

International

Marco Rubio sworn in as U.S. Secretary of State.

Florida Senator Marco Rubio has been sworn in as the next U.S. Secretary of State. The Senate confirmed his appointment, making him the first member of Trump's cabinet to receive Congressional approval. Mr. Rubio has years of experience serving on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

76 dead, 9 detained after fire at Turkish ski resort.

At least 76 people died, and 51 others were injured in a fire at a hotel at a ski resort in Kartalkaya, Bolu province, Türkiye Authorities evacuated around 230 guests from the hotel. It was reported that other nearby hotels were evacuated as a precaution, with guests relocated to other accommodations in the area.

Avanti Fellows' Akshay Saxena, RCRC's Ved Arya among Schwab Foundation Awards recipients.

The World Economic Forum announced Schwab Foundation Awards for 18 social entrepreneurs and innovators from 15 organisations across 13 countries, including India. The awards are given by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation.

In Social Entrepreneurs category, Akshay Saxena – Co-Founder of Avanti Fellows, a non-profit that aims to provide equitable access to India's top science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) colleges.

Vineet Singal, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CareMessage, has also been given the award in this category.

In Collective Social Innovators category, Ved Arya – Director of the Buddha Institute and National Convener of the Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC), a collective of 98 grassroots civil society organizations across 15 states in India that formed during the COVID-19 pandemic due to its disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

World Bank appointed neutral expert backs India's stand on dispute with Pakistan regarding Indus Water Treaty

The World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert has announced that it is competent to decide on the differences between India and Pakistan over two hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir,

under the Indus Water Treaty. The Neutral Expert has rejected Pakistan's plea to facilitate the establishment of a Court of Arbitration to consider its concerns about the designs of the two hydroelectric power projects. India had asked for the appointment of a Neutral Expert to consider concerns over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects.

National

India celebrates Parakram Diwas 2025 to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

India celebrated Parakram Diwas 2025 to honour the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the occasion of his 128th birth anniversary on January 23. To honour Bose for his efforts in restoring Indian freedom, in 2021, the central government announced that 23rd January will be celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas.'

Over 4 crore Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts Opened Nationwide: Govt.

The Central government has said that over four crore Sukanya Samriddhi accounts have been opened across the country. The scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 as part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign. This scheme allows parents to open a Sukanya Samriddhi account for girls at any post office or designated commercial bank branch, starting with a minimum initial deposit of 250 rupees. According to the finance ministry, the scheme is currently offering an interest rate of 8.2 percent per annum.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal sets target of 10,000 GI tags by 2030.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030. Addressing a GI Samagam in New Delhi, Mr Goyal said that this target will be achieved through a whole-of-government approach, and the government will constitute a committee to oversee this. He stated that the number of GI tags issued by the department to date stands at 605. The Minister highlighted the efforts of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give a thrust to the Intellectual Property Ecosystem (IPR) ecosystem. The number of authorized users for GI tags increased from 365 to 29 thousand and the number of patents granted increased from 6000 to one lakh, in the last 10 years.

Business and Economy

Microsoft's Satya Nadella tops HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024.

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella has claimed the top spot in the inaugural HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024, which ranks 226 leaders of Indian origin heading the world's most valuable companies.

Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and YouTube CEO Neal Mohan secured the second and third spots, respectively. ArcelorMittal's LN Mittal was the richest on the list with a total wealth of Rs 1.84 lakh crore.

The report highlights the significant global influence of Indian-origin leaders, with 79 per cent of the list's entrants residing in the US, followed by the UK at 5 per cent and UAE at 4 per cent.

OpenAI, SoftBank each commit \$19 billion to Stargate AI data center.

OpenAI and Japanese conglomerate SoftBank will each commit \$19 billion to fund Stargate, a joint venture to develop data centers for artificial intelligence in the U.S., The ChatGPT maker will hold a 40% interest in Stargate, and would act as an extension of OpenAI.

HDFC Bank Q3 net profit rises 2% to ₹16,736 crore.

HDFC Bank reported a 2% on-year rise in its net profit for the December quarter, at ₹16,736 crore. The bank reported a Net Interest Income (NII) growth of 8% from the same quarter last year. It reported its Net Interest Income of ₹30,653 crore. Gross Non-Performing Assets during the quarter stood at 1.42% from 1.36% in the previous quarter, while Net NPAs stood at 0.46% from 0.4% in the previous quarter.

Maharashtra signs MoUs worth ₹4.99 lakh crore at Davos

On the first day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Maharashtra signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹4.99 lakh crore. These investments are expected to generate 92,235 jobs. The most significant MoU, worth ₹3 lakh crore, was signed with JSW Group for investments in steel, renewable energy, infrastructure, cement, lithium-ion batteries, solar wafers, and cell modules.

India's Space Economy soars to \$8 Billion, set to reach \$44 billion in 10 years.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that the country's space economy has grown to eight billion dollars and is projected to touch forty-four billion dollars in the next decade. Dr. Singh said that milestones like the Indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2027, the Shukrayaan mission in 2028, and the Indian Space Station in 2030 showcase the country's robust trajectory.

The minister also lauded startups and foreign direct investment for fuelling innovation. He added that missions like SPADEX are marking a leap in technological advancement.

SEBI plans new system for immediate IPO share sales to curb grey market trading.

With an aim to curb grey market trading, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to bring in a system where investors can sell shares as soon as they are allotted in an Initial Public Offering. SEBI Chairperson Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch said if investors wish to sell their shares immediately post allotment or pre-listing, it is better to give them that opportunity in a properly organised and regulated way.

Sports

India beat England by 7 wickets in 1st T20I at Eden Gardens.

India defeated England by seven wickets in the first T20I of the five-match series at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Put into bat first, England were bowled out for 132 runs. Chasing a target of 133 runs, India reached the target in just 12.5 overs. For India opener Abhishek Sharma scored 79 runs off just 34 balls,

Gukesh shines at Tata Steel Chess 2025 with Marathon win.

In the Masters section of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2025 held in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju emerged victorious against Germany's Vincent Keymer after an intense 72-move battle, which was the longest game of Round 5. Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa maintained his consistent form, securing a draw against Dutch GM Max Warmerdam.