

International

US President Trump announces additional 10% tariff on imports from China.

US President Donald Trump has announced a 10 per cent additional tariff on imports from China and plans to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting next Tuesday. Imports from China already face at least a 10% tax, which began earlier this month. President Trump also confirmed a 25 per cent tariff on Canada and Mexico, set to take effect on the 4th of next month.

The US President alleged that over one lakh people died from fentanyl use last year. President Trump had imposed a 10 per cent tariff on China for its role in fentanyl production, which will now be doubled.

Bangladesh: National Citizens' Party led by student protesters launched

In Bangladesh, the National Citizens' Party (NCP), a new political platform formed by student activists from the July-August Movement, was officially launched at Manik Miah Avenue in Dhaka. Leaders from the Jatiya Nagorik Committee and Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, who played a key role in last year's protests that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, united to form the party. Nahid Islam, a former interim government adviser, was appointed party convener.

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Honours WWI Indian soldiers at Neuve-Chapelle Memorial

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi has laid a wreath at the war memorial in Neuve-Chapelle, France, honouring the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers who fought during World War I. The Neuve-Chapelle Memorial commemorates the Indian soldiers who fought alongside Allied forces in the First World War, particularly during the Battle of Neuve-Chapelle in 1915.

National

Maharashtra govt collaborates with Meta to launch WhatsApp-based citizen services.

The Government of Maharashtra announced partnering with Meta during the Mumbai Tech Week 2025. The aim of this collaboration is to provide all citizen services via WhatsApp on a single number, empowering 125 million citizens to access government services from anywhere, at any time.

The chatbot, 'Aaple Sarkar', will be available in three languages - Marathi, English, and Hindi and will offer service through both text and voice. The chatbot will offer services like addressing grievances, downloading critical documents and certificates, convenience services like booking bus tickets via Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) or Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) and providing timely information to farmers and citizens across Maharashtra.

Initiative launched to standardise and streamline operations of India's major ports.

A "One Nation, One Port Process" initiative to standardise and streamline port operations across India's major ports and improve efficiency was launched by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways. The Ministry said the move aimed to remove inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays. In line with these goals, a Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) named "Sagar Ankalan" was also launched for the 2023-24 financial year to record efficiency and global competitiveness in the maritime sector.

This index is designed to benchmark port performance, driving operational excellence and improving India's logistics and trade connectivity.

National Science Day 2025 observed on February 28.

National Science Day is observed every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by the eminent physicist Sir C.V. Raman. Sir Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for this groundbreaking discovery. National Science Day features a variety of theme-based science communication activities held throughout the country.

Business and Economy

India retains fastest-growing economy tag with 6.2% GDP growth in Q3 FY25.

India retains the fastest-growing major economy tag as the country's GDP grew by 6.2 percent in the third quarter of FY25, up from the revised rate of 5.6 percent in the previous quarter. India recorded a GDP growth of 8.6 percent in the third quarter of the last fiscal year. The increase in the third-quarter GDP number

was supported by higher rural consumption following a good monsoon and increased government spending.

As per the First Revised Estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.5 percent in FY 2024-25, and nominal GDP is expected to witness a growth rate of 9.9 percent in the fiscal year.

India-EU aim to finalize historic free trade deal by year-end: Ursula von der Leyen.

India and the European Union are looking at finalising a free trade agreement by the end of this year. Addressing an event in New Delhi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and she have agreed to push to get it done this year. Ms. Leyen added that a free trade agreement between the European Union and India would be the largest deal of its kind anywhere in the world. There is also a deepening collaboration between the India AI Mission and the European AI Office.

Both sides committed to deepening engagement in trade, investment, technology and innovation, clean and green energy, connectivity, and people-to-people ties.

India's forex reserves hit two-month high of \$640.48 billion

As per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves grew 4.7 billion dollars to a two-month high of 640.48 billion dollars as of February 21. This growth was mainly driven by foreign currency assets that increased by 4.2 billion dollars to 543.84 billion dollars. The central bank releases India's forex reserves' data every Friday, closely monitoring the economic indicator of foreign trade.

SEBI opens centralised database portal for corporate bonds.

SEBI has launched a centralised database portal for corporate bonds in a bid to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities. The portal, Bond Central has been developed by Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPP) Association in collaboration with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) comprising stock exchanges and depositories.

UPI transactions in January surpass 16.99 billion, highest recorded in any month.

UPI transactions in January surpassed 16.99 billion and the value exceeded ₹23.48 lakh

crore, marking the highest number recorded in any month, the Finance Ministry said. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) remains the cornerstone of India's digital payment ecosystem, contributing to 80% of the retail payments across the country.

Core sector growth hits 4.6% in January 2025.

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries, or the core sector, grew by 4.6 percent in January 2025, compared to the same month last year. The production of cement, refinery products, coal, steel, fertilisers, and electricity recorded positive growth in January 2025.

These eight industries account for 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Indian digital economy ranked 28th on user spending: IPCIDE report.

The ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE) unveiled the third edition of the 'State of India's Digital Economy 2025 report. In its report, it stated that India's digital economy is growing at twice the pace of the overall economy and is projected to become one-fifth of the country's economy by 2029. But the level of digitalisation seen at the level of an average Indian, has ranked the country at 28th out of 32.

As per the report, the overall ranking for India is 8th out of 32. As per the overall ranking, the US leads, with China a close 2nd. Singapore comes in at third, while the UK comes in 4th. India has secured the 11th position in AI research and the 16th spot in AI infrastructure among a group of 32 countries, comprising 17 developed and 15 developing nations

Sugar production drops by 14 %

According to the Indian Sugar and Bio Energy Manufacturers Association, sugar production between October 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025 touched 219.78 lakh tonne, which is 14 % less than the sugar produced during the same period during the 2023-2024 sugar season. Sugar production after diversion for ethanol from October 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024 was 256.16 lakh tonnes.

Sports

Dubai Tennis Championships: Yuki Bhambri and Alexei Popyrin enter Men's Doubles final.

India's Yuki Bhambri and his partner Alexei Popyrin of Australia have advanced to the Men's

Doubles Final of the Dubai Championships. The unseeded, Indian-Australian duo defeated Jamie Murray of United Kingdom and John Peers of Australia in the semifinal. This is Bhambri's first-ever ATP-500 final.

Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky passes away at 88

Soviet chess grandmaster and tenth-world champion Boris Spassky passed away in Moscow. He was 88. He was famously defeated at the height of the cold war. Spassky is best remembered for his duel with US player Bobby

Fischer in 1972, which was emblematic of the confrontation between East and West, and was later referred to as "the match of the century".

ICC Champions Trophy: Australia qualify for semifinals

In the ICC Champions Trophy Cricket, Australia qualified for the semi-finals after their crucial group B match against Afghanistan at Lahore in Pakistan, was washed out due to rain. Both the teams shared one point each. Australia now joins India and New Zealand, who have already secured their spots in the semi-finals.