

International

At least 400 people killed, 250 injured in Pakistan strike on Afghanistan hospital.

The death toll from an airstrike by Pakistan that hit a hospital treating drug users in the Afghan capital Kabul has increased to 400. The alleged attack came hours after the two sides exchanged fire along their common border, killing four people in Afghanistan, as the deadliest fighting between the neighbours in years entered a third week.

Myanmar Parliament convenes.

Myanmar's Parliament has convened for the first time since the 2021 coup after recent elections saw the pro-military party winning most of the seats as major opposition parties were barred from running. The opening of the new Parliament on Monday followed phased elections in December and January, which the pro-military Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) dominated amid low voter turnout and no viable opposition.

National

India submits Seventh National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity.

India has submitted the Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The report presents a robust, indicator-driven national assessment demonstrating measurable progress across conservation, restoration, sustainable use, governance reform, climate mitigation and community participation.

The submission reaffirms India's commitment to the objectives of the Convention, including conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

Centre grants approval for establishing Quantum teaching facilities & laboratories in 23 academic institutions across country.

The Central government has granted approval for establishing Quantum teaching facilities and

laboratories in 23 academic institutions across the country. The Ministry of Science and Technology informed that 100 more quantum teaching laboratories and facilities are also under consideration to support advanced research and training in emerging quantum technologies.

Centre to launch revamped Stand-up India scheme for SC, ST and women entrepreneurs.

The Central government will launch a revamped version of the Stand-up India scheme to provide more benefits to SC, ST and Women entrepreneurs across the country. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Stand-up India scheme, which was launched in April 2016, came to an end in March last year. She said the scheme was studied by NITI Aayog and other departments, and it is being redrafted to provide more benefits to beneficiaries.

The objective of the Stand-up India scheme was to facilitate bank loans between ten lakh and one crore rupees to SC or ST borrowers and at least one-woman borrower per bank branch of all scheduled commercial banks.

Sangita Kalanidhi to be presented to veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh.

Noted veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh was conferred with the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award by The Music Academy, Madras. Ms. Kumaresh is one of the foremost exponents of the Saraswati veena and has collaborated with the late tabla maestro Zakir Hussain.

The 'Sangita Kala Acharya', which consists of two awards, would be presented to Carnatic vocalist Sugandha Kalamegham and Mridangam vidwan Trichur C Narendran, respectively.

Additionally, the TTK Awards have been awarded to Nagaswaram player Injikkudi M Subramaniam and classical violinist TKV Ramanujacharyulu. The 'Musicologist' title was bestowed upon B Balasubramanian, known for his academic contributions to music.

Business and Economy

Axis Bank ordered to pay ₹3.19 crore for refusing demonetised notes in 2016.

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has directed Axis Bank to pay Rs 3.19 crore to a Delhi-based logistics company, holding the bank guilty of "deficiency in service" for refusing to accept demonetised currency notes for deposit during the 2016 demonetisation window.

It was alleged that the bank refused to accept the notes during the limited period allowed after the central government announced demonetisation on November 8, 2016.

Adani Group plans to invest ₹2 lakh crore annually in greenfield infrastructure over next 5 years.

The Adani Group plans to invest ₹2 lakh crore in greenfield infrastructure projects annually over the next five years, spanning renewable energy, transmission, airports, logistics and data centres, Karan Adani, Managing Director (MD), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) said.

Karan Adani added that the infrastructure platforms built by the Adani Group are national assets that strengthen India's trade, logistics and energy security.

Wholesale price inflation at 11-month high of 2.13%.

Wholesale price inflation rose to a 11-month high of 2.13% in February, driven by an uptick in prices of food and non-food articles, even though vegetable prices eased on a month-on-month basis, government data showed on March 16, 2026.

This is the fourth straight month of rise in Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. It was 1.81% in January and 2.45% in February last year.

RIL signs \$3 bn, 15-year green ammonia supply/purchase agreement with Samsung.

Reliance Industries has signed a binding 15-year supply and purchase agreement, valued at over \$3 billion, with Samsung C&T Corporation to supply green ammonia, marking

one of the largest global offtake deals for the clean fuel, signalling India's growing ambitions as an exporter of green energy.

Under the agreement, Reliance will supply green ammonia to Samsung C&T beginning in the second half of FY2029.

Uniqlo ropes in Jasprit Bumrah as brand ambassador for India.

Global apparel retailer Uniqlo has roped in cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as its brand endorser in India. The partnership kicks off with the launch of a campaign starring Bumrah that captures the essence of the brand's LifeWear philosophy.

Government reports increase in self-employment to 58% from 52% since 2017-18.

The Central government has said that self-employment in the country has increased to 58 percent from 52 per cent in 2017-18. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that along with the country's economic growth, the income of workers is also increasing. He said the average daily wage for casual labourers increased from 295 rupees in 2017-18 to 418 rupees now.

Adani Wind Joins Global Top 15 Turbine Manufacturers in 2025.

Adani Wind has emerged as the country's only turbine maker to feature in BloombergNEF's global Top 15 turbine manufacturers for 2025, reflecting India's rising role in the global clean-energy supply chain. Adani Wind, part of Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), installed about 1.2 GW of wind turbines in 2025,

According to BloombergNEF (BNEF), global wind power installations reached a record 169 gigawatts (GW) in 2025, marking the third straight year of record additions and a 38 percent increase over 2024.

While China remained the dominant market, India emerged as the largest wind market outside China, surpassing the United States and Germany.

Sports

Tennis: Jannik Sinner beats Daniil Medvedev to win BNP Paribas Open.

Italian Jannik Sinner has defeated Daniil Medvedev 7-6, 7-6 to win the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden without dropping a set in California, United States. Sinner saw off the resurgent Russian in a match lasting just under two hours.

In the women's final, world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka overcame Elena Rybakina 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 to claim her first Indian Wells title after two previous runner-up finishes

Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed announces retirement.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sarfaraz Ahmed, the only Pakistani captain to win two major ICC tournament finals has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Under him, Pakistan has claimed the ICC U-19 World Cup in 2006 and the 2017 Champions Trophy.

He represented the country in 54 Tests, 117 ODIs and 61 T20 internationals, and also captained in 100 international games across all three formats.