

(26th February 2026)

International

PM Narendra Modi crosses historic milestone of 100M followers on Instagram

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the historic milestone of 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first world leader and politician to achieve this feat on the platform. PM Modi joined Instagram in 2014. He has more than twice as many followers as US President Donald Trump on Instagram.

The total count of followers of the next five major world leaders is lower than PM Modi's individual follower count.

U.S. and South Korean Militaries will have joint drills in March

The U.S. and South Korean militaries said that they will conduct their annual springtime exercises next month to bolster their countries' combined defence capabilities against a backdrop of a deepening diplomatic freeze with nuclear-armed North Korea.

The Freedom Shield drills exercise is set for March 9-19, 2026.

Bill Gates apologises to Foundation staff over Epstein ties

American tech entrepreneur Bill Gates has apologised to the staff at the Gates Foundation over his ties with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The Microsoft co-founder also admitted that he had two affairs with Russian women and that he made mistakes that had cast a cloud over the philanthropic group while insisting he didn't participate in Epstein's crimes.

National

Union Cabinet approves renaming State of Kerala to Keralam

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the alteration of the name of the State of Kerala to Keralam, the name used in the Malayalam language.

The Kerala Assembly on June 24, 2024, had unanimously adopted a resolution urging

the Centre to officially change the State's name to Keralam.

The President will now refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the Kerala Legislative Assembly to express its views, under the proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution of India. Once these views are received, the Centre will take further action to obtain the President's recommendation to introduce the name change legislation in Parliament.

India and Nepal sign MoU to promote bilateral cooperation

India and Nepal have signed an MoU to promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of forests, wildlife, environment, biodiversity conservation and climate change. The MoU envisages cooperation in the formulation of biodiversity conservation strategies at the landscape level with emphasis on key species such as elephants, Gangetic dolphins, rhinoceroses, snow leopards, tigers and vultures. It also provides for strengthened forest and protected area management, restoration of wildlife corridors and other interlinking areas towards the creation of transboundary conservation landscapes.

Indian Navy concludes MILAN 2026 Maritime Exercise on INS Vikrant

The Indian Navy's major multilateral maritime exercise MILAN 2026 was concluded with a closing ceremony held onboard the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

MILAN 2026 was held under the theme 'Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration'. A total of 42 ships and submarines and 29 aircraft took part in the exercise. This included 18 ships from Friendly Foreign Countries, making it one of the largest editions of the exercise so far.

Business and Economy

Swiggy's affordable food delivery app Toigo expands in Delhi-NCR

Toigo, the affordable food delivery app by Swiggy, has expanded in the Delhi NCR

(26th February 2026)

region. The app, which was launched six months ago, has a presence across 11 cities in India. With the latest expansion, Toing will be available to consumers across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad. It is already live in Pune, Agra, Vadodara, Guwahati, Nashik and Nagpur.

Hitesh Joshi recommended for top post at GIC Re by FSIB

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended the name of Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi for the position of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) at GIC Re.

GIC Re is one of the key institutions in India's reinsurance sector, and the CMD is responsible for leading the organisation's overall strategy and operations.

India's e-commerce expected to more than double to \$200 billion by 2030 : Mckinsey & Company

India's e-commerce sector is expected to nearly double in the range of \$180 billion-\$200 billion by 2030 from \$70-80 billion in 2024, fuelled by rising incomes and demand from Tier-2 and Tier-3 locations as per a report by Mckinsey & Company. India's e-commerce penetration still remains low at 6-8 per cent compared to markets like US and China, indicating huge headroom for growth.

India aims to raise \$20 billion from IPOs of state-run firms by 2030

The Indian government aims to raise ₹1.79 trillion rupees (\$20 billion) from selling stakes in state-run firms through initial public offerings by the 2029/30 financial year, after previously backing away from outright privatisation plans. Under the new plan, the government aims to divest stakes in seven railway companies through IPOs that could potentially fetch ₹837 billion by 2030. The IPOs will be part of a broader push to raise \$183.7 billion by monetising state assets over the next four years, the government's top policy think tank NITI Aayog said in a report.

Canara Bank to raise ₹5,000 cr. via bonds

Canara Bank has announced plans to raise ₹5,000 crore in bonds to strengthen its capital base and support future growth plans. The sale of Basel III-compliant tier 2 bonds is scheduled on February 26, on the Electronic Bidding Platform of the National Stock Exchange.

Tata Sons board defers Chandrasekaran's reappointment

The Tata Sons board has deferred the decision to reappoint Tata Sons' Chairman N Chandrasekaran for a third term, after some board members, including Noel Tata, expressed their reservations. Chandrasekaran's second term at the helm of Tata Sons will be ending in February 2027.

Tata Trusts, which owns two-thirds in Tata Sons, had earlier resolved to reappoint Chandrasekaran for a third term.

Yes Bank flags \$0.28 million forex card fraud in Latin America

Yes Bank has disclosed that its internal investigation has revealed that fraudulent transactions aggregating about USD 0.28 million on its multi-currency prepaid forex card, which was issued in partnership with BookMyForex, were carried out at 15 merchants based in a Latin American country in the early hours of February 24, 2026. The aforementioned transactions were approved on behalf of 5,000 customers.

Sports

FIH Men's Pro League: India wins against Australia in Hobart

In hockey, India finished their Hobart segment of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 on a positive note with a 3-1 shootout victory against Australia, earning the bonus point.