

International

Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi dissolves House of Representatives.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has announced the dissolution of the House of Representatives, paving the way for an early general election. The proposed election will be the first since Ms Takaichi assumed office as Japan's first woman Prime Minister in October last year.

The polling will be expected on the 8th of next month.

Yemen's Prime Minister resigns and is replaced by Shaya Mohsen Zindani.

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Salem bin Breik and appointed Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani as the country's new Prime Minister. Bin Breik formally submitted his resignation, which was approved by the council, before Zindani was named to form the next cabinet.

Valentino Garavani, icon of Italian fashion passes away.

Valentino Garavani, the legendary Italian fashion designer and founder of the Valentino brand, passed away. Better known as Valentino, the fashion icon died at the age of 93. From the 1960s to the 1990s, Valentino Garavani and Giancarlo Giammetti ruled the fashion world. In 1998, the duo sold Valentino for approximately \$300 million to HdP, an Italian conglomerate.

With a career spanning more than five decades, he leaves behind a legacy defined by timeless elegance, meticulous craftsmanship, and an enduring vision of glamour that shaped modern haute couture (high dressmaking).

National

India, UAE seal LNG deal as they eye strategic defence pact and \$200 billion trade target.

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to deepen their strategic partnership, setting an ambitious target of doubling bilateral trade to \$200 billion within

six years, as well as securing an LNG deal and moving towards the signing of a formal Strategic Defence Partnership agreement in the near future.

The decisions were announced after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi, underscoring the expanding scope of ties spanning trade, defence, energy, infrastructure and emerging technologies.

17th edition of India-Maldives-Sri Lanka DOSTI exercise kicks held in Maldives.

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a key trilateral coast guard drill named DOSTI Exercise – the 17th edition of which ended on January 19, 2026. Conducted in the Maldives, this year's joint trilateral coast guard exercise had an emphasis on practical joint training and information sharing, providing an opportunity for participating personnel to exchange expertise and strengthen professional relationships.

The strategic exercise aims to augment maritime cooperation, interoperability and collaborative mechanisms to address non-traditional security challenges.

INS Sudarshini to embark on 10-month Lokayan 26 voyage.

The Indian Navy Ship, INS Sudarshini, will embark on a 10-month transoceanic expedition on the voyage of Lokayan 26. The ship will sail over 22 thousand nautical miles, visiting 18 foreign ports across 13 countries during the voyage. It will participate in Escale à Sète, in France, and SAIL 250, in New York, USA. Over two hundred Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard trainees will undergo intensive sail training, gaining invaluable experience in long-range ocean navigation and traditional seamanship at sea.

Former President Ramnath Kovind launches Responsible Nations Index.

Former President Ramnath Kovind has launched the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) in New Delhi. Mr Kovind said that RNI is an important index that focuses on promoting responsible behaviour of countries towards

humanity. The Responsible Nations Index offers a pioneering global framework to assess nations not merely by economic strength or geopolitical influence but by their responsibility towards citizens, the environment and the intellectual community.

The Responsible Nations Index is the outcome of a three-year academic and policy research initiative led by the World Intellectual Foundation, with key scholarly contributions from Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Indian Institute of Management Mumbai.

C-DOT wins SKOCH Award 2025.

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has been conferred the SKOCH Award-2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution. The award was conferred at the 104th SKOCH Summit on the theme of Resourcing Viksit Bharat.

C-DOT's Cell Broadcast Solution is a disaster and emergency platform that brings disaster alert generation agencies, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for weather and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for disaster management, onto a single integrated unified platform.

C-DOT is a research and development centre under the aegis of the Department of Telecommunications for telecommunication technologies.

The SKOCH Award is given to individuals, projects, and institutions for outstanding work in improving governance and development, recognising excellence in sectors including finance, tech, health, and education.

Election Commission to host IICDEM 2026 at Bharat Mandapam.

The Election Commission will host the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 from January 21 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The three-day conference is poised to be the largest global conference of its kind hosted by India in the field of democracy and election management. Nearly one hundred international delegates, representing over 70 countries from across the world, are expected to participate.

The Commission will hold over 40 bilateral meetings with the Election Management Bodies

to further discussions and cooperation on various challenges confronting them around the world.

Ilaiyaraaja to be honored with Padmapani Award at 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival.

The prestigious 'Padmapani Award' of the 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival has been announced for this year's veteran music composer Ilaiyaraaja, in recognition of his unparalleled contribution to Indian cinema.

The award comprises a Padmapani memento, a citation certificate, and a cash prize of 2 lakh rupees. The 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival will be held from 28 January to 1 February at Mahatma Gandhi Mission, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

The Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival is being organised with the support of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra, with co-presentation by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation, Government of Maharashtra.

VP Radhakrishnan releases Hindi edition of Dr C Palanivelu's autobiography in New Delhi.

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan today released the Hindi edition of Dr C. Palanivelu's autobiography titled "Palanivelu GUTS" in New Delhi. Mr Radhakrishnan said that Dr Palanivelu is an eminent surgeon who was among the first to recognise the potential of laparoscopic surgery in the early 1990s. He said that Dr Palanivelu introduced laparoscopic surgery in Coimbatore in 1991, establishing the first such centre in South India.

Business and Economy

IMF raises India's economic growth forecast to 7.3 per cent for current fiscal.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised India's economic growth projection for 2025 by 0.7 percentage points to 7.3 per cent.

In the World Economic Outlook update, the IMF said the upward revision reflects strong momentum in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. Meanwhile, the IMF projected 6.4 per cent growth in the next financial year of 2026-2027, adding that despite the expected moderation, India remains a key driver of growth among emerging market and developing economies.

It said global growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3 per cent in 2026.

PNB's Q3 profit rises 13% to record Rs 5,100 crore.

Punjab National Bank has posted its highest-ever quarterly net profit of ₹5,100 crore for the December quarter, an increase of 13% as compared to ₹4,508 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The bank aims for consistent quarterly profits exceeding ₹5,000 crore, driven by growth in retail, agriculture, and MSME sectors, along with new profit-generating verticals.

Silver prices surge record high of over three lakh rupees per KG.

Gold and silver prices climbed to fresh record highs as investors sought safe-haven assets after US President Donald Trump threatened new tariffs on several European countries over a dispute tied to Greenland. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, MCX gold rose 1.68 per cent to 1,44,905 rupees per 10 grams, while MCX silver rose 4.39 per cent to 3,00,400 rupees per kg. The rally accelerated after Trump threatened escalating duties on imports from eight European nations until the United States is allowed to buy Greenland.

India achieves record electronics exports of 47 billion dollars in 2025.

India has achieved a record of electronics exports of 47 billion dollars in 2025. Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that around 30 billion dollars came from the production-linked incentive-driven smartphone exports. He said that electronics is the third largest export item of the country. The Minister further said that electronic exports have increased 11 times since 2015.

Sports

FIFA Rankings: AFCON 2025 champion Senegal.

Senegal stunned Morocco 1-0 in the 2025 AFCON final in Rabat. The Teranga Lions claimed a second Africa Cup of Nations title. The decisive moment came in the first period of extra time, when Pape Gueye collected a pass from Idrissa Gana Gueye, surged into the Moroccan area and drove a left-footed finish beyond Yassine Bounou.

1st leg of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 begins in Leh, Ladakh.

The Sixth Edition of the Khelo India Winter Games will kick off from today in Leh City of the Ladakh Union Territory. 21 States and Union Territories will compete in Ice Sporting Events -Hockey and skating – with 1000 participants, which includes 472 athletes. It is being organised by the Youth Service and Sports of Ladakh under the guidance of the Sports Authority of India.