

The week from 05th January 2026 to 11th January 2026

Following the capture of President Nicolas Maduro by US forces, Venezuela's Supreme Court has appointed Delcy Rodriguez as interim president. A lawyer educated in Britain and France, Rodriguez has served as vice president since 2018 and played a key role in the Maduro administration, managing the economy, security, and international relations.

US President Donald Trump has issued an executive order mandating the country's withdrawal from 66 international bodies, including the India-led International Solar Alliance. The move affects 35 non-UN organisations and 31 UN agencies that the US administration says no longer serve US interests.

Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma created history at Thiruvananthapuram's Greenfield Stadium by overtaking Australia's Megan Schutt to become the highest wicket-taker in Women's T20 Internationals. She achieved the milestone during the final match of India's 5-0 series clean sweep against Sri Lanka, claiming her 152nd T20I wicket—one more than Schutt's previous record of 151.

Karnataka has recorded its first sighting of an ultra-rare leopard colour morph, dubbed the "Sandalwood Leopard," and only the second in India. Captured on camera traps in Vijayanagara, the female shows a pale reddish-pink coat with light-brown rosettes, likely caused by hypomelanism or erythrism, underscoring the state's unique leopard diversity and conservation value.

India has surpassed China as the world's largest rice producer, with output hitting 150.18 million tonnes, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced. This achievement underscores India's rise as a major foodgrain power & key agricultural exporter. The announcement also unveiled 184 new crop varieties from ICAR to enhance yields, climate resilience, food security, and crop diversification.

India's gig economy is in the spotlight as delivery workers across major cities protested against unsafe conditions and exploitative "10-minute" delivery demands, forcing quick-commerce firms to drop these claims after government intervention. The Labour Ministry is pushing for improved safety & welfare measures, while unions continue to press for fair pay, social security and better working conditions.

Widespread protests in Iran, sparked by economic collapse and soaring prices, have escalated into the deadliest unrest in years, with more than 500 reportedly killed and mass arrests amid a near-total internet blackout. The crisis continues with allegations of heavy repression by Iranian security forces amidst increased global scrutiny.

The Union government has notified the first phase of the Census of India 2027, announcing that the house-listing and housing census will be conducted from April 1 to September 30, 2026, across all states & Union Territories. The Home Ministry also said a 15-day self-enumeration window will be available before house-to-house surveys, as scheduled by each State or UT.



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Xpress minds