

## International

### India, Sri Lanka Ink Key Deals in Defence, Energy & Trade to Boost Strategic Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake in Colombo, aimed at bolstering the strategic and developmental partnership between the two neighbours.

Several agreements in various sectors, including defence and energy, were signed in the presence of the two leaders.

A tripartite agreement along with the UAE for the development of Trincomalee as an energy hub was also signed.

### Global Economists Warn of U.S. Recession Post President Trump's Tariff Moves

Global brokerages and economists have warned of an impending US recession after factoring in the impact of reciprocal tariffs announced by the Donald Trump administration.

JP Morgan Chase & Co expect real GDP to contract under the weight of the tariffs, and for the full year, they look for real GDP growth of -0.3 per cent, down from 1.3 per cent previously.

Citi economists have cut their forecast for growth this year to just 0.1 percent, while UBS economists reduced their forecast to a mere 0.4 per cent.

### US Starts Collecting President Trump's New 10% Tariff on all Imports

The United States customs agents have begun collecting President Donald Trump's unilateral 10 per cent tariff on all imports from many countries.

The initial ten per cent baseline tariff paid by U.S. importers took effect at U.S. seaports, airports and customs warehouses.

Among the countries first hit with the ten percent tariff are Australia, Britain, Colombia, Argentina, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

## National

### MoSPI Releases 26th Edition of Women and Men in India 2024

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) today released the 26th edition of its publication 'Women and Men in India 2024: Selected Indicators and Data.'

The publication offers a comprehensive overview of the gender landscape in India,

presenting selected indicators and data across key areas like population, education, health, economic participation, and decision-making, all sourced from various ministries, departments and organizations.

The publication indicated that the labour force participation rate in usual status for individuals aged 15 and older has increased from 49.8 percent in 2017-18 to 60.1 percent in 2023-24.

### SC Collegium Recommends Appointment of Justice Arun Palli as Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh HC

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Arun Palli, judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana, as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Justice Arun Palli was elevated to the Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in December 2013. He has been serving as the executive chairman of the Haryana State Legal Service Authority since 31 May 2023. He was nominated as a member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on October 31, 2023, for a tenure of two years.

### President Droupadi Murmu Gives Assent to Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament. After the Presidential assent, it has become a law.

The President also gave assent to the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025.

Key changes include redefining the formation of waqf, improving the survey and registration process, empowering government oversight, ensuring inclusivity by incorporating non-Muslim members and women into waqf-related bodies. These provisions mark a crucial step toward modernizing Waqf property management in the country.

### Centre Approves ₹1,280 Crore Disaster Aid for Bihar, Himachal, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

The Central Government has approved over 1280 crore rupees of additional assistance to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory Puducherry as relief for the natural disasters they faced last year.

The government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams to these states immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of a formal memorandum.

### **Centre, Delhi Govt Sign MoU to Roll Out Ayushman Bharat with ₹10 Lakh Cover per Family**

The Union Health Ministry and the Delhi Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in the National Capital. This flagship scheme provides comprehensive health coverage of 5 lakh rupees per family per year across the country. However, the Delhi government will contribute an additional 5 lakh rupees, raising the total benefit to 10 lakh rupees per family annually.

### **Business and Economy**

### **Meta Unveils New Llama 4 AI Models, 'Scout' and 'Maverick', to Drive Innovation**

Meta, under the leadership of CEO Mark Zuckerberg, ramped up its presence in the competitive AI landscape with the launch of its next-generation Llama-4 (Large Language Model) suite.

The suite features three advanced AI models – Scout, Maverick, and Behemoth – each designed to excel in distinct multimodal and reasoning tasks.

With this strategic move, Meta aims to rival top AI platforms such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini, while also addressing the growing challenge from emerging global players like China's DeepSeek.

### **BEML Launches Indigenously Designed Motor Grader**

BEML Ltd., a prominent Indian manufacturer of mining and construction equipment, announced the launch of its newly indigenously designed and developed "Motor Grader BG 1205" on Saturday at its Mysuru facility. Featuring a robust 24-foot blade, the BG 1205 has been thoughtfully engineered to cater to the growing and dynamic needs of the mining industry.

### **Sports**

### **Hitesh Gulia Bags Gold Medal at World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025**

In boxing, India's Hitesh Gulia bagged the gold medal in men's 70kg category at the World Boxing Cup 2025 in Foz do Iguaçu.

Fighting in the red corner, the Indian pugilist defeated Odel Kamara of England in the final.

Indian Boxer Abhinash Jamwal clinched the silver medal in the men's 65kg category. Abhinash lost nil-5 to Yuri Reis of the host country in the final.

### **Esha Singh Wins Silver in 25m Pistol at ISSF World Cup**

Indian shooter Esha Singh won a silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

With Esha's silver, India has so far won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal in the ISSF World Cup 2025, as earlier, Sift Kaur Samra clinched gold in the women's 50m rifle three-positions event.

Asian Games medallist shooter Chain Singh secured bronze in the men's event, opening India's medal account at the competition.