

International

World Economic Forum annual meeting begins in Davos.

The Annual Meeting 2026 of the World Economic Forum will take place at Davos-Klosters from 19th to 23rd January, under the theme, 'A Spirit of Dialogue'. Davos 2026 provides an impartial platform to connect leaders to confront shared challenges and drive innovations defining the future.

India's delegation at Davos 2026 includes four Union ministers -- Ashwini Vaishnaw, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Pralhad Joshi and K Rammohan Naidu -- reflecting India's focus on infrastructure, manufacturing, energy and digital transformation.

Sunita Williams retires from NASA after 27 years of service.

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired from the space agency after 27 years of remarkable service. The retirement is effective from the 27th of last month. The Indian-origin Williams first flew in 2006 on the Space Shuttle Discovery and later served as commander of the ISS during Expedition 33. Her most recent mission was in 2024-2025 aboard Boeing Starliner and SpaceX Crew-9, where she commanded Expedition 72.

Williams flew on three missions to the International Space Station (ISS), spending 608 days in space, the second-most for a NASA astronaut, and completed nine spacewalks totalling over 62 hours, the most by a woman. She was also the first person to run a marathon in space.

Yoweri Museveni claims landslide win in Uganda's election.

President Yoweri Museveni said that his landslide victory in Uganda's election showed the dominance of his party, which has governed the East African country for four decades. Museveni, 81, has stayed in power over the years by rewriting the rules. The last legal obstacles to his rule — term limits and age restrictions have been removed from the

constitution, and some of his possible rivals have been jailed or sidelined.

India sends 30 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to the Philippines.

The Indian aircraft C-17 carrying 30 tonnes of humanitarian assistance departed for the Philippines after the recent Super Typhoon in the country. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the aircraft carried NDRF relief material, essential medicines and a BHISHM Cube to assist in the relief and recovery.

National

45-year-old Nitin Nabin takes charge as BJP's youngest President.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Working President Nitin Nabin is set to become the new President of the Party. Party National Returning Officer, Dr K. Laxman, announced that only the name of Nitin Nabin was proposed for the post of National President of the BJP. Dr Laxman informed that all 37 sets of nomination papers were received in favour of Nitin Nabin for the post of National President.

The BJP's national president is elected by an electoral college comprising representatives from the party's national council and state councils. Previously, the post was held by Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.

India ranks 16 among 154 countries on Responsible Nations Index.

India has been ranked 16th among 154 countries in the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), a new framework that measures how responsibly nations use their power in relation to their citizens, the environment and the world. The index, launched by the World Intellectual Foundation, highlights that economic strength doesn't guarantee responsible behaviour, with developing nations often outperforming wealthier ones in key areas.

Singapore topped the ranking among 154 countries with an overall score of 0.61945, followed by Switzerland(0.58692) in second place.

MoEFCC issues notification declaring Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Aravalli mountain range as Eco-Sensitive Zone.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a notification declaring Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Aravalli mountain range, as an Eco-Sensitive Zone. The declaration of the Zone will not only help conserve the area's flora and fauna but will also support indigenous communities living in and around the sanctuary. The area ranging from zero to one kilometre around Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is home to a wide range of wildlife, including leopard, striped hyena, jungle cat, Indian pangolin, blue bull and chinkara, along with several bird species such as the painted francolin.

Government e-Marketplace & WTC Mumbai sign MoU to strengthen MSME participation.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost outreach and strengthen MSME participation in public procurement. The partnership will promote inclusive access for startups, women entrepreneurs and smaller enterprises, while enhancing GeM's global presence. It will focus on capacity building, supplier outreach and knowledge sharing in areas such as artificial intelligence, sustainability and green procurement.

VP Radhakrishnan launches book Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi-Challenge & Response.

Vice President Dr C. P. Radhakrishnan has launched a book titled "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi-Challenge and Response" in New Delhi. The book is written by a former secretary to the Government of India, Surendra Kumar Pachauri. The book captures the centuries-old struggle to reclaim the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram and presents the historical narrative with balance, empathy and scholarly restraint.

Business and Economy

European Union Chief says EU and India are very close to sign FTA.

European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen has said that India and the European Union (EU) are on the cusp of signing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), describing it as the mother of all agreements.

In her address at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, she said that after Davos, the next weekend, she will travel to India. European Council President Antonio Costa and von der Leyen will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27. They will be chief guests at the Republic Day celebrations before jointly co-chairing the India-EU Summit.

ADNOC gas signs 10-year LNG supply deal with HPCL.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas (ADNOC Gas) and its subsidiaries have signed a 10-year liquefied natural gas sales and purchase agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, valued between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion.

Under the deal, ADNOC Gas will supply 0.5 million tonnes per annum of LNG to HPCL. The supply will be sourced from ADNOC Gas' Das Island liquefaction facility, which has a production capacity of up to 6 mtpa.

RBI issues guidelines on interest subvention for export credit under Niryat Protsahan.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued operational guidelines for extending interest subvention on pre and post-shipment export credit under the Export Promotion Mission, also known as Niryat Protsahan. The RBI said the government has launched the interest subvention scheme under the Export Promotion Mission on a pilot basis. The operational instructions have been notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. The RBI has directed all scheduled commercial banks, cooperative banks and all-India financial institutions to extend the benefit strictly to eligible exporters.

RBI tightens PSL norms, mandates auditor certification for lenders.

The Reserve Bank of India has tightened the compliance framework around priority sector lending (PSL) by requiring all intermediary lenders — microfinance institutions, non-bank finance companies and housing finance companies — to furnish external auditors' certificates ensuring that no loan is simultaneously claimed as priority sector by more than one bank.

DISCOMs have recorded a profit of over 2700 crore rupees in 2024-25.

Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal has said that power distribution utilities of the country (DISCOMs) have recorded a profit of over two thousand seven hundred crore rupees in 2024-25. The distribution utilities as a whole have been reporting PAT losses for past several years since unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards.

The positive PAT of ₹2,701 crore returned in FY 2024-25 compares to a loss of ₹25,553 crore in year FY 2023-24 and a loss of ₹67,962 crore in FY 2013-14.

Include digital currency link on BRICS agenda: RBI to government.

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed that BRICS countries link their official digital currencies to make cross-border trade and tourism payments easier, which also could reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar as geopolitical tensions rise.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended to the government that a proposal connecting the central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) be included on the agenda for the 2026 BRICS summit.

NBSL and Canara Bank partner to power UPI payments.

NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) has partnered with Canara Bank to enable UPI-based digital payments on the bank's payment application, Canara ai1Pe, strengthening secure and scalable payment access for Canara Bank customers and non-customers.

Through this collaboration, Canara Bank will gain access to the latest UPI functionalities and feature upgrades adopted by the BHIM Payments App as part of ongoing UPI launches.

SEBI proposes ₹20,000 crore as threshold for 'significant' index.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a ₹20,000 crore threshold to identify "significant" indices relating to the Index Providers' Regulations, 2024.

Under the proposal, any index that is tracked or benchmarked by domestic mutual fund schemes with a cumulative assets under management (AUM) of more than ₹20,000 crore will be classified as a "significant index". Index providers administering such benchmarks will be required to seek registration with SEBI and comply with governance, transparency and accountability norms laid down under the regulations.

WEF 2026: Maharashtra signs investment MoUs worth ₹14.5 lakh crore on first day at Davos.

The Maharashtra government has signed 19 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹14.50 lakh crore on the first day of the World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland. The investments are in the fields of green energy, food processing, steel manufacturing, IT-ITES, data centres, EV-automobile, shipbuilding and digital infrastructure.. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Nifty tanks 1.38%, its worst fall in 8 months.

The benchmark Nifty50 declined 1.38% — its lowest in more than eight months — to 25,232 points, on a broad-based crash in small and midcap indices and increasing global uncertainties, on January 20, 2026. BSE Sensex, too, fell 1.28% to 82,180.47 points. The crash is due to heavy selling pressure in market heavyweights Reliance, Bajaj Finance and M&M amid escalating geopolitical tensions.

Nifty50 opened at 25,850 and hit the day's high at the open at 25,858, after which it tumbled to the day's low at 25,171.35 before settling at the day's close.

RBI recognises FEDAI as SRO for authorised dealers.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recognised the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for all authorised dealers under its Omnibus framework for SROs. The recognition brings FEDAI within RBI's broader Omnibus framework for SROs, aimed at strengthening market discipline, transparency, and self-regulation across regulated entities involved in foreign exchange transactions.

As an SRO, FEDAI will play a key role in setting standards, promoting best practices, and

ensuring compliance among authorised dealers operating in the foreign exchange market, subject to RBI's overall regulatory oversight.

Sports

Shuttler Saina Nehwal confirms retirement.

Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal, who has been out of action for the last two years due to a chronic knee condition, has confirmed her retirement from competitive badminton, saying her body could no longer cope with the physical demands of elite sport. The 2012 London Olympic bronze medallist last played a competitive match at the Singapore Open in 2023. She won a World Championships bronze in 2017 and the Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.