

International

India, Singapore hold 18th round of Foreign Office Consultations in Singapore.

India and Singapore held the 18th round of Foreign Office Consultations in Singapore.

The co-chairs reviewed the entire gamut of India-Singapore bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on regional and global matters of mutual interest.

The discussion focused on the six pillars of cooperation- Digitalization, Skills Development, Sustainability, Healthcare and Medicine, Advanced Manufacturing and Connectivity.

India signs contract with Russian firm to supply engines for T-72 tanks.

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Rosoboronexport of Russia worth 248 million US dollars for the procurement of 1000 HP engines for T-72 tanks.

The deal also includes the transfer of technology from Rosoboronexport to Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited for integration and licensed production of engines to boost the Make in India initiative in the defence sector.

Trump signs executive order establishing US strategic bitcoin reserve.

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order establishing the country's strategic bitcoin reserve.

The Treasury Department will set up an office to administer the reserve, which will be capitalized with Bitcoin (BTC) confiscated by the government as part of criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings.

Sri Lanka secures \$2.5 billion debt agreement with Japan.

Sri Lanka has signed a debt restructuring agreement with Japan to reorganize \$2.5 billion in loans, marking its first deal with official creditors who pledged debt relief to the financially troubled nation last year.

Under a comprehensive debt treatment plan, Japan announced concessions on a 369.45 billion yen (\$2.5 billion) loan, a move the International Monetary Fund deems crucial for Sri Lanka's economic recovery.

While China remains Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender, holding \$4.66 billion of the country's \$10.58 billion foreign debt, Japan follows as the second-largest creditor with just over \$2.5 billion in loans.

Important Days

International Women's Day: 8th March

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8 to honor the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. It also serves as a call to action for accelerating gender equality.

The theme for 2025 is "Accelerate Action," encouraging faster progress toward gender equality, empowerment and equal opportunities for women worldwide. It highlights the need for strong efforts to ensure a fair and inclusive future for all.

National

DPIIT releases study on boosting women's participation in logistics sector.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released a study titled Enabling Women's Participation in India's Logistics Sector. The study highlights key insights and strategies to enhance women's participation in India's logistics sector. The study assesses the current status of women's participation in the sector. It also analyses key challenges hindering their inclusion and recommends policy measures to enhance gender diversity in the rapidly growing logistics industry.

Business and Economy

Axis Bank completes aircraft financing transaction through GIFT City IFSC unit.

Axis Bank announced that it has become the first Indian bank to successfully execute an aircraft financing transaction through its International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City IFSC.

The transaction was carried out for AI Fleet Services Limited (AIFS), the leasing arm and wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, a Tata Group company. The deal involves a long-term USD loan to finance the purchase of 34

training aircraft, which will be used at Air India's upcoming pilot training institute in Amravati, Maharashtra.

Nasscom: 83% of tech firms dedicated over 2% of their spending to CSR initiatives.

A joint report by Nasscom, Nasscom Foundation, and Bod Consulting revealed that 83% of technology companies spent over 2% of their total expenditure on corporate social responsibility (CSR), which is 1.27 times higher than non-technology firms.

The study highlighted a notable rise in corporate participation in CSR activities during FY23, with the number of companies involved increasing by 22% compared to FY22. CSR spending also grew by 13% year-on-year. Additionally, the proportion of companies allocating more than 2% of their profits to CSR rose from 64% in FY19 to 74% in FY23, underscoring a steady shift toward greater corporate investment in social impact initiatives.

Sports

India clinch 5th Asian Women's Kabaddi title, defeat Iran 32-25 in final.

The Indian Women's Kabaddi team has been crowned Asian Champions for the fifth time. The defending champions, India, defeated hosts Iran, 32-25, in the final of the 6th Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship at Tehran.

Indian women remained undefeated throughout the tournament. India had entered the final, defeating Nepal, 56-18, in the first semifinal.

Indian Grandmaster Pranav Venkatesh becomes World Junior Chess Champion 2025.

In chess, 18-year-old Indian Grandmaster Pranav Venkatesh dominated the FIDE World Junior Championship 2025, to claim the title in Montenegro.

Pranav becomes the fourth Indian to win the World Junior title, following Viswanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, and Abhijeet Gupta.

Indian Grandmaster A Chithambaram clinches Prague Masters 2025 Chess title.

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram clinched the Prague Masters 2025 Chess title. He finished the tournament with six points after settling for a draw against Turkey's EdizGurel in the final round.

Despite the draw, Chithambaram's title win was confirmed after Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri defeated India's R. Praggnanandhaa in the last round.

With this result, Chithambaram not only secured the championship but also finished a full point ahead of the rest of the field.

Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship: India enter final defeating Nepal.

In the 6th Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship, India defeated Nepal to reach the final of the tournament in Tehran. The Indian women's team beat Nepal 56-18 in the first semi-final of the tournament. India will clash with Iran in the final.