

International

South Korea's ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol given 5-year jail term.

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.

The Seoul Central District Court found Yoon guilty of mobilising the presidential security service to block authorities from executing an arrest warrant that had been legally issued by a court to investigate him for his martial law declaration.

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 comes amid broader signs of re-engagement between the two defence establishments.

Uganda's President Museveni heads for victory.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has taken a commanding lead in Thursday's Presidential election - well ahead of his main challenger Bobi Wine, whose party has already questioned the credibility of the results. Figures so far give Museveni 74% of the vote, with Wine on 23%, based on returns from 81% of polling stations.

Ajay Banga named to 'Board of Peace' for Gaza redevelopment under Trump plan.

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.

The White House released a list of appointed members to the founding Executive Board of the Board of Peace, which it said comprises leaders with experience across diplomacy, development, infrastructure, and economic strategy.

Wikipedia inks AI deals with Microsoft, Meta and Perplexity.

Wikipedia, the online encyclopaedia written by volunteers, is embracing artificial intelligence to mark its 25th anniversary on January 15, 2026.

The online crowdsourced encyclopaedia has signed up AI companies including Amazon, Meta Platforms, Perplexity, Microsoft and France's Mistral AI.

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. The report has found that around 284 million workers still live in extreme poverty with an earning of less than three dollars a day and added that more than two billion workers around the world remain in informal employment.

The report noted that between 2015 and 2025, the share of workers living in extreme poverty declined by only 3.1 percentage points, to 7.9%, compared with a decline of 15 percentage points in the previous decade. This leaves 284 million workers living in extreme poverty – that is, less than \$3.00 a day.

U.S., Taiwan sign \$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.

As part of the agreement, Taiwanese chip and technology companies will invest at least \$250 billion in production capacity in

the U.S., and the Taiwanese government will guarantee \$250 billion in credit for these companies.

National

India and Germany sign Joint Declaration of Intent on telecommunications cooperation.

India and Germany have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Telecommunications Cooperation. The Ministry of Communications informed that both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation through regular exchange of information and best practices, promotion of collaboration in emerging and future technologies, and joint efforts in areas such as policy and regulatory frameworks, manufacturing, and facilitation of ease of doing business in the telecommunications and ICT sectors.

The Declaration was signed during the official visit of the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich Merz, to India from the 12th to the 13th of this month.

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.

Justice Varma was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after burnt wads of currency notes were found at his official residence in New Delhi on March 14.

President Droupadi Murmu appoints Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner.

President Droupadi Murmu made the appointment of Praveen Vashista as

Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission. Mr Vashista has over three decades of experience in law enforcement, investigation and internal security. He was an Indian Police Service officer of the 1991 batch of the Bihar cadre.

India, Israel sign Joint Declaration 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. The declaration was signed during the Second Global Summit on Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026, held in Israel.

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, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on January 16, 2025 at an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Startup India scheme. There are now more than 2 lakh startups across the country and around 125 unicorns.

Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), launched on 16 January 2016 with the vision of building a strong and inclusive startup ecosystem across the country.

Sukhatme National Award 2026 nominations to close on Jan 31.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has called for nominations for the Sukhatme National Award in Statistics 2026. The award recognises contributions of individuals in terms of high-quality research work and improving the system of official statistics. Nominations can be sent on the National Awards portal till January 31.

This award is given in alternate years since the year 2000 to eminent Indian statisticians of age 45 years and above for their Lifetime Contributions and Achievements in the field of Statistics.

Business and Economy

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme that will come into effect from July 1, 2026. The Scheme is expected to strengthen the Reserve Bank Ombudsman framework and bring about further efficiency in resolution of complaints.

The Scheme aims to provide a cost-effective, expeditious, non-adversarial alternate grievance redress mechanism for the resolution of complaints against Regulated Entities (REs).

The RBI will establish the Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) at one or more places to receive the complaints filed under the Scheme and process them.

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.

Since 2014, India has signed trade deals with the U.K., Mauritius, the U.A.E., the four EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein), and Oman,

apart from an early harvest deal with Australia.

Central Bank Q3 net rises 32% to ₹1,263 crore.

Central Bank of India for the third quarter ended 31 December 2025 has reported 32% growth in net profit at ₹1,263 crore as compared with ₹959 crore in the year ago period. Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter declined 1.07% to ₹3,502 crore.

Total business grew by 15.77% to ₹7,74,106 crore from ₹6,68,686 crore. Net Interest Margin stood at 2.96%.

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. The deal is spread over a period of seven years.

LTIMindtree has been awarded the Insight 2.0 project from the CBDT to build an AI-powered programme for the modernisation of India's national tax analytics platform.

Sports

ITBP win LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship.

In Ladakh, the 5th LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship concluded at the Biamathang Ice Hockey Ground, Kargil, with ITBP clinching the title after defeating the Ladakh Scouts team of the Indian Army in a thrilling men's final. The closely fought match was decided in five minutes of extra time, with ITBP scoring the decisive goal.