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International

Prime Minister conferred with highest honour of Israeli Parliament – ‘Speaker of the Knesset Medal’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the ‘Speaker of the Knesset Medal’ in recognition of his exceptional contribution to strengthening strategic relations between India and Israel. The Indian Prime Minister is the first leader to receive this medal, which is the highest honour of the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament.

Kuwait marks national day and liberation day

Kuwait marked two of its most significant national occasions this week, celebrating the 65th anniversary of National Day and the 35th anniversary of Liberation Day, with large public festivities held under the patronage of Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Liberation Day on February 26 commemorates the end of seven months of Iraqi occupation in 1991, when coalition forces led by the United States drove Iraqi troops out of the country, following a brief ground campaign.

National Day, observed on February 25, honours Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the leader who negotiated the end of Kuwait’s British protectorate and guided the country to full independence in 1961.

Trump beats Bill Clinton's record for longest State of the Union speech

U.S. President Donald Trump has delivered the longest-ever State of the Union address on February 25, 2026, beating Bill Clinton's 2000 record of one hour and 20 minutes.

Mr. Trump also smashed his own 1 hour and 40 minute record for a Presidential speech to Congress, which he set last March in an annual address.

National

India and Israel exchange multiple MoUs in several areas

India and Israel exchanged multiple MoUs on several areas, including cultural exchange, geophysical exploration, fisheries and aquaculture, UPI and advancing education through the use of artificial intelligence. The MoUs were exchanged after the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu. Both sides have taken the historic decision to elevate the time-tested partnership to the status of a Special Strategic Partnership. They have decided to establish the Critical and Emerging Technologies Partnership.

An agreement has been reached for the use of UPI in Israel.

Sunetra Pawar Elected National President of Nationalist Congress Party

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has unanimously elected Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar as the party’s National President. The decision was taken at NCP’s National Convention 2026 held in Worli, Mumbai.

The party also announced Ajit Pawar’s son Parth Pawar as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Nidhi Chibber gets additional charge as NITI Aayog CEO

Senior bureaucrat Nidhi Chibber was given additional charge of NITI Aayog's chief executive officer. The 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre is currently working as Director General, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog. Incumbent CEO B V R Subrahmanyam completed his tenure.

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Mangaluru International Airport wins Global 2025 ASQ Award for Best Airport at Arrivals second year in succession

Airports Council International (ACI) World has named Mangaluru International Airport the winner of the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for the Best Airport at Arrivals – Globally, reaffirming its standing among leading airports worldwide for passenger experience. The ASQ Awards are regarded as the aviation industry's most credible measure of customer satisfaction, based entirely on real-time passenger feedback collected through ACI's independently administered survey programme.

This marks the second consecutive year that Mangaluru International Airport has secured the global arrivals distinction, having also won the award in 2024.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveils Rail Tech Policy, Portal and e-Railway Claims Tribunal

The Union Minister for Railways has announced two more reforms as part of Indian Railways' resolve to undertake 52 reforms in 52 weeks this year. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Mr Vaishnaw unveiled the third reform, the Rail Tech Policy, stating that its objective is to promote the large-scale adoption of technology in the Railways. He said the Indian Railways aims to engage innovators, startups, industry and institutions to promote innovation in Railways.

Mr Vaishnaw also unveiled the Rail Tech Portal for innovation by engaging innovators, startups, industry and institutions. Talking about the 4th reforms, the Minister announced the e-Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) system, which is a citizen-centric reform and digital solution designed to streamline and modernise the processing of court cases in the Railway Claims Tribunal.

Jatinder Mehra, stalwart of India's steel and metals sector, passes away

Jatinder Mehra, a stalwart of India's steel and metals sector with a career spanning more than six decades, passed away. He was 86. At the time of his death, Mehra was serving as Vice Chairman of the metals and mining division at Essar Group. Over the years, he earned a reputation for his technical knowledge, strong operational leadership and his role in driving large industrial projects. At Essar Group, he played a key role in shaping the company's steel and metals strategy.

Business and Economy

NSE IX launches 'Global Access' platform; allows easy access to overseas markets for Indian retail investors

The NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) has soft launched its Global Access platform, enabling Indian investors to directly trade in equities, debt and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

The platform will initially go live with access to the US markets, with plans to expand to as many as 30 international markets over the next three-six months.

The Global Access platform has been designed to facilitate outbound investments under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) framework of the Reserve Bank of India, which permits resident individuals to remit up to \$250,000 per financial year for overseas investments.

NSE IX has tied up with ViewTrade, among the first foreign brokers to establish a base in GIFT City, to facilitate the execution and settlement of global trades.

Facebook Overseas acquires 30% stake in RIL firm for ₹257 crore

Reliance Industries said its step-down subsidiary Reliance Enterprise Intelligence has allotted shares worth ₹596.6 crore to Reliance Intelligence and shares worth ₹256.6 crore to Facebook Overseas.

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Post the allotment, Reliance Intelligence holds 70 per cent stake in Reliance Enterprises Intelligence (REIL) and the balance 30 per cent is held by Facebook.

RBI to conduct ₹25,000 crore switch auction on March 2

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will conduct a switch auction of government securities worth ₹25,000 crore on March 2, 2026. This is the third switch auction announced by the RBI this month. This operation is expected to reduce the redemption pressure in FY27, when government bonds worth ₹5.47 lakh crore are due to mature.

In a switch auction, the government replaces bonds maturing in the near term with long-term instruments.

Prior to this, the RBI had conducted two switch auctions and bought back securities worth Rs 84,804 crore.

Cytiva sets up 30,000 sq ft bioprocessing centre in Bengaluru

Biotech company Cytiva has set up a 30,000 sq ft facility in Bengaluru. The centre will help biopharma companies in India and across Asia-Pacific shorten development timelines, reduce manufacturing risk, and scale as India aims to grow its bioeconomy to \$300 billion by 2030.

The facility is designed for a single-use bioreactor that can scale up to 200 L and can produce toxicity batch material to support preclinical stages.

CBI registers second 'bank fraud' case against RCom and Anil Ambani

The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches on the premises of businessman Anil Ambani after registering a second case against him and Reliance Communications Limited for allegedly cheating the Bank of Baroda of ₹2,220 crore.

CBI has registered the second case against Reliance Communications based on a

complaint from Bank of Baroda for cheating, criminal misconduct and conspiracy.

TVS Motor Company re-enters South Africa market

TVS Motor Company has announced its re-entry into the South African market. It has entered into a partnership with The Nexus Collective, a specialised distributorship backed by the Bidvest Group Ltd, South Africa's largest automotive distributor.

With this launch, TVSM becomes the only two-wheeler brand in South Africa to operate across multiple product forms and segments simultaneously. As of 2025, international business accounts for 25 per cent of the company's total sales, with the Africa representing over half of global operational revenue and nearly 70 per cent of export unit volumes.

RBI greenlights SBI Mutual Fund's plan to buy up to 9.99% in Bandhan Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved a proposal by SBI Mutual Fund to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.99% in Bandhan Bank. This approval comes with specific conditions and timelines. SBI Mutual Fund must complete the acquisition within one year.

HDFC Bank, SBI dominate India's credit card spending

India's credit card spending is increasingly concentrated among legacy lenders, with HDFC Bank and State Bank of India together controlling nearly half of the total transaction value as of January 2026. The top five issuers now account for 85.6% of spending, up from 81.2% in April 2025, highlighting a shift of high-value transactions toward established banks, while smaller banks and fintech issuers compete for less than 15% of the market.

HDFC Bank's share edged up to 28.4%, while SBI saw a sharp rise from 19.3% to 24.7%, collectively absorbing over five percentage points from competitors.

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Meanwhile, foreign banks' share fell to 4.5%, with some exiting the credit card business, and regulatory restrictions affected fintech partnerships.

Nvidia smashes forecasts with record quarter as AI boom rolls on

Nvidia has reported blockbuster quarterly results that blew past Wall Street expectations, posting record revenue of \$68.1 billion, as insatiable demand for its artificial intelligence chips showed no sign of cooling. The figures, up 73 percent from a year ago and well above the \$65.7 billion, sent a powerful signal that the technology buildout dominated by Nvidia, which underpins the global AI boom, remains in full swing.

Sports

T20 World Cup 2026: India outplays Zimbabwe

India secured a big 72-run win over Zimbabwe to keep their Super 8s hopes alive in the T20 World Cup. Zimbabwe were restricted to 184 for six in their 20 overs while chasing a mammoth 257 for victory. Earlier, batting first, India made a

formidable 256 for four. It was India's highest-ever total in T20 World Cups and the overall highest in this ICC showpiece event.

Prague Chess festival: Gukesh held by Yakubboev

World Champion D Gukesh played out another draw with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan, while defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram beat Hans Moke Niemann of the United States in the second round of the Masters section of the Prague International Chess Festival.