

International

Belarus's Lukashenko set to win 7th term.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko was on track to win a seventh five-year term with 87.6% of the vote in Sunday's election, according to an exit poll broadcast. With this win, he will extend his 31-year rule with a massive win in a presidential election. Officials said turnout was 85.7% in the election, in which 6.9 million people were eligible to vote.

Trump administration suspends all foreign aid.

The United States has announced the suspension of all foreign aid and ordered the review of American financial assistance to other countries, to ensure they are efficient and consistent with its foreign policy under the America First agenda. The United States is the world's biggest international aid donor, spending \$68bn in 2023 according to government figures. It makes exceptions only for emergency food aid and for military funding for Israel and Egypt.

26/11 Mumbai-attack convict Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India cleared.

The U.S. Supreme Court has cleared Mumbai-attack convict Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India, dismissing his review petition against the move. Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana is accused of playing a major role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in India.

National

Thirty-One tableaux showcasing the theme of Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" participated in the colourful Republic day parade.

Thirty-One tableaux from various States, Union Territories, and Central Government Ministries and Departments have participated, showcasing the theme "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" at the 76th Republic day parade celebrations. For the first time, a Tri-services tableau participated on Kartavya Path, displaying the spirit of jointness and integration.

Ten thousand Special Guests in 34 categories, including the Sarpanches from villages, Handicraft and Handloom Artisans, SHG members, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Road Construction Workers were invited as Special Guests.

Uttarakhand rolls out Uniform Civil Code.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has rolled out Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State. He also launched a portal to mark its implementation and released the new rules for the UCC. Tribals will be exempted from the UCC; under the new rules, marriage age for men will be 21 and women will be 18, across all religions.

Famous cardiologist Dr Cherian passes away.

Dr. KM Cherian, a world-renowned cardiologist for over 50 years passed away in Bengaluru. He performed the country's first coronary artery bypass. Among many credits, was his first heart-lung transplant on a patient in India. He was a pioneer in cardiac surgery. Patients from all over the world thronged to the Frontier Lifeline Hospital and Frontier Mediville, a large medical science park that he set up in Chennai.

Unified Pension Scheme for government employees notified.

The Central government has officially notified the implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme, UPS. It had introduced Unified Pension Scheme in August last year, as an option under the National Pension System for Central Government employees. The scheme will come into effect from 1st April this year. UPS shall be applicable to Central Government employees who are covered under the National Pension System and who choose this option under NPS. Existing central government employees and future employees can choose to either take the UPS option under the NPS or continue with the NPS without the UPS option.

Doordarshan bags award for voter awareness.

Doordarshan has been honoured with the award in the Electronic Media category for its

comprehensive campaign on Voter Awareness and Education. Doordarshan has been recognised for its coverage, including the “Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv” series during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

National Tourism Day 2025 observed on January 25.

India celebrated its National Tourism Day on January 25. This year, the theme for National Tourism Day is ‘Tourism for Inclusive Growth’. This theme highlights the role of tourism in fostering economic growth while ensuring it benefits all segments of society by creating jobs and promoting sustainable practices.

Business and Economy

India's exports to U.S. up 5.57% to \$60 bn in April-December FY25.

India's exports grew by 5.57% to Rs. 5.17 lakh crore (US\$ 59.93 billion) during the April-December period of FY25, driven by strong demand for domestic goods, particularly in the American market. In December 2024, exports rose 8.49% to Rs. 60,466 crore (US\$ 7 billion). Meanwhile, imports during the same period increased by 1.91% to Rs. 2.88 lakh crore (US\$ 33.4 billion), with December imports rising by 9.88% to Rs. 32,565 crore (US\$ 3.77 billion).

The total bilateral trade between India and the United States (US) for April-December FY25 stood at Rs. 8.07 lakh crore (US\$ 93.4 billion), slightly lower than the Rs. 8.17 lakh (US\$ 94.6 billion) trade with China.

NSIC to support five lakh micro or small-scale enterprises get into e-commerce.

The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) will support five lakh people, mainly women and those from scheduled caste/scheduled tribe communities, get into digital selling platform in the next three years. The Central government has allocated ₹277 crore for the MSME TEAM (Trade Enablement and Marketing) scheme and the NSIC is the implementing agency of the three-year scheme. About 50% of the five lakh beneficiaries will be women or those from SC/ST communities.

Sports

Australian Open: Jannik Sinner of Italy wins Men's singles title.

Italy's Jannik Sinner won the men's singles title at the 2025 Australian Open Tennis. In the final, he defeated Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. With this win, the 23-year-old Italian became the youngest man to win multiple Australian Open titles since Jim Courier in 1992-93. This is Sinner's third major title in his third Grand Slam final.

India's Jyothi Yarraji wins gold medal in women's 60m indoor hurdles in France.

In Athletics, India's Jyothi Yarraji broke her own national record and won the gold medal in the women's 60m indoor hurdles at the Meeting de Nantes Métropole 2025 in France. Jyothi Yarraji, who already holds the national record in women's 100m hurdles, clocked 8.04 seconds to win the final A at the Pierre-Quinon Metropolitan Stadium.

ICC U-19 Women's T20: India storms into semifinals.

In the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup, India entered into the semi-finals with an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at Bayuemas Oval Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

Sent in to bat first, Bangladesh managed just 64 runs for eight wickets in their allotted 20 overs. India chased the target in just 7.1 overs with Trisha's quickfire 40 off 31 balls, laced with eight boundaries.

Women's Hockey India League : Odisha Warriors crowned inaugural champions.

In the Women's Hockey India League (HIL), Odisha Warriors lifted the inaugural edition title after they registered a hard-fought 2-1 victory over JSW Soorma Hockey Club in the Final at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.