

International

Israel & Hamas reach ceasefire

Israel and Hamas have agreed on a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal following meetings with Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. The deal is set to begin on Sunday and will last 42 days. The deal will lead to the release of Israeli captives and surging humanitarian aid to Gaza. Confirming the deal, US President Joe Biden said, American hostages would be freed in the first phase.

The Israeli military launched a campaign to destroy Hamas in response to the group's deadly attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage. More than 46,700 people have been killed in Gaza since then.

India to supply 80 cabs to Sri Lanka for its police stations.

India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of 80 single cabs to police stations in Sri Lanka's Northern Province. The MoU, backed by a grant of 300 million Sri Lankan Rupees from the Government of India.

The initiative aims to enhance citizen safety and improve law enforcement. This project is part of India's broader people-centric development cooperation efforts in Sri Lanka, which span sectors like housing, health, education, and agriculture.

Romania deploys troops to Slovakia & Bulgaria to enhance its military presence.

Romania has bolstered its military presence on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Eastern Flank as of January 2025, deploying units to Slovakia and Bulgaria. The country's Ministry of National Defence announced that this is in addition to its ongoing participation in Poland. More than 150 Romanian troops are supporting NATO battle groups, which were established to enhance deterrence following the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid.

Singapore confers highest honour on former CII director general Tarun Das.

President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam bestowed the Honorary Citizen Award on Tarun Das, the former director general of the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII). Mr Das made significant contributions to the development of Singapore-India relations over several decades. As one of Singapore's strongest advocates in India, Mr Das first led a delegation of Indian industrialists to Singapore in 1993 as part of India's "Look East" policy.

National

ISRO successfully executes SpaDeX docking experiment.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the SpaDeX docking experiment making India the fourth country after the USA, Russia and China in this historic feat. The two satellites SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) which were launched by the PSLV C60 on December 30, 2024, successfully docked as the space agency officials from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) oversaw the complex docking procedure.

1 Submarine, 2 warships commissioned in one go.

In a first, three frontline platforms — Nilgiri, Vaghsheer and Surat were commissioned on the same day in the Indian Navy on January 15, 2025. PM Narendra Modi dedicated the three frontline platforms to the nation. INS Nilgiri is the lead ship of Project 17A frigates, INS Vaghsheer is the sixth and the final boat of Project 75 Kalvari class submarines, and INS Surat is the fourth and final ship of Project 15B destroyers.

INS Nilgiri is dedicated to the naval empire of the Cholas. INS Surat is dedicated to India's ancient connection to West Asia through Gujarat.

Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran sworn in as Supreme Court judge.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has administered the oath of office to Supreme Court's new judge Justice Krishnan Vinod

Chandran. Formerly the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, Justice Chandran fills one of the two existing vacancies in the Supreme Court.

The union government had notified Justice Chandran's appointment on January 13, following the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium, led by CJI Khanna.

TRAI invites suggestions from stakeholders on Draft Telecommunication Tariff Order 2025.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the Draft Telecommunication Tariff Order, 2025, on the rationalization of Broadband Tariffs for Public Data Offices under the PM-WANI Scheme. This initiative is aimed at contributing to the broader objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, and the Bharat 6G Vision, which targets the deployment of 50 million public Wi-Fi hotspots by 2030. The draft amendment has been placed on TRAI's website, and stakeholders can submit their comments by the 31st of this month.

Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme' at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad airports. This will provide world-class immigration facilities to travellers, making international travel seamless and secure. Applicants are required to complete online registration by filling in their details and uploading the required documents on the portal ftt.mha.gov.in to enrol in this programme. FTI-TTP will be implemented at 21 major airports across the country.

SC warns contempt against States, UTs which do not act against misleading medical ads.

The Supreme Court of India cautioned States and Union Territories of contempt action for hesitating to initiate proceedings against offending individuals and companies that give misleading medical advertisements.

Taking note of amicus curiae Shadan Farasat's submissions that several states were non-

compliant in acting against misleading ads, a bench led by Justice Abay S Oka set deadlines for states and UTs to comply with its May order on the issue.

Business and Economy

India's trade deficit stands at 21.94 billion dollars in December 2024.

India's trade deficit stood at 21.94 billion dollars in December 2024, down from November's revised 32.84 billion dollars. Ministry of Commerce and Industry data showed that Merchandise exports in December rose to 38.01 billion dollars from November's 32.11 billion dollars, while imports fell to 59.95 billion dollars from the 64.95 billion dollars in November. However, the trade gap widened from 18.76 billion dollars in December 2023.

Startup India initiative completes 9 years.

The Union government's flagship initiative, Startup India has completed nine years on January 16. The scheme is intended to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

With more than 1.59 lakh startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025, India has firmly established itself as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. This vibrant ecosystem, driven by over 100 unicorns, continues to redefine innovation and entrepreneurship on the global stage. Major hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR have led this transformation, while smaller cities have increasingly contributed to the nation's entrepreneurial momentum.

As of October 31, 2024, a total of 73,151 recognised startups include at least one woman director, showcasing the rise of women entrepreneurs in India.

From 2016 to October 31, 2024, recognised startups have reportedly created over 16.6 lakh direct jobs

OPEC predicts robust oil demand growth in 2026.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has forecast the global oil demand will grow by 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2026. The organization maintained its forecast for global oil demand growth of 1.45 million bpd this year. In a report, OPEC said the prediction for next year is based on continued solid economic activity in Asia and other non-Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. OPEC also predicted the world economy to grow by 3.1 per cent this year and 3.2 per cent next year, supported by relatively steady growth levels in major economies.

Hindenburg Research shuts down amid controversial Adani report.

Hindenburg Research, known for short-selling activities, has been shut down by founder Nate Anderson. The decision comes amid the widespread controversial report on the India-based Adani group. Anderson did not cite a specific reason for the closure but said it's a personal decision and other members of the organisation will pursue different career options.

Sports

Indian women register largest ever win against Ireland in 3rd ODI.

Indian Women's cricket team registered its largest-ever win by 304 runs defeating Ireland in the 3rd ODI of the three-match series in Rajkot, Gujarat. India won the series 3-nil. Earlier, the Women in Blue created history by scoring a massive 435 runs for the loss of Five wickets in their 50 overs, their highest-ever ODI total. This is also the fourth-highest total in the history of Women's cricket.

Chasing the target, Ireland were all out in 31.4 overs scoring 131 runs.

Kho Kho WC: Indian men & women team's book QF spot.

In the Kho Kho World Cup 2025, both the Indian men's and women's teams have advanced to the quarterfinals at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. The Indian men's team secured a commanding 70-38 victory against Peru.

The Indian women's team delivered a stunning 100-16 victory against Iran to secure their quarterfinal berth.