

International

US carries out series of airstrikes on Yemen's capital Sanaa.

The United States of America carried out a series of airstrikes on Yemen's capital Sanaa following an order from President Donald Trump. President Trump also promised to continue the use of overwhelming lethal force until Iranian-backed Houthi rebels cease their attacks on shipping along a vital maritime corridor.

US warfighters carried out aerial attacks on the terrorists' bases, leaders, and missile defences to protect American shipping, air, and naval assets, and to restore navigational freedom.

Trump administration in US to impose new travel ban against 43 countries.

The Donald Trump administration is considering imposing a new travel ban that could affect citizens from as many as 43 countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Russia.

A draft list of recommendations by security officials proposes categorising countries into three groups — Red, Orange, and Yellow — to restrict travel. Being placed on the Red List would mean a complete ban on entering the United States. The other countries on the Red List are Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

SpaceX Starship, carrying Tesla humanoid robot Optimus, to depart for Mars at 2026 end.

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has announced that the Starship rocket would depart for Mars at the end of 2026. The spacecraft will also carry Tesla's humanoid robot Optimus onboard, as a precursor to human landings. SpaceX, which was founded on March 14, 2002, just marked its 23rd anniversary.

National

New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon arrives in Delhi.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon had arrived in New Delhi on Sunday afternoon on a five-day visit to India. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation,

including Ministers, senior officials, businesses, media and members of the Indian diaspora community.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold talks with his New Zealand counterpart covering various aspects of bilateral ties. He will also call on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

India adds six properties to tentative list for UNESCO recognition.

A set of six properties -- including Ashokan Edict Sites and Chausath Yogini Temples spread across multiple states -- have been added to India's tentative list by the Unesco's World Heritage Centre. The six properties added to the tentative list include Kanger Valley National Park in Chhattisgarh; Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs in Telangana; serial nomination of Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes (multiple states); serial nomination of Chausath Yogini Temples (multiple states); serial nomination of Gupta Temples in north India (multiple states), and the palace-fortresses of the Bundelas in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

With these additions, India now has 62 sites on the tentative list. The 'tentative list' is an inventory of properties each country intends to consider for UNESCO nomination.

116 new tourist destinations sanctioned across the country.

The Centre has sanctioned a total of 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in partnership with State governments which would be developed at a cost of ₹4,088 crores.

Out of these 34 have been sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, 42 have been identified under the "Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)", a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan and 40 would be developed under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

Business and Economy

India, New Zealand begin talks for Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.

India and New Zealand have announced the launch of negotiations for a comprehensive and

mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation. This significant step was marked by a meeting between Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister for Trade and Investment of New Zealand Todd McClay in New Delhi. The bilateral trade continues to grow steadily and has surpassed one billion US dollars during April 2024 to January 2025.

The FTA negotiations aim to unlock new avenues for businesses and consumers, fostering mutual growth and prosperity of India and New Zealand. The negotiations are aimed at achieving balanced outcomes that enhance supply chain integration and improve market access.

India's trade grows amid global slowdown: UNCTAD report

India's trade saw strong growth during the last quarter of 2024, according to a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The report highlights that while global trade expanded significantly in 2024, many developed nations faced trade contractions. However, India performed better than average, with both imports and exports increasing. The report found that India and China were key drivers of global trade growth in the final quarter of 2024. India also maintained strong trade momentum in the fourth quarter of 2024, showcasing positive growth in both merchandise and services trade.

According to the report, global trade grew by nearly 1.2 trillion US dollar in 2024, reaching an unprecedented 33 trillion US dollar. This surge was fuelled by a remarkable 9 percent increase in services trade and a steady 2 percent rise in goods trade.

RBI for being selected for Digital Transformation Award 2025.

The Reserve Bank of India has won the Digital Transformation Award 2025, instituted by Central Banking, London. The RBI has been selected for the award for rolling out digital initiatives, including Pravaah and Sarthi systems, that have reduced the use of paper-based submissions to transform its internal and external processes.

Sarthi, the Hindi word for 'charioteer,' digitised all the RBI's internal workflows. It went live in January 2023, helping employees to store and share documents securely, improving record management and increasing the options for data analysis through reports and dashboards.

A second stage of the digital transformation process launched in May 2024 as Pravaah, which means 'smooth flow' in Hindi, created a digitised means for external users to submit regulatory applications to the RBI.

Apple to begin AirPods production for exports at Foxconn's Hyderabad plant.

Apple is planning to start production of AirPods for exports at the Foxconn plant in Hyderabad from April, 2025. AirPods will be the second product category that Apple will start producing in India after iPhones. Foxconn had approved \$400 million, about ₹3,500 crore, to set up the factory in August 2023.

Sports

India Masters beat West Indies Masters by 6 wickets to win International Masters League T20 title.

Sachin Tendulkar led India Masters has claimed the inaugural International Masters League T20 title beating Brian Lara's West Indies Masters by 6 wickets at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur. After electing to bat first, West Indies Masters got restricted to 148 for 7 due to Vinay Kumar and Shahbaz Nadeem's wicket-taking spells.

In response to this, India Masters got home in just 17.1 overs with Ambati Rayudu's 74 off 50 balls.

All England Badminton Open:

China's Shi Yuqi, An Se-you win.

Olympic women's badminton champion An Se-young came from behind to beat China's Wang Zhiyi 13-21, 21-18, 21-18 in a classic All England Open final on Sunday as top seed Shi Yuqi lifted the men's crown.

Earlier, China's men's world number one Shi delivered a composed performance to see off Taiwan's Lee Chia-hao 21-17, 21-19, also collecting his second All England crown.

Special Olympics Winter Games: India conclude with 33 medals.

Indian athletes concluded their remarkable campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games with 33 medals having 8 Gold, 18 Silver, and 7 Bronze – in Turin, Italy. On the final day, India won nine medals.

This was the 12th edition of the Special Olympics Winter Games, happening after a long wait of 8 years. This was also the first time that Italy hosted the Special Olympics World Games.

Indian Wells: Andreeva beats Sabalenka to claim title.

Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva fought back to overcome world number one Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the Indian Wells final on Sunday, winning a second WTA 1000-level event in a row. The 17-year-old Andreeva, the youngest women's champion at the tournament since Serena Williams in 1999, found her form midway through the match.