

International

US President Trump signs charter to formally launch Board of Peace initiative at WEF in Davos.

US President Donald Trump has signed the charter to formally launch the Board of Peace initiative at the World Economic Forum in Davos, describing it as a major step towards global conflict resolution.

Around 35 nations had committed to join, while 60 nations received invitations. The new body could assume roles currently held by the United Nations. Several European allies declined participation, with concerns reportedly raised over the expanded mandate of the board and its possible impact on the existing international system based on the UN Charter.

Countries seeking permanent membership would have to make a 1 billion US dollar contribution, while non-paying members would have a three-year mandate.

European Parliament decides to suspend work on the EU's trade deal with the US.

The European Parliament has decided to suspend work on the European Union's trade deal with the United States in protest at US President Donald Trump's demands to acquire Greenland and threats of tariffs on European allies who oppose his plan. Many lawmakers have complained that the trade deal is lopsided, with the EU required to cut most import duties while the U.S. sticks to a broad rate of 15%.

Japanese court sentences Tetsuya Yamagami to life imprisonment for assassination of former PM Shinzo Abe.

A Japanese court has sentenced Tetsuya Yamagami to life imprisonment for the 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Yamagami admitted that he shot Abe during an election campaign speech in Nara. Yamagami was arrested at the scene and was found to have used a homemade gun.

98th Academy Awards: Sinners sets new record with 16 nominations.

The nominations for the 98th Academy Awards, or the Oscars, have been announced. Ryan

Coogler's vampire epic Sinners is leading the field after setting a new Oscars record with 16 nominations, breaking the record for the most Oscar nominations, which was previously held by All About Eve (1950), Titanic (1997) and La La Land (2016).

One Battle After Another is next with 13 nominations, while Marty Supreme, Frankenstein and Sentimental Value are next with nine, and Hamnet has eight. Emma Stone has landed a lead actress nomination for Bugonia.

The best actor category features several high-profile contenders, including Leonardo DiCaprio for One Battle After Another, Ethan Hawke for Blue Moon, and Michael B. Jordan for Sinners.

National

MSDE signs MoU with WEF to collaborate on strengthening India's skills and Technical Education.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum to collaborate on strengthening India's skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training ecosystem. The Ministry said that through this MoU, it will collaborate with the World Economic Forum to launch and implement a Skills Accelerator in the country. This initiative will significantly benefit the nation by bridging critical skill gaps and enhancing the global employability of the country's youth.

The Ministry further said that this MOU will ensure that India's talent pool is aligned with emerging domains such as artificial intelligence, green energy, robotics, and advanced manufacturing.

Election Commission launches ECINET digital platform at IICDEM 2026.

The India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management is going on in New Delhi. On the second day, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi, launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating over 40 apps and web services.

It is a comprehensive digital platform to facilitate citizen engagement and participation in the electoral process. He added that ECINET connects citizens, candidates, political parties, and election officials, offering all key election services on one platform.

CDS General Anil Chauhan releases Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework.

Chief of Defence Staff General, Anil Chauhan has released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework, outlining India's roadmap to integrate quantum technologies into the Armed Forces. The framework aims to harness four key pillars – Quantum Communication, Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing and Metrology, and Quantum Materials and Devices across the Tri-Services to prepare for future battlefields and achieve technological dominance.

Centre organises Parakram Diwas on Jan.23 to commemorate 129th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Ministry of Culture is organising Parakram Diwas-2026 from January 23 in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, marking the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The celebrations will take place at 13 other locations across the country associated with the life and legacy of freedom fighter Bose. It also honours his enduring legacy of courage, sacrifice and patriotism.

Business and Economy

Emirates NBD Bank gets CCI's nod to acquire majority stake in RBL Bank.

Competition Commission of India, CCI, has approved Emirates NBD Bank's proposal to acquire a majority stake in private sector lender RBL Bank Ltd. The move came after Emirates NBD Bank (ENBD) in October 2025 said that ENBD and RBL Bank's boards had cleared entering into definitive agreements to acquire a controlling stake in RBL Bank through a primary infusion of approximately USD 3 billion (Rs 26,850 crore).

Asia Manufacturing Index 2026: China holds top spot, India at 6th.

The Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 has placed India at the sixth position among 11 major Asian economies. In the 2024 edition of the index, India had ranked fourth among eight countries. Last year, it was ranked at the sixth place.

China continues to hold the top position in Asia's manufacturing ecosystem. Beijing is the first choice for global manufacturers due to scale, efficiency and supply chains.

RBI approves appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as whole-time director in HDFC Bank.

The RBI has given approval for the re-appointment of Mr. Kaizad Bharucha as the Whole-time Director (Deputy Managing Director) of the HDFC Bank for a further period of 3 (three) years w.e.f. April 19, 2026. Bharucha's appointment comes at a time when HDFC Bank has been making selective changes across its business and product offerings, as highlighted in earlier reports.

Credit flow to commercial sector jumps 15% to Rs 298 lakh crore: RBI data.

Flow of financial resources to the commercial sector rose 15% year-on-year to Rs 298 lakh crore as of end-December,2025, driven by expansion in both bank and non-bank sources, Reserve Bank of India data showed. Non-bank credit accounted for nearly 47% of total flows. Bank credit stood at Rs 202.3 lakh crore, while funding from non-bank sources—including finance companies' loans, corporate bonds and foreign currency borrowings—totalled Rs 95.5 lakh crore.

NBFCs continued to grow faster than banks, reporting a 22% rise in lending, compared with 14.4% growth in bank credit year-on-year up to end-December.

AUM of gold-loan NBFCs to cross Rs 4 lakh crore in fiscal 2027, says report.

Assets under management of non-banking financial companies specialising in gold loans are set to log a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 40 per cent between this fiscal

and next, surpassing Rs 4 lakh crore by March 2027. The surge will be driven by elevated gold prices, a shift towards secured credit and an evolved regulatory environment, outpacing the CAGR of 27 per cent clocked between fiscals 2023 and 2025.

Gold prices soared about 68 per cent in the first nine months of this fiscal year to an all-time high. This enhances collateral values, enabling lenders to scale up disbursements.

Sports

PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen advance to Indonesia Masters quarterfinals.

Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen have entered the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters badminton tournament in Jakarta. In women's singles, P V Sindhu progressed to the quarterfinals, defeating Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt by 21-19, 21-18.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen also advanced to the quarterfinals, defeating Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan 21-10, 21-11.

Leander Paes turns to golf, eyes nurturing Olympic champions.

Leander Paes, the winner of 18 Grand Slam titles in Tennis, has shifted focus to golf as he now aims to nurture Olympic champions across multiple sporting disciplines. Paes has partnered with the Indian Golf Union (IGU), Professional Golfers' Association of India (PGAI) and The Gold Foundation (TGF) to build a pipeline of emerging golf talent in the country.

The Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), in association with IGU, PGAI, and TGF, has unveiled the 'Golf Growth Initiative,' a landmark program designed to build the next generation of Indian golfers.

The initiative marks a major shift in the sport's development, taking golf directly into schools and playgrounds to widen the talent pool.