

International

Pakistan closes airspace to Indian airlines amid rising tensions.

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan due to the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan said it will bar Indian airlines from using its airspace. The airspace cannot be used by India-registered aircraft as well as planes owned or leased by Indian operators.

World Malaria Day 2025: WHO calls for renewed global action under theme 'Malaria Ends With Us'

World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 every year. It is a global initiative organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to raise awareness about malaria and promote actions to control, prevent, and ultimately eliminate the disease. The theme of this year's Malaria Day is "Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite".

Malaria, caused by parasites transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, continues to affect millions of people, especially in tropical and subtropical regions.

National

National Campaign launched to eliminate Measles-Rubella by 2026.

The National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination campaign 2025-26 was launched in New Delhi on the first day of the World Immunisation Week. This marks a significant step towards India's goal of eliminating Measles and Rubella by 2026. Launching the campaign virtually, Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda said, the campaign marks an opportunity to achieve 100 per cent immunisation coverage by administering two doses of the Measles and Rubella vaccine to children.

Measles and Rubella are highly infectious viral diseases that can lead to serious illnesses, lifelong complications, and even death.

Last year, India has recorded a remarkable decline of 73 per cent in Measles cases and a 17 per cent reduction in Rubella cases in comparison with 2023.

MSDE, Microsoft come together to launch 'AI Careers for Women'.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Microsoft have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

to launch AI Careers for Women—a pioneering skilling initiative aimed at empowering women in higher education institutions to pursue careers in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This strategic collaboration seeks to bridge the gender gap in emerging tech by equipping women with industry-aligned AI skills, enabling them to participate meaningfully in the digital economy and become active contributors to India's innovation-led growth.

As part of this collaboration, Microsoft will provide 240-hours training curriculum under AI skilling and Innovation framework for women, aligned to the industry standards, and developed in consultation with the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

INS Surat test-fires surface-to-air missile in Arabian Sea

Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer INS Surat successfully test-fired a medium-range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) in the Arabian Sea. The missile has a range of around 70 km. The MR-SAM is highly effective against surface-to-surface missiles and other aerial targets.

Uttarakhand to make 1 lakh people learn Sanskrit to make it 'common' spoken language.

With an aim to promote Sanskrit, the second official language of the State, as common spoken language, the Uttarakhand government announced it will make 1 lakh people learn the language through classroom or online mode.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the project for Sanskrit learning for common people will be implemented in a phased manner and the government will come up with schemes to ensure jobs for youth learning Sanskrit.

Business and Economy

HDFC bank becomes India's third firm to surpass ₹15 lakh crore market cap

HDFC Bank Ltd. became the third Indian company to surpass a market capitalisation of ₹15 lakh crore, joining the ranks of Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Reliance remains the country's most valuable firm with a valuation of ₹17.5 lakh crore. TCS, which had crossed the ₹15 lakh crore milestone in February last year, has since lost ground amid a broader downturn in information technology stocks, currently valued at around ₹12 lakh crore.

Luxury goods costing above ₹10 lakh will now attract 1% tax collected at source.

Luxury goods like handbags, wrist watches, footwear, and sportswear, priced above ₹10 lakh will now attract a 1% tax collected at source (TCS). The Income Tax Department has notified the applicability of TCS at the rate of 1% on sale of specified luxury goods, where the selling price exceeds ₹10 lakh with effect from April 22, 2025.

Air India CCO Nipun Agarwal appointed Chairman of Air India Express.

Nipun Agarwal, Air India's Chief Commercial Officer, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Air India Express. He has been instrumental in reshaping Air India's business strategy since joining in January 2022, following Tata Sons' acquisition.

Earlier, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has announced his decision to step down as the chairman of Air India Express, as per an internal message shared with staff.

Centre committed to purchase 100 % of production of Tur, Urad at MSP

The Union Government has approved the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under Price Support Scheme equivalent to 100 percent of the production of the state for the procurement year 2024-25. The decision has been taken in order to incentivize the farmers contributing for the enhancement of domestic production of pulses and to reduce the dependence on imports.

Earlier, the government also made an announcement in Budget 2025 that the procurement of these pulses would be undertaken 100 percent of the production of the State for another four years up to 2028-29 through Central Nodal Agencies NAFED and NCCF to achieve self-sufficiency.

Axis bank Q4 net profit marginally declines to ₹7,118 crore.

Axis Bank reported a marginal decline in net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025 at ₹7,117.50 crore from ₹7,130 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest income (NII) for the quarter grew 6% YoY to ₹13,811 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 3.97%.

Ola Group owns majority of patents granted to 117 unicorns.

Ola Group, spanning ride-hailing, electric vehicles, and AI, now holds over 50% of all patents filed by India's 117 unicorns, according to data from the Indian Patent Advanced Search (IPAS) System.

India's unicorns collectively hold only 229 patents, with Ola Group owning more than half.

Centre waives upfront payment, offers rebates instead to expedite underground coal mining.

In a bid to speed up the operationalisation of underground coal blocks, the central government has announced new incentives like waiving off of the upfront payment.

The push for underground coal mining aligns with the country's drive for sustainable coal production.

Accenture acquires TalentSprint from NSE Academy

Accenture has acquired deep tech education firm TalentSprint from National Stock Exchange of India subsidiary NSE Academy.

The acquisition will bolster Accenture LearnVantage's ability to drive growth through key university certifications and high impact bootcamps, creating trained talent pools for enterprises and governments.

Sports

2nd Asian Yogasana Championships to begin in New Delhi

The 2nd Asian Yogasana Championships is set to begin at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The 3-day event by Yogasana Bharat will last till the 27th of this month. Over 170 athletes from 21 Asian countries will participate, along with several technical officials and team managers and coaches.

National Federation Senior Athletics Competition 2025: Vithya, Yashas win 400 m hurdles titles

Olympian Vithya Ramraj has won gold in the women's 400-meter hurdles at the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition in Kochi clocking 56.04 seconds to qualify for the Asian Championships 2025.

In the men's 400-meter hurdles, Yashas Palaksha claimed gold with a personal best of 49.32 seconds.