

International

NCB urges Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia to follow new medicine approval rules.

The Narcotics Control Bureau has advised Indian travellers to Saudi Arabia to obtain prior approval before carrying medicines for personal use. The advisory follows the launch of a new electronic platform by Saudi authorities that mandates advance permission for clearing medicines at entry or exit points. The NCB cautioned that several medicines legally sold in India may be restricted or banned in Saudi Arabia, and carrying quantities beyond prescribed limits could invite action. Travellers have been urged to check the official Saudi list of prohibited and restricted medicines before travel.

Important Days

International Mind–Body Wellness Day: 3rd January.

Observed every year on January 3, International Mind–Body Wellness Day highlights the vital link between mental and physical well-being and promotes preventive healthcare.

The day emphasizes that true health comes from harmony between the mind and body. In a fast-paced modern lifestyle marked by stress, poor sleep, and unhealthy routines, this observance encourages people to adopt balanced habits. Simple practices like mindfulness, regular physical activity, adequate rest, and healthy eating can significantly improve overall wellness and ensure long-term health.

National

Centre clears new Chief Justices and transfers for three high courts.

The Union government has notified key judicial appointments and transfers involving the High Courts of Kerala, Patna and Meghalaya, based on

recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium made in December 2025. Justice Soumen Sen, presently Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court following the retirement of Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar on January 9, 2026.

Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo of the Orissa High Court will take over as Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

Justice Revati Prashant Mohite Dere of the Bombay High Court has been appointed Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, ensuring continuity in judicial administration.

Textiles PLI application window extended to end of March.

The government has extended the deadline for submitting fresh applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles till March 31 this year. The decision follows a strong response after the application portal was reopened in August, with several textile firms submitting proposals. The Ministry of Textiles said the extension is aimed at encouraging wider participation and giving eligible companies additional time to apply. The move reflects growing investor confidence in India's textile sector and the government's push to boost manufacturing, investment and employment in the industry.

Centre rolls out new measures to strengthen MSME Exports under Export Promotion Mission.

The government has introduced two major interventions under the Export Promotion Mission to enhance exports from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The first provides interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment export credit to reduce financing costs and ease working capital pressures. The second offers collateral support to improve MSMEs' access to bank credit. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, these

initiatives will be implemented on a pilot basis and refined through continuous monitoring, as part of a ₹25,000 crore mission approved for 2025–31.

Centre clears 22 electronics manufacturing projects to boost Atmanirbhar supply chains.

The Centre has approved 22 new proposals under the third tranche of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, involving an investment of ₹41,863 crore across eight states. The projects span 11 segments, including mobile, telecom, automotive, IT hardware and strategic electronics. They are expected to generate production worth ₹2.58 lakh crore and create about 34,000 direct jobs. Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the initiative will strengthen domestic supply chains, reduce import dependence and advance India's goal of becoming a global electronics manufacturing hub.

Government unveils 'Know Your Survey' guide to enhance transparency in data collection.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released its first reader-friendly guide to clearly explain survey processes and improve transparency. Titled Know Your Survey, the document is designed for policymakers, researchers, government departments, industry stakeholders and the general public. Issued by the National Statistics Office, it aims to build awareness and trust among data users. The guide also includes a special section for survey respondents, addressing common doubts during field investigations, and explains the methodology of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) in a simple, accessible manner.

India emerges as global leader in drug safety monitoring.

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda has said that India has risen to

the 8th position globally in contributions to the World Health Organization Pharmacovigilance Programme, a significant jump from the 123rd place, a decade ago. Releasing the 10th edition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 in New Delhi, he noted that it now includes 3,340 monographs, with 121 new additions. The first-time inclusion of blood component monographs will strengthen programmes related to TB, anaemia and immunisation, while enhancing India's global standing in drug regulation.

Assam sets the pace with formation of 8th State Pay Commission.

Assam has become the first state in the country to constitute an 8th State Pay Commission, ahead of the expiry of the 7th Pay Commission on January 1, 2026. Announcing the decision, Himanta Biswa Sarma said the move would provide timely clarity on pay revision for government employees and pensioners. The Assam government has appointed former chief secretary Subhas Das as the head of the commission. The panel is expected to review salary structures and recommend revisions, addressing long-standing expectations of state employees.

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh takes over as Chief of South Western Air Command.

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Indian Air Force's South Western Air Command on January 1, 2026. After taking over, he paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the war memorial. A National Defence Academy alumnus, he was commissioned in 1987 and has over 4,500 flying hours. With extensive command and staff experience, he earlier led the IAF's Training Command. He is a recipient of the Vayu Sena Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Business and Economy

CIL opens E-Auctions to neighbouring foreign coal buyers.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) has permitted coal consumers from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal to directly participate in its e-auctions from January 1, aiming to widen its buyer base amid slowing domestic demand.

Foreign buyers will bid at the same floor price as Indian consumers, with uniform price discovery and no volume cap. Payments will follow FEMA norms, and logistics costs will be borne by buyers.

The move enhances transparency, competition and global market integration, while safeguarding domestic coal requirements.

Sports

Venus Williams set to make history at Australian Open at 45.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams is set to create history by becoming the oldest female player to feature in the Australian Open main draw at the age of 45. The former world number one has been granted a women's singles wildcard for the tournament, which begins on January 18. With this appearance, Williams will surpass Japan's Kimiko Date, who competed at the age of 44 in 2015. Notably, Venus has not played

outside the United States since 2023, making her return even more remarkable.

Sjoerd Marijne returns as Head Coach of Indian Women's Hockey.

Hockey India has appointed Sjoerd Marijne as the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team, marking his return to the role. The Dutch coach earlier guided India to a historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. His immediate focus will be on preparing the team for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualifiers, scheduled in Hyderabad from March 8 to 14. Marijne will reach India on January 14, ahead of the national coaching camp beginning on January 19 in Bengaluru.

Indian shooters shine at National Championships with gold medal performances.

Indian shooters delivered impressive performances at the 68th National Shooting Championship, clinching top honours across events. Haryana's Ameerah Arshad secured the women's 10m air rifle gold in Bhopal after a close contest, while Railways' Rajshree Sancheti settled for silver. In New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh's Zuhair Khan claimed the men's trap gold at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, also helping his state win the team title. Junior competitions saw Karnataka and Haryana dominate with multiple podium finishes.