

(23rd September 2024)

International

Sri Lanka elects a new President

Anura Kumara Disanayake, National People's Power leader in Sri Lanka, has been declared victorious in the Presidential Election. He will be sworn in on September 23, at the Presidential Secretariat as the ninth executive President of Sri Lanka. The election Commission had to conduct a second round of counting for the first time in the country's history as no candidate could clear the required 50% mark.

Antiquities returned

The United States has returned to India 297 antiquities, that were stolen and smuggled out of the country, on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US. These antiquities will shortly be repatriated to India. Of late, the restitution of cultural property has become an important aspect of India-US cultural understanding and exchange. Since 2016, the US government has facilitated the return of a large number of trafficked or stolen antiquities.

Malaysian floods

In Malaysia, floods have displaced thousands of people across several states. Earlier, the Meteorological Department of the country had warned of heavy continuous rain as the Southwest monsoon season is underway with bad weather expected to persist through September.

National

Exercise Eastern Bridge-7

Exercise Eastern Bridge-7 of the Indian Air Force with the Royal Air Force of Oman concluded successfully in Masirah, Oman. The exercise included a comprehensive series of training missions, which featured the participation of MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft from the Indian Air Force and F-16 and Hawk from the Royal Air Force of Oman.

Two new Indian consulates in the US

Prime Minister Modi has announced that two new Indian consulates will be opened in the US in Boston and Los Angeles. This is in addition to six consulates in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, and Seattle. The Prime

Minister also announced the opening of a Thiruvalluvar Chair of Tamil Studies at the University of Houston.

Refund of more than one crore rupees to students of various coaching institutes

After numerous complaints were registered in the National Consumer Helpline regarding unfair practices by various coaching centres, especially not refunding the enrolment fees of the students, the National Consumer Helpline initiated a drive to resolve these grievances on a mission mode to facilitate a total refund of one crore rupees to affected students from the total demanded refund of 2.39 crore rupees till date. During a short span of 12 months, around 16,276 students approached the National Consumer Helpline. The total number of grievances registered by the students in 2021-2022 is 4,815, followed by 5,351 students in 2022-2023.

International Sign Language Day

The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, will organise an event in New Delhi on September 23, to celebrate International Sign Language Day. This year, the theme for International Sign Language Day 2024 is "Sign up for Sign Language Rights."

Haifa Day celebrated in New Delhi

Haifa Day was celebrated on September 23 in New Delhi to honour the martyrs of the Battle of Haifa.

Indian Soldiers, who were part of World War I in 1918 from the British Indian Army fought the battle of Haifa and won a decisive victory, by defeating the Ottoman Empire and their German allies.

Repository of cancer genomics

The Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) foundation has launched a portal that expects to be a repository of information on multiple aspects of cancer. This will help in improving understanding of the genetic variations of cancer in the Indian population, "The portal will be the first in India to offer data that includes DNA, RNA, and protein profiles of breast cancer patients, integrated with clinical outcomes".

Business/Economy

Microsoft's Three Mile Island deal

Three Mile Island, the site of America's worst commercial nuclear accident, will resume operations to provide power to Microsoft's cloud computing and artificial intelligence programs. In 1979, a partial meltdown of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island caused panic in the United States and brought the deployment of nuclear energy to a halt for years. The deal was signed to enhance grid stability, considering the energy demands and increased usage of artificial intelligence. The Three Mile Island reactor is expected to resume functioning in 2028.

MoU with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) of Brazil in the area of food safety.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) of Brazil in the area of food safety. The MoU aimed at improving food safety through joint projects and technical collaboration.

Exponential increase in Digital payment transaction volume

The digital payment transaction volume grew to nearly 19 thousand crores in the Financial Year 2023-24 compared to over 2,000 crores in the Financial Year 2017-18 as per the Ministry of Finance. The volume of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions also increased by more than 13 thousand crore from nearly ninety crore during the same period. The UPI transaction value has reached 200 lakh crore rupees in the Financial Year 23-24 as per the ministry. UPI is currently facilitating live transactions in seven countries UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius.

Insurance cover for MSME exporters enhanced.

The government introduced enhanced insurance cover for MSME exporters, expected to provide

credit worth 20 thousand crore rupees at lower costs. This initiative will make Indian exports more competitive, benefiting around ten thousand exporters. The launch of the E-Commerce Export Hub (ECEH) is expected to revolutionize India's cross-border e-commerce ecosystem, with projections indicating a potential export value of 100 billion dollars by 2030.

Sports

Double gold for India

India won historic double gold medals in the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary in both men's and women's teams.

In the open section, India's maiden title win was secured following Arjun Erigaisi's victory over Jan Subelj of Slovenia in the final round of the competition, India's best performances before this year have been the bronze medals in 2022 and 2014.

In the women's section final, the Indian women's team defeated Azerbaijan 3.5-0.5 to clinch the gold.

Sangram Singh wins MMA fight

Sangram Singh became the first Indian male wrestler to win an MMA (mixed martial arts) fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship Tbilisi in Georgia. Sangram also registered the fastest win ever by an Indian fighter in the 93 kg division in the championship. in a 90-second match against the Pakistani counterpart, Ali Raza Nasir.

India wins the Chennai Test

India defeated Bangladesh by a huge margin of 280 runs on the fourth day of the opening Test to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Men's Selection Committee has confirmed that the squad remains unchanged for the second Test to be held in Kanpur, starting from 27th September.