

International

US: Unemployment rate drops to 4% in January, lowest since May 2024

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) under Department of Labour reported that the unemployment rate edged down to 4 percent in January, lowest since May 2024. Major unemployment decline was observed in the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industries. However, job gains occurred in health care, retail trade, and social assistance.

Nepal & France sign MoU to begin HydroNepal Project

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the Embassy of France in Nepal, and Blue Water Intelligence signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to launch the HydroNepal Project.

Through collaboration between NEA, BWI, and the Central Department of Hydrology and Meteorology of Tribhuvan University (TU), the project aims to enhance the understanding of hydrological processes in the Himalayan region under a changing climate and their impact on hydropower generation.

India-Nepal Startup Connect 2025 Fosters Cross-Border Collaboration in Kathmandu

The 2nd India-Nepal Startup Connect was organised in Kathmandu Valley, aiming to provide a crucible for entrepreneurs and visionaries to collaborate across borders.

During the India-Nepal Startup Connect, participants were called for greater collaboration between India and Nepal in the startup sector.

Lebanon forms its first government in over two years to end deadlock

Lebanon has formed its first full-fledged government since 2022, ending a prolonged deadlock, with Nawaf Salam assuming the role of Prime Minister.

Nawaf Salam, a seasoned diplomat and former president of the International Court of Justice, is committed to addressing Lebanon's long-standing challenges.

US: A Federal Judge blocks President Donald Trump's order to end birthright citizenship

A federal judge in Seattle has indefinitely blocked US President Donald Trump's executive order that seeks to end birthright citizenship.

US District Judge John Coughenour's preliminary injunction is the second major legal blow to US President Trump's efforts to alter the US law as part of a broader immigration crackdown after a federal judge in Maryland issued a similar ruling.

National

BJP returns to power in Delhi after 27 years, defeating incumbent AAP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has registered a decisive victory in the Delhi Assembly Election, returning to power after 27 years by defeating the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The BJP won 48 seats in the 70-member legislative assembly, while the AAP bagged 22 seats.

Union Minister Virendra Kumar chairs meeting of Central Advisory Committee for PM-AJAY

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar chaired a meeting of the Central Advisory Committee for the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) in New Delhi.

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of the scheme and formulating strategies aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes communities across India. Dr. Virendra Kumar thoroughly discussed the implementation of the scheme and emphasized the overarching objectives of PM-AJAY.

Defence Ministry inks contract with BEL for procurement of 28 EON-51 systems for Indian Navy

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for the procurement of 28 EON-51 systems for 11 New Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and three Cadet Training Ships for the Indian Navy.

The contract will cost over 642 crore rupees. EON-51 is an Electro-Optical Fire Control System, which provides search, detection and classification of targets using Electro-Optical and Thermal Imagers devices.

Business and Economy

India's Forex Reserves Rise to \$630.6 Billion, 2nd Consecutive Weekly Gain

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by 1.05 billion dollars to over 630.6 billion dollars in the week ending January 31, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This is the second consecutive week of rise in the reserves. In the previous week, the country's forex reserves had increased by 5.57 billion dollars and had settled at 629.55 billion dollars.

Sports

Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025: D Gukesh qualifies for knockout stage

In the first of five events of this year's Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, World Champion, India's D Gukesh has qualified for the knockout stage.

Gukesh progressed to the next stage despite losing to Norway's Magnus Carlsen, the world's highest-rated player, in the ninth and final round of the qualifiers in Weissenhaus, Germany.

Iranian-turned-French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja and Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan topped the leaderboard with 6.5 points each, out of a possible nine in the round-robin rapid format.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain clinches Gold Medal in Women's 75kg category

Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain clinched a gold medal in the women's 75kg category whereas Shiva Thapa bagged silver in the men's 63.5kg category in the ongoing 38th National Games.

Junior world champion Ankushita Boro created history by beating Uttarakhand's Kajal 5-0 and winning the 66kg welterweight event.

Services' Mandengbam Singh won his 51kg flyweight bout against Anshul Punia by a 4-1 split decision while Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria won the women's 60kg division after beating Haryana's Manisha Moun 5-0.

Uttarakhand's Nivedita Kari beat Haryana's Kalpana 5-0 in the women's flyweight 50kg event and Madhya Pradesh's Divya Panwar defeated Uttar Pradesh's Sonia Lather 4-1 in the women's bantamweight 54kg category.