

International

EU leaders oppose US President Trump's Greenland takeover plans.

European Union leaders have opposed the US President Donald Trump's Greenland takeover plans and tariff threats, with European Parliament President Roberta Metsola saying the EU supports Denmark and Greenland, emphasising that the island's sovereignty cannot be changed by tariffs.

Trump announced a 10 per cent tariff on goods from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, and Finland from the 1st of next month, which could later rise to 25 per cent, unless Greenland is sold to the US.

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. The toll is the highest yet cited by a government source for the nationwide protests that shook Iran's establishment. The Iranian official has blamed Israel and armed groups abroad for the high number of people killed.

Protests erupted in Tehran after the rial, Iran's currency, crashed on December 28. The demonstrations quickly snowballed into a broader anti-government movement calling for the fall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

NASA moves new moon rocket to launch pad for first crewed lunar flight in over 50 years.

NASA has moved its powerful new moon rocket to the launch pad as it prepares for the first crewed lunar fly-around in more than 50 years. The 322-foot Space Launch System (SLS) rocket slowly rolled out of Kennedy Space Centre. This mission will carry four astronauts around the moon and back on a 10-day journey, possibly launching as early as February.

National

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. The project is valued at over Rs 6,950 crore. The Kaziranga project has been designed in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court and the recommendations of the Wildlife Institute of India.

The project will pass through Nagaon, Karbi Anglong and Golaghat districts and will significantly improve connectivity to Upper Assam, particularly Dibrugarh and Tinsukia. The elevated wildlife corridor will ensure the uninterrupted movement of animals and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed to visit India.

United Arab Emirates 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. The trip follows recent high-level exchanges, including visits by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in September 2024 and Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in April 2025.

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.

The fully air-conditioned Vande Bharat Sleeper train is set to offer passengers an airline-like travel experience at economical fares. It will make long-distance journeys faster, safer, and more convenient.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper train comprises 16 modern coaches with a total capacity of 823 passengers.

PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026 begins in New Delhi.

PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026, an exhibition dedicated exclusively to artisans and craftspeople under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, will start from January 18 at Dilli Haat in New Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi. The PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026 aims to celebrate and showcase the country's rich heritage of traditional craftsmanship. It will provide a prominent platform for artisans to exhibit and market their handcrafted products to national and international buyers, stakeholders and the general public.

The Ministry said that more than 117 artisans from all States and Union Territories across the country will participate in the event, making it a pan-India representation of diverse traditional skills and crafts.

Business and Economy

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 the 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. The reappointment will be subject to approvals from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the bank's shareholders and other statutory authorities.

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.

The entire lending process will be routed through the JanSamarth portal, a digital platform for government-sponsored credit-

linked schemes, which allows banks to automatically pull borrower data, including credit scores from multiple sources.

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

The Reserve Bank of India (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. ICICI Bank must set aside an additional Rs 1,283 crore, while HDFC Bank is required to allocate Rs 500 crore. The regulator has also urged both banks to identify and address shortcomings in their loan portfolios. These adjustments are necessary to ensure compliance with Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms.

Sports

An Se-young wins women's singles final to clinch consecutive India Open titles

An Se-young has defeated two-time Asian champion and familiar rival Wang Zhiyi to claim the women's singles title at the 2026 India Open in New Delhi. She triumphed in the first game with a score of 21-13 and then sealed the title with a 21-11 victory in the next game. It was a second India Open title in a row for the South Korean star, who won 11 titles in 2025 — the most by a woman shuttler in a season.

Meanwhile, Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei has defeated third seed 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. Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang took the men's doubles title. The women's doubles title went to China's Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning.

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. Virat Kohli has scored a century.

Earlier, put into bat first, the visitors posted 337 for eight in the stipulated 50 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.

Atharva Taide's hundred with a disciplined bowling effort powered Vidarbha to a 38-run win over Saurashtra and to their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title. Vidarbha made a daunting 317 for eight in 50 overs. Saurashtra failed to

cross the line, ending up at 279 all out in 48.5 overs.

Al-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. Al-Attiyah, at the wheel of a Dacia, only had to avoid a final day slip-up to top the podium after bringing his career tally of stage wins to 50 on Friday.