

International

Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi resigns.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has resigned with her cabinet, as the Parliament is set to convene for a new session to elect a new Prime Minister. Takaichi, President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is expected to be reinstated as Prime Minister, given that her party currently holds more than two-thirds of the seats in the powerful lower house after the ruling coalition won the February 2026 general election.

BNP chief Tarique Rahman sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman, Tarique Rahman, took oath as the new Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has administered the oath to the new government. Rahman, son of former President Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia has returned to the country in December after 17 years in London.

Cyclone Gezani kills 59 in Madagascar.

Cyclone Gezani has killed at least 59 people in Madagascar and forced more than 16 thousand residents from their homes. Authorities have reported 15 people missing and 804 injured, while nearly 4 lakh 24 thousand people have been affected by widespread storm damage. The government declared a state of national disaster on February 14 as destruction spread across 25 districts in five regions.

Third international AYUSH conference concludes in Dubai.

The third international AYUSH conference and expo was concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre, drawing over 1,500 delegates and nearly 20,000 visitors from 30 countries for three days of scientific sessions, policy dialogue and cultural programmes. The biennial event, following editions in 2017 and 2024, was organised by the Science India Forum and the World Ayurveda Foundation with support from India's Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian missions in the UAE.

Held under the theme "Evidence-based AYUSH interventions for mind body health". The next edition is scheduled for 2028.

National

India and France exchange 21 agreements and documents in key areas of Defence, Energy, and Critical Minerals.

India and France have agreed to upgrade the India-France relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. There were a total of 21 outcomes. Both sides agreed on the establishment of an annual Foreign Ministers Dialogue for regularly reviewing the implementation of the elevated partnership and Horizon 2047 Roadmap. Both nations agreed to the launch of the India-France Year of Innovation and the India-France Innovation Network.

Both countries also agreed on the renewal of the Agreement between the Government of India and the French Republic on Defence Cooperation and the Joint Venture between BEL and Safran to produce HAMMER missiles in India. There will be reciprocal deployment of officers at the Indian Army and the French Land Forces establishments.

India's first Assembly Line to build the H125 Helicopter has been inaugurated at Vemagal, Karnataka.

On Critical and Emerging Technologies, including defence, there will be the constitution of a Joint Advanced Technology Development Group.

There was a Joint Declaration of Intent on establishing an Indo-French Centre for Digital Sciences and Technology. The Indo-French Centre for AI in Health will be launched at AIIMS, New Delhi.

First Indigenous Cadet Training Ship launched at L&T Kattupalli in Chennai.

The first of the three indigenous Cadet Training Ships, being built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was launched in the presence of the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, at L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai. The ship was launched by Anupama, President of

DWWA, in keeping with maritime traditions. Named 'Krishna', the ship pays tribute to the River Krishna, the third longest river in the country. The contract for the three Cadet Training Ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and M/s L&T Shipyard on 07 Mar 2023. The primary role of the Cadet Training Ship is to provide basic sea training to Naval Cadets.

Business and Economy

India's overall exports increased by 13.17% in January.

India's overall exports, merchandise and services combined, increased by 13.17 per cent year-on-year to 80.45 billion dollars in January this year compared with 71.09 billion dollars in January last year. According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, overall imports during the month grew at a faster pace of 18.76 per cent, rising to 90.83 billion dollars from 76.48 billion dollars in January 2025.

As a result, India's overall trade deficit, merchandise and services combined, widened to 10.38 billion dollars in January 2026 nearly doubling from 5.39 billion dollars in the corresponding month last year.

Adani pledges \$100 billion to build renewable-powered AI data centres by 2035.

The Adani Group has unveiled one of the world's largest integrated energy-and-compute investments, committing USD 100 billion to develop renewable-energy-powered, hyperscale AI-ready data centres by 2035.

By 2035, the investment is expected to catalyse an additional \$150 billion across server manufacturing, advanced electrical infrastructure, sovereign cloud platforms and allied industries, creating a projected \$250 billion AI infrastructure ecosystem over the decade.

RBI releases draft Directions on Foreign Exchange Dealings of Authorised Persons.

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed greater flexibility to authorised persons to undertake

foreign exchange transactions for hedging their exposures, balance sheet management and market-making, as well as to ease reporting obligations, after a review of the current regulations.

Authorised banks and standalone primary dealers access the foreign exchange market for market making, balance sheet management and hedging of risks.

Eternal announces strategic collaboration with OpenAI

Eternal Ltd and OpenAI have entered into a strategic collaboration to advance AI capabilities across Eternal's businesses. This includes platforms such as Zomato, Blinkit, District, Hyperpure and its AI-native venture, Nugget. The collaboration will focus on AI deployments across Eternal's apps, partner platforms and internal systems.

The company is also considering integrating OpenAI's latest coding models, including GPT-5.3-Codex, within Stitch, its in-house automation and developer orchestration platform.

Dabur elevates Mohit Malhotra to global CEO.

Indian consumer goods maker Dabur has elevated its group chief executive Mohit Malhotra to the role of global CEO and appointed Herjit Bhalla as CEO for its India business. Bhalla, who will take over the role on April 15, is currently Vice President, Canada & Global Customers at US-based confectionery giant Hershey Co.

Nissan launches Gravite in India.

Nissan Motor India has launched the Gravite at an introductory price of ₹5.65 lakh (ex-showroom), marking the brand's first new model launch since the Nissan Magnite debuted five years ago. With the Gravite, Nissan aims to capture a meaningful share of India's fast-growing SUV segment, competing with models such as the Hyundai Creta and Maruti Suzuki Vitara, among others.

British International Investment's climate commitments surpass \$1 billion in India.

British International Investment (BII) has exceeded its commitment to invest \$1 billion in climate finance in India.

BII has exceeded its ambitious commitment to invest \$1 billion in climate finance in India during the 2022–2026 strategy period.

IOB unveils online death claim settlement portal.

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched the Online Death Claim Settlement Portal, providing a simplified and time-bound solution through digital mode for families and legal heirs. This initiative marks a significant step in the bank's digital transformation, focusing on reducing the procedural burden for claimants during their most sensitive times.

India's taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade.

India's direct tax system has undergone a significant expansion over the last decade, marked by a sharp rise in the number of taxpayers as well as sustained improvements in administrative efficiency. Time-series data released by the Income-Tax Department indicate that this expansion has been broad-based and persistent, reflecting deeper formal participation rather than a short-lived compliance surge.

Between Assessment Year (AY) 2013-14 and AY2024-25, the total number of taxpayers, defined as persons who either filed a return of income or in whose case tax was deducted at source, increased from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore.

Sports

Jammu and Kashmir enter maiden Ranji Trophy final.

Sixty seven years after their maiden appearance, Jammu and Kashmir has stormed into the Ranji Trophy finals for the first time upstaging two-time former champions Bengal by six wickets in the semifinals.

Auqib Nabi's stunning nine-wicket match haul and their IPL star Abdul Samad's fearless strokeplay ensured that the side moved one step away from the title.

Winter Olympics: Norway's Frostad wins big air gold.

Tormod Frostad of Norway has edged out Mac Forehand of the United States by 2.25 points in Tuesday's final with the scores approaching the maximum of 200 points each. Frostad had the lead through most of the 12-man final after nailing two massive jumps. But Forehand flipped a thrilling competition on its head when he moved ahead of Frostad on the second-to-last jump of the night.