

## International

### Russian President Putin announces plans to continue testing experimental intermediate-range ballistic missile.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced plans to continue testing an experimental intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, in combat conditions, despite international criticism. The Oreshnik (Hazel), reportedly a modified version of the RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile, was recently used to strike a rocket factory in Dnipro, Ukraine.

### Brazilian police indict former President Bolsonaro for alleged attempted coup.

Brazil's Federal Police have formally indicted former President Jair Bolsonaro and 36 others for crimes including an attempted coup, participation in a criminal organization, and other related offences.

The indictment followed an investigation into a violent insurrection after Bolsonaro lost the 2022 presidential election. According to the Federal Police, the defendants operated as members of an organized crime group, each assigned specific tasks, such as spreading disinformation, undermining the electoral system, and inciting the armed forces to be involved in the rebellion.

### Baku climate talks run into overtime amid row over climate finance.

Climate talks at Azerbaijan's Baku, scheduled to end on November 22, 2024, were extended by another day after the latest version of the draft agreement was deemed unacceptable by several developing countries.

The developed countries offered no more than \$250 billion by 2035 as the New Collective Quantified Goal for Climate Finance (NCQG) despite acknowledging that at least \$700 billion would be needed until 2030 to help developing countries.

### India dispatches 2<sup>nd</sup> consignment of Haemo-Dialysis machines to Pacific Islands

India has sent the second consignment of "Haemo-Dialysis machines with portable RO units" to the Pacific Islands as part of the

commitment made at the FIPIC Summit. The External Affairs Ministry said that three units have been sent to the Marshall Islands, and one unit each to Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Nauru.

### South Africa declares food-borne illnesses a National Disaster

South Africa has declared food-borne illnesses a national disaster following a recent surge in food poisoning cases that left dozens of children dead and hundreds hospitalised. According to its government, at least 22 children have died, prompting urgent measures. There are reports of nearly 900 cases of food-borne illnesses across all provinces in the country since September.

### Former Labour Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott dies.

Former Labour Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott died aged 86, following a battle with Alzheimer's. The former trade union activist and ex-merchant seaman served as MP for Kingston upon Hull East for 40 years and was a key part of the New Labour under Sir Tony Blair.

### Evacuation orders and air strikes displaced over 8.8 lakh people from their homes in Lebanon: UN

The United Nations said that evacuation orders and air strikes forced more than 8 lakh 80 thousand people to flee from their homes in Lebanon. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA said, those remaining in Lebanon face deteriorating food security.

The agency stated that more than 8 lakh 80 thousand people were displaced within the country, including more than 20,000 migrants who have been forced to flee both their homes and workplaces. The UN Refugee Agency reported that more than 5 lakh people left Lebanon for Syria and that more than half of them were children.

## National

### PM Modi proposes 7 key pillars to strengthen ties between India, 'CARICOM'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed seven key pillars to strengthen ties between

India and 'CARICOM' as he held talks with the Caribbean partner countries, focusing on areas such as economic cooperation, agriculture and food security, health and pharmaceuticals, and science and innovations

Mr. Modi, who arrived in Guyana — the first visit by an Indian head of State in more than 50 years — made the remarks as he joined leaders from the Caribbean partner countries for the second India-CARICOM Summit in Guyana.

### Centre launches Bhu-Neer portal

In a bid to improve groundwater management, the Central government launched the "Bhu-Neer" portal, a centralized platform for managing groundwater withdrawal permits.

Developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), "Bhu-Neer" is a centralized platform for managing groundwater withdrawal permits. The platform aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and sustainability in groundwater usage across the country. It replaces the older NOCAP system with advanced features designed to simplify the permit process and ensure seamless compliance with groundwater regulations.

### Govt selects 28 projects under Tomato Grand Challenge to enhance value chain.

The Union government has selected 28 projects under the Tomato Grand Challenge to address critical issues across the tomato value chain. The Tomato Grand Challenge was started last year and one thousand 376 ideas were received from students, faculty, industries and startups. Out of them 28 ideas have been selected and received fund and mentorship.

### Indian scientists identify new pathway for Monkeypox detection and diagnostics

Scientists from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have identified a new route to detect Monkeypox and develop diagnostic tools for the infection. Scientists have identified and characterized DNA sequences within the Monkeypox virus (MPV) genome. The Ministry noted that this identification, characterization, and targeting of unusual nucleic acid structures have therapeutic implications.

### Health Ministry signs MoU with BHU.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has signed an MoU with Banaras Hindu University and the Ministry of Education to provide support to the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) of BHU. The MoU enables the provision of a grant-in-aid to IMS, BHU by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in line with the new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. The provision of a grant to IMS will enhance the availability of affordable, state-of-the-art secondary and tertiary health care services to the people of the region.

### Business and Economy

### IMF approves third review of Sri Lanka's \$2.9 billion bailout

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the third review of Sri Lanka's \$2.9 billion bailout but warned that the economy remains vulnerable. In a statement, the global lender said it would release about \$333 million, bringing total funding to around \$1.3 billion, to the crisis-hit South Asian nation. It said signs of an economic recovery were emerging.

### Zepto raises \$350 mn in domestic funding round

Quick commerce start-up Zepto has raised \$350 million in its latest round, which included investments from Indian HNIs, family offices, and leading financial institutions at a flat valuation of \$5 billion.

The round included investments from Indian HNIs, family offices, and leading financial institutions. Zepto, which is ready to go public soon, in July raised \$665 million at a \$3.6 billion valuation, more than double from its last valuation.

### RBI nod for Central Bank of India's insurance foray in JV with Future Generali

The Central Bank of India has received Reserve Bank of India approval for its proposed foray into life and non-life insurance business through a joint venture with the Generali group. The RBI approved the bank's entry in the insurance business, through a joint venture with the Generali group under Future Generali India

Insurance Company and Future Generali India Life Insurance Company, subject to continuous compliance of conditions stipulated by it and approval of sectoral regulator IRDAI.

### Govt notifies telecom cyber security rules

The Central government has notified the telecom cyber security rules, that aim to safeguard India's communication networks and services, through a host of measures including specified timelines for telcos to report security incidents and make disclosures.

The rules also empower the central government/ its authorised agency to seek traffic data and any other data (other than the content of messages) from a telecom entity for the purpose of ensuring cyber security.

### Sports

#### China Masters 2024: Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy enter Men's doubles semifinal

India's Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have entered the men's doubles semifinal of the China Masters 2024 Badminton tournament. They defeated the Danish pair of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in the quarterfinal match 21-16, 21-19 in Shenzhen.

However, Lakshya Sen lost to Denmark's Anders Antonsen 18-21, 15-21 in the men's singles quarterfinal match.