

International

US President Donald Trump signs tariff letters to 12 countries.

US President Donald Trump has signed tariff letters on exports from 12 countries, which are expected to be sent out tomorrow. Trump has suggested that the reciprocal tariffs could go even higher, potentially reaching 70 percent for some countries, and take effect from August 1.

Thailand appoints another acting Prime Minister.

Thailand has ushered in the appointment of its second interim prime minister this week, following the Constitutional Court's suspension of the country's leader, Paetongtarn Shinawatra pending an ethics probe which could take months. Interior Minister Phumtham Wechayachai has assumed caretaker responsibilities on Thursday, two days after Paetongtarn was banned from duties. He replaces Suriya Jungrungreangkit, who carried out the role for only one day ahead of the reshuffle.

Elon Musk announces new political party 'America Party'.

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has announced the launch of a new political party in the United States called the America Party, aiming to challenge the two-party system dominated by Republicans and Democrats. Musk made the announcement on his social media platform X, accusing both major parties of unchecked government spending and corruption and claiming that the US no longer functions as a democracy but as a unified political machine driven by waste and self-interest. The move follows a dramatic fallout between Musk and former ally US President Donald Trump.

Death toll in Texas flash floods rises to 80 in US.

In the United States, the death toll from devastating flash floods in Texas has risen to 80, including 28 children. The flash floods, which hit on Friday, have severely impacted the Texas Hill Country, with Kerr County, home to the camp, suffering the highest casualties.

Syria, UK re-establish their diplomatic relations.

Syria and the United Kingdom have officially renewed their diplomatic relations, marked by the visit to Damascus from British Foreign Secretary David Lammy. The two sides agreed to reopen the Syrian embassy in London and establish a Syrian-British Economic Council aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation.

PM Modi receives 'Key to the City' in Buenos Aires.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been presented with the 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' by Head of the City Government of Buenos Aires Jorge Macri. This ceremonial honour is in recognition of PM's contributions in strengthening India-Argentina ties.

National

India, Argentina agree to further deepen strategic partnership & boost cooperation in various fields.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has concluded a productive meeting with Argentine President Javier Milei. The visit marked the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Argentina in 57 years. They agreed to enhance cooperation in key sectors including trade and commerce, technology, defence, space, health, and pharmaceuticals and further deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries. President Milei showed keen interest in India's UPI, and both sides agreed to facilitate a central bank visit to study its role in monetary policy.

Astha Poonia becomes 1st woman to be trained as navy fighter pilot.

Sub Lieutenant Astha Poonia has become the first woman to be trained as a fighter pilot of the Indian Navy. She may eventually fly the MiG-29K or the naval version of the Rafale fighter jet off India's aircraft carriers.

The navy announced this following the winging or graduation ceremony of the second basic Hawk conversion course. India trains military pilots in the Hawk 132 advanced jet trainer, inducted in 2013.

Ananth Tech set to launch India's first private satellite broadband service.

Hyderabad-based Ananth Technologies is set to become the first private Indian company to offer satellite communication (satcom) services using a domestically-built satellite.

This marks a shift in the country's space ecosystem, positioning the firm to directly compete with international players such as Starlink (SpaceX), Eutelsat OneWeb, and Amazon's Project Kuiper.

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), the space regulator, has granted Ananth Technologies the go-ahead to roll out broadband-from-space services starting in 2028.

Business and Economy

India's fintech sector ranks 3rd globally in H1 2025 funding round: Tracxn.

According to Tracxn's Geo Semi-Annual India FinTech Report H1 2025, India's financial technology sector has ranked third in startup funding in the first half of 2025. Indian FinTech startups raised \$889 million between January and June, behind only the United States and the United Kingdom.

At \$889 million, the funding figure marks a 26 per cent decline from the \$1.2 billion secured in the second half of 2024 and a 5 per cent dip compared to the same period last year.

India's fintech sector also witnessed more mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity in the first half of the calendar year. The report recorded 16 M&A deals in H1 2025, up 45 per cent from the same period a year ago.

Bengaluru remained the hub of FinTech innovation, drawing 55 per cent of the country's total funding, followed by Mumbai with 14 per cent.

Colombia and Uzbekistan join NDB ahead of 17th BRICS Summit.

Ahead of the 17th BRICS Summit, Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB), expanding the multilateral lender's membership to 11 countries. Founded in 2015 by the original BRICS nations, the NDB aims to fund infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging economies.

India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria are members of NDB. Headquartered in Shanghai, the bank has approved over 120 projects covering sectors such as clean energy, transport, environmental protection, water and sanitation, and digital infrastructure.

Microsoft shuts down operations in Pakistan after 25 years.

Technology giant Microsoft has officially shut down its operations in Pakistan after 25 years, as part of its global restructuring plan. The company announced the move citing a shift to a cloud-based, partner-led model and broader workforce reductions about 9,100 jobs cut globally. Former Microsoft Pakistan head confirmed the closure and linked the decision to Pakistan's challenging economic conditions, political instability, high taxes, currency issues, and trade restrictions.

Sports

India beat England by massive 336 runs to win 2nd Test.

India won a historic 336-run victory over hosts England in the second cricket Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at Edgbaston, Birmingham, levelling the series 1-1. India declared their second innings at 427 for 6, while England were bowled out for 271 while chasing the daunting target.

This victory marked India's first-ever Test win at the venue, breaking a 58-year winless streak at the ground. Akash Deep delivered a match-winning 10-wicket haul, becoming only the second Indian bowler to achieve this feat in England after Chetan Sharma in 1986.

Asian Para-Archery Championships :Harvinder Singh wins gold in Recurve Men's Open.

At the Asian Para-Archery Championships, Harvinder Singh has won individual gold medal at the recurve men's open in Beijing. Harvinder defeated Hanreuchai Netsiri of Thailand 7-1 in the final to take the top honour, ending a six-year wait for his maiden individual gold at the Asian para-archery championships.

He secured medals in all three events at the championships, earning this individual gold, a mixed recurve gold with Bhawna, and a men's recurve team silver with Vivek Chikara.

F1: Norris finishes top at British Grand Prix.

F1 driver Lando Norris has won the rain-hit British Grand Prix at Silverstone from his McLaren teammate, Oscar Piastri. Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg took third for the veteran German's first ever podium in 239 races.

India tops Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships.

India emerged as the top-performing nation at the 32nd Asian Junior Individual Championships 2025 after clinching two gold medals, two silver medals, and three bronze medals. Top-seeded Anahat Singh and Aryaveer Dewan led the way by winning gold medals in the Girls Under 19 and Boys Under 17 categories, respectively. India's silver medallists were Ayaan D and Saanvi K in the Boys Under 13 and Girls Under 15 sections, respectively.