

International

Thousands of displaced Palestinians return to Gaza.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians came along the main roads leading north in Gaza after Hamas agreed to hand over three Israeli hostages this week. Israeli forces began to withdraw from a main corridor across the enclave under the ceasefire agreement.

Around 650,000 Palestinians were displaced from northern Gaza during the war, which was triggered by Hamas in southern Israel. Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement, residents of northern Gaza were to return during the weekend.

DeepSeek a 'wake-up call' for US tech firms, Trump says

US President Donald Trump has called the rise of Chinese company DeepSeek "a wake-up call" for the US tech industry, after the emergence of its artificial intelligence (AI) model triggered shockwaves on Wall Street.

Shares in major tech firms like Nvidia fell sharply, with the chip giant losing almost \$600bn (£482bn) in market value. DeepSeek has become the most downloaded free app in the US just a week after it was launched.

DeepSeek's claim that its R1 model was made at a fraction of the cost of its rivals - raising questions about the future of America's AI dominance and the scale of investments US firms are planning. DeepSeek is powered by the open source DeepSeek-V3 model

WHO urges governments to prioritise leprosy elimination.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has requested governments to prioritise leprosy elimination and ensure sustained funding for surveillance, treatment, care and support, while calling upon them to include those affected by leprosy in policy and decision-making processes. In 2023, 1,82,815 new cases were reported from more than 100 countries, with 95% of those concentrated in 23 global-priority countries.

National

India, China agree on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumption, direct flights, river data sharing.

India and China have agreed on a slew of measures during the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism to stabilize and rebuild bilateral ties. The new understandings include the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the restoration of direct flights between the two countries and the sharing of trans-border river data among others.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who was on a two-day visit to China, attended the meeting.

WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge & WAVES Awards launched.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge and WAVES Awards in New Delhi. The Union Ministers also launched 'Create in India Challenge' Season 1, inviting international participation as a part of WAVES 2025.

WAVES Bazaar is a transformative initiative which will bring together buyers and sellers of media-related content. WAH Ustaad is a unique classical and semi-classical talent hunt.

The nominations for the WAVES Awards will open on the 15th of February.

WAVES stands for the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit.

Railways upgrades over 23,000 Km of tracks to support speeds up to 130 km/h

Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone by upgrading over 23,000 track kilometres of the rail network to support train speeds of up to 130 kilometres per hour. Additionally, more than 54 thousand track kilometres of tracks have been upgraded to support speeds up to 110 kmph.

The modernization of track infrastructure includes strengthening of tracks for high-speed operations, implementation of advanced signalling systems for precise communication, and the installation of fencing at vulnerable locations to enhance security and mitigate risks.

Business and Economy

RBI to inject liquidity into banking system.

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to conduct certain operations to inject liquidity into the banking system. As per the bank's press release, the RBI will hold OMO purchase auctions of Government of India securities for an aggregate amount of 60,000 crore rupees in three tranches of 20,000 crore rupees each on 30th January 30, 13th and 20th February 2025. A 56-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction for a notified amount of 50,000 crore rupees will be held on 7th February 2025. USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction of five billion US dollars for a tenor of six months will be held on 31st January.

Zoho Corporation CEO Sridhar Vembu steps down.

Sridhar Vembu, founder and CEO of Zoho Corporation, a Chennai-based tech firm, has stepped down as the CEO to take up Chief Scientist's job in the company. The company's

co-founder Shailesh Kumar Davey will take over as the group CEO.

Sachin Bansal's fintech Navi Finserv raises 1,200 cr. in last two months.

Navi Finserv, a fintech founded by Sachin Bansal had raised over ₹1,200 crore across multiple instruments, including Non-convertible debentures, NCDs, commercial papers, term loans, securitisation and co-lending. This milestone includes a fundraise of ₹295 crore through a securitisation transaction, the highest ever in a single transaction.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred Navi Finserv from lending and disbursing loans until December 2024 due to regulatory concerns, including pricing policies and non-compliance issues.

Canara Bank posts 12% increase in Q3 net profit.

Canara Bank reported 12.25% year-on-year growth in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 at ₹4,104 crore. During Q3, the bank's operating profit grew 15.15% to ₹7,837 crore. Its domestic deposit stood at ₹12,57,426 crore, a 7.76% year-on-year increase. Domestic advances (gross) stood at ₹9,87,591 crore, growing at 9.55%. Its global business stood at ₹24,19,171 crore, grew by 9.30%; global deposits stood at ₹13,69,465 crore, grew by 8.44% and gross advances stood at ₹10,49,706 crore, grew by 10.45%.

IDBI Bank's board approves re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as MD & CEO for 3 years.

The Board of Directors of IDBI Bank has approved the re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for three years with effect from March 19, 2025. Sharma has been helping the bank since October 10, 2018. Prior to joining IDBI Bank, he was the MD & CEO of Canara Bank from September 11, 2015, till his superannuation on July 31, 2018.

Indian companies display nation's pharmaceutical and healthcare capabilities at Arab Health Exhibition.

The 50th edition of the Arab Health Exhibition and Congress opened at the Dubai World Trade Centre, featuring a substantial Indian presence of 361 companies showcasing the nation's

pharmaceutical and healthcare capabilities. The event, running from January 27-30, 2025, arrives as industry projections indicate the global healthcare market could reach US\$780 billion by 2030.

The Indian contingent, backed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and coordinated by the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), comprises 65 companies in the Pharmexcil Pavilion and 22 medical device manufacturers in the EEPC Pavilion.

Sports

38th National Games to begin in Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 38th National Games at Maharana Pratap Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The National Games are proposed to be held in 11 cities of 8 districts of Uttarakhand till the 4th of next month. A total of 47 events of 35 games are to be organized during the event.

5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games concludes in Ladakh.

In Ladakh, the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games concluded. During the event, competitions were held for two winter sports categories- Ice Hockey and Ice Skating at three venues NDS Stadium, Gupuk Lakes and LSRC ground in Leh. Teams from the Union Territory of Ladakh won a total tally of 7 Medals including four Gold, Two Silver and One Bronze. More than 400 athletes from across the country participated in the Khelo India events in Ladakh.

ICC AWARDS 2024: Bumrah, Mandhana and Azmatullah honoured as Test and ODI winners crowned

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the latest set of winners in the ongoing ICC Awards 2024. Jasprit Bumrah crowned the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year, with compatriot Smriti Mandhana sealing her second ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year.

In the ODI category, Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai has clinched the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.

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