



Indonesian Prez Prabowo Subianto (L) & Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim during Subianto's visit to the country, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R), meets with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in Beijing, China



Students march during a student-led 24 hour block on an intersection to protest the deaths of 15 people killed in the November in Belgrade, Serbia



Congregants worship together at the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield, in Springfield, Ohio

allovertheworld



Jennifer Lopez and Tonatiuh, cast members in 'Kiss of the Spider Woman,' pose together at the premiere of the film during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah

Japan's Osaka bans street smoking ahead of Expo 2025

TOKYO: The Japanese city of Osaka on Monday imposed a smoking ban on public streets as part of efforts to become more visitor-friendly ahead of this year's World Expo. Around 160 countries and regions are participating in Expo 2025, the latest edition of an event held every five years in different global locations. "The World Expo begins in April. We want to welcome many people from all over the world, so we want to make Osaka a city where people feel safe with smoke-free streets," mayor Hideyuki Yokoyama said in early January. Before Monday, smoking was banned in six zones including the area around Osaka station. This has been expanded to the whole city and violators face a fine of 1,000 yen (\$6.40). Local regulations already ban smoking while walking in most places in Japan, but opposition from some lawmakers has prevented strict national laws.

India, China should commit themselves to mutual understanding, not mutual suspicion: FM Wang

PTI, BEIJING: India and China should meet each other halfway and commit themselves to mutual understanding rather than mutual suspicion, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday as he met Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri here.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R), talks to India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a meeting in Beijing, China

Misri is here on a two-day visit for talks with Chinese officials to improve India-China relations, in the second such high-profile visit from India to China in less than one-and-a-half months.

In his meeting with Misri, Wang said that since the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Russia last year, the two

sides have earnestly implemented the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, carried out active interactions at all levels and accelerated the process of improving China-India relations, said a press release issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry here.

"The two sides should seize the opportunity, meet each other halfway, explore more substantive measures, and commit to mutual understanding, mutual support, and mutual achievement, rather than mutual suspicion, mutual alienation, and mutual consumption," Wang said.

The improvement and development of China-India relations is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and their peoples, is conducive to safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of the global South countries, he said.

Good relations between India and China are also

conducive to making contributions to the peace, stability, development and prosperity of the two ancient civilizations in Asia and the world, Wang said.

Besides being the Foreign Minister, Wang is a member of the powerful political bureau of the ruling Communist Party and China's Special Representative for the India-China border mechanism.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is the Special Representative from the Indian side.

Misri's visit to China followed last month's talks between Wang and Doval under the Special Representatives mechanism.

Tanker with LPG explodes in Pak, killing 6

PTI, LAHORE: A tanker filled with liquefied petroleum gas exploded in an industrial area in Pakistan's Punjab province, killing at least six persons, including a minor girl, and injuring 31, authorities said on Monday.

The incident took place at the Industrial Estate in Multan's Hamid Pur Kanoria area, according to rescue authorities.

The explosion in the LPG tanker that occurred on Monday triggered a massive fire, with debris from the shattered vehicle landing on nearby residential areas, causing significant destruction, Geo News reported.

US pauses Colombia tariffs after agreement on acceptance of migrants

PTI, WASHINGTON: The US has paused sanctions and tariffs on Colombia after it agreed to accept all the terms of President Donald Trump, including accepting flights of deported migrants from America, the White House said.

The announcement comes after Trump and Colombian President Gustavo Petro threatened increased retaliatory tariffs after Petro turned away two US military aircraft full of detained Colombian migrants.

But the White House late Sunday night said Colombia has agreed to all of President Trump's terms.

"The Government of Co-

lombia has agreed to all of President Trump's terms, including the unrestricted acceptance of all illegal aliens from Colombia returned from the United States, including on US military aircraft, without limitation or delay, White House Press Secretary Karolina Leavitt said.

Based on this agreement, the fully drafted IEEPA (International Emergency Economic Power Act) tariffs and sanctions will be held in reserve, and not signed, unless Colombia fails to honour this agreement, she said.

The visa sanctions issued by the State Department, and enhanced inspections from Customs and Border

Protection, will remain in effect until the first plane-load of Colombian deportees is successfully returned, she said.

Today's events make clear to the world that America is respected again, she said.

"President Trump will continue to fiercely protect our nation's sovereignty, and he expects all other nations of the world to fully cooperate in accepting the deportation of their citizens illegally present in the United States," Leavitt said.

Earlier in the day, Colombian President Petro denied entry to US military planes carrying Colombian migrants.

VIBRANT DIASPORA



People march with a dragon puppet during Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations in La Paz, South America, Bolivia

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TVS Motor plans to enter electric 3-wheeler cargo vehicle segment



KOLKATA: TVS Motor, a leading player in the two and three-wheeler segment, is planning to make a foray into the electric cargo vehicle space, an official said.

| currency | | bullion | |
|----------------|--------|----------------|----------|
| US Dollar | 86.39 | Silver (Rs/Kg) | 89,792 |
| British Pound | 107.85 | Gold (Rs/10gm) | 79,550 |
| Euro | 90.65 | markets | |
| Russian Ruble | 0.88 | Sensex | 75366.17 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 280.41 | Nifty | 22829.15 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 229.77 | | |
| Qatari Riyal | 23.73 | | |
| Emirati Dirham | 23.52 | | |
| Omani Rial | 224.37 | | |

CII Goa conducts workshop on personal leadership



Meetesh Jha, an alumnus of XLRI Jamshedpur

PANJIM: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Goa, organised a one-day workshop on 'Personal Leadership through Goal Setting, Team Building, and Communication' providing insights into fostering personal leadership. Designed for senior and mid-level professionals, the workshop emphasised the importance of personal leadership, encouraging participants to reflect on their roles within their organisations and explore strategies for effective goal setting, team building and communication. The workshop was conducted by Meetesh Jha, an alumnus of XLRI Jamshedpur and an engineer.

Govt invites application for SEBI chief post, Madhabi Buch's tenure ends on Feb 28

PTI, NEW DELHI: The government on Monday initiated the process to find a successor for market regulator SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, who was involved in an alleged conflict of interest row.

The three-year term of Buch as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson ends on February 28. Buch turned 60 this month.

The Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry said the appointment will be for five years or till the candidate attains 65 years of age. Last date to file applications is February 17.

"The chairman should be a person who does not and will not have any such financial or other interests that are likely to affect prejudicially his function as the chairman," the advertisement said.

Similar clause was there last time as well when the

government invited applications for SEBI chief in October 2021.

As per the advertisement issued on Monday, the candidate should have "high integrity, eminence and reputation preferably above 50 years with more than 25 years of professional experience".

The candidate is also required to have a "shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to securities markets, or has special knowledge or experience of law, finance, economics, accountancy" which in the opinion of the central government shall be useful to the board.

This time the selection process has been initiated just a month before the end of the current chief's tenure, unlike last time when it started four months prior.

Buch assumed charge at the helm of SEBI on March 2, 2022, for a period of three years. She made history as

HOPE NEW SEBI CHIEF WILL HAVE COURAGE TO DEAL WITH 'REVELATIONS' AGAINST ADANI GROUP: CONG

PTI, NEW DELHI: With the government initiating the process to appoint a new SEBI chief, the Congress on Monday said it hopes the new chairperson will "protect the interests of crores of middle-class investors" and have the courage to deal with "revelations" against the Adani Group without fear. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said the government inviting applications for the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson vindicates the Congress's sustained campaign that highlighted "how severely compromised" the present SEBI chief has been. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "The INC hopes that the new chairperson will protect the interests of crores of middle-class investors in the capital market, summon the courage to stand up to the Modani enterprise, and deal with all revelations of the transactions of the Adani Group without fear or favour."

the first woman to lead the market regulator as well as the first private sector individual to hold the position. She served as a whole-time member of SEBI from April 2017 to March 1, 2022.

Although, Buch in her tenure made significant strides in areas like fast-

er settlements in equities, enhanced FPI disclosures and increasing mutual fund penetration, the last year of her tenure saw heightened controversy, when she battled a series of allegations by short-seller Hindenburg and the Congress party, while simultaneously deal-

ing with in-house employee protests against "toxic work culture".

In August last year, Buch faced pressure to resign after the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research accused her of having conflict of interest that prevented a thorough examination of manipulation and fraud claims at the Adani Group.

Hindenburg accused Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, of investing in offshore entities that were allegedly part of a fund structure in which Vinod Adani -- the elder brother of Adani group founder chairman Gautam Adani -- also had investments.

Buchs had denied the allegation saying the investments were made before she joined the regulator and she had complied with all disclosure requirements. Hindenburg earlier this month announced shutting down its business.

Perplexity AI bid TikTok could give US govt 50% stake

AP, WASHINGTON: Perplexity AI has presented a new proposal to TikTok's parent company that would allow the US government to own up to 50% of a new entity that merges Perplexity with TikTok's US business, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The proposal, submitted last week, is a revision of a prior plan the artificial intelligence startup had presented to TikTok's parent ByteDance on Jan 18, a day before the law that bans TikTok went into effect.

The first proposal, which ByteDance hasn't responded to, sought to create a new structure that would merge San Francisco-based Perplexity with TikTok's US business and include investments from other investors.

Sensex tumbles 824 pts to end at over 7-month low as Trump's tariff rhetoric upsets investors

PTI, MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex tanked 824 points to settle at more than seven-month low on Monday following heavy selling in IT and oil & gas shares amid weak global trends and increased uncertainty over US trade policy.

The 30-share BSE barometer plunged by 824.29 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 75,366.17 with 23 of its constituents ending lower and seven with gains. During the day, the barometer plummeted 922.87 points or

1.2 per cent to a low of 75,267.59.

The broader 50-share Nifty dropped by 263.05 points or 1.14 per cent to close at 22,829.15, tanking below the 23,000-level for the first time since June 6, 2024. In the intraday session, the NSE Nifty declined 305.3 points or 1.32 per cent to 22,786.90.

IT, telecom, utilities, power, consumer durables, oil and gas and healthcare sector shares were major losers as investor sentiment was hit by uncertainty over US trade policy.

US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on Colombia after the latter blocked planes carrying deported migrants. The US reversed the decision after Colombia, a close US ally, agreed to take back deported migrants.

"Broad-based selling across sectors plummeted the Indian market amidst tepid earnings and weak sentiments across the globe," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

"The weak sentiments

were further exacerbated as the US trade confrontation continued, like with Colombia this time. Heightened volatility is here to stay this week ahead of the upcoming events risk like the FOMC meeting, expiry week, and Union budget," Nair added.

Among Sensex shares, HCL tech fell the most by 4.49 per cent followed by Zomato, Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid and Tata Motors.

Shares of Infosys, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Bharti Air-

tel also declined, dragging the index to more than seven-month lows.

ICICI Bank, however, bucked the trend and rose 1.39 per cent following upbeat third-quarter results. Hindustan Unilever, M&M, SBI and L&T were among the other gainers.

"A combination of factors like weak US and European market cues, monthly F&O expiry later this week, persistent FII fund outflows, and muted third quarter corporate earnings so far have continued to push investors in reduc-

ing their equity exposure," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Strong selling in IT, telecom, metals, oil & gas and realty dragged Sensex below the 76k mark, whereas investors continued to exit mid and small-cap stocks on worries that slowdown in earnings will fail to match the higher valuations assigned to them, Tapse added.

The BSE SmallCap gauge declined 3.51 per cent and Midcap index slumped 2.68 per cent.