made a commitment of over ₹200 crore to fund the first phase of the programme.

Business and Economy

IFCI seeks government nod for consolidation of group companies.

State-owned IFCI has sought the government's go-ahead for the consolidation of its various group entities, including the broking business. IFCI Limited (the consolidated entity) also proposed to remain as an NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company).

Under the consolidation at the company level (Merger 1), the company has proposed the consolidation of StockHolding Corporation, IFCI Factors, IFCI Infrastructure Development and IIDL Realtors with IFCI Limited, the listed entity.

Economy to grow at 6.5% in FY26 despite global tensions, trade uncertainties, says EAC-PM.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman S Mahendra Dev said that the Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.5% in the current financial year, despite geo-political tensions and trade policy uncertainties.

Mr. Dev further said that domestic growth will be driven by low inflation, resulting from good monsoon and benign interest rate regime, triggered by three back-to-back rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India.

Gujarat tops in production and export of processed potatoes in India

Gujarat has recorded a total production of 48.59 lakh tonnes of potatoes in the 2024-25 season, which includes varieties cultivated for processing into French fries and wafers.

The State has emerged as the top producer of processed potatoes in India, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Production for 2024-25 season stands at 48.58 lakh tonnes, 25% of which was accounted by the processed potato segment

SBI to issue up to ₹20,000 crore bonds to domestic investors.

State Bank of India (SBI) will raise up to ₹20,000 crore via the issue of bonds to domestic investors in the current fiscal year.

In a regulatory filing, SBI has said its board has “accorded approval for raising funds in INR by the issue of Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 Bonds, up to an amount of ₹20,000 crore to domestic investors during FY26, subject to GOI approval wherever required”.

NPCI International adds 13 more banks in UPI-PayNow linkage to ease remittances.

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has further enhanced the UPI-PayNow real-time payment linkage by adding 13 more banks on the platform, thus extending its reach and simplifying cross-border remittances between India and Singapore. This will go live on July 17, 2025, and users in both countries can remit funds to a wider base, making the service more accessible and convenient.

The expanded network will allow users in Singapore to send remittances to accounts in India held with lenders such as HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank and UCO Bank, alongside previously integrated banks including ICICI Bank and State Bank of India. Funds can be received via UPI-enabled apps like BHIM, Google Pay and PhonePe, or through bank apps.

Mira Murati's AI startup Thinking Machines valued at \$12 billion in early-stage funding

Thinking Machines Lab, the artificial intelligence startup founded by former OpenAI executive Mira Murati, said it has raised about \$2 billion at a valuation of \$12 billion in a funding round led by venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz.

The fundraise also saw participation from AI chip giant Nvidia, Accel, ServiceNow, Cisco, AMD and Jane Street, the startup said.

Sports

Deepika wins Poligras Magic Skill Award for solo goal.

Indian women's hockey forward Deepika has won the Poligras Magic Skill Award 2024-25 for her spectacular solo goal against the world No. 1 Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League. The award, decided by a global fan vote held from July 4 to 13, celebrates moments of individual brilliance in hockey.

In the men's category, Belgium's Victor Wegnez won the award for his excellent midfield play that led to a stunning team goal against Spain.

Ancy Sojan wins bronze in women's long jump

In Athletics, India's Ancy Sojan has claimed third place in the women's long jump at the Lignano Meeting, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event held in Italy. Ancy showed consistent form, with five of her six jumps crossing the 6.15m mark. Her best jump of the day was 6.36m, achieved on her fourth attempt.