

International

India, UK conclude talks on Social Security Agreement.

India and the United Kingdom have held negotiations in New Delhi on the India-UK Social Security Agreement to avoid double social security contributions.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the mutually beneficial agreement will eliminate dual payments and support employers and cross-border professionals in both countries.

The talks were attended by MEA Joint Secretary P.S. Gangadhar and UK National Insurance Policy Deputy Director Edmund Hair.

Important Days

National Voters' Day: 25th January.

The 16th National Voters' Day is being observed across the country on 25th January 2026 with the theme "My India, My Vote," highlighting citizens' central role in democracy.

The Election Commission is organizing awareness programmes, awards, and youth-centric activities nationwide, reaffirming that every vote matters in strengthening India's democratic journey.

Awards

Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 announced.

Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke has been selected for the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award for Disaster Management 2026 in the individual category for her outstanding contribution to disaster management. The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has been chosen for the institutional category.

The awards honour exemplary efforts in strengthening disaster preparedness, response, and resilience across the country.

National

Indian Railways delivers first full freight rake to Kashmir Valley.

Indian Railways has delivered its first full rake of 42 wagons carrying over 2,700 metric

tonnes of rice to Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir.

Loaded at Sangrur in Punjab, the rake reached Anantnag within 24 hours.

The milestone highlights the strength of all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley, ensuring reliable food grain supply, reduced logistics costs, and a stronger distribution network even during adverse weather conditions.

Kerala to lead India's ageing transition: RBI Report.

Kerala will remain at the forefront of India's ageing States, with over 22% of its population aged above 60 by 2036, according to an RBI report on State Finances. The elderly share is projected to rise from 16.5% in 2021 to 22.8% by 2036. The report calls for policy shifts towards healthcare financing, preventive systems, and harnessing the silver economy through healthier ageing and extended working lives.

CBSE mandates counsellors in schools to address student mental health.

In a major policy reform to strengthen student well-being, the CBSE has mandated the appointment of counsellors in affiliated schools under Clause 2.4.12 of its Affiliation Bye-Laws. The move follows a petition filed before the Rajasthan High Court in July 2025 by advocate Sujeet Swami and psychology experts, highlighting rising mental health challenges among students and the need for a uniform support mechanism across schools.

Business and Economy

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q3 profit rises 4%.

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a 4% year-on-year rise in net profit to ₹3,446 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025.

Net interest income grew 5% to ₹27,565 crore, while net interest margin declined to 4.54% from 4.93% a year ago.

Net advances increased 16% to ₹4.80 lakh crore and total deposits rose 15% to ₹5.42 lakh crore.

India's smartphone exports to US surge over 200% in FY26.

India's smartphone exports to the US jumped over 200% year-on-year to \$12.54 billion between April and November of FY26, driven mainly by Apple Inc, compared to \$4.1 billion in FY25. The sharp rise helped offset declines in key sectors such as gems and jewellery, auto components, and petroleum products, sustaining overall export growth despite a 50% US duty and broader export pressures.

Sports

Australian Open suspends outdoor matches as extreme heat hits Melbourne.

Severe heat conditions at the Australian Open in Melbourne forced officials to close the roofs on the main courts and suspend matches on outdoor courts as temperatures climbed to 36°C. The tournament's extreme heat policy was activated, factoring in air temperature, radiant heat, wind speed, and humidity. Defending men's champion Jannik Sinner suffered cramping during his match against Eliot Spizzirri, leading to an eight-minute

pause before play resumed under the closed roof.

Yuki Bhambri-Göransson enter Australian Open Doubles Last 16.

India's Yuki Bhambri and his Swedish partner Andre Göransson advanced to the men's doubles round of 16 at the Australian Open 2026. The 10th-seeded pair defeated Mexico's Santiago González and the Netherlands' David Pel 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 in a closely contested match. Earlier, the Indo-Swedish duo had reached the second round by overcoming Australian wildcards James Duckworth and Cruz Hewitt 6-3, 6-4.

Scotland replaces Bangladesh in T20 World Cup Group C.

The ICC has announced that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in Group C of the T20 World Cup, to be hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7. The decision followed Bangladesh's request to shift matches away from India, which the ICC said violated its policy. Scotland will face the West Indies, Italy, England, and Nepal during the opening stage of the tournament.