

International

Pete Hegseth appointed as next U.S. Defence Secretary.

In USA, the Senate has confirmed appointment of Pete Hegseth as the next U.S. Defence Secretary. The confirmation for appointment of Hegseth came after a 50-50 vote in the Senate, when Vice President JD Vance broke the tie in his role as President of the Senate.

Important Days

International Customs Day: 26th January

International Customs Day (ICD) is observed annually on January 26 to honour the indispensable role of customs officials and agencies in facilitating the smooth and secure flow of goods across international borders.

The theme for International Customs Day 2025 is "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity."

Awards

139 distinguished personalities selected for this year's Padma Awards.

President Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of 139 Padma Awards for Year 2025. The list comprises seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.

23 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.

Indian writer MT Vasudevan Nair, former chairman of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Osamu Suzuki, and singer Sharda Sinha have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

Singer Pankaj Udhas and economist Bibek Debroy have been given the Padma Bhushan posthumously. Hockey player PR Sreejesh has also been conferred with Padma Bhushan.

Cricketer R Ashwin and football player IM Vijayan have been awarded with the Padmashree.

Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

Gallantry Awards to 93 Armed Forces & Central Armed Police Forces personnel

President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 11 posthumous, on the eve of 76th Republic Day.

These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous, 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous, one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous, two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Kirti Chakra has been awarded to Major Manjit and Naik Dilwar Khan (posthumous). Kirti Chakra is awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle.

National

Indore and Udaipur joined the list of 31 Wetland Accredited Cities in the world.

UNESCO has added Udaipur and Indore to its list of Wetland Cities of the world, making them the only two from India to get the recognition.

With the new additions, the number of Wetland Cities in the world has reached to 31. This accreditation is an international recognition for the cities that value their natural and human-made wetlands.

Business and Economy

NTPC Green Energy Q3 profit grows 18%

NTPC Green Energy Ltd reported an 18% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹65.61 crore for the December quarter FY25.

Total income rose to ₹581.46 crore from ₹463.46 crore. Expenses were at ₹482.22 crore as against ₹383.28 crore.

NTPC Green Energy Ltd is an umbrella company for the green business initiatives of NTPC and undertakes projects through organic and inorganic routes.

ICICI Bank Q3 PAT grows 14.8% YoY to Rs 11,792 crore.

ICICI Bank, the second largest private sector bank, reported a 14.8% year-on-year growth in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹11,792 crore.

The bank's net interest income (NII) increased by 9.1% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹20,371 crore. The net interest margin was lower at 4.25% compared with 4.43% in the year ago period. The gross NPA ratio was 1.96% on December 31, 2024 compared to 2.30% a year ago.

Yes Bank Q3 profit surges nearly threefold to Rs 612 cr.

Yes Bank for the third quarter reported 164.5% growth in net profit at ₹612 crore over the year ago period.

The bank's net interest income (NII) for the quarter grew Year on Year (YoY) to ₹2,224 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) at 2.4% remained flat YoY.

GNPA ratio was lower YoY at 1.6% against 2.0% a year ago and NNPA ratio was at 0.5% against 0.9% in the same period last year

Sports

Madison Key of the US wins Women's singles Australian Open title.

In the Australian Open Tennis women's singles final, the 29-year-old American Madison Keys has claimed her long-awaited Grand Slam title, defeating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in a match that ended 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.

With this victory, Keys etched her name in history as the first woman to defeat the world's top two players at a major since Svetlana Kuznetsova at the 2009 French Open, and the first to do so at the Australian Open since Serena Williams in 2005.

India beat England by 2 wickets in second T20I

In Men's Cricket, India clinched a thrilling two-wicket win over England in the second T20 at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Chasing a target of 166 runs, India clinched victory in 19.2 overs for the loss of eight wickets.

For India, Tilak Varma smashed 72 runs in 55 balls to take India home.

With this victory, India now leads the five-match series 2-0.

Arshdeep Singh named ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year

India's left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh was named the Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year at the ICC Awards 2024.

Arshdeep was the leading Indian wicket-taker in T20 Internationals in the year, bagging 36 wickets in just 18 games.

He was also named in the ICC T20I Team of the Year 2024 earlier in the day alongside Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya.