

International

French lawmakers pass bill banning social media for under-15s.

French lawmakers have passed a bill that would ban social media use by under-15s, a move championed by President Emmanuel Macron as a way to protect children from excessive screen time.

The lower National Assembly adopted the text by a vote of 130 to 21 in a lengthy overnight session from Monday to Tuesday.

India & UN Chief Antonio Guterres call for urgent reform of UNSC.

India and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have called for urgent reform of the UN Security Council, warning that mounting global challenges are straining the credibility and effectiveness of the world body. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, P Harish, said that meaningful reform must include the addition of permanent members to ensure the effective enforcement of the international rule of law.

Iran's currency falls to record low.

Iran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests killed at least 6,126 people, while many others are feared dead. Iran's currency, the rial, meanwhile, fell to a record low of 1.5 million to \$1.

Meanwhile, a U.S. aircraft carrier group had arrived in West Asia to lead any American military response to the crisis.

World Bank approves \$200 million to help Lebanon's vulnerable.

The World Bank approved \$200 million in new financing to assist Lebanon in meeting the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable as the country tries to recover from its 2019 economic collapse.

The crisis left most of the population below the poverty line, with the local pound battered and depositors locked out of their savings accounts at commercial banks.

National

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu chairs the signing of the agreement to develop India's Regional Transport Aircraft ecosystem.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu chaired the signing of an agreement between major Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer and Adani Group to develop India's Regional Transport Aircraft ecosystem. Mr Naidu said the association will be instrumental in building end-to-end indigenous solutions for regional air connectivity. Mr Naidu said that partnerships for domestic component manufacturing and Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul (MRO) services will reinforce the country's commitment to Make in India and strengthen the nation's integration into global aviation supply chains.

11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival begins.

The 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AEIFF) will begin in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Maharashtra. During the event, legendary music composer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ilaiyaraaja will be honoured with the prestigious Padmapani Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.

The festival is being organised with the support of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Maharashtra Department of Cultural Affairs. National Film Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation are the co-presenters.

Ministry of Communications signs agreement with Stock Holding Services Limited.

The Ministry of Communications has signed an agreement with Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL) to promote access to regulated capital market services for citizens across the country.

Under this, citizens will be able to access SSL's services through digital utilities such as onboarding links and QR codes made available through official platforms and at selected post office locations. The services also include opening of demat and trading accounts, mutual fund investments, participation in IPOs, and other permitted investment products.

Stock Holding Services Limited is a SEBI-registered Corporate Stock Broker providing safe and reliable services to all institutional and retail clients across the country.

Centre approves proposal of smart & integrated fishing harbour in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Central government has approved the proposal of a smart and integrated fishing harbour in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands worth around 200 crore rupees. This has been approved for the Development of a smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said that the project will be 100% Central Financial Assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Harbour will create safe landing and berthing facilities for 430 fishing vessels and cater to an annual fish landing of nine thousand nine hundred tonnes.

Business and Economy

India and EU finalise FTA.

India and the European Union (EU) have announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), an important milestone in one of India's most strategic economic partnerships.

India has gained preferential access to the European markets across 97% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value.

Overall, India is offering 92.1% of its tariff lines which covers 97.5% of the EU exports.

European wines and luxury cars to become cheaper as trade talks conclude after almost two decades.

The FTA is expected to provide a boost to Indian traditional medicine services and practitioners.

The FTA establishes an assured regime for temporary entry and stay for professionals, including Business Visitors, Intra-Corporate Transferees, Contractual Service Suppliers, and Independent Professionals.

India and the European Union also exchanged several agreements following talks between the leaders, including in the fields of trade, security, defence partnership, mobility, disaster risk management, and green hydrogen.

The European Union is India's largest trading partner in goods. For the financial year 2024-25, India's total trade in goods with the EU was worth about 136 billion US dollars, with exports of around 76 billion US dollars and imports of 60 billion US dollars.

RBI to infuse ₹1.25 trillion.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a set of liquidity measures through open market operations (OMOs), dollar-rupee buy-sell swaps, and long-term variable rate repo (VRR) operations, in a bid to infuse liquidity into the banking system.

OMOs will involve the purchase of Government of India securities worth ₹1 trillion in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on February 5 and February 12.

A 90-day VRR auction for ₹25,000 crore will be conducted on January 30.

Additionally, a dollar-rupee buy-sell swap of \$10 billion for three years will be held on February 4.

RBI proposes disaster relief framework for banks.

The RBI, in its draft guidelines, has proposed a set of guidelines for banks and other regulated entities for the

implementation of resolution plans during natural calamities.

The banks will have to factor the possible impact of natural calamities on borrowers and incorporate provisions for resolutions, including relief measures, in their credit policies. The resolution plan may include rescheduling of payments, conversion of any interest accrued into another credit facility, and granting of moratorium, based on the lender's assessment.

In recent years, key agricultural states such as Punjab and Assam have reported crop and livelihood losses due to flooding, while flash floods and landslides in Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir have destroyed homes, roads and bridges.

RBI & ESMA sign MoU on cooperation & exchange of information related to Central Counterparties.

The Reserve Bank of India and the European Securities and Markets Authority – ESMA have signed an MoU concerning cooperation and exchange of information related to Central Counterparties regulated and supervised by RBI. The MoU establishes a framework for ESMA to place reliance on RBI's regulatory and supervisory activities while safeguarding the European Union's financial stability.

The MoU will allow the Clearing Corporation of India Limited, a Central Counterparty established in India and supervised by RBI, to reapply for recognition under the European Market Infrastructure Regulation.

IndusInd Bank appoints ex-SBI MD Arijit Basu as part-time Chairman.

IndusInd Bank has appointed Arijit Basu as Non-Executive Independent Director and Part-time Chairman for a three-year term starting January 31, 2026. Basu, a seasoned banker with experience at SBI and HDB Financial Services, will succeed Sunil Mehta.

Sitharaman takes part in customary halwa ceremony; marks final stage of Budget preparation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has participated in a traditional 'halwa' ceremony, marking the final stage for the preparation of the Union Budget 2026-27, to be unveiled on February 1 in the Lok Sabha. The 'Halwa ceremony' precedes the 'lock-in' of the officials involved in the preparation of the Union Budget.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present a record ninth consecutive Budget on February 1. This will take Ms. Sitharaman closer to the record of 10 Budgets that were presented by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai over different time periods. Desai presented a total of 6 budgets during his tenure as Finance Minister in 1959-1964, and 4 Budgets between 1967-1969.

Banks raise Rs 89.5k crore via CDs in the December fortnight.

With deposit growth in the banking system lagging credit growth by about 180 basis points (bps), banks are increasingly tapping the certificate of deposit (CD) market, cumulatively raising Rs 88,512 crore in the two weeks to December 31, 2025, the second-highest quantum ever mobilised in a single fortnight. CD rates have also surged, with some marquee banks borrowing at 7 per cent and above for short-tenor funds as there is funding tightness in the system.

Sports

Under-19 Cricket World Cup: India defeats Zimbabwe.

In the Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, India defeated Zimbabwe by 204 runs in the Super Six stage match at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo. Vihaan Malhotra smashed an unbeaten 109 to lead India to a gigantic total of 352 in the stipulated 50 overs. India bowled out Zimbabwe for just 148 in 37.4 overs.