

International

John Dramani Mahama is the new President of Ghana

After securing victory in the presidential election in December last year, John Dramani Mahama was sworn into office as the President of Ghana, on January 7, 2025. Born in 1958 in Ghana's Savannah region, Mahama previously served as Ghana's President from 2012 to 2017.

Los Angeles declares a state of emergency.

Los Angeles, in the United States, has declared a state of emergency as three wildfires spread from 10 acres to more than 2,900 acres within hours. Significant landmarks, community buildings, and businesses have been damaged or destroyed by the fires, as per reports.

The 17th edition of ArabPlast

West Asia's premier trade exhibition for plastics and petrochemicals, the 17th edition of ArabPlast opened in Dubai with India emerging as a key player in sustainable manufacturing solutions. The three-day event has attracted over 750 exhibitors across 12 international pavilions, showcasing innovations in plastics, recycling, petrochemicals, packaging, and rubber industries.

Ethiopia celebrates "Lidet"

In Ethiopia, the Orthodox Christmas, known as "Lidet" was celebrated on January 7, 2025. Ethiopians follow the Julian calendar, which runs 13 days later than the Gregorian calendar, used by Catholic and Protestant churches. This year, thousands of Ethiopian pilgrims and international tourists gathered in the historic town of Lalibela to celebrate Orthodox Christmas at one of the world's oldest and most unique churches.

National

Marathi language granted the status of a classical language

Following the issuance of the Government Resolution (GR) on January 8, 2025, Marathi language has officially been granted the status of

a classical language. Maharashtra's Minister of Marathi Language, Uday Samant, met with Union Minister of Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in Delhi, where Mr Shekhawat formally handed over the GR, officially recognising Marathi as a classical language.

18th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention at Bhubaneswar on January 9th, 2025. The theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is 'Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat'. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is the flagship event of the Central Government that provides an important platform to connect and engage with the Indian diaspora and enable them to interact with each other.

Special songs dedicated to the Mahakumbh launched.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched a pair of special songs by Akashvani and Doordarshan, dedicated to the Mahakumbh in Delhi. The special composition for Akashvani has been sung by Ratan Prasanna, with the music of Santosh Nahar and Ratan Prasanna. The theme song "Mahakumbh Hai" produced by Doordarshan is sung by Padma Shri Kailash Kher.

Scheme for the pan-India setup of Driver Training Institutes (DTIs)

A scheme for the pan-India setup of Driver Training Institutes (DTIs) which will provide incentives for setting up DTIs and additional incentives for the integrated infrastructure of Automated Testing Stations (ATSS) and DTIs was announced by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

Business/Economy

India's overall import bill pared

India's overall import bill for the first eight months of 2024-25, which was reckoned to have grown at 8.35% to \$486.73 billion, has been pared by almost 3% to \$472.5 billion, as per data

uploaded on the website of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) on January 08, 2025. A bulk of this \$14 billion drop in the year's cumulative goods import tally was linked to a revision in the gold import bill from \$49.1 billion for April to November 2024, which marked a 49% spike from a year ago, to just \$37.4 billion which reflects a mere 13.5% rise.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed the new Revenue Secretary

Tuhin Kanta Pandey was appointed the new Revenue Secretary, by the Centre on Wednesday (January 8, 2025), and the incumbent Revenue Secretary, Arunish Chawla was shifted to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifts supervisory restrictions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lifted supervisory restrictions on Ashirvad Micro Finance Ltd. and DMI Finance Private Ltd. after getting satisfied about the corrective action taken by both the regulated entities.

The business restrictions imposed on two other NBFCs, dated October 17, 2024, namely Navi Finserv Pvt, Ltd, and Arohan Financial Services Ltd. were lifted on December 2, 2024 and January 3, 2025, respectively.

Additional Judicial and Technical members to the National Company Law Tribunal.

In a major move to improve the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has appointed 24 Judicial and Technical Members to the tribunal's Principal Bench in New Delhi.

Sports

Martin Guptill announces his retirement from international cricket.

Martin Guptill of New Zealand announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38. He debuted in 2009 against the West Indies. Guptill's career spanned around 14 years during which he scored over 14 thousand runs in 367 matches and smashed 23 international hundreds. Guptill played 198 ODI, 122 T20Is, and 47 Tests.