

International

US and Russia exit New START Treaty.

The United States and Russia are no longer bound by the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which expired on February 5, raising global security concerns. The pact, signed in 2010 and extended to 2026, limits deployed nuclear warheads and strategic delivery systems. The treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011, with an original validity period of 10 years and was later extended to February 5, 2026.

The two sides are no longer bound by the treaty's provisions and are free to decide their next steps.

Meanwhile UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Guterres has urged both nations to return to the negotiating table and create a successor framework to reduce risks and restore verifiable limits.

UN Secretary-General praises India for leading AI Summit ahead of 2026 India AI Impact Summit.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has praised India for taking a leadership role in addressing the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, to be held in New Delhi from February 16 to 20.

Over 35,000 participants from more than 100 countries have registered, including more than 500 start-ups, reflecting growing global momentum for responsible and inclusive AI. The UN chief also unveiled the proposed membership of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence, a 40-member expert body designed to assess AI developments, promote global dialogue, and provide authoritative guidance. Indian experts Balaraman Ravindran of IIT Madras and Indian-American computer scientist Vipin Kumar of the University of Minnesota are among the panel members.

Venezuela legislature advances amnesty bill for political detainees.

Venezuela's legislature has advanced an amnesty bill, proposed by acting President Delcy Rodríguez, that could lead to the release of hundreds of opposition leaders, journalists and human rights activists detained for political reasons. The bill, introduced just weeks after the US military captured then-President Nicolás Maduro, still requires a second debate that has yet to be scheduled. Once approved, it must be signed by Rodríguez before it can go into effect.

Indian teacher Rouble Nagi wins Global Teacher Prize 2026.

Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won the Global Teacher Prize 2026, receiving the one-million-dollar award at the World Government Summit in Dubai. She was chosen from over 5,000 nominations from 139 countries.

The award, presented by GEMS Education in its tenth edition, was handed over by Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Through her Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, she has set up more than 800 educational centres across India, providing safe and inspiring spaces in over 100 low-income communities and villages.

Over the past two decades, her work has helped integrate more than one million children into formal education using art as a learning tool.

National

Jitendra Singh launches first open call under RDI Fund for high-risk technology commercialisation.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the first open call of the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Research, Development and

Innovation (RDI) Fund, marking a major step towards strengthening India's innovation ecosystem through structured, long-term financing for indigenous technologies.

The initiative, unveiled under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), aims to support the commercialisation of high-risk, high-impact technologies and represents a significant shift from conventional government funding models.

The RDI Fund has a total corpus of ₹1 lakh crore and offers concessional financing at interest rates of around 2–4 per cent, with repayment tenures of up to 15 years, including moratorium provisions

NITI Aayog prepares draft Energy Transition Blueprint to transform Andhra Pradesh into India's top three renewable energy hubs.

India's think tank NITI Aayog has prepared a draft Energy Transition Blueprint to transform Andhra Pradesh into one of India's top three renewable energy hubs, proposing investments of around 7.5 lakh crore rupees in the energy sector. NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam has handed over the draft blueprint to Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand at the State Secretariat in Amaravati.

The blueprint aims to ensure clean, affordable and reliable electricity for all consumers, while positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major renewable energy export hub by 2035. The plan has been prepared under the ASSET (Accelerating Sustainable State Energy Transition) platform of NITI Aayog and is aligned with the state's long-term development vision. As per the draft estimates, 47 per cent of the state's installed power capacity is currently from renewable sources.

Army renames 246 roads, buildings, and facilities to shed colonial legacy.

The Indian Army has renamed 246 roads, buildings, and facilities across establishments nationwide as part of an effort to shed colonial-era symbols and reinforce an identity rooted in India's military heritage. The initiative is part of the Army's continuing efforts to align its institutional spaces with India's military traditions and national ethos.

The Indian Army stated that the revised nomenclature gives pride of place to the nation's gallantry awardees, battle heroes and distinguished military leaders, reflecting the core values of courage, sacrifice and leadership.

Indian sociologist Andre Beteille dies.

Renowned sociologist and writer Andre Beteille died due to age-related illness. For decades he taught at the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. He was Professor Emeritus of Sociology in the University of Delhi and also the first chancellor of Ashoka University. Throughout his career, Beteille has authored several books covering a wide range of topics from political sociology to the sociology of religion. His prominent works include 'Caste, Class and Power', 'Society and Politics in India' and 'The Idea of Natural Inequality and Other Essays'.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2005 for his contribution in literature and education.

Business and Economy

RBI raises GDP growth projection of Q1, Q2 of FY27.

The Reserve Bank of India has revised upwards GDP growth forecast for the first quarter of the next fiscal year to 6.9% and 7% for the subsequent three months on the

back of trade deals, GST rationalisation, and robust farm output.

In December, the RBI had projected real GDP growth for the June quarter of 2026-27 at 6.7% and 6.8% for the July-September period.

SBI raises \$1 billion from MUFG via social loan.

Public sector lender State Bank of India has raised \$1 billion (about Rs 9,100 crore) through a five-year loan from Japan's, Mitsubishi UFG Financial Group (MUFG), in the first social loan of its kind raised by a bank in the country. It plans to deploy the funds to lend to women or businesses helmed by women.

Social loans are either raised for specific purposes or the liabilities raised are matched to loans already given for specific purposes.

Blackstone gets RBI approval for 9.99% stake purchase in Federal Bank.

Federal Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved private equity firm Blackstone to acquire an up to 9.99 per cent stake in it. Blackstone will invest ₹6,196.51 crore in Federal Bank through its affiliate Asia II Topco XIII Pte Ltd., via a preferential issue on a private placement basis.

The approval adds to the growing foreign investment interest in the Indian banking sector. Last year, Emirates NBD announced an investment of \$3 billion for a 60 percent stake in RBL Bank, the largest foreign investment in India's private banking space. Before that, Japan's SMBC acquired a 24 percent stake in Yes Bank, while Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority together have invested \$877 million in IDFC First Bank.

India and Gulf Cooperation Council sign Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement.

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement in New Delhi.

Presiding over the ceremony, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India's agreement for a free trade agreement with the six GCC countries will open another major trade corridor.

Currently, the trade between India and GCC stands at 170 billion dollars, and around 10 million Indians live and work in GCC nations.

Anthropic unveils new AI model.

Anthropic has released its latest high-performing artificial intelligence model, Claude Opus 4.6 escalating its challenge to OpenAI and Google in the intensifying AI race. Claude Opus 4.6 represents a fundamental shift in how AI handles complex workplace tasks. The company highlighted use cases including financial modeling that synthesizes complicated regulatory filings and market data, plus document and presentation outputs that require minimal refinement.

Anthropic was founded by former OpenAI staffers in 2021.

LIC Q3 net up 17% to ₹12,958 crore.

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported standalone net profit for the December quarter increased more than 17% to ₹12,958.22 crore from ₹11,056.47 crore a year earlier. During the quarter, the net premium income of the insurer rose to Rs 1,25,613 crore from Rs 1,06,891 crore in the same period a year ago.

Sports

RCB wins second Women's Premier League title 2026.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru has won their second Women's Premier League title 2026, defeating the Delhi Capitals by six wickets in Vadodara. Royal Challengers Bengaluru achieved the target of 204 runs for the loss of four wickets in 19.4 overs. Earlier, put into bat first, Delhi Capitals posted 203 runs for the loss of four in the stipulated 20 overs.

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026
: Samrat Rana & Suruchi Singh secure
silver.

India's Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh have claimed silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol

Championship 2026 in New Delhi. India has extended their domination of the Championship with their gold count reaching 10 after two days of competition.