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Current Affairs

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1. Kerala Blasters secure a 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a thrilling match

Kerala Blasters secured a thrilling 3-2 victory against Odisha FC in a recent match, showcasing their determination and skill on the field. The game kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams put up a spirited fight. Kerala Blasters displayed remarkable teamwork and resilience to clinch the win. The match highlighted the competitive nature of the league and the growing excitement among football enthusiasts. Odisha FC also gave a strong performance, making it a memorable encounter for the spectators.



Foot notes:

- The match was played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, with Odisha FC taking the lead in the 4th minute through Jerry Mawihmingthanga.
- Kerala Blasters FC equalized in the 60th minute with a goal from Kwame Peprah, and then took the lead in the 73rd minute through Jesus Jimenez.
- Odisha FC leveled the scores again in the 80th minute with a goal from Dori, but Kerala Blasters FC secured the win with Sadaoui's late goal.
- The win takes Kerala Blasters FC to 8th place in the standings with 20 points from 16 matches, while Odisha FC remains in 7th place.
- Kerala Blasters FC will next play NorthEast United FC on January 18, while Odisha FC will face Bengaluru FC on January 22.

2. Japan Breaks Tourism Record in 2024 with 36.9 Million Visitors

Japan achieved a historic milestone in 2024 by welcoming 36.9 million tourists, setting a new tourism record. The increase in visitors highlights Japan's global appeal and its efforts to promote tourism. Key attractions such as Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hokkaido continue to draw travelers worldwide. Additionally, large-scale events and cultural festivals significantly contributed to the record-breaking numbers. The achievement underscores Japan's position as one of the top destinations for international travellers.



Foot notes:

- The country's tourism industry has seen a significant surge, with a 47.1% increase in visitor numbers compared to the previous year, thanks to a favorable weak yen and strong global travel demand.
- December 2024 alone saw a record-breaking 3.49 million visitors, the highest monthly total ever recorded, with average spending per visitor rising 6.8% year on year to 227,242 yen.
- China led the spending with around 20% of the total, followed by other countries like the US, South Korea, and Taiwan, contributing to a total inbound spending of 8.14 trillion yen.
- The Japanese government has set ambitious targets, aiming to attract 60 million annual visitors and 15 trillion yen in spending by 2030, and this record-breaking year is a significant step towards achieving those goals.
- The tourism industry is playing a pivotal role in boosting Japan's economy, with increased flights, new initiatives, and a series of events and festivals contributing to the growth.
- This achievement is a testament to Japan's appeal as a destination for both business and leisure travellers, with its unique culture, rich history, and world-class amenities making it an attractive choice for visitors from around the world.

3. Tyson Fury Announces Retirement from Boxing

Tyson Fury has announced his retirement from boxing, marking the end of an illustrious career. Known for his charisma and skill, Fury leaves behind a legacy that has inspired countless fans and athletes. He has held multiple world titles and remains a dominant figure in heavyweight boxing history. His decision to step away from the ring allows him to focus on personal endeavors and family life. Fury's retirement is a significant moment for the boxing community and his loyal supporters.



Foot notes:

- His retirement comes just a month after losing a rematch to Oleksandr Usyk, and many are questioning whether he'll actually stay retired.
- Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, has expressed support for his decision, saying that Fury has done everything he can in his career and has nothing to prove.
- Anthony Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, is skeptical about Fury's retirement, thinking that he might come out of retirement for the right fight.
- Fury's record stands at 34-2-1, with 24 KOs, and he's considered one of the best British heavyweights of his generation.

4. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as chief of DGCA

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed as the new Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), taking charge of the regulatory body. His appointment is expected to bring fresh leadership to the aviation sector. Kidwai's extensive experience and expertise in administration will likely benefit the aviation industry. As the head of DGCA, he will oversee critical matters related to safety, regulations, and operational efficiency. This leadership change comes at a pivotal time for India's growing aviation market.



Foot notes:

- He is a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience in administration and governance.
- Kidwai's appointment as DGCA Director General is a significant development in the Indian aviation sector.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is responsible for regulating and overseeing the safety and security of civil aviation in India.
- As the chief of DGCA, Kidwai will play a crucial role in shaping the country's aviation policy and ensuring the safe operation of airlines and airports.
- His experience in the Ministry of Agriculture will likely bring a fresh perspective to the DGCA, and his leadership skills will be essential in driving the organization forward.
- Kidwai's appointment has been widely reported, with many outlets praising his credentials and experience.

5. Smriti Mandhana scored fastest ODI century in 70 balls against Ireland

Smriti Mandhana created history by scoring the fastest ODI century in just 70 balls against Ireland. Her exceptional performance showcased her prowess as one of the finest batters in women's cricket. This record-breaking inning added another milestone to her already illustrious career. Mandhana's aggressive yet composed approach on the field

was widely applauded. Her achievement has further cemented her status as a leading figure in international cricket.

Foot notes:

- She broke the previous record held by Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored a century in 87 balls against South Africa last year.
- Mandhana's explosive knock of 135 runs included 12 boundaries and seven sixes, helping India post their highest-ever ODI total of 435/5.
- This total is not only the highest in women's ODIs but also surpasses the men's team's record of 418/5 against West Indies in 2011.
- Mandhana's century is also her 10th ODI ton, making her the first Asian batter to reach this milestone, and she now joins an elite list of players with multiple centuries in the format.
- Her partnership with Pratika Rawal, who scored 154, was instrumental in India's massive total, with the two adding 233 runs for the opening wicket.
- Mandhana's incredible form has seen her score 996 runs in 16 ODIs since the start of 2024, with four centuries and five fifties, cementing her position as one of the top batters in the world.



6. Truecaller appoints Hemant Arora as Global Head Ad Sales Business

Truecaller has appointed Hemant Arora as the Global Head of Ad Sales Business, signaling a strategic move to expand its advertising operations. Arora brings a wealth of experience in sales and marketing to the role. His leadership is expected to drive growth and innovation in the company's ad sales segment. Truecaller aims to strengthen its position in the digital advertising market with this key appointment. Arora's expertise will likely play a pivotal role in shaping the company's future.



Foot notes:

- Arora brings over two decades of experience in driving high-growth revenue strategies and managing global operations, having worked with companies like TikTok, Times Network, and Discovery Networks South Asia.
- In his previous role at TikTok, he headed global accounts for Europe, APAC, and METAP regions, giving him a deep understanding of global markets.
- Arora's appointment is expected to strengthen Truecaller's position in the ads business, with the company aiming to revolutionize how brands connect with consumers.

- He will be responsible for driving impactful growth and deepening partnerships globally, leveraging his proven track record of building scalable revenue models.
- Truecaller's CEO, Rishit Jhunjhunwala, believes Arora's expertise makes him the ideal leader to drive the company's ad sales strategy.
- With Arora on board, Truecaller is poised to unlock the full potential of its platform for advertisers across the globe, offering a unique opportunity for brands to connect with consumers.

7. Angel One appoints Ambarish Kenghe as Group CEO

Angel One has announced the appointment of Ambarish Kenghe as its new Group CEO, ushering in a new phase of leadership. Kenghe is expected to lead the company's growth and innovation strategies. With a strong background in technology and management, he is well-suited to drive Angel One's vision forward. His appointment reflects the organization's commitment to delivering enhanced services and products. Kenghe's leadership is anticipated to elevate the company's market position.



Foot notes:

- He previously worked at Google Pay as Vice President and General Manager, guiding the platform's expansion and strengthening India's UPI ecosystem.
- Kenghe also worked at Myntra as Chief Product Officer, deploying AI- and machine learning-driven solutions in the fashion e-commerce space.
- With a strong educational background, including an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and multiple master's degrees, Kenghe is a prolific innovator with four patents to his name.
- As Group CEO, Kenghe aims to drive the next phase of growth for Angel One, empowering users with advanced financial solutions and leveraging his proven record of driving innovation.
- Angel One's chairman and managing director, Dinesh Thakkar, believes Kenghe's appointment marks the start of an exciting new era for the company, which ranks as India's third-largest stockbroking platform with 7.75 million active clients.

8. Shri Anurag Sharma has been Appointed as Director (Infrastructure), DFCCIL

Shri Anurag Sharma has been appointed as the Director (Infrastructure) of DFCCIL, bringing his expertise to this critical role. He will oversee infrastructure development for the organization, ensuring the smooth execution of key projects. DFCCIL, which is integral to India's freight corridor development, stands to benefit from his leadership. Sharma's appointment is part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's logistics

infrastructure. His role will involve coordinating with multiple stakeholders for project success.

Foot notes:

- Anurag Sharma is currently an Executive Director at DFCCIL, bringing valuable experience to his new role.
- As Director (Infrastructure), he will oversee the development and maintenance of infrastructure for the dedicated freight corridors.
- Sharma's selection was made at a PESB meeting, where his qualifications and experience were assessed.
- He will play a crucial role in shaping the infrastructure strategy for DFCCIL, which is a Schedule A company.
- With his expertise, DFCCIL aims to enhance its infrastructure and improve efficiency in freight transportation.
- Sharma's appointment is expected to bring new momentum to DFCCIL's infrastructure development projects, driving growth and progress in the sector.



9. Indian Army Day is celebrated on 15 January

Indian Army Day is observed every year on January 15 to honor the sacrifices and achievements of the armed forces. It marks the day when Lieutenant General K. M. Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Celebrations include parades, medal ceremonies, and various events across the country. The day serves as a reminder of the dedication and valor of the Indian Army. It is a moment of pride and gratitude for all citizens.



Foot notes:

- The day marks the assumption of command by Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, symbolizing India's post-independence military leadership.
- The 77th Army Day Parade was held in Pune, Maharashtra, featuring a historic display of India's military might, including robotic mules and an all-women NCC contingent.
- The parade showcased the Indian Army's capabilities and contributions to making India a more powerful country, with the theme "Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena".
- The event honored Lieutenant General KM Cariappa and recognized the sacrifices of Indian soldiers, with the Chief of Army Staff presenting the Sena Medal (Gallantry).

- The parade featured a joint band performance by the Indian Army and Nepal Army, signifying the synergy between the two nations.
- The Indian Army Day celebrations aim to inspire patriotism and respect for the armed forces, with the Army's motto "Service Before Self" resonating strongly during this event.

10. Retired Hollywood Actress Dalyce Curry passed away

Retired Hollywood actress Dalyce Curry has tragically passed away at the age of 95 due to wildfires in Los Angeles. Curry, known for her memorable roles in classic films, enjoyed a successful career spanning decades. Her death in such circumstances has left her fans and the film fraternity in deep mourning. She was a beloved figure, remembered for her grace, talent, and contributions to cinema. The wildfires have raised concerns about safety and environmental challenges in the region.




Foot notes:

- Dalyce Curry, a veteran Hollywood actress, has passed away at the age of 95 due to the devastating Los Angeles wildfires.
- Her home in Altadena was destroyed by the flames, and her remains were found after the fire was extinguished.
- Curry was known for her iconic roles in films like *The Blues Brothers* and *Lady Sings the Blues*, leaving a lasting legacy in the entertainment industry.
- She is survived by her great-granddaughter, Dalyce Kelley, who confirmed the news on social media and expressed her devastation over the loss of her "Momma D".
- Curry's death is the second celebrity fatality in the LA fires, following the passing of former child actor Rory Sykes.
- The Hollywood community is mourning the loss of Dalyce Curry, remembering her contributions to the film industry and her inspiring life, and offering condolences to her family and loved ones.

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