

International

Ukraine and Qatar Sign Defence Cooperation Agreement

Ukraine and Qatar signed a defence cooperation agreement during President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Doha.

He met Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Lusail Palace to discuss regional tensions and bilateral ties.

The agreement focuses on countering missile and drone threats and sharing expertise.

Both leaders stressed the need to reduce military escalation and enhance cooperation in defence, technology, and energy sectors.

Artemis II Crew Arrives in Florida for Final Moon Mission Preparations

Four astronauts selected for Artemis II have reached Florida, marking the final phase before launch.

Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen arrived at Kennedy Space Center.

The crew will travel aboard NASA's Space Launch System rocket in the Orion capsule on a 10-day mission around the Moon, the first crewed lunar journey in over 50 years.

US to Return Stolen Antiquities to India

The United States will return three valuable antiquities to India after provenance research confirmed they were illegally removed.

The artefacts — a 9th-century Shiva Nataraja bronze, a 12th-century Somaskanda sculpture, and a 16th-century depiction of Saint Sundarar—were housed at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art.

The return agreement was signed by Ambassador Namgya Khampa and Director Dr Chase Robinson, with verification support from the Archaeological Survey of India.

Important Days

World Piano Day Celebrated on March 29

World Piano Day is celebrated on the 88th day of the year, symbolising the 88 keys of a piano.

In 2026, it falls on March 29, bringing together musicians, composers, and enthusiasts worldwide.

The day was founded in 2015 by Nils Frahm to honour the instrument and those associated with it.

It highlights the piano's enduring role in music, inspiring creativity and connecting cultures across generations through concerts, workshops, and global events.

Obituary

Raymond Group's Former Chairman Vijaypat Singhania Passes Away

Vijaypat Singhania, Padma Bhushan awardee and former chairman of the Raymond Group, passed away in Mumbai. He transformed Raymond into a global fashion powerhouse after taking charge in 1980.

Known for his adventurous spirit, he set a world record in hot air ballooning.

He handed over leadership to Gautam Singhania in 2015.

His legacy as an industrialist and philanthropist continues to inspire generations.

National

PM Modi Inaugurates Noida International Airport Phase I at Jewar

Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Noida International Airport in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, and laid the foundation for MRO facilities.

The airport, built under a PPP model at ₹11,200 crore, will initially handle 12 million passengers annually.

The project is expected to boost connectivity, trade, and employment across western UP, benefiting sectors like agriculture and MSMEs while strengthening India's aviation infrastructure.

Great Indian Bustard Chick Born in Gujarat After a Decade

Bhupender Yadav announced the birth of a chick of the endangered Great Indian Bustard in Kutch, Gujarat, marking the first such success in a decade.

The achievement was made using the "Jumpstart Approach," coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, along with the Rajasthan and Gujarat Forest Departments and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The effort is part of Project GIB, launched in 2016 to protect the species.

Rajnath Singh Chairs IGoM Meeting on West Asia Situation

Rajnath Singh chaired the first meeting of an Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) in New Delhi to assess the impact of the West Asia situation on India.

The meeting reviewed risks to energy supplies, essential commodities, and supply chains.

Ministers, including Nirmala Sitharaman, stressed coordinated preparedness and monitoring.

The government assured that steps are being taken to ensure resource availability, strengthen infrastructure resilience, and counter misinformation.

Business and Economy

Government Revises PM E-DRIVE Scheme for EV Incentives

The Government has revised the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, setting new deadlines and price caps for electric vehicles.

Electric two-wheelers registered till July 31, 2026, and electric three-wheelers till March 31, 2028, will be eligible for incentives.

The ex-factory price cap is ₹1.5 lakh for e-two-wheelers and ₹2.5 lakh for e-three-wheelers.

The scheme, with a total outlay of ₹10,900 crore, aims to promote EV adoption in India.

Sports

Tejaswin Shankar Wins Decathlon at David Noble Relays

India's Tejaswin Shankar began his 2026 season with a strong victory at the David Noble Relays 2026 in Texas, scoring 7947 points.

Though higher than his national record, it won't be officially recognized due to wind assistance under World Athletics rules.

He set personal bests in multiple events and finished ahead of Emil Uhlin and Dorian Charles, marking an impressive start to his season.

Jammu to Host Inaugural International Half Marathon

Jammu is set to host its first International Half Marathon, with around 4,000 runners participating, including 91 international athletes. Organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, the event aims to promote tourism and fitness.

It features 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km races, with a total prize pool of ₹1.33 crore.

The marathon will begin at Maulana Azad Stadium, marking a major boost to sports tourism in the region.

Bangladesh Clears IPL Broadcast, Ends Uncertainty

Bangladesh has allowed the broadcast of the Indian Premier League, with Information Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan stating that there is no restriction on airing the tournament.

The move ends earlier uncertainty following a temporary ban linked to controversy over Mustafizur Rahman's exclusion from Kolkata Knight Riders. Officials also stressed that sports should remain separate from politics while maintaining friendly ties with India.

Virat Kohli Becomes First to Score 4000 Runs in IPL Run Chases

Virat Kohli created history by becoming the first player to score 4000 runs in IPL run chases during the 2026 opener between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

He also surpassed Shoaib Malik to become the sixth-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket, marking another major milestone in his illustrious career.

Karnataka Leads Medal Tally at Khelo India Tribal Games

On Day 4 of the Khelo India Tribal Games in Chhattisgarh, competitions in swimming,

weightlifting, football, and wrestling were held.

Karnataka leads with 15 gold medals, followed by Odisha (9) and Assam (4). Odisha dominated women's swimming events, while Karnataka excelled in men's categories.

In weightlifting, athletes from Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh secured gold medals.

The Games, running from March 25 to April 3, feature over 3,000 athletes from 30 states competing across multiple disciplines.