International

Japan PM Sanae Takaichi Secures election victory

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has led her ruling coalition to a landslide win in a snap winter election on Sunday. Early vote tallies reported by NHK showed Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party winning 316 seats by Monday, well above the 261 needed for a majority in the 465-member lower house. The result is the party's best performance since its formation in 1955, beating the previous 300-seat record set in 1986.

Centre-left candidate Seguro beats far-right to Portugal's Presidency

Centre-left candidate Antonio Jose Seguro has scored a convincing win over far-right rival Andre Ventura in Portugal's Presidential election held on February 8, 2026, with the run-off vote held after days of devastating storms. With more than 99% of the ballots counted, Antonio Jose Seguro had won 66.8% of the vote to Andre Ventura's 33.2%.

National

India, Malaysia ink 6 key pacts

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Malaysia, both nations have agreed to strengthen bilateral ties in areas such as trade, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing and semiconductors. The two sides signed 11 agreements, including a framework pact on semiconductor cooperation, and India announced it will open a Consulate General in Malaysia.

The Prime Minister also announced several diaspora-focused initiatives, including the extension of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card facilities up to the sixth generation & the introduction of the Thiruvalluvar Scholarship for students studying in India

UIDAI completes over one crore biometric updates for schoolchildren across India

Over one crore mandatory biometric updates (MBUs) for school-children have been completed by Unique Identification Authority of India-UIDAI. Ministry of Electronics and IT said. UIDAI Regional Offices and education departments of states worked in mission mode to hold MBU camps in 83 thousand schools in just five months. In order to incentivise children to complete MBU and to make the service accessible to all, UIDAI had waived off the charges in the age group of 7-15, from 1st October 2025 to 30 September this year.

VOC Port Authority Becomes India's First Port to Initiate Anti-Drone Security System

In a landmark step towards strengthening maritime and coastal security, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in India to initiate the implementation of an advanced Anti-Drone System, marking a significant milestone in the protection of critical port infrastructure. The project involves the deployment of a comprehensive integrated Radio Frequency(RF) and radar-based drone detection and jamming system, specifically tailored for complex port environments, providing 360-degree coverage and Omnidirectional bearing.

Business and Economy

Kotak Mahindra Bank issues India's first fully digital FPI licence

Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the first custodian in India to issue a foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence and complete the entire account-opening process using electronic signatures, marking a key step in fully digital onboarding for overseas investors. The bank has already issued two FPI licences based entirely on digitally signed documents. The move follows Securities and Exchange Board of India operationalising a unified digital workflow in January 2026.

India signs DPI cooperation agreements with 23 countries

India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements with 23 countries to share and cooperate on its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The agreements aim to facilitate the replication and adoption of India's digital platforms under the India Stack framework. The MoUs focus on collaboration in key areas such as digital identity, digital payments, data exchange, and service delivery platforms.

India's flagship digital payments platform, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), is now operational in more than eight countries.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem includes platforms such as Aadhaar for digital identity, UPI for payments, DigiLocker for document management, CoWIN for vaccination services, GeM for government procurement, UMANG for citizen services, e-Sanjeevani for telemedicine, eCourts for judicial services, and PM GatiShakti for integrated infrastructure planning, among others.

RBI frees branch expansion for large gold-loan NBFCs

Non-banking financial companies, such as Bajaj Finance and Muthoot Finance, that offer gold loans are expected to benefit as the RBI allows them to open branches freely. The Reserve Bank of India has removed the prior approval requirement for these companies, allowing them to focus more on credit delivery and risk management. However, opening representative offices abroad will still require RBI approval.

RBI to let lenders open up credit lines to REITs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that it would permit banks to lend directly to real estate investment trusts (REITs) at the trust level, making financing access cheaper for the sector that now owns about a fifth of all institutional and rent-yielding real estate. This move aims to make financing more accessible and potentially cheaper for the sector. Currently, banks can only fund real estate projects, not land acquisitions.

Sports

Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026: India's Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan win gold with world record

In Shooting, India's Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan have set a world record and a Championship record on their way to winning gold in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 in New Delhi. The Indian pair combined to score 505 points in the final to successfully defend their Asian title.

Football: Services beats Kerala in extra-time to win Santosh Trophy 2025-26

Abhishek Pawar has scored in extra-time as Services beat Kerala 1-0 in the Santosh Trophy 2025-26 final at the Dhakuakhana Football Stadium in Assam. Pawar has netted his seventh goal of the tournament in second-half extra-time, steering the ball into the net with a side volley.

It was the eighth Santosh Trophy title for Services, while seven-time champion Kerala lost its second final in a row, having lost to West Bengal on penalties last season.

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships ,China: India's Tejaswin Shankar wins gold medal

India wrapped up its campaign at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tianjin, China, finishing with five medals and securing sixth place in the overall medal standings. Tejaswin Shankar delivered the standout performance for India by winning the Men's heptathlon event to clinch the country's only gold medal at the Championships.

In the event, Shankar amassed 5,993 points to set a new national indoor record, surpassing his previous mark of 5,650 points set in the United States in 2021. India added three more medals on the final day, with Pooja winning silver in the high jump, Tajinderpal Singh Toor claiming silver in the shot put, and Ancy Sojan securing bronze in the long jump

Tennis: India register historic 3–2 win over Netherlands to advance to 2nd round of Davis Cup Qualifiers

India entered into the second round of Davis Cup Qualifiers with a historic 3-2 win over World Number 6 Netherlands in Bengaluru. Dhakshineswar Suresh has delivered a heroic performance, winning both his singles matches and teaming up with Yuki Bhambri to claim the doubles.

This is the first time India have made it to the second round of the Qualifiers since the new Davis Cup format was launched in 2019.