

International

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei killed in US-Israel airstrikes.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in joint US-Israel airstrikes targeting Iranian military and government sites.

Iranian state media confirmed his death and announced 40 days of mourning, reporting over 200 fatalities and 700 injured.

Following the strikes, Iran launched retaliatory attacks across the Middle East, including locations hosting US bases, sharply escalating regional tensions.

UN approves first carbon credits under Paris Agreement.

The United Nations has approved the first-ever carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's Crediting Mechanism, marking a milestone in global climate action.

Issued for a clean cooking project in Myanmar, the credits aim to cut emissions and protect forests.

Finalised under rules adopted at COP29 in 2024, the mechanism allows countries like Myanmar and South Korea to count verified emission reductions toward their climate targets, though experts caution against greenwashing risks.

EAM Jaishankar chairs Consultative Committee on India-EU Relations.

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar chaired the first Consultative Committee meeting of 2026 on India-EU relations in New Delhi.

He said the discussions highlighted the strong momentum in the India-EU partnership and its mutual benefits across trade, technology, security and mobility.

UN Security Council lifts sanctions on former Syrian rebel group HTS.

The UN Security Council lifted sanctions on Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Islamist group once led by Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

HTS had been under sanctions since its origins as the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front.

Although it rebranded in 2016, sanctions remained. After toppling Bashar al-Assad in 2024, the group was dissolved, and Mr Sharaa himself was delisted in 2025.

Important Days

Zero Discrimination Day: 1st March.

Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on 1 March to promote equality, fairness, and inclusion for all people.

It raises awareness about discrimination based on gender, race, age, disability, or any other factor, and encourages individuals and communities to stand against unfair treatment.

On this day, we reaffirm the right of every person to live a full and productive life with dignity.

Zero Discrimination Day 2026 highlights the need to put people first, reminding us that everyone deserves respect, equal opportunities, and a discrimination-free society.

Obituary

Eminent Sociologist T.K. Oommen passes away.

Renowned sociologist and Padma Bhushan awardee T.K. Oommen passed away at the age of 88.

A Professor Emeritus at JNU, he was a leading architect of modern Indian sociology, known for his work on social justice, pluralism, identity, and social movements.

His landmark study on the Bhoodan Movement and his roles in national and international bodies bridged academic scholarship with public policy and social transformation.

National

PM Modi launches nationwide HPV vaccination drive in Rajasthan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls in Ajmer, Rajasthan, by administering doses to five beneficiaries.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India, largely caused by high-risk HPV types 16 and 18.

HPV vaccination prevents infection before exposure and is proven safe and highly effective.

Recommended by WHO and NTAGI, the vaccine offers long-term protection and herd immunity.

India uses a single-dose Gardasil-4 vaccine under its national programme, aligning with global best practices to reduce cervical cancer burden.

Nine cheetahs from Botswana arrive at Kuno National Park.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav announced the arrival of nine cheetahs from Botswana at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

The group includes six females and three males.

With this addition, Project Cheetah has been further strengthened, taking India's total cheetah population to 48, including 28 cubs born in India, marking a key milestone in the species' conservation efforts.

PM Modi inaugurates Micron's Semiconductor ATMP facility in Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Micron Semiconductor's ATMP facility in Sanand, Gujarat, marking the start of commercial production of made-in-India semiconductor memory modules.

The project, approved under the India Semiconductor Mission with over ₹22,500 crore investment, strengthens India-US partnership and boosts India's role in the global semiconductor value chain.

DRDO successfully conducts VSHORADS missile flight trials.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from Chandipur, Odisha.

The tests validated the missile's capability to neutralise high-speed aerial threats at varying

ranges and altitudes. All targets were accurately intercepted, meeting mission objectives.

Centre halts rice fortification under PMGKAY.

The Union Food Ministry has decided to temporarily discontinue rice fortification under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and allied schemes, citing concerns over nutrient stability.

The decision follows an IIT Kharagpur study which found that storage conditions reduce micronutrient effectiveness and shelf life.

The government clarified that foodgrain entitlements under PDS will remain unaffected.

Business and Economy

CBIC introduces deferred customs duty payment for eligible manufacturers.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced a deferred Customs duty payment facility for Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) following the Union Budget 2026-27 announcement.

Effective from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028, the scheme allows duty payment on a monthly basis instead of at clearance.

The measure aims to ease cash flow, boost compliance, and strengthen domestic manufacturing under a trust-based facilitation framework.

Sports

Jammu & Kashmir clinch maiden Ranji Trophy title.

Jammu and Kashmir created history by winning their first-ever Ranji Trophy, ending a 67-year wait, after a dominant performance against eight-time champions Karnataka at Hubballi. Taking a massive 291-run first-innings lead, J&K tightened their grip on the final and extended the overall lead to 633 runs by scoring 342/4 in the second innings.

Holding Karnataka to a draw, they sealed their maiden domestic first-class title in an emphatic fashion.