

International

Rob Jetten becomes Netherlands' youngest, first openly gay PM

Rob Jetten has become the youngest and first openly gay prime minister of the Netherlands. He took the oath of office on February 23 to lead a minority three-party ruling coalition. The three-party coalition he leads holds only 66 seats in the lower house and doesn't have a majority in the upper house either.

The Netherlands was the first nation to legalise same-sex marriage, in 2001.

25 National Guard Personnel Killed in Mexico After Death of Drug Lord

In Mexico, at least 25 members of the National Guard military police were killed in retaliatory violence in the state of Jalisco after the killing of a drug lord. Unrest has erupted in at least 20 states since Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes – better known as “El Mencho” – died in custody shortly after being captured by Mexican special forces. The U.S. had offered a 15-million-dollar reward for information leading to his arrest.

The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) is one of the most feared criminal organisations in Mexico and its leader was Mexico's most wanted man. Thirty cartel members were killed in these attacks, as well as one bystander.

N.Korea's ruling Workers' Party re-elects leader Kim Jong Un as general secretary

North Korea's ruling Workers' Party re-elected leader Kim Jong Un as general secretary on the fourth day of its party congress meetings. The meeting also elected members of the party Central Committee and adopted revisions to the party rules.

79th British Academy Film Award Winners

'One Battle After Another' has dominated the 79th British Academy Film Awards,

popularly known as the BAFTAs, winning six awards including Best Film.

Winners

Best Film: One Battle After Another

Best Director: Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)

Best Leading Actor: Robert Aramayo – I Swear

Best Leading Actress: Jessie Buckley – Hamnet

Best Supporting Actor: Sean Penn – One Battle After Another

Best Supporting Actress: Wunmi Mosaku – Sinners

Best Original Screenplay: Ryan Coogler – Sinners

Best Film Not in the English Language: Sentimental Value

Best Documentary: Mr. Nobody Against Putin

Best Animated Film: Zootropolis 2 (Zootopia 2)

Best Original Score: Sinners — Ludwig Göransson

Best Editing: One Battle After Another — Andy Jurgensen

Best Children and Family Film: Boong

Vasai Cathedral gets UNESCO award

The iconic Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai in Palghar district of Maharashtra has been conferred the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The Vasai Cathedral is nearly 80 km away from downtown Mumbai. The church dates back to 1574 and was built during Portuguese rule on India's western coast.

National

India, France sign Amending Protocol to revise India-France DTAC

India and France have signed an Amending Protocol to revise the India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC). Under the amended provisions, full taxing rights on capital gains arising from the sale of shares will be granted to the country

where the company is a resident. The Amending Protocol also deleted the so-called Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Clause from the Protocol to the DTAC, thereby bringing to rest all issues related to it.

This would enable and facilitate the seamless exchange of information and strengthen mutual tax cooperation between India and France.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constitutes Parliamentary Friendship Groups with over 60 countries

In a significant step to widen the country's inter-parliamentary engagement with the world, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups with more than 60 countries. Some of the countries with whom Parliamentary Friendship Groups have been constituted include Sri Lanka, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Maldives, the USA, Russia, the EU Parliament, South Korea, Nepal, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Italy, Oman, Australia, Greece, Singapore, Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Iran and the UAE.

Centre launches new national counter-terrorism policy & strategy 'PRAHAR'

The Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced the nation's first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy, titled 'PRAHAR', establishing a structured national framework to address evolving and complex security threats, including cross-border terrorism, drone-based attacks, cyber-enabled threats, and organised terror networks.

The term 'PRAHAR', meaning "strike", represents seven core pillars of India's counter-terrorism framework: prevention of terrorist attacks, swift and proportionate response, capacity-building across security and intelligence agencies, ensuring human rights-compliant operations, addressing conditions conducive to radicalisation, strengthening international cooperation,

and promoting societal resilience and recovery.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman launches second phase of asset monetisation pipeline

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the second phase of the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities in New Delhi. The second phase of the pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for the 'Asset Monetisation Plan 2025-30' as announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

The National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 estimates aggregate monetisation potential of 16.72 lakh crore rupees, including private sector investment of 5.8 lakh crore rupees under the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities over the five-year period from Financial Year 2025-26 to Financial Year 2029-30.

Mukul Roy, ex-railway minister and TMC leader, passes away

Former railway minister Mukul Roy, a founding member of West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), has died. He was 71. Mukul Roy, known for his election management, was a close confidante of chief minister Mamata Banerjee and was often referred to as the Chanakya of Bengal politics. He served as the minister of state for shipping and the railway minister during the second Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government (2009-2014).

Business and Economy

RBI builds secured data centre in Odisha

The Reserve Bank of India has built a high-security data centre in Odisha, strategically located well away from potential cross-border threat zones and high seismic-risk regions, as part of efforts to safeguard critical financial infrastructure and strengthen continuity of core systems.

The greenfield facility in Bhubaneswar is designed to house core computing systems supporting the central bank's currency management, payment and settlement operations, and regulatory data functions. This is RBI's second data centre; the Primary Data Centre is located in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

Bharti Airtel to invest ₹20,000 cr for scaling up newly formed NBFC arm

Bharti Airtel will infuse ₹20,000 crore over the next few years into Airtel Money, its newly incorporated non-banking finance company (NBFC), to power its next growth engine amidst further diversification. This move aims to expand financial services across India by leveraging Airtel's digital assets and data expertise. The company plans to offer digital lending and credit solutions, building on its existing successful credit engine.

Bank staff colluded with outsiders in ₹590 crore fraud case: IDFC FIRST Bank MD

IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd employees had perpetuated a ₹590 crore bank fraud through a traditional method by colluding with external parties using forged physical cheque transactions, said the private sector bank's MD and CEO V. Vaidyanathan, a day after the bank reported the matter to the stock exchanges.

However, he said this was a specific isolated case involving one branch in Chandigarh and one client group, a Haryana Government entity, and it is not system-wide.

Adani firm, NMDC and Vale sign MoU to develop iron ore blending hub at Gangavaram Port

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), through its subsidiary Adani Gangavaram Port Ltd, has signed a strategic MoU with NMDC Ltd and Vale SA to develop an integrated iron ore blending facility and dedicated Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Gangavaram Port.

Under the agreement, the three parties will jointly develop, operationalise and manage an SEZ-based ecosystem for blending, value addition and commercialisation of iron ore.

Coal India's Gevra block in Chhattisgarh to become the world's top mine by next year

Coal India's Gevra mine will become the world's top coal-producing mine next year by achieving the output of 63 million tonnes, surpassing the US mines.

Gevra mine, operated by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India, is India's largest opencast coal mine. Operational since 1981, the Gevra mine will produce 56 million tonnes this year. The mine has already received the environmental clearance to expand capacity to 70 million tonnes per annum.

Sports

Tennis: Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry wins ATP 500 Rio Open

Argentine tennis player Tomas Martin Etcheverry has won his maiden ATP Tour title, claiming the ATP 500 Rio Open with a 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4 victory over Chile's Alejandro Tabilo at the final in Brazil. It is his first ATP crown after finishing runner-up in three previous finals.

Etcheverry also recorded his 100th tour-level match win during the tournament.

Tennis: Stefanos Sakellaridis lifts Delhi Open 2026 singles title

Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis has lifted the Delhi Open 2026 men's singles title after defeating Great Britain's Oliver Crawford in the final. He won his maiden ATP Challenger Tour singles crown with a 7-5, 5-6, 7-6 victory.