

International

Iran, European countries conclude nuclear talks in Istanbul.

Talks between Iran and the UK, France, and Germany, known collectively as the E3 countries, concluded in Istanbul with both sides agreeing to continue discussions aimed at breaking the deadlock over Tehran's nuclear programme.

The meeting, held at the Iranian Consulate, marked the first formal engagement since the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel in June, which included US airstrikes on nuclear-linked sites.

France to officially recognise Palestinian state at UNGA in September: French President.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that France will officially recognize a Palestinian state during the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The French President said this decision to recognize the State of Palestine has been taken in accordance with the historic commitment of France to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

He further added that the world must also guarantee the demilitarization of Hamas and secure and rebuild Gaza.

India signs 6 MoUs with Maldives.

India signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Maldives to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu at the President's Office in Male.

The key areas include fisheries and aquaculture, meteorology, digital public infrastructure, UPI, Indian pharmacopoeia, and concessional Line of Credit. India announced a new Line of Credit of 4850 crore rupees to support the infrastructure development and other activities in the Island Nation.

India, New Zealand conclude balanced, comprehensive agreement.

The second round of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement concluded in New Delhi.

In this round, significant advancements were made in multiple areas, including trade in goods and services, investment, and economic cooperation. The third round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in New Zealand in September this year. The country's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand reached \$ 1.3 billion in the financial year 2024-25.

Important Days

Kargil Vijay Diwas: 26th July

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on July 26 every year to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999.

The day honours the courage and sacrifice of the Indian armed forces who reclaimed strategic peaks under Operation Vijay.

National

Atal Pension Yojna achieves milestone by crossing 8 cr enrolments.

The Atal Pension Yojana, APY, has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 8 crore total gross enrolments with an addition of 39 lakh new subscribers in the current Financial Year alone. It is a flagship social security scheme of the Government of India, administered by PFRDA.

Launched with a vision to create a universal social security system for all Indians, the APY is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme, focused on the poor, underprivileged, and workers in the unorganized sector.

PM Modi becomes second-longest serving PM in consecutive terms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the second-longest serving Prime Minister of the country with an uninterrupted tenure.

Mr. Modi has completed four thousand 78 days of continuous tenure by surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Govt bans 25 OTT websites & apps over vulgar and pornographic content.

The Government has directed the blocking of 25 OTT websites and apps showcasing obscene, vulgar, and in some cases, pornographic content. The action was taken by the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Legal Affairs, industry bodies FICCI and CII, and experts in the field of women rights and child rights.

MoD to procure Fire Control Radars to detect air-borne threats.

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for the procurement of Air Defence Fire Control Radars for the Indian Army worth two thousand crore rupees.

These Fire Control Radars will be able to detect all forms of air-borne threats, including fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, and enemy drones.

This would mark a significant milestone in the modernisation of the Air Defence Regiments and enhance the Indian Army's operational readiness.

DRDO successfully test fires drone launched precision guided missile in Andhra Pradesh.

DRDO has successfully carried out flight trials of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 in the National Open Area Range, a test range in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

Designed, developed, and tested by DRDO, the ULPGM-V3, also referred to as ULM-ER (extended-range variant), is an advanced version of DRDO's UAV-launched precision munition and features passive homing using an imaging infrared (IR) seeker, allowing for accurate engagement in both day and night conditions.

The 12.5-kg fire-and-forget air-to-surface missile is powered by a compact dual-thrust solid propulsion unit, enabling it to reach a maximum range of 4 km during daytime operations and 2.5 km at night.

Vice-Presidential election process begins after mid-term vacancy.

The Election Commission has started the process for the Vice-Presidential election by appointing P.C. Mody, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, as the Returning Officer. This follows the unexpected resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on July 21, 2025. Garima Jain and Vijay Kumar have been named Assistant Returning Officers. The election will be conducted under the 1952 Act and 1974 Rules. The Electoral College comprises both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members. Candidates need 20 proposers and 20 seconders, along with a ₹15,000 deposit.

Business and Economy

Anuradha Thakur appointed Director on RBI Central Board.

Senior bureaucrat Anuradha Thakur has been appointed as a Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, her appointment brings valuable administrative and policy experience to the board.

The Central Board is the highest decision-making body of the RBI, responsible for guiding the Bank's affairs.

Bank of Baroda Q1 Net rises 2% despite higher provisions

Bank of Baroda reported a 2% year-on-year increase in its net profit for Q1 FY26, reaching ₹4,541 crore, up from ₹4,414 crore in the same quarter last year. However, the bank saw a significant rise in provisions, which more than doubled to ₹1,737 crore.

Sports

Joe Root breaks record for most Test Centuries against India

England's star batter Joe Root made history on July 25 by scoring his 12th Test century against India, the most by any player.

The feat came during the fourth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Root surpassed Steve Smith, who has 11 centuries in 24 Tests against India.

Sreeja Akula storms into Semifinals at WTT Contender Lagos.

India's Sreeja Akula delivered a commanding performance to secure a semifinal berth at the WTT Contender Lagos. She defeated China's Yijie Shao with an impressive display of speed and precision.

The win marks a significant milestone in Sreeja's career as she continues to rise in international table tennis.