

Daily Current Affairs

(18th March 2025)

International

<u>Israeli strikes across Gaza kill at least</u> 326.

Israel launched airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday killing at least 326 Palestinians, including women and children. The attack during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan could resume a war that has already killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and caused widespread destruction across Gaza.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the strikes because of a lack of progress in talks to extend the ceasefire

Stuart Young to sworn in as new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

Stuart Young, will be sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr Young is currently serving as the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries. He will succeed the outgoing Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

In early January, Dr. Rowley announced his intention to resign from office before the end of his term, and days later named Minister Stuart Young as his successor.

<u>China delivers second advanced submarine</u> to Pakistan.

China has delivered a second new submarine, equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, to Pakistan as part of its efforts to beef up the navy of its all-weather ally to back its growing presence in the Arabian Sea and in the Indian Ocean. The Hangor-class submarine, which is part of the eight such submarines to Pakistan in a deal with around five billion US dollars, was launched in Wuhan, China's Hubei Province. This is in addition to four modern naval frigates China supplied to Pakistan in the last few years as part of its efforts to boost the naval strength of Pakistan.

Three day ASEAN Gaming Summit begins in the Philippines.

The three-day ASEAN Gaming Summit has begun at the Shangri-La the Fort in Manila, the Philippines. The international gaming conference will be attended by nearly 1 thousand 6 hundred participants from across Asia and beyond. The 7th edition of the Gaming Summit focuses on the new opportunities

presented by the industry's ever-changing regulatory framework of the ASEAN region within the global outlook.

National

<u>Prime Minister Modi inaugurates 10th</u> edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, will join the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, and deliver the keynote address. The three-day Raisina Dialogue will be held till 19th March. The theme this year is "Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet". The 10th Raisina Dialogue will witness participation of representatives from about 125 countries.

The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

India, Australia agree to deepen interoperability across maritime, land and air domains.

India and Australia have agreed to further deepen cooperation and interoperability across maritime, land and air domains, including working with multilateral partners. Besides, the two countries also decided to focus on cooperation in maritime domain awareness, reciprocal information sharing, industry and science and technology collaboration aside from "exchanges including deployments from each other's territories".

ISRO, SCL develops 32-bit Microprocessors for space applications.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh have jointly developed two cuttingedge 32-bit microprocessors, Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201, specifically designed for space applications.

Vikram 3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor qualified for use in the harsh conditions of launch vehicles. A 32-bit microprocessor is a type of microprocessor with a data bus, registers, and address bus that are 32 bits wide.



Daily Current Affairs

(18th March 2025)

Kalpana 3201 is also a 32-bit SPARC V8 RISC microprocessor based on the IEEE 1754 Instruction Set Architecture. It is designed to be compatible with open-source software toolsets and has been tested with flight software, making it versatile for various applications.

Renowned Odia poet Ramakanta Rath dies.

Renowned Odia poet and former bureaucrat Ramakanta Rath died at his residence in Bhubaneswar. Apart from literature, Rath had a distinguished career as an administrator. He served as secretary to the Government of India and as the chief secretary to the Government of Odisha before retiring in 1992. A recipient of numerous literary awards, Rath was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977, the Sarala Award in 1984, the Bishuva Samman in 1990, and the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2009.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature, he was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2006.

Business and Economy

<u>IndusInd Bank's financial health remains</u> stable: RBI.

Amid speculations relating to IndusInd Bank Ltd.'s financial health in certain quarters and the fall in its share prices due to the discovery of discrepancy in its derivatives portfolio which will have an impact of 2.35% to its net worth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that the bank was well-capitalised and the financial position of the bank remained satisfactory.

It said it had directed the board and the management of the bank to have remedial action completed fully during the current quarter viz., Q4FY25, after making required disclosures to all stakeholders.

India's goods trade deficit at a 42-month low.

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's goods trade deficit was down to a 42-month low of \$14.05 billion as imports of gold, silver and crude dipped in February 2025. The difference

between import and export of goods was \$22.9 billion in January 2025. In February 2024, the merchandise trade deficit stood at \$19.5 billion. India's gold and silver imports were at \$2.7 billion, which is the lowest since June 2024, when the value was \$2.5 billion. As for crude and petroleum, imports were at \$11.89 billion which was the lowest since July 2023, when the value was at \$11.81 billion.

Bajaj to acquire Allianz's 26% stake in life, general insurance JVs for ₹24,000 cr.

Bajaj Finserv will acquire Allianz SE's 26% stake in Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company for ₹24,180 crore. The acquisition will increase Bajaj Group's ownership in the joint ventures to 100% and terminate their 24-year-old insurance JV agreements with Allianz SE.

On termination of the 24-year JVs, Bajaj Group, Allianz to independently pursue their insurance strategies

Sports

Kabaddi World Cup 2025 begins in England.

The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 has begun in England. The Indian Men's team will start their campaign against Italy at Wolverhampton. The competition will span seven days with over 60 matches. This is the second edition of the Kabaddi World Cup being hosted by World Kabaddi. At the inaugural edition hosted by Malaysia in 2019, India won both the men's and women's crowns.

Also, this is first time the Kabaddi World Cup has been hosted outside of Asia.

Australian GP 2025: Mclaren's Norris wins F1 season opener.

McLaren's Lando Norris has won a chaotic rain-affected Australian Grand Prix, his first at Albert Park, with the Brit just managing to stay ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen . Lewis Hamilton had a miserable Ferrari debut. The seven-time champion finished $10^{\rm th}$.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second — 0.895 of a second behind Norris



Daily Current Affairs

(18th March 2025)

Argentina Grand Prix: Marc Marquez wins.

Ducati's Marc Marquez has won the Argentina Grand Prix after trailing his brother Alex of Gresini Racing for much of the race as the pair finished in the top two yet again, while VR46 Racing's Franco Morbidelli was third.

<u>Indian Wells: Briton Draper wins maiden</u> Masters 1000 title

Britain's Jack Draper thrashed Denmark's Holger Rune 6-2, 6-2 to collect the biggest title of his career at Indian Wells with a place in the top 10 assured for the first time. He is the first Briton to win the title since Cameron Norrie in 2021 and is expected to be ranked seventh with his win.

Los Angeles Olympic 2028: IOC board approves boxing for inclusion in games.

Boxing is set to be on the program for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles after years of disputes

over how the sport is run. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said that the executive board he chaired has approved including boxing on the 2028 program. Last month, the IOC recognized a new governing body, World Boxing.

The IOC had suspended the IBA in 2019 following long-running disputes over governance, its finances and the integrity of bouts and judging.

Newcastle United win its maiden Carabao Cup Trophy

Newcastle United ended a 70-year domestic trophy drought as it beat holder Liverpool 2-1 to win the League Cup (also known as Carabao Cup) with goals in each half by Dan Burn and Alexander Isak.