

International

Venezuela's Legislature approves Amnesty Bill amid rights concerns.

Venezuela's National Assembly has passed an amnesty bill aimed at freeing people detained for political reasons, and interim President Delcy Rodríguez signed it into law.

The measure is seen as a step toward reconciliation and has already led to hundreds of releases under the new law.

However, human rights groups and opposition activists have criticised the law as limited in scope, noting that many political detainees remain behind bars and key groups are excluded.

They argue that the legislation falls short of fully addressing political imprisonment and called for broader reform and releases.

India–Brazil deepen cooperation in pharma regulation and MSME development.

India and Brazil have exchanged two key MoUs in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral cooperation in pharmaceutical regulation and MSME development. The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The MoU between CDSCO and ANVISA aims to harmonise regulatory practices and ensure quality medical products, while the MSME MoU focuses on market access, technology sharing, green transition, and sustainable growth for enterprises in both countries.

Important Days

International Mother Language Day: 21st February.

International Mother Language Day is observed every year on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide.

Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999, the day highlights the importance of languages in inclusive education.

The 2026 theme, “*Youth voices on multilingual education*,” recognises the role of young people in preserving and revitalising languages through technology and digital

platforms, while stressing the need for education systems that support multilingual learning and inclusion.

National

NIPER partners industry to boost pharma research and innovation.

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) signed an MoU with a private pharmaceutical company in New Delhi to strengthen pharmaceutical education and research.

The agreement aims to enhance industry–academia collaboration and innovation.

On the occasion, Cohort 2 of Alliance for Medicinal Research, Innovation, Translation and Value Acceleration (AMRITVA), was also launched. The AMRITVA initiative aims to translate academic and institutional pharmaceutical research into entrepreneurial and market-orientated initiatives, strengthening the country's pharmaceutical innovation ecosystem.

PM Modi inaugurates Namo Bharat Rapid Rail and Meerut Metro.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Namo Bharat Rapid Rail and the Meerut Metro in Meerut, marking the first launch of rapid rail and metro services from a single platform in India. He said the integrated project reflects the vision of a ‘Viksit Uttar Pradesh’ and ‘Viksit Bharat’.

Highlighting women's participation, improved connectivity, infrastructure-led growth, and MSME support, the Prime Minister said the initiative will boost employment, mobility, and regional development.

Jayant Chaudhary launches nationwide Skill India Digital Hub Awareness Campaign.

Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary launched the nationwide campaign “*Badhna Hai Toh Yahan Judna Hai*” at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to boost awareness of the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

With Amitabh Bachchan as the campaign ambassador, the initiative aims to expand access to digital skilling, employment and lifelong learning.

SIDH, with over 1.5 crore users, supports upskilling and reskilling in the AI-driven economy, aligning with the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

CAQM proposes tighter PM emission norms for Delhi-NCR industries.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has proposed a stricter particulate matter emission limit of 50 mg/Nm³ for industries in Delhi-NCR, replacing the earlier 80 mg/Nm³ norm set in 2022.

Based on CPCB recommendations and an IIT Kanpur study, the revised standard is deemed technically feasible and environmentally necessary.

It will apply to 17 highly polluting industry categories and is expected to significantly reduce industrial air pollution and improve regional air quality.

JP Nadda launches indigenous Tetanus–Diphtheria vaccine at Kasauli.

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the indigenous Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, in Himachal Pradesh.

He praised CRI's historic role in vaccine development and said the launch strengthens India's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in healthcare. Highlighting India as the "Pharmacy of the World," he noted that CRI will supply 5.5 million doses under the Universal Immunization Programme by April 2026.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan releases coffee table book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan released the coffee table book titled Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman in New Delhi.

He said the book celebrates Vajpayee's inspiring life and leadership, beyond photographs.

Highlighting key milestones of statesmen's leadership, the Vice-President referred to the Pokhran nuclear tests and the visionary infrastructure initiative like Delhi Metro.

Regional Workshop held in Raipur to strengthen consumer protection.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Government, organised a two-day regional workshop in Raipur to strengthen consumer protection mechanisms.

The workshop focused on technology-driven reforms, capacity building and inter-State cooperation.

Emphasis was laid on e-filing, e-hearing, AI-based grievance redressal, the National Consumer Helpline and the e-Jagruti platform to ensure speedy, transparent and consumer-friendly justice delivery.

Business and Economy

IFSCA, IICA sign MoU to strengthen corporate governance at GIFT City.

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) signed an MoU at GIFT City to enhance India's IFSC ecosystem. The agreement focuses on capacity building, policy research and knowledge partnership.

IICA will provide training and advisory support on corporate laws, governance, ESG and cross-border transactions, strengthening regulatory effectiveness and global governance standards within GIFT-IFSC.

Sports

India clinch Women's T20I Series against Australia.

India defeated Australia by 17 runs in the third and final Women's T20I at the Adelaide Oval to clinch the three-match series 2–1.

Chasing 177, Australia were restricted to 159 for nine. Earlier, Smriti Mandhana's 82 and Jemimah Rodrigues' 59 powered India to 176 for six.