

## International

### Donald Trump takes oath as 47th President of United States.

Donald Trump has been sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, taking the oath of office for his second term. Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC. President Trump, at 78, is the oldest person ever inaugurated as President, surpassing Joe Biden.

JD Vance took the oath as Vice President, administered by Justice Brett Kavanaugh. At 40, Vance became the 50th vice president and the third youngest in US history.

### Trump signs executive order withdrawing U.S. from the World Health Organization.

The United States will exit the World Health Organization, President Donald Trump stated that the global health agency had mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic and other international health crises. This marks the second time Trump has ordered the US be pulled out of the WHO.

Carrying out this executive action on day one makes it more likely the US will formally leave the global agency.

### Singapore tightens screen time rules for children.

Singapore has introduced stricter regulations on-screen use for children as part of the “Grow Well SG” health initiative. Starting February 1, 2025 preschools will ban screen use for children under 18 months and limit it to educational purposes for those aged 18 months to six years. Primary and secondary schools will require students to store phones during lessons and restrict device use to designated times like recess or after school.

### Trump signs executive order directing U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement again.

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order directing the United States to again withdraw from the landmark Paris climate agreement, dealing a blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming. Mr. Trump also withdrew the U.S. from the Paris deal during his first term in office, though the process took years

and was immediately reversed by the Biden presidency in 2021.

### Trump declares national emergency, troop deployments at Mexico border.

President Donald Trump has announced severe new restrictions on immigration and asylum in the United States hours after taking office on January 20, 2025, declaring that he will send troops to the US-Mexico border and attempt to end birthright citizenship. He declared a national emergency at the southern border. He also signed an executive Order cancelling the provision of “citizenship by birth”, which, if unchallenged, could directly affect thousands of Indian professionals working in the U.S. under H-1B and other temporary visas, who hoped to raise their families there.

## National

### India and France for coordinated surveillance in Indian Ocean Region.

India and France have agreed to explore opportunities for coordinated surveillance whilst deployed to counter threats to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The two countries also committed to support each other in maritime security engagements.

Both sides agreed to strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation such as implementation of the agreed framework of exchange of information through enhanced information exchange between Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region, Gurugram and Regional Coordination Operations Centre, Seychelles and Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, Madagascar in the IOR.

### PM Modi Praises G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant's Book 'How India Scaled Mt. G-20'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant for his book on the country's G-20 presidency titled “How India Scaled Mt. G-20.” In a social media post, Mr. Modi wrote that the book gives a clear perspective on efforts to further human-centric development in pursuit of a better planet. Earlier, Mr. Kant presented his book to the Prime Minister.

## **Centre lifts ban, gives nod for sugar export.**

The Union government lifted the ban on sugar exports partially, allowing industries to export one million metric tonnes of sugar in the 2024-25 season ending in September. Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi says the move will ensure price stability, benefit farmers and workers, and strengthen the sugar sector.

## **Agriculture ministry launches first-ever national edible oil consumption survey.**

The Union agriculture ministry has launched its first-ever survey to assess edible oil consumption patterns in India, aiming to effectively implement the new Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds). The 45-day questionnaire-based survey, which began on January 9, will continue until February 23. The initiative comes as India - the world's largest consumer and importer of edible oils - lacks recent data on consumption patterns.

## **Business and Economy**

### **HDFC Bank, SBI, ICICI feature in top 25 Global Banks List**

HDFC Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and ICICI Bank have been ranked among the Top 25 Global Banks by market capitalization for the fourth quarter of 2024. The rankings were published by GlobalData, a leading international data analytics and research organization. According to the report, JPMorgan Chase has become the bank with the highest market capitalisation in the world.

HDFC Bank achieved the 13th position, ICICI Bank secured 19th place, and SBI was listed at 24th.

The rankings were determined based on the banks' market capitalization, highlighting their global financial performance

### **Central Bank of India Q3 profit jumps 33% to ₹959 crore.**

Central bank of India has reported a 33% year-on-year rise in its net profit to Rs 959 crore for the quarter ended December.

Total income increased to Rs 9,739 crore, compared with Rs 9,139 crore in the year-ago period. The interest income rose to Rs 8,509 crore, from Rs 7,809 crore a year ago. The

operating profit grew to Rs 1,963 crore, compared with Rs 1,931 crore in the same period last year.

## **Settlement of dues only after examining all options, RBI to ARCs**

The Reserve Bank of India had asked Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to go for settlement with borrowers only after exhausting all possible ways to recover dues. The central bank has revised the 'Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Asset Reconstruction Companies) Directions, 2024 dated April 24, 2024'. Every ARC should frame a board-approved policy for the settlement of dues payable by the borrowers. Further, the settlement amount should preferably be paid in a lump sum.

## **Shriram Housing Finance is now "Truhome Finance".**

Shriram Housing Finance (SHF) has rebranded itself as Truhome Finance following its acquisition by Warburg Pincus and its co-investors, including QIA (Qatar's sovereign wealth fund), from Shriram Finance. Last month, Shriram Finance had announced completion of the sale of its entire stake (84.44 per cent of the shareholding on a fully diluted basis) in its affordable housing finance subsidiary SHF to Warburg Pincus for a sale consideration of ₹3,929 crores.

The Company, in a statement, said its leadership team and contact information will remain unchanged, ensuring seamless continuity in all business operations.

## **Sports**

### **Australian Open 2025: Djokovic outlasts Alcaraz to enter semis.**

Novak Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to charge into the Australian Open semifinals and remain in the hunt for a record 25th Grand Slam title.

While in woman's clash Aryna Sabalenka got past Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a surprisingly difficult quarterfinal.

### **Tennis: Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek win ITF world champion awards.**

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek have won the International Tennis Federation's 2024 world

champion awards. Swiatek edged out Aryna Sabalenka for the women's singles award in the list announced by the ITF.

Swiatek won the French Open plus four WTA 1000 titles, an Olympic bronze medal at the Paris Games and also helped Poland to the Billie Jean King Cup semifinals.

Sinner is the first Italian to win the award. He finished 2024 at No. 1 with a 73-6 win-loss record after winning the Australian and U.S. Open titles, the ATP Finals and leading Italy's successful defense of the Davis Cup crown.

## **Tata Steel Chess 2025, Round 4: Praggnanandhaa dominates Mendonca to claim sole lead.**

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defences of fellow Indian Leon Luke Mendonca to jump into sole lead after the fourth round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament. All of Praggnanandhaa's victories have come at the expense of the Indians so far in the tournament, with the GM now looking forward to the clash against world champion D Gukesh