

International

Rastriya Swatantra Party set to form government in Nepal.

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, is set to become Nepal's Prime Minister after his Rastriya Swatantra Party secured a landslide victory in parliamentary elections. The 35-year-old defeated former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in Jhapa-5 by a large margin.

RSP has won 106 seats and is leading in several others.

Balen will become Nepal's youngest and first Madhesi Prime Minister.

India–Finland business meeting held in Mumbai.

An India–Finland business meeting was held in Mumbai, bringing together industry leaders and policymakers from both countries to strengthen economic cooperation.

Finland's President Alexander Stubb interacted with participants, discussing global issues, trade dynamics and the Middle East situation.

Business leaders also highlighted opportunities for collaboration in innovation and sustainability sectors, aiming to expand bilateral trade and investment between India and Finland.

Important Days

International Women's Day: 8th March.

International Women's Day is being observed on 8th March 2026 with the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls."

The day highlights the need to strengthen women's rights and accelerate gender equality.

This year, the day is being marked by a global campaign theme, 'Give to Gain', that highlights the power of collective support in advancing gender equality.

It encourages individuals, organizations and communities to contribute time, resources, mentorship and opportunities that help women grow and succeed.

National

Kerala releases Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 for schools.

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has released the Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 to ensure a secure digital learning environment in public schools. The framework addresses emerging challenges related to artificial intelligence and cybercrime.

Developed by KITE, the technology wing of the state's General Education Department, the protocol outlines guidelines for teachers, students and parents, focusing on data safety, misinformation awareness and responsible digital behaviour.

Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh to head Western Command.

Lieutenant General Pushendra Pal Singh will take over as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Western Command at Chandimandir, succeeding Lt Gen M. K. Katiyar.

Currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Singh has held several key command and staff roles and participated in major operations including Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak and Orchid during his distinguished military career.

Maharashtra signs MoU with Finnish firms to modernise Sassoon Dock.

The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with three Finland-based companies Helvar, Mirasis and River Recycle to modernize Mumbai's Sassoon Dock.

The agreement was signed with the Maharashtra Fisheries Development Corporation.

Sassoon Dock, which has about 1,560 registered mechanized fishing boats and annual production of 50,000–60,000 tonnes, is a key economic hub for the state's fishing community.

Government notifies standards for green ammonia and green methanol.

The government has announced standards for green ammonia and green methanol to promote the trade of green hydrogen derivatives under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The mission, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore, aims to make India a global hub for the production, use and export of green hydrogen. The new standards define emission thresholds and eligibility criteria for classifying ammonia and methanol as “green.”

Business and Economy

SBI launches \$500 million social loan for women empowerment.

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a \$500 million syndicated social term loan facility focused on women's empowerment, with a greenshoe option. The initiative aims to promote gender equality and support the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5.

SBI said the loan reflects its commitment to ESG principles and inclusive growth, marking one of the largest gender-themed financing initiatives globally.

Fino Payments Bank appoints Ketan Merchant as interim CEO.

Fino Payments Bank has appointed its Chief Financial Officer Ketan Merchant as interim CEO following the arrest of MD and CEO Rishi Gupta.

Merchant will oversee the bank's operations for up to four months, subject to RBI approval.

Meanwhile, Anup Aggarwal will take over the CFO role.

The bank has also formed a committee of directors and senior executives to ensure

operational continuity during the transition period.

Sports

Gukesh beats Guijarro at Prague International Chess Festival.

World Chess Champion D. Gukesh defeated Spain's David Anton Guijarro in the final round of the Masters section at the Prague International Chess Festival in the Czech Republic.

Despite the win, Gukesh finished tied for ninth with 3.5 points.

India's Aravindh Chithambaram secured joint second place with 5 points, while Divya Deshmukh finished third in the Challengers section after defeating Czech player Hrbek Stepan.

Lakshya Sen enters All England Badminton Final.

India's Lakshya Sen has reached the men's singles final of the All England Open Badminton Championships in Birmingham. The world number 12 defeated Canada's Victor Lai 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 in the semifinal.

Earlier, Lakshya secured his place in the last four by defeating China's Li Shifeng 21-13, 21-16 in the quarterfinals.

Sports Ministry organises ASMITA Women's Athletics League.

The Union Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry is organizing the nationwide ASMITA athletics league on the occasion of International Women's Day to empower female athletes.

The initiative provides grassroots-level competitive opportunities for girls in three age groups: Under-13, 13–18 and 18+. Events include 100m, 200m and 400m races. Under the Khelo India programme, ASMITA aims to strengthen sports culture and promote greater participation of women in sports across the country.