

International

Bart De Wever sworn in as Belgium's new Prime Minister.

In Belgium, Bart De Wever has been sworn in as the country's new Prime Minister. The oath-taking ceremony took place before King Philippe of Belgium at the Royal Palace. De Wever's coalition, consisting of five parties, includes seven francophone ministers and seven Flemish ministers in the new government. The new government's agenda focuses on budget reform, stricter migration policies, and economic restructuring.

India contributes \$37.64 million to UN regular budget for 2025.

India contributed 37.64 million US Dollars to the United Nation's Regular Budget for this year, securing its place among the 35 member states honoured for timely and full payment of their dues. This contribution was made on the 31st of last month. India has consistently upheld its reputation for meeting its financial obligations to the UN on time and in full.

Grammy award winners for 2025

The 67th Grammy Awards were held in Los Angeles, with more than 90 prizes handed out. Indian-American vocalist and entrepreneur Chandrika Tandon won the Grammy award for the album 'Triveni' in the Best New Age, Ambient or Chant Album category.

Winners

Album of the Year: "Cowboy Carter" – Beyoncé
Record of the Year: "Not Like Us" — Kendrick Lamar

Song of the Year: "Not Like Us" – Kendrick Lamar, songwriter (Kendrick Lamar)

Best New Artist: Chappell Roan

Best Rap Album: "Alligator Bites Never Heal" — DoeChii

Best Country Album: "Cowboy Carter" — Beyoncé

Best Pop Duo/Group performance: "Die with a Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars

National

Framework agreement on establishment of IBCA officially comes into force.

The Environment Ministry announced that the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force. The IBCA and its Secretariat have become a full-fledged, treaty-

based, inter-governmental international organization and legal entity as of January 23. Five countries – Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia – have deposited their instruments of ratification under the Framework Agreement. As of now, 27 countries, including India, have consented to join the IBCA. Several international and national organizations working in the field of wildlife conservation have also partnered with the IBCA. The IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9, 2023, during the 'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger' event. It was launched with the aim of conserving seven big cats: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise 'Ekuverin' begins.

The 13th edition of joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced in the archipelago nation. The military exercise is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives. In 2023, it was conducted at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand from June 11 to 24.

Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' in Dhivehi language.

200 Vande Bharat, 100 Amrit Bharat, 50 Namo Bharat trains will be manufactured in next 2 to 3 years: Railways Minister

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said that 100 Amrit Bharat trains, 50 Namo Bharat trains and 200 Vande Bharat trains both sleepers as well as chair car variants will be manufactured in the next two to three years. Briefing media in New Delhi, Mr Vaishnaw said, Union Budget 2025-26 has allocated 2.52 lakh crore rupees for the Indian Railways. He said, 1.16 lakh crore rupees have been allocated for railway safety in the budget.

Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 introduced in Lok Sabha.

The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill seeks to establish the Institute of Rural Management Anand, as a University to be known as the Tribhuvan Sahkari University and to declare it as an institution of national importance. The institution will impart technical and management education and training in the co-operative sector, promote cooperative research and

development and attain standards of global excellence to realise the vision of Sahkar Se Samriddhi.

It will also strengthen the cooperative movement in the country through a network of institutions and declare the Institute as one of the Schools of the University.

Business and Economy

US President Trump delays Canada, Mexico tariff hike by a month.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a one-month delay in U.S. tariff hikes on Canada and Mexico after the two neighbouring countries agreed to strengthen border security efforts. However, tariffs against China are still scheduled to go into effect.

After his victory in November, Trump unveiled a proposal for 25-percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada, two of the US's top trading partners. He argued that the harsh measures were necessary to crack down on undocumented migration and drug smuggling across US borders.

SoftBank, OpenAI set up joint company SB OpenAI Japan to push AI services.

Japanese technology giant SoftBank Group and OpenAI stepped up their AI partnership, setting up a 50-50 held company called SB OpenAI Japan.

SoftBank Chief Masayoshi Son and OpenAI Chief Sam Altman appeared at an event in Tokyo, talking up their collaboration and inviting Japanese companies to join.

Unemployment rate reduced to 3.2 % in country: Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje.

The Centre has informed the Lok Sabha that the estimated unemployment rate has decreased from 6 per cent five years ago to 3.2 per cent during the last fiscal. In a written reply, Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shobha Karandlaje informed that the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey, PLFS indicated the decreased of unemployment rate among the persons of 15 years age and above.

TVS Holdings completes acquisition of Home Credit India for ₹554 crore.

TVS Holdings Ltd completed the acquisition of 80.74% equity stake in Home Credit India Finance Private Ltd. for ₹554 crore. The balance 19.26% of the equity stake was purchased by Premji Invest and associates of TVS Holdings. This acquisition aligns seamlessly with TVS Holdings' mission to strengthen its presence in the financial services sector.

India registers 47.9% growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals during past 2 years.

India has registered 47.9 per cent growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals during the past two years. It witnessed arrival of 95.20 lakh foreign tourists during 2023, which is an increase of nearly 31 lakh compared to the previous year. The highest number of foreign tourists arrived from Bangladesh followed by the United States and the United Kingdom. Over three thousand 200 crore rupees have been sanctioned for 40 projects in 23 states as Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment for Development of Iconic Tourist Centres during the current financial year.

Sports

Golf: Veer Ahlawat finishes tied 49th in Bahrain.

India's Veer Ahlawat put together a gritty 1-under 71, his third under par round in four days, to finish the 2025 Bahrain Championship at 4-under and tied-49th. He birdied four times in the final round with the gains coming from second, eighth, ninth and the 17th.

Tejas Shirse breaks 60m hurdles national record in indoor meet in France.

India's Tejas Shirse broke his own national record in men's 60m hurdles while finishing second at the Elite Indoor Track Meeting in Miramas, France. Shirse has clocked 7.64 seconds at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Silver level event to better his earlier national record time of 7.65 seconds, set at the CMCM Indoor Meeting in Luxembourg on January 19.