

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Lisbon early this morning on the first of her state visit to Portugal and Slovakia. President Murmu will hold delegation level talks with her Portugal counterpart Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. She will also meet Prime Minister Luis Montenegro and the Speaker of Parliament, Jose Pedro Aguiar Branco. The Mayor of Lisbon will also host a special event in her honour. President will also meet members of Indian community in Portugal and she is likely to meet some Indian researchers from various universities and academic institutions. From April 9 to 10, President Murmu will visit Slovakia at the invitation of the Slovakia President Peter Pellegrini. It will be the first visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 years.

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Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has said that the spirit of the Indian Constitution is to treat all citizens equally, provide equal opportunities and integrate the marginalized and backward sections of society into the mainstream of progress. Mr Birla stated this while addressing the 150th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the theme - Parliamentary Action for Social Development and Justice at Tashkent in Uzbekistan yesterday . Mr Birla mentioned that by replacing the Indian Penal Code with the 'Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita', India has established the primacy of justice.

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World Health Day will be observed across the globe today to raise health awareness. The day is celebrated annually and each year it draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. The date of 7th April marks the anniversary of the founding of World Health Organisation 1948. This year the theme for World Health Day is "*Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures*". With increasing awareness about diseases, mental health challenges, and the importance of preventive care, health has emerged as a top priority across the world.

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President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament this week. After the Presidential assent, it has become a law. The Legislation was passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, with 288 members in favour and 232 against it. While the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on Friday with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

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Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award for his outstanding contributions to sand art. The award was presented during the Sandworld 2025 International Sand Art Festival in Dorset, England. To mark the occasion, Pattnaik created a 10-foot-high sculpture of Lord Ganesha carrying the message of "World Peace". The award holds special significance this year as it commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of legendary British sculptor Fred Darrington. A report

**Correspondence Byte:** *Sudarshan Pattnaik, a Padma Shri awardee from Odisha, has participated in over 65 international sand art festivals and championships. His work, often blending spiritual themes with social messages, has earned him widespread recognition - but the Weymouth award marks a new high. The Sandworld exhibition at Lodmoor Park, known for its massive, detailed sand sculptures created using just sand and water, and features works from artists across the world. But this year, it's a message from India - carved in sand and rooted in peace - that's leaving the deepest impression.*

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And, The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heat wave conditions over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab during the next 4 to 5 days. It forecast gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 2-4°C over many parts of Northwest India, Maharashtra and South Peninsula during the next 4 days and fall by 2-3°C during subsequent 3 days. We have a report from our delhi .

**Correspondence Byte:** *According to the IMD, maximum temperatures will rise by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over Northwest India, Central India, South Peninsular India and Maharashtra. Meanwhile, a fresh spell of rainfall along with thunderstorm and lightning will likely over East India till the 10th of this month. The weather agency has also forecast light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of speed upto 50 kilometers per hour over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Karnataka, as well as over East and Northeast India during the next 5 days. Similar weather conditions are also expected over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the next 6 to 7 days.*

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