

## International

### Iran vows to attack any ship trying to pass through Strait of Hormuz.

An Iranian Revolutionary Guards senior official has said that the Strait of Hormuz is closed and Iran will fire on any ship trying to pass. The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most vital oil export route, which connects the biggest Gulf oil producers, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The closure was triggered by U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 seeking to topple its leaders.

### PM Modi crosses 30 million YouTube subscribers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the significant milestone of 30 million subscribers on YouTube and continues to be the most-followed world leader on the platform. PM Modi joined Youtube in 2007. As per the rankings, he is comfortably ahead of others in the category. Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro holds the second spot with over 6 million subscribers.

### Indian scientists help 50-year-old rule in bacterial gene regulation.

Indian scientists have helped rewrite a 50-year-old biological rule of bacterial gene regulation and unveiled new paths for understanding bacterial gene regulation and its evolution. This could help design better antibiotics or regulatory inhibitors that block infection mechanisms and design microorganisms that produce biofuels, biodegradable plastics, or therapeutic compounds efficiently.

The Ministry said that for nearly 50 years, biology has related the story of how bacteria turn their genes on with the help of the so-called sigma cycle. Sigma Cycle is a factor that binds RNA polymerase to initiate transcription and then dissociates to allow elongation.

### World Wildlife Day observed on March 3.

The United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to celebrate wild animals and plants and recognize the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.

The WWD2026 is celebrated under the theme “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods”.

## National

### India and Canada sign three agreements on critical minerals, renewable energy, and culture.

India and Canada exchanged three agreements in different areas including critical mineral cooperation, promoting the use of renewable energy and cultural cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney has held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. They also took stock of ongoing cooperation in key pillars including trade and investment, energy, critical minerals, agriculture, education, research, and innovation, and people-to-people ties.

India and Canada have set an ambitious target to expand bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by 2030.

The two sides have also decided to expedite the finalization of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

### India renews Bilateral Swap Arrangement with Japan.

India has renewed its Bilateral Swap Arrangement – BSA with Japan with effect from 28th February, 2026. According to an official release issued by the Reserve Bank of India, the size of the BSA remains unchanged at 75 billion US dollars. The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US dollar.

## **India, EU to grant each other 'Most Favoured Nation' status**

India and the European Union have agreed to grant each other "Most Favoured Nation" (MFN) status for five years from the date the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two sides comes into force. In practice, this means neither India nor the EU can extend more favourable tariff concessions to other World Trade Organization (WTO) members without offering the same to each other during the five-year window.

The MFN commitment is embedded within the broader India-EU trade agreement, negotiations for which concluded on January 27 after nearly two decades of intermittent talks.

## **Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya releases book titled "Mahatma: A Great Communicator".**

Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has released a Book titled "Mahatma: A Great Communicator" at a function held in New Delhi. The Book was written by Additional Director General Akashvani, Dr Dhiraj Kakadia. Addressing the gathering, Mr Mandaviya said that the book will generate awareness among the people to take inspiration from the life of Mahatma Gandhi and imbibe his ideals in their lives.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Canada's Cameco signs \$1.9 billion Uranium deal with India.**

Canadian firm Cameco Corp. has signed a C\$2.6 billion (\$1.9 billion) uranium supply deal with India during Prime Minister Mark Carney's first official visit to the country.

Cameco will supply 22 million pounds (11,000 tons) of the reactor fuel to India from 2027 through 2035. The two nations also agreed to cooperate in sectors including liquefied natural gas, critical minerals, solar and hydrogen.

## **FM Nirmala Sitharaman meets New President of AIIB, Zou Jiayi.**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has met the New President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Zou Jiayi, in New Delhi. During the meeting, both sides discussed strengthening the India and AIIB partnership. The Ministry of Finance said that they also discussed the importance of enhanced collaboration with AIIB through early upstream services in the infrastructure sector in India.

During the meeting, Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the need to scale up investments in AIIB member countries, particularly low-income countries, through various innovative financing and non-financing instruments.

## **Pine Labs to launch stablecoin payments outside India.**

Pine Labs will launch a stablecoin-backed prepaid card across nine countries in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia by the end of April, marking the first attempt by an Indian payments major to tap the fast-growing market. The prepaid card, funded with stablecoins from consumers' digital wallets, will enable payments in local currencies through real-time conversion at the point of sale.

Global payment firms Stripe, PayPal and Klarna are already using stablecoins to facilitate cross-border payments as the instruments gain wider acceptance in emerging markets, topping \$310 billion in market value, led by U.S. dollar-pegged tokens Tether and USDC.

While India does not prohibit stablecoins, the local central bank has cautioned the instruments could weaken monetary policy management and promote illegal payments.

## **State Bank of India announces exit of Nitin Chugh as Deputy MD.**

State Bank of India (SBI) said that Nitin Chugh has been relieved from his position as Deputy Managing Director and Head (Digital Banking

& Transformation) with effect from March 2, 2026. Chugh's contractual tenure was set to end on March 3, 2026. SBI said the move follows the completion of his contractual term. The bank did not name a successor .

### **State-run banks rolling out GCC, AI road map under EASE 9.0 reforms.**

Public sector banks will roll out a Global Capability Centre (GCC) strategy in FY27 and prepare a capacity-building roadmap. State Bank of India (SBI), which set up the first GCC among state-run lenders earlier this year, will take the lead. Banks are also expected to assess active-active data centre models for inclusion in their five-year business plans. Banks will also develop advanced technology like AI stacks and blockchain. This move aims to modernize lenders and improve productivity.

### **SEBI removes 1.2 lakh misleading influencer posts, deploys AI 'Sudarshan': Chairman.**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has removed more than 1.2 lakh misleading social media posts by unregistered financial influencers and is leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) tools to track violations in the digital space, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. To strengthen surveillance, SEBI has deployed an in-house AI tool called 'Sudarshan,' through which SEBI will track, on a multilingual basis, audio, video, and other content to pinpoint where transgressions occur.

### **Jio expands finance app to sell third-party products.**

Jio Financial Services has announced an expansion of its app to work like a marketplace which will also sell third party products. The artificial intelligence, machine learning and neural networks-powered new 'JioFinance app' will also eventually build a 'financial score' for users

and advise them on a range of aspects to manage finances .

The company has tied up with over 50 credit cards and 90 insurance products to be made available on the platform.

### **RBI processes 99.8% of Citizen's Charter applications within timeline in February.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has processed 99.8 per cent of applications within the prescribed timeline under its Citizen's Charter in February 2026. The central bank handled a total of 22,765 applications in February, including pending cases and fresh receipts, after adjusting for those referred back to applicants for additional information.

Function-wise data showed that 'Banker to Banks and Governments' and 'Currency Management' accounted for the bulk of applications.

### **Royal Enfield posts 11% rise in February sales.**

Eicher Motors, parent company of Royal Enfield has reported an 11 percent year-on-year increase in motorcycle sales for February 2026, with total volumes rising to 1,00,905 units compared with 90,670 units in the same month last year. Sales of models with engine capacity up to 350cc grew 16 per cent to 89,844 units, up from 77,775 units in February 2025.

### **RIL, Adani, Google lead \$240 billion investment wave at AI Summit.**

Reliance Industries, Adani, Google, Lightspeed Ventures and Tata are among the top investors that cumulatively made commitment of \$240 billion investment in India during the India AI Impact Summit 2026. Over \$200 billion in AI-related investments are expected across infrastructure, foundation models, hardware and applications.

Reliance Industries pledged USD 110 billion over seven years towards AI-focused infrastructure, Adani Enterprises announced plans to invest USD 100 billion by 2035, General Catalyst announced a USD 5 billion investment commitment over five years, while Lightspeed Venture Partners announced USD 10 billion in investments.

Google announced investments including new India-US subsea cable routes and a USD 15 billion AI hub in Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, Tata Group announced a partnership with OpenAI to scale AI-ready data centres.

## Sports

### MoS Raksha Khadse announces Special Edition of ASMITA Women's Sports League.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse has announced a special edition of the

Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action (ASMITA) League in New Delhi. This initiative will empower female athletes across the country by providing them a competitive platform at the grassroots level.

Competitions will be organised for girls in three age categories including Under 13, 13 to 18 years and 18 years and above. The Athletics events will include 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres races.

### Prague Chess: Gukesh hand Abdusattorov another victory.

World Champion D Gukesh has suffered his fifth straight setback at the Prague International Chess Festival, squandering a winning position to lose to Nodirbek Abdusattorov, while Jorden van Foreest surged to the top of the standings with his fourth win in five rounds.