

International

Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party wins 122 of 165 seats.

Rapper turned politician and popular figurehead of Gen Z revolution, Balendra Shah is set to become Nepal's next Prime Minister after his party, the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), secured a landslide victory in parliamentary elections. The RSP has secured 122 of the 165 directly elected seats in the House of Representatives and is leading in three more, putting the party on course for the biggest electoral majority since Nepal became a democracy.

35-year-old Shah defeated four-time Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the chair of one of Nepal's largest parties – CPN-UML – by a huge margin of about 50 thousand votes in the Jhapa-5 constituency.

United States and South Korea launch massive Joint Military Exercise 'Freedom Shield'.

The United States and South Korea began a large joint military exercise involving thousands of troops. About 18,000 South Korean troops will participate in the Freedom Shield exercise, which will run until March 19.

The exercise could draw a strong reaction from North Korea, which has long condemned joint US-South Korean drills as rehearsals for invasion and has often used them to justify its own missile tests and military demonstrations.

Oil prices cross \$100 per barrel amid escalating Iran war.

As the Iran war rages, crude oil prices jumped 30% early Monday to nearly \$120 per barrel, levels not seen since 2022. Prices retreated, but still traded well above \$100 per barrel, after reports indicated that the G7 countries will be discussing a coordinated release of oil from their strategic petroleum reserves to improve the supply situation.

A weekend of escalating violence in the Middle East intensified concerns around a sustained supply crunch, propelling oil prices to their highest level in four years and triggering a deep stock market sell-off.

Iran names Mojtaba Khamenei as New Supreme Leader.

Iran has named Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his father Ali Khamenei as Supreme Leader. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed at his compound in Tehran during the first wave of US and Israeli strikes. Meanwhile, the US military has urged Iranian civilians to remain indoors, claiming Tehran has been launching drones and missiles from populated areas, making those locations potential targets.

National

Over 52 thousand Indians brought back home from Gulf countries since outbreak of war, says MEA

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that more than 52,000 Indian nationals have been safely brought back from the Gulf region to India between March 1 and March 7, following the outbreak of war in West Asia.

The MEA said that of these, 32,107 passengers travelled on Indian carriers, while the rest were flown by foreign airlines.

Pan-India drug racket 'Team Kalki' dismantled by NCB.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has dismantled a pan-India drug distribution network operating under the name Team Kalki. The network had been active on darknet platforms and the encrypted Session messaging application since January 2025.

Acting on intelligence developed in last three months, NCB conducted an operation in New Delhi, leading to the busting of the network. The NCB seized narcotic substances from 13 domestically intercepted parcels and 2 parcels

originating from the Netherlands linked to the network. The network is suspected to have dispatched more than 1,000 consignments since Jan 2025.

Jal Mahotsav 2026 begins nationwide.

Jal Mahotsav 2026 has begun on March 8 with the observance of Jal Arpan Diwas across the country, coinciding with International Women's Day. Inaugurating the nationwide campaign in Gujarat, Minister for Jal Shakti C. R. Paatil spoke about the role of women in water governance and urged citizens to promote rainwater harvesting and responsible water use.

The Mahotsav will be observed till 22nd of this month to promote community participation and sustainable management of rural drinking water systems.

Business and Economy

RBI caps claims for small-value digital frauds at Rs 50,000.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has capped the eligible claim amount for small-value fraudulent electronic banking transactions at Rs 50,000. Under draft regulations issued by the central bank, customers will be reimbursed 85 per cent of the net loss or Rs 25,000, whichever is lower, and the benefit can be availed once during their lifetime.

Compensation will be provided if the loss is established as genuine under the bank's internal policy and the victim reports the incident both to the bank and the National Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) within five days of the fraud.

RBI eases NOHC norms for AU Small Finance Bank.

The RBI has told AU Small Finance Bank that it has revised its earlier approval for the bank's transition to a universal bank, allowing promoter shareholding to continue without creating a Non-Operating Holding Company (NOHC) for now. The central

bank said an NOHC would be needed only if the group later sets up additional financial services entities. The RBI had first issued an in-principle approval on Aug 7, 2025 for the transition from a small finance bank to a universal bank. The approval was valid for 18 months.

Amazon India inks pact to ease market entry for women from army families.

An arm of Amazon India signed an MoU with the Army Women Welfare Association (AWWA) to help women from army families build sustainable businesses. The partnership between Amazon Saheli and AWWA was formalised at the event 'ElevateHER' in Bengaluru, which celebrates Women's Day through mentorship and career conversations.

Under the pact, women entrepreneurs from army families will receive structured onboarding, capability building and access to customers.

UltraTech Cement appoints Jayant Dua as MD (Designate).

UltraTech Cement has appointed Jayant Dua as Managing Director (Designate) with effect from April. He will take over after incumbent KC Jhanwar's retirement on December 31, 2026.

Dua's term as Managing Director will be for 4 years till December 2030.

Reliance inks deal to bring Finnish chocolate brand Fazer to Indian market.

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Finland's Fazer to produce, market, and distribute the Finnish company's premium chocolates across India. Under the agreement, RCPL will handle commercialisation and distribution of Fazer-branded chocolates manufactured using the Finnish company's recipes and quality standards.

The partnership gives Fazer access to RCPL's network of nearly three million retail outlets across India.

Daimler Truck Innovation Center India appoints Radhakrishnan Kodakkal as MD & CEO.

Daimler Truck Innovation Center India has announced the appointment of Radhakrishnan Kodakkal as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.

Kodakkal, who most recently served as Global Head of Integrated Technology and Vice President & Head of the Global Technology & Engineering Center at Whirlpool Corporation, succeeds Raghavendra Vaidya, who has transitioned into the global Chief Information Officer role at Daimler Truck AG.

Sports

India crowned T20 World Champions.

India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs to win the T20 World Cup 2026 title in a thrilling final. India posted a formidable 255 for 5 in 20 overs, while New Zealand was restricted to 159 all out in 19 overs.

India scripted history by winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title for a record third time.

F1 2026: George Russell wins Australian Grand Prix.

George Russell has won the Formula One championship for Mercedes as he claimed an emphatic victory in the season-opening

Australian Grand Prix ahead of teammate Kimi Antonelli and crushed an early challenge from Ferrari. His teammate and defending champion, Lando Norris, finished fifth, one place behind seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari. Four-time champion Max Verstappen was sixth for Red Bull.

Prague Masters 2026: Abdusattorov wins the Masters.

Uzbek chess grandmaster, Nodirbek Abdusattorov has won the Prague Masters 2026 with a clear point lead over the field. Abdusattorov has scored an unbeaten 6/9 points with 6 draws and 3 wins. This is his second Triumph at the Prague Masters after winning it in 2024. Parham Maghsoodloo, Aravindh Chithambaram, and Jordan van Foreest have scored 5/9 points to secure 2nd to 4th places respectively.

All England Open 2026 badminton: Lakshya Sen finishes runner-up as Lin Chun-yi wins.

In All England Open Badminton Championships, India's Lakshya Sen settled for runner-up title after losing to Lin Chun-Yi in straight games in the Men's Singles final.

Despite putting up a strong fight, Sen went down 15-21, 20-22 in a hard-fought contest at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham.