

International

Angola reports 3,402 cholera cases, 114 deaths.

Angola has recorded 3,402 cholera cases and 114 deaths since the outbreak began in early January this year. According to the Health Ministry, since February 1, Angola has been reporting more than 100 new cholera cases daily, peaking at 295 on February 8. Since the outbreak on January 7, the disease has spread to multiple provinces, with Luanda and the neighbouring Bengo province being the most affected.

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by consuming food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

India ranks 96 out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index 2024.

According to a Transparency International report, India was ranked 96 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024, as its overall score dropped a point to 38. Denmark topped the list of being the least-corrupt nation, followed by Finland and Singapore. South Sudan and Somalia remained at the bottom of the index, with scores of 8 and 9, respectively.

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories based on perceived levels of public sector corruption, as assessed by experts and businesspeople.

Jotham Napat elected new Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Jotham Napat, President of the Leaders Party of Vanuatu, was elected the country's new Prime Minister. Napat was elected through a secret ballot in the Parliament in Port Vila, capital of Vanuatu.

As the sole nominee in the election, Napat received 50 votes of support in the 52-seat Parliament. The remaining two votes were void.

Tata Sons Chairman Chandrasekaran gets U.K.'s honorary civilian award

Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has been conferred with the United Kingdom's "The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)", a prestigious honorary civilian awards to foreign nationals.

Mr. Chandrasekaran has been awarded with honorary DBE/KBE for his services to U.K./India Business relations.

National

Bengaluru-based start-up unveils cargo drone.

Scandron, a Bengaluru-based start-up, has unveiled the CargoMax 20KHC drone in the ongoing Aero India 2025. The company claimed that the CargoMax 20KHC drone is India's most powerful cargo drone with a 200kg payload capacity.

The drone is designed to provide the Indian armed forces with a stable, robust, reliable aerial logistics platform for last-mile deliveries. It is a fully autonomous aerial logistics platform that offers pilotless operations, an operational range of 15 km and an operational ceiling of 6,000 m above mean sea level.

Union Minister S.P. Singh Baghel releases Devolution Index Report

Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Professor S.P. Singh Baghel, launched a devolution index report titled 'Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States – An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024' in New Delhi. The Index report provides insights into the progress of decentralization across States and Union Territories of the country. It also examines how autonomous panchayats are in making and implementing independent decisions.

As per the report, devolution to rural local bodies increased from 39.9% to 43.9% between 2013-14 to 2021-22. Karnataka topped the Devolution Ranking; Kerala and Tamil Nadu bagged the second and third spot respectively whereas Uttar Pradesh jumped 10 spots to reach the fifth position.

Jagdeep Dhankhar launches "I Am?" book compiled by Gopichand Hinduja

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar launched a book titled "I Am?" compiled by the noted business tycoon and Chairman of the Hinduja Group, Gopichand P. Hinduja. This book, inspired by conversations with spiritual masters, intellectuals, and world leaders, aims to guide younger generations in navigating our interconnected world.

Business and Economy

SIDBI signs agreement with AFD for green finance for MSMEs.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and AFD, France, have signed a \$ 100 million credit facility agreement to scale up green finance solutions for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The partnership aims to support sustainable growth and drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy. The AFD will provide credit line of \$ 100 million to SIDBI to deploy the funds to expand access to affordable financing for MSMEs investing in energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy solutions, and climate-friendly business practices.

JioStar unveils JioHotstar platform

JioStar, the recently formed joint venture with the merger of Viacom18 and Star India, has announced the launch of JioHotstar, bringing together JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar – two leading platforms for premium sports, and entertainment.

With close to 3 lakh hours of entertainment, live sports coverage, and more than 50 crore users, JioHotstar provides compelling subscription plans tailored to diverse audience needs, starting at Rs 149.

Adani Green withdraws from controversial renewable energy project in Sri Lanka.

Adani Green withdrew from a controversial \$ 442-million renewable energy project in northern Sri Lanka, amid fierce opposition from locals and a legal battle over its approval and potential environmental impact. Adani Green's wind farm project in northern Sri Lanka has remained under the scanner from the time it was approved by the Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration in 2022, without a competitive tender process

Asia's 20 richest families: Mukesh Ambani leads.

Reliance Industries' Chairman, Mukesh Ambani, has secured the top spot on Bloomberg's Asia's 20 Richest Families list with \$90.5 billion in wealth.

Thailand's Chearavanont family has ranked second, with a combined total wealth of \$42.6 billion (about ₹3.70 lakh crore). The Hartono family of Indonesia has ranked third, with a combined total wealth of \$42.2 billion (about ₹3.66 lakh crore). India's Mistry family has a combined wealth of \$37.5 billion (₹3.25 lakh crore) and has been ranked fourth.

Sports

National Games 2025: Jash Modi wins men's singles gold; Selena wins women's singles title in table tennis.

Jash Modi won the men's singles gold in the 38th National Games table tennis at the Parade Ground indoor stadium. He bounced back after losing the first two games to upset the top seed from Tamil Nadu 4-3

Earlier, Tamil Nadu's Selena Deepthi Selvakumar took the women's gold with a 4-3 victory over Maharashtra's second-seeded Swastika Ghosh.

Third edition of the Women's Premier League 2025 to kick off.

The third edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 will kick off today. The opening clash will feature defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) taking on the Gujarat Giants in Vadodara. The tournament, featuring five teams, RCB, Gujarat Giants, Delhi Capitals, UP Warriorz, and Mumbai Indians, will run until March 15, with the final scheduled at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.