

International

Sakharov Prize 2024

The European Parliament has announced that the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought would be awarded to María Corina Machado and President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia. The duo was being recognised for their efforts to restore democracy and freedom in Venezuela.

Air strikes on the Syrian capital Damascus

Israel launched air strikes on the Syrian capital Damascus and a military site in the central province of Homs on October 24. The attacks were launched from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights and northern Lebanon.

National

Severe Cyclonic storm Dana makes landfall

A severe Cyclonic storm Dana, made landfall between Bhitarkanika and Dhamra on the Odisha coast with a wind speed of 120 km per hour at midnight on October 24, causing extensive damage.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approves two rail projects

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on October 24, approved two rail projects with an estimated cost of 6,798 crore rupees to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travel, and minimize logistics costs.

The projects are — the construction of a new line between Errupalem and Namburu via Amaravati covering 57 km and the doubling of the Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga and Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur section covering 256 km.

Launch of the Weather Forecast at the Gram Panchayat level

The government on October 24, launched the Weather Forecast at the Gram Panchayat level in New Delhi. The initiative aims to empower rural

communities and enhance disaster preparedness at the grassroots level and will directly benefit farmers and villagers across the country.

21st Livestock Census Operation

The 21st Livestock Census Operation was launched by the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh in New Delhi on October 25. The Census will be conducted till February next year in collaboration with States and Union Territories.

New missile testing range gets approval

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a new missile testing range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh to strengthen the country's defence capabilities, particularly in testing tactical missile systems.

Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award

Actor Darasing Khurana received the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award for his work towards raising awareness around mental health issues as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion'.

Contract signed for procurement of Hovercrafts

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract, on October 24th, for the procurement of six Air Cushion Vehicles for the Indian Coast Guard at a total cost of 387.44 crore rupees. The ministry said, these amphibious vessels, also called 'hovercrafts,' will be procured under the Buy Indian category.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising day

October 24 is the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day. ITBP, which was raised after the 1962 Chinese aggression, has, a 90,000 personnel strong force primarily deployed to guard the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China apart from rendering a range of duties in the internal security domain and disaster management.

The 17th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition

The 17th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition will begin at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on October 25. The conference will mainly focus on standardization of urban mobility solutions and the integration of various modes of urban mobility. In the concluding session, cities will be awarded in eight different categories for best urban management.

Business/Economy

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India's expenditure on education is more than that of countries such as China and Japan, as per a UNESCO report. India earmarked about 4.1 percent to 4.6 percent of its GDP between 2015 and 2024 to boost education in the country, consistent with international benchmarks set by the UN Education 2030 Framework for Action.

A new Tarun Plus category created

The Government has increased the loan limit under the Prime Minister Mudra loan scheme from 10 lakhs rupees to 20 lakhs rupees. The new Tarun Plus category has been created under the scheme. This category will offer loans ranging from 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees for entrepreneurs who have repaid their previous Tarun loans. The increase was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the Union Budget for 2024-2025 in July.

Amitabh Chaudhry re-appointed MD and CEO of Axis Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Amitabh Chaudhry's re-appointment as the MD and CEO of Axis Bank for three years - effective January 1, 2025. Amitabh Chaudhry was first appointed as the CEO of the bank in January 2019.

Sports

India at the Under 23 Wrestling World Championship 2024

In wrestling, India bagged one Silver and a Bronze at the Under 23 Wrestling World Championship 2024 in Tirana, Albania last night. India's Anjly clinched Silver in the 59kg category, after losing to Solimiia Vynnyk of Ukraine in the final. Monika in the 68 kg scored a 5-3 victory over the Chinese opponent Xinze Du to grab a bronze medal.

Rani Rampal announces retirement.

Indian women's hockey legend Rani Rampal has announced her retirement as a player. In honour of Rani Rampal's remarkable contributions to Indian hockey, Hockey India retired her iconic No. 28 jersey.

Arjun Erigaisi's feat

In chess, Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has become only the second Indian, after the legendary Viswanathan Anand to cross the 2800 Elo rating mark with a win at the ongoing European Chess Club Cup in Serbia yesterday. Elo ratings are a standard measure of the strength of chess players.