

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Widespread protests erupt in Iran**

Protests have erupted in Iran after the country's currency rial plummeted to a record low against the U.S. dollar, and the head of the Central Bank resigned. In late December 2025, the Iranian rial collapsed to around 1.42 million per US dollar, a historic low.

**Bulgaria Becomes 21st Member of Eurozone**

Bulgaria has officially adopted the euro, joining the Eurozone as its 21st member. The euro will become the sole legal tender from February 1, 2026.

**India, Pakistan Conduct Annual Exchange of Nuclear Installations List**

India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities under the bilateral Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.

**US Claims Capture of Venezuela's President Maduro**

The United States has claimed that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores were captured and flown out of the country following large-scale military strikes.

**Trump Orders US Withdrawal from Several International Organisations**

US President Donald Trump has announced the withdrawal of the United States from dozens of international organisations, including the UN's population agency. The move follows an executive order halting support for 66 global bodies after a review of US funding and participation.

**Nepal Eases Citizenship Rules for Children**

Nepal has removed legal hurdles for children to obtain citizenship certificates in their mother's name when the father's identity is unknown.

**US revokes over 100,000 visas to strengthen security**

The US Department of State has revoked over 100,000 visas as part of efforts to strengthen security and enforce immigration laws. This includes about 8,000 student visas and 2,500 specialised visas issued to people who had encounters with US law enforcement for criminal activity.

**US and regional partners open combined air and missile defence cell in Qatar**

The United States and its regional partners have opened a new combined air and missile defence coordination cell at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar to strengthen joint responses to aerial threats across West Asia.

**US Pauses Immigrant Visa Processing from 75 Countries**

The United States has announced a pause on immigrant visa processing from 75 countries, including Pakistan and Bangladesh. The US State Department said migrants from these nations rely heavily on welfare and often become public charges.

**U.S., Taiwan signs \$250 billion trade deal**

The United States and Taiwan reached a trade deal that cuts tariffs on Taiwanese goods in exchange for \$250 billion in new investments in the U.S. tech industry.

**U.S., Pakistani troops conclude joint training exercise 'Inspired Gambit 2026'**

American and Pakistani troops have concluded a joint training at the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Pabbi during exercise "Inspired Gambit 2026". The two-week exercise held between January 8-16

**Uganda's president Museveni heads for victory**

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has won Presidential election - well ahead of his main challenger. Museveni got 74% of the vote, with Wine on 23%, based on returns from 81% of polling stations.

**EU and Mercosur Sign Landmark Free Trade Agreement**

The European Union and South American bloc Mercosur have signed a long-pending free trade agreement creating one of the world's largest trade zones. The deal will eliminate over 90 per cent of tariffs between both sides, though some cuts will be phased in over 10 to 15 years.

**Trump Announces Import Tariffs on European Countries Over Greenland Dispute**

US President Donald Trump has announced a 10 percent import tariff on goods from eight European countries starting February, citing their opposition to US control of Greenland. The levy will apply to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Finland, and may rise to 25 per cent from June if no agreement is reached.

**Iran's death toll reaches 5,000**

In Iran, 5,000 people, including 500 security personnel, have been killed in the protests that gripped the country in January 2026.

**Japanese PM dissolves House of Representatives**

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has announced to dissolve the House of Representatives, paving the way for an early general election.

**US imposes 25% tariff on countries doing business with Iran**

U.S. President Donald Trump said any nation doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran would be subject to a 25% tariff on all trade conducted with the United States, effective immediately.

**World Economic Forum annual meeting held in Davos**

The Annual Meeting 2026 of the World Economic Forum was held at Davos-Klosters from 19th to 23rd January. Under the theme, 'A Spirit of Dialogue', Davos 2026.

**Trump signs charter to formally launch Board of Peace initiative at WEF in Davos**

US President Donald Trump has signed the charter to formally launch the Board of Peace initiative at the World Economic Forum in Davos, describing it as a major step towards global conflict resolution. Around 35 nations had committed to join, while 60 nations received invitations

**European Parliament decides to suspend work on EU's trade deal with US**

The European Parliament has decided to suspend work on the European Union's trade deal with the United States in protest at US President Donald Trump's demands to acquire Greenland and threats of tariffs on European allies who oppose his plan.

**South Korean law to regulate AI takes effect**

South Korea became the first country to have a wide-ranging law regulating artificial intelligence take full effect, including specific provisions targeting deepfakes.

**US President removes Canada from Board of Peace**

US President Donald Trump has withdrawn an invitation for Canada to join his newly constituted Board of Peace, in the latest spat between the North American neighbours.

**UNESCO Announces Emergency Aid for Storm-Hit Vietnam**

UNESCO has announced an emergency assistance package worth about 740,000 US dollars to protect cultural heritage and support education in storm-affected regions of Vietnam.

**US President increases tariffs on South Korean goods from 15 to 25 %**

US President Donald Trump has announced an increase in tariffs on South Korean goods to 25 per cent from 15 per cent, citing the Korean Legislature's failure to enact a trade agreement.

**French lawmakers pass bill banning social media for under-15s**

French lawmakers have passed a bill that would ban social media use by under-15s, a move championed by President Emmanuel Macron as a way to protect children from excessive screen time.

**World Bank approves \$200 million to help Lebanon**

The World Bank had approved \$200 million in new financing to assist Lebanon in meeting the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable as the country tries to recover from its 2019 economic collapse.

**EU designates Iran's IRGC Corps as terrorist group**

The European Union (EU) has designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation over Tehran's crackdown on nationwide protests.

**Burkina Faso's junta dissolves all of country's political parties**

Burkina Faso's military junta has dissolved all the political parties in the country and scrapped the laws governing them, according to a decree approved by the government.

**US approves \$6.67 billion worth arms sales to Israel, \$9 billion worth sales to Saudi**

The Donald Trump administration has approved a massive new series of arms sales to Israel totalling \$6.67 billion and to Saudi Arabia worth \$9 billion. Both sets of sales were announced on January 30, 2026 as tensions rise in the Middle East over the possibility of U.S. military strikes in Iran.

**UN faces 'imminent financial collapse' without urgent action, says UN chief**

The United Nations chief António Guterres is warning that the world body faces "imminent financial collapse" unless its financial rules are overhauled or all 193 member nations pay their dues — a message likely directed at the United States and the billions it owes.

**Venezuela's acting President signs law that opens nation's oil sector to privatisation**

Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez has signed a law that opens the nation's oil sector to privatisation, reversing a tenet of the self-proclaimed socialist movement that has ruled the country for more than two decades.

**16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Meeting on Counter-Terrorism**

The 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Expert Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi, co-chaired by India and Malaysia.

**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana flagship scheme completes nine years**

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, a flagship scheme of the Central government for pregnant women and lactating mothers, has completed nine years on 1st January, 2026. The scheme was launched on the 1st January 2017 to provide financial support to pregnant and lactating mothers to improve their health and nutrition.

**450 million US dollars in assistance to help Sri Lanka recover from Cyclone Ditwah.**

To help Sri Lanka recover from Cyclone Ditwah, India has begun implementing a 450 million US dollars assistance package, which includes 350 million US dollars in concessional lines of credit and 100 million US dollars in grants.

**Army Hospital successfully performs India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent for Glaucoma**

The Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in Delhi has successfully performed the country's first-ever 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent, combining advanced imaging with minimally invasive glaucoma surgery.

**DRDO conducts launch of two Pralay missiles**

India has successfully conducted a salvo launch of two 'Pralay' missiles off Odisha coast in quick succession. The missile was launched as part of user evaluation trials. The test was carried out by the Defence Research and DRDO.

**Centre notifies additional excise duty on tobacco products**

The Union government has notified February 1, 2026 as the date from which additional excise duty will be levied on tobacco products and a new cess on pan masala.

**Broadband subscribers crosses 100 cr mark in Nov**

Broadband subscriber base in India has crossed the 100-crore mark in the month of November this year. In the last 10 years, the Broadband subscriber base in India has increased by more than six times.

**India-UAE military exercise 'Desert Cyclone II'**

The second edition of the joint military exercise Desert Cyclone II between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces concluded at Al-Hamra Training City in Abu Dhabi. The exercise focused on urban warfare, counter-terrorism and UN-mandated operations.

**Digital e-Bill System Rolled Out to Streamline Fertiliser Subsidies**

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister JP Nadda inaugurated the e-Bill System to digitally process fertiliser subsidies worth nearly ₹2 lakh crore. The platform will strengthen transparency, efficiency and technology-driven governance.

**Centre Clears New Chief Justices and Transfer for Three High Courts**

Justice Soumen Sen, presently Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo of the Orissa High Court will take over as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. Justice Revati Prashant Mohite Dere of the Bombay High Court has been appointed Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court

### **Centre Clears 22 Electronics Manufacturing Projects to Boost Atmanirbhar Supply Chains**

The Centre has approved 22 new proposals under the third tranche of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, involving an investment of ₹41,863 crore across eight states. The projects span 11 segments, including mobile, telecom, automotive, IT hardware and strategic electronics.

### **Ayush receives formal recognition in bilateral trade agreements with Oman and New Zealand.**

India's traditional medicine system – AYUSH – has received formal recognition in bilateral trade agreements with Oman and New Zealand, as per the Commerce Ministry.

### **India's first commercial tropical trout farm inaugurated in Hyderabad**

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh has inaugurated India's first commercial-scale tropical Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS)-based Rainbow Trout farm and research institute in Hyderabad.

### **DRDO develops hand-operated water purification system**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a portable water desalination gadget SWaDeS to meet the drinking water requirements of a small group of soldiers in the field. Christened Sea Water Desalination System (SWaDeS), it can be operated manually or run by an engine.

### **Defence Minister commissions 'Samudra Pratap'**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) first indigenously designed and built pollution control vessel, Samudra Pratap, in Goa.

### **Indian scientists develop first supercomputer-powered simulation to capture Mpemba effect**

Indian scientists have developed the first supercomputer-powered simulation to capture the long-existing paradox of hot water freezing faster than cold water (Mpemba effect). Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research have used supercomputers to develop the first simulation of ice formation, proving the Mpemba effect of water.

### **Mega skilling drive launched to provide AI knowledge to 10 lakh youth in a year**

Union Minister for IT and Information and Broadcasting Ashwani Vaishnav has launched an AI skilling programme to impart AI skilling to ten lakh youth across the country.

### **WaveX signs agreement with FITT-IIT Delhi**

WaveX, the startup accelerator initiative under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, signed an agreement with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi to strengthen innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship in media, entertainment, broadcasting and communication technologies.

### **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases 55 rare and valuable literary works**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released 55 rare and valuable literary works, representing the country's five classical languages. These are Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Odia. The books have been published by the Central Institute of Indian Languages.

### **Centre Notifies First Phase of Census of India 2027**

The Centre has issued a notification for the first phase of the Census of India 2027. House listing operations will be carried out between April 1 and September 30, as per schedules fixed by States and Union Territories.

### **India Becomes First Nation to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen**

India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced.

### **An Integrated Digital Portal – PANKHUDI launched.**

Annpurna Devi, the Union Women and Child Development Minister, launched an Integrated Digital Portal – PANKHUDI to strengthen coordination, transparency and structured stakeholder participation in initiatives for Women and Child Development in the country.

### **Aadhaar mascot, Udai, launched by the UIDAI.**

The Unique Identification Authority of India, UIDAI, launched the Aadhaar mascot, Udai. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said the mascot will be helpful in making Aadhaar-related information more relatable and people-friendly.

### **The 53rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026**

The 53rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026, was held from 10th to 18 January at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The book fair attracted participation from over one thousand publishers representing more than 35 countries. Qatar is the Guest of Honour country, and Spain is the Focus Country.

### **DRDO Successfully Tests Long-Duration Scramjet Engine for Hypersonic Missiles**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation has conducted a successful long-duration ground test of its Actively Cooled Scramjet Engine, marking a major milestone in hypersonic missile development.

### **India's Non-Fossil Energy Capacity Touches 266.78 GW in 2025**

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said India's clean energy sector recorded strong growth in 2025, with non-fossil fuel installed capacity reaching 266.78 gigawatt, a 22.6 per cent rise over 2024.

### **Somnath Swabhiman Parv Celebrates Resilience and Civilisational Pride**

The Somnath Swabhiman Parv underway at Gujarat's Somnath Temple marks a thousand years since the first recorded attack on the shrine in 1026, celebrating resilience rather than destruction.

### **The G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, United States.**

Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, will participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, United States. The G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting is aimed at securing global supply chains for strategic resources.

### **India and Germany sign 19 MoUs**

India and Germany signed 19 key MoUs and made eight key announcements, including a Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation and the establishment of a Chief Executive Officers' Forum to bolster trade and investment.

### **India's PSLV suffers launch failure, 16 satellites lost**

ISRO's first launch of PSLV-C62 mission ended in failure due to an issue with the third stage of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). An anomaly occurred after the third stage, causing a deviation from the flight path.

### **Military Civil Fusion Exercise "Sanjha Shakti" Conducted**

A joint Military Civil Fusion (MCF) exercise, "Sanjha Shakti", was successfully conducted from 08 to 09 January 2026 at the Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, under the aegis of MG & G Area, Southern Command.

### **India hosts 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth**

India hosted the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi.

### **DRDO successfully Flight-Tests Third-Generation MPATGM**

DRDO has successfully flight-tested the third-generation Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile, or MPATGM, with top attack capability against a moving target. The test was conducted at the KK Ranges in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.

### **Major delivery aggregators agree to remove 10 minute delivery deadline**

Major delivery aggregators have agreed to remove the 10-minute delivery service deadline following the Union government's intervention.

### **SC says dog feeders will be held accountable for dog-bite incidents**

The Supreme Court of India has said that it will ask states to pay heavy compensation for dog-bite incidents and hold dog feeders accountable.

### **EU Council President Costa, Commission President von der Leyen to be Chief Guests at 77th Republic Day**

President of the European Council António Luís Santos da Costa and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen were the Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavyapath on 26th January.

### **BSF, ITBP and NIA get new chiefs**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to appoint Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, former Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) as the chief of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

He will succeed incumbent Praveen Kumar, who has been named the new chief of the Border Security Force (BSF). Senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal was appointed the director general of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

### **India and Germany sign Joint Declaration of Intent on telecommunications cooperation**

India and Germany have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation. Both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation through regular exchange of information and best practices in the telecommunications and ICT sectors.

### **SC Upholds Lok Sabha Speaker's Inquiry Against Justice Varma**

The Supreme Court has refused to grant any relief to Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, who had challenged the unilateral setting up of an inquiry committee by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to examine allegations of burnt currency found at his residential premises in March last year.

### **India, Israel to Boost Cooperation in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

India and Israel have signed a Joint Ministerial Declaration of Intent to strengthen collaboration in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

### **India and Germany Sign Pact to Boost Telecom and Digital Cooperation**

India and Germany have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation to strengthen collaboration in telecom and ICT sectors.

### **India and Japan Coast Guards Conduct Joint HNS Response Drill in Mumbai**

The Indian Coast Guard and Japan Coast Guard conducted a joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances response drill in Mumbai, strengthening maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

### **India Launches Second Nationwide Dolphin Population Survey**

The Central government has begun the second range-wide estimation of riverine and estuarine dolphins under Project Dolphin, starting from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh.

Conducted in two phases, the survey will cover the Ganga main stem, Indus River, Brahmaputra, Ganga tributaries, Sundarbans and Odisha.

### **PM Modi lays foundation stone for ₹6,957-crore Kaziranga corridor**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project, covering the 4-laning of the Kaliabor-Numaligarh section of National Highway 715, in Kaliabor, Nagaon district, Assam. The project is valued at over Rs 6,950 crore.

### **PM Modi flags off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah & Guwahati**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya) at Malda town railway station. Mr Modi also virtually flagged off the Guwahati-Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper.

### **PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026 held in New Delhi**

PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026, an exhibition dedicated exclusively to artisans and craftspeople under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, was held from January 18 at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.

### **17th edition of India-Maldives-Sri Lanka DOSTI Exercise held in Maldives**

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have participated in key trilateral coast guard drill named DOSTI Exercise – the 17th edition of which ended on January 19, 2026. It was conducted in the Maldives

### **INS Sudarshini to embark on 10-month Lokayan 26 voyage**

The Indian Navy Ship, INS Sudarshini, will embark on a 10-month transoceanic expedition, on the voyage of Lokayan 26. The ship will sail over 22 thousand nautical miles, visiting 18 foreign ports across 13 countries during the voyage.

### **Former President Ramnath Kovind launches Responsible Nations Index**

Former President Ramnath Kovind has launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) in New Delhi. RNI is an important index which focuses on promoting responsible behaviour of countries towards humanity.

### **Election Commission hosts IICDEM 2026**

Election Commission hosted the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 from January 21 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

### **VP Radhakrishnan releases Hindi edition of Dr C Palanivelu's autobiography**

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan released the Hindi edition of Dr. C. Palanivelu's autobiography titled "Palanivelu GUTS" in New Delhi.

### **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Aravalli mountain range declared as Eco-Sensitive Zone**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a notification declaring Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Aravalli mountain range, as an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

### **Government e-Marketplace & WTC Mumbai sign MoU to strengthen MSME participation**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost outreach and strengthen MSME participation in public procurement.

### **VP Radhakrishnan launches book Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi-Challenge & Response**

Vice President Dr C. P. Radhakrishnan has launched a book titled "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi-Challenge and Response" in New Delhi. The book is written by a former secretary to the Government of India, Surendra Kumar Pachauri.

### **Power Ministry Releases Draft National Electricity Policy 2026**

The Ministry of Power has released the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 to transform India's power sector in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

### **MSDE signs MoU with WEF**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has signed a MoU with the World Economic Forum to collaborate on strengthening India's skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training ecosystem.

### **Election Commission launches ECINET digital platform**

On the second day of the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management is going on in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi, launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating over 40 apps and web services.

### **CDS General releases Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework**

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework, outlining India's roadmap to integrate quantum technologies into the Armed Forces.

### **India to host AI Impact Summit from 16th to 20th February**

India will host the AI Impact Summit from 16th to 20th February this year at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The summit will be the first global AI summit to be hosted in the Global South.

### **Indian Army signs MoU with IISc**

The Indian Army has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, to develop a fully indigenous Artificial Intelligence-based system through collaborative research and innovation.

### **India, EU agree to advance cooperation in sustainable transport ecosystem**

India and European Union leaders have agreed on advancing EU-India engagement in the transport ecosystem. They also held discussions on sustainability, innovation, and environmentally friendly transportation systems.

### **India to host fourth edition of India Energy Week in Goa**

India hosted the fourth edition of India Energy Week from 27th to 30th January in Goa. Over 75 thousand participants attended the first major international energy event of the year.

### **Kerala to Lead India's Ageing Transition: RBI Report**

Kerala will remain at the forefront of India's ageing States, with over 22% of its population aged above 60 by 2036, according to an RBI report on State Finances. The elderly share is projected to rise from 16.5% in 2021 to 22.8% by 2036.

### **77th Republic Day celebrated across the country**

The 77th Republic Day was celebrated across the country. President Droupadi Murmu has led the Nation in celebrating the Republic Day. The day celebrated under this year's theme of 'Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram' and 'Samridhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

### **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, along with ICGS Sarathi, conclude port call to Belawan, Indonesia**

The ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron – INS Tir, INS Shardul, and INS Sujata, along with ICGS Sarathi, recently concluded a port call to Belawan, Indonesia. During the three-day port call, the crew and trainees engaged with the Indonesian Navy across multiple fronts.

### **Bharat Parv 2026 inaugurated at Red Fort**

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat have inaugurated the six-day national culture and tourism festival Bharat Parv 2026 at Red Fort in New Delhi.

### **Wings India 2026: Asia's largest civil aviation event held at Begumpet Airport**

Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, was held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. The theme of Wings India 2026 is Indian Aviation: Paving the Future – From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation and Safety to Sustainability.

### **Aviation Minister chairs signing of agreement to develop India's Regional Transport Aircraft ecosystem**

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has chaired the signing of an agreement between major Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer and Adani Group to develop India's Regional Transport Aircraft ecosystem. Mr Naidu said the association will be instrumental in building end-to-end indigenous solutions for regional air connectivity.

### **11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival**

The 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AEIFF) was held at the Rukmini auditorium, MGM University, in the presence of distinguished guests in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra.

### **Centre approves proposal of smart & integrated fishing harbour in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

The Central government has approved the proposal of a smart and integrated fishing harbour in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands worth around 200 crore rupees. This has been approved for the Development of a smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder.

### **AYUSHEXCIL, Zepto sign MoU**

The Ministry of Ayush oversaw a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL) and Zepto Limited to facilitate structured online access to Ayush medicines and wellness products across the country.

### **NITI Aayog launches Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0**

NITI Aayog has launched Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0, a three-month campaign aimed at achieving saturation of critical development indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country. The campaign will run till 14th of April, this year.

### **12th edition of Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youthheld in New Delhi**

The 12th edition of Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth- SIFFCY, organised by Smile Foundation, was held in New Delhi. This seven-day event has been organised in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Government notifies Solid Waste Management Rules 2026**

The Centre has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, which will come into effect from 1st April this year. The revised rules will integrate the principles of circular economy and extended producer responsibility, with a specific focus on efficient waste segregation and management.

### **India submits Meghalaya's living root bridges to UNESCO for World Heritage status**

India has submitted to UNESCO in Paris the nomination dossier of Meghalaya's living root bridges for consideration to include in the World Heritage list 2026-27.

### **India's first AI-enabled university: Google partners with MSDE and Chaudhary Charan Singh University**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has partnered with Google Cloud and Chaudhary Charan Singh University to establish India's first AI-enabled university pilot. Chaudhary Charan Singh University has been designated as the national pilot institution to showcase how AI can enhance higher education and training in an AI-first era.

### **SC says menstrual health fundamental right under Article 21**

The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution

### **UIDAI launches new Aadhaar app**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new Aadhaar app that can be used for age verification purposes under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), without requiring users to share any additional data.

## **BANKING & ECONOMY**

### **UPI transaction volume rises 29% year-on-year to 21.63 billion in December**

The UPI has continued its strong growth momentum in December, registering a year-on-year increase of 29% to reach 21.63 billion transactions. The value of transactions also rose by 20 % annually to around 28 lakh crore rupees.

### **Ministry of Communications signs agreement with SSL**

The Ministry of Communications has signed an agreement with Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL) to promote access to regulated capital market services for citizens across the country.

### **India's Insurance penetration remained unchanged at 3.7% in 2025**

Insurance penetration remained unchanged at 3.7% in India in FY25-about half the global average of 7.3% for 2024. Life insurance penetration in India declined to 2.7% in FY25, from 2.8% a year earlier, while non-life insurance penetration stayed flat at 1%. Insurance density, however, increased to 97 dollars per person.

### **Centre Rolls Out New Measures to Strengthen MSME Exports under Export Promotion Mission**

The Centre has introduced two major interventions under the Export Promotion Mission to enhance exports from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The first provides interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment export credit to reduce financing costs and ease working capital pressures. The second offers collateral support to improve MSMEs' access to bank credit.

### **Syria unveils new banknotes**

Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa unveiled the country's new banknotes at a ceremony in Damascus, removing images of ousted leader Bashar al-Assad and his father Hafez al-Assad in a symbolic break with the past.

### **Employment at private banks dips in FY25**

The number of employees engaged by public sector banks increased to 7,57,641 from 7,56,015 in the year-ago period, while the same for private sector banks declined to 8,38,150 from 8,45,407 employees in FY24. The banking system employees increased to 18.08 lakh from 17.87 lakh in the year-ago period, it said.

### **GST 2.0 Sees Modest Revenue Growth in December**

Net revenues from the GST rose 2.2 percent year-on-year to ₹1.45 trillion in December 2025, marking the second full month under the revamped GST 2.0 regime and the lowest monthly collection since December 2024.

### **Banks Set to Play Bigger Role in NPS as PFRDA Clears Reforms**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has approved, in principle, a new framework allowing Scheduled Commercial Banks to independently sponsor pension funds for managing National Pension System assets.

### **MCA Relaxes Director KYC Norms**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has eased compliance norms by allowing directors of private companies to complete Know Your Customer (KYC) filing once every three years instead of annually.

### **Government Removes 3-Year Rule for Deep-Tech Startups under DSIR**

The Central government has scrapped the mandatory three-year existence requirement for deep-tech startups to gain recognition under the Industrial Research and Development Promotion Programme of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

### **BYD surpasses Tesla in full-year electric vehicle sales for the first time**

According to a Global Times report, Chinese automaker BYD surpassed Tesla in full-year electric vehicle sales for the first time in 2025, securing its position as the world's largest electric vehicle seller.

### **India churned out only 5 new unicorns in 2025.**

India churned out only 5 new unicorns in 2025, an annual drop of 17 percent as per a Tracxn report. Unicorns are start-ups that have achieved a valuation of \$1 billion. The total funding in 2025 was \$11.1 billion, a 13 percent decrease year-on-year from 2024.

### **RBI Governor chairs first meeting of Payments Regulatory Board meeting**

The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The Board was constituted following amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which came into effect on 9th May last year.

### **HDFC Bank's loan book grows 12% to ₹28.44 trn in Q3**

HDFC Bank reported nearly 12% year-on-year growth in advances to ₹28.44 trillion during the October-December (Q3FY26) quarter, while deposits rose 11.5% to ₹28.59 trillion. The bank mobilised ₹57,700 crore of deposits during the quarter while credit disbursed expanded by ₹75,300 crore.

### **RBI to take over banking, public debt management for Delhi govt**

Starting January 9, 2026 the Reserve Bank of India will manage the Delhi government's banking operations and public debt.

### **Karthikeyan appointed Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank**

ESAF Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of Karthikeyan Manickam as its chairman. He is a former executive director of the Bank of India.

### **ICICI Bank launches Capital Gains Account Scheme**

ICICI Bank has launched Capital Gains Account Scheme that helps resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) to make tax-exempt deposits of long term capital gains. This scheme is available from January 1, 2025.

### **TMB partners with TechFini**

Private sector bank Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) has partnered with TechFini, a UPI infrastructure and fintech solutions provider, to strengthen its UPI acquiring and issuing capabilities.

### **China bans export of dual-use goods to Japan**

China banned the export of dual-use goods to Japan that can serve military purposes. This comes at a time of heightened tensions between the two countries over Taiwan, a self-ruled island China claims as its sovereign territory prohibited.

### **Supervisory data quality index of banks improves to 90.7 in Sept 2025**

According to RBI, The overall Supervisory data quality index, sDQI score for SCBs improved to 90.7 in September 2025, up from 89.9 in June 2025 Public sector banks saw their overall score rise to 91.1, aided by near-perfect scores in completeness.

Private sector banks maintained stable performance, with an sDQI of 90.6. Foreign banks improved to 90.4, driven largely by gains in timeliness and accuracy.

Small finance banks emerged as top performers, posting an sDQI of 91.5, supported by a perfect score in completeness.

### **RBI proposes to cap banks' dividend payout at 75% of PAT**

The RBI had proposed to raise the dividend payout cap for banks to 75% of the net profit from the earlier 40% rule. It also wants bank boards to oversee the asset quality and provisioning gaps, capital projection and long-term growth plans before declaring a dividend.

### **Bank loan-to-deposit ratios at all-time highs raise concern**

Banking system's loan-to-deposit ratios hit an all-time high of 81% in December quarter, signalling a widening gap between credit growth and deposit mobilization.

### **RBI Cancels Registration of 35 NBFCs for Regulatory Violations**

The RBI has cancelled the certificates of registration of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies for failing to comply with regulatory norms. The RBI stated that these entities are no longer authorised to conduct NBFC business.

### **India's GDP Projected to Grow 7.4% in 2025-26**

India's real GDP is estimated to grow by 7.4% in 2025-26, up from 6.5% in the previous fiscal, according to first advance estimates. Real GDP is projected to cross ₹201 lakh crore, driven mainly by strong performance in the services sector.

### **Indian Army and HDFC Bank renew their MoU till 2029.**

HDFC Bank and the Indian Army have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding, till 2029, to provide banking services and Personal Accident Insurance coverage to Army personnel.

### **Morgan Stanley estimates India's real GDP growth at 7.6%.**

A report from Morgan Stanley estimated real GDP growth at 7.6 percent year-on-year for Financial Year 2026 — above the National Statistical Office's (NSO) first advance estimate, which pegged real GDP growth at 7.4 percent Year-over-year.

### **Indian automobile sector records a 7.71% year-on-year growth in the last calendar year.**

The Indian automobile sector recorded a positive growth with total sales crossing 2 crore 81 lakh units, marking a 7.71 per cent year-on-year growth in the last calendar year.

### **Robust Rabi sowing this season.**

Rabi crop sowing has covered over 634 lakh hectares across the country as of the 2nd of January 2026, as per the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

### **UN Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.4% in Current Fiscal Year**

India is expected to grow by 7.4 per cent in the current financial year, driven by strong consumption and public investment, according to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 report.

### **India and EU Hold High-Level Talks on Free Trade Agreement**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held high-level discussions with European Union Trade and Economic Security Commissioner Maros Sefcovic in Brussels to advance negotiations on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

### **RBI Grants Final PA-CB Licence to Fintech Firm Skydo**

Cross-border payments fintech Skydo has received final authorisation from the RBI to operate as a payment aggregator-cross-border (PA-CB).

### **India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in 2024-25.**

According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the fish production in the country has increased to around 198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 from 95 lakh tonnes of fish production in 2013-14.

### **Four major banks object to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPA.**

Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Yes Bank and SBI have approached the CIC objecting to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPA, penalties and inspection reports, even as the RBI termed the records "liable to be disclosed" under the RTI Act.

### **India's electric vehicle market accounts for 8% of New Vehicle Registrations in 2025**

India's electric vehicle market has accounted for 8 per cent of all new vehicle registrations in 2025, with total EV sales reaching 23 lakh units.

### **PhonePe adds 'Bolt' for faster, safer Visa, Mastercard payments**

PhonePe Payment Gateway has introduced 'PhonePe PG Bolt' for Visa and Mastercard card transactions. This new feature uses device tokenization for secure and fast in-app checkouts. Users can save their cards once on the PhonePe app.

### **India records 8.82% growth in net direct tax collections till mid-January**

India's net direct tax collections have recorded healthy growth in the current financial year up to mid-January. The collection grew 8.82 percent to over 18.38 lakh crore rupees upto 11th of this month.

### **Bank of Baroda receives RBI approval to switch from Bank Primary Dealer to set up subsidiary**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has received in-principle approval from the RBI to switch from its existing Bank Primary Dealer (PD) business to a wholly-owned subsidiary for undertaking Standalone Primary Dealer (SPD) business.

### **RBI proposes 3-year break for co-op banks' directors after 10 yrs on board**

The RBI has proposed that a director on the board of co-operative banks who has served continuously for 10 years can be reappointed to the same board only after a three-year cooling-off period.

### **RBI issues Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations 2026**

The RBI has issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026, providing a comprehensive framework for guarantees involving persons resident outside India. It has directed all Authorised Dealer Category-I banks to follow the new regulations while facilitating such guarantees.

### **Retail inflation at 3-month high of 1.33% in December 2025**

Retail inflation quickened to a three-month high of 1.33% in December 2025, which is still significantly lower than the Reserve Bank of India's lower comfort level of 2%.

### **Credit-deposit ratio of banks rises to 82 percent**

As per the SBI Research Report, India's Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio has been increasing continuously since 2000-01 from 53 percent to 82 percent as of December 15, 2025.

### **Life insurers' new business surges 39% to ₹42,151 cr. in Dec.**

Life insurance companies in India reported a more than 39% increase in new business premium for December to ₹42,150.77 crore compared to the ₹30,218.71 crore a year earlier.

### **India's PNGRB and Germany's DVGW ink MoU**

India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and their German counterpart DVGW inked a MoU to establish a cooperative framework for integrating hydrogen into the country's natural gas infrastructure.

### **Google's corporate parent joins \$4 trillion club**

Google parent Alphabet Inc. became the fourth Big Tech powerhouse to be valued at \$4 trillion on January 12, 2026. Nvidia became the first to cross the barrier in July. Both Apple and Microsoft also surpassed market values of \$4 trillion last year.

### **Tripura Gramin Bank first in India with solar-powered ATM van**

Tripura Gramin Bank has become India's first Gramin Bank to launch a solar-powered ATM van, a milestone in sustainable banking.

### **Central bankers express solidarity with Fed Chair Jerome Powell**

In a rare move, heads of ten monetary authorities including the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) expressed solidarity with the Chair of U.S. Federal Reserve Jerome Powell, after he stated that he was being subjected to political pressure from the U.S. President Donald Trump to cut interest rates.

### **PFRDA constitutes Expert Committee to develop Framework for assured Payouts under NPS**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee to formulate guidelines and regulations for enabling a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS). The 15-member committee will be chaired by Dr M. S. Sahoo.

### **Govt working on to expand overseas presence of UPI: DFS Secretary**

India is trying to expand the global reach of its homegrown digital payment system UPI to a larger number of countries, especially in East Asia, Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said. Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is currently accepted in eight countries.

### **Standard Chartered Bank relaunches priority banking**

Standard Chartered Bank (StanC) has relaunched its priority banking offering. The service is now targeted at customers with assets between ₹50 lakh and ₹2.5 crore.

### **RBI Grants In-Principle Approval to SMBC for Wholly Owned Subsidiary in India**

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation has received the RBI in-principle approval to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in India. The move follows SMBC's acquisition of a 24.21 percent stake in Yes Bank, making it the largest shareholder.

### **WPI Inflation Rises to 0.83% in December 2025**

India's wholesale price index-based inflation increased to 0.83 per cent in December 2025, reversing the 0.32 per cent deflation recorded in November,

### **India's total exports cross 634 billion dollars in nine months**

India's total exports are estimated to be over 634 billion US dollars during the last nine months of this fiscal year, registering growth of 4.33 percent. The top five export destinations include USA, China, UAE, Spain and Hong Kong.

### **India's unemployment rate remains stable at 4.8% in December**

India's unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above remained largely stable in December, estimated at 4.8 percent compared to 4.7 percent recorded in November 2025.

### **India leads globally in IPO numbers**

India has emerged as the world's leading market in terms of the number of IPOs and the third largest by value.

311 IPOs raised 1.7 trillion rupees in the first nine months of the current financial year, while total equity mobilisation crossed 3.8 trillion rupees.

### **Nearly 44,000 startups registered in 2025, highest since the launch of Startup India**

Nearly 44,000 startups registered with the Union government in 2025, the highest annual addition since Startup India was launched on January 16, 2025. There are now more than 2 lakh startups across the country and around 125 unicorns.

### **RBI issues revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme to hear complaints against banks, NBFCs**

The RBI has issued the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme that will come into effect from July 1, 2026. The Scheme aims to provide a cost-effective, expeditious, non-adversarial alternate grievance redress mechanism for the resolution of complaints against Regulated Entities (REs).

### **India-EU FTA will be the 'mother of all deals', says Piyush Goyal**

The free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) will be the "mother of all deals" when compared to the seven deals India has signed with developed countries, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

### **LTIMindtree bags ₹3,000 crore deal from CBDT**

IT company LTIMindtree has bagged a ₹3,000 crore contract from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to build an AI-based programme for the modernisation of India's national tax analytics platform.

### **ICICI Bank board approves Sandeep Bakhshi's reappointment as MD & CEO till 2028**

The board of ICICI Bank has approved the reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a further two-year term, beginning October 4, 2026 and ending October 3, 2028. Bakhshi's current tenure as MD & CEO runs till October 3, 2026.

### **PSBs to standardise digital process for MSME credit**

The Union government has asked state-owned lenders to adopt a standardised digital process for sanctioning loans up to ₹1 crore, aiming to speed up credit delivery to micro and small businesses.

### **Priority sector lending: RBI asks HDFC, ICICI banks to make extra provisions**

The RBI has flagged deficiencies in priority sector lending (PSL) compliance at large private lenders HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, pointing to significant portions of their agriculture loan portfolios following annual supervisory reviews.

### **IMF raises India's economic growth forecast to 7.3 per cent for current fiscal**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's economic growth projection for 2025 by 0.7 percentage point to 7.3 percent. It said global growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3 percent in 2026.

### **Silver prices surge record high of over three lakh rupees per KG**

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, MCX gold rose 1.68 per cent to 1,44,905 rupees per 10 grams, while MCX silver rose 4.39 per cent to 3,00,400 rupees per kg as on 19 Jan 2026.

### **India achieves record electronics exports of 47 billion dollars in 2025**

India has achieved a record of electronics exports of 47 billion dollars in 2025. Around 30 billion dollars came from the production-linked incentive-driven smartphone exports.

**ADNOC gas signs 10-year LNG supply deal with HPCL**  
Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas (ADNOC Gas) and its subsidiaries have signed a 10-year liquefied natural gas sales and purchase agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, valued between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion.

### **RBI issues guidelines on interest subvention for export credit under Niryat Protsahan**

The RBI has issued operational guidelines for extending interest subvention on pre and post-shipment export credit under the Export Promotion Mission, also known as Niryat Protsahan.

### **RBI tightens PSL norms, mandates auditor certification for lenders**

The RBI has tightened the compliance framework around priority sector lending (PSL) by requiring all intermediary lenders — microfinance institutions, NBFCs and housing finance companies — to furnish external auditors' certificates ensuring that no loan is simultaneously claimed as priority sector by more than one bank.

### **DISCOMs have recorded profit of over 2700 crore rupees in 2024-25**

Union Minister for Power Manohar Lal has said that power distribution utilities of the country (DISCOMs) have recorded a profit of over two thousand seven hundred crore rupees in 2024-25.

### **Include digital currency link on BRICS agenda: RBI to government**

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed that BRICS countries link their official digital currencies to make cross-border trade and tourism payments easier, which also could reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar as geopolitical tensions rise.

**NBSL, Canara Bank partner to power UPI payments**  
NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) has partnered with Canara Bank to enable UPI-based digital payments on the bank's payment application, Canara ai1Pe, strengthening secure and scalable payment access for Canara Bank customers and non-customers.

### **SEBI proposes ₹20,000 crore as threshold for 'significant' index**

SEBI has proposed a ₹20,000 crore threshold to identify "significant" indices relating to the Index Providers' Regulations, 2024. Under the proposal, any index that is tracked or benchmarked by domestic mutual fund schemes with a cumulative assets under management (AUM) of more than ₹20,000 crore will be classified as a "significant index".

### **WEF 2026: Maharashtra signs investment MoUs worth ₹14.5 lakh crore on first day at Davos**

Maharashtra government has signed 19 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹14.50 lakh crore on the first day of World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland.

### **Nifty tanks 1.38%, its worst fall in 8 months**

The benchmark Nifty50 declined 1.38%, its lowest in more than eight months to 25,232 points, on a broad-based crash in small and midcap indices and increasing global uncertainties, on January 20, 2026. BSE Sensex, too, fell 1.28% to 82,180.47 points.

### **RBI Recognises FEDAI as SRO**

RBI has recognised the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all authorised dealers under its Omnibus framework for SROs.

### **India has become the world's largest producer of rice, surpassing China.**

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that India has become the world's largest producer of rice, surpassing China. He said India's rice production has reached 150.18 million tonnes, compared to China's 145.28 million tonnes.

### **NITI Aayog Releases Export Preparedness Index 2024**

NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, assessing export readiness across states and union territories. The Index ranks Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh as top large states, while Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Goa lead among smaller states and UTs.

### **Centre Launches Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for CGHS Beneficiaries**

The Department of Financial Services has launched the Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries. The policy offers cashless treatment, coverage for modern procedures and access to a wide hospital network.

### **RBI Grants In-Principle PA-CB Approval to Payoneer India**

The Reserve Bank of India has given in-principle approval to Payoneer India to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB).

### **Cabinet Approves ₹5,000 Crore Equity Infusion into SIDBI for MSME Credit Boost**

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI to strengthen its capital base and expand MSME financing. The infusion will be made by the Department of Financial Services in phases over three years.

### **Emirates NBD Bank gets CCI's nod to acquire majority stake in RBL Bank**

Competition Commission of India, CCI has approved Emirates NBD Bank's proposal to acquire a majority stake in private sector lender RBL Bank Ltd.

### **Asia Manufacturing Index 2026: China Holds Top Spot, India at 6th**

The Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 has placed India at sixth position among 11 major Asian economies. China continues to hold the top position in Asia's manufacturing ecosystem.

### **Zomato's Deepinder Goyal To Step Down**

Zomato's Deepinder Goyal has stepped down from the Group CEO role of Eternal Limited - the parent company of the food delivery platform. Albinder Dhindsa, who is currently the CEO of Blinkit, will take over as the new chief executive

### **RBI approves appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as whole-time director in HDFC Bank**

The RBI, has given approval for the re-appointment of Mr. Kaizad Bharucha as the Whole-time Director (Deputy Managing Director) of the HDFC Bank for a further period of 3 (three) years w.e.f. April 19, 2026.

### **Credit flow to commercial sector jumps 15% to Rs 298 lakh crore: RBI data**

Flow of financial resources to the commercial sector rose 15% year-on-year to Rs 298 lakh crore as of end-December, 2025 driven by expansion in both bank and non-bank sources, RBI data showed. Non-bank credit accounted for nearly 47% of total flows.

### **AUM of gold-loan NBFCs to cross Rs 4 lakh crore in fiscal 2027, says report**

Assets under management of non-banking financial companies specialising in gold loans are set to log a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 40 per cent between this fiscal and next, surpassing Rs 4 lakh crore by March 2027.

### **WEF to launch five new Centres for Fourth Industrial Revolution, one in India**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has decided to establish five new Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including one in India's Andhra Pradesh. Two such centres are already there in India—one in Mumbai and the other in Telangana.

### **Centre approves wage revision of PSU general insurers, NABARD, RBI employees, pensioners**

The Centre has approved wage revisions for PSU General Insurance companies and NABARD, as well as a pension revision for retirees of the RBI and NABARD. A total of 46,322 employees, 23,570 pensioners and 23,260 family pensioners will benefit from the wage revision.

### **RXIL Becomes First TReDS Platform in India to Declare and Pay Dividend**

Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), has declared and paid an interim dividend of 21.6% on the face value of its shares. The dividend declaration positions RXIL as the first TReDS platform in the country to return capital to its stakeholders

### **PhonePe Gets SEBI nod for IPO**

PhonePe has received SEBI approval for its IPO, and the company will be filing its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP) soon, setting the stage for India's most anticipated fintech IPO in the near horizon. The IPO will reportedly be an Offer For Sale by existing shareholders.

### **Amazon plans thousands more corporate job cuts**

Amazon is planning a second round of job cuts next week as part of its broader goal of trimming some 30,000 corporate workers.

### **Centre Launches Composite Salary Account Package for Government Employees**

The Department of Financial Services has launched a composite salary account package for Central Government employees in collaboration with Public Sector Banks. Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the package offers integrated banking, insurance and card benefits under a single account.

### **Adani Group completes full takeover of IANS news agency**

Adani group has taken full control of news agency IANS by purchasing the remaining 24% stake for an undisclosed sum of money.

### **India's Smartphone Exports to US Surge Over 200% in FY26**

India's smartphone exports to the US jumped over 200% year-on-year to \$12.54 billion between April and November of FY26, driven mainly by Apple Inc, compared to \$4.1 billion in FY25.

### **PFRDA Sets Up Expert Panel to Revamp NPS Investment Framework**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has constituted a high-level expert committee on Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) to modernise the National Pension System's investment framework. Chaired by Narayan Ramachandran.

### **India's Forex Reserves Jump USD 14.17 Billion to Near Record High**

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by USD 14.167 billion to USD 701.36 billion in the week ended January 16, according to RBI data. The rise was driven by higher foreign currency assets and gold reserves.

### **Banking services impacted as unions go on nationwide strike**

Banking operations at public sector banks across the country were impacted on January 27, 2026 as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) went on nationwide strike demanding the immediate implementation of a five-day work week. The strike call by the UFBU, an umbrella body of nine unions representing officers and employees.

### **Microsoft rolls out next generation of AI chips**

Microsoft has unveiled the second generation of its in-house artificial intelligence chip. The new "Maia 200" chip comes online this week in a data centre in Iowa, with plans for a second location in Arizona.

### **PhonePe to grow financial services distribution business**

Phonepe is planning to grow its financial services distribution business. It has broadened its offering to include Lending and Insurance Distribution services to capture the large opportunity in India's financial services sector.

### **India and EU finalise FTA**

India and the European Union (EU) have announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

India has gained preferential access to the European markets across 97% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value.

Overall, India is offering 92.1% of its tariff lines which covers 97.5% of the EU exports.

### **Iran's currency falls to record low**

Iran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests killed at least 6,126 people while many others still are feared dead. Iran's currency, the rial, meanwhile fell to a record low of 1.5 million to \$1.

### **RBI to infuse ₹1.25 trillion**

The RBI has announced a set of liquidity measures to the tune of ₹1.25 trillion through open market operations (OMOs), dollar-rupee buy-sell swaps, and long-term variable rate repo (VRR) operations, in a bid to infuse liquidity into the banking system.

### **RBI proposes disaster relief framework for banks**

The RBI in its draft guidelines has proposed a set of guidelines for banks and other regulated entities for the implementation of resolution plans during natural calamities. The banks will have to factor the possible impact of natural calamities on borrowers and incorporate provisions for resolutions including relief measures in their credit policies.

### **RBI & ESMA sign MoU on cooperation & exchange of information related to Central Counterparties**

The Reserve Bank of India and the European Securities and Markets Authority – ESMA have signed a MoU concerning cooperation and exchange of information related to Central Counterparties regulated and supervised by RBI.

### **IndusInd Bank appoints ex-SBI MD Arijit Basu as part-time Chairman**

IndusInd Bank has appointed Arijit Basu as Non-Executive Independent Director and Part-time Chairman for a three-year term starting January 31, 2026.

### **Banks raise Rs 89.5k crore via CDs in December fortnight**

With deposit growth in the banking system lagging credit growth by about 180 basis points (bps), banks are increasingly tapping the certificate of deposit (CD) market, cumulatively raising Rs 88,512 crore in the two weeks to December 31, 2025, the second-highest quantum ever mobilised in a single fortnight.

### **India-EU trade deal: New Delhi opens way for EU banks allowing 15 branches**

Under the recently signed India-EU trade deal, India has agreed to allow EU banks to open 15 branches over a span of four years, a significant expansion from the previously offered limits of 12 branches.

### **Micro lenders get Rs 8,000 crore credit guarantee boost amid funding stress**

The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved an ₹8,000 crore credit guarantee scheme to support microfinance institutions, providing government backing to a sector that has been facing increased delinquencies and difficulty in raising funds.

### **Federal Reserve keeps interest rates unchanged**

The Federal Reserve pushed the pause button on its interest rate cuts on January 28, 2026, leaving its key rate unchanged at about 3.6% after lowering it three times last year.

### **IIP growth quickens to 26-month high of 7.8% in December 2025**

Growth in industrial activity accelerated to a 26-month high of 7.8% in December 2025, driven by strong performances across sectors including manufacturing, electricity, and the consumer goods sectors.

### **ONGC, Reliance Industries ink MoU**

ONGC and privately-owned refiner Reliance Industries have entered into an agreement for the sharing of resources emanating from their deepwater exploration and production operations in India's East coast.

### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman tables Economic Survey 2025-26**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2025-26 in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on January 29, 2026.

### **Economic Survey 2025-26 highlights**

- India's GDP growth for FY26 is estimated at 7.4 per cent.
- It projected India's GDP growth in the range of 6.8 to 7.2% in 2026-27.
- The Survey states that the global environment remains fragile.
- Headline inflation reached its lowest levels in the CPI series, averaging 1.7% between April and December 2025.
- Asset quality has improved significantly, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) at a multi-decade low of 2.2% as of September 2025.
- Agriculture: While crop GVA growth averaged 4.0% (FY20–FY24), Livestock (6.1%) and Fisheries (7.2%) are driving diversification.
- Industry: Real manufacturing GVA growth saw sustained momentum, reaching 9.13% in Q2 FY26.
- Services' share in GDP rose to 53.6 per cent in H1 FY26; Services' share in GVA stood at the highest ever - 56.4 per cent.

### **UAE central bank approves first USD-backed stablecoin**

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates has approved the country's first USD-backed stablecoin, marking a key step in the regulation of digital assets and payment tokens in the UAE.

### **Nvidia, Microsoft, Amazon in talks to invest up to \$60 billion in OpenAI**

Nvidia, Amazon, and Microsoft are in talks to invest up to \$60 billion in OpenAI. Nvidia, an existing investor whose chips power OpenAI's AI models, is in talks to invest up to \$30 billion.

### **Tesla invests \$2 billion in Musk's xAI**

Tesla will invest \$2 billion in CEO Elon Musk's artificial-intelligence company xAI and the production plans for its Cybercab robotaxi were on track for this year.

### **Bank of Baroda signs MoU with TN-SRLM**

Bank of Baroda, Chennai Zone has signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TN-SRLM) to extend financial services to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoted by TN-SRLM across the State of Tamil Nadu.

### **World Bank to offer \$8-10b annually for 5 years to fuel India's growth, jobs**

The World Bank Group (WBG) and the Government of India announced a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) to help accelerate India's next phase of growth and support its vision of Viksit Bharat—its ambition to become a developed country by 2047.

### **Trump nominates former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh as his preferred successor**

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh as his preferred successor to current Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

### **Wikipedia inks AI deals with Microsoft, Meta and Perplexity**

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia written by volunteers, is embracing artificial intelligence to mark its 25th anniversary on January 15, 2026. It has signed up AI companies including Amazon, Meta Platforms, Perplexity, Microsoft and France's Mistral AI.

### **slice Introduces Three UPI-first Banking Solutions**

Designed as a UPI-first bank, slice has introduced India's first savings account linked to 100% of the RBI repo rate, ensuring customers earn returns aligned with the true cost of money in the economy.

### **India, UAE seal LNG deal**

India and the UAE have agreed to deepen their strategic partnership, setting an ambitious target of doubling bilateral trade to \$200 billion within six years, as well as securing an LNG deal and moving towards the signing of a formal Strategic Defence Partnership agreement in the near future.

### **Gold loans grow fastest among all major bank credit segments: RBI**

Gold loans in India have experienced the fastest growth, surging 128% year-on-year to Rs 3.83 lakh crore. Priority housing loans also saw significant expansion, rising 37% annually. Overall bank credit expanded 14.5% year-on-year to Rs 203.23 lakh crore.

### **Centre sets February 5 deadline for financial bids for IDBI**

Central government has set a February 5 deadline for financial bids for IDBI Bank as it looks to divest a majority of its holding in the lender. The central bank had approved Fairfax Financial Holdings, Emirates NBD and Kotak Mahindra Bank as eligible bidders in 2024.

### **Ravi Kota chosen as next HAL CMD**

Ravi Kota, widely credited with steering the Tejas fighter jet into operational service, has been chosen as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

## **AWARDS**

### **83rd Golden Globe**

The 83rd Annual Golden Globe Awards have been handed out in Los Angeles, honouring the best in film and television of the past 12 months.

### **Winners list(Film)**

Best film – drama: Hamnet  
Best film - musical or comedy: One Battle After Another  
Best actress – drama: Jessie Buckley – Hamnet  
Best actor – drama: Wagner Moura - The Secret Agent  
Best actress - musical or comedy: Rose Byrne - If I Had Legs I'd Kick You  
Best actor - musical or comedy: Timothée Chalamet - Marty Supreme  
Best director: Paul Thomas Anderson - One Battle After Another  
Best screenplay: Paul Thomas Anderson: One Battle After Another  
Best non-English language film: The Secret Agent  
Best animated film: KPop Demon Hunters

### **TV categories**

Best series – drama: The Pitt  
Best series - comedy or musical: The Studio  
Best limited series: Adolescence  
Best actress – drama: Rhea Seehorn – Pluribus  
Best actor – drama: Noah Wyle - The Pitt

### **Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi wins the world's largest AI Film Award**

Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi has won the world's largest AI Film Award 2026 for his film Lily, receiving a one-million-dollar prize from Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum during the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai.

### **American scientist Toby Kiers wins Tyler Prize**

Professor of Evolutionary Biology Toby Kiers wins the 2026 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for her research on the importance of mycorrhizal fungi in underground carbon fluxes, biodiversity and climate resilience.

### **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar wins UN Secretary General's Award 2025**

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, an Indian Army officer currently serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has been awarded the prestigious UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping.

### **Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 Announced**

Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke has been selected for the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 in the individual category for her outstanding contribution to disaster management. The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has been chosen for the institutional category.

**Ilaiyaraaja honored with the prestigious Padmapani Award**  
Legendary composer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ilaiyaraaja was honored with the prestigious Padmapani Award at the 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AEIFF) in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

#### **Padma Awards 2026**

The Union Government has announced 131 Padma awards for the year 2026 which comprises of 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri. Among the awardees, 19 are women and 16 honours are being conferred posthumously.

#### **Padma Vibhushan (5)**

1. Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous) – Art – Maharashtra
2. K T Thomas – Public Affairs – Kerala
3. N Rajam – Art – Uttar Pradesh
4. P Narayanan – Literature and Education – Kerala
5. V S Achuthanandhan (Posthumous) – Public Affairs Kerala

#### **Padma Bhushan (13)**

6. Alka Yagnik – Art – Maharashtra
7. Bhagat Singh Koshyari – Public Affairs – Uttarakhand
8. Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy – Medicine – Tamil Nadu
9. Mammooty – Art – Kerala
10. Nori Dattatreyaudu – Medicine – United States of America
11. Piyush Pandey (Posthumous) – Art – Maharashtra
12. S K M Maeilanandhan – Social Work – Tamil Nadu
13. Shatavadhani R Ganesh – Art – Karnataka
14. Shibu Soren (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Jharkhand
15. Uday Kotak – Trade and Industry – Maharashtra
16. V K Malhotra (Posthumous) – Public Affairs – Delhi
17. Vellappally Natesan – Public Affairs – Kerala
18. Vijay Amritraj – Sports – United States of America

#### **President Murmu honors 30 individuals with Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards**

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 persons. This includes the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, the Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, and the Jeevan Raksha Padak to 18 persons. Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards is given to individuals for meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person.

#### **982 personnel awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on Republic Day**

On the occasion of the Republic Day 2026, 982 personnel of Police, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence and Correctional Services have been awarded Gallantry and Service Medals. Out of them, 125 personnel have been awarded the Medal for Gallantry.

#### **President Murmu approves gallantry awards for 70 Armed Forces personnel**

President Droupadi Murmu has approved gallantry awards for 70 Armed Forces personnel, including six posthumous awards, on the eve of the 77th Republic Day. Major Arshdeep Singh, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba Singh, and Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair have been conferred Kirti Chakras.

Along with this, 13 Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumous, one Gallantry Bar to the Sena Medal, 44 Gallantry Sena Medals, including five posthumous, six Gallantry Nao Sena Medals, and two Gallantry Vayu Sena Medals have also been conferred to armed forces personnel.

#### **C-DOT wins SKOCH Award 2025**

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has been conferred the SKOCH Award-2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution. The award was conferred at the 104th SKOCH Summit on the theme of Resourcing Viksit Bharat.

#### **IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Awarded Ashoka Chakra**

Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was conferred the Ashoka Chakra by President Droupadi Murmu during the 77th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path

#### **Republic Day Parade 2026: Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux announced**

Indian Navy has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent, while the Delhi Police won the award in the category of Central Armed Police Forces and other Auxiliary Forces.

In the States and Union Territories category, Maharashtra secured first place for its tableau Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta.

Among Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Culture won for its tableau Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation.

#### **BSE Wins Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at Hong Kong Leadership Awards**

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has been conferred the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at the prestigious Hong Kong Leadership Awards & CMO Asia Awards.

#### **The Popular Choice Awards**

The Assam Regiment was voted the Best Marching Contingent among the Services, while the CRPF topped the Central Armed Police Forces and Auxiliary Forces category.

In the tableaux category, Gujarat secured first place with Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance: Vande Mataram, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

#### **98th Academy Awards: Sinners sets new record with 16 nominations**

The nominations for the 98th Academy Awards, or the Oscars, have been announced. Ryan Coogler's vampire epic Sinners is leading the field after setting a new Oscars record with 16 nominations, breaking the record for the most Oscar nominations, which was previously held by All About Eve (1950), Titanic (1997) and La La Land (2016).

### **PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)**

#### **Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez**

In Venezuela, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court ordered that Vice-President Delcy Eloína Rodríguez assume the role of Acting President in the absence of Mr Maduro.

#### **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has marked the 20th anniversary of his assumption of the office of Prime Minister on January 5 in 2006.

#### **Jens-Frederik Nielsen**

Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen has rejected fears of an imminent US takeover despite Trump's repeated interest. Nielsen's remarks came after US President Donald Trump expressed interest in Greenland, calling it strategically vital to US defence.

#### **Friedrich Merz**

The Federal Chancellor of Germany, Mr Friedrich Merz, arrived in Ahmedabad on January 12 for a landmark two-day official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **Dina Powell McCormick**

Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has appointed Dina Powell McCormick its President and Vice chair. Powell McCormick is a former Trump administration adviser and a longtime finance executive.

#### **Ajay Banga**

Indian-American President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga, and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio are among the leaders named to the 'Board of Peace' for Gaza redevelopment under President Donald Trump's comprehensive plan to end the conflict.

### **Yoon Suk Yeol**

A South Korean court has sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to five years in prison on charges that included obstructing attempts by authorities to arrest him following his failed bid to impose martial law in December 2024.

### **Praveen Vashista**

President Droupadi Murmu made the appointment of Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission. He was an Indian Police Service officer of the 1991 batch of the Bihar cadre.

### **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed**

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be on an official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will be Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's third official visit to India since assuming office as president and his fifth visit to the country over the past decade.

### **Shaya Mohsen Zindani**

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Salem bin Breik and appointed foreign minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani as the country's new Prime Minister.

### **Sunita Williams**

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired from the space agency after 27 years of remarkable service. Williams flew on three missions to the International Space Station (ISS), spending 608 days in space, the second-most for a NASA astronaut, and completed nine spacewalks totalling over 62 hours, the most by a woman.

### **Nitin Nabin**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Working President Nitin Nabin has formally took charge as the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) new national president.

### **Yoweri Museveni**

President Yoweri Museveni said that his landslide victory in Uganda's election showed the dominance of his party, which has governed the East African country for four decades. Museveni, 81, has stayed in power over the years by rewriting the rules.

### **Mark Tully**

Veteran Journalist and renowned Broadcaster Mark Tully passed away in New Delhi at the age of 90. He joined the BBC in the 1960s and went on to serve as its India correspondent and then bureau chief in New Delhi for more than two decades.

### **Inderjit Singh Bindra**

Former BCCI president Inderjit Singh Bindra passed away. A pioneer in modern cricket marketing in India, he served as BCCI president from 1993 to 1996 and led the Punjab Cricket Association for over three decades.

### **Claudette Colvin**

U.S. civil rights pioneer Claudette Colvin, arrested at age 15 for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white woman in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks' similar but more famous act of defiance, died at age 86.

### **Kabindra Purkayastha**

Former Union Minister of State and senior BJP leader Kabindra Purkayastha passed away. A founding member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Elected to the Lok Sabha from Silchar in 1991 and 1998, he served as Minister of State for Telecommunications in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

### **Davinder Singh Garcha**

Former Indian hockey player, Olympian and 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medallist Davinder Singh Garcha passed away. A former IPS officer, Garcha was a key member of the gold-winning Indian hockey team and scored eight goals in six Olympic matches.

### **Ajit Pawar**

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has died in a plane crash at Maharashtra's Baramati. Spanning a career of almost four decades, Ajit Pawar was Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra six times.

### **Suresh Kalmadi**

Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away at the age of 82 in Pune after a prolonged illness. He also served as the President of the Indian Olympic Association. During the tenure of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, he held the position of Minister of State for Railways.

### **Valentino Garavani**

Valentino Garavani, the legendary Italian fashion designer and founder of the Valentino brand, passed away. From the 1960s to the 1990s, Valentino Garavani and Giancarlo Giammetti ruled the fashion world.

### **Manoj Kothari**

Manoj Kothari died at the age of 67, Kothari had won the world billiards championship title back in 1990. He also secured the State Champion title a total of 16 times during his career. In 2005, he was conferred with the Dhyan Chand Award, India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and games.

### **Michael Nobbs**

Former Australian hockey player Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team at the 2012 London Olympics, has died after a prolonged illness. The 72 year old earned 76 international caps for Australia between 1979 and 1985.

## **SPORTS**

### **Bindra-led Task Force highlights deficits in Indian sports administration**

An Abhinav Bindra-led Task Force set up by the Sports Ministry has pointed out systemic deficits in India's sports administration, including inadequate and ill-equipped athletes for governance roles.

### **Usman Khawaja Retires from Test at SCG**

Veteran Australian batter Usman Khawaja has announced his retirement from international cricket following the fifth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

### **Sjoerd Marijne Returns as Head Coach of Indian Women's Hockey**

Hockey India has appointed Sjoerd Marijne as the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team, marking his return to the role.

### **Ladakh Sports Policy 2025 Launched**

Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta has launched the Ladakh Sports Policy 2025 in Leh, marking the Union Territory's first dedicated sports policy since its formation in 2019.

### **KKR Part Ways with Mustafizur Rahman on BCCI's Direction**

Kolkata Knight Riders have released Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

### **Sanjay Takale Scripts History with H3 Class Win**

India's ace driver Sanjay Takale created history by winning the H3 class in the Prologue Stage of the Dakar Rally 2026. Takale finished 35th overall in the Cars category.

### **Neeraj Chopra to launch own athlete management firm.**

India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra has ended his decade-long partnership with JSW Sports to launch his own athlete management firm, Vel Sports.

### **The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games held at the Ghoghla Beach in Diu.**

The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games was held at the Ghoghla Beach in Diu. Over 2,100 athletes participated in eight different sports of the Beach Games, which is being organised by the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

### **Football: Indian Super League to start on February 14 with all 14 clubs**

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviyahas announced that the Indian Super League will kick off on 14 February, bringing an end to a six-month crisis that brought Indian football to a standstill.

### **Tennis: Australian Open winners to get \$2.79mn as prize money**

Players at this month's Australian Open will be competing for a record prize pool with organisers announcing a 16 per cent increase in the total purse to Aus\$111.5 million (US\$75 million).

### **British Junior Open Squash: Anahat Singh Wins Silver in U-19 Category**

India's squash player Anahat Singh secured the silver medal in the women's under-19 event at the British Junior Open Squash Championships in England. She finished runner-up after losing to France's Lauren Baltayan in the final at the University of Birmingham.

### **Australia records a 4-1 series win in the Ashes series.**

Australia won the Ashes series by winning the fifth test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The Australians retained the Ashes with wins in the first three tests, but England narrowed the margin after its drought-breaking win in Melbourne.

### **Virat Kohli becomes the fastest player to reach 28,000 runs across formats in international cricket**

Virat Kohli became the fastest player to reach 28,000 runs across formats in international cricket and the second most prolific scorer behind Sachin Tendulkar during the match. Playing in his 624th innings, Kohli got to the milestone, which Tendulkar had reached during his 644th innings.

### **Karnataka dominates Khelo India Beach Games 2026**

The Khelo India Beach Games 2026, held in the Union Territory of Diu, concluded with Karnataka emerging as the winners after clinching 11 medals - three gold, two silver and six bronze.

### **Centre notifies National Sports Governance Rules 2026**

The Central Government has notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026, under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Rules provide the framework for the inclusion of Sports persons of Outstanding Merit, composition of the General Body and Executive Committee, election procedures, and disqualification criteria for members of National Sports Bodies and Regional Sports Federations.

### **FIFA World Cup 2026 Trophy Unveiled in India**

Union Minister for Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, along with former Brazilian footballer Gilberto D'silva, unveiled the FIFA World Cup 2026 trophy as it began its three-day tour of India. As part of the tour, the FIFA World Cup 2026 trophy will remain in Delhi for two days.

### **Australia captain Alyssa Healy announces retirement from international cricket**

Australia Women's cricket team captain Alyssa Healy has announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket. One of the most successful players in women's cricket, Alyssa Healy, is an eight-time World Cup winner and has been a mainstay of Australian dominance across formats.

### **India Open Badminton tournament held in New Delhi**

The India Open Badminton tournament was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has lead India's challenge in the competition.

### **Mitchell Starc Named ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025**

The International Cricket Council has named Australia's Mitchell Starc as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2025. South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month.

### **2026 India Open: An Se-young wins women's singles final**

An Se-young has defeated Wang Zhiyi to claim the women's singles title at the 2026 India Open in New Delhi. Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei has defeated Jonatan Christie in straight games to clinch the men's singles title in the India Open 2026. China won both the women's and men's doubles titles.

### **New Zealand defeat India by 41 runs in third and final ODI**

New Zealand defeated India by 41 runs in the third ODI in Indore. Chasing the target of 338 runs set by New Zealand, hosts India could score only 296 runs in 46 overs. The current ODI series is tied 2-1 in favour of New Zealand, with India winning the first match only.

### **Vidarbha claims Vijay Hazare Trophy**

Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiyah has secured his sixth Dakar Rally car title in Saudi Arabia with Luciano Benavides scraping home by two seconds to claim the bike title.

### **AI-Attiyah claims sixth Dakar car crown**

Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiyah has secured his sixth Dakar Rally car title in Saudi Arabia with Luciano Benavides scraping home by two seconds to claim the bike title.

### **FIFA Rankings: AFCON 2025 champion Senegal**

Senegal stunned Morocco 1-0 in the 2025 AFCON final in Rabat. The Teranga Lions claimed a second Africa Cup of Nations title.

### **1st leg of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 held in Leh, Ladakh**

The Sixth Edition of the Khelo India Winter Games was held in Leh City of the Ladakh Union Territory. 21 States and Union Territories have competed in Ice Sporting Events -Hockey and skating – with 1000 participants, which includes 472 athletes.

### **Shuttler Saina Nehwal confirms retirement**

Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has confirmed her retirement from competitive badminton. The 2012 London Olympic bronze medallist last played a competitive match at the Singapore Open in 2023. She won a World Championships bronze in 2017 and the Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.

### **ICC Rejects Bangladesh's Request to Shift T20 World Cup Matches**

The International Cricket Council has rejected the Bangladesh Cricket Board's request to move its T20 World Cup matches from India to Sri Lanka, stating there is no credible security threat.

### **Leander Paes turns to golf, eyes nurturing Olympic champions**

India's tennis legend Leander Paes has partnered with Indian Golf Union (IGU), Professional Golfers' Association of India (PGA) and The Gold Foundation (TGF) to build a pipeline of emerging golf talent in the country.

### **FIFA to award \$2.3 million to winners of inaugural Women's Champions Cup**

FIFA will pay \$2.3 million in prize money to the club that wins the first Women's Champions Cup at Arsenal's stadium next week.

### **Yuki Bhambri-Göransson Enter Scotland Replaces Bangladesh in T20 World Cup Group C**

The ICC has announced that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in Group C of the T20 World Cup, to be hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7. The decision followed Bangladesh's request to shift matches away from India, which the ICC said violated its policy.

### **India wins T20 Series with Dominant Win Over New Zealand**

India has secured a commanding eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third T20 at the ACA Stadium, Guwahati, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

### **India's Srishti Kiran clinches fourth consecutive ITF junior singles title**

India's 13-year-old tennis star Srishti Kiran has continued her impressive run on the ITF junior circuit, clinching her 4th consecutive ITF junior singles title.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Kiribati became the first country in the world to welcome 2026**

The Pacific island nation of Kiribati became the first country in the world to welcome 2026 as the clock struck midnight in its Line Islands, marking the official start of New Year's celebrations worldwide.

### **Dubai hosts India as its partner country for world's largest Gulfood 2026 event**

Dubai is making global exhibition history as Gulfood, the world's largest annual food and beverage event, hosts India as its partner country for the first time and becomes the first exhibition to operate simultaneously across two mega venues.

### **UAE & World Economic Forum agree to host annual meetings of GFCs in Dubai**

The UAE and the World Economic Forum have agreed to host the annual meetings of the Global Future Councils in Dubai for the next five years, marking a new phase in their strategic knowledge partnership.

### **Denmark closes 400-year postal tradition**

Denmark has ended letter delivery this week, closing a 400-year postal tradition as digital communication makes physical mail uneconomical.

### **SpaceX Launches Third Cosmo-SkyMed Second Generation Satellite for Italy**

Elon Musk owned SpaceX has launched the third satellite in Italy's Cosmo-SkyMed second generation constellation. It launched the satellite on a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

### **2026 Henley Passport Index: Singapore tops**

Singaporeans continue to hold the world's most powerful passport, with access to more than 190 destinations without having to obtain a visa before travel. In the 2026 Henley Passport Index, India's passport also saw improvement, climbing five spots to 80th position, tied with Algeria.

### **India ranks 16 among 154 countries on Responsible Nations Index**

India has been ranked 16th among 154 countries in the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), a new framework that measures how responsibly nations use their power in relation to their citizens, the environment and the world. Singapore topped the ranking among 154 countries.

### **India Emerges as Global Leader in Drug Safety Monitoring**

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda has said that India has risen to the 8th position globally in contributions to the World Health Organization Pharmacovigilance Programme, a significant jump from 123rd place a decade ago.

### **SpaceX brings back NASA, JAXA and Roscosmos crew**

Elon Musk-led SpaceX had successfully brought back four NASA astronauts to Earth in the first-ever medical evacuation from the International Space Station (ISS).

### **Global unemployment remains unchanged, ILO**

The International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Employment and Social Trends 2026 report, released in Geneva has warned that the global unemployment rate is projected to remain at the historically low level of 4.9% – equivalent to 186 million people – in this year.

### **WEF Survey: South Asia Leads Global Growth Outlook, India Key Driver**

South Asia remains the fastest-growing emerging region, with India anchoring the outlook, according to the World Economic Forum's Chief Economists' Outlook released ahead of the Davos meeting.

### **India Builds Third Bailey Bridge in Sri Lanka Under Operation Sagar Bandhu**

Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, Indian Army Engineers have successfully constructed the third Bailey bridge in Sri Lanka on the B-429 highway.

### **Australia's Finke River Confirmed as World's Oldest River System**

Recent geological studies have reaffirmed that Australia's Finke River is likely the world's oldest continuously surviving river system, originating around 300 to 400 million years ago. Known as Larapinta to the Indigenous Arrernte people, the river predates the age of dinosaurs.

### **Intersec 2026 Concludes in Dubai**

The 27th edition of Intersec, the world's leading trade fair for security and safety, concluded at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The event featured over 1,200 exhibitors from more than 60 countries and attracted over 50,000 visitors.

### **One Billion Followers Summit held in Dubai**

The fourth edition of the One Billion Followers Summit, the world's largest gathering for the content creator economy, was held in Dubai under the theme Content for Good.

### **Japan Restarts Reactor at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant After 15 Years**

Japan has restarted a reactor at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant, the world's largest, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima disaster led to a nationwide nuclear shutdown.

### **World Braille Day: 4th January**

World Braille Day is being observed globally on 4th January to honour the legacy of Louis Braille, the creator of the Braille system that enables persons with visual impairment to read and write using raised dots.

### **World Day for War Orphans observed on 6th January, 2025**

World Day for War Orphans, observed annually on January 6, was established to raise awareness about the struggles faced by children orphaned due to wars and conflicts.

### **World Hindi Day: 10th January**

World Hindi Day is being observed on 10th January to promote the use of Hindi across the world. Celebrated annually on January 10, the day marks the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 2006.

### **Army Day is celebrated on 15 January**

The Indian Army celebrated its 78th Army Day at Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 15th January 2026, in recognition of Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on 15 January 1949.

### **National Youth Day Commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.**

Commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on National Youth Day, on January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the concluding session of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi.

### **Centre organises Parakram Diwas on Jan.23**

The Ministry of Culture celebrated Parakram Diwas-2026 from January 23 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, marking the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

### **National Girl Child Day on Jan.24**

The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24. The day aims to combat gender bias and promote equal opportunities.

### **National Voters' Day: 25th January**

The 16th National Voters' Day is being observed across the country on 25th January 2026 with the theme "My India, My Vote," highlighting citizens' central role in democracy.

### **International Customs Day: 26th January**

International Customs Day is being observed globally on January 26 to recognise the crucial role of customs administrations in facilitating international trade, ensuring border security, and supporting economic growth.