

## International

### President Trump further extends deadline for Iran to open Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump has extended his deadline for Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz to April 6, 2026. He stated that he will hold off on bombing Iran's energy plants. Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced that shipping to and from ports of allies and supporters of its Israeli-US enemies is prohibited through any corridor or to any destination. The Guards added that the Strait of Hormuz is closed and that any transit through the waterway will be met with "harsh measures."

### Jaishankar attends G7 Foreign Ministers' meet in France.

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Abbaye des-Vaux-de-Cernay on March 26 and 27, 2026, to participate in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting with partner countries.

The visit comes at the invitation of France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot. On the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral discussions with his counterparts.

### Bangladesh marks 56th Independence and National Day, honouring 1971 Liberation War heroes.

Bangladesh is observing its 56th Independence and National Day on March 26, commemorating the historic birth of the nation following its Liberation War in 1971. The day marks the declaration of independence from Pakistan on March 26, 1971, and honours the sacrifices of millions who fought for sovereignty. Special prayers were offered seeking eternal peace for the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War, as well as for national peace, progress, and prosperity.

## National

### India secures 27 top-50 QS World University ranks.

According to the 16th edition of the QS subject-wise rankings, two Indian institutions—IIT Bombay (44th) and IIT Delhi (45th)—have broken into the global top 50 for computer science subjects for the first time. India now has 27 top 50 entries, which is more than double the 12 recorded in 2024, with 12 institutions contributing to this rise, signalling both scale and improved performance at the top end.

The Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad, ranked 21st globally in mineral and mining engineering, and IIM Ahmedabad, which ranks 21st in both business and management studies and marketing, are among the top-ranked Indian institutions.

Despite these gains, the 'Engineering and Technology' broad faculty area saw a dip in rankings for several flagship campuses compared to 2025. IIT Delhi fell from 26th in 2025 to 36th, IIT Bombay dropped from 28th to 42nd, IIT Madras slid from 53rd to 62nd, IIT Kharagpur fell from 60th to 64th, and IIT Kanpur moved down from 72nd to 86th in 2026.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) maintained a strong 26th position in Development Studies, however, it saw a sharp drop in Politics & International Studies, falling from 75th last year to 95th.

### Bengali novel Hara Parbati Katha by Author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay selected for Saraswati Samman.

Bengali Novel Hara Parbati Katha by Author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay has been selected for Saraswati Samman, 2025. The Saraswati Samman, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991, is an annual award given to outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years. The awardee will be given 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

## **BHASHINI-PFRDA sign MoUs making pension services more inclusive.**

Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, PFRDA, have signed an MoU under the initiative titled 'BHASHINI for Seva-Sanchalan', a BHASHINI Sahayogi programme.

The collaboration aims to strengthen multilingual digital capabilities in the pension sector through integration with the BHASHINI platform, India's National Language Digital Public Infrastructure.

The MoU establishes a framework for integrating BHASHINI translation APIs, multilingual AI models, and voice-enabled technologies with PFRDA systems to enhance language accessibility and improve communication across digital platforms and user interfaces in the pension sector.

## **Cabinet approves continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) scheme.**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond 31 March, 2026 for a period of five year from 01 April, 2026 to 31 March, 2031 with budget outlay of Rs.1800 crore.

The IVFRT platform seeks to interlink and optimize functions related to immigration, visa issuance and registration of foreigners in India.

The core objective of the IVFRT is to modernize and upgrade immigration and visa services within a secure and integrated service delivery framework. It aims to facilitate legitimate travellers while strengthening national security.

## **Periasamy Kumaran appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to U.K.**

Indian Foreign Service Officer Periasamy Kumaran has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. Mr Kumaran, a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service Officer, is currently serving as the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

## **DPIIT signs MoU with Razorpay to strengthen India's startup ecosystem.**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has entered into a strategic partnership with a leading fintech platform, Razorpay, to strengthen India's startup ecosystem. As part of this initiative, a dedicated platform, Startup Sahayak, has been launched to support early-stage founders.

The platform aims to provide end-to-end assistance, including company incorporation, access to central and state government schemes and programmes, and guidance on funding opportunities, thereby enabling startups to access essential ecosystem support through a structured interface.

## **Business and Economy**

### **WTO opens 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14) held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.**

The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC-14) of the World Trade Organisation commenced in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and will continue until 29 March 2026. The conference will be chaired by Cameroon's Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana. Ministers from 166 member countries are going to participate in the conference to deliberate on critical issues shaping the future of global trade.

Key areas of discussion include WTO reform, agriculture, e-commerce and investment facilitation.

## **Infosys to acquire U.S. firms Optimum Healthcare IT for \$465 million, Stratus for \$95 million.**

Indian IT services firm Infosys had entered into separate agreements to acquire U.S.-based technology companies Optimum Healthcare IT and Stratus in all-cash deals. Infosys will buy healthcare consulting firm Optimum Healthcare IT for \$465 million and insurance technology company Stratus for \$95 million.

## **MUFG's \$4.4 billion investment in Shriram Finance wins CCI approval.**

Shriram Finance has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed \$4.4 billion investment by Japan's MUFG Bank, which will acquire a 20 percent stake in the company. The transaction is among the largest foreign direct investments in India's financial services sector and involves the preferential allotment of 471 million equity shares to MUFG Bank through a private placement.

## **Anduril, Palantir developing Golden Dome missile shield's software.**

Anduril and Palantir Technologies are working together to develop software for U.S. President Donald Trump's Golden Dome antimissile shield initiative. The \$185 billion Golden Dome missile defence project aims to build a space-based shield capable of intercepting ballistic, cruise and hypersonic missiles, with hundreds of companies vying for a role in developing the shield.

## **Sebi rolls out Verified App Label to curb fraud, bolster investor protection.**

In a bid to strengthen investor protection amid rising digital fraud, Market regulator SEBI has launched a 'Verified App Label Initiative' in collaboration with Google to help investors identify genuine trading and investment apps. This move aims to combat the growing menace of unregistered advisory services and digital fraud.

## **RBI nod to acquisition of Sammaan Capital by Avenir Investment RSC.**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the proposed acquisition of a controlling stake in Sammaan Capital Ltd by an affiliate of Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company. The acquisition by Avenir Investment RSC Ltd also includes the indirect change in control of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Sammaan Finserve Ltd. As part of the transaction, Avenir Investment will infuse Rs 8,850 crore through a preferential equity issue, for an initial stake of 41.23 percent, which could increase to 63.36 per cent upon completion of the open offer.

## **Indian tech start-ups raised \$9.1 bn in 2025: Nasscom-Zinnov analysis.**

In 2025, Indian tech start-ups raised \$9.1 billion, marking a 23% year-on-year increase, said a Nasscom-Zinnov analysis. Deep-tech funding surged 37% to \$2.3 billion last year with AI driving 91% of investments. Over 140 tech M&A deals were recorded in 2025, a close to 2x jump over last year. Seed and early-stage deals accounted for 74% of total funding activity with AI capital deployment and innovation driving the momentum.

## **Digital personal loan book tops Rs 1.39 lakh crore.**

Digital personal loans are growing rapidly in India. Digital lenders disbursed 9.9 crore loans worth Rs 1.53 lakh crore in Q1-Q3 FY25-26. Asset quality has improved, with the 90-day past due ratio falling to 1.9%. The sector is reaching more young borrowers and those in smaller cities.

## **Sports**

### **Transgender women athletes banned from competing in female Olympic events in new IOC policy.**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has moved to ban transgender women from female events, beginning with

the next summer Olympic games, scheduled to take place in Los Angeles in the United States in July 2028.

The move follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, which established federal restrictions for athletes who do not meet specific biological sex criteria.

### **India beat Pakistan 3-0, enter SAFF U-20 semi-finals.**

In the South Asian Football Federation, SAFF Under-20 Championship, defending champion India began their campaign with a commanding 3-nil win over Pakistan at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives. The win helped India move into the semi-finals of the Championship, while knocking out rivals Pakistan, who had lost 2-0 to Bangladesh in their opening match of the tournament.