

International

IMF warns Bangladesh against risky bank support.

The International Monetary Fund has cautioned Bangladesh against providing unsecured liquidity support to weak banks, warning it could threaten financial stability without credible reforms.

The IMF noted slowing GDP growth, which fell to 3.7% in FY25, and persistently high inflation at 8.2%.

It called for urgent banking sector reforms, tight monetary policy, stronger supervision, revenue mobilization, and governance improvements to restore macroeconomic stability.

South Korea, Japan to resume naval rescue exercise after nine years.

South Korea and Japan have agreed to resume their bilateral naval search and rescue exercise for the first time in nine years, aiming to strengthen military exchanges and trust.

The decision was taken during talks between Defence Ministers Ahn Gyu-back and Shinjiro Koizumi in Yokosuka. Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence and space, signalling a future-oriented defence partnership.

Gangaramaya temple hosts 48th Annual Nawam Perahera in Colombo.

The Gangaramaya temple's 48th annual Nawam Perahera is being held in Colombo, drawing thousands of devotees and tourists. The vibrant two-day cultural procession, held since 1979, features decorated elephants, traditional drummers, and dancers parading through the city.

The event marks Nawam Poya, commemorating the appointment of Arahath Sariputta and Arahath Moggallana as the chief disciples of Lord Buddha.

BLA announces second phase of 'Operation Herof' in Balochistan.

The Baloch Liberation Army has announced the launch of the second phase of Operation Herof across Balochistan, describing it as decisive resistance against Pakistani military and administrative structures.

The group claimed coordinated attacks in 10 cities, including Quetta and Gwadar, with reports of gunfire and explosions in the provincial capital.

The development comes amid continued allegations by Baloch rights groups of repression, enforced disappearances, and human rights violations in the region.

Latvia faces harshest cold spell in 12 years.

Latvia has recorded its coldest temperatures in 12 years, with the mercury plunging to minus 32 degrees Celsius, according to the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre.

Most regions experienced temperatures between minus 16 and minus 26 degrees. The severe cold has led to rising heating bills and shortages of wood pellets, though Prime Minister Evika Silina said there is no energy emergency.

Authorities have urged citizens to exercise caution while using heating equipment.

Important Days

International Zebra Day: 31st January.

International Zebra Day is observed every year on January 31 to celebrate zebras and raise awareness about the threats they face in the wild.

Native to Africa's grasslands, zebras are known for their unique stripe patterns, strong social bonds, and remarkable survival skills.

Their stripes aid in predator confusion, temperature regulation, and insect deterrence. With three distinct species and the ability to thrive on tough grasses, zebras remain resilient symbols of wildlife diversity and conservation.

Science and Technology

NASA postpones Artemis II moon mission launch.

NASA has delayed the launch of its Artemis II mission due to unfavourable weather conditions in Florida.

The space agency now aims for February 8 as the earliest launch date, instead of February 6, following concerns over cold temperatures and strong winds from a rare Arctic outbreak.

A wet dress rehearsal is scheduled for February 2, after which the final launch date will be confirmed.

Artemis II is a 10-day crewed mission to orbit the moon and test the Orion spacecraft.

National

Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand added to India's Ramsar Sites list.

Patna Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district and Chhari-Dhand wetland in Gujarat's Kutch district have been added to India's Ramsar network, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced. The sites support hundreds of migratory and resident bird species and diverse wildlife. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the move, congratulating local communities.

India, a Ramsar Convention signatory since 1982, continues to strengthen its commitment to wetland conservation under global frameworks.

39th India International Leather Fair begins in Chennai.

The 39th India International Leather Fair begins in Chennai, showcasing leather products, accessories, machinery, and advanced technologies such as AI, additive manufacturing, and augmented reality.

The three-day event features 362 Indian companies and 66 overseas participants from several countries.

The fair is significant amid the India-Europe Free Trade Agreement, expected to boost leather exports, which stood at about USD 4.83 billion last year, with Tamil Nadu and Kerala leading production and exports.

Centre mandates Central deputation experience for IPS promotions.

The government has made two years of Central deputation mandatory for IPS officers at the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General levels to be eligible for posting as Inspector General of Police with the Union Government.

The Union Home Ministry has informed all state Chief Secretaries that the directive will apply to IPS officers from the 2011 batch onwards, aiming to ensure broader administrative exposure at senior levels.

IICA hosts NPC delegation to strengthen collaboration.

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs hosted a high-level delegation from the National Productivity Council to explore collaboration in training, research, productivity, sustainability, and compliance.

The delegation was welcomed by IICA Director General Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, who highlighted India's development vision and the need for institutions to work together towards achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Government launches new modules on UMEED Portal for Waqf management.

The government has launched the Survey Module and Waqf Property Lease Management Module on the UMEED Portal to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in managing Waqf properties.

The Minority Affairs Ministry said the modules enable digital recording, monitoring, and updating of survey and lease details.

Secretary Dr Chandra Shekhar Kumar urged State and UT Waqf Boards to implement the modules widely.

The UMEED Portal serves as a centralized platform for real-time monitoring of Waqf assets.

Savitri Thakur to lead Indian Delegation at UN Social Development Session.

Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur will lead the Indian delegation at the 64th session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development at UN Headquarters in New York from next month.

The session will focus on social inclusion, equity, and welfare-oriented policies. India's participation underscores its commitment to multilateral cooperation, constructive dialogue, and sharing best practices on global social development priorities.

Business and Economy

GST collections rise 6.2% to ₹1.93 lakh crore in January 2026.

India's gross Goods and Services Tax collections increased by 6.2 per cent to over ₹1.93 lakh crore in January 2026, compared to ₹1.82 lakh crore in January 2025.

Central GST stood at ₹38,792 crore, while State GST collections were ₹47,817 crore. Integrated GST accounted for ₹1,06,775 crore, reflecting steady growth in indirect tax revenues.

Sports

Rybakina clinches maiden Australian Open title.

Elena Rybakina produced a powerful performance to defeat Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the women's singles final at Melbourne Park, winning her first Australian Open title.

The Kazakh fifth seed's aggressive shot-making overwhelmed the two-time champion.

In men's doubles, Christian Harrison and Neal Skupski beat Australia's Jason Kubler and Marc Polmans.

Novak Djokovic will face Carlos Alcaraz in the men's singles final.

Devika Sihag reaches Thailand Masters Final.

India's Devika Sihag has advanced to the women's singles final of the Thailand Masters 2026 after defeating Huang Yu Hsun of Chinese Taipei 22-20, 21-13 in the semifinals in Bangkok.

In other matches, Isharani Baruah exited in the quarterfinals, while India's men's singles challenge ended after Tharun Mannepilli lost to China's Zhu Xuan Chen at the quarterfinal stage.

India seal T20I Series 4-1 with big win over New Zealand.

India clinched the five-match T20I series against New Zealand 4-1 after defeating the Black Caps by 46 runs in the final match at Thiruvananthapuram.

Batting first, India posted 271 for 5, with Ishan Kishan scoring a brilliant 103 and skipper Suryakumar Yadav adding 63. New Zealand were bowled out for 225, despite Finn Allen's 80. Arshdeep Singh took five wickets, while Axar Patel claimed three.