

International

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace unveiled

The COP28 Presidency has launched the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace. This declaration tends to redirect climate finance into highly vulnerable and fragile areas, offering comprehensive financial, programming, and partnership solutions. The declaration has received support from 70 governments and 39 organizations. On the fourth day of COP28, a landmark commitment was made by over 100 health ministries in the inaugural climate-health ministerial, and substantial financial pledges were taken at the 'Reaching the Last Mile Forum'. A total of 777 million dollars was announced for neglected tropical diseases, and 900 million dollars for community health workers.

The day also featured the rollout of a regional climate security strategy for the Horn of Africa, and a strategic partnership with the UN Secretary-General, to galvanize support for the 'Early Warnings for All' initiative.

Oxford University Press word of the year is 'Rizz'

The Oxford University Press has selected "rizz" as its word of the year. The word describes someone's ability to attract or seduce another person. Rizz topped "Swiftie" (an enthusiastic fan of Taylor Swift), "situationship" (an informal romantic or sexual relationship) and "prompt" (an instruction given to an artificial intelligence program). Rizz is believed to come from the middle of the word charisma, and can be used as a verb, as in "rizz up," or chat someone up, the publisher said.

International Day of Banks observed on December 4th

International Day of Banks is celebrated on December 4th every year in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development. On 19th December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 74/245, which designated 4th December as the International Day of Banks.

National

Mizoram Election Results 2023: Zoram People's Movement bags 27 of 40 seats, to form government in Mizoram

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) has secured an absolute majority in the state assembly elections by winning 27 seats in the 40-member house. At the end of the counting of votes, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) managed to win 10 seats. The BJP won 2 seats, while the Congress got just 1 seat. Chief Minister Zoramthanga has lost the election. ZPM has said it will stake a claim to form the government in Mizoram after holding a consultative meeting of newly elected MLAs and senior party leaders.

The ZPM started as a common platform for six smaller regional parties and civil society groups in 2017. It was recognised as a regional party in 2019.

IMD says Cyclonic Storm MICHAUNG likely to cross South Andhra Pradesh coast

Severe Cyclonic Storm “MICHAUNG”, which formed over the Bay of Bengal is likely to cross the South Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam near Bapatla, with a maximum wind speed of 90 to 100 kilometer per hour, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on December 4th. With this fall, isolated heavy rainfall is expected in North Coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and exceptionally heavy rainfall at one or two places over north coastal and adjoining south coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The cyclone which formed over the Northern Indian Ocean Basin has been named Michaung. The name Michaung was given by Myanmar.

Tourism Ministry formulates a draft policy to enhance tourism's contribution to the economy

In consultation with the relevant stakeholders, the Tourism Ministry has formulated a draft National Tourism Policy, 2023 which aims to enhance the contribution of tourism to the Indian economy by increasing visitation, stay and spend, and making India a year-round tourist destination. The Strategic objective of the draft National Tourism Policy, 2023 is to create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in the tourism sector, ensure the supply of skilled workforce, enhance the competitiveness of the sector and attract investment from private players.

The policy also aims to preserve and enhance the country's cultural and natural resources and to ensure sustainable, responsible and inclusive development of tourism in the country.

Under Har Ghar Jal programme: 71% rural households across India have tap water connections

According to data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, tap water supply has reached around 13.69 crore households under the Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal. This covers 71 percent of total rural households. Nine states and union territories, including Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have reported to have provided tap water connection to all rural households in their respective regions as of September this year.

66 airports in the country operating on 100% green energy

The Minister of State for Civil Aviation V. K. Singh has said that 66 airports in the country are operating on 100 percent green energy. Airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru have achieved higher Airports International Council accreditation and have become carbon neutral. The Central government has taken several initiatives towards carbon neutrality and achieving net zero carbon emissions at airports in the country. The Central government has also advised developers of the upcoming Greenfield Airports and the State Governments to work towards achieving carbon neutrality.

Business and Economy

Over 1.06 lakh firms voluntarily exited in the last five years: Centre

The Union government has told the Lok Sabha that more than 1 lakh firms have voluntarily exited under the company law in almost five years. Besides, many companies have sought voluntary liquidation under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC). According to data, from FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24 (up to 30 November, 2023) 1,06,561 companies exited voluntarily under Section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013.

Indian hand tool market will reach \$416.2 million by 2029

The Indian hand tools market, which was valued at \$342.8 million in 2022, is expected to reach \$416.2 million by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 4.3%, the Ministry of MSME said. India is expected to rival China in the Asia-Pacific hand tools market. India's Hardware & Building Materials market is also increasing, with a projected 1.68% growth rate (CAGR 2023-28) globally, contributing a 1.2% share in global exports.

ReNew & Asian Development Bank sign a pact for \$5.3 bn.

India's largest renewable energy company by operational capacity ReNew Energy Global has signed a pact worth more than \$5.3 billion with the Asian Development Bank to collaborate on projects related to tackling climate change. The pact signed at the COP28 conference in Dubai, comes as demand for renewable energy (RE) booms. The pact covers projects between 2023 and 2028 with a total investment value of more than \$5.3 billion and is expected to draw interest from international investors. ReNew has a portfolio of almost 14 GW of clean energy capacity and has already invested \$8 billion in the clean energy space, and this pact will enable it to raise further funds for RE projects.

The Indian government is targeting net zero by 2070 and is looking to increase its non-fossil fuel power capacity to 500 GW by 2030, from 186 GW now.

Sports

IBA Junior World Boxing Championship: India claims 3 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze medals

India has bagged three gold, five silver and one bronze medals on the last day of the IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia. Akansha has won gold in the 70 kg category, Pari clinched the gold medal in the 48 kg weight category, while Nisha won the gold in the 52 kg category. In the 52 kg weight category, Vini won a silver medal, while Srishti Sathe won a silver medal in the 63 kg weight category.

In the boys' category, Jatin won the silver medal in the 54 kg category. Hardik Panwar in the 80 kg category, Ameesha Kereta in the 54 kg category and Prachi Tokas in the 80 kg weight category had to settle for silver medals only.

Tennis: India's Ramkumar Ramanathan claims Kalaburagi Open

Ramkumar Ramanathan of India has won his third ITF title after beating Austrian David Pichler 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the Kalaburagi Open at the Chandrashekhra Patil Stadium. Ramkumar won the winner's cheque of US\$ 3,200 and 25 ATP points after winning the one-sided summit clash that lasted just 64 minutes.

Chess: Scottie Scheffler clinches the Hero World Challenge title

Scottie Scheffler has claimed the Hero World Challenge title. Scheffler has scored a bogey-free four-under-68 in the final round, a comfortable three shots ahead of his nearest rival, Sepp Straka. Former Golf Champion Tiger Woods returned a 72 to finish in the 18th spot. Woods, returning from an injury, was happy to get through the four rounds.

Serbia's Medjedovic beats Arthur Fils to win the Next Gen ATP Finals championship.

Serbian professional tennis player Hamad Medjedovic has won the Next Gen ATP Finals presented by the NEOM trophy in Jeddah. He recovered from squandering two match points in the fourth set against Arthur Fils to win the first five-set final in tournament history. He won 88 percent (61/69) of points on his first delivery and converted his third match point to fire past Arthur Fils 3-4(6), 4-1, 4-2, 3-4(9), 4-1 after two hours and 11 minutes.

2023 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship: Honda's Kavin Quintal claims 10th position

Kavin Quintal of Honda Racing has finished in the 10th position, in the final round of the 2023 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship at the Chang International Circuit. Riding on the Asia Production 250cc class bike, he pushed his limits on the track to cross the chequered line in the 10th position with a timing of 18:56.590s in the 2023 ARRC.