

**Bahrain accuses Qatar of 'military escalation'**

**International News**

Says it's a political and security dispute  
Bahrain's Foreign Minister on Monday accused Qatar of a "military escalation" in the Gulf diplomatic crisis, an apparent reference to Doha's allowing Turkish troops on its territory.  
"The disagreement with Qatar is a political and security dispute and has never been military," Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa said on Twitter. "But the deployment of foreign troops with their armoured vehicles is a military escalation for which Qatar will bear the consequences."

*attenuate*

**weaken**

*audacious*

**extremely bold; fearless, especially said of human behavior**

**GST Network open for registrations**

**Business News**

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) portal has begun accepting registration requests from businesses that are yet to enrol themselves on the network that will serve as the back-end for the Goods and Services Tax regime being implemented from July 1. The GSTN portal is also open for existing taxpayers who haven't yet completed their enrolment process after initial registration. Following their registration, taxpayers will have to use the GST common portal to fulfil compliance requirements such as filing returns and making tax payments.  
Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said last week that about 65 lakh taxpayers had already registered with the GSTN.

*aver*

**to declare**

*banal*

**commonplace or trite**

**When 'America First' meets 'Make in India'**

**National News**

Talks after Modi and Trump meet have a huge ground to cover  
While much weight is being put on the "personal chemistry" between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, they only have about 20 minutes in their schedule for one-on-one discussions. Officials say a number of issues will come up during the delegation-level talks, which will run for an hour.  
Chief among them is charting India-U.S. Strategic Partnership ahead, including talks on the last two of the three "foundational agreements" the U.S. wants India to sign. The two sides are expected to discuss three conflict regions of Afghanistan, IS-held Syria and Iraq as well as tensions in the South China Sea.  
The discussion on Afghanistan is significant as it comes a few weeks ahead of Washington's revised "Af-Pak" policy. India would like the U.S. to cut military aid to Pakistan, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said last week, and to increase its resources to bolster the Ghani government against the Taliban.

*barefaced*

**unconcealed, shameless, or brazen**

*belandishment*

**speech or action intended to coax someone into doing something**