

1. T.N. Appoints Advocate Krishnaraja as Director of Prosecution



The Tamil Nadu government has appointed advocate G. Krishnaraja as the Director of Prosecution, succeeding the former incumbent who requested to step down due to workload. Krishnaraja's selection was based on the recommendation of a selection committee chaired by a retired Madras High Court judge. He brings extensive experience, having previously served as an Additional Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader in Chennai.

Foot notes:

- **Predecessor:** State Public Prosecutor Hasan Mohamed Jinnah stepped down from the additional charge due to workload.
- A selection committee led by a retired Madras High Court judge conducted interviews on October 8 and recommended Krishnaraja.
- Appointment confirmed via a Government Order issued by the Home (Courts-VI) department.
- Enrolled as an advocate in 1990, hailing from Madurai.
- Served as Additional Public Prosecutor for Chennai Metropolitan area.
- Held roles as Additional Government Pleader and standing counsel for Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

About Tamil Nadu:
Chief Minister: M K Stalin

Capital: Chennai
Governor: R. N. Ravi

2. Karimganj District renamed as Sribhumi



On November 21, 2024, the Assam government officially renamed Karimganj district to Sribhumi district and its headquarters, Karimganj town, to Sribhumi town. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma approved the change to honor the region's cultural heritage and historical significance. This decision fulfills a longstanding local demand and reconnects the area with its spiritual roots, as described by Rabindranath Tagore over a century ago.

Foot notes:

- The Assam government renamed Karimganj district to Sribhumi district and Karimganj town to Sribhumi town, effective November 21, 2024.
- The name "Sribhumi" was inspired by Rabindranath Tagore, who referred to the region as "the land of Maa Lakshmi" over a century ago.
- CM Himanta Biswa Sarma stated the change fulfills a long-standing local demand and honors the district's cultural and spiritual heritage.
- The move aims to give the district a distinct identity, reinforcing local pride and cultural significance.
- The renaming is part of an ongoing initiative to honor Assam's cultural past by revisiting place names lacking historical or linguistic references.
- The General Administration Department confirmed the changes via official notification.

3. General Dwivedi Conferred Honorary General Rank by Nepali Army



General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army, has been awarded the rank of Honorary General of the Nepal Army. The honor was conferred by President Ramchandra Paudel in a special ceremony at the President's House, Sheetal Niwas. The Indian Army described this "exchange of honorary generalship" as a unique and valued tradition between the Indian and Nepali armies, underscoring the deep historical, cultural, and military ties between the two nations. This practice highlights the mutual respect and strong friendship between India and Nepal, particularly in areas of military cooperation, defense collaboration, and shared strategic interests.

Foot notes:

- **Attendees:** Vice President Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, and Defence Minister Manbir Rai attended the event.
- **Honors**: General Upendra Dwivedi laid a wreath at the Army Pavilion, Tundikhel, to pay homage to martyrs. He was later accorded a Guard of Honour at the Nepal Army Headquarters.
- **Meeting:** General Dwivedi met with General Ashok Raj Sigdel, COAS of Nepal Army, to discuss strengthening military relations between India and Nepal.
- He was appointed as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army in 2024, General Dwivedi is committed to enhancing military partnerships and promoting regional peace and stability.
- **Significance**: The tradition of honorary generalship reflects the strong strategic partnership between the Indian and Nepalese armies, emphasizing joint training, military exercises, and disaster response. Both forces share common values and a dedication to regional security.

4. ISRO and Australian Space Agency Sign Pact for Gaganyaan



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Australian Space Agency (ASA) signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) to further strengthen their cooperation in space activities. This agreement focuses on collaboration between the two agencies for crew and crew module recovery in the context of ISRO's Gaganyaan missions. The IA was signed by Shri DK Singh, Director of HSFC at ISRO in Bengaluru, and Shri Jarrod Powell, General Manager of the Space Capability Branch at ASA in Canberra.

Foot notes:

- **ISRO's Goal**: Demonstrate the ability to conduct a Low Earth Orbit mission with an Indian Crew Module, carrying up to three crew members for up to three days, ensuring safe recovery.
- **IA Collaboration**: Australian authorities will assist Indian officials in search and rescue operations and module recovery if a contingency occurs during the ascent phase near Australian waters.
- **Strategic Partnership**: The agreement highlights the strong strategic ties between India and Australia, with both space agencies committed to exploring future collaboration opportunities.

About ISRO:
Headquarters: Bengaluru
Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

5. Hardik Pandya reclaims 1st spot in T20I all-rounder rankings



Hardik Pandya has climbed two spots to reclaim the top position in the latest ICC T20I Men's Batting Rankings. This marks his second time at the summit of the rankings this year, following India's T20 World Cup victory in the USA and West Indies in June. Pandya's excellent all-round performances, both with the bat and ball, were key to India's 3-0 series win over Bangladesh at home last month, where he was named Player of the Series, scoring 118 runs and taking one wicket. His contributions at critical moments were vital to India's success. The Mumbai all-rounder also delivered strong performances during India's 3-1 series victory over South Africa earlier this month.

Foot notes:

- Hardik Pandya moved to the top spot in the ICC T20I all-rounder rankings, surpassing Liam Livingstone (England) and Dipendra Singh Airee (Nepal).
- Tilak Varma jumped 69 places to 3rd in the T20I batting rankings, following his Player of the Series performance in South Africa with 280 runs, including two centuries.
- Varma is now the highest-ranked Indian batter in T20Is, ahead of Suryakumar Yadav (4th) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (8th).
- Australia's Travis Head and England's Phil Salt are ranked higher than Varma in the T20I batting rankings.
- Indian bowlers in the T20I top 10: Ravi Bishnoi (8th) and Arshdeep Singh (9th).
- Arshdeep, with 95 T20I wickets, is India's second-highest wicket-taker, trailing only Yuzvendra Chahal (96).

6. Double Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee retires



Double Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee, a pivotal figure in the rise of British triathlon, has announced his retirement from the sport at 36. Renowned for his gold medal victories in London 2012 and Rio 2016, Brownlee has made a lasting impact on triathlon, inspiring athletes like current Olympic champion Alex Yee. With a career spanning over two decades, Brownlee is the only athlete in triathlon history to win the junior, U23, European, World, and Olympic championships. He first gained international attention at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, finishing 12th, but it was his gold medal in London 2012 that elevated him to global prominence. He successfully defended his title in Rio 2016, cementing his legacy as one of the sport's all-time greats.

Foot notes:

- **Alistair and Jonny Brownlee's Impact**: Together, the Brownlee brothers revolutionized British triathlon, with their rivalry and partnership raising the sport's profile both in the UK and globally.
- **London 2012 Iconic Moment**: Alistair won gold, and Jonny secured bronze in a memorable race, considered one of the highest-level triathlons ever.
- **Retirement and New Challenges**: After an illustrious career, Alistair is excited to pursue new challenges, reflecting on achieving his childhood dream and looking forward to personal projects and a slower pace of life.
- **Legacy**: Alistair's contribution to triathlon is lasting, with World Triathlon president Antonio Arimany calling him a "true icon."
- **The Brownlee Foundation**: Alistair's charity promotes triathlon among children from diverse backgrounds.
- **Enduring Influence**: While retiring from elite competition, Alistair's achievements and impact on the sport will continue to inspire future athletes, securing his place as one of triathlon's greatest.

7. Italy Clinches Fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title



Italy secured its fifth Billie Jean King Cup title, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final in Malaga, Spain. Jasmine Paolini clinched the victory with a dominant 6-2, 6-1 win over Rebecca Sramkova, following Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4 triumph against Viktoria Hruncakova. This win marked redemption for Italy after their loss in the previous year's final and reinforced their position as a powerhouse in women's tennis.

Foot notes:

- **Lucia Bronzetti's Performance**: Bronzetti defeated Hruncakova with flawless serving, recording zero double faults and a strong break rate of six out of nine.
- **Jasmine Paolini's Efficiency**: Paolini, fresh off her Dubai Championship win in 2024, dominated Sramkova in 1 hour and 5 minutes, breaking serve five times out of ten opportunities.
- **Slovakia's Achievement**: Despite losing in the final, Slovakia's journey to the final was historic, having defeated the US, Australia, and Great Britain in earlier rounds.
- **Italy's Redemption**: After losing to Canada in the 2023 final, Italy's 2024 win showcased their strength, with Bronzetti and Paolini delivering outstanding performances, solidifying their place in tennis history.

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

8. Donald Trump names Linda McMahon as Education Secretary of USA



Donald Trump has elected Linda McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, to lead the Department of Education. McMahon, who co-chairs Trump's transition team for his anticipated return to the White House in January, will oversee the appointment of approximately 4,000 government roles. Highlighting her educational background, Trump noted her two years on the Connecticut Board of Education and 16 years as a trustee at Sacred Heart University, a private Catholic institution.

Foot notes:

- Linda McMahon, former WWE CEO, has been nominated by Donald Trump to lead the Department of Education, which he plans to abolish.
- Trump praised McMahon as a "fierce advocate for Parents' Rights" and highlighted her experience in business and education.
- Two years on the Connecticut Board of Education and 16 years as a trustee at Sacred Heart University.
- She co-founded Capitol Wrestling, now WWE, with her husband Vince McMahon, and first met Trump during her tenure at WWE.
- In 2009, she left WWE to pursue politics, running unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate in Connecticut in 2010 and 2012.
- Trump has pledged to dismantle the federal Education Department, calling for education oversight to return to the states.
- McMahon has been a significant Trump donor and described him as a "friend, colleague, and boss" during the Republican convention.

9. India ranks 23rd globally in the Sustainable Trade Index 2024



India, the world's fifth-largest economy, has achieved notable economic progress but continues to face challenges such as poverty, inequality, gender disparity, and environmental concerns like air pollution and deforestation. In the 2024 Sustainable Trade Index, India ranks 23rd globally, with an overall score of 24. The breakdown includes 62.3 for economic factors, 13.3 for societal aspects, and 43.1 for environmental considerations. While the

strong economic performance stands out, the scores underscore significant societal and environmental hurdles that require attention.

Foot notes:

- **Economic Strength**: India's growth as the fifth-largest economy driven by trade and industrial advancements.
- **Societal Challenges**: Poverty, gender inequality, and social disparities hinder progress.
- **Environmental Issues:** Air pollution, deforestation, and weak environmental policies impact performance.
- **New Zealand** retains top position for the third consecutive year. Leads across economic, societal, and environmental pillars.
- **United Kingdom** strong in societal and environmental aspects, despite minor economic hallenges.
- **Australia** high societal scores with steady improvement in economic and environmental resilience.

10. Former British Deputy PM John Prescott passed away



John Prescott, a prominent figure in British politics and a staunch advocate for the working class, has passed away at the age of 86. Emerging from the trade union movement, he served as deputy prime minister under Tony Blair for a decade. Renowned for his plain-speaking demeanor and deep connection to Labour's core values, Prescott was instrumental in modernizing the party while preserving its traditional principles. His distinguished career, highlighted by notable contributions to environmental policy and social justice, has left a lasting legacy in British political history.

Foot notes:

- **Early Career**: Worked as a steward on cruise ships, shaping his working-class identity.
- **Union Leader**: Became an official at the National Union of Seamen in 1968.
- **Parliament**: Elected Labour MP for Hull East in 1970, serving for 40 years.
- **Labour Leadership**: Joined Labour's shadow cabinet (1983); elected deputy leader in 1994 under Tony Blair.
- **Deputy PM (1997–2007)**: Held dual roles, focusing on environment, transport, and regional devolution.
- **Achievements**: Advocated for environmental sustainability, played a key role in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and mediated tensions between Blair and Gordon Brown.

- **Style:** Known for plain speaking, mangled syntax, and strong connection to working-class values.
- **Controversies:** Nicknamed "Two Jags" for owning two Jaguars; faced scrutiny over a two-year affair.
- **Later Years:** Retired as MP in 2010; joined the House of Lords; continued championing environmental causes, attending COP26 in 2021.

