

International

UN Security Council postpones vote on Strait of Hormuz protection.

United Nations Security Council has postponed a vote on authorizing defensive force to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz from Iranian attacks.

The draft resolution, proposed by Bahrain, was delayed as the UN observed Good Friday.

Bahrain currently holds the Council's presidency, and a new voting date is yet to be announced.

Important Days

International Day for Mine Awareness observed on April 4.

The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on April 4, as declared by the United Nations.

The 2026 theme, "Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action," highlights the need to eliminate landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The day promotes awareness, supports victims, and encourages global cooperation.

Mine action plays a vital role in saving lives, restoring safe land use, and enabling development in post-conflict regions.

Books and Authors

Vice-President releases 'Tides of Time' book by Sudha Murty.

C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament authored by Sudha Murty at Samvidhan Sadan.

The book showcases India's history through 124 Parliament murals, highlighting its civilisational journey.

It covers themes from the Indus Valley Civilization to the freedom struggle, blending art, history, and democratic heritage.

National

ISRO launches 'Mission MITRA' in Ladakh to study space-like conditions.

Indian Space Research Organisation has launched Mission MITRA in Leh Ladakh to study human performance in space-like conditions.

Conducted at 3,500 metres, the mission will analyse physiological, psychological, and operational responses under hypoxia, cold, and isolation.

The study aims to improve crew coordination and decision-making for future space missions by simulating real-world stress conditions in a controlled environment.

Indian Railways approves ₹398 crore Optical Fibre Project.

Indian Railways has approved a ₹398 crore Optical Fibre Cable Backbone Project across Ahmedabad and Ratlam divisions. The initiative will cover 1,929 route kilometres to strengthen communication infrastructure.

Implemented under the Kavach safety system, it will enhance capacity, reliability, and efficiency of railway operations.

The project will support advanced signalling and seamless data transmission, improving overall safety and modernisation of railway networks.

Jitendra Singh inaugurates BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre at CFTRI.

Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BIRAC-BioNEST incubation centre at Central Food Technological Research Institute to boost India's food and biotech innovation ecosystem.

Supported by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, the centre offers advanced facilities for startups.

It has already supported 26 startups, fostering innovation in areas like nutraceuticals, probiotics, precision fermentation, and gene-editing technologies, strengthening research-to-market integration.

Raja Ravi Varma's 'Yashoda and Krishna' becomes costliest Indian artwork.

Yashoda and Krishna by Raja Ravi Varma set a record by selling for ₹167.20 crore at a Mumbai auction, becoming the most expensive Indian artwork.

The masterpiece was bought by Cyrus Poonawalla.

The sale highlights the growing global demand for Indian art. Known for blending European techniques with Indian themes, Ravi Varma's works remain highly influential in shaping modern Indian art.

Business and Economy

RBI likely to Issue 'Responsible Business Conduct' norms to curb mis-selling.

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to release final guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct to prevent mis-selling of financial products by banks.

The norms will focus on transparent distribution of third-party products like insurance.

Rising commissions, overseen by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, have been identified as a key driver.

The move aims to protect customers, improve accountability, and promote fair practices in the financial sector.

HDFC Bank reports strong growth in advances and deposits.

HDFC Bank reported a 12% rise in advances to ₹29.6 lakh crore for the March quarter, reflecting steady credit growth. Total deposits increased by 14.4% to ₹31.05 lakh crore, with CASA deposits growing 12.3%.

Time deposits also saw a strong rise of 15.5%.

The performance highlights sustained momentum in lending and deposit mobilisation for India's second-largest private sector bank.

Venu Srinivasan resigns from Tata Trust-affiliated institution.

Venu Srinivasan has resigned from the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution, a body linked to Tata Trusts, citing business commitments.

The move comes amid a challenge by Mehli Mistry over board appointments. The matter has been raised before the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner, adding to ongoing governance-related developments within the institution.

Sports

India tops global doping suspension list: AIU report raises concerns.

Athletics Integrity Unit reported that India has the highest number of suspended track and field athletes (148) for doping violations, surpassing Kenya and Russia. Prominent names include Dutee Chand and Dhanalakshmi Sekar.

The issue reflects broader concerns highlighted by World Anti-Doping Agency, urging stricter enforcement, awareness, and systemic reforms to safeguard the integrity of Indian athletics.

AFI makes approval mandatory for athlete sponsorship deals.

Athletics Federation of India has made it mandatory for track and field athletes to seek prior approval before signing sponsorship agreements.

The move aims to protect athletes from unfair contracts and prevent exploitation by agents.

Officials stated it will ensure transparency and balanced deals, though some stakeholders raised concerns over excessive control.

The decision reflects efforts to regulate athlete management and maintain integrity in sports partnerships.

India wins 16 medals at World Archery Para Series in Bangkok.

Payal Nag won gold in the women's compound final at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok, defeating Sheetal Devi. Toman Kumar and Bhawna also secured gold medals, while Harvinder Singh and Swati Chaudhary won silver.

Shyam Sunder Swami won a bronze medal in the men's compound individual event, as India finished with 16 medals, including seven gold.

Sreeshankar wins long jump at Indian Athletics Series 2026.

Murali Sreeshankar began his season with victory in the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 in Bengaluru, registering 8.15m.

Abdulla Aboobacker won the triple jump, while Sarvesh Kushare topped the high jump event.

In women's events, Ancy Sojan clinched victory, and Baranica Elangovan impressed in pole vault.