

(January 30, 2026)

International

EU designates Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group.

The European Union (EU) has designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation over Tehran's crackdown on nationwide protests. The 27-nation bloc also sanctioned 15 Iranian officials, including top commanders of the Revolutionary Guard, over the violent crackdown on protesters. Activists say the crackdown has seen at least 6,373 people killed.

Burkina Faso's junta dissolves all of the country's political parties.

Burkina Faso's military junta has dissolved all the political parties in the country and scrapped the laws governing them, according to a decree approved by the government. The dissolution of political parties and similar groups follows similar measures that activists say have targeted civic freedom and the opposition since military authorities took power in a 2022 coup.

National

India submits Meghalaya's living root bridges to UNESCO for World Heritage status.

India has submitted to UNESCO in Paris the nomination dossier of Meghalaya's living root bridges for consideration to include in the World Heritage list 2026-27, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said.

The nominated cultural landscape extends across the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and showcases a remarkable living tradition developed and sustained by indigenous Khasi and Jaintia communities over centuries.

Republic Day Parade 2026: Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux announced.

The results of the Best Marching Contingents and Best Tableaux of the Republic Day Parade 2026 have been announced.

Among the three Services, the Indian Navy has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent, while the Delhi Police won the award in the category of Central Armed Police Forces and other Auxiliary Forces. In the States and Union Territories category, Maharashtra secured first place for its tableau Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta.

Among Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Culture won for its tableau Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation. Special prizes were awarded to the Central Public Works Department for Vande Mataram – Commemoration of 150 Years, and to the dance group for Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India.

The Popular Choice Awards, based on an online poll conducted on the MyGov portal, were also announced.

The Assam Regiment was voted the Best Marching Contingent among the Services, while the CRPF topped the Central Armed Police Forces and Auxiliary Forces category.

In the tableaux category, Gujarat secured first place with Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance: Vande Mataram, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The Department of School Education and Literacy won the Popular Choice Award among Central Ministries and Departments for its tableau, National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Indian School Education on the Path to Viksit Bharat.

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India's first AI-enabled university: Google partners with MSDE and Chaudhary Charan Singh University.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has partnered with Google Cloud and Chaudhary Charan Singh University to establish India's first AI-enabled university pilot, creating a national framework to modernise vocational education for millions. The project is designed to bridge the digital divide by leveraging advanced Cloud and AI technologies to modernise the country's vocational ecosystem.

Chaudhary Charan Singh University has been designated as the national pilot institution to showcase how AI can enhance higher education and training in an AI-first era. The university will utilise the Gemini Enterprise platform to tackle administrative and pedagogical challenges.

India gifts second tranche of election assistance to Nepal.

The second tranche of election-related assistance from India was gifted to Nepal. Charge d'affaires a.i., Dr Rakesh Pandey, has ceremonially handed over more than 250 vehicles to the Government of Nepal, in a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance in Kathmandu.

These supplies are a part of the assistance sought by the Government of Nepal, in connection with preparations for the upcoming elections in the country.

Business and Economy

FM Nirmala Sitharaman tables Economic Survey 2025-26 in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2025-26 in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on January 29, 2026, an annual report card of the country's economic performance in the financial year.

The Survey is prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, under the chief economic adviser, V. Anantha Nageswaran

Economic Survey 2025-26 highlights

- India's GDP growth for FY26 is estimated at 7.4 per cent, driven by the double engine of consumption and investment.
- It projected India's GDP growth in the range of 6.8 to 7.2% in 2026-27.
- The Survey states that the global environment remains fragile, with growth holding up better than expected but risks elevated amid intensifying geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation and financial vulnerabilities.
- Private Final Consumption Expenditure grew by 7.0 per cent in FY26, reaching 61.5 per cent of GDP, the highest since 2012.
- Headline inflation reached its lowest levels in the CPI series, averaging 1.7% between April and December 2025.
- The fiscal deficit is projected to decline to 4.4% of GDP in FY26 (Budget Estimate), down from 9.2% in FY21.
- Asset quality has improved significantly, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) at a multi-decade low of 2.2% as of September 2025.
- Agriculture: While crop GVA growth averaged 4.0% (FY20–FY24), Livestock (6.1%) and Fisheries (7.2%) are driving diversification.
- Industry: Real manufacturing GVA growth saw sustained momentum, reaching 9.13% in Q2 FY26.
- Services' share in GDP rose to 53.6 per cent in H1 FY26; Services'

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share in GVA stood at the highest ever - 56.4 per cent.

- Services sector continues to be the largest recipient of foreign direct investment inflows, accounting for an average of 80.2 per cent of total FDI during FY23-FY25
- Infrastructure: Effective capital expenditure, CapEx, has scaled from 2.7% pre-pandemic to 4.0% of GDP in FY25.

UAE central bank approves first USD-backed stablecoin.

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates has approved the country's first USD-backed stablecoin, marking a key step in the regulation of digital assets and payment tokens in the UAE. The approval positions the UAE among the first major financial jurisdictions to implement a fully regulated framework for USD-denominated settlement using digital assets. The USDU stablecoin has been approved under the central bank's Payment Token Services Regulation. It is issued and managed by Universal Digital, a crypto firm regulated by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Abu Dhabi Global Market.

A stablecoin is a type of cryptocurrency designed to maintain a stable value by being pegged to a reserve asset, most commonly a fiat currency such as the U.S. dollar. Unlike more volatile cryptocurrencies, stablecoins aim to reduce price fluctuations, making them more suitable for payments, settlements and cross-border transfers while operating on blockchain-based systems.

Nvidia, Microsoft, Amazon in talks to invest up to \$60 billion in OpenAI.

Nvidia, Amazon, and Microsoft are in talks to invest up to \$60 billion in OpenAI. Nvidia, an existing investor whose chips power OpenAI's AI models, is in talks to invest up to \$30 billion. Microsoft, a longstanding backer with exclusive rights

to sell OpenAI models to cloud customers, is in talks to invest less than \$10 billion. And Amazon, which would be a new investor, is also in talks to invest significantly more than \$10 billion, potentially even more than \$20 billion.

Tesla invests \$2 billion in Musk's xAI.

Tesla will invest \$2 billion in CEO Elon Musk's artificial-intelligence company xAI, and the production plans for its Cybercab robotaxi were on track for this year. Tesla is also gearing up production of humanoid robots, part of a series of factory investments that will take capital expenditures above \$20 billion this year.

Meta, Corning sign deal worth up to \$6 billion for fibre-optic cables in AI data centres.

Facebook parent Meta Platforms will pay Gorilla Glass maker Corning up to \$6 billion over the next several years in a deal to provide fibre-optic cables for its AI data centres.

Corning will supply advanced optical fibre, cable and connectivity products to Meta, while expanding its manufacturing capacity in North Carolina, including at its cable factory in Hickory.

Bank of Baroda signs MoU with TN-SRLM.

Bank of Baroda, Chennai Zone has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TN-SRLM) at the Global Women Summit held at the Chennai Trade Centre to extend financial services to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoted by TN-SRLM across the State of Tamil Nadu.

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Sports

India's Isharani Baruah upsets second seed Sung Shuo Yun to enter Thailand Masters quarterfinals.

India's Isharani Baruah has defeated second seed Sung Shuo Yun of South Korea to enter the women's singles quarterfinals of the Thailand Masters badminton event in Bangkok.

Baruah's compatriot Devika Shaig also knocked out a seeded player, Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong, with a 21-14, 21-14 victory to enter the last eight stage.

Former India Hockey Coach and Australian Great Michael Nobbs passes away.

Former Australian hockey player Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team at the 2012 London Olympics, has died after a prolonged illness. The 72-year-old earned 76 international caps for Australia between 1979 and 1985. Nobbs took over the coaching of the Indian men's team in 2011 after it had failed to qualify for the Beijing Games in 2008.