

International

Lebanon's President names ICJ judge Nawaf Salam Prime Minister.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun had picked international jurist Nawaf Salam to form a government to pull the war-scarred country out of economic crisis. The new Prime Minister will face major challenges, including implementing reforms to satisfy international donors to lift the country out of the worst financial collapse in its history.

S Korea impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol arrested.

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. He has also been impeached by the Parliament and suspended - but will only be removed from office if the Constitutional Court upholds the impeachment.

Singapore President begins 5-Day state visit to India.

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.

President Tharman's visit is expected to provide further momentum to bilateral relations between the two nations. The state visit will also mark the beginning of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.

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. The high-fatality disease had been reported in two districts of the Kagera region in the country's northwest.

The viral haemorrhagic fever has a fatality rate as high as 88 percent, and is from the same virus family as the one responsible for Ebola, which is transmitted to people from fruit bats.

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. The plan follows Australia's recent decision to ban children under 16 from accessing social media. Internet penetration in Indonesia, a country of about 280 million people, reached 79.5% last year.

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. The fierce wildfires in Los Angeles County, fuelled by severe drought conditions and strong winds, scorched over 40,500 acres and destroyed more than 12,300 structures.

National

PM Modi launches 'Mission Mausam'

Prime Minister 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. The mission will explore weather management technologies and include creating a laboratory to artificially develop clouds, increasing the number of radars by over 150 per cent and adding new satellites, supercomputers and much more.

Modi also released the IMD's Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation and a commemorative coin to mark 150 years of the IMD.

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. It is a day to celebrate Indian soldiers' courage, commitment, and

service to the motherland. 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 and becoming the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India.

Business and Economy

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. The gross direct tax collection has also achieved an impressive growth of around 20 per cent, amounting to over 20 lakh crore rupees. This is a significant increase from around 17 lakh crore rupees collected during the same period in the last fiscal year. The Corporate tax contributed around ten lakh crore, while non-corporate tax stood at around 11 lakh crore rupees.

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. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 1.89 per cent in November 2024.

As per the data, inflation in food items eased to 8.47 per cent in December 2024, as against 8.63 per cent in November. Inflation in vegetable stood at 28.65 per cent, as against 28.57 per cent in November.

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.

In a memo to staff, its founder Mark Zuckerberg said he had made the decision to speed up the firm's regular performance-based cuts in

anticipation of an "intense year". The company, which employs about 72,000 people globally, did not say how the cuts would be distributed around the world.

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Sports

India registers big wins in Kho Kho World Cup 2025.

In the Kho Kho World Cup 2025, Indian men's and women's teams registered massive wins in New Delhi. In the Women's category, Priyanka Ingle led the team that defeated South Korea 175-18 in their opening match.

The Indian men's team led by Pratik Waikar won their match against Brazil 64-34 and after two consecutive wins emerged at the top in Group A.

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 6-1 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 6-2.

The win gives Djokovic sole ownership of the all-time record for most Grand Slam singles matches played among men and women, and takes him past former rival Federer, who played his last major match at Wimbledon in 2021.

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.

The tournament was introduced in 1982 as a two-team competition between winners of the La Liga and Copa del Rey. In 2019 it was further expanded to a four-team contest, which included the winners and runners-up of both the domestic league and the cup.