

International

Trump administration offers millions of federal workers buyouts.

In the US, the Trump administration is offering millions of federal workers the chance to accept buyouts through a “deferred resignation” program if they resign by February 6, 2025. Those who take the offer will continue to receive pay and benefits until September 30. The unprecedented initiative aims to streamline the federal workforce, as stated in an email sent to federal employees. The program applies to civilian federal employees, excluding those in immigration, national security-related roles, and US Postal Service positions.

Israel to sever ties with UNRWA.

Israel has announced it will sever all ties with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, following the implementation of a ban on the organization’s activities on Israeli territory, effective from tomorrow. UNRWA, a UN agency, plays a critical role in providing healthcare and education to the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel has consistently accused UNRWA of undermining its security and alleges that the agency played a role in the deadly Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, which resulted in over 1,000 Israeli deaths and 250 hostages being taken.

National

Mahakumbh incident: 30 people dead.

At least 30 people have lost their lives, and 60 others were injured in the incident that took place at Sangam Ghat in Maha Kumbh, Prayagraj. The incident occurred between 1 and 2 AM, when a huge crowd gathered on the Akhara route and the barricades were broken. The Maha Kumbh Mela, recognized as the world’s largest religious gathering, commenced on 13th January and nearly 25 crore devotees had taken baths so far.

UP’s tableau “Mahakumbh 2025” adjudged as Best.

Uttar Pradesh’s tableau based on the theme ‘Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas’, has won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade held on 26th January at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

Amongst the Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh’ won the best tableau award.

Meanwhile, the best Marching Contingent award was won by the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Contingent among Services, while the Delhi Police Marching Contingent won the award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces. The Central Public Works Department and ‘Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam’ Dance Group were conferred with the Special Prize: (75 years of the Constitution of India).

Gujarat won the best tableau award for its ‘Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas’ tableau in the Popular Choice Category.

Centre approves National Critical Minerals Mission.

The Union government approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission, envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years, with an aim to achieve self-reliance and accelerate India’s journey towards green energy transition. Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission, which aims at promoting exploration of critical minerals within the country and at offshore locations.

Tripura signs MoU with Digital India Bhashini Division.

Tripura government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The MOU was signed during a workshop, ‘Bhashini Rajyam’ held in Agartala. With this, Tripura becomes the first northeastern or eastern state and eighth in the country to sign an MoU with Bhashini.

The Bhashini initiative is a program that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to provide language technology services in India. The initiative’s goal is to break down linguistic barriers and make digital services accessible to everyone.

International Saraswati Mahotsav begins in Kurukshetra, Haryana

International Saraswati Mahotsav has begun at Pehowa Saraswati Tirth in the Kurukshetra district of Haryana. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the festival. During this 7-day festival, main cultural programs will be held till February 2 and Saras Mela will also be organized at the pilgrimage site till February 4.

Soreng district becomes India's 1st organic fisheries cluster.

In Sikkim, the Soreng district has started producing organic fish, becoming the country's first organic fisheries cluster. Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched this initiative recently. The organic fisheries cluster focuses on ecologically healthy fish farming systems avoiding the use of harmful chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides. This initiative would help to boost the income of the farmers and also to provide chemical and pesticide-free organic fish.

J&K: LG Manoj Sinha honoured with Maharaja Hari Singh Award.

In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was honoured with the Maharaja Hari Singh Award at a ceremony in Jammu. The LG attended the 'Maharaja Hari Singh Peace and Harmony Award 2024-25' ceremony at Satyam Resort, Jammu. Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a key architect of modern Jammu Kashmir.

Nation pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on 77th Martyr's Day.

The Nation is paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 77th Death Anniversary and Martyr's Day Ceremony on January 30. On this occasion, a Sarva-Dharma Prarthana was held at Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat in New Delhi.

This day is not only a tribute to Gandhi but is also observed as Martyrs' Day, or Shaheed Diwas. It marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, when Nathuram Godse shot him in New Delhi.

Business and Economy

Brookfield Corporation signs \$12 billion MoU to invest in Mumbai's infrastructure development.

Brookfield Corporation, a Toronto-based investment firm committed to investing in Mumbai's infrastructure development at the World Economic Forum at Davos. The commitment which is nearly ₹1.03 lakh crore will involve investments in Mumbai's road, bridge metro, data centres, Global Capability Centres among others within a duration of around five to seven years.

Sebi launches digital knowledge repository Dharohar.

To commemorate India's Republic Day, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched a digital knowledge repository named "Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market." This initiative aims to document and showcase the 150-year history of organized trading in India's diverse securities market. The repository currently houses over 3,000 assets, including articles, regulatory evolutions, interviews with notable figures, historical newspaper clippings, share certificates, infographics.

Indian Bank Q3 PAT rises 35% to ₹2,852 crore.

Indian Bank reported a 35% rise in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 to ₹2,852 crore, compared with ₹2,119 crore in the year-earlier period. Net Interest Income (NII) increased 10% year on year to ₹6,415 crore.

Paytm launches 'Receive Money QR Widget'

Paytm launched the 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users for receiving money directly from phone's home screen without opening the Paytm app. This feature is already live for iOS users. The One97 owned company also launched coin-drop sound for real-time notification of payments received.

Sports

Geoff Allardice to step down as ICC CEO.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that Geoff Allardice has decided to step down as ICC Chief Executive. Allardice's decision comes amid concerns over Pakistan's readiness to host Champions Trophy 2025, starting next month. The ICC Board will now initiate the next steps to identify a new Chief Executive.

Gukesh extends lead at Tata Steel Chess 2025 with win over Warmerdam.

India's D. Gukesh continued his dominant run at the 2025 Tata Steel Chess Tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. He defeated Dutch Grandmaster Max Warmerdam in Round 10 to maintain his lead in the Masters category. Playing with the black pieces, Gukesh used the Pirc Defense and capitalized on a critical blunder by Warmerdam, securing victory with Qxc8 on move 27.

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