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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mali Junta Appointed Abdoulaye Maiga as Prime Minister

Mali's political landscape shifted on November 21, 2024, as the ruling military junta dismissed Prime Minister Choguel Maiga, appointing junta spokesperson Abdoulaye Maiga as his successor. Choguel Maiga publicly criticized the junta for failing to hold elections within the promised 24-month transition period to civilian rule. Rising Tensions: His remarks reportedly angered the ruling generals, leading to his removal. This development underscores growing tensions and challenges surrounding Mali's transition to democracy.

Foot notes:

- **Choguel Maiga's Dismissal**: Fired by the junta due to growing internal divisions and his public criticism of their governance, particularly the indefinite postponement of elections.
- Maiga accused the junta of lacking transparency, claiming he was excluded from key decisions.
- **Delayed Transition to Democracy**: The military seized power in 2020 and reinforced it with a second coup in 2021.
- Initially promised elections by February 2024, but announced an indefinite delay, citing technical challenges.
- **Criticism and Fallout**: The election delay has sparked domestic and international criticism, viewed as a tactic to prolong military rule.
- Maiga's dismissal highlights rising dissent and internal rifts within the junta \Box s ranks.

Scott Besant appointed as Finance Minister of USA

Trump announced that Scott Bessent will play a key role in achieving a "Golden Age" for the United States. He praised Bessent as a strong advocate of the America First Agenda and outlined his responsibilities, including strengthening the economy, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, attracting capital, and ensuring the U.S. Dollar remains the global reserve currency. Ahead of the nation's 250th Anniversary, Trump emphasized creating an inclusive economic boom, with Bessent leading efforts to ensure no American is left behind.

- Scott Bessent's Background: Founder and CEO of Key Square Group; former chief investment officer at Soros Fund Management.
- **Trump Campaign Role**: Key economic adviser and fundraiser, advocating Republican core policies like lower taxes, deregulation, and spending restraint.
- **Policy Advocacy**: Supports Trump's use of tariffs, reducing cryptocurrency regulations, and mass deportations as a cost-effective measure.



- Economic Plan: Proposed a three-point plan targeting 3% economic growth, reducing the deficit to 3% of GDP, and increasing domestic energy production by 3 million barrels/day.
- **Professional Experience**: Former Yale lecturer and global macro investment strategist, leveraging geopolitical and economic trends.
- **Treasury Secretary Role**: Critical for implementing the president's economic agenda, including tax/spending negotiations, international financial relations, and overseeing Treasury operations.
- **Past Treasury Secretary**: Steven Mnuchin held the role during Trump's first term, confirmed by the Senate with a 53-47 vote.

India Appointed Dinesh Bhatia as Brazil Ambassador

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Shri Dinesh Bhatia has been appointed as India s next Ambassador to Brazil, as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on November 25, 2024. A 1992-batch IFS officer, Bhatia brings a wealth of diplomatic experience from his service in various countries and key roles. Concurrently accredited to Uruguay and Paraguay until February 2022.

Foot notes:

- Secondment: Served in the Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai.
- Tourism Ministry: Private Secretary to India's Tourism Minister.
- Institutions: Trained at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, and Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.
- **Defense Studies**: Alumnus of National Defence College (NDC) and participant in the 4th Joint Civil-Military Course on National Security at LBSNAA.
- **Engineering:** Bachelor's in Electronics and Communication, Delhi College of Engineering.
- **Professional Memberships:** Fellow of the Institution of Engineers and member of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers.
- Worked in the private sector before joining the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- Married to Seema Bhatia, an Ayurvedic practitioner, psychologist, and hypnotherapist.

About Brazil:

Capital: Braslia Official language: Portuguese President: Luiz Incio Lula da Silva

Sumant Batra receives prestigious GRR Award 2024 in London



Renowned insolvency lawyer Sumant Batra was awarded the Global Restructuring Review (GRR) Award 2024 at a prestigious ceremony in London. The GRR Awards, held annually, recognize outstanding achievements in cross-border restructuring and insolvency law. As the most widely read daily online news platform and magazine in this field, GRR's recognition of Batra underscores his global prominence in insolvency law and marks a significant achievement for India.

Foot notes:

- Award: Sumant Batra was honored with the prestigious Global Restructuring Review (GRR) Award 2024 on November 21 in London.
- **Significance**: The GRR Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in cross-border restructuring and insolvency law, and Batra's recognition highlights his global prominence in the field.
- India's Involvement: India was previously recognized as the "Most Improved Jurisdiction" in 2018, thanks to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, marking the country's leadership in insolvency reforms.
- **Career Achievements**: Distinguished Fellow at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and Visiting Professor at National Law University, Delhi. The only Indian to hold the title of International Fellow at the American College of Bankruptcy.
- **Global Impact**: Batra has contributed to global committees of organizations like the IMF, OECD, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, working across 20 jurisdictions.
- **Publications:** He has authored key books on insolvency, including Corporate Insolvency Principles and Practice (2017), The Jaypee Infra Insolvency Saga (2024), and Mediation in Insolvency: A Game Changer for Viksit Bharat (2024).
- **Upcoming Book**: His latest work, co-edited with Justice A.K. Sikri, will be launched on November 27 at the Delhi High Court Auditorium.

Brooke Rollins appointed as the Agriculture Minister of US

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen former White House aide Brooke Rollins to head the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in his second administration. Rollins, who grew up on a farm in Texas, is currently the president of the America First Policy Institute. She previously served as the president and CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Rollins holds a degree in agricultural development from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law.

Foot notes:

• Brooke Rollins, 52, holds degrees in agriculture and law from Texas A&M University.



- As head of the USDA, Rollins will oversee a budget of \$213 billion, managing key programs such as rural economic development, school lunches, and farm aid.
- Her immediate priorities include shaping a new farm bill and distributing \$24 billion in disaster relief for farmers.
- Rollins, the second woman to lead the USDA, aims to tackle rising input costs, market challenges, and weather disruptions while strengthening rural economies.
- Her leadership is seen as a step toward a stronger, sustainable future for agriculture.



STATE NEWS

India's First Self-Sufficient Gaushala unveiled in Gwalior

In a landmark initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first modern, selfsufficient gaushala in Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Named the Adarsh Gaushala, this facility features a cutting-edge Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, representing a significant step forward in India's commitment to sustainable development and green energy solutions. The project embodies Modi's vision of transforming Waste to Wealth, showcasing how organic waste can be converted into valuable resources. It efficiently utilizes cattle dung and organic waste to produce compressed biogas and organic manure, setting a new standard for ecofriendly practices.

Foot notes:

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- **Daily Operations**: Processes 100 tons of cattle dung daily.
- Produces 2-3 tons of compressed Bio-CNG and 10-15 tons of dry bio-manure daily.
- Sustainable Waste Management: Utilizes vegetable and fruit waste from local markets and households.
- Incorporates windrow composting for enhanced waste processing.
- **Investment & Partnership**: A collaboration between the Gwalior Municipal Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation.

- Environmental Impact: Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and offsets fossil fuel usage.
- Supports climate change mitigation through green energy.
- Economic & Social Benefits: Provides affordable organic manure to promote sustainable farming.
- Creates local jobs and fosters skill development in renewable energy technologies.
- **Scalability:** A replicable model for other regions, combining environmental, economic, and social gains. This initiative showcases a world-class example of sustainability and public-private collaboration.

University of Wollongong Opens International Campus in Gujarat

In a notable step towards global expansion, the University of Wollongong (UOW), Australia, has launched its India campus at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar. The campus offers Master's and Graduate Certificate programs in Financial Technology, catering to India's booming fintech sector. This move follows Deakin University's establishment of its GIFT City campus in July 2024, further strengthening the presence of Australian universities in India.

Foot notes:

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- **Programs Offered**: Focused on Financial Technology with stackable courses like Fintech Foundations, Cyber Security, and AI/ML for Fintech Applications.
- Tailored for fresh graduates and mid-career professionals, aligning with fintech industry demands.
- **Global Learning Experience**: Marisa Mastroianni, UOW Global Enterprises managing director, highlighted the goal of delivering world-class Australian education locally.
- Offers opportunities like a fully-funded trip to UOW's Dubai campus for the first cohort.
- **Strategic Partnerships**: Facilitated by the NSW-Gujarat sister-state agreement, with support from the Australian government and GIFT City officials.
- Strengthens ties between Australian education institutions and India's educational ecosystem.
- UOW's Global Footprint: Campuses in Dubai, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and now India.
- Renowned for research excellence, industry-aligned programs, and flexible learning options.
- UOW's India campus reinforces its commitment to innovation and global education, fostering industry-ready professionals in the fintech sector.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhi nagar Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel Governor: Acharya Devvrat



BANKING NEWS

PNB emerged as the 2nd largest Public Sector Bank in India

All branches of United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce across the country will now operate as Punjab National Bank (PNB) branches, with all customers, including depositors, being treated as PNB customers. The merged entity will have an expanded presence, with over 11,000 branches, more than 13,000 ATMs, a workforce of one lakh employees, and a business mix exceeding INR 18 lakh crore.

Foot notes:

- PNB, India's first Swadeshi Bank, began operations on April 12, 1895, in Lahore.
- The bank started with an authorised capital of Rs 2 lakh and a working capital of Rs 20,000.
- It was founded with a spirit of nationalism and was the first bank fully managed by Indians with Indian capital.
- Over its long history, 7 banks have merged with PNB. In the initial phase, PNB 2.0 will offer interoperable services across all branches and platforms, including Mobile and Internet Banking.
- To facilitate customer transition, "Bank Sathi" representatives have been appointed at all branches, zones, and head offices of the merged banks.
- These Bank Sathis will assist customers in selecting the right products and services and address their concerns.
- A robust Risk Governance framework has been established to mitigate risks and ensure a secure and safe banking experience for customers.

About PNB:

Headquarters: New Delhi Founder: Dyal Singh Majithia Founded:1894

Masato Kanda Elected as 11th President of Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced on Thursday that Masato Kanda has been unanimously elected as its 11th president by the Board of Governors. Currently serving as a special advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Kanda, 59, will assume office on February 24, 2025, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa, whose term ends on February 23, 2025. Kanda will complete Asakawa's unexpired term, which concludes on November 23, 2026. Fabio Panetta, Chair of the ADB Board of Governors and Governor of the Bank of Italy, praised Kanda's extensive experience in international finance and leadership in multilateral settings. make MY exam

Foot notes:

- Leadership Roles: Deputy Commissioner at the Financial Services Agency. Deputy Director-General of the Budget Bureau. Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Planning and Coordination.
- **Expertise Areas**: Financial sector policy, macro-fiscal policy, education, science policy, and university reform.
- Global Engagement: Active in G7, G20, and international forums.
- Focused on MDB evolution, pandemic preparedness, debt sustainability, and transparency.
- Led Japan's record contribution of over \$1 billion to ADF 13 during tenure as Vice-Minister.
- Chaired the OECD Corporate Governance Committee since 2016, overseeing the 2023 review of G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance.
- **MDB Involvement**: Alternate Executive Director for Japan at the World Bank.Substantial experience in MDB strategic decision-making.

About Asian Development Bank:

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines Founded: 1966

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Coast Guard to Conduct SAREX-24 in Kochi

The Indian Coast Guard will host the National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises & Workshop (SAREX-24) under the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board in Kochi from November 27 to 30. The workshop aims to validate the National Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) framework through an inclusive and collaborative approach. Acknowledging India's responsibility for a vast 4.6 million sq. km Search and Rescue Region (ISRR), the Indian Coast Guard emphasizes cooperative efforts with resource agencies, neighboring littoral states, and friendly foreign nations.

- **Exercise Theme**: "Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities through Regional Collaboration," highlighting the ICG's commitment to assisting in large-scale contingencies regardless of location, nationality, or circumstances.
- **Inauguration**: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh will inaugurate the event, alongside Director General S. Paramesh, National Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinating Authority.



- First Day (Nov 28): Includes tabletop exercises, workshops, and seminars with participation from government officials, ministries, armed forces, stakeholders, and foreign delegates.
- Sea Exercise: Simulates two contingencies off Kochi coast involving ICG, Navy, Air Force, Cochin Port Authority, Customs, and other agencies:
- **Innovative Responses**: Demonstrations include satellite-aided distress beacons, drones deploying life buoys, air-droppable life rafts, and remote-controlled life-saving equipment.

Amara Raja Infra Sets Up India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station In Leh

Amara Raja Infra, a subsidiary of the \$2 billion Amara Raja Group, has successfully established India's first green hydrogen fueling station in Leh, Ladakh, in partnership with NTPC Ltd. This groundbreaking project supports emission-free transport in the region and represents a major step in India's green mobility transition. The station, which can produce 80 kg of green hydrogen per day, aligns with NTPC's green mobility goals under the National Hydrogen Energy Mission.

Foot notes:

- Location & Inauguration: The green hydrogen fueling station is located in Leh at 3,400 meters altitude, inaugurated by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal.
- **Production Capacity**: The station can produce 80 kg of green hydrogen daily.
- **Technology & Operations**: The project includes turnkey services: design, engineering, supply, construction, testing, commissioning, and three years of operations and maintenance.
- Challenges & Achievements: Built in extreme conditions with temperatures ranging from -25\C to 30C, the project was completed in two years, demonstrating Amara Raja Infra's expertise.
- **Impact on Green Mobility**: The station will support hydrogen-powered buses, promoting emission-free transport in Leh.
- National Significance & Future Prospects: This station is a model for future hydrogen mobility and storage projects, helping expand India's hydrogen fuelling infrastructure.

Defence Minister Rajnath to Induct INS Tushil

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commission INS Tushil, a Talwar-class guided-missile frigate, into the Indian Navy on December 9. Developed under Project 11356, INS Tushil strengthens the Navy's capabilities against air, surface, and underwater threats while accommodating anti-submarine helicopters. The frigate is part of a \$1.5 billion agreement, with two ships supplied by Russia and two constructed domestically with Russian collaboration.

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Foot notes:

- Advanced Stealth Frigate: Equipped with state-of-the-art weapons systems for air defense, anti-submarine warfare, and surface combat.
- Enhanced Operational Capabilities: Strengthens the Indian Navy's ability to respond to a variety of maritime threats.
- Name Significance: "Tushil" means "protector" in Sanskrit, reflecting its role in safeguarding India's maritime borders and interests.
- Agreement: India and Russia signed a deal in October 2016 for four stealth frigates.
- **Procurement Plan**: Two frigates to be imported, and two to be locally built at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- **Engines**: Powered by Zorya-Mashproekt engines (Ukrainian manufacturer), ensuring consistent propulsion across the fleet.
- Maritime Security: Strengthens India's position in the Indo-Pacific, a region of geopolitical significance and competition.
- Naval Reach: Enhances India's ability to secure key sea lanes and respond to emerging threats.

Indian Army Unveils 'Eklavya' Digital Training Platform

The Indian Army has introduced "Eklavya," an online learning platform designed to transform officers' training. Launched by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), the platform is part of the Army's 2024 theme, "Year of Technology Absorption," and its broader "Decade of Transformation" vision. Developed at no cost in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), Eklavya is fully integrated with the Army Data Network.

- The platform offers over 96 courses from 17 Category 'A' training establishments, providing officers with continuous professional development opportunities and optimizing physical training resources.
- **Developer and Host**: Created by BISAG-N with oversight from Army Training Command; hosted on the Army Data Network.
- Scalability: Integrates multiple training establishments and courses.
- Three Course Categories: Pre-Course Preparatory Capsules, Appointment-Specific Courses, Professional Development Suite
- Knowledge Highway: A searchable repository of journals, research papers, and articles.
- Focus Areas: Enhances domain specialization, Streamlines physical training, Aligns officers with emerging warfare dynamics.



SPORTS NEWS

Reetika Hooda Won Gold at World Military Championship

In a historic achievement for Indian wrestling, Reetika Hooda won the gold medal in the women's 76kg category at the World Military Championships, becoming the second Indian woman to claim gold at the event. This victory follows Jyoti Sihag's gold in the 55kg category, which was secured just a day earlier. 2024 marked the first time India sent a women's team to the prestigious tournament, following the Armed Forces' decision to recruit sportswomen into their ranks.

Foot notes:

- Reetika Hooda overcame Olympic heartbreak in Paris 2024, where she narrowly missed a medal after losing to Aiperi Medet Kyzy in the quarter-finals on criteria.
- Her resilience led to a gold medal at the World Military Championships, marking a significant comeback.
- Reetika and Jyoti Sihag's successes reflect India's progress in promoting gender equality in sports and defense.
- Their victories emphasize the importance of institutional support for female athletes.
- The inclusion of sportswomen in the Armed Forces has gained global recognition, with India's debut resulting in two gold medals.
- Reetika's journey from Olympic setback to championship victory highlights perseverance and resilience.
- The wins strengthen India's position as a rising force in women's wrestling.

Italy won Davis Cup championship for 2nd consecutive year

Italy successfully retained the Davis Cup with a 2-0 win over the Netherlands on Sunday. Matteo Berrettini gave the three-time champions an early lead with a dominant 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp in the first singles match. World No.1 Jannik Sinner secured the winning point with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 win against Tallon Griekspoor. Italy became the first team to defend the title since the Czech Republic in 2013 and the fifth nation to win both the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup in the same year. The atmosphere at the Martin Carpena Arena was electric, with strong Italian support and a sea of Dutch fans, as the Netherlands reached their first Davis Cup final in 104 years.

- Griekspoor, ranked 40th, lost all six meetings with Sinner but fought hard, saving two early break points and forcing a tie-break in the first set.
- Sinner dominated the tie-break with an early mini-break, taking the first set 7-6 (7/2) after hitting his 12th ace.
- In the second set, Sinner broke Griekspoor's serve twice, including a key break for a 3-2 lead, and sealed the match with a powerful serve on his fourth match point.



- Griekspoor put up a strong fight, but Sinner's power and precision were too much, with the Italian winning 70 ATP Tour matches in 2024.
- Berrettini's resilience shone when he came from 40-0 down to break van de Zandschulp's serve early in the second set.
- Berrettini's strong performance and a series of elegant winners gave Italy a commanding 2-0 victory, clinching their third Davis Cup title.

About Italy:

Capital: Rome President: Sergio Mattarella Prime Minister: Giorgia Meloni



Anders Antonsen Triumphs at China Masters 2024

Anders Antonsen made history as the first Danish player to win the men's singles title at the China Masters, defeating Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in straight games (21-15, 21-13). This victory marked Antonsen's fourth BWF Tour title of 2024, reinforcing his lead in the Race to Finals rankings. Despite the loss, Christie secured his spot in the upcoming BWF Tour Finals in Huangzhou, China.

Foot notes:

- Anders Antonsen made history as the first Danish player to win the China Masters men's singles title.
- This victory marked his fourth BWF Tour title of 2024, adding to his success at the Denmark Open.
- The win solidified Antonsen's position as the leader in the Race to Finals rankings.
- Antonsen's win reinforces his status as one of the world's top badminton players in 2024 and highlights his ability to perform under pressure.
- The victory adds to Denmark's badminton legacy, with Antonsen setting a new benchmark at the China Masters.

N Sriram Balaji, Rithvik Bollipalli Won ATP Challenger Doubles Title

Paris 2024 Olympian N. Sriram Balaji and his Indian partner Rithvik Bollipalli clinched the men's doubles title at the Citta' Di Rovereto 2024 on the ATP Challenger Tour in Italy. The top-seeded duo defeated second-seeded Theo Arribage of France and Francisco Cabral of Portugal



6-3, 2-6, 12-10 in a thrilling final that lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes. For Rithvik Bollipalli, this marked his second ATP Challenger Tour title, following his victory at the Almaty Open in Kazakhstan last month with Arjun Kadhe.

Foot notes:

- Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli started strong, breaking their opponents early in the first set.
- After winning the first set, they were broken twice in the second, leading to a 10-point super tiebreaker.
- Trailing 9-7, Balaji and Bollipalli saved two match points and then converted their own to win their first ATP Challenger Tour title as a pair.
- Earlier, they defeated Daniel Masur and Alexey Vatutin 6-4, 6-3 in the round of 16, followed by a 6-3, 6-2 win over Filippo Romano and Stefano Travaglia.
- This victory marks a significant milestone in both players careers, solidifying their place on the international tennis circuit.
- The win in Rovereto brings pride to Indian tennis, adding another achievement for Indian players on the ATP Challenger Tour.

North East United FC Won 40th All India Governor's Gold Cup

The 40th edition of the Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament concluded in thrilling fashion on November 24, 2024, at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. North East United FC triumphed with a dramatic 4-3 penalty shootout win over Gangtok Himalayan SC, adding a memorable moment to the tournament's history. The final, which was attended by Sikkim's Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and Governor Shri Om Prakash Mathur, highlighted the intense competition and sportsmanship displayed by both teams.

Foot notes:

- The final match of the Governor's Gold Cup ended in a 4-3 penalty shootout win for North East United FC.
- The match was intense and action-packed, with both teams showcasing exceptional skills.
- North East United FC's composure under pressure helped secure their victory.
- The Governor's Gold Cup is a prestigious tournament known for promoting talent and sportsmanship across India.
- Chief Minister Tamang congratulated North East United FC and praised their resilience, while also recognizing Gangtok Himalayan SC for their commendable efforts.
- Tamang expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic supporters who created an electrifying atmosphere at the stadium.
- The tournament continues to be a significant platform for football talent in Sikkim and encourages youth participation in the sport.

13-Year-Old Vaibhav Suryavanshi Makes History as IPL's Youngest Signing



Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a 13-year-old cricket prodigy from Bihar, made history as the youngest player ever signed at an IPL auction. At the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah, the Rajasthan Royals secured him for 1.10 crore, outbidding the Delhi Capitals in a fierce contest. Born in 2011, Vaibhav's passion for cricket was evident from the age of 4. Encouraged by his father, Sanjeev Suryavanshi, who built a backyard cricket setup, he has risen as a promising star in Indian cricket.

Foot notes:

- Youngest First-Class Debutant: At 12 years and 284 days, debuted in the Ranji Trophy for Bihar.
- India U-19: Played in a quadrangular series and earned a spot in the India U-19 squad.
- Youth Test Debut: Scored 104 runs off 62 balls in his first Test against Australia in 2024.
- IPL 2025: Became the youngest ever IPL player at 13 years and 243 days, bought by Rajasthan Royals for 1.10 crore.
- Scored 400 runs in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy.
- First-class debut as the youngest in 37 years.

Max Verstappen won fourth consecutive F1 World Title

Max Verstappen clinched his fourth consecutive Formula One Drivers Championship with a fifth-place finish at the Las Vegas Grand Prix. The Dutch driver now joins Alain Prost and Sebastian Vettel with four titles, trailing only Juan Manuel Fangio (5), Lewis Hamilton (7), and Michael Schumacher. Mercedes George Russell took the victory at the Las Vegas Grand Prix, leading from pole position, while teammate Lewis Hamilton finished second. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. secured third, ahead of his teammate Charles Leclerc in fourth.

- Max Verstappen secured his fourth consecutive Formula 1 championship with a fifthplace finish at the Las Vegas Grand Prix.
- Verstappen only needed to finish ahead of Lando Norris to win the title, which he did, with Norris finishing sixth.
- George Russell won the race, followed by teammate Lewis Hamilton in second; this marked Mercedes' first 1-2 finish since 2022.
- Carlos Sainz Jr. finished third for Ferrari, while his teammate Charles Leclerc was fourth.
- Verstappen's season has been dominated by a strong challenge from McLaren □ s Norris, but Verstappen held his ground.
- Nico Hulkenberg finished eighth, helping Haas overtake Alpine for sixth in the Constructors' Championship.
- Yuki Tsunoda finished ninth for Red Bull, with teammate Sergio Perez finishing 15th after starting in 15th place.



Emma McKeon, a legendary figure in swimming, retires

Emma McKeon, one of the greatest swimmers in history, announced her retirement on November 25th, bringing an end to a remarkable career. At 30 years old, McKeon leaves behind an unmatched legacy as Australia's most decorated Olympian, with 14 medals, including six golds, across three Summer Olympics. Her historic seven-medal performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics cemented her place as one of the all-time greats in the sport.

Foot notes:

- 14 Olympic Medals: 6 gold, 3 silver, 5 bronze across 3 Olympics (Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024).
- **Tokyo 2020**: Won 7 medals, the most by any female swimmer at a single Olympics and tied for the most by any female athlete in a single Games.
- **Retirement Reflections**: McKeon expressed pride in her career and gratitude for the experiences, friendships, and lessons swimming provided since she began at age 5.
- Legacy: Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman hailed McKeon as an "extraordinary athlete," particularly noting her Tokyo achievements.
- **Impact:** McKeon set a record for most Olympic medals by an Australian athlete, inspiring future generations with her humility, work ethic, and dominance, especially in Tokyo.

Bengal beat Mizoram in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Abishek Porel delivered a stellar batting performance, scoring 81 off 45 balls, to guide Bengal to their third consecutive victory in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Bengal, who defeated Mizoram by 8 wickets, maintained their unbeaten run in the tournament with 12 points from three Group A matches.

Foot notes:

- Abishek's aggressive knock included nine boundaries and four sixes.
- Karan Lal provided solid support with a knock of 67 off 40 balls, which included seven fours and three sixes.
- Mizoram, batting first, posted 157/4 in 20 overs, with Mohit Jangra contributing an unbeaten 80.
- Bengal's bowlers Kanishk Seth, Sayan Ghosh, and Karan took one wicket each.

U.S. Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher Announces Retirement

lyssa Naeher, the goalkeeper for the U.S. women's national team, has announced her retirement from international soccer at 36. Over her career, Naeher achieved 12 clean sheets and conceded just 12 goals across 22 starts in the World Cup and Olympics. A two-time World Cup champion, she marked her 100th cap this year, capping off a decade of dedicated service to the national team.

Foot notes:

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- Gold medalist at the Paris Olympics, becoming the first goalkeeper to keep a clean sheet in both a World Cup and Olympic final.
- Memorable injury-time save against Brazil in the gold medal match preserved a 1-0 victory.
- Bronze medalist at the Tokyo Olympics; started five matches before a semifinal injury against Canada.
- First player to score and save a penalty in a Women's World Cup (2023 shootout against Sweden).
- Saved three penalties and scored one in the 2024 W Gold Cup semifinal against Canada.

Inter Miami announces Javier Mascherano as new head coach

Inter Miami announced on Tuesday that former Argentina captain Javier Mascherano will be the club's new head coach. Mascherano, who previously played alongside Lionel Messi for both Argentina and Barcelona, will now reunite with the legendary forward at Miami. This marks Mascherano's first senior managerial role, after coaching the Argentina Under-20 national team and leading the men's side at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where they were eliminated by France in the quarterfinals. He takes over from Gerardo Martino, who stepped down for personal reasons, as confirmed by the club on Friday.

Foot notes:

- Javier Mascherano becomes the latest former Barcelona player to join Inter Miami, alongside Lionel Messi, Jordi Alba, Luis Surez, and Sergio Busquets.
- He previously coached Argentina's U-20 and U-23 teams, with a record of 28 wins, 10 draws, and 12 losses in 50 matches.
- Mascherano's primary task will be to lead Miami into the 2025 season and recover from their disappointing 2024 playoffs exit to Atlanta United.
- Mascherano had an illustrious playing career, notably with Liverpool, Barcelona, and the Argentina national team, winning multiple titles including:
- Two UEFA Champions League titles, five La Liga titles, five Copa del Rey titles, and other prestigious trophies
- Named Barcelona's Player of the Season (2013-14) and included in the UEFA Champions League Team of the Season (2014-15)
- He is familiar with several Inter Miami players, having previously worked with them in Argentina's youth teams, including Tom's Avil's, Benjamin Cremaschi, Facundo Far as, and Federico Redondo.

Seasoned pacer Siddarth Kaul announced retirement from Indian Cricket



India pacer Siddarth Kaul, who was part of the title-winning Under-19 squad alongside stalwart Virat Kohli, has announced his retirement from Indian cricket. Kaul ended his career with six international appearances, including three each in T20Is and ODIs between 2018 and 2019. In the 2023-24 season, he played for Punjab and played a crucial role in their first-ever T20 title win, finishing as the team's highest wicket-taker with 16 wickets from 10 matches as Punjab claimed the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Foot notes:

- Siddarth Kaul was part of Punjab's squad in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season but went wicketless in two matches.
- Over a 17-year career, Kaul took 297 first-class wickets in 88 matches at an average of 26.77. He also claimed 199 List A wickets and 182 T20 wickets with an economy rate of 7.67.
- Kaul made his India debut in 2018 during the tour of Ireland, following strong performances in the IPL with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
- In 2017, he led SRH's attack with 16 wickets in 10 games, and in 2018, he was jointhighest wicket-taker for the team with 21 wickets.
- Kaul also played for top IPL franchises like Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals), Kolkata Knight Riders, and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

Rinchen Youdol, created history by winning Bronze at 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championship

Rinchen Youdol, a remarkable Para Taekwondo athlete from Ladakh, made history by winning a Bronze Medal at the 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain. This achievement not only brought pride to her home region of Kargil, UT Ladakh, but also boosted India's reputation on the global stage, captivating thousands at this landmark event. Rinchen, the daughter of Morup Dorjey and Stanzin Angmo from Village Bodhkharboo, District Kargil, UT Ladakh, achieved a significant milestone, making both Ladakh and India proud. The championship, supported by His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Duaij Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee, saw 140 athletes from 23 countries across five continents.

- Rinchen Youdol made history by winning a Bronze Medal in her first international championship, representing Ladakh and India on a global stage.
- She credited their support and guidance for her success in the international tournament, making this achievement possible.
- Athletes from countries like Croatia, Greece, Morocco, Colombia, Singapore, and Iraq showcased remarkable performances, with Rinchen's victory adding to India's pride.



- The championships were a celebration of inclusivity and unity, with the Bahrain Paralympic Committee's leadership and organizing team playing a vital role in its success.
- Rinchen's achievement has inspired aspiring athletes across Ladakh and India, proving that determination and hard work can turn dreams into reality.
- Her victory marks a proud moment for UT Ladakh and Indian Para Taekwondo, opening a new chapter in the sport's history in India.



APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Ramraj Cotton appoints Abhishek Bachchan as its brand ambassador

Ramraj Cotton has appointed Abhishek Bachchan as its new brand ambassador. Bachchan will appear in TV commercials, digital campaigns, and other promotional materials. The partnership aims to boost Ramraj Cotton \Box s presence in the traditional wear market. K R Nagarajan, Founder Chairman of Ramraj Cotton, expressed excitement, calling Bachchan an ideal choice due to his authenticity and pan-India appeal. Abhishek Bachchan shared his enthusiasm, calling it an honor to work with a brand with a strong legacy in Indian wear. He emphasized the collaboration's goal to integrate Indian tradition with modern fashion.

Foot notes:

K.R. Nagarajan, Founder and Chairman of Ramraj Cotton, expressed excitement about the partnership with Abhishek Bachchan, praising his authenticity and nationwide appeal.

He highlighted Ramraj Cotton's commitment to celebrating India's rich heritage, incorporating cultural pride into every product.

The collaboration aims to bring the essence of Indian heritage closer to the audience, promoting the rediscovery of dhoti, shirt, and kurta as stylish, authentic garments.

Abhishek Bachchan expressed pride in partnering with Ramraj Cotton, acknowledging the brand's strong legacy in Indian wear.

He emphasized the shared goal of integrating Indian tradition into modern everyday fashion, bridging the past and present to resonate with today's audience.

About Ramraj Cotton:



Founded: 1983 Headquarters: Tiruppur Chairman: K R Nagarajan

Senior IAS officer Khilli Ram Meena appointed as Chief Secretary of Mizoram

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed Khilli Ram Meena as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram. Meena, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) cadre, recently returned to his parent cadre after serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Meena's appointment follows the retirement of the former Chief Secretary, Renu Sharma. In the interim, H. Lalengmawia, a senior official overseeing higher and technical education and fisheries, was temporarily assigned the role.

Foot notes:

Initially, the Mizoram government had recommended Vumlunmang Vualnam, a 1992-batch IAS officer from the Manipur cadre, for the position. However, the MHA ultimately selected Meena for the role.

Relevant Experience: Meena previously served in the Ministry of Minority Affairs, where he oversaw key national programs, equipping him with experience to tackle governance issues in Mizoram.

IAS Cadre Reshuffles: The decision reflects the broader practice of cadre reshuffles within the IAS, aimed at meeting administrative needs across states and Union Territories.

Centre's Prerogative: While Mizoram's initial recommendation was not approved, the Centre's final selection emphasizes its authority in determining leadership roles in state administration.

Immediate Priorities: Meena's key priorities include ensuring policy continuity, strengthening governance, and addressing critical administrative challenges in Mizoram.

About Mizoram:

Capital: Aizawl

Governor: Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati

Punjabi rapper Shubh appointed as global brand ambassador for climate advisor

The UNFCCC and Arts Help have appointed acclaimed Punjabi artist Shubh as the inaugural Global Ambassador for the UNFCCC Digital Climate Library (DCL) at COP29. This initiative aims to digitize and preserve the UNFCCC's extensive archives, making critical climate knowledge accessible to all. The DCL will promote climate awareness, knowledge-sharing, and innovation globally, providing open-access resources for individuals, educators, activists, and policymakers to address pressing climate challenges.

- Shubh's appointment as Global Ambassador reflects the DCL's commitment to amplifying diverse voices in climate advocacy.
- The Canadian Punjabi hip-hop artist, with over 20 billion digital impressions and 5 billion career music streams, brings a unique perspective shaped by his experiences.



- Shubh aims to use his platform to raise awareness about climate issues, share knowledge, and contribute to a sustainable future.
- As Global Ambassador, Shubh will help raise awareness and support the development of the Digital Climate Library.
- Jingwen Yang from the UNFCCC highlighted Shubh's ability to engage diverse audiences, stressing the importance of preserving and making climate archives accessible for future generations.

AMM Nasir Uddin appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh

Bangladesh's newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, along with four other commissioners, took their oath of office on Sunday, nearly three months after the previous commission resigned following the fall of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina s regime in a student-led mass uprising. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed at the Supreme Court Judges Lounge, with top court judges and relevant officials in attendance.

Foot notes:

- The new Election Commission of Bangladesh includes Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and four commissioners: retired district judges Mohammad Anwarul Islam Sarker and Abdur Rahmanel Masud, retired joint secretary Begum Tahmida Ahmed, and retired army brigadier general Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah.
- President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed the new commission on November 21.
- The commission had been vacant since September 5, following the resignation of the previous commission led by Kazi Habibul Awal after the fall of Sheikh Hasina s regime.
- The interim government has formed six commissions to reform the election system and other sectors.
- Political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have been calling for elections as soon as possible, following necessary electoral reforms.

Uniparts India appointed Tanushree Bagrodia as COO

Uniparts India announced that its board of directors has approved the appointment of Tanushree Shyam Bagrodia as the Whole-Time Director and Group Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective from November 25, 2024. Tanushree holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Vivekananda Education Society's Institute of Technology and an MBA from INSEAD, France. She began her professional career as an investment banker in London and Mumbai, working with renowned American, European, and Indian investment banks. **Foot notes:**

• In 2013, Tanushree shifted to the industry and became one of the youngest female CFOs of a listed company in India.

- Tanushree Bagrodia brings over two decades of experience across financial services, automotive, and start-ups, with expertise in various geographies and sectors.
- Her diverse background has equipped her with strong business acumen, leadership skills, and the ability to lead businesses at different stages of growth.
- She has previously worked with Laxmi Organic Industries Limited, Udaan Capital, NRB Bearings Limited, IDFC Capital, KBC Financial Products, Merrill Lynch Intl, and HVB Corporates and Markets.
- Uniparts India is a global manufacturer of engineered systems and solutions, serving the off-highway market in agriculture, construction, forestry, mining, and aftermarket sectors, with a presence in over 25 countries.

FSIB appointed Binod Kumar as MD & CEO of Indian Bank

Binod Kumar, currently Executive Director of Punjab National Bank, has been appointed by the FSIB to become the Managing Director and CEO of Indian Bank, succeeding S. L. Jain. This decision, subject to approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Modi, followed a comprehensive selection process involving 15 candidates, triggered by RBI's concerns over the prior nominee, Asheesh Pandey.

Foot notes:

- **Background**: Asheesh Pandey was initially selected, but RBI's reservations led to a reselection.
- **FSIB Leadership**: Headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, with members from banking and RBI backgrounds.
- Role of FSIB: Selects top leadership for public sector banks and financial institutions.

About Indian Bank:

Headquarters: Chennai

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Founders: S. Rm. M. Annamalai Chettiar, V. Krishnaswamy Iyer

Founded: 15 August 1907

Kailash Makwana appointed as the DGP of Madhya Pradesh

Kailash Makwana (IPS: 1988: MP) has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) for Madhya Pradesh, succeeding Sudhir Kumar Saxena (IPS: 1992: MP), who is retiring on November 30. Makwana is set to assume office on December 1, 2024. The decision was made following a meeting of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in Delhi on November 21.

- Kailash Makwana, a 1988 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the new DGP of Madhya Pradesh.
- His appointment was announced by the Home Department late on Saturday, following a UPSC meeting on November 21.

- Makwana will succeed Sudhir Kumar Saxena, the current DGP, who is retiring on November 30.
- He has served as Chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation and has held various key positions in the state.
- Makwana has been transferred seven times between 2019 and 2022.
- He holds a BE degree from Bhopal and an MTech from Delhi IIT.
- His previous roles include Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Durg and Morena.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal **Governor:** Mangubhai C. Patel **Chief Minister:** Mohan Yadav

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Pankaj Tripathi Appointed Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024

Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi has been appointed as the festival ambassador for the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024, an esteemed international theatre festival. This appointment highlights the growing cultural prominence of Arunachal Pradesh and its vibrant arts scene. The Arunachal Rang Mahotsav, the largest theatre festival in Northeast India, will take place from November 29 to December 5, 2024. The festival aims to celebrate the state's rich cultural heritage and its exceptional theatre traditions.

Foot notes:

- Pankaj Tripathi has been appointed as the festival ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024, a major international theatre festival in Northeast India.
- The festival, running from November 29 to December 5, 2024, celebrates the cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and its theatre traditions.
- The event attracts global creative talents and showcases traditional performances, theatre plays, and cultural exchanges.
- Tripathi, from Gopalganj, Bihar, expressed pride in being part of a festival of such cultural significance for the Northeast, alongside his wife Mridula.
- His involvement emphasizes the bridge between traditional theatre arts and Arunachal Pradesh's vibrant cultural scene.
- Despite his success in films, Tripathi continues to cherish theatre as the foundation of his craft, believing it has shaped his creativity and authenticity as an actor.

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi Appointed Chief of BrahMos Aerospace

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been appointed as the new Chief of BrahMos Aerospace, the organization behind the renowned BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. With over three decades of expertise, Dr. Joshi has made significant contributions to missile technology,



non-destructive testing (NDT), and training industry professionals. His leadership highlights a commitment to innovation and excellence in India's defense sector.

Foot notes:

- **Expertise in NDT**: Authority in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) techniques for defense reliability.
- **Training**: Certified over 600 candidates in Level-I and Level-II NDT methods, including Radiography, Ultrasonic, Magnetic Particle, and Penetrant Testing.
- Leadership: Strengthened technical skills as Chairman of the Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ISNT).
- **BrahMos Aerospace**: Joint India-Russia venture behind the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system, named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.
- Future Goals: Develop next-gen missile systems to sustain India's defense edge.

Senior IPS officer Deepam Seth appointed as DG of Police of Uttarakhand

Deepam Seth (IPS: 1995: UK) has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttarakhand, as reported by Indianmandarins on October 5, 2024. Seth, who was previously serving as the Additional Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), has been repatriated to his home cadre. Since November 2023, Abhinav Kumar (IPS: 1996: UK) has been acting as the DGP. Seth has held several key positions in both undivided Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The appointment order was issued by Shailesh Bagauli, Secretary to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

- **Background**: Deepam Seth, born in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, completed his schooling at Sherwood College in Nainital and earned an engineering degree from BITS Pilani.
- Career: With 29 years of service, Seth has held key roles, including:
- Uttarakhand DGP History: The first DGP of Uttarakhand was Ashok Kant Sharan, followed by others including Prem Dutt Raturi, Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya, and Abhinav Kumar.
- Abhinav Kumar: Appointed acting DGP in November 2023 after Ashok Kumar's retirement. However, his name was excluded from the panel for DGP by the state government, leading to legal challenges.
- **Controversy:** Seth's appointment was delayed due to his central deputation, with Abhinav Kumar serving as acting DGP in the interim.
- **Resolution**: The Uttarakhand government requested Seth's early return from deputation, and the Centre relieved him, paving the way for his appointment as DGP. Seth is the most senior officer in the Uttarakhand cadre.



About Uttarakhand:

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisen (Summer) Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami Governor: Gurmit Singh Amit Garg appointed as CMD of HPCL

Amit Garg, HPCL's Director (Marketing), is set to become the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Garg, who took over as Director in December 2023, was previously Executive Director (Aviation) at HPCL. The selection for CMD was conducted on November 13, 2024, by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). The position had been vacant since August 31, 2024, after Push Kumar Joshi's retirement. Rajneesh Narang, HPCL's Director (Finance), has been serving as the acting CMD since September 1, 2024. **Foot notes:**

- In June 2024, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) conducted interviews for the HPCL CMD position but found no suitable candidates.
- PESB later recommended the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to explore other avenues to find an appropriate candidate.
- Amit Garg, a Post Graduate in Electronics & Management, is set to become the new CMD of HPCL.
- Garg has over 35 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, covering the entire value chain including sourcing, storage, logistics, and sales at BPCL.
- He has also served as a full-time Director at Indraprastha Gas Limited, the largest City Gas Distribution (CGD) company in India.
- Garg was a Nominee Director at Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited, a joint venture between BPCL and GAIL (India) Limited.
- He became HPCL's Director (Marketing) on December 27, 2022, after serving as Executive Director (Aviation) at BPCL.

About HPCL:

CEO: Dr. Pushp Kumar Joshi **Founded**: 1974 **Headquarters:** Mumbai



Cherlapally Industrial Park wins FICCI award

The Cherlapally Industrial Park, managed by TGIIC, a Telangana Public Sector Undertaking, has won the Clean Industrial Park Award in the 'Environmental Sustainable Champion' category at the FICCI Awards. The award was presented to Pawan Kumar, Executive Director of TGIIC,



by Union Industries Minister Piyush Goyal at the FICCI event in New Delhi. Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu also congratulated TGIIC for its outstanding performance.

Foot notes:

Cherlapally Industrial Park won the FICCI Clean Industrial Park Award in the 'Environmental Sustainable Champion' category.

The award was presented to TGIIC Executive Director Pawan Kumar by Union Industries Minister Piyush Goyal at the FICCI Awards in New Delhi.

Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu congratulated TGIIC for its achievement.

IndiGo won 2024 Airline of the Year award by CAPA

IndiGo has been named the 2024 Airline of the Year by CAPA Centre for Aviation (CAPA) at the 2024 Global Aviation Awards for Excellence. CAPA, a part of the Aviation Week Network, is renowned for its aviation market insights. The awards celebrate excellence in aviation strategy and operations, recognizing airlines and airports that successfully adapt to industry changes. IndiGo received the award for its significant contributions to the growth and transformation of commercial aviation in India, its strategic expansion of international connectivity, and its sustainability initiatives.

Foot notes:

- IndiGo was named 2024 Airline of the Year at the CAPA Airlines Leader Summit in Belgrade, Serbia, on November 21, 2024. Neha Narain, VP of Strategy and CEO's Office, accepted the award on behalf of the airline.
- IndiGos mission of Giving wings to the nation has helped provide air travel to over 100 million passengers annually, including many first-time flyers, playing a central role in its strategy.
- Simon Elsegood, Head of Research at CAPA, praised IndiGo for making air travel accessible to millions and highlighted its ambitious plans to lead Indian aviation, suggesting a bright future for the airline.
- Despite being the third-largest domestic aviation market globally, India's aviation sector is dominated by two major players controlling over 90% of the market share.

About IndiGo:

CFO: Gaurav M. Negi **Founded:** August 2006 **Headquarters**: Gurugram

The AajTak Sahitya Jagriti Bharatiya Bhasha Samman 2024 presented to Pradeep Dash

President Droupadi Murmu attended the sixth edition of Sahitya Aaj Tak, India s premier literary festival, held from November 22 to 24 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. During the event, she presented the Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Samman awards, honoring both established and emerging literary talents. The festival's highlight was the Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Lifetime



Achievement Award, presented to the legendary poet, lyricist, and filmmaker Gulzar, recognizing his exceptional contributions to Indian literature and cinema.

Foot notes:

- Gulzar received the prestigious Aaj Tak Sahitya Jagriti Lifetime Achievement Award, which includes a prize of Rs 11 lakh, a commemorative plaque, and a citation.
- Other awardees, selected by an eminent jury, were honored with cash prizes ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000, along with plaques and citations.
- President Droupadi Murmu congratulated the recipients, especially Gulzar, for his dedication to literature and the arts, which has inspired many and enriched India's literary landscape.
- The awards celebrated a wide range of literary works reflecting India's diverse cultural heritage, from ancient epics to contemporary narratives.
- President Murmu emphasized that India's cultural consciousness continues to thrive through regional literature, connecting the past with the present.
- The event took place on November 23, 2024, in New Delhi and highlighted the significant role of literature in shaping Indian society.



Classical musician Ghanavenothan Retnam awarded Singapore's highest arts accolade

Classical musician Ghanavenothan Retnam has been awarded Singapore's highest arts honor, the Cultural Medallion, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Indian music. Retnam, the first Indian classical musician to receive this accolade, has dedicated over 40 years to promoting Indian classical music. A master of the bansuri (Indian classical flute), he founded Singapore's first Carnatic flute ensemble in 2019.

- As a music director at Bhaskar's Arts Academy, Retnam gained international recognition for blending Indian classical and Balinese music traditions in his composition for "Vinyaka," which premiered at the Bali Arts Festival in 2010.
- He also collaborated with prominent Southeast Asian composers to create the 2023 dance-drama "Radin Mas," merging Indian classical, folk, Javanese, Balinese, and Kelantan music.

- A highly regarded visual artist known for his allegorical paintings, pastel compositions, and oil portraits.
- Played a key role in shaping Singapore's visual arts scene as a member of arts societies such as the Singapore Watercolour Society and Equator Art Society.
- Young Artist Award Recipients: Alan Choo Su Ho, Evan Low Jun Feng, Tan Si En, and Zhang Fuming were awarded for their excellence in their respective fields.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

Fibonacci Day is observed on 23rd November

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Fibonacci Day is celebrated annually on November 23 to honor Leonardo Bonacci, also known as Fibonacci, one of the most influential mathematicians of the Middle Ages. The Fibonacci sequence begins with 0 and 1, and each subsequent number is the sum of the previous two (e.g., 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21). This sequence appears in various aspects of nature, such as DNA and hurricanes, and is often referred to as "nature's secret code." Fibonacci numbers are linked to the Golden Ratio and the Golden Spiral, which appear in natural patterns. Born in 1170 in Italy, Fibonacci learned about the Hindu-Arabic numeral system while travelling with his father. Recognizing its advantages over the Roman numeral system, he promoted its use for easier calculations.

Foot notes:

Fibonacci Day is celebrated on November 23rd (11/23), honoring mathematician Leonardo of Pisa (Fibonacci). The date reflects the first numbers of the Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3.

Mathematical Contribution: Fibonacci introduced the sequence in his 1202 book Liber Abaci, where each number is the sum of the previous two. This sequence has numerous mathematical properties and connections.

Natural Phenomena: The Fibonacci sequence is found in nature, such as in leaf arrangements, tree branching, flower florets, pine cones, and spiral shells of mollusks.

Art and Architecture: The Golden Ratio, linked to the Fibonacci sequence, is used in art, architecture, and design, seen in the Parthenon, Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci, and works by Salvador Dal.

Computer Science: Fibonacci numbers are utilized in algorithms and data structures, particularly in recursive algorithms and the Fibonacci heap for network optimization.

Cultural Impact: Fibonacci Day is a fun way to introduce mathematical concepts and their reallife applications through activities and educational events celebrating mathematics.

Constitution Day of India is celebrated on 26th November

Constitution Day or 'Samvidhan Divas' is celebrated every year on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. In 2015, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment declared November 26 as 'Constitution Day,'



aiming to promote the values enshrined in the Constitution among citizens. The Constitution has played a pivotal role, serving as a guiding document for the legislature, executive and judiciary, influencing politics and governance.

Foot notes:

- On January 26, 1950, BR Ambedkar, father of the Indian Constitution, expressed optimism about India's independence, but also anxiety over whether it would be sustained.
- On Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished citizens, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution and emphasizing its importance.
- A day before, the Supreme Court dismissed petitions challenging the 1976 amendment to the Constitution, which added "socialist," "secular," and "integrity" to the Preamble, a change made during Indira Gandhi's government.

OBITUARY NEWS

South African Writer Breyten Breytenbach passed away

Breyten Breytenbach, a celebrated anti-apartheid activist and poet, has passed away in Paris at the age of 85. Renowned for works such as Confessions of an Albino Terrorist, Breytenbach explored themes of exile, identity, and justice, establishing himself as a prominent figure in Afrikaans literature. A staunch supporter of Nelson Mandela's ANC, he was imprisoned for seven years and maintained a profound connection to his South African heritage throughout his life.

Foot notes:

- Breyten Breytenbach, South African writer, poet, and anti-apartheid activist, passed away in Paris at 85.
- A leading voice in Afrikaans literature, Breytenbach was a staunch critic of apartheid and its racial policies.
- Born in 1939 in Western Cape, he spent much of his life abroad but stayed deeply connected to South Africa.
- In the 1970s, he was imprisoned for seven years for treason after returning from exile in Paris.
- Breytenbach was also a painter and political activist, closely aligned with South Africa □ s African National Congress (ANC).
- He is survived by his wife Yolande, daughter Daphne, and two grandsons.

Essar Group Chairman Shashi Ruia passed away

Shashikant Ruia, co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group, has passed away at 81 after a prolonged illness. Renowned for his visionary leadership, Ruia was instrumental in



transforming Essar from a modest family business into a global conglomerate. His remarkable journey showcased his sharp business acumen, commitment to innovation, and dedication to philanthropy, leaving an enduring legacy in India's corporate landscape.

Foot notes:

- **Personal Traits**: Known for his humility, warmth, and ability to connect with people.
- Essar Group Foundation: Diversified into energy, metals, infrastructure, and technology.
- Secured Essar's first major contract in 1969 for Chennai Port□ s outer breakwater worth 2.3 crore.
- Established India's first Independent Power Producer (515 MW plant) at Hazira in 1991.
- Sectoral Ventures: Expanded into telecom, BPO, steel, oil, and gas, pioneering mobile telephony during India's telecom privatization.
- **Recognition:** Held key roles in FICCI, Indo-US Joint Business Council, and Indian National Ship owners Association. Member of PM's Indo-US CEO Forum and India-Japan Business Council.

Economic Historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passed away

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, a distinguished economic historian and macroeconomist, passed away on November 28, 2024. Known for his groundbreaking contributions to economic history and his dedication to Leftist politics, Bagchi's work integrated economic theory with historical analysis, influencing both economists and historians. His research focused on India's colonial economic history, development, and underdevelopment, offering valuable insights into the effects of imperialism.

- **Private Investment in India** (1900-1939): Explored the dynamics of investment during colonial India, comparable to anti-colonial historians like Naoroji and Dutt.
- **Deindustrialization in Colonial India**: Provided critical evidence on colonialism's role in India's industrial decline.
- **Dialectics of Development and Underdevelopment** (1972): Examined the relationship between development and underdevelopment in the global economy.
- **Perilous Passage**: Focused on the rise of global capitalism and the demographic collapse in the Global South caused by imperialism.
- Contributed to Bengali literary magazines and was active in Kolkata's artistic community, especially in Rabindra Sangeet and Bengali literature.
- Remembered as a key figure in economics and history, deeply influencing the understanding of imperialism and underdevelopment in India.







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