

International

Iran faces widespread unrest as protests enter their 10th day.

Iran is witnessing its most serious wave of unrest in three years as nationwide protests entered their tenth day on January 6th. Security forces have tightened their presence across major cities, even as U.S. President Donald Trump warned that he could side with demonstrators if violence escalates. The protests were triggered by the sharp collapse of the Iranian rial and surging inflation. At least sixteen to twenty people have been killed and several hundred detained.

Crowds have been chanting anti-government slogans and targeting symbols of state authority.

Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen rejects fears of imminent US takeover.

Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen has rejected fears of an imminent US takeover despite Trump's repeated interest. Nielsen's remarks came after US President Donald Trump expressed interest in Greenland, calling it strategically vital to US defence, days after a US military operation in Venezuela that led to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro.

Denmark and European allies have also warned about the serious security implications, backing Greenland's sovereignty.

Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.

China bans export of dual-use goods to Japan.

China banned the export of dual-use goods to Japan that can serve military purposes. This comes at a time of heightened tensions between the two countries over Taiwan, a self-ruled island that China claims as its sovereign territory. The Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement that exports of such items, which

can serve both civilian and military purposes, to the Japanese military are prohibited.

National

Indian scientists develop first supercomputer-powered simulation to capture Mpemba effect.

Indian scientists have developed the first supercomputer-powered simulation to capture the long-existing paradox of hot water freezing faster than cold water. The Ministry of Science and Technology informed that this phenomenon, technically called the Mpemba effect, had eluded scientists for a long time. Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research have used supercomputers to develop the first simulation of ice formation, proving the Mpemba effect of water. The Ministry added that the simulation also demonstrates that the effect can appear during fluid-to-solid transitions in systems other than water.

Mega skilling drive launched to provide AI knowledge to 10 lakh youth in a year.

Union Minister for IT and Information and Broadcasting Ashwani Vaishnav has launched an AI skilling programme to impart AI skills to ten lakh youth across the country. He launched this programme while virtually addressing an Artificial Intelligence Conference held in Rajasthan's Jaipur. Mr Vaishnav said that within a year, ten lakh young people and small entrepreneurs will receive AI skills under this initiative.

WaveX signs agreement with FITT-IIT Delhi to accelerate media technology entrepreneurship.

WaveX, the startup accelerator initiative under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has signed an agreement to strengthen innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship in media, entertainment, broadcasting and communication

technologies. The agreement has been signed with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, to accelerate media technology entrepreneurship.

Under the agreement, IIT Delhi will provide strategic and operational guidance for incubator setup, facilitate engagement with other IITs and innovation hubs, and enable capacity-building initiatives for startups and incubation managers. Meanwhile, WaveX will provide financial support, policy guidance, and national visibility for the programme.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases 55 rare and valuable literary works.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today released 55 rare and valuable literary works, representing the country's five classical languages. These are Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Odia. The books have been published by the Central Institute of Indian Languages. The Minister also released 13 books along with a Tirukkural Sign Language series by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.

Business and Economy

Supervisory data quality index of banks improves to 90.7 in Sept 2025.

According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the quality of regulatory data submitted by India's banks has shown a notable improvement, with the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) recording a higher score in September 2025 compared to June 2025.

The overall sDQI score for SCBs improved to 90.7 in September 2025, up from 89.9 in June 2025, reflecting better compliance and improved internal data governance practices across the banking system.

Public sector banks saw their overall score rise to 91.1, aided by near-perfect scores in completeness.

Private sector banks maintained stable performance, with a DQI of 90.6. Foreign banks improved to 90.4, driven largely by gains in timeliness and accuracy.

Small finance banks emerged as top performers, posting an sDQI of 91.5, supported by a perfect score in completeness.

RBI proposes to cap banks' dividend payout at 75% of PAT.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had proposed to raise the dividend payout cap for banks to 75% of the net profit from the earlier 40% rule. It also wants bank boards to oversee the asset quality and provisioning gaps, capital projection and long-term growth plans before declaring a dividend. This move aims to strengthen banks' capital positions and support long-term growth.

Regional rural banks and local area banks may see a higher cap of 80 per cent.

Bank loan-to-deposit ratios at all-time highs raise concern.

Banking system's loan-to-deposit ratios hit an all-time high of 81% in December quarter, signalling a widening gap between credit growth and deposit mobilization. Major lenders like HDFC Bank saw their LDRs approach 100%, prompting concerns about potential deposit rate hikes or limited scope for passing on RBI rate cuts.

At HDFC Bank, loans grew 12% year-on-year last quarter, while deposits rose 11.5%, slowing from a 16% increase in the June quarter. Consequently, the bank's LDR edged back towards the 100% mark. HDFC Bank's gross advances stood at ₹28.44 lakh crore as of December-end, marginally below total deposits of ₹28.59 lakh crore.

RBI Govt urges NBFCs to maintain sound underwriting standards.

Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra has underlined the need for sound underwriting standards and close

monitoring of asset quality at a meeting with senior officials of select non-banking financial Companies (NBFCs). As part of the Reserve Bank's ongoing engagement with regulated entities, the Governor held a meeting with the Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers (MDs and CEOs) of select NBFCs, including government NBFCs, housing finance companies (HFCs) and microfinance institutions. The participating entities together account for about 53 per cent of NBFC sector assets.

Sports

Football: Indian Super League to start on February 14 with all 14 clubs.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that the Indian Super League will kick off on 14 February, bringing an end to a six-month crisis that brought Indian football to a standstill. The ISL, which used to start in September, will feature all 14 clubs, including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, which were opposed to the financial model suggested by the All India Football Federation. The league will be played on a home-and-away basis and will feature 91 matches.

Final scheduling and logistics will be worked out by the clubs in the coming weeks.

Squash: Anahat Singh enters maiden Women's Under-19 final at British Junior Open.

In squash, top-seeded Indian Anahat Singh has advanced to her maiden women's under-19 final at the British Junior Open squash championships with a straight-games win over Egypt's Malika El Karaksy in the semifinals. Singh will face the European junior champion and second seed Lauren Baltayan of France in the final.

Tennis: Australian Open winners to get \$2.79mn as prize money hits new high.

Players at this month's Australian Open will be competing for a record prize pool with organisers announcing a 16 per cent increase in the total purse to Aus\$111.5 million (US\$75 million).

The winners of the men's and women's singles at the first Grand Slam of the year will each take home Aus\$4.15 million (US\$2.79 million), up 19 per cent from last year's Aus\$3.5 million.