

International

President Trump announces U.S. plan to take over Gaza, pledge economic development

President Donald Trump has said the United States plans to take over the war-torn Gaza Strip and develop it economically. At a joint press conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House today, Mr Trump said that the US will be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous unexploded bombs and other weapons on the site. He also claimed to create an economic development that would supply an unlimited number of jobs and housing for the people in this area.

President Trump signs executive order withdrawing US from UNHRC.

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order withdrawing the US from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), prohibiting any future funding for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. President Trump also directed the US to review its participation in the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the body that uses culture and history as a bridge-building mechanism between nations.

BAPS inaugurates South Africa's largest Hindu Temple in Johannesburg

The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) has inaugurated the largest Hindu Temple of South Africa in Johannesburg. The inauguration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Cultural Complex marks a historic milestone for the Hindu community in the country.

This new temple joins a growing network of 35 BAPS temples across Africa, including seven in South Africa.

BAPS has currently a global presence with over thirteen thousand temples built across various countries, serving as centres for spirituality, cultural preservation, and community service.

Singapore passes new law to safeguard racial harmony

Singapore has passed a new law to safeguard racial harmony and protect against foreign interference. The legislation requires race-based groups, such as clan and business

associations, to disclose foreign donations and empowers authorities to act against content that threatens racial harmony.

The law includes measures like restraining orders for harmful content and community programs for minor offences to repair social ties.

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini named Aga Khan V after father's death

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini has been named the new Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims, following the death of his father. The 53-year-old Prince Rahim, designated as Aga Khan V in his father's will, becomes the 50th hereditary imam of the Ismailis. His father, Aga Khan IV and billionaire philanthropist Prince Karim Al-Hussaini passed away at the age of 88 in Portugal.

Australia injects additional 1.7 billion dollars in health sector to improve services

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has committed an additional 1.7 billion dollars in funding to strengthen Medicare and support public hospitals across the country. This funding boost aims to reduce waiting times, cut waiting lists, and manage the pressure on emergency departments.

South Korea blocks use of Chinese AI tool DeepSeek on official PCs.

The South Korean foreign and trade ministries blocked access to the Chinese artificial intelligence tool DeepSeek on ministry computers connected to external networks. The move is viewed as part of the government's efforts to proactively address concerns that important government data could be compromised while officials use generative AI services.

DeepSeek, a Chinese AI app, has been facing increasing scrutiny worldwide.

National

Over 2,900 people killed due to hydro-meteorological disasters in 2024-25

More than 2,900 people were killed due to hydro-meteorological disasters in 2024-25, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha. According to the information received from the various State

governments as of January 27, a total of 2,936 people were reported killed, 3,63,381 houses or huts were damaged, and 61,826 cattle were lost due to hydro-meteorological disasters.

Home Ministry asks State governments to prevent misuse of State Emblem of India

The Union Home Ministry has asked State governments to prevent the misuse and improper depiction of the State Emblem Of India emphasising that the Lion Capital logo is incomplete without the motto — Satyameva Jayate — in Devanagari script.

It has been brought to notice of the Home Ministry that various government agencies which are using the State Emblem of India on their stationery, publications, seals, vehicles, buildings, websites etc., often omit the motto “Satyameva Jayate” and are only depicting the profile of the Lion Capital. Further, the design is not in conformity with the design set out in the Appendix I & II of the Schedule of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.

Janjati Sanskritik Samagam 2025 to be held at Mahakumbh.

Janjati Sanskritik Samagam 2025 will be held at Mahakumbh, Prayagraj, with over 15,000 tribals from across the country set to participate. During the six-day event, everyone will pledge to protect the culture and traditions of tribals. The year 2025 has been declared as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Business and Economy

Google introduces new class of cheap AI models.

Alphabet's Google has announced updates to its Gemini family of large language models, including a new product line with competitive pricing to low-cost artificial intelligence models like that of Chinese rival DeepSeek. The tech giant offers several versions of Gemini that vary in price and performance. It already offered a lightweight variant known as "Flash" but its new "Flash-Lite" model is even cheaper.

Iran's currency rial plunges to record low.

Iran's currency plunged to a record low of 850,000 rials to \$1 after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a restart to the “maximum pressure” campaign targeting Tehran.

Mr. Trump's order signed calls for halting Iran's oil exports and pursuing a “snapback” of United Nations sanctions on Iran.

IOB becomes signatory of Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). As part of this initiative, the bank will measure and disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with its financed activities and adopt globally harmonized methodologies for GHG accounting, aligning with international best practices in the financial industry.

PCAF is a globally recognised collaboration of financial institutions working together to harmonize the measurement and disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments

Sports

Trump signs executive order to bar transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order intended to ban transgender athletes from participating in girls' and women's sports. The order, titled “Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports,” gives federal agencies wide authority to ensure entities that receive federal funding abide by Title IX in alignment with the Trump administration's view, which interprets “sex” as the gender someone was assigned at birth.

Tennis: Italian qualifier Bellucci stuns Medvedev in Rotterdam

Italy's Mattia Bellucci stunned former World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in three tough sets to reach the Rotterdam ATP quarterfinals. The 23-year-old left-hander, playing on a career-high ranking of 92, came through 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to record a first win over a top 10 opponent.