

International

Pakistan declares war against Afghanistan

Pakistan has declared an open war against Afghanistan after the Taliban administration said that its forces killed and captured several Pakistani soldiers during a cross-border offensive. Pakistan carried out airstrikes targeting Afghan cities, including Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia, after a fresh round of clashes between the two sides.

Borge Brende, CEO of World Economic Forum, quits after Epstein ties

The President and CEO of the World Economic Forum, Borge Brende has resigned over his relationship with late U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Brende, who became president of the WEF in 2017, announced his decision in a statement following disclosures from the U.S. Justice Department that showed the Norwegian had three business dinners with Epstein.

WEF Managing Director Alois Zwinggi will serve as interim president and CEO, and the forum's Board of Trustees would oversee the leadership transition, including a plan to identify a permanent successor.

India's Young Adults Rank 60th In Global Mental Health Study

According to the Global Mind Health 2025 report, India's young adults rank 60th globally in mental well-being, with an MHQ score of 33. In contrast, adults aged 55 and above recorded a substantially higher MHQ score of 96, placing them 49th globally.

The Mind Health Quotient (MHQ) is designed to measure a wide range of capacities—cognitive, emotional, social and physical—that influence an individual's ability to navigate life, work and relationships.

Trump tells U.S. government to 'immediately' stop using Anthropic AI tech

U.S. President Donald Trump told the government to immediately stop using Anthropic's technology after the AI startup rejected the Pentagon's demand that it agree to unconditional military use of its Claude models.

Anthropic insists its technology should not be used for the mass surveillance of U.S. citizens or deployed in fully autonomous weapons systems, while the Pentagon says it operates within the law and that contracted suppliers cannot set terms on how their products are employed.

National

Canadian PM Mark Carney to begin his first official tour of India

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, will pay an official visit to India from 27 February to 2 March 2026. This will be Prime Minister Carney's first official visit to India. Over the next two days, he will participate in separate business engagements and interact with Indian and Canadian CEOs, industry and financial experts, innovators, educators, as well as Canadian Pension Funds based in India.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Approves ₹797-Crore Green Hydrogen Jetty at Paradip Port Authority

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has approved the development of a jetty with allied facilities for handling green hydrogen, ammonia and other liquid cargo at Paradip Port at an estimated cost of over 797 crore rupees. The project will be implemented by Paradip Port Authority on a build-operate-transfer basis. The project will not only enhance cargo capacity but also catalyse investment, generate employment and create a robust green energy ecosystem in Eastern India.

Dharma Guardian exercise Underway in Chaubatia

Dharma Guardian, a joint military exercise between India and Japan is currently underway at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand's Almora district. The exercise, which began on February 24, will continue until March 9. A total of 120 soldiers from each country are participating in the drill.

During the exercise, troops from both nations will work on enhancing high-level physical endurance and improving joint operational planning processes. The drills will also focus on establishing coordination in tactical operations and incorporating modern technologies.

South Central Railway launches next-generation 'Rail Parcel App'

South Central Railway (SCR) has achieved a significant digital milestone by launching a next-generation 'Rail Parcel App' at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. This first-of-its-kind digital e-marketplace aims to revolutionise freight logistics by offering seamless end-to-end services, including doorstep pickup and delivery.

The app features real-time tracking, automated notifications, and secure digital payment options. Initially, the service is being rolled out as a pilot project across seven major locations, including Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and Bengaluru.

President Murmu undertakes sortie in indigenous Light Combat Helicopter

President Droupadi Murmu has undertaken a sortie in the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter PRACHAND at Air Force Station Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The mission was conducted as a two-aircraft LCH formation. President Droupadi Murmu flew in the lead aircraft with Group Captain Nayan Shantilal Bahua, while Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amarpreet Singh and Group Captain A Mahendra flew as Number 2 in the second aircraft.

National Science Day 2026 on Feb. 28

National Science Day is observed every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by the eminent physicist Sir C.V. Raman. Sir Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for this groundbreaking discovery. The theme for this year is "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat."

Indian Air Force demonstrates combat strength in Exercise Vayu Shakti

The Indian Air Force has demonstrated its combat prowess and firepower capabilities during Exercise 'Vayu Shakti' at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in western Rajasthan. The large-scale day-to-night exercise was conducted in the Thar desert near the India-Pakistan border in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu. The demonstration presented simulated missions reflecting operations undertaken during Operation Sindoor.

Frontline fighter aircraft, including Sukhoi-30, Jaguar and Mirage jets, carried out coordinated attacks, replicating synchronised strike patterns.

Business and Economy

India's GDP grows by 7.8% in third quarter of current fiscal year

Indian economy grew at 7.8% in the third quarter of the current financial year. As per the statistics, the overall economic performance in the current financial year is primarily on account of robust real growth observed at 8.4% in the second quarter and 7.8% in the third quarter. The growth rate in real GDP during 2025-26 is estimated at 7.6% as compared to 7.1% in 2024-25.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the New Series of Annual and Quarterly Estimates with base year 2022-23. It has replaced the previous series with the base year of 2011-12.

Paramount acquires Warner Bros. in \$110 billion mega-merger

Paramount Skydance announced that it will acquire Warner Bros. Discovery in a deal valuing the combined company at \$110 billion, after beating Netflix.

The agreement ends a five-month bidding saga and creates an entertainment behemoth whose impact on a struggling media landscape.

Google Launches Nano Banana 2

Google launched Nano Banana 2, the latest version of its popular artificial intelligence (AI) image generation model. Powered by real-time information and images from web search, the new model can create more realistic images than its predecessor and will be the default option in the Gemini app for its Fast, Thinking, and Pro modes.

Google rolled out the Nano Banana AI image editor in August last year, which instantly became a viral hit. By mid-October, the model had generated more than five billion images.

MSME Ministry Upgrades National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to 'Schedule A' CPSE

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has announced the upgradation of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) from a Schedule 'B' to a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

The NSIC supports MSMEs across their life cycle through its various interventions such as skilling, capacity building, enhancing their cost competitiveness, marketing support, credit facilitation, growth capital by way of equity investments, etc.

NSIC is also the implementation partner for several aspirational programmes of the Government of India.

SEBI Mandates Registered Name, Number Disclosure on Social Media

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed all entities regulated by it to prominently disclose their registered name and registration number while posting securities market-related content on social media platforms. The directive was issued through a circular. The order applies to stockbrokers, portfolio managers, and mutual funds, as well as intermediaries and agents, including distributors. The new norms will come into effect from the 1st of May.

IIFL Finance to raise up to \$750 million

Fairfax-backed IIFL Finance plans to raise \$500-750 million (₹4,547-6,820 crore) in external commercial borrowings and dollar bonds in March, as part of its strategy to diversify the resource base and fund growth. The gold-loan focussed non-bank lender is in talks with existing investors as well as banks from Singapore and Taiwan. The fundraising will utilize dollar-denominated loans and foreign currency social bonds.

Stellantis posts 20 bln euro net loss in second half of 2025

Global automaker Stellantis has reported a net loss of 20.1 billion euros for the second half of 2025, after flagging earlier this month 22.2 billion euros of charges in the period, as it scaled back its electric-vehicle ambitions. The Jeep-to-Peugeot maker, whose July–December net revenues rose 10% year-on-year, said it had booked 25.4 billion euros in write-downs last year.

PhonePe reports strong revenue growth

Digital payments giant PhonePe has reported strong revenue growth and sharply narrowing losses over the past three fiscal years, signalling a shift towards sustainable monetisation and operational efficiency. Revenue from operations rose to ₹71,14.85 crore in FY25 from ₹2,914.28 crore in FY23, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 56.25 per cent.

Swiggy, IRCTC expand 'Food on Train' service to 152 stations across India

Food delivery and quick commerce firm Swiggy has expanded its 'Food on Train' service, in collaboration with IRCTC, to 152 stations across India in a 12-month period, up from 70 stations a year-ago, driven by a rising nationwide demand for diverse culinary options. Swiggy has doubled down on its 'Food on Train' service, marking a 117 per cent growth in network expansion-- from 70 stations in February 2025 to 152 stations as of February 2026, it said.

The company also plans to focus on diversity by doubling down on transit hubs across India, from major junctions to regional stops like Itarsi (Madhya Pradesh), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) and Kharagpur (West Bengal).

Apple in talks with ICICI, HDFC & Axis Bank to start payment service in India

Apple is in talks with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank, along with Visa and Mastercard, to launch Apple Pay in India around mid-2026. The service is expected to support UPI as well as card payments, entering a market dominated by Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay and Paytm.

Apple Pay in India is expected to support India's state-backed Unified Payments Interface, or UPI, alongside card-based payments. UPI, which allows Indian customers to instantly transfer money and pay bills, dominates India's digital payments space.

SEBI broadens MF categories to keep up with changing investor preferences

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has broadened the categories of mutual funds in line with the proposals in a consultation paper released last year.

According to the circular released, SEBI introduced another new category called the life cycle fund and has done away with retirement and children's fund. SEBI said

that life cycle funds will have a minimum duration of five years and a maximum duration of 30 years.

Perplexity unveils 'Perplexity Computer'

Perplexity AI has announced the launch of "Perplexity Computer," a new platform designed to move artificial intelligence beyond answering questions and into executing complex, multi-step tasks on behalf of users. Perplexity's new offering could expand its AI's role from an answer engine to a comprehensive productivity platform.

Sports

Table Tennis: Manush-Manav pair loses to Lebrun brothers in Singapore Smash semifinals

India's Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar's were defeated in a five-game thriller in the men's doubles semifinals at the WTT Singapore Smash. The sixth-seeded Indian duo went down 2-3 (6-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9, 8-11) to French brothers and fourth seeds, Alexis and Felix Lebrun, in 36 minutes.

Tennis: Medvedev beats Auger-Aliassime to reach Dubai final

Daniil Medvedev is one victory away from repeating a title run for the first time in his career after he booked his place in the Dubai final with a 6-4, 6-2 win over top seed Felix Auger-Aliassime. Medvedev, a former world No. 1, has 22 career titles but has never won the same tournament twice.