

International

Trump administration approves \$6.67 billion worth arms sales to Israel, \$9 billion worth sales to Saudi Arabia.

The Donald Trump administration has approved a massive new series of arms sales to Israel totalling \$6.67 billion and to Saudi Arabia worth \$9 billion.

Both sets of sales were announced by the State Department late on January 30, 2026 as tensions rise in the Middle East over the possibility of U.S. military strikes in Iran.

The Saudi sale is for 730 Patriot missiles and related equipment.

The sales to Israel are split into four separate packages, including one for 30 Apache attack helicopters and related equipment and weapons, with another for 3,250 light tactical vehicles.

United Nations faces 'imminent financial collapse' without urgent action, says UN chief.

The United Nations chief António Guterres is warning that the world body faces “imminent financial collapse” unless its financial rules are overhauled or all 193 member nations pay their dues — a message likely directed at the United States and the billions it owes. The U.S. now owes \$2.196 billion to the UN's regular budget, plus it will owe \$767 million for this year.

Venezuela's acting President signs law that opens nation's oil sector to privatization.

Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez has signed a law that opens the nation's oil sector to privatisation, reversing a tenet of the self-proclaimed socialist movement that has ruled the country for more than two decades. The move by the government is paving the way for yet another radical geopolitical and economic shift in Venezuela, which has the largest proven reserves of crude in the world.

National

SC says menstrual health fundamental right under Article 21.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Apex court had issued a series of binding directions to states and Union Territories and schools to ensure dignity, health and equality for girls and women. A bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed all states and Union Territories to ensure that every school provides biodegradable sanitary napkins free of cost to adolescent girls.

The court further ordered authorities to ensure that schools are equipped with functional and hygienic gender-segregated toilets.

UIDAI launches new Aadhaar app.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new Aadhaar app that can be used for age verification purposes under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), without requiring users to share any additional data. The new app, which can be downloaded from app stores on mobile phones, will also help discourage the use of paper printouts of Aadhaar that are used by entities like hotels, cinema halls, online firms, and government offices for verifying an individual.

Business and Economy

China sees first fiscal revenue drop since 2020 with 1.7% fall.

China's fiscal revenue fell 1.7% in 2025 from a year earlier, the first contraction since 2020, as a protracted property slump and weak domestic demand dragged the economy.

Tax revenue rose 0.8% in 2025, while income from non-tax sources slumped 11.3%. Fiscal expenditure rose 1% on year.

World Bank to offer \$8-10b annually for 5 years to fuel India's growth, jobs.

The World Bank Group (WBG) and the Government of India announced a new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) to help accelerate India's next phase of growth and support its vision of Viksit Bharat—its ambition to become a developed country by 2047.

The World Bank Group will provide \$8-10 billion annually for the next five years to India to support its growth and job creation agenda under a new Country Partnership Framework signed with the country. This is about \$2-3 billion more annually compared with the previous programme.

Trump nominates former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh as his preferred successor.

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh as his preferred successor to current Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. The announcement comes days after the Federal Reserve voted to hold interest rates steady, with Chair Jerome Powell defending the importance of the central bank's independence. Trump has repeatedly criticised Powell for not cutting interest rates quickly enough.

slice introduces three UPI-first banking solutions.

Designed as a UPI-first bank, slice integrates savings, credit, and investments into a single digital experience that mirrors how Indians already transact. slice has introduced India's first savings account linked to 100% of the RBI repo rate, ensuring customers earn returns aligned with the true cost of money in the economy. It has launched the slice UPI credit card, a breakthrough credit card designed to transform how India accesses credit. It opened India's first UPI-powered physical bank branch and ATM, pioneering an

entirely new banking experience built around simplicity and speed.

Gold loans grow fastest among all major bank credit segments: RBI.

Gold loans in India have experienced the fastest growth, surging 128% year-on-year to Rs 3.83 lakh crore. Priority housing loans also saw significant expansion, rising 37% annually. Overall bank credit expanded 14.5% year-on-year to Rs 203.23 lakh crore. Bank credit to personal loans segment recorded a 14.4% annual growth so far as compared with 12% a year ago. Credit card outstanding, meanwhile, saw a slower 1% year-on-year growth against 16% expansion in the preceding fiscal.

Centre sets February 5 deadline for financial bids for IDBI.

India's Central government has set a February 5 deadline for financial bids for IDBI Bank as it looks to divest a majority of its holding in the lender. The central bank had approved Fairfax Financial Holdings, Emirates NBD and Kotak Mahindra Bank as eligible bidders in 2024.

The government, which owns 45.48% in IDBI Bank, and state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India which holds 49.24%, together plan to sell 60.7% of the lender.

Ravi Kota chosen as next HAL CMD.

Ravi Kota, widely credited with steering the Tejas fighter jet into operational service, has been chosen as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The appointment will take effect in May 2026 after the incumbent CMD, D.K. Sunil, retires at the end of April.

Sports

Tennis: Carlos Alcaraz defeats Zverev in thrilling five-set semi-final match.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has defeated Alexander Zverev in five sets to make maiden Australian Open final. In the first semi-final match of Men's Singles, Alcaraz edged out Zverev of Germany 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 7-5 at the Rod Laver Arena.³

Veer Chotrani stuns Baptiste Masotti to reach Squash on Fire Open quarterfinals.

India's Veer Chotrani has stunned world number 19 French player Baptiste Masotti in a five-game thriller to secure a place in the quarterfinal of the Squash on Fire Open in Washington. World number 49 Chotrani beat the Baptiste Masotti by 11-6, 7-11, 8-11, 11-1, 11-9. He will meet sixth seed Declan James of England in the quarterfinals of the PSA Bronze-level event.