

International

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. The Middle Eastern Air Defence-Combined Defence Operations Cell has been established within the Combined Air Operations Centre at Al Udeid, which already hosts representatives from 17 nations coordinating military air activity across the region. The new cell brings together U.S. and regional personnel to improve integration, information sharing and coordinated planning for air and missile defence.

American Scientist Toby Kiers Wins Tyler Prize

Professor of Evolutionary Biology Toby Kiers has won the 2026 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for her research on the importance of mycorrhizal fungi in underground carbon fluxes, biodiversity and climate resilience. Dr. Kiers will receive the 2026 Tyler Prize at a ceremony in Amsterdam on 23 April, 2026.

Established in 1973 by the late John and Alice Tyler, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement was the first prize of its kind to recognize achievement in environmental science.

U.S. Civil Rights Pioneer Claudette Colvin Dies

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, has died at age 86. Although she remained a largely unsung figure in the civil rights movement for decades, Colvin's 1955 act of rebellion inspired Parks and others, and helped form the basis for the federal lawsuit that outlawed racial segregation in U.S. public transportation.

National

India Hosts 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth

India is hosting the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi. The three-day Conference, which will continue till the 16th of January, brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 60 Commonwealth countries and semi-autonomous Parliaments. The aim of this Conference is to promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms and to develop parliamentary institutions. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is the Chairperson of this Conference.

After the conclusion of the 28th CSPOC, the Lok Sabha Speaker will hand over the Chair of CSPOC to Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the UK House of Commons.

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Third-Generation MPATGM

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (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. The fire-and-forget missile, developed indigenously by DRDO, is equipped with state-of-the-art indigenous technologies, including an Imaging Infrared homing seeker, tandem warhead, all-electric control actuation system, fire control system, propulsion system and a high-performance sighting system.

The missile is capable of day and night combat operations and can effectively defeat modern main battle tanks. It can be launched from a tripod as well as a military vehicle launcher.

(14th January 2026)

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. A meeting with leading platforms, including Blinkit, Zepto, Zomato and Swiggy, was held to address concerns related to delivery timelines. The move is aimed at ensuring greater safety, security and improved working conditions for gig workers.

SC Says Dog Feeders Will be Held Accountable for Dog-Bite Incidents

The Supreme Court has said it will ask states to pay heavy compensation for dog-bite incidents and hold dog feeders accountable. The Court flagged its concern over the lack of implementation of norms on stray animals for the past five years. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that dog feeders will also be held responsible and accountable for dog-bite incidents.

Business and Economy

RBI Issues Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026, providing a comprehensive framework for guarantees involving persons residing outside India. In a circular issued, the RBI has directed all authorised Dealer Category-I banks to follow the new regulations while facilitating such guarantees and to ensure compliance with regulatory guidelines issued by the Department of Regulation.

The regulations mandate comprehensive reporting of all guarantees issued, modified or invoked by authorised dealer banks in the prescribed format.

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%.

The low levels of retail inflation are a result of a broad-based decline in price levels across sectors. The RBI targets an inflation rate of 4%, with a comfort band of 2% above and below that.

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 per cent to 82 per cent as of December 15, 2025, which signifies a better financial development and lead to strong economic growth.

Indian banks have exhibited strong post-pandemic balance sheet revival, with bank asset growth rebounding sharply to 94 per cent of the GDP as compared to 77 per cent in FY21, reflecting renewed credit intermediation and financial deepening.

Deposits and advances expanded manifold over two decades, adding that deposits surged from Rs 18.4 lakh crore to Rs 241.5 lakh crore and advances from Rs 11.5 lakh crore to Rs 191.2 lakh crore during FY05-FY25, signalling scale expansion of the banking system.

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 premiums for December to ₹42,150.77 crore compared to the ₹30,218.71 crore a year earlier.

For the nine months of the fiscal year ending December, the new business premium rose 13% to ₹3,10,945.53 crore (₹2,75,086.92 crore).

Dina Powell McCormick Appointed Meta President

Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has appointed Dina Powell McCormick as its President and Vice Chair. Powell McCormick is a former Trump administration adviser and a longtime finance executive. She previously served on Meta's board of directors, where the company said she was deeply engaged in advancing its artificial intelligence strategy across platforms.

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. The MoU was exchanged during German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's ongoing visit to India.

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.

Alphabet reached the threshold just four months after Google dodged the U.S. government's attempt to break up its internet empire following a ruling last year that branded its ubiquitous search engine an illegal monopoly.

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. This innovation, which enhances financial access in remote areas, has earned the bank the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award.

The pioneering ATM van initiative was formally inaugurated by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 21, 2023, during her visit to Tripura.

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 the 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.

Head of eight major central banks and two representatives of the Bank of International Settlements expressed solidarity.

Bank of Maharashtra Q3 Profit up 27%

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) posted a 26.5 per cent rise in net profit to ₹1,779 crore for the third quarter ended December 2025, with rising interest income. Total income increased to ₹8,277 crore during the quarter under review from ₹7,112 crore in the same period previous year. The bank earned an interest income of ₹7,344 crore during the quarter compared to ₹6,325 crore a year ago.

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 Finance Ministry stated that the move is aligned with the provisions of the PFRDA Act. The ministry said the initiative aims to enhance the security of retirement income for subscribers.

The 15-member committee will be chaired by former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India 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 Payments Interface (UPI) is currently accepted in eight countries -- Bhutan, Singapore, Qatar, Mauritius, Nepal, the UAE, Sri Lanka and France. The acceptability of India's digital payment network overseas enables Indian tourists to make UPI payments for transactions abroad.

Standard Chartered Bank Relaunches Priority Banking in a Fresh Wealth Push

Standard Chartered Bank (StanC) has relaunched its priority banking offering in a fresh attempt to deepen its wealth offerings. The bank will offer priority banking services to clients who have assets of between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2.5 crore, together with curated travel and wellness privileges and an invite-only credit card.

Sports

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 ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026. Healy confirmed that the upcoming home series against India in February–March will be her final assignment in Australian colours.

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 Begins at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi

The India Open Badminton tournament has started at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will lead India's challenge in the competition. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty will face each other in the opening round, meaning only one will progress.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will lead the Indian challenge, which has a strong home presence.