

The week from 18th January 2026 to 24th January 2026

Japan has begun steps to restart the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant, the world's largest, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima disaster. The move reflects a major shift in Japan's energy strategy as it seeks to reduce dependence on costly fossil fuel imports, meet rising power demand, and advance its decarbonization goals despite local opposition to nuclear power.

Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin has been elected unopposed as the new National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party following a day-long nomination process at the party headquarters. The 45-year-old leader, who had earlier been appointed BJP's national working president on December 14, succeeds J.P. Nadda and becomes the youngest person to hold the post.

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 was held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland from 19–23 January 2026 under the theme "A Spirit of Dialogue." Around 3,000 participants from over 130 countries attended, including about 400 political leaders, nearly 65 heads of state, and over 800 global CEOs, marking record-level participation.

Delhi-based chess player Aaryan Varshney has earned the title of India's 92nd Grandmaster after securing his third and final GM norm at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia. The 21-year-old clinched the title with a round to spare. Earlier, A.R. Ilamparthi and V.S. Raahul had achieved the 90th and 91st GM titles for India in late 2025.

The International Monetary Fund has revised India's GDP growth estimate for 2025–26 upward to 7.3%, from its earlier projection of 6.6%. The forecast is slightly below the Indian government's estimate of 7.4% growth. Globally, the IMF expects economic growth to remain steady at 3.3% in 2026 and 3.2% in 2027.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has won a seventh term in office, according to the country's Electoral Commission, following a tense election marked by an opposition crackdown and internet shutdown. At 81, Museveni secured 71.65% of the vote, defeating his main rival, opposition leader Bobi Wine, who received 24.72%, as per official results.

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired after an illustrious 27-year career, following the completion of her final mission in December 2025. Her last planned 10-day mission aboard the ISS extended to over nine months. Selected by NASA in 1998, Williams logged a total of 608 days in space across three missions—making her second on the list of NASA astronauts with the highest cumulative time spent in space.



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