

International

UNICEF Reports 14,500 Children Killed in Gaza

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has stated that one child is killed every hour in the Gaza Strip.

Since the start of the conflict, 14,500 children have been killed in Gaza, as per UNICEF's data.

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and about 250 taken hostage.

Maia Sandu Sworn in for 2nd Term as President of Moldova

Maia Sandu assumed office as the President of the Republic of Moldova for a second term.

She won the Moldovan presidential elections in 2020 and was re-elected in a runoff in November 2024.

South Korea Nominates Kwon Young-se to Head Emergency Committee

South Korea's ruling People Power Party (PPP) today named five-term lawmaker Kwon Young-se to head its emergency leadership committee tasked with managing the political fallout from President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment.

Kwon has been designated for the role following former PPP leader Han Dong-hoon's resignation on the 16th of this month, just two days after the National Assembly voted to impeach Yoon over the imposition of martial law on the 3rd of December.

Kwon served as the Yoon administration's first unification minister.

ADB Provides \$5 Million Grant for Vanuatu Earthquake Relief

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided 5 million dollars in disaster financing for emergency relief efforts in Vanuatu's capital Port Vila, following a 7.3-magnitude earthquake.

The Government of Vanuatu had requested international assistance. Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation made up of roughly 80 islands.

US: Kilauea Volcano Erupts Again in Hawaii

Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, started erupting again on Hawaii's Big Island.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said it is elevating Kilauea's volcano alert level from advisory to warning.

It's the second time the volcano has erupted this year. The most recent Kilauea eruption was in September.

Aisake Valu Eke Elected as New Prime Minister of Tonga

Aisake Valu Eke was elected as the new Prime Minister of Tonga. He will replace Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, who resigned on December 9.

Valu Eke was first elected to parliament in 2010 and served as the minister of finance between 2014 and 2017.

Important Days

National Consumer Day: 24th December

National Consumer Day is celebrated on the 24th of December to highlight the significance of consumer movement in the country.

It was on this day that the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 received presidential assent and was enacted.

The theme for this year is 'Virtual hearings and digital access to consumer justice.'

Good Governance Day (Sushashan Diwas): 25th December

Good Governance Day (Sushashan Diwas), observed every year on December 25 in India, is dedicated to raise awareness about the importance of accountability in government.

The occasion marks the birth anniversary of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one of India's most revered leaders and a former Prime Minister.

National

NHAI to Provide Cattle Shelters Along National Highways

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken on a pilot project to provide cattle shelters along the national highways to enhance road safety and avoid animal-related accidents.

With shelter areas ranging from 0.21 to 2.29 hectares, shelters under the pilot project will be strategically located to serve as safe spaces for stray cattle, reducing their presence on National Highways.

The initiative will be implemented on various National Highway stretches, including the UP and Haryana Border to the Rohna section of NH-334B, where shelters will be set up along the Kharkhoda Bypass.

President Droupadi Murmu Appoints New Governors in Five States

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed new governors in five states.

The Governor of Mizoram Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati will now be the new Governor of Odisha.

Former Union Minister General Vijay Kumar Singh has been appointed the Governor of Mizoram.

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, currently the Governor of Bihar, has been appointed the Governor of Kerala. He will succeed Arif Mohammed Khan, who will be the Governor of Bihar.

Former Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed the Governor of Manipur.

Over 90% Reduction in Spoofed International Calls from Indian Numbers in Two Months: Centre

The Ministry of Communications has said that over a 90 percent reduction has been witnessed in the number of spoofed international calls from Indian numbers in two months since the launch of the International Incoming Spoofed Calls Prevention System on the 22nd of October.

In the latest reports of December 2024, the spoofed calls identified and blocked with

Indian numbers have now dipped to about 6 lakhs from the 1.35 crore reported in October.

Business and Economy

Indian Economy is Recovering From Slowdown Witnessed in Second Quarter: RBI Bulletin

The Reserve Bank of India's monthly bulletin for December 2024 has indicated that the Indian economy is recovering from the a slowdown witnessed in the second quarter, driven by strong festival activity and a sustained upswing in rural demand.

As per the 'State of the Economy' article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, the prospects for agriculture and rural consumption are looking up with the brisk expansion of rabi sowing.

An article titled 'Government Finances 2024-25: A Half-Yearly Review' states that the Centre's revenue collections, comprising both tax and non-tax sources, were buoyant in the first half of the financial year 2024-25.

Sports

Ganemat Sekhon Clinches Second Consecutive National Title in Women's Skeet Competition

In the 67th National Shooting Championship, Ganemat Sekhon of Punjab clinched her second consecutive national title in the women's skeet competition in Delhi. In the individual women's final, she hit 50 out of 60 targets, comfortably defeating her state-mate Asees Chhina, who managed 46 hits to take silver. Olympian Raiza Dhillon secured bronze.

In men's skeet, Bhavtegh Singh Gill, fresh from his triumph at the World University Championships, claimed his first senior national title with an impressive 54 hits in the final. Fatehbir Singh Shergill of Air India secured silver with 51 hits, while Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan of Uttar Pradesh took bronze with 43 hits out of the first 50 targets.

India Defeats West Indies by 115 Runs in Second ODI

In women's cricket, India beat the West Indies by 115 runs in the second ODI at Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara. With this win, India clinched the three-match series 2-NIL with one game to spare.

Opting to bat first, India scored a total of 358 runs for a loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. For India, Harleen Deol scored her maiden ton with 115 runs in 103 balls.

In response, the West Indies were bowled out for just 243 runs in 46.2 overs.