International

Seoul court sentences former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to life in prison.

A Seoul court has sentenced former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to life in prison for his failed bid to impose martial law in 2024. In the first ruling on the case, the Seoul Central District Court convicted Yoon of leading an insurrection through the martial law bid but handed down a sentence lighter than the death penalty recommended by special prosecutors.

UAE announces major prisoner releases to mark Ramadan 2026.

In a compassionate gesture marking the start of the holy month of Ramadan, the United Arab Emirates' leadership has ordered the release of thousands of prisoners across the country. UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has directed the release of 1,440 inmates.

Overall, over 3,000 prisoners have benefited from these humanitarian initiatives.

World Day of Social Justice being observed on Feb.20.

The World Day of Social Justice is being observed on February 20. This year it is commemorated under the theme "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice." The day is dedicated to tackling critical global issues like poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, and unemployment.

The United Nations designated the day in 2007 to promote the values of fairness, human rights, and social protection for all.

National

PM Modi unveils MANAV vision promoting ethical, inclusive AI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the MANAV vision for artificial intelligence (AI) at the inaugural session of the AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, outlining India's approach to AI as ethical, sovereign, inclusive, and globally oriented.

MANAV means human. M stands for moral and ethical systems. A stands for accountable governance, transparent rules and robust oversight. N stands for national sovereignty - whose data, their rights. The second A stands for accessible and inclusive, not an AI monopoly, but a multiplier. V stands for valid and legitimate.

Indo-U.K. offshore wind task force launched.

India and the United Kingdom have launched the India–UK Offshore Wind Taskforce under the India-UK Vision 2035 and the 4th Energy Dialogue to accelerate cooperation in offshore wind energy development. The Taskforce has been constituted under the Fourth Energy Dialogue to provide strategic coordination and implementation support for India's offshore wind ambitions. It is designed as a working mechanism focused on execution, with defined milestones and time-bound deliverables, rather than a symbolic partnership platform.

This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and net-zero emission target by 2070.

India and Kenya sign Implementation Framework Agreement for DigiLocker pilot project.

India and Kenya signed the Implementation Framework Agreement for a DigiLocker pilot project in Kenya, on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. The DigiLocker solution will enable secure digital storage and real-time verification of official documents, reduce paperwork, and enhance access to public services for citizens, students and businesses, thus advancing inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure collaboration between India and Kenya.

In India, DigiLocker has over 500 million registered users and more than nine billion documents issued digitally across more than two thousand services, becoming a backbone of paperless, presence-less governance.

Centre to bring 1,954 border villages under development scheme.

The second phase of the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) will cover 1,954 strategic villages along the land borders with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar in 15 States and two Union Territories, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Vibrant Village Programme, originally aimed at areas along China border, will now be launched in villages along Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

The VVP was launched in 2023, originally to assist development in villages along the China border.

BioAsia 2026 Summit held in Hyderabad.

The 23rd edition of the BioAsia 2026 international summit was held on February 17–18, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, India. The summit focuses on the theme "TechBio Unleashed: AI, Automation & the Biology Revolution" to advance life sciences, digital health, and pharmaceutical innovation. The event brought together global experts, scientists, and industry leaders to discuss critical advancements in the field.

Delhi To Roll Out 'Bhu-Aadhaar'.

The Delhi government has launched 'Bhu-Aadhaar', a system assigning a unique 14-digit identification number to each land parcel in the city, in a move aimed at tackling long-standing land boundary disputes.

The system, officially called the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), was first introduced under the Centre's Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

FCI signs MoU with WFP to supply 2 lakh metric tonnes of rice for global hunger relief.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of rice in support of global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger. The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has informed that FCI will supply two lakh metric tonnes of rice to WFP under the MoU.

Business and Economy

Tata group and OpenAI enter multi-year partnership to develop AI infrastructure.

The Tata Group, Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) HyperVault unit and OpenAI have agreed to a multi-year partnership to develop AI infrastructure in India. TCS will develop an AI infrastructure with 100MW capacity, with an option to scale to 1 GW to power next-generation AI workloads. TCS will leverage OpenAI's Codex to boost software engineering outcomes.

TCS established HyperVault in 2025 to deliver gigawatt-scale, secure, reliable, large-scale AI-ready infrastructure for hyperscalers and AI-driven organisations.

NPCI collaborates with NVIDIA to advance India's sovereign AI infrastructure for digital payments.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced its collaboration with NVIDIA to scale and advance its sovereign AI model capabilities purpose-built for India's payments ecosystem. The initiative will support the evolving requirements of large-scale, real-time payment systems, with an emphasis on trust, resilience, security, and ecosystem enablement. The collaboration brings together NPCI's domain expertise in building and operating population-scale payments infrastructure with NVIDIA's advanced AI and accelerated computing platforms.

NPCI recently introduced the UPI Help Assistant as a pilot initiative, supported by FiMI (Financial Model for India) fine-tuned and pre-trained Small Language Model (SLM) developed specifically for the payment ecosystem. The assistant supports grievance resolution for UPI users by enabling more timely and consistent responses at scale.

IICA constitutes High-Level Advisory Group on Ease of Doing Business.

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), has constituted a high-level Advisory Group (AG) on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) under the Chairmanship of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA. The initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, aimed at fostering a robust, transparent, and globally competitive business ecosystem.

The Advisory Group has been entrusted with a comprehensive mandate to recommend measures for compliance efficiency and reducing the regulatory burden on businesses.

Federal Bank to receive Rs 686 crore tax refund after tribunal ruling.

Private sector Federal Bank will receive a tax refund of Rs 686 crore following the successful resolution of a long-standing tax matter. This will have significant financial implications for the bank's profitability in the next quarter. The refund pertains to assessment years 2012–13 and 2013–14, including interest.

Sports

T20 World Cup 2026: Zimbabwe stuns Sri Lanka, enters Super 8s.

Brian Bennett's fifty and Sikandar Raza's raw power propelled Zimbabwe to a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka as the Africans entered the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup.

Zimbabwe chased the target of 179 in 19.3 overs. Earlier, SL batters reached a par 178 for seven in 20 overs.

Keely Hodgkinson smashes world indoor 800m record.

Keely Hodgkinson has smashed the women's world indoor 800 metres record set by Slovenia's Jolanda Ceplak on the day Britain's Olympic champion was born nearly 24 years ago. Hodgkinson, clocked 1:54.87 at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting in Lievin, France to slice 0.95 seconds off the mark of 1:55.82 Ceplak set the record up on March 3, 2002.