

International

Friedrich Merz set to be next Chancellor of Germany

Friedrich Merz, chairman of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), is set to become Germany's next chancellor followed by the far-right AfD in second place after record gain. He will be the oldest chancellor since Konrad Adenauer, the first chancellor of the new Federal Republic of Germany, who took office in 1949 at the age of 73.

Pope Francis in critical condition

Pope Francis has remained in critical condition after blood tests showed early kidney failure. The 88-year-old pontiff battles pneumonia and a complex lung infection. The Pope was admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital on 14 February after experiencing breathing difficulties for several days, where he was first treated for bronchitis before being diagnosed with pneumonia in both lungs.

Trump administration to fire 2,000 USAID workers

The Donald Trump administration is eliminating 2,000 posts at the U.S. Agency for International Development and placing all but a fraction of others worldwide on leave.

It comes after a federal judge allowed the administration to move forward with pulling thousands of USAID staffers off the job in the United States and around the world.

Honorary Knighthood medal presented to Bharti chief Sunil Mittal

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has received the insignia of the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE).

He was presented the medal on February 22, 2025 for the award that was received last year.

India sends 26 tons of humanitarian assistance to Honduras

India has dispatched humanitarian assistance of 26 tons to Honduras in the wake of the recent Tropical storm SARA. External Affairs Ministry said that the consignment comprises medical supplies and disaster relief material including surgical supplies, glucometers,

oximeters, gloves, syringes and IV fluids, blankets, sleeping mats and hygiene kits.

National

Indian Army to participate in India- Japan Joint Military Exercise, DHARMA GUARDIAN

The Indian Army contingent, comprising 120 personnel, departed for the 6th edition of India-Japan Joint Military Exercise, DHARMA GUARDIAN. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted in the East Fuji Maneuver Training Area of Japan from the 24th of February to the 9th of March.

Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual event conducted alternatively in India and Japan. The last edition of this exercise was conducted in Rajasthan in 2024.

PM Modi to be Guest of Honour at Mauritius National Day celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Guest of Honour at Mauritius' 57th National Day celebration next month. Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced this while addressing the Parliament. Mauritius commemorates its National Day on March 12th each year, marking the anniversary of its independence from British rule in 1968. President Droupadi Murmu attended Mauritius' National Day celebrations last year as the chief guest.

100-Day TB campaign detects over 5 lakh cases, screens 10 crore individuals.

The 100-day TB elimination campaign of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has detected over five lakh tuberculosis (TB) patients across the country. In 455 districts involved in the campaign, over three lakh 57 thousand TB patients have been diagnosed. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that more than 10 crore vulnerable individuals have been screened.

Under the campaign, 10 lakh Ni-kshay Shivirs have helped bring modern TB diagnostic tools closer to people's homes. Further, 836 Ni-kshay Vahans have been deployed to extend the reach of TB services, to ensure coverage in the most remote areas.

Business and Economy

AMFI launches three initiatives to boost Mutual Fund accessibility, financial literacy, investment recovery.

Industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) launched three initiatives — SIP for smaller investments, Tarun Yojana to encourage young investors and MITRA to help track and recover forgotten investments.

These initiatives align with markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and AMFI's ongoing efforts to democratise mutual fund investments, ensuring wider participation across diverse segments of society.

KKR buys controlling stake in Healthcare Global for \$400 million

Private equity firm KKR has signed definitive agreements to acquire a controlling stake in oncology hospital chain operator Healthcare Global Enterprises for \$400 million. The U.S. investment company has proposed to buy up to 54% shares in HealthCare Global from CVC Capital Partners .

FDI from Japan has exceeded 43 billion dollars between 2000 and 2024:

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that Japan has been a key ally in India's economic growth and is the 5th largest source of foreign investment. Foreign Direct Investment from Japan has exceeded 43 billion dollars between 2000 and 2024. Mr. Goyal also said that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in 2011 has significantly strengthened bilateral trade, with over 1,400 Japanese companies operating in India

FPIs withdraw ₹23,710 cr from equities in Feb.

Foreign investors have pulled out over ₹23,710 crore from the Indian equity markets so far this month, pushing total outflows past ₹1 lakh crore in 2025 amid rising global trade tensions. According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) offloaded shares worth ₹23,710 crore from Indian equities

so far this month (till February 21). This came following a net outflow of ₹78,027 crore in January. With these, the total outflow by FPIs has reached ₹1,01,737 crore in 2025 so far, data with the depositories showed.

Sports

Squash: Saurav Ghosal wins PSA Challenger Title at Octane Sydney Classic.

Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal won the PSA Challenger title at the Octane Sydney Classic in Australia. He defeated Abdelrahman Nassar of Egypt in straight games 3-0 in the final clash. Ghosal registered two straight game victories against Kijan Sultana of Malta and Minwoo Lee of South Korea in the first and second rounds, respectively.

ICC Champions Trophy: India defeats Pakistan by six wickets.

In the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, India defeated Pakistan by six wickets in Group A clash at the Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 242 set by Pakistan, India made 244 for 4 in 42.3 overs. For India, Virat Kohli with an unbeaten century and Shreyas Iyer with 56 were the top scorers. Batting first Pakistan scored 241 in 49.4 overs.

During the match, Virat Kohli became the quickest batter to score 14,000 runs in One-Day Internationals in 287 innings. Kohli is now only the third batter in ODI cricket to have scored 14,000 runs, after Sachin Tendulkar and Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara. Kohli already holds the record for scoring the most ODI centuries (50).

Mohun Bagan Super Giant become ISL League winners

In the Indian Super League (ISL) Football, Mohun Bagan Super Giant became the League Winners after their 1-nil victory over Odisha FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata. The Mariners became the first team in the ISL to successfully defend their title of league winners. They moved to 52 points, gaining an unassailable lead over second-placed FC Goa.