

International

US President Signs Executive Order Raising Tariffs on 68 Countries & EU

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order raising tariffs on dozens of key trading partners around the world.

Under the new policy, 68 countries and the 27-member European Union will face a default 10 per cent tariff. However, countries with trade deficits with the U.S. will face a minimum 15 per cent tariff, affecting about 40 nations. Some will face much higher rates, especially those with large deficits or who have not renegotiated trade terms with the U.S.

Myanmar Announces Formation of New Union Government

Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) has formed a new Union government and State Security and Peace Commission. The Union government is led by U Nyo Saw as Prime Minister, and the State Security and Peace Commission is chaired by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Russian President Putin Orders Govt to Develop Russia's High-Speed Rail Roadmap

Russian President Vladimir Putin has instructed the government to develop a roadmap for building Russia's high-speed rail network by March 31, 2026. He also ordered the government and Russia's largest lender to outline plans for utilising the 300 billion rubles allocated from the National Wealth Fund as initial funding for the Moscow-St. Petersburg high-speed rail line. Petersburg route will be Russia's first high-speed railroad, a specialised electrified double-track line on which trains can travel at speeds from 200 to 400 kph. Trains are expected to cover the distance between the two cities in two hours and 15 minutes.

National

71st National Film Awards Winners Announced

The winners of the 71st National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Centre in New Delhi.

Winners

Best Feature Film: 12th Fail

Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values: Sam Bahadur

Best Popular Film for Entertainment: Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani

Best Hindi Film: Kathal

Best Malayalam Film: Ullazhukku

Best Tamil Film: Parking

Best Telugu Film: Bhagavanth Kesari

Best Documentary: God Vulture and Human

Best Actor in a Leading Role: Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)

Best Actress in a Leading Role: Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway)

Best Direction: Sudipto Sen, The Kerala Story

Best Supporting Actor: Vijayaraghavan and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar

Best Supporting Actress: Janki Bodiwala and Urvashi

Best Music Direction: GV Prakash Kumar
Tamil film Vaathi

Best Editing Award: Pookalam

Best Children's Film: Naal 2

Best Cinematography Award: The Kerala Story
Best Playback Singers: Shilpa Rao for the Hindi film Jawan and PVN S Rohit for the Telugu film Baby

Bihar SIR: Draft Electoral Roll Published

The Election Commission has published the draft electoral roll for Bihar prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) campaign. Eligible voters whose names have been left out or deleted from the list can file claims and objections for inclusion till 1st September. Under this special campaign SIR, the details of over 7.89 crore voters were verified from 24th June to 25th July. As part of the revision process, more than 65.62 lakh names have been deleted from the list that was used in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Among the 38 districts of the state, Patna recorded the highest number of deletions, with 3.95 lakh names removed from the preliminary electoral roll.

Starlink Receives License to Launch Satellite Internet Service in India

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said that Elon Musk-led Starlink has received a license to launch satellite internet

service in India and a framework for spectrum allocation is also in place for a smooth rollout. He mentioned that the country now has 1.2 billion telephone connections, and internet subscribers have increased by 286 percent to 97 crore. With a 96.6 percent drop in mobile data rates, India has become the cheapest data provider in the world.

ICRISAT Launches AI-Powered Climate Advisory for Small Farmers

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and others, has launched personalised and real-time climate advisory services, powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). The project, AI-Powered Context-Specific Agromet Advisory Services for Climate-Resilient Agriculture at Scale, was launched at a workshop held at ICRISAT in Hyderabad. Supported by the Government of India's Monsoon Mission III, the initiative is expected to equip smallholder farmers with hyper-local, actionable weather and climate insights, enabling them to make informed decisions amid increasing climate variability.

The project will first be implemented in Maharashtra, through ICAR's Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) to reach smallholder farmers.

Sotheby's Returns Buddha-Linked Jewels to India After 127 years

Auction house Sotheby's has returned a set of sacred jewels believed to be linked to the Buddha's remains to India. The Mumbai-based conglomerate Godrej Industries Group has acquired the jewels.

Business and Economy

Centre's July 2025 GST Revenue p 7.5% to ₹1.96 Lakh Crore

The Central government's gross revenue from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) grew to ₹1.96 lakh crore in July, up 7.5% from the collections in July last year, and 6% higher than the collections in June 2025.

Refunds under the system, however, surged by nearly 67% to ₹27,147 crore in July 2025 as compared to July last year.

Microsoft Valuation Surges Above \$4 Trillion as AI Lifts Stocks

Shares of Microsoft increased on July 31, following favourable quarterly results, lifting the tech giant into the previously unprecedented \$4 trillion club along with Nvidia, another artificial intelligence standout. Microsoft has reported a profit of \$27.2 billion on revenue of \$76.4 billion in its fiscal fourth quarter, capping another year of growth.

DLF Retains Title as India's Most Valuable Real Estate Company

With a value of ₹2.1 lakh crore, DLF Ltd. has retained its title as India's most valuable real estate company in the 2025 GROHE- HURUN India Real Estate 150. As per the report, Lodha Group (₹1.4 lakh crore) and Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (₹1.1 lakh crore) are the second and third most valuable companies respectively. With 63 new entrants this year, 29 companies have debuted directly into the top 100 and Mumbai has topped the list with 42 companies (up by 9), followed by Bengaluru with 23 (up by 8), New Delhi with 16 (up by 2), and Hyderabad and Pune with 13 companies each.

IEPFA Launches "Saksham Niveshak"

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has launched a 100-day campaign titled "Saksham Niveshak", running from 28th July to 6th November 2025. This national drive is aimed at empowering shareholders by creating awareness about unclaimed dividends held by companies and guiding them through the process of updating their KYC and nomination details to reclaim their rightful dividend.

The campaign encourages companies to proactively reach out to their shareholders, helping them recover unclaimed dividends and resume the regular receipt of dividends by updating essential records.

Renault Group Buys Nissan's Remaining 51% Stake

Renault Group has acquired Nissan's remaining 51% stake in their joint plant in Chennai (Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd – "RNAIPL"), thus becoming its sole owner. Renault Nissan Automotive India (RNAIPL), as the joint venture is called, will be fully consolidated in Renault Group's consolidated financial statements. Renault Group said that the acquisition is part of the strategy to transform India into a key international hub.

ATF Price Hiked 3%, Commercial LPG Rate Cut by ₹33.50

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by 3% on August 1, 2025, while the price of commercial LPG cylinders was reduced by ₹33.50, in line with fluctuations in international benchmark rates.

Jet fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹2,677.88 per kilolitre, or 2.9%, to ₹92,021.93 per kl in the national capital — home to one of the busiest airports in the country.

Manufacturing Sector Growth Hits 16-Month High in July

India's manufacturing sector growth strengthened in July to a 16-month high of 59.1, supported by faster increases in new orders and output amid favourable demand conditions, a monthly survey said.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 58.4 in June to 59.1 in July, signalling the strongest improvement in the health of the sector since March 2024.

Indian Overseas Bank Engages an Advisor to Help Sell Over Rs 12k Crore NPAs

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has, for the first time, engaged an external advisor to find a buyer for its non-performing assets (NPAs) worth more than Rs 12,000 crore, with the lender focusing on exposures that are either stuck due to litigation or are undergoing liquidation.

It has engaged Navi Mumbai-based Special Situation Advisors India to find a buyer for 67 large corporate accounts within the next four months. These accounts include Videocon Industries, Frost International, Rotomac Global,

Lanco Infratech and ABG Shipyard, aggregating to a total outstanding exposure of more than Rs 12,224 crore for the bank.

City Union Bank Q1 Net Profit Up 16% on Higher Income

City Union Bank Ltd has reported a 16% growth in its first-quarter net profit, driven by growth in net interest income and other income. The bank's first quarter 2025-2026 net profit increased to ₹306 crore from ₹264 crore in the same period last year.

Public Sector Banks Can Transfer Unclaimed Shares, Bond Redemption Amounts to IEPF From Aug 1

The Union government has notified amendments to the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, which allows public sector banks (PSBs) to transfer unclaimed shares, interest, and bond redemption amounts to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), bringing them in line with practices followed by companies under the Companies Act. The amendments also empower PSBs to offer remuneration to statutory auditors, facilitating the engagement of high-quality audit professionals and enhancing audit standards.

Centre May Call IDBI Bids in Q3

The Centre expects to invite financial bids for the strategic sale of IDBI Bank in the third quarter of FY26 and select the winning bidder by the end of this fiscal. At present, the Central government holds a 45.48% stake and the state-run Life Insurance Corp (LIC) 49.24% in IDBI Bank. Together, both will offload a 60.72% stake in the lender—30.48% by the government and 30.24% by LIC.

India Post Payments Bank Starts Aadhaar-Based Face Authentication for Digital Banking

India Post Payments Bank has launched a nationwide Aadhaar-based face authentication for customer transactions, enhancing security and convenience, especially for elderly and differently-abled individuals. This feature, developed under UIDAI, allows banking transactions via facial recognition, eliminating the need for fingerprints or OTPs. It ensures financial inclusion by addressing limitations in

biometric verification and enabling safe banking during health emergencies.

Deepak Reddy Takes Charge as New CEO of Manappuram Finance Ltd.

Manappuram Finance has appointed Deepak Reddy as Chief Executive Officer of the company, with effect from August 1, 2025. V P Nandakumar, former Managing Director and CEO of Manappuram, now holds the position of MD in the company w.e.f. July 31, 2025.

Sports

Indian Women Wrestlers Shine at U17 World Championships With 5 Medals

Indian women wrestlers have delivered an impressive performance at the 2025 U17 World Wrestling Championships in Athens, securing a total of five medals, including two gold, two silver, and one bronze. Rachana has won India's first-ever gold in the women's 43 kg freestyle category with a commanding 3-0 victory over China's Xin Huang. Ashvini Vishnoi added another gold in the 65 kg category, defeating Uzbekistan's Mukhayyo Rakhimjonova 3-0.

Mascot of Asia Rugby Under-20 Championship Unveiled

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has unveiled the mascot of Asia Rugby Under 20 (Sevens) Championship to be held at Rajgir on 9th and 10th August. In the Championship, men's and women's teams from Asia will lock horns for the trophy at Rajgir Sports Complex. This event is being organised for the first time in Bihar. The top eight countries of Asia will participate in the championship, which is a seven-member team event.

Besides India, rugby-playing Asian countries such as Hong Kong, China, UAE, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Nepal will play in the Championship.

Macau Open: Lakshya, Tharun Advance to Men's Singles Semifinals

In badminton, second-seed Lakshya Sen has advanced to the men's singles semifinal of Macau Open after defeating Zhu Xuan Chen of China 21-14, 18-21, 21-14 at the East Asian Games Dome. He will next take on fifth seed Indonesian Alwi Farhan for a place in the final. Another Indian shuttler Tharun Mannepalli also entered the semifinal after knocking out Chinese shuttler Hu Zhe An 21-12, 13-21, 21-18.