

International

Peru Congress impeaches interim President after four months in office.

Peru's Congress impeached interim President Jose Jeri, the Latin American country's seventh head of state in 10 years and only the latest toppled over graft claims. Jeri was accused in the irregular hiring of several women in his government, and of suspected graft involving a Chinese businessman.

Mr. Jeri took over from unpopular leader Dina Boluarte, who was also impeached amid protests against corruption and a wave of violence linked to organised crime

Japan reappoints Sanae Takaichi as Prime Minister following election.

Japan's lower house had formally reappointed Sanae Takaichi as Prime Minister on February 18, 2026, 10 days after her historic landslide election victory.

Ms. Takaichi, 64, became Japan's first woman premier in October and won a two-thirds majority for her party in the snap lower house elections on February 8.

U.S. and Uzbekistan sign critical minerals pact.

The U.S. government has signed an agreement with Uzbekistan to secure better access to the Central Asian country's critical minerals, as Donald Trump moves to counter China's dominance of crucial resources and their supply chains. The "Joint Investment Framework" between the U.S. International Development Finance Corp (DFC) and Central Asia's most populous nation Uzbekistan aims to advance the two countries' strategic cooperation.

National

India signs Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with Nepal.

An agreement has been reached between India and Nepal on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters. The agreement to this effect was signed by Naveen Srivastava, the Ambassador of India to Nepal and Nepal's Joint

Secretary at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Binod Kumar Bhattarai, on behalf of the Government of Nepal. The agreement is expected to formally pave the way for cooperation and exchange of matters such as the collection and exchange of evidence during the investigation, prosecution, and judicial proceedings of criminal cases between the concerned authorities of both countries.

Google announces \$15 billion 'America-India Connect' Subsea Cable Initiative at India AI Summit.

Google and Alphabet Inc. Chief Executive Officer, Sundar Pichai has unveiled "India-America Connect Initiative", outlining plans to deploy new subsea cable routes aimed at strengthening artificial intelligence (AI) connectivity between the two countries and multiple locations across the Southern Hemisphere. The project builds on the company's previously announced investments in India's AI infrastructure.

The new subsea cable routes are expected to bolster high-capacity data flows critical for AI workloads, cloud services and cross-border digital trade, positioning India as a key node in global AI infrastructure.

Separately, Pichai has also announced a partnership with Karmayogi Bharat to train 20 million public servants across 800 districts in 18 Indian languages, alongside generative AI support for more than 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs reaching 11 million students.

On the research front, the company launched a \$30 million AI for Science Impact Challenge to back global researchers applying AI to fields such as quantum computing and climate modelling.

Sarvam AI unveils indigenously-built 30B and 105B LLM models.

Indian artificial intelligence (AI) startup Sarvam AI launched two indigenously large language models (LLMs) named 'Vikram' at the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 specifically trained on Indian languages. The announcement includes a 30 billion and a 105 billion parameter model. The first model handles real time conversations with 32,000 context windows

making the cost of inferencing very low while the other one has 128,000 tokens for more complex tasks.

In April 2025, the Government of India selected Sarvam under the IndiaAI Mission to develop the country's first sovereign large language model, alongside 11 other startups chosen to advance India's AI ecosystem.

Defence Minister presents Isha Foundation's inaugural Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has presented the inaugural Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards to a group of distinguished nation-builders during the Mahashivratri celebrations at the Isha Yoga Centre. The newly instituted awards recognise exceptional individuals across diverse fields, including science, arts, sports, and military service, for their contributions to India's progress.

Among the prominent recipients of the 2026 awards in the science and technology category were Nambi Narayan and Kiran Kumar for their contributions to advancing India's technological frontiers.

In the field of arts and culture, the honours were conferred upon classical dancer Alarmel Valli, legendary violinist N Rajam, and historian Vikram Sampath.

Badminton icon Saina Nehwal was also recognised for her achievements in sports.

A special recognition was extended to the Indian Armed Forces for their service in Operation Sindoor.

GalaxEye to launch Mission Drishti in 2026.

Space tech start-up GalaxEye has announced its upcoming satellite mission, 'Mission Drishti', scheduled to launch in 2026. The Mission Drishti satellite will feature NVIDIA's Jetson Orin GPU architecture and will run advanced AI workloads directly in orbit, helping in better processing, interpretation and customer delivery of Earth observation data.

The satellite will also feature GalaxEye's world-first SyncFused OptoSAR architecture.

NHAI to develop first-of-its-kind 'Bee Corridors' along National Highways.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a first-of-its-kind initiative to develop pollinator or bee corridors along National Highways. The 'Bee Corridor' will have a continuous linear stretch of bee-friendly vegetation comprising flowering trees and plants that will ensure the availability of nectar and pollen throughout the year.

Business and Economy

HUL tops Hurun India Impact 50 list.

According to the Perpetual Capital Hurun India Impact 50 – 2026, over ₹8,000 crore was spent on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities by top 50 companies in the country last year. The ranking is based on companies' alignment with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hindustan Unilever topped the list with a score of 53.9, followed closely by HCL Technologies (53.8) and Grasim Industries (52.6). Tata Motors and Dabur India completed the top five.

Maruti Suzuki enters EV market with eVitara launch.

Maruti Suzuki India has formally entered the electric vehicle segment with the launch of its first battery electric vehicle eVitara in the country. The auto major has launched e Vitara at 10.99 lakh with BaaS (Battery-as-a-Service) ownership plan.

Seven PSBs roll out 32 generative AI use cases under EASE 8.0 programme.

Seven public sector banks (PSBs) have rolled out 32 generative AI use cases as part of the government's reform push under the EASE 8.0 programme. The initiatives are aimed at improving operational efficiency, sharpening credit appraisal, and reimagining business models by leveraging India's Digital Public Infrastructure.

The EASE 8.0 reforms encourage AI for complex tasks and faster decisions. Future reforms, EASERise, will focus on risk management and economic shock absorption.

Fixed-price ATM pacts are the new normal for banks.

Leading private and public sector lenders such as ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Yes Bank, and IDFC First Bank are increasingly moving to fixed-price contracts for ATM management, replacing the earlier transaction-based outsourcing model. This shift aims for predictable expenses and better performance from vendors. Many new ATM and cash recycler contracts are being awarded under this fixed-fee structure. This ensures consistent service and improved customer convenience.

Sports

Mandhana named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year.

World Cup-winning cricketer Smriti Mandhana has been named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2025. Mandhana, was India's Vice-captain as they won the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup, scoring 434 runs across the tournament. She has also won two Women's Premier League titles with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Chess champion Divya Deshmukh was named BBC Emerging Player of the Year after winning the Women's World Cup at the age of 20.

Preethi Pal was named BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year after winning two medals at the 2025 World Championships in New Delhi.

Shooter Anjali Bhagwat was given the BBC ISWOTY Lifetime Achievement award.

T20 World Cup 2026: India enters Super Eight.

India defeated the Netherlands in their last league stage match of the T20 World Cup 2026 to enter the Super Eight stage unbeaten. India handed the Dutch a 17-run defeat in their clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad as they topped Group A with eight points in four games. After winning the toss and opting to bat, India posted 193-6 on the back of Shivam Dube's 66 off 31 balls. Chasing a challenging 194, Netherlands were bowled out for 176 in 19.5 overs.

6th National Rafting Championship Kicks Off in J&K.

The 6th National Rafting Championship titled "The Ultimate River Battle" will begin at Shibnote in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. The championship aims to showcase top rafting talent from across the country while promoting adventure tourism in the region. Set against the scenic backdrop of the mighty Chenab River, the event is expected to attract professional rafting teams, adventure enthusiasts, and tourists.