

International

The Bald Eagle Is Officially the National Bird of the United States

The bald eagle, a symbol of the power and strength of the United States for more than 240 years, has officially become the country's national bird. The bald eagle has appeared on the Great Seal of the United States, which is used in official documents, since 1782, when the design was finalized. The seal is made up of the eagle, an olive branch, arrows, a flag-like shield, the motto "E Pluribus Unum" and a constellation of stars.

Ursa Major Sinks in the Mediterranean Sea

The largest cargo ship in the Russian military's logistics fleet, the Ursa Major, which had a capacity of 1,200 tons and was capable of carrying 120 vehicles on its deck, sank in the Mediterranean Sea after an explosion in its engine room.

National

The Foundation Stone Laid For the Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project

On the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the country's first ambitious and multipurpose Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. More than seven lakh farmer families of two thousand villages in 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh will benefit from this project. More importantly, it will improve the condition of the water level in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region, promote industrialisation, increase investment and tourism and provide employment opportunities.

Distribution of Over 58 Lakh Property Cards Under the SVAMITVA Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 58 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme on December 27. Under the scheme, a record of rights will be handed over to every property owner in the Village

Abadi or inhabited areas. According to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the SVAMITVA scheme will give the landowners proof of ownership, which can be used to acquire credit by enabling the monetisation of their properties. It will also help in reducing property-related disputes, improving comprehensive village-level planning, and boosting the collection of property tax.

Annual Malaria Cases Reduce by 97 Percent

According to the Health Ministry, the number of annual malaria cases declined from 7.5 crore at the time of independence to 20 lacs by 2023, with over a 97 percent reduction. India has exited from the World Health Organisation's High Burden to High Impact group in 2024, signifying a turning point in its fight against malaria. The government is working with the vision of becoming malaria-free by 2030, with comprehensive and multi-pronged strategies like the National Framework for Malaria Elimination and the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination.

100 Years of the Belagavi Congress Session

The Congress party is celebrating 100 years of the Belagavi Congress Session presided over by Mahatma Gandhi in 1924. A two-day event would take place at Belagavi, Karnataka, including a Congress conference and the unveiling of the Mahatma statue. Chief Minister Mr. Siddaramaiah has announced that a yearlong program is being organised to spread the message and ideals of Gandhiji.

"Ayush for All: Holistic Health Care Through National Ayush Mission" Film Series

Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav unveiled a film series titled 'Ayush for All: Holistic Health Care through National Ayush Mission' in the national capital, showcasing the remarkable progress and transformative impact of the National Ayush Mission. The minister said the film series is a step towards highlighting Ayush's pivotal role in reducing disease burden and promoting wellness across the nation.

‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’ conferred

On the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the ‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’ on 17 children for their exceptional achievements in seven categories in New Delhi today. The children, who hail from 14 states and union territories, were recognized for their bravery, innovation, and accomplishments in art and culture, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment. Each awardee received a medal, a certificate, and a citation booklet. Veer Bal Diwas is observed every year on December 26 to honor the unparalleled sacrifice and courage of the younger sons of the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh.

ISRO to Launch SpaDeX Mission

On December 30, 2024, ISRO will launch the SpaDeX mission, which is the launch of two small satellites to demonstrate docking in space. The SpaDeX mission consists of two satellites—SDX01 or Chaser and SDX02 or Target—with both designed to align in the same orbit, reduce the distance between each other, to join and transfer electrical power between them, and then finally, separate. Upon separation, payloads on board both the satellites will continue to function for two years. This technology is essential for India’s space ambitions such as landing an Indian on the Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station, etc. Through this mission, India is marching towards becoming the fourth country in the world to have space docking technology.

Rashtraparv Website and App Launched

On the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25, marking the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Defence Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the Rashtraparv website and app in New Delhi to provide information related to national events like Republic Day and

Independence Day celebrations, and Beating Retreat Ceremony to the general public. Information related to tableaux, tickets, parking, seating arrangements for such events will also be provided to citizens.

M T Vasudevan Nair No More

Noted writer M T Vasudevan Nair passed away on December 25, 2024. His literary achievements earned him the Jnanpith Award in 1995, India's highest literary honour. In 2005, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour.

Business/Economy

The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2023-24

On December 24, 2024, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the results of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2023-24 for the reference period October 2023 to September 2024. The ASUSE 2023-24 results highlight significant growth in establishments, employment, and productivity in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector, demonstrating the sector’s recovery from pandemic-related challenges and its resurgence with renewed momentum.

Inflows Into NRI, Deposit Accounts Surged to 11.9 Billion Dollars in April-October of FY 25

Inflows into non-resident Indian (NRI) deposit accounts increased to 11.9 billion dollars in April-October during the financial year 2025. This amount is nearly twice the corresponding figure of 6.1 billion dollars for the same period last year, as per the latest figures compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. The total outstanding NRI deposits as of October 2024 has now gone up to 162.7 billion dollars, compared to over 143 billion dollars during the same period last year. The NRI deposit schemes include foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits, and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits.

Daily Current Affairs

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Sports

Silver Medal for Martina Devi

At the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha, Martina Devi won a silver medal in the women's junior +87kg category. The 18-year-old from Manipur lifted a total of 225 kg to finish second. She also won a silver medal for her clean-and-jerk effort and a bronze for her snatch. Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental, World Cups and World Championships.

Jasprit Bumrah's Remarkable Feat

India's ace pacer, Jasprit Bumrah, achieved a remarkable feat in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings when he reached 904 rating points, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler, a record previously held by spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. According to the ICC, Bumrah has the chance to surpass this record during the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne.