

International

US President Donald Trump signs executive order to impose tariffs on countries trading with Iran.

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order renewing the national emergency on Iran and creating a new tariff system targeting countries that buy goods or services from Tehran. It allows the United States to impose additional tariffs on imports from any country that directly or indirectly purchases, imports, or otherwise acquires any goods or services from Iran.

Russia & US agree to re-establish high-level military dialogue after a gap of four years.

The United States and Russia have agreed to re-establish high-level military dialogue for the first time in more than four years. High-level military communication was suspended in late 2021, as tension between Moscow and Washington rose ahead of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Canada & France open Greenland consulates.

France and Canada have opened consulates in Greenland's capital Nuuk, in a show of support for their NATO ally Denmark amid renewed demands from US President Donald Trump to acquire the Arctic territory. Canada first announced plans to open a Greenlandic consulate back in December 2024 as part of its Arctic Foreign Policy, while France's consulate was announced by French President Emmanuel Macron in June last year.

New York City joins UN health network after Trump's withdrawal from WHO.

New York City has joined a United Nations health network in the wake of the United States leaving the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the first municipal health department in the United States to join this worldwide network of

public health organizations after the U.S. withdrew from the WHO in January 2026. New York City is a global city with 8.5 million residents and more than 12 million international visitors every year.

National

India-U.S. interim trade framework.

The United States and India have agreed on an interim trade pact framework, aiming to lower tariffs and boost economic cooperation. Under the interim trade agreement, tariffs on New Delhi will be reduced to 18%. As part of the deal, the US has withdrawn the additional 25 per cent duty it had imposed on Indian imports. India to purchase \$500 billion-worth U.S. goods over five years

As per the agreement, India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of American food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products.

India successfully test-fires Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile.

India has successfully test-fired the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. The launch was conducted under the supervision of the Strategic Forces Command.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Agni-Three is a two-stage, solid-fuelled ballistic missile with a strike range exceeding three thousand kilometres. The missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.

MoS for Defence Sanjay Seth to participate in World Defence Show 2026.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth will lead a high-level Indian delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the third World Defence Show 2026,

which will begin on Sunday. The two-day show is expected to host more than 700 exhibitors and around 400 official delegations.

The World Defence Show is a biennial international defence exhibition hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Centre lays down eligibility criteria for 'deep tech' start-ups.

The Union government has revised the startup recognition framework to further strengthen the Startup India Action Plan.

Under the revised framework, a startup will be defined as an entity that is up to 10 years from the date of incorporation or registration and has recorded a turnover not exceeding Rs 200 crore in any financial year since incorporation. This marks a significant enhancement from earlier thresholds.

For entities recognised as 'Deep Tech Startups', the eligibility window has been extended to 20 years, while the turnover ceiling has been raised to ₹300 crore for any such financial year. It also lays down detailed attributes for deep tech startups, describing them as entities working on solutions based on new scientific or engineering knowledge, often spanning multiple disciplines.

The notification clearly states that entities formed through the splitting up or reconstruction of an existing business will not qualify as startups.

Business and Economy

RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent.

Announcing the sixth and final bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, the RBI has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent. Consequently, other rates will also be unchanged. RBI had reduced Repo rate by 25 basis points in December 2025.

It also revised the GDP growth rate higher at 7.4 percent as against the earlier

projection of 7.3 per cent and retail inflation at 2.1 per cent as against 2 per cent in FY 2026.

RBI raises loan limits for small businesses.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced measures to boost credit to small businesses and the real estate sector to improve access to formal financing and strengthen last-mile lending.

The Reserve Bank of India proposed doubling the limit on collateral-free loans for small enterprises to ₹2 million (\$22,170.49) from ₹1 million (\$11,085.25).

RBI proposes compensation up to Rs 25,000 for small-value digital frauds

The RBI will introduce a new framework to compensate customers for small-value digital frauds, offering relief of up to Rs 25,000 per case. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said such frauds account for a small share by value but nearly 65 percent by number involve amounts of Rs 50,000 or less. Compensation will apply even if the customer has inadvertently shared credentials, provided the loss was unintended and not malafide.

The framework will involve risk-sharing, with customers and banks each bearing 15 percent, and the RBI covering the balance.

Boards of Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation approve merger.

Pursuant to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget announcement, the boards of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) informed the stock exchanges that they have accorded in-principle approval for a merger with each other. PFC is at present in the promoter and holding company of REC. Both entities continue to operate as Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises under the Ministry of Power, holding a combined, massive loan book for the power sector.

Reliance Consumer acquires majority stake in Australia's Goodness Group Global

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has acquired majority stake in Australia's popular 'Better-For-You' beverage business Goodness Group Global Pty. Limited (GGG) for an unspecified amount. The deal marks RCPL's entry into the consumer goods market in Australia.

Under the agreement, RCPL will help promote Goodness Group's healthy beverages brands such as Nexba and PACE — a hydration brand co-created with Australian cricket captain Pat Cummins, across newer markets including India.

Toyota names Kon Kenta as new CEO.

Toyota Motor has named a new chief executive. Operating Officer Kon Kenta will be the new President and CEO with effect from April 1, 2026. Current CEO Sato

Koji will become the Vice Chairman and also take on the newly established role of Chief Industry Officer. Sato took the helm three years ago from current Chairman Toyoda Akio.

Sports

India wins U19 Cricket World Cup title for record sixth time.

India have won the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup title for a record sixth time, beating England by 100 runs in the final of the U-19 World Cup 2026 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Batting first, India were propelled by a record-breaking masterclass from Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who scored 175 off just 80 balls, guiding India to a massive total of 411 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs. Chasing India's imposing target of 412, England were bowled out for 311 in 40.2 overs.