

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (JANUARY 2025)

INTERNATIONAL

Romania, Bulgaria fully join Schengen border-free zone
Romania and Bulgaria have officially joined the EU's Schengen zone on January 1, 2025, eliminating land border controls with other member states. The move allows residents to travel freely without passport checks.

India joins Eurodrone as observer

India has officially joined the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS) or Eurodrone programme, as an observer state. Eurodrone is managed by the Bonn-based Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR) and led by Taufkirchen-based aerospace company Airbus Defence and Space.

Thailand becomes first Southeast Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage

Thailand has taken a significant step toward equality by legalizing same-sex marriage on January 23, 2025. This decision makes Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize marriage equality, joining Taiwan and Nepal as the third nation in Asia to pass such legislation.

Nigeria admitted as partner country of BRICS bloc

Nigeria has been admitted as a "partner country" of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, according to Brazil, the group's chair. Nigeria becomes the ninth BRICS partner country, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

Israel & Hamas reach ceasefire

Israel and Hamas have agreed on a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal following meetings with Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. The deal is set to begin and will last 42 days.

Russian gas exports to Europe via Ukraine halted

Russian natural gas exports via the Soviet-era pipelines running through Ukraine to Europe were halted in the early hours of New Year's Day. The transit deal expired, and Moscow and Kyiv have been unable to reach a new agreement to continue the flows.

Zimbabwe abolishes death penalty

African nation Zimbabwe has abolished the death penalty, a widely expected move in a country that last carried out the punishment nearly two decades ago.

Pakistan begins its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of UNSC

Pakistan began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on January 1, 2025. Pakistan will sit in the Security Council for the 2025-26 term as a non-permanent member — the eighth time.

India's relief assistance to Vanuatu

To help Vanuatu recover after an earthquake of magnitude 7.4 struck near Vanuatu's coast in the South Pacific Ocean, India has extended relief assistance of five lakh dollars to support relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.

India's Humanitarian Assistance to Bolivia

To help combat forest fires, in Bolivia India has extended humanitarian assistance. The consignment consisting of 16 tons of firefighting gear, first-aid kit, medicines, and other utilities has departed for Bolivia.

Ecuador declares state of emergency

Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces and three municipalities amid escalating internal unrest and armed conflict.

India, Bangladesh complete repatriation of 185 detained fishermen

India and Bangladesh have completed a reciprocal repatriation of 185 detained fishermen. The process of reciprocal repatriation of 90 Bangladeshi fishermen held in India and 95 Indian fishermen detained in Bangladesh was held near the International Maritime Boundary Line in Bay of Bengal.

Over 500 Afghanistan children killed in 2024 by explosives: UNICEF

More than 500 children in Afghanistan were killed or injured in 2024 due to explosions from unexploded ordnance and remnants of war, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Earthquake in Nepal - Tibet Border

A powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake with the epicenter located at a depth of 10 kilometres in Xizang, the Tibet Autonomous Region, near the Nepal border claimed 126 lives and injured 188.

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.

100 Feared Dead in South Africa's Abandoned Gold Mine

At least 100 people mining illegally in an abandoned gold mine in South Africa are feared to have died after being trapped deep underground for months while police tried to rescue them.

Suspected outbreak of Marburg virus kills 8 in Tanzania: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that a suspected outbreak of the Marburg virus in northwest Tanzania has infected 9 people, killing 8 of them.

Indonesia plans minimum age for social media use

Indonesia's Communications Minister has stated that there are plans to issue a regulation to set a minimum age for users of social media, a move aimed at protecting children.

Los Angeles Wildfires cause widespread destruction, 25 dead

At least 25 people have died, and more than a dozen others remain unaccounted for as multiple wildfires rage across Los Angeles.

Trump signs order withdrawing U.S. from WHO

The United States will exit the World Health Organization, President Donald Trump stated that the global health agency had mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic and other international health crises.

Trump signs executive order directing U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement again

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order directing the United States to again withdraw from the landmark Paris climate agreement, dealing a blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming.

Trump declares national emergency, troop deployments at Mexico border

President Donald Trump has announced severe new restrictions on immigration and asylum in the United States

hours after taking office on January 20, 2025, declaring that he will send troops to the US-Mexico border and attempt to end birthright citizenship.

WB appointed neutral expert backs India's stand on dispute with Pakistan regarding IWT

The World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert has announced that it is competent to decide on the differences between India and Pakistan over two hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir, under the Indus Water Treaty.

Trump administration suspends all foreign aid

The United States has announced the suspension of all foreign aid and ordered the review of American financial assistance to other countries, to ensure they are efficient and consistent with its foreign policy under the America First agenda. The United States is the world's biggest international aid donor spending \$68bn in 2023

Thousands of displaced Palestinians return to Gaza

Tens of thousands of Palestinians came along the main roads leading north in Gaza after Hamas agreed to hand over three Israeli hostages. Israeli forces began to withdraw from a main corridor across the enclave under the ceasefire agreement. Around 650,000 Palestinians were displaced

DeepSeek a 'wake-up call' for US tech firms, Trump says

US President Donald Trump has called the rise of Chinese company DeepSeek "a wake-up call" for the US tech industry, after the emergence of its artificial intelligence (AI) model triggered shockwaves on Wall Street. Shares in major tech firms like Nvidia fell sharply, with the chip giant losing almost \$600bn (£482bn) in market value.

Denmark to strengthen Arctic defence amid US interests in Greenland

Denmark has unveiled plans to bolster its military presence in the Arctic amid rising concerns over the US interest in acquiring Greenland, a Danish-owned territory.

Pakistan outlaws disinformation with three-year jail term

Pakistan criminalised online disinformation, passing legislation that enshrines punishments of up to three years in prison, a decision journalists say is designed to crack down on dissent.

US President Trump threatens BRICS with 100% tariffs

United States President Donald Trump has once again warned BRICS nations and threatened them with 100 per cent tariffs on their exports if they try to replace the US dollar as the main currency in global trade.

Pakistan decides to criminalise begging

Pakistan government has decided to criminalise begging following multiple complaints from foreign countries as thousands of its nationals residing abroad have been caught in illegal activities and begging. This has resulted in a major global embarrassment and visa bans for travellers from the country.

NATIONAL

India & USA sign MoU to enhance cooperation on cyber threat intelligence & digital forensics

India and USA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation and information sharing on cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics in criminal investigations.

India and Saudi Sign Haj Agreement

India's Minister of Minority Affairs, Kiran Rijju, has signed the Haj Agreement 2025 with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Hajj and Umrah in Jeddah. The agreement secures a quota of 175,025 pilgrims from India for the upcoming Haj season.

Total annual groundwater recharge in country increased by 15 BCM in 2024

The total annual groundwater recharge in the country has increased by 15 Billion Cubic Meter substantially and extraction has declined by three Billion Cubic Meter in 2024.

GSLV mission planned in January would be 100th launch from Sriharikota

ISRO is gearing up to achieve a significant milestone with a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle mission scheduled in January set to become the 100th launch from the Sriharikota spaceport.

Centre extends two crop insurance schemes till 2025-26

The Central government has extended two crop insurance schemes PMFBY and RWBCIS — for one more year till 2025-26 and also created a separate ₹824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes.

Centre amends prison manual rules

The Union Home Ministry has amended the prison manual rules to check discrimination and classification of inmates in jails on the basis of their caste.

The country's first-ever 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census'

The country's first-ever Coastline-Waders Bird Census organised by the Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society began at Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar.

The 31st National Children's Science Congress

The 31st National Children's Science Congress held on January 3rd in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav inaugurated the four-day Children's Science Congress in Bhopal.

New Governors take oath in Kerala and Bihar.

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar took oath as the 23rd Governor of Kerala at a function held at Raj Bhavan. Arif Mohammad Khan took oath as Bihar's 42nd Governor at Rajendra Mandapam, Raj Bhavan.

Union Home Minister releases a book titled- 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages.'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released a book titled- 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages' which is a collaborative effort of the National Book Trust of India and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

Draft of Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025, released

The draft of Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 was released by the Central Government. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 received the assent of President Droupadi Murmu in August 2023.

Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

The Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 started in New Delhi on 4th January 2025. The theme of the six-day Mahotsav is Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047. The Mahotsav aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and foster innovation within rural communities.

French Aircraft Carrier Charles De Gaulle Arrives in Goa

The French Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Charles De Gaulle, participated in the bilateral naval exercise Varuna in Goa. The French carrier strike group, which includes the Rafale Marine fighter aircraft, took part in the 42nd annual bilateral exercise Varuna with Indian navy ships.

Cowpea seeds sprouts in space says ISRO

A batch of cowpea seeds have successfully sprouted in space, days after they were taken into orbit by an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) mission. ISRO has also successfully operated India's first space robotic arm.

Centre announces development of indigenous technology by CSIR to produce paracetamol medicine

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CSIR has developed an indigenous technology to produce Paracetamol, a widely used pain reliever and fever reducer drug. Karnataka-based Satya Deeptha Pharmaceuticals Ltd will utilize this breakthrough to produce affordable paracetamol domestically.

The BHARATPOL portal launched

The BHARATPOL portal which will streamline the processing of all requests for international assistance through INTERPOL, including the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

15th edition of Asia's biggest aero show Aero India 2025

The 15th edition of Asia's biggest aero show Aero India 2025, with the theme, "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities" will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from the 10th to 14th of February 2025.

Government of India Calendar for 2025, unveiled

The Central government has chosen "Janbhagidari se Jankalyan" as the central theme for its 2025 calendar, underscoring the ethos of transformative governance.

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.

18th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention at Bhubaneswar on January 9th, 2025. The theme of this year's Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention is 'Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat'.

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.

Centre approves memorial for former President Pranab Mukherjee

The Central Government has approved the establishment of a memorial dedicated to former President Pranab Mukherjee in the Rashtriya Smriti complex, situated in the Rajghat area of New Delhi.

SC Collegium recommends Patna High Court Chief Justice to the top court

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended Patna High Court Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Over 1.80 lakh deaths occurred due to road accidents in 2024: Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has said that around 1.80 lakh deaths occurred due to road accidents in 2024. Mr Gadkari mentioned that nearly 30 thousand people died because of not wearing a helmet.

Nitin Gadkari announces nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

The Central government will come up with a modified scheme by March to provide cashless treatment for road accident victims nationwide, under which they will be entitled to a maximum amount of ₹1.5 lakh per accident per person, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform

Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi. The platform is an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.

DRDO created a special clothing system called HIMKAVACH

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has created a special clothing system called 'HimKavach' to protect Indian soldiers in freezing temperatures, ranging from 20°C to -60°.

Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush has inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi. He also announced Shri Palle Ganga Reddy as its first Chairperson. The headquarters of the Board has been set up at Nizamabad.

Sonamarg Tunnel in J&K inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and dedicated the prestigious Sonamarg Tunnel to the nation, in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The Sonamarg Tunnel with 6.4-km passage will significantly reduce the travel time to just 20-25 minutes between Gagangeer and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district. Earlier, it was called the Z-Morh tunnel due to its shape.

Over 1.5 cr devotees take dip on first day of Mahakumbh

Over one crore fifty lakh devotees and pilgrims have taken the holy dip as the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering Mahakumbh began on January 14 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Devotees, Pilgrims and Visitors took a holy dip in various ghats of Triveni Sangam on Paus Purnima Day.

PM Modi launches 'Mission Mausam'

PM Narendra Modi has launched Mission Mausam to make the country a weather-ready and climate-smart nation. The launch took place during the celebrations of the 150th Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

ISRO successfully executes SpaDeX docking experiment

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the SpaDeX docking experiment making India the fourth country after the USA, Russia and China this historic feat.

1 Submarine, 2 warships commissioned in one go

In a first, three frontline platforms — Nilgiri, Vaghsheer and Surat were commissioned on the same day in the Indian Navy on January 15, 2025. PM Narendra Modi dedicated the three frontline platforms to the nation.

Amit Shah inaugurates Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme' at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad airports.

SC warns contempt against States, UTs which do not act against misleading medical ads

The Supreme Court of India had cautioned States and Union Territories of contempt action for hesitating to initiate proceedings against offending individuals and companies that give misleading medical advertisements.

India's space startup's Pixxel, Digantara launch groundbreaking satellites

India's Spacetech startups Pixxel and Digantara have launched their satellites aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 rideshare mission from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Pixxel has launched the first three satellites of its Firefly constellation.

Digantara launched its Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) satellite.

Centre announces setting up of 8th Pay Commission for Central government employees & pensioners

The union government has announced the setting up of the 8th Pay Commission for the Central government employees and pensioners. The term of the 7th Pay Commission is going to end in 2026

Defence Ministry signs over ₹3,000 cr deal with Bharat Dynamics for MRSAM supply to Indian Navy

The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the supply of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) for the Indian Navy at a cost of around three thousand crore rupees.

PM Modi distributes over 65 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed over 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme to property owners. The property cards have been distributed in over 50 thousand villages across ten states and two Union Territories.

NIXI announces Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has announced the launch of the Internet Governance Internship and Capacity Building scheme. The Program will offer a bi-annual internship with two parallel tracks, a six-month and a three-month program.

Odisha and Singapore signed MoU to establish global FinTech competency centre

The Odisha government has partnered with the Global Finance and Technology Network (GFTN), Singapore, to establish a global competency centre in Bhubaneswar aimed at fostering FinTech collaborations.

Budget session of Parliament to begin on January 31; Union Budget on February 1

The Budget session of Parliament commenced on the 31st of this month. The session commenced with President Droupadi Murmu addressing a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on the 31st of January. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on the 1st of February.

1,646 projects valued ₹31,830 crore sanctioned so far under PM Kisan Sampada

The Ministry of Finance announced that 1,646 food processing projects worth ₹31,830 crore have been sanctioned under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana, expected to generate 13.42 lakh jobs and benefit 51.24 lakh farmers. The PMFME Yojana supports over 3.10 lakh SHGs and 1,14,388 individuals.

Uttarakhand Cabinet approves Uniform Civil Code manual

The Uttarakhand State Cabinet has given its nod to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) manual, paving the way for its implementation in the state.

Accused Sanjay Roy sentenced to life imprisonment in RG Kar rape & murder case

A sessions court in Kolkata's Sealdah has sentenced prime accused Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment in the RG Kar rape and murder case. Sessions Judge Anirban Das also held that the state government will have to pay the victim's family compensation of 17 lakh rupees.

Indian Armed Forces Successfully concludes Exercise Devil Strike

The Indian armed forces has successfully carried out Exercise Devil Strike, a high-intensity joint airborne military drill, near Siliguri Corridor in North Bengal from January 16-19.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo witness launch of 56 new products

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 has witnessed the launch of 56 new products from 22 different brands at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. .

India and France for coordinated surveillance in Indian Ocean Region

India and France have agreed to explore opportunities for coordinated surveillance whilst deployed to counter threats to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The two countries also committed to support each other in maritime security engagements.

PM Modi Praises G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant's Book 'How India Scaled Mt. G-20'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant for his book on the country's G-20 presidency titled "How India Scaled Mt. G-20."

Centre lifts ban, gives nod for sugar export

The Union government lifted the ban on sugar exports partially, allowing industries to export one million metric tonnes of sugar in the 2024-25 season ending in September.

Agriculture ministry launches first-ever national edible oil consumption survey

The Union agriculture ministry has launched its first-ever survey to assess edible oil consumption patterns in India, aiming to effectively implement the new Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).

Over 4 Crore Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts Opened Nationwide: Govt

The Central government has said that over four crore Sukanya Samriddhi accounts have been opened across the country. The scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 as part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal sets target of 10,000 GI tags by 2030

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030. He stated that the number of GI tags issued by the department to date stands at 605.

Anuja nominated for Best Short film category of Oscars 2025

Indian short film Anuja has secured a nomination in the Best Short Film (Live Action) category for the Oscars 2025. Anuja is directed by Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai.

India to deploy 1st human-operated underwater submersible

India is gearing up to deploy its first human-operated underwater submersible as part of the Deep Ocean Mission. The submersible, designed for a depth of up to 500 meters, is expected to launch this year, with plans to extend its reach to 6,000 meters by next year.

Kerala launches 'KaWaCHaM' for real-time alerts in disaster-prone areas

The Kerala Warnings, Crisis and Hazard Management system (KaWaCHaM), the disaster risk warning system, developed by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority and the World Bank, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Indian Navy completes hydrographic survey of Mauritius

The Indian Navy's INS Sarvekshak had completed the final phase of the hydrographic survey of Mauritius covering an extensive area of over 25,000 square nautical miles.

India's first flying taxi prototype 'Shunya' unveiled

Sarla Aviation, a new player in urban air mobility, has introduced its innovative electric flying taxi, Shunya, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo. The startup revealed plans to bring its electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicles to the skies by 2028, aiming to be India's first provider of urban air transportation,

Defence Minister flags off Battlefield Surveillance System SANJAY

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has flagged off Battlefield Surveillance System SANJAY in New Delhi, which will be inducted into the Indian Army in three phases starting from March this year.

Pralay missile unveiled at Republic Day Parade 2025

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased the indigenous short-range quasi-ballistic missile Pralay at this year's Republic Day parade. The missile, which is meant for the Army and Air Force, will be the first ballistic missile in India's missile arsenal meant for conventional strikes

Indore and Udaipur joined the list of 31 Wetland Accredited Cities in the world.

UNESCO has added Udaipur and Indore to its list of Wetland Cities of the world, making them the only two from India to get the recognition. With the new additions, the number of Wetland Cities in the world has reached to 31.

Thirty-One tableaux showcasing the theme of Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" participated in the colourful Republic day parade

Thirty-One tableaux from various States, Union Territories, and Central Government Ministries and Departments have participated, showcasing the theme "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" at the 76th Republic day parade celebrations. For the first time, a Tri-services tableau participated on Kartavya Path, displaying the spirit of jointness and integration.

Uttarakhand rolls out Uniform Civil Code

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has rolled out Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State. Tribals will be exempted from the UCC; under the new rules, marriage age for men will be 21 and women will be 18, across all religions.

Unified Pension Scheme for government employees notified

The Central government has officially notified the implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme, UPS. It had introduced Unified Pension Scheme in August last year, as an option under the National Pension System for Central Government employees. The scheme will come into effect from 1st April this year.

India, China agree on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumption, direct flights, river data sharing

India and China have agreed on a slew of measures during the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism to stabilize and rebuild bilateral ties. The new understandings include the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the restoration of direct flights between the two countries and the sharing of trans-border river data among others.

ISRO Marks 100th Launch

ISRO successfully launched their GSLV-F15 rocket carrying navigation satellite NVS-02 at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking the Indian space agency's 100th mission. GSLV-F15 is the 17th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the 11th flight with the Indigenous cryostage.

BJP emerges richest party with ₹7,113-cr fund balance: ECI data

The BJP, which claims itself as the biggest political party in the world, has a whopping cash and bank balance of ₹7,113.80 crore against the principal opposition Congress party's ₹857.15 crore as on March 31, 2024, according to figures provided to the Election Commission.

JPC on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 adopts its draft report

The Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 adopted its draft report. Chairman of the 31-member panel, Jagdambika Pal, said the Committee has adopted amendments to 14 clauses related to the Bill. He added that the report of the Committee will be submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Mahakumbh incident: 30 people dead,

At least 30 people have lost their lives, and 60 others were injured in the incident that took place at Sangam Ghat in Maha Kumbh, Prayagraj. The incident occurred between 1 and 2 AM, when a huge crowd gathered on the Akhara route and the barricades were broken.

Tripura signs MoU with Digital India Bhashini Division

Tripura has signed a MoU with Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). With this, Tripura becomes the first northeastern or eastern state and eighth in the country to sign an MoU with Bhashini.

International Saraswati Mahotsav begins in Kurukshetra, Haryana

International Saraswati Mahotsav has begun at Pehowa Saraswati Tirth in the Kurukshetra district of Haryana. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the festival. During this 7-day festival,

Soreng District becomes India's 1st organic fisheries cluster

In Sikkim, the Soreng district has started producing organic fish, becoming the country's first organic fisheries cluster. Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched this initiative recently.

India to launch indigenous AI model at affordable cost

India is all set to launch its own safe and secure indigenous Artificial intelligence (AI) model at an affordable cost, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Centre approves 3,027 crores for disaster mitigation projects across states

A High-Level Committee led by Home Minister Amit Shah has sanctioned ₹3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation in several states.

World Book Fair 2025 to commence on February 1 in New Delhi

The New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 will commence on 1st February at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This year, the fair's theme is 'We the People of India', commemorating 75 years of the Republic of India. Russia is the focus country of the fair, and over 50 countries will participate.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Centre approves National Critical Minerals Mission

The Union government had approved a ₹16,300-crore National Critical Mineral Mission, envisaging a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years, with an aim to achieve self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition.

India's Core Sectors Grow by 4.3% in November

According to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce, India's core sectors' output growth increased by 4.3 percent in November this year on an annual basis. The production of cement, coal, steel, electricity, refinery products, and fertilisers recorded positive.

Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes Remain Unchanged for Q4 of FY 2024-25

The interest rates on various Small Savings Schemes have been kept unchanged for the fourth quarter of this financial year. Finance Ministry said, the rates of interest on Small Savings Schemes from 1st January to 31st March, 2025, will remain unchanged.

NPCI allows WhatsApp Pay to extend UPI services to all users in India

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has removed the UPI user onboarding limit for WhatsApp Pay (Third Party App Provider), with immediate effect.

Viacom18 Media becomes direct subsidiary of Reliance Industries

Viacom18 Media, a leading media and entertainment company, has become a direct subsidiary of Reliance Industries following the conversion of over 24.61 crore compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) into an equivalent number of equity shares.

Abu Dhabi's Mubadala overtakes Saudi Arabia's PIF as world's top wealth fund spender

Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company accounted for about 20% of the almost \$136.1 billion spent by sovereign wealth funds worldwide last year, overtaking Saudi Arabia's wealth fund amid a surge in spending from Gulf countries.

₹2000 notes worth ₹6,691 crore yet to be returned

The total value of ₹2000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to ₹6,691 crore at the close of business on December 31, 2024.

Net GST growth slumps to 3.3% in December

India's goods and services tax (GST) collections rose 7.3% to ₹1.77 lakh crore in December from the year earlier, slowing from an 8.5% year-on year increase in November.

Centre extends one-time special package up to ₹3,850 crore for DAP fertilizer

The Union government has announced an extension of a one-time special package of up to ₹3,850 crore to ensure farmers continue to get Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer at ₹1,350 per bag of 50 kg.

Employment generation records a growth of 36 percent during the past decade.

According to the Labour and Employment Ministry, employment generation in the country witnessed a remarkable growth of 36 percent during the last ten years. The data reflects that employment opportunities in the agriculture sector grew by 19 percent, 15 percent in the manufacturing sector, and 36 percent in the service sector under the Modi government.

Tata Steel becomes 'India's 1st' to develop hydrogen transportation pipes

Tata Steel has claimed that it is the first Indian company to develop pipes designed for transporting hydrogen, marking an important step in India's clean energy efforts

A working group to revise the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

A working group to revise the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from the existing, 2011-12 to 2022-23 was announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The 18-member working group, chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, a member, of NITI Aayog.

Revamped portal 'BAANKNET' for the e-auction of properties launched

The revamped portal 'BAANKNET' for the e-auction of properties was launched by the Government. The platform consolidates information on e-auction properties from all public sector banks and offers a one-stop destination for buyers and investors to discover a wide range of assets.

SBI report mentions a significant decline in rural poverty

According to the SBI's research on the consumption expenditure survey, India's rural poverty has declined significantly to 4.86 percent in the financial year 2023-24, compared to 25.7 percent in the financial year 2011-12. urban poverty has fallen to 4.09 percent from 13.7 percent over the last twelve years.

Amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023

To bring legal backing to the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified amendment to it. The amendment makes it necessary to consult with stakeholders to seek views, suggestions, comments, or feedback from relevant stakeholders.

DPIIT signs MoU with the SPF

To promote the Indian start-up ecosystem globally the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade- DPIIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Startup Policy Forum (SPF).

DPIIT partners with Stride Ventures to help startups in funding

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has joined hands with venture debt firm Stride Ventures to support high growth potential startups in their funding requirements.

NSE Leads Global IPO Market in 2024

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has recorded the highest number of IPOs in Asia and the highest equity capital raised in the primary market globally in the calendar year 2024, with 268 successful IPOs across the Mainboard (90) and SME (178) segments, raising ₹1.67 lakh crore. In 2024, a total of 1,145 IPOs were raised globally, compared to 1,271 in 2023.

SBI has launched a game-changing initiative: Har Ghar Lakhpati.

The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced two new deposit schemes, 'Har Ghar Lakhpati' and 'SBI Patrons', to provide greater financial flexibility and better value to its customers.

Har Ghar Lakhpati is a pre-calculated recurring deposit scheme designed for customers to deposit ₹1,00,000 and its multiples. The bank has also launched a special term deposit scheme 'SBI Patrons' for senior citizens aged 80 years and above.

PLI scheme 1.1 for the steel industry launched

HD Kumaraswamy, the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries launched PLI scheme 1.1 for the steel industry in New Delhi, on January 6, 2025. The PLI Scheme 1.1 covers five product categories in line with the existing PLI Scheme

Suzuki Motor Corporation to acquire a 26 percent stake in NDDB Mirda Ltd.

As part of its plans to use Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) for the longevity and performance of vehicles, Suzuki Motor Corporation has decided to acquire a 26 percent stake in NDDB Mirda Ltd, a bio-gas venture of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

NSO projects India's GDP to grow at 6.4 percent in FY 2024-25

According to the first advance estimates of the annual gross domestic product (GDP) for the current fiscal year

released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to grow at 6.4 percent in the fiscal year 2024-25, nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.7 percent.

RBI guidelines on reporting customer credit information.
The RBI issued comprehensive guidelines for banks and financial institutions on reporting customer credit information. As per the directions, credit information companies will have to send alerts through SMS or email to customers when their Credit Information Report is accessed by specified users.

RBI boosts its gold reserves by 8 tonnes in November 2024

The World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report on January 6, 2025, that the Central banks around the world collectively, in November 2024, added 53 tonnes of gold to their reserves, of which the Reserve Bank of India's addition was 8 tonnes.

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.

Centre to soon launch new credit guarantee scheme for MSME sector up to ₹100 crore

The Central government will soon launch a new credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector covering loans up to ₹100 crore, Department of Financial Services DFS Secretary M Nagaraju said.

China becomes world's second-largest holder of lithium reserves

China's lithium reserves have risen from 6% to 16.5% of the global total, making it the world's second-largest holder of lithium reserves. China now controls 16.5 percent of global lithium reserves, surpassing Australia, Argentina, and Bolivia, and trails behind just one country - Chile.

EXIM Bank raises \$1 billion through overseas bonds

EXIM Bank has raised \$1 billion (about ₹8,570 crore) through an overseas bond issuance at very competitive rates. The bank will be using the money to fund its ongoing and new initiatives across the world.

China inflation hits nine-month low in December

The Chinese National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) stated that the consumer price index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, eased to 0.1 per cent last month, down from 0.2 per cent in November, marking its lowest level since March.

Indian Overseas Bank to sell ₹11,500-cr NPAs to ARCs

Indian Overseas Bank is selling non-performing assets of ₹11,500 crore to asset reconstruction companies. It is selling 46 loan accounts and invited expressions of interest from the ARCs.

Kandla port to get ship building facility, cargo terminal at an outlay of ₹57,000 cr.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways announced two major investments at the Kandla port – a mega ship building and repair project at an investment of ₹30,000 crore and a new cargo terminal outside Kandla Creek for ₹27,000 crore, which will add 135 mtpa to the port's capacity.

Retail inflation eased to 5.22 percent in December

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's retail inflation eased to four four-month low of 5.22 percent in December, down from 5.48 percent in the previous month of the current fiscal year.

Future Minerals Forum Opens in Riyadh

The Future Minerals Forum (FMF) 2025 commenced in Riyadh, bringing together representatives from the mining industry from over 85 countries to address critical challenges in the mineral sector.

IBBI mandates eBKray auction platform to sell assets under liquidation

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has mandated the exclusive use of the eBKray auction platform to sell assets under the liquidation process from April 1. The eBKray (now known as Bank Asset Auction Network) is a property listing and e-auction platform designed for banks and lending institutions, addressing recovery of non-performing asset (NPA) loans through efficient property auctions.

India's net direct tax collection surges by nearly 16% to ₹16.9 lakh crore

According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes, India's net direct tax collection has increased by nearly 16 per cent to around 16 lakh 90 thousand crore rupees in the current financial year so far.

Wholesale price inflation rises to 2.37% in December

Wholesale price inflation rose to 2.37% in December 2024, due to spike in prices of non-food articles, manufactured items as well as fuel and power, even though food items saw marginal easing.

Meta to cut 5% of jobs

Meta, the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, is preparing to cut about 5% of its global workforce, as the company looks to drop low performers faster.

India's trade deficit stands at 21.94 billion dollars in December 2024

India's trade deficit stood at 21.94 billion dollars in December 2024, down from November's revised 32.84 billion dollars. Ministry of Commerce and Industry data showed that Merchandise exports in December rose to 38.01 billion dollars from November's 32.11 billion dollars

Startup India initiative completes 9 years

The Union government's flagship initiative Startup India has completed nine years on January 16. With more than 1.59 lakh startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as of January 15, 2025, India has firmly established itself as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world.

OPEC predicts robust oil demand growth in 2026

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has forecast the global oil demand will grow by 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2026. The organization maintained its forecast for global oil demand growth of 1.45 million bpd this year.

Hindenburg Research shuts down amid controversial Adani report

Hindenburg Research, known for short-selling activities, has been shut down by founder Nate Anderson. The decision comes amid the widespread controversial report on the India-based Adani group.

India ranks third in global fintech funding

According to Tracxn's Annual India Fintech Report, India secured the third position globally in fintech funding despite a 33% decline in YoY funding, which dropped to ₹16,475 crore (US\$ 1.9 billion) in 2024. India remains one of the top three globally funded fintech ecosystems, only trailing the US and the UK.

IDBI Bank Announces Launch of IDBI Chiranjeevi-Super Senior Citizen FD

IDBI Bank has introduced a new specialised fixed deposit scheme, 'IDBI Chiranjeevi-Super Senior Citizen FD,' targeting customers aged 80 years and above.

PUMA India teams up with PV Sindhu to strengthen badminton presence

Shuttler PV Sindhu has recently signed a multi-year partnership with PUMA India, as a brand ambassador.

RBI announces steps to encourage cross-border transactions in Indian rupee

RBI has announced liberalised norms to encourage use of Indian Rupee and local/national currencies to settle cross border transactions. RBI has further liberalised the FEMA rules to encourage its use to settle cross-border transactions. The revised rules also encourage trade settlement in the respective local currencies

Axis Bank Q3 net profit rises 4% to ₹6,304 crore

Axis Bank Ltd., for the third quarter ended 31st December 2024 reported 4% growth in net profit to ₹ 6,304 crore over the year ago period. The bank's operating profit for the quarter grew 15% YOY to ₹10,534 crore.

IMF retains India's economic growth outlook at 6.5 % over next 2 Financial Years

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook has maintained India's growth at 6.5 percent for the next two fiscal years 2025-26 or FY26 and 2026-27 or FY27. Meanwhile, the Global growth is projected at 3.3 percent both in 2025 and 2026

India's first private semiconductor fab to come up in AP

Andhra Pradesh govt signed an MoU with Indichip Semiconductors Limited and its joint venture (JV) partner Yitoo Micro Technology Limited (YMTL) of Japan for setting up a semiconductor manufacturing facility with an investment of over ₹14,000 crore.

RBI asks banks to ensure nomination in all deposit accounts & safety lockers

The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks to ensure nominations in new and all existing customers' deposit accounts and safety lockers, highlighting that a large number of accounts do not have nominations.

World Economic Forum recognition for HUL's Assam plant

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has designated an eastern Assam plant Doom Dooma factory of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) as an advanced fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) end-to-end (E2E) value chain 'Lighthouse'.

BPCL inks ₹31,802-cr. loan deal with SBI-led consortium for Bina refinery

Government-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has signed a ₹31,802-crore loan agreement with a State Bank of India-led consortium to finance the expansion of its refinery and setting up of a petrochemical complex in Bina, Madhya Pradesh.

Cabinet Approves ₹11,440 Cr Revival Package for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA, has approved an 11,440 crore rupee revival package for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). RINL is an important company in the country's steel sector, located in Andhra Pradesh.

World Bank projects 6.7 % growth for India, surpassing global growth of 2.7 %

The World Bank has projected 6.7 per cent growth for India, surpassing global growth of 2.7 per cent. The January 2025 edition of the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report stated that India is set to dominate the global economic landscape.

Indian mobility market to double & surpass 600 billion US Dollars by 2030

The Indian mobility industry is expected to double and surpass 600 billion US Dollars by 2030, a report by Google and Boston Consulting Group said.

55th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins

The 55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting was held at Davos in Switzerland. During the five-day event, India's model of inclusive growth and digital revolution will be highlighted. The Indian delegation will be spearheaded by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Billionaire wealth soars three times faster by \$2 trillion in 2024: Oxfam

Billionaire wealth across the globe surged by \$2 trillion in 2024 to \$15 trillion at a rate three times faster than the previous year, a study showed.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q3 PAT rises 10% to ₹4,701 crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 reported 10% growth in consolidated net profit at ₹4,701 crore as compared with ₹4,265 crore in the year ago period.

FIU-IND & NHB sign MoU for enhanced coordination and information exchange

Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sharing of intelligence and information to check money laundering.

24 companies selected under PLI scheme for White Goods

24 companies have been selected under the Production Linked Incentive, PLI Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) with a committed investment of three thousand 516 crore rupees.

Centre will soon launch the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said the Centre will soon launch the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to enhance domestic production, reduce import dependence, and encourage offshore mining auctions while urging states to cooperate for sustained mining activities.

NCLT orders liquidation of Go First airline

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the liquidation of Go First Airways after a request from the cash-strapped airline's lenders.

IOB Q3 net profit rises 21% to ₹874 cr.

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported December quarter net profit rose nearly 21% to ₹874 crore from ₹723 crore in the year earlier on the back of improved asset quality and business.

Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel join hands to create digital platforms

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) firm Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel announced a strategic partnership to create a digital platform for financial services.

HDFC Bank, SBI, ICICI Feature in Top 25 Global Banks List

HDFC Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and ICICI Bank have been ranked among the Top 25 Global Banks by market capitalization for the fourth quarter of 2024. According to the report, JPMorgan Chase has become the bank with the highest market capitalisation in the world. HDFC Bank achieved the 13th position, ICICI Bank secured 19th place, and SBI was listed at 24th.

Central Bank of India Q3 profit jumps 33% to ₹959 crore

Central bank of India has reported a 33% year-on-year rise in its net profit to ₹959 crore for the quarter ended December.

Settlement of dues only after examining all options, RBI to ARCs

The RBI had asked Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to go for settlement with borrowers only after exhausting all possible ways to recover dues. The central bank has revised the 'Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Asset Reconstruction Companies) Directions, 2024 dated April 24, 2024'.

Shriram Housing Finance is now "Truhome Finance"
Shriram Housing Finance (SHF) has rebranded itself as Truhome Finance following its acquisition by Warburg Pincus and its co-investors, including QIA (Qatar's sovereign wealth fund), from Shriram Finance.

Microsoft's Satya Nadella tops HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella has claimed the top spot in the inaugural HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024, which ranks 226 leaders of Indian origin heading the world's most valuable companies.

Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and YouTube CEO Neal Mohan secured the second and third spots, respectively. ArcelorMittal's LN Mittal was the richest on the list with a total wealth of ₹1.84 lakh crore.

OpenAI, SoftBank each commit \$19 billion to Stargate AI data center

OpenAI and Japanese conglomerate SoftBank will each commit \$19 billion to fund Stargate, a joint venture to develop data centers for artificial intelligence in the U.S.,

HDFC Bank Q3 net profit rises 2% to ₹16,736 crore

HDFC Bank reported a 2% on-year rise in its net profit for the December quarter, at ₹16,736 crore. The bank reported a Net Interest Income (NII) growth of 8% from the same quarter last year.

Maharashtra signs MoUs worth ₹4.99 lakh crore at Davos

On the first day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Maharashtra signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹4.99 lakh crore. These investments are expected to generate 92,235 jobs.

SEBI Plans New System for Immediate IPO Share Sales to Curb Grey Market Trading

With an aim to curb grey market trading, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to bring in a system where investors can sell shares as soon as they are allotted in an Initial Public Offering.

Walmart announces strategic pilots with India-based startups

Walmart has announced strategic pilots with India-based startups to provide solutions for its U.S. supply chain and sourcing operations. The three startups selected for pilot programmes include Pune-based KBCols Sciences, Chennai-based GreenPod Labs, and Bengaluru-based Cropin.

Tata Group is the 2025 most valuable brand in India, Apple most valued in the world: Brand Finance

According to a new report from global brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance, Tata Group has maintained its position as the leading Indian brand in the Global 500 and ranked at 60 with its brand value up 10% to \$31.6 billion. Globally, Apple leads with Microsoft following.

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa among top-performing States in NITI Aayog's fiscal health index

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Jharkhand have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the States listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report. According to the report, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were the worst-performing States in Fiscal Health Index

India's foreign exchange declines by 1.8 billion dollars till 17th Jan

India's foreign exchange reserves declined by 1.8 billion dollars to 623.98 billion dollars in the week ending January 17, the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

Bank of India Q3 net profit surges 35% to ₹2,517 crore
Bank of India for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 had reported 35% growth in net profit at ₹2,517 crore as compared with ₹1,870 crore in the year ago period.

NCLAT stays CCI ban on WhatsApp-Meta data sharing
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has stayed the five-year ban imposed by competition watchdog Competition Commission of India, CCI on data-sharing practices between WhatsApp and Meta for advertising purposes, offering a breather to the tech giant.

ICICI Bank Q3 PAT grows 14.8% YoY to ₹11,792 crore
ICICI Bank, the second largest private sector bank, reported a 14.8% year-on-year growth in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹11,792 crore.

Yes Bank Q3 profit surges nearly threefold to ₹612 cr
Yes Bank for the third quarter reported 164.5% growth in net profit at ₹612 crore over the year ago period.

India's exports to U.S. up 5.57% to \$60 bn in April-December FY25

India's exports grew by 5.57% to ₹5.17 lakh crore (US\$ 59.93 billion) during the April-December period of FY25, driven by strong demand for domestic goods, particularly in the American market.

RBI to inject liquidity into banking system

The RBI has decided to conduct certain operations to inject liquidity into the banking system. As per the bank's press release, the RBI will hold OMO purchase auctions of Government of India securities for an aggregate amount of 60,000 crore rupees in three tranches of 20,000 crore rupees each on 30th January 30, 13th and 20th February 2025.

Sachin Bansal's fintech Navi Finserv raises 1,200 cr. in last two months

Navi Finserv, a fintech founded by Sachin Bansal had raised over ₹1,200 crore across multiple instruments, including Non-convertible debentures, NCDs, commercial papers, term loans, securitisation and co-lending.

Canara Bank posts 12% increase in Q3 net profit

Canara Bank reported 12.25% year-on-year growth in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 at ₹4,104 crore.

Microsoft in talks to acquire TikTok

US President Donald Trump had announced that Microsoft is in talks to acquire the popular video-sharing app TikTok. He expressed his desire for a bidding war over the sale of the platform, saying that multiple contenders are interested.

India, Oman agree to amend tax treaty to promote greater cooperation

India and Oman have agreed to amend the DTAA to align it with international standards on cross-border taxation, simplifying procedures, and promoting greater cooperation in tax matters.

MobiKwik, Cred join hands with RBI to fully launch CBDC (e₹) for Android

One Mobikwik Systems Ltd. and Cred have recently initiated their individual e-rupee pilot programs in partnership with the RBI. This collaboration marks their distinction as the pioneering fintech platforms to join hands with the RBI for the implementation of the central bank digital currency (CBDC).

Three Indians on Forbes 50 Over 50 list

Three Indian women have been honoured on the Forbes 50 Over 50 Global list, including a founder, an activist, and a Bengaluru-based billionaire. The Forbes 50 Over 50 list honours those trailblazers who prove that age is just a number. The Forbes 50 Over 50 Global list, published for the first time ever, included the names of three Indian women. They are: Urmila Asher, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and Sheela Patel.

Brookfield Corporation signs \$12 billion MoU to invest in Mumbai's infrastructure development

Brookfield Corporation, a Toronto-based investment firm committed to investing in Mumbai's infrastructure development at the World Economic Forum at Davos. The commitment which is nearly ₹1.03 lakh crore will involve investments in Mumbai's road, bridge metro, data centres, Global Capability Centres

Sebi launches digital knowledge repository Dharohar

To commemorate India's Republic Day, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a digital knowledge repository named "Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market."

Indian Bank Q3 PAT rises 35% to ₹2,852 crore

Indian Bank had reported 35% rise in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 to ₹2,852 crore, compared with ₹2,119 crore in the year-earlier period.

Paytm launches 'Receive Money QR Widget'

Paytm launched the 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users for receiving money directly from phone's home screen without opening the Paytm app.

Digital payments rise 11.1% Y-o-Y in September 2024: RBI data

According to the RBI index, digital payments across India recorded a double-digit jump of 11.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) as of September 2024. The RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2024 stands at 465.33 up from 445.5 for March 2024.

SEBI bars finfluencers from using live or recent stock market data in educational content

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred financial influencers (finfluencers) from using live or recent stock market data in educational content.

Bank of Baroda Q3 net profit rises 5.6% to ₹4,837 crore

Bank of Baroda Ltd has reported third quarter standalone net profit rose 5.6% to ₹4,837 crore from ₹4,579 crore in the year-earlier period. Net interest income (NII) grew 2.8% YoY to ₹11,417 crore.

IDBI approves re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as MD & CEO for 3 years

The Board of Directors of IDBI Bank has approved the re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for three years with effect from March 19, 2025.

Aditya Birla Housing Finance raises ₹830 crore

Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. (ABHFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital had secured an investment of ₹830 crore through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

AWARDS

The National Sports Awards 2024

The National Sports Awards 2024 have been announced. World Chess Champion D Gukesh, Double Medalist in Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Indian Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Gold Medalist in Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar were presented with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

32 Sportspersons were given Arjuna Award.

Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar were honoured with Arjuna Awards (Lifetime). Physical Education Foundation of India were given Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar. Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar got the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.

US President Awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to 19 individuals

The US President Joe Biden has awarded "Presidential Medal of Freedom" to 19 individuals from various fields for their extraordinary contributions to America and the world at the White House. The medal recipients include former First Lady and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Football star Lionel Messi, Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, fashion designer Ralph Lauren and controversial investor George Soros.

He also bestowed the second highest civilian medal on Liz Cheney and Bennie Thompson — the lawmakers who led the congressional investigation into the violent January 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot by Donald Trump's supporters

US President Biden awards Pope Francis Presidential medal of freedom with distinction

In the US, the outgoing US President, Joe Biden, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction to Pope Francis. It was the first time during his four years in office that Biden has been awarded the medal with distinction.

Singapore confers highest honour on former CII director general Tarun Das

President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam has bestowed the Honorary Citizen Award on Tarun Das, the former director general of the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII). Mr Das has made significant contributions to the development of Singapore-India relations over several decades.

21st Third Eye Asian Film Festival concludes in Mumbai

The 21st edition of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival, a cornerstone of Maharashtra's film culture has concluded at Movie Max Cinemas in Mumbai. Renowned lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar has been felicitated with the Asian Cinema Culture Award.

The Satyajit Rai Memorial Award was given to veteran film journalist Rafiq Baghdadi

The film 'Gypsy' won the best film award in the Marathi films category.

Shashi Khandare won the best director award for the same film.

Actor Mangesh Arote bagged the best actor award for 'Gypsy' Shradha Khanolkar won the best actress award for the film 'Bhera'.

Professor Urbasi Sinha honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025

Professor Urbasi Sinha, faculty in the Light and Matter Physics theme at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), was honored with the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at Cambridge, UK.

Tennis: Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek win ITF world champion awards

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek have won the International Tennis Federation's 2024 world champion awards. Swiatek edged out Aryna Sabalenka for the women's singles award in the list announced by the ITF.

Avanti Fellows' Akshay Saxena, RCRC's Ved Arya among Schwab Foundation Awards recipients

The World Economic Forum announced Schwab Foundation Awards for 18 social entrepreneurs and innovators from 15 organisations across 13 countries, including India. The awards are given by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation. From India, Avanti Fellows' Akshay Saxena, RCRC's Ved Arya among Schwab Foundation Awards recipients

139 distinguished personalities selected for this year's Padma Awards

President Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of 139 Padma Awards for Year 2025. The list comprises seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.

23 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.

Indian writer MT Vasudevan Nair, former chairman of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Osamu Suzuki, and singer Sharda Sinha have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously. Singer Pankaj Udhas and economist Bibek Debroy have been given the Padma Bhushan posthumously. Hockey player PR Sreejesh has also been conferred with Padma Bhushan.

Gallantry Awards to 93 Armed Forces & Central Armed Police Forces personnel

President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 11 posthumous, on the eve of 76th Republic Day.

These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous, 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous, one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous, two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Doordarshan bags award for voter awareness

Doordarshan has been honoured with the award in the Electronic Media category for its comprehensive campaign on Voter Awareness and Education. Doordarshan has been recognised for its coverage, including the "Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv" series during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

ICC AWARDS 2024: Bumrah, Mandhana and Azmatullah honoured as Test and ODI winners crowned

The ICC announced the latest set of winners in the ongoing ICC Awards 2024. New Zealand's Amelia Kerr as the winner of the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been honoured with the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024

Jasprit Bumrah crowned the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year, with compatriot Smriti Mandhana sealing her second ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year.

In the ODI category, Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai has clinched the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.

Indias Arshdeep Singh has been named the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year.

UP's tableau "Mahakumbh 2025" adjudged as Best

Uttar Pradesh's tableau based on the theme 'Mahakumbh 2025 – Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas', has won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade held on 26th January at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

Amongst the Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh' won the best tableau award.

The Central Public Works Department and 'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group were conferred with the Special Prize: (75 years of the Constitution of India).

Gujarat won the best tableau award for its 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' tableau in the Popular Choice Category.

J&K: LG Manoj Sinha Honoured with Maharaja Hari Singh Award

In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was honoured with the Maharaja Hari Singh Award at a ceremony in Jammu. Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a key architect of modern Jammu Kashmir.

WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge & WAVES Awards launched

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched WAVES Bazaar, WAH Ustaad challenge and WAVES Awards in New Delhi. The Union Ministers also launched 'Create in India Challenge' Season 1, inviting international participation as a part of WAVES 2025.

Sachin Tendulkar Honoured By BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was conferred with the BCCI'S Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala. He will be the recipient of the C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2024.

CUB wins seven IBA Banking Tech awards for the second consecutive year

City Union Bank (CUB) has won seven awards at the 20th Annual Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations 2024, held in Mumbai. This marks the second consecutive year the bank has received awards in all seven categories at the event. Karnataka Bank has also won awards in six categories.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Zoran Milanovic

Croatia's incumbent president, Zoran Milanovic, was re-elected to the post by a wide margin. He defeated Dragan Primorac, the candidate of Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic's HDZ party, by a margin of 74.7% to 25.3%.

Justin Trudeau

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, also the leader of the Liberal Party, has announced his resignation as leader of the ruling Liberal Party. He said he will remain Prime Minister until a new leader is chosen.

V Narayanan

The Centre has appointed V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space. Mr Narayanan assumed office on January 14. He succeeds the current ISRO chairman, S Somanath.

Nicolas Maduro

Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela was sworn in for a third six-year term, amid renewed protests and rebukes from the United States and others who believe he stole last year's vote.

Donald Trump

Donald Trump has been sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, taking the oath of office for his second term. President Trump, at 78, is the oldest person ever inaugurated as president, surpassing Joe Biden. JD Vance took the oath as Vice President,

Marco Rubio

Florida Senator Marco Rubio has been sworn in as the next U.S. Secretary of State. The Senate confirmed his appointment, making him the first member of Trump's cabinet to receive Congressional approval.

Micheal Martin

Fianna Fail party leader Micheal Martin has been confirmed as the new Prime Minister after a vote in the Dail, the lower house of the Irish parliament. Martin was Prime Minister of Ireland between 2020 and 2022 before handing the leadership to Fine Gael for the second half of the term.

John Dramani Mahama

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. Mahama previously served as Ghana's President from 2012 to 2017.

Bhuvnesh Kumar

IAS officer Bhuvnesh Kumar took charge as the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which administers Aadhaar, on January 1, 2025. Mr. Kumar, a 1995 batch officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

Suhas Subramanyam

Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam was sworn into the 119th US Congress as the first Indian-American and South Asian to represent Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Subramanyam becomes the sixth member of the 'Samosa Caucus'; the informal name for the group of Indian American lawmakers.

Jyoti Sharma

Nasscom Foundation has announced Jyoti Sharma as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. She takes over from Nidhi Bhasin.

Karl Nehammer

In Austria, Chancellor Karl Nehammer has said that he would step down in the coming days after coalition talks between his People's Party and the Social Democrats collapsed. He will also resign as the leader of the People's Party.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

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

Joseph Aoun

Lebanon's parliament has voted to elect the country's army commander, Joseph Aoun, as head of state, filling a more than two-year-long presidential vacuum. The session was the legislature's 13th attempt to elect a successor to former President Michel Aoun whose term ended in October 2022.

Alexander Lukashenko

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has secured seventh five-year term with 87.6% of the vote in election. With this win, he will extend his 31-year rule with a massive win in a presidential election.

Jagjeet Dallewal

The health of 86-year-old farmer leader Jagjeet Dallewal, who has been on a 40-day hunger strike, has become a growing concern for the protesting farmers at the Khanauri border. Dallewal's indefinite fast calls for the Union government to meet farmers' demands, including a legal Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee.

Ilza Amado Vaz

Prime Minister Ilza Amado Vaz of São Tomé and Príncipe has resigned after her proposed cabinet list was made public before being presented to President Carlos Vila Nova. According to a Presidential decree, this breach prompted her dismissal from office.

Nawaf Salam

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun had picked international jurist Nawaf Salam to form a government to pull the war-scarred country out of economic crisis.

Yoon Suk Yeol

Yoon Suk Yeol has become South Korea's first sitting president to be arrested after investigators scaled barricades and cut through barbed wire to take him into custody. Yoon is being investigated on charges of insurrection for a failed martial law order on 3 December that plunged the country into turmoil.

Tharman Shanmugaratnam

President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam has arrived in New Delhi for a five-day state visit to India. President Tharman is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, Members of Parliament and officials. This is his first visit to India as the President of Singapore.

Krishnan Vinod Chandran

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has administered the oath of office to Supreme Court's new judge Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran. Formerly the chief justice of the Patna High Court, Justice Chandran fills one of the two existing vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Prabowo Subianto

President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, was the Chief Guest at the 76th Republic Day celebrations this year. At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Subianto paid a state visit to India on the 25th and 26th of January.

Imran Khan

The Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan has been sentenced to 14 years in prison in connection with the 190 million pound Al-Qadir Trust case. His wife, Bushra Bibi, has been sentenced to 7 years in jail.

Chandra Arya

Chandra Arya, an Indian-origin Member of the Parliament of Nepean, Canada has officially entered the race for Prime Minister of Canada after filing a nomination and addressing the House in Kannada. He is a native of Tumkur district in Karnataka.

Gyanendra Pratap Singh

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Gyanendra Pratap Singh, a 1991-batch IPS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, as the Director General of the CRPF till the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027.

John Ratcliffe

The United States Senate has voted to confirm former Director of National Intelligence (DNI) John Ratcliffe as the next Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director under President Donald Trump.

Pete Hegseth

In USA, the Senate has confirmed appointment of Pete Hegseth as the next U.S. Defence Secretary. The confirmation for appointment of Hegseth came after a 50-50 vote in the Senate, when Vice President JD Vance broke the tie in his role as president of the Senate.

Tahawwur Rana

The U.S. Supreme Court has cleared Mumbai-attack convict Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India, dismissing his review petition against the move. Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana is accused of playing a major role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in India.

Sridhar Vembu

Sridhar Vembu, founder and CEO of Zoho Corporation, a Chennai-based tech firm, has stepped down as the CEO to take up Chief Scientist's job in the company. The company's co-founder Shailesh Kumar Davey will take over as the group CEO.

Milos Vucevic

Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucevic announced that he was resigning, following months of mass demonstrations over the fatal collapse of a train station roof in November of last year.

KM Cherian

Dr. KM Cherian, a world-renowned cardiologist for over 50 years passed away at Bengaluru. He performed the country's first coronary artery bypass. Among many credits, was his first heart-lung transplant on a patient in India.

Rajagopala Chidambaram

Senior scientist and one of the key architects of India's nuclear programme, Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram, passed away. Dr. Chidambaram played a pivotal role in shaping India's nuclear weapons programme. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1975, followed by the Padma Vibhushan in 1999.

Prof Muzzafar Assadi

Political scientist and academican Professor Muzaffar Assadi passed away. Prof. Assadi, served as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Faculty of Arts at University of Mysore.

SPORTS

Magnus Carlsen & Ian Nepomniachtchi share World Blitz Chess Championship title 2024

In the World Blitz Chess Championship 2024, Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi have shared the title after their final match ended in a tie in New York.

In the Women's section, China's Ju Wenjun defeated her compatriot Lei Tingjie in the final to win the World Blitz Championship, completing a double after drawing five games.

Football: West Bengal lifts Santosh Trophy

West Bengal has won the Santosh Trophy national football championship, clinching the title for a record 33rd time with a 1-0 win against Kerala in the final of the 78th edition at the GMC Balayogi Stadium.

India's Vaishali wins women's world blitz bronze

India's R Vaishali has won a bronze in the women's section of the World Blitz Championship, capping another strong performance by the country's chess players after stalwart Koneru Humpy's title-winning show in the rapid event.

Arjun Erigaisi fourth, D Gukesh fifth in latest chess rankings

Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and World Champions D. Gukesh retained their fourth and fifth spot respectively in the chess rankings. In the women's section, newly-crowned Women's World Rapid Chess champion Koneru Humpy is placed sixth with a rating of 2523 in the list led by four Chinese players.

The International Championship of Handball gets underway

The International Championship of Handball – IHF Trophy Men's Youth and Junior (Continental Phase – Asia) was held in Lucknow for the first time in the KD Singh Babu Stadium.

Australia Clinches Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Australia defeated India by six wickets in the fifth and final Test match in Sydney and clinched the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, 3-1.

Brisbane International: Sabalenka beats Kudermetova to win title

Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka had secured a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Russian qualifier Polina Kudermetova in the final of the Brisbane International.

Tennis: United Cup: US claims second title with win over Poland

The United States lifted its second United Cup mixed team tournament title in three years after it beat Poland 2-0 on Sunday with Coco Gauff and Taylor Fritz both winning their singles matches.

Hong Kong Open 2025: Muller secures first ATP Tour title

France's Alexandre Muller lifted his first ATP Tour title by beating Kei Nishikori 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

67th National Shooting Championship : Varun Tomar wins both, senior and junior Men's 10m Air Pistol titles

In 67th National Shooting Championship 2024, Varun Tomar from Indian Army has become the national shooting champion after winning the Men's 10-meter Air Pistol finals at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

Anahat Singh wins the Under 17 Girl's Singles title at the British Junior Open

In Squash, India's Anahat Singh won the Under 17 Girl's Singles title at the British Junior Open in Birmingham, England. She defeated Malika El Karakasy of Egypt, 3-2 in the final.

New President of the Athletics Federation of India

Bahadur Singh Sagoo, Asian Games champion in Men's Shot Put, has been elected as the new President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). Bahadur Singh will succeed the outgoing President Adille Sumariwalla.

Martin Gupthill announces his retirement from international cricket.

Martin Gupthill of New Zealand announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38. Gupthill's career spanned around 14 years during which he scored over 14 thousand runs in 367 matches and smashed 23 international hundreds.

Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal announces retirement

Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket. Tamim concluded his career with 15,192 runs for Bangladesh.

Bumrah named ICC Men's Player of Month for December 2024

India pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2024 after his sensational performance during the recent tour of Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Novak Djokovic breaks Roger Federer's record for most Grand Slam matches played

Novak Djokovic has surpassed Roger Federer's all-time record for the most major singles matches played as he reached the Australian Open third round. During his 430th Grand Slam singles match he emerged triumphant, beating qualifier Jaime Faria.

FC Barcelona wins the Supercup

Barcelona secured the Spanish Super Cup title after beating arch-rival Real Madrid 5-2 in the final at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah. Barcelona won the Spanish Super Cup for the fifteenth time in its history, strengthening its record as the one who has won the title the most.

Indian women register largest ever win against Ireland in 3rd ODI

Indian Women's cricket team registered its largest-ever win by 304 runs defeating Ireland in the 3rd ODI of the three-match series in Rajkot, Gujarat. India won the series 3-nil. The Women in Blue created history by scoring a massive 435 runs for the loss of Five wickets in their 50 overs, their highest-ever ODI total.

Tyson Fury announces retirement from boxing

British heavyweight Tyson Fury has retired from boxing again one month after losing a rematch with Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk.

Kho Kho World Cup 2025: India wins both Men's & women's trophies

In the inaugural edition of the Kho Kho World Cup, Indian Women's and Men's teams were crowned as the World Champions.

India Open Badminton: Demark's Viktor Axelsen & South Korea's An Se Young win singles titles

In India Open Badminton in New Delhi, Demark's Viktor Axelsen won the Men's singles title. He defeated Hong Kong's C. Yiu Lee in straight sets 21-16, 21-8 in the final today. In Women's singles, South Korea's An Se Young defeated Thailand's P. Chochuwong 21-12, 21-9 in the final to win the title.

Mumbai marathon: Eritrea & Kenya win Men's & Women's elite race respectively

The 20th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon was held with over 65,000 runners taking part in the event. Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan flagged off the 'Elite' segment of the marathon. Eritrea's Berhane Tesfay won the men's and Kenya's Joyce Chepkemoi Tele clinched the women's elite race.

India set to host FIDE Chess World Cup 2025

India is set to host the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, marking the country's first major international chess tournament since the 2022 Chennai Chess Olympiad.

Khelo India Winter Games begins

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig. (Dr.) B. D Mishra kickstarted the opening ceremony of the 5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games at NDS Ice Hockey Stadium Leh.

World Pickleball League to begin in Mumbai

The inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League (WPBL) was held at the CCI in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Iniyan wins Johor International Open chess tournament

Indian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam has won the 9th Johor International Open chess tournament title in Malaysia with a dominating performance. Iniyan defeated Vietnamese GM Nguyen Van Huy in the final round.

Madison Key of the US wins Women's singles Australian Open title

In the Australian Open Tennis women's singles final, the 29-year-old American Madison Keys has claimed her long-awaited Grand Slam title, defeating two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in a match that ended 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.

Australian Open: Jannik Sinner of Italy wins Men's singles title

Italy's Jannik Sinner has won the men's singles title at the 2025 Australian Open Tennis. In the final, he defeated Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6, 6-3.

India's Jyothi Yarraji wins gold medal in women's 60m indoor hurdles in France

In Athletics, India's Jyothi Yarraji broke her own national record and won the gold medal in the women's 60m indoor hurdles at the Meeting de Nantes Métropole 2025 in France.

Women's Hockey India League: Odisha Warriors crowned inaugural champions

In the Women's Hockey India League (HIL), Odisha Warriors lifted the inaugural edition title after they registered a hard-fought 2-1 victory over JSW Soorma Hockey Club in the Final.

38th National Games to begin in Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 38th National Games at Maharana Pratap Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The National Games are proposed to be held in 11 cities of 8 districts of Uttarakhand till the 4th of next month.

5th edition of Khelo India Winter Games concludes in Ladakh

In Ladakh, the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games concluded. During the event, competitions were held for two winter sports categories- Ice Hockey and Ice Skating. Teams from the Union Territory of Ladakh won a total tally of 7 Medals including four Gold, Two Silver and One Bronze.

Geoff Allardice to step down as ICC CEO

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that Geoff Allardice has decided to step down as ICC Chief Executive.

on a critical blunder by Warner, securing victory with Qxc8 on move 27.

MISCELLANEOUS**World Rings in 2025 with Spectacular Celebrations from Kiribati to Times Square**

People across the globe are bidding farewell to 2024 and welcoming 2025, as cities around the world prepare for New Year celebrations that highlight local cultures and traditions. The Pacific Island nation of Kiribati was the first country to ring in 2025, with its 133,500 citizens celebrating the new year.

India's ranking drops to 85th in Henley Passport Index

India's ranking has dropped by five points to 85 this year in a global passport index, topped by Singapore for the second consecutive year. The Indian passport offers visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 57 destinations.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025: India ranks second globally in job market preparedness

According to the QS World Future Skills Index 2025, India emerged as the second most prepared job market globally for future in-demand skills, trailing only the United States. India ranks 25th overall across all indicators, earning recognition as a "future skills contender."

Bhuj Water Systems and Hyderabad's Musi River Buildings Join 2025 World Monuments Watch List

Bhuj's historic water systems and Hyderabad's Musi River Historic Buildings have secured a coveted place on the 2025 World Monuments Watch list.

US removes 3 Indian nuclear entities from export control list

The US has lifted sanctions on three Indian entities including Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The other two companies are Indian Rare Earths and Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center.

India to host 28th CSPOC in 2026

India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026.

India Joins UN Panel to Shape Global Big Data Standards for Official Statistics

India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. As part of the committee, India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing big data and data science for official statistical purposes.

Thailand eases long-term visa rules to attract foreign talent, investment

Thailand eases long-term visa rules to attract foreign talent and investment. It has also removed the five-year minimum work experience requirement for professionals to increase the global talent pool in the country.

Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025: WEF calls for urgent action

The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, produced in collaboration with Accenture, examines the cybersecurity trends that will affect economies and societies in the year to come. Generative AI is driving an unprecedented surge in cyber fraud, with nearly 47% of organisations identifying adversarial AI-powered attacks as their primary concern.

Pakistan launches first home-made observation satellite
Pakistan has launched its first home-made observation satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northern China. The PRSC-EO1 satellite will boost Pakistan's ability to monitor and manage natural resources, respond to disasters, and improve urban planning and agricultural development.

India slips to 3rd place on trust barometer

India has slipped one place to third slot when it comes to people's trust in the government, businesses, media and NGOs, while the low-income population is far less trusting than their richer counterparts.

The overall list for trust of the general population in the government, businesses, media and NGOs was again topped by China, while Indonesia replaced India for the second spot.

Dubai secures the top spot in West Asia in the Global Power City Index 2024.

In the annual study conducted by Japan's Mori Memorial Foundation Dubai has secured the top spot in West Asia in the Global Power City Index 2024 and eighth position globally, marking its second consecutive year in the top 10 rankings.

'Blue Origin' to launch its first orbital rocket

Jeff Bezos' company 'Blue Origin' launched its first orbital rocket 'New Glenn' from Launch Complex 36 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.

Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupted 1,000 times this month

A volcano in eastern Indonesia has erupted at least a thousand times this month, as efforts are under way to evacuate thousands of villagers. Mount Ibu, on the remote island of Halmahera, sent a column of smoke up to 4 km into the sky on Sunday.

Nine navies hold joint drills in strategic straits between Indian Ocean and the Pacific

Navies of nine Indo-Pacific countries, including India, are taking part in a multilateral exercise, La Perouse, hosted by France in the strategic straits of Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok, between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Singapore tightens screen time rules for children

Singapore has introduced stricter regulations on-screen use for children as part of the "Grow Well SG" health initiative. Starting February 1, 2025 preschools will ban screen use for children under 18 months and limit it to educational purposes for those aged 18 months to six years.

Georgia achieves WHO malaria-free certification

Georgia has officially been certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO). With this certification, Georgia joins 45 other countries and one territory that have reached this milestone, underscoring the global progress towards malaria elimination.

Niger becomes 1st African country to eliminate onchocerciasis

Niger becomes the first country in the African Region to eliminate onchocerciasis. Niger is recognised as the fifth country in the world, the first in Africa, to have successfully halted the transmission of the parasite *Onchocerca volvulus*. Onchocerciasis, commonly known as river blindness.

WHO recommends potassium-enriched salt substitutes to combat hypertension

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released new guidelines recommending the switch from regular table salt to potassium-enriched salt substitutes as part of efforts to combat hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases.

World Braille Day

World Braille Day is being observed on January 4th. The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.

National Bird Day: 5th January

National Bird Day, celebrated on January 5 every year, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of birds in our ecosystems and their conservation.

National Youth Day: 12th January

National Youth Day is celebrated on 12th January every year in commemoration of the great spiritual leader, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda.

India celebrated Army Day on January 15

Army Day is being celebrated on January 15 to honour the armed forces and their immense sacrifices for the country. Army Day is celebrated on this day to commemorate General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa taking over the command of the Indian Army from the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949.

India celebrates Parakram Diwas 2025 to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

India celebrated Parakram Diwas 2025 to honour the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the occasion of his 128th birth anniversary on January 23.

National Girl Child Day 2025 observed on Jan.24

National Girl Child Day is being celebrated across the nation on 24th January. The theme for National Girl Child Day 2025 is "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future."

National Voters' Day being celebrated across the country

The 15th National Voters' Day is being celebrated across the country on January 25. This year's theme is, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.

National Tourism Day 2025 observed on January 25

India celebrated its National Tourism Day on January 25. This year, the theme for National Tourism Day is 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'.

International Customs Day: 26th January

International Customs Day (ICD) is observed annually on January 26. The theme for International Customs Day 2025 is "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity."

Nation pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on 77th Martyr's Day

The Nation is paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 77th Death Anniversary and Martyr's Day Ceremony on January 30. On this occasion, a Sarva-Dharma Prarthana was held at Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat in New Delhi.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day observed on 30 January

World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day is observed annually on 30. This year, the global theme is "Unite, Act, and Eliminate NTDs", emphasizing collective action to improve the health and well-being of over 1.6 billion people affected by NTDs worldwide.