

International

United States to Deploy the Carl Vinson Aircraft Carrier in West Asia

The United States has decided to increase the number of aircraft carriers deployed in West Asia to two, keeping one that is already there and sending another from the Indo-Pacific. The 'Carl Vinson' will join the 'Harry S. Truman' in West Asia "to continue promoting regional stability, deter aggression, and protect the free flow of commerce in the region," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement, on April 1, 2025.

Online Entry Permit Imposed on Europeans Visiting the UK

Travellers from Europe now need a digital Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) permit, which UK officials said they were rolling out to boost security and streamline entry processes. New rules came into force on April 2, 2025, requiring European visitors to the United Kingdom to buy an online entry permit as the government revised longstanding regulations to boost border security.

National

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Embarks on a Two-Nation Tour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to Thailand to participate in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit.

The theme of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, to be held on April 4, 2025, is "BIMSTEC – Prosperous, Resilient and Open." The Bangkok Vision 2030 will be adopted at the Summit, and the Report of the BIMSTEC Eminent Persons' Group will also be endorsed to chart the future direction of BIMSTEC.

After the BIMSTEC Summit, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Sri Lanka from the 4th to the 6th of April for a state visit at the invitation of Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake.

First Visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 Years

President Droupadi Murmu will embark on a four-day state visit to Portugal and Slovakia from the 7th of April. This will be the first visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 years.

Lok Sabha Passes the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

After a marathon discussion, the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. 288 members voted in favour and 232 members voted against the Bill. The House also gave approval to the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, which repeals the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923.

Parliament Passes the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025

After the approval of the Rajya Sabha on April 2, 2025, the Parliament passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The legislation seeks to regulate the immigration, entry, and stay of foreigners in India. It repeals the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. The Bill is intended to modernise the immigration laws, and it has provisions to confer upon the Central Government certain powers with regard to passports, travel documents, visa and registration. The legislation has been brought to avoid multiplicity and overlapping of laws.

The Indian Navy and Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited Sign a Deal

The Indian Navy, on April 2, 2025, signed the project sanction order under the Make-I category for the design and development of a 6-megawatt medium-speed marine diesel engine. The deal was signed with Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited in New Delhi.

ISRO Completes a 1,000-Hour Life Test

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the successful completion of a 1,000-hour life test on its

300 Milli Newton Stationary Plasma Thruster, developed for induction in the Electric Propulsion System of Satellites. The Electric Propulsion System is proposed to replace the chemical propulsion system in future satellites of the space agency and will contribute to significant savings.

Economy/Business

Donald Trump Imposes Sweeping Tariffs

US President Donald Trump has announced a 27% reciprocal tariff on India. The U.S. has also imposed hefty tariffs on competitors such as China and Vietnam. As negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) continue, India seeks to lower its tariffs on various goods while facing challenges in sensitive areas like agriculture. The BTA aims to enhance bilateral trade, potentially reaching \$500 billion by 2030.

Poonam Gupta Named Deputy Governor of RBI

According to a notification, the Central Government has named Poonam Gupta as the new Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor for a period of three years. Poonam Gupta succeeds Michael Patra, who acted as RBI Deputy Governor between January 2020 and January 2025. Poonam Gupta currently serves as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), an economic policy think tank. She is also a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and Convener of the Advisory Council to the 16th Finance Commission.

GI Tag for Chapata Chilli

Grown on about 3,000 hectares in some villages in Warangal, Hanmakonda, Mulugu, and Bhupalalli districts, the Chapata chilli, or tomato chilli, got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Known for its brilliant red colour and negligible pungency in taste,

this chilli variety is a hot favourite of pickle makers. It is also ideal for use as a natural colouring agent in food and beverages, replacing synthetic dyes.

IREDA Reports Strong Financial Performance for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

IREDA has reported a robust financial performance for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Its loan sanctions for FY25 stood at ₹47,453 crore, marking a 27 per cent increase from ₹37,354 crore in the previous year. Loan disbursements rose by 20 per cent to ₹30,168 crore, compared to ₹25,089 crore in FY24. The outstanding loan book also expanded by 28 per cent, reaching ₹76,250 crore as of March 31, 2025, up from ₹59,698 crore in the previous year.

Sports

Second Edition of the International Surfing Festival to Commence Soon

The second edition of the International Surfing Festival Kerala — Varkala, organised by the Kerala Tourism Department and Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society (KATPS), is set to begin at Edava Beach in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram, on April 10. This three-day surfing festival is also India's only global surfing competition.

Dipanshu Sharma Takes the Top Spot in Men's Javelin

Dipanshu Sharma, with a personal best throw of 75.04m, took the top spot in men's javelin at the 1st Indian Open Athletics meet at the War Hero Stadium on April 1, 2025. It is also the third-best throw in the world in Under-20 this year, behind Ewald Jansen's two throws.

Among the women, Jyoti Rakesh finished second with a best of 51.94m, behind veteran Annu Rani, who took the top spot with a 56.43m throw.