

International

US, EU finalise trade deal imposing 15% tariff on most European goods.

The United States and the European Union have finalised a comprehensive trade deal that places a 15% tariff on most EU goods entering the US. US President Donald Trump and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen announced that they have reached a deal.

The US President also said the European Union has agreed to purchase 750 billion dollars worth of energy from the United States, as well as 600 billion dollars more in additional investments in the country.

PM Modi emerges as world's most popular democratic leader.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the world's most popular democratic leader with a 75 percent approval rating, according to a recent global survey conducted by US-based data analytics firm Morning Consult. South Korean President Lee Jae-myung followed with a 59% approval rating. Argentine President Javier Milei secured the third spot with 57%.

US President Donald Trump, who returned to office last year, was ranked eighth, with only 44% expressing approval.

Vaccines prevented over 2.5 million Covid deaths worldwide: study.

According to a new study led by researchers from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Italy, vaccines have prevented more than 2.5 million deaths caused by SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind COVID-19. The study found that one COVID-related death was avoided for every 5,400 vaccine doses administered. About 82% of the lives saved involved people who were vaccinated before contracting the virus. Additionally, 57% of the total lives saved were during the Omicron period, and 90% of the deaths prevented were among individuals aged 60 and above.

National

India-Singapore joint military exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra 2025' begins.

The 14th edition of the India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise commenced in Jodhpur. Exercise Bold Kurukshetra will continue till the 4th of next month. The exercise will be conducted as a tabletop exercise and computer-based wargame aimed at validating operational

procedures for mechanised warfare. It will culminate in an equipment display by the Indian Army.

The objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and joint training capabilities of both armies under a United Nations mandate, thereby strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

India forms panel for COP-33.

The Environment Ministry has set up a dedicated COP-33 Cell to address the professional and logistical requirements for the 2028 United Nations climate summit (COP 33), which India has proposed to host. During his address at COP 28 in Dubai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed India as the host country for COP 33.

Indian Army conducts drill to validate integration of drones into battlefield operations.

The Indian Army recently held Exercise Drone Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh. The drill validated integrating drones into tactical operations. It focused on intelligence, surveillance, and precision targeting. The exercise aimed to improve situational awareness for commanders. Airspace deconfliction and secure communication were also tested.

Carried out under realistic operational conditions, the exercise demonstrated the effective use of drones for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, as well as real-time sensor-to-shooter coordination and precision targeting.

G P Birla Memorial Award conferred on ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan.

The G P Birla Archaeological Astronomical and Scientific Institute has conferred G P Birla Memorial Award on Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Secretary of the Department of Space, V. Narayanan, by institute chairperson Nirmala Birla.

India tests first hydrogen train coach.

Indian Railways has achieved a major milestone by successfully testing the nation's first hydrogen-powered coach at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced. India is developing a 1,200 HP hydrogen train. This will place India among the

leaders in hydrogen-powered train technology. The hydrogen coach is part of a broader vision by Indian Railways to deploy 35 hydrogen-powered trains under the “Hydrogen for Heritage” initiative. These trains are intended to operate on heritage and hill routes across the country, with an estimated cost of ₹80 crore per train and an additional ₹70 crore for supporting ground infrastructure per route.

PM Modi greets CRPF personnel and families on Raising Day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted CRPF personnel and their families on the Raising Day of the paramilitary Force on July 27. The force was raised on this day in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police, and its name was changed after Independence. It is the country's largest central police force and plays a critical role in counterinsurgency measures.

Business and Economy

Tesla, Samsung Electronics sign chip supply deal.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said that the U.S. automaker has signed a deal to source chips from Samsung Electronics, a move expected to bolster the South Korean tech giant's loss-making contract manufacturing business.

Samsung announced a \$16.5 billion chip supply deal with a major global company, without naming the client.

Samsung currently manufactures the A14 chip, while TSMC will produce the A15 – the design of which was recently finished – initially in Taiwan and then in the US state of Arizona.

TCS to cut workforce by 2%, affecting more than 12,000 jobs.

IT services provider Tata Consultancy Services has announced that it will reduce its workforce by 2% in its 2026 financial year, primarily affecting middle and senior management.

The company is retraining and redeploying staff as it enters new markets, invests in new technology and deploys AI, but about 12,200 jobs will be cut as part of the process.

OpenAI prepares to launch GPT-5 in August.

Artificial intelligence pioneer OpenAI plans to launch its GPT-5 model as early as August.

The new model, which was expected to launch this summer, will be positioned as an AI system that incorporates distinct models and can perform different functions as opposed to just a single AI model.

Sports

F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2025: Piastri wins.

Oscar Piastri has passed McLaren teammate and title rival Lando Norris to win the rain-delayed 2025 Belgian Grand Prix and extend his Formula One lead to 16 points. Charles Leclerc was a distant third for Ferrari as reigning champion McLaren celebrated its sixth one-two finish in 13 races and the third in a row.

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy: India pull off sensational draw.

India batted more than five sessions to overturn a 311-run deficit and pulled off an unprecedented draw against England in the fourth Test at Old Trafford. The draw leaves England with a 2-1 lead in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, heading into the final Test at the Oval.

Porsche wins Formula E team and manufacturer titles.

Porsche won the team and manufacturer titles as the all-electric Formula E championship wrapped up its season in London. Nissan's Oliver Rowland had already won the drivers' crown with two races to spare. The Briton retired from Sunday's race after a crash.