

International

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.

The freeze will continue until safeguards are in place to prevent economic burden. President Donald Trump said no country can sustain large-scale immigration costs and added that federal payments to sanctuary cities will stop from next month.

Intersec 2026 concludes in Dubai, showcasing global security innovations.

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.

Showcasing advancements in cybersecurity, fire and rescue, and policing, Intersec 2026 highlighted cutting-edge technologies and reinforced Dubai's role as a global hub for safety and security innovation.

India–Malaysia co-chair ASEAN Defence Meeting on Counter-Terrorism.

The 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Expert Working Group on Counter-Terrorism has begun in New Delhi, co-chaired by India and Malaysia. Delegations from 11 ASEAN nations and seven dialogue partners are participating in the three-day meeting.

The forum will review ongoing and planned counter-terrorism initiatives under a three-year work plan.

Addressing the session, Defence Ministry Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad stressed that terrorism remains a major global

threat requiring collective regional efforts and cooperation.

National

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.

Designed for Group A, B and C employees, the initiative provides a unified, single-window financial solution ensuring modern banking services and comprehensive insurance coverage for all eligible employees.

Centre launches Paripoorna Mediciam Ayush Bima for CGHS beneficiaries.

The Department of Financial Services has launched the Paripoorna Mediciam Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries.

The policy offers cashless treatment, coverage for modern procedures and access to a wide hospital network. Available exclusively to CGHS beneficiaries, it provides in-patient hospitalisation cover of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh for up to six members per policy.

The optional plan includes co-payment choices and is GST-free to ensure affordability.

NHAI launches pilot for real-time safety alerts on highways.

The National Highways Authority of India has launched a pilot project to provide real-time safety alerts to highway users to reduce accidents caused by sudden cattle movement.

The initiative is being implemented on the Jaipur–Agra and Jaipur–Rewari corridors, especially during fog and low-visibility conditions.

Location-based alerts will warn commuters about high-risk stretches nearly 10 kilometres in advance.

Based on its success, NHAI may expand the project to other cattle-prone national highways.

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.

NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam highlighted the growing role of states and districts in shaping India's export growth. 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.

The EPI offers a data-driven framework to strengthen export competitiveness and global integration.

Business and Economy

RBI grants in-principle approval to SMBC for wholly owned subsidiary in India.

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

The subsidiary will be formed by converting SMBC's existing branches in India.

SMBC becomes the fourth foreign bank to receive approval for a wholly owned subsidiary, subject to compliance with RBI conditions.

Indian Overseas Bank reports 63% jump in Q3 net profit.

Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank recorded a 63 per cent rise in net profit to ₹1,427 crore for the quarter ended December 2025, compared to ₹875 crore a year earlier.

Total operating income increased 15 per cent to ₹8,172 crore.

The bank's asset quality improved, with gross NPAs declining to 1.54 per cent and net NPAs to 0.24 per cent.

Total business grew 18.7 per cent year-on-year, supported by growth in CASA and retail deposits.

Union Bank of India posts 9% rise in Q3 net profit.

State-owned Union Bank of India reported a 9 per cent year-on-year increase in net profit to ₹5,017 crore for the quarter ended December 2025, supported by a sharp fall in provisions.

Net interest income grew marginally to ₹9,328 crore, while non-interest income rose to ₹4,541 crore.

Provisions and contingencies declined nearly 80 per cent due to lower slippages, which eased during the quarter, improving overall asset quality performance.

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, according to Commerce Ministry data.

On a monthly basis, WPI rose by 0.71 per cent.

The rise was driven mainly by higher prices of manufactured products, minerals, machinery, food products and textiles. Manufactured goods recorded 1.82 per cent inflation, while fuel and power remained in deflation at 2.31 per cent.

Sports

New Zealand level series with 7-wicket win over India in second ODI.

New Zealand defeated India by seven wickets in the second ODI at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot, levelling the three-match series 1-1. Chasing a target of 285, they reached the total in 47.3 overs, powered by Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 131, earning him the Player of the Match award. Earlier, India posted 284 for seven in 50 overs. The series decider will be played in Indore.

Srikanth and Prannoy advance at India Open, Sindhu exits early.

Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the round of 16 at the India Open Badminton tournament after a hard-fought three-game win over Tharun Mannepalli.

HS Prannoy also advanced with a straight-games victory against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu.

However, India faced a setback in women's singles as former world champion PV Sindhu was knocked out in the round of 64 by Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen.