

## International

### Min Aung Hlaing steps down as Myanmar's armed forces chief

Min Aung Hlaing stepped down as Myanmar's armed forces chief to seek the presidency, the latest step in the general's efforts to maintain power behind the facade of a civilian administration. Min Aung Hlaing has effectively ruled the country since 2021, when he led a military coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Alongside this transition, Ye Win Oo has been appointed as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, replacing Min Aung Hlaing.

### Measles outbreak in Bangladesh claims 38 children's lives amid vaccination gaps

Bangladesh is facing a worsening measles outbreak that has claimed at least 38 children's lives this year, with health experts warning that gaps in vaccination coverage and widespread malnutrition are driving the surge in fatalities. According to health officials, 21 of the deaths occurred in March alone, though the actual toll could be higher due to incomplete reporting.

### Spain closes its airspace to US aircraft linked to Iran conflict

Spain has closed its airspace to US aircraft linked to the Iran conflict. Spanish Defence Minister confirmed that Madrid had already barred the United States from using jointly operated military bases in Spain for operations connected to the West Asia crisis.

Under Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Spain's government has emerged as one of Europe's most outspoken critics of US and Israeli military actions in the region.

### Celeste's first satellites launched to explore LEO-based satellite navigation

The European Space Agency (ESA) took a major step forward in strengthening Europe's ambition for more resilient

satellite navigation, as the first two satellites of the Celeste in-orbit demonstration mission lifted off from New Zealand aboard Rocket Lab's Electron. Their mission is to begin testing a complementary low Earth orbit layer for Galileo.

The two satellites – built respectively by GMV and Thales Alenia Space – were launched and separated from the launcher about an hour later.

## National

### Census 2027 will start from 1st April

Census 2027 will begin from the 1st of April. This will be the 16th Census in the series and the 8th since Independence. Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan informed that the Census will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase, house listing and self-enumeration will be carried out. The self-enumeration process will be conducted over a 15-day period between 1st April and 31st August this year, with the schedule varying across states and union territories.

After each state and union territory carries out the self-enumeration, the house listing operations will be conducted over a 30-day period till 30th September.

### Lok Sabha passes Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill

The Lok Sabha has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with a voice vote. The Bill, which was initially referred to a Select Committee, has been introduced to further amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, to address procedural delays and interpretational issues among companies and individuals. The Finance Minister said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill has a total of 12 amendments, including 11 recommended by the Select Committee and one introduced by the government.

## **Centre allocates PDS kerosene to States, UTs in 60-day emergency measure**

The Central government has made an ad hoc allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene to states and union territories for household use, introducing a 60-day emergency measure to ease pressure on cooking gas LPG.

The kerosene is to be used for cooking and lighting needs.

## **Mahavir Jayanti being celebrated across country on on March 31**

Mahavir Jayanti, the birth anniversary of the 24th and last Jain Tirthankar Bhagwan Mahavir, is being celebrated across the country on March 31. Mahavir Jayanti is considered one of the most auspicious day for the Jain community and holds a lot of importance in their religious life.

## **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026**

The Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, addressed the 20th edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards organised by The Indian Express Group in New Delhi. The awards were presented to 24 journalists for their outstanding work across print, digital and broadcast platforms in 19 categories, including investigative reporting, politics and government, feature writing, books, sports, and regional language journalism.

Instituted by the Ramnath Goenka Foundation, the awards recognise the best of journalism, showcasing 25 contributions from print, digital and broadcast platforms from across 18 categories.

## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI infuses ₹84,582 crore liquidity into banking system through VRR**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) injected Rs 84,582 crore of transient liquidity into the banking system through two variable rate repo (VRR) auctions.

The central bank injected Rs 50,001 crore through the first three-day VRR auction early in the day at a cut-off rate of 5.34 percent and weighted average rate of 5.44 percent.

The RBI injected another Rs 34,581 crore at a 5.26 percent cut-off and 5.30 percent weighted average rate at an auction later during the day.

Currently, liquidity in the banking system is estimated to be in surplus of about Rs 1.27 lakh crore as on March 27.

### **India's insurers to adopt Ind AS from April 1, 2026: IRDAI**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)-based Financial Reporting Framework for the Insurance Sector from April 1, 2026. In its 135th meeting, IRDAI has approved the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Actuarial, Finance and Investment Functions of Insurers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

The introduction of Ind AS aims to enhance consistency, transparency, and comparability in financial reporting across the insurance sector.

### **Govt asks banks, NPCI to curb failures**

The Central government has asked banks to work with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to curb high Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transaction failures, as glitches and user errors threaten to dent confidence in the country's fastest-growing payments network.

NPCI is expected to review lenders' performance and suggest measures to improve success rates.

### **SoftBank secures \$40 billion loan to boost OpenAI investments**

SoftBank Group has secured a \$40 billion bridge loan to bolster investments in ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and for general

corporate purposes, marking another significant step in its artificial intelligence strategy.

The Japanese investment conglomerate, led by founder Masayoshi Son, continues to strengthen ties with OpenAI as global tech firms race to gain an edge in the increasingly competitive generative AI space.

### **France's Mistral raises \$830 million in debt for AI data centre build-up**

Europe's leading AI provider, Mistral, has raised \$830 million in new debt to buy 13,800 Nvidia chips for a major data centre near Paris, as Europe races to scale AI infrastructure to compete with the U.S. and China. Mistral's debt-raising was financed by a consortium of seven banks, including BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole CIB, HSBC and MUFG.

The data centre in Bruyeres-le-Chatel is expected to become operational in the second quarter of 2026.

### **Sports**

### **Sheetal Devi named Para Archer of the Year 2025**

Sheetal Devi has been named Para Archer of the Year 2025 by World Archery after a landmark season that included a historic world championship gold and multiple international medals. The 19-year-old from Jammu & Kashmir became the first and

only female armless archer to win gold at the World Para Archery Championships by claiming the top honours in the women's compound individual event in Gwangju, South Korea, last year. She also secured a complete set of medals at the World Championships, winning the women's team silver and the mixed team bronze.

### **Miami Open 2026: Sinner beats Lehecka to capture 'Sunshine Double'**

Italian professional tennis player Jannik Sinner beat Czech Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 in a rain-hit Miami Open final to become the first man to complete the coveted 'Sunshine Double' without dropping a set.

### **MotoGP: Bezzecchi wins USA Grand Prix to extend perfect start to season**

Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi claimed the 2026 United States Grand Prix in Austin for his third consecutive win of the year, and fifth straight dating back to last season. Bezzecchi led all 20 laps at the Circuit of the Americas, where he crossed the line 2.036 seconds ahead of teammate Jorge Martin. Pedro Acosta finished third.

With the win, Bezzecchi became the third Italian rider to win five in a row after Hall of Famers Valentino Rossi and Giacomo Agostini. He is also the first rider to win the first three grands prix of the season since Marc Marquez in 2014.