

International

South Korean authorities impose travel ban on President Yoon Suk Yeol.

South Korean authorities have imposed a travel ban on President Yoon Suk Yeol, who is under investigation for his short-lived martial law declaration last Tuesday. Meanwhile, the order was lifted six hours later after the National Assembly voted to end it. The ban was imposed by the Justice Ministry shortly after the Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials (CIO) announced that it had submitted a request for the order.

Indian-origin artist Jasleen Kaur wins Turner Prize.

Indian-origin Scottish artist Jasleen Kaur has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition, “Alter Altar”, that reflects on plurality, personal and political themes.

At 38, Kaur was the youngest nominee for this year’s award that includes a cash prize of £25,000. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the prize. The other shortlisted artists included Pio Abad, Claudette Johnson and Delaine Le Bas.

At least 110 people killed in Haiti.

At least 110 people were massacred in a slum in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. The incident came after a gang leader appeared to have targeted people he suspected of causing his child’s illness through witchcraft. The National Human Rights Defence Network (RNDDH) reported that gang leader Monel Mikano Felix ordered the killings after a voodoo priest claimed elderly people in Wharf Jeremie had cursed his son.

The United Nations said the number of people killed in Haiti so far this year in spiralling gang violence had reached a staggering 5,000.

Over 77% of Earth’s land has become significantly drier in past 30 years: UN.

The United Nations has revealed that over 77 percent of the Earth’s land has become significantly drier in the past 30 years.

According to a study by the UN Science-Policy Interface, this alarming trend poses severe threats to global agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity.

The report found that Africa lost about 12 percent of its GDP due to increasing aridity between 1990 and 2015. It also estimated that Africa will lose about 16 percent of its GDP, and Asia close to 7 percent, in the next half-decade.

It noted that some crops will be particularly at risk. For example, maize yields in Kenya are projected to halve by 2050 if current trends continue.

National

Centre plans to appoint 2 lakh Bima Sakhis over next 3 years.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the union government is planning to appoint 2 lakh Bima Sakhis or insurance agents over the next three years. Finance Minister said, each woman insurance agent volunteer will receive a stipend of 7,000 rupees per month in the first year, 6,000 rupees per month in the second year, and 5,000 rupees per month in the third year.

The ‘Bima Sakhi Yojana’ initiative by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) aims to empower women aged 18-70 years, who have completed Class 10.

INS Tushil commissioned into Indian Navy in Russia.

INS Tushil, the latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate has been commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Russia.

INS Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6, of which six are already in service – three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad.

INS Tushil is designed for blue water operations across the spectrum of naval warfare

in all four dimensions -- air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic.

15,000 drones to be provided to women self-help groups under Namu Drone Didi Central Sector Scheme.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed that 15 thousand drones were approved to be provided to the Women Self Help Groups under NAMO Drone Didi Central Sector scheme during the three years ending 2026. The ministry has stated that out of 15 thousand drones approved, the first 500 drones were procured by Lead Fertiliser companies in 2023-24.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued Type Certificates for 85 UAS models from 56 manufacturers. Out of which 56 Type certificates were granted for the agricultural drones.

Over 7 crore 70 lakh cases resolved in 2023 through National Lok Adalats, says Justice B R Gavai.

Supreme Court Judge and Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Justice B.R. Gavai, has highlighted several initiatives launched by NALSA to provide legal aid to vulnerable groups, including disaster victims, tribal communities and victims of trafficking and acid attacks.

Justice Gavai also mentioned that over 7 crore 70 lakh cases were resolved this year through three National Lok Adalats organized by NALSA.

President Murmu to confer National Panchayat Awards 2024.

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Panchayat Awards 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. This year, a total of 45 awardees have been selected under various categories, reflecting a wide spectrum of achievements in grassroots governance and community development. These awards aim to inspire other panchayats to adopt best practices and contribute to the holistic development of rural India.

The National Panchayat Awards 2024 encompass categories such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, and Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar.

Business and Economy

NABARD provides financial support for development of Tribal areas.

The Centre said that NABARD is giving monetary support for development of tribal areas under its Tribal Development Fund (TDF) and 1029 projects have been sanctioned in the past 18 years. These projects are aimed at providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to tribal families.

The TDF scheme was launched in 2005-06 and since then 6.29 lakh families have benefited from it. In the last three years, the number of agricultural loan accounts of small and marginal farmers has increased to 13.06 crores in 2023-24.

Sanjay Malhotra appointed as new RBI Governor.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sanjay Malhotra's name as the next governor for the Reserve Bank of India. He has been appointed to the post for a period of three years starting from the 11th of this month. Mr. Malhotra will succeed Shaktikant Das. The Rajasthan Cadre IAS officer of the 1990 batch, Mr. Malhotra is presently serving as Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

FDI inflows into India cross \$1 trillion.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India have crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period, firmly establishing the country's reputation as a safe and key investment destination globally.

According to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the cumulative amount of FDI,

including equity, reinvested earnings and other capital, stood at \$1,033.40 billion during the said period.

About 25 per cent of the FDI came through the Mauritius route. It was followed by Singapore (24 per cent), the US (10 per cent), the Netherlands (7 per cent), Japan (6 per cent), the UK (5 per cent), UAE (3 per cent) and Cayman Islands, Germany and Cyprus accounted for 2 per cent each. India received USD 177.18 billion from Mauritius, USD 167.47 billion from Singapore and USD 67.8 billion from the US during the period under review.

The key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals

Sports

Kush Maini becomes first Indian racer to win Formula 2 Constructors' Championship

Formula Two driver Kush Maini had finished 13th in the drivers' standings in his second Formula 2 season and made history by clinching the Constructors' Championship with Invicta Racing at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. He is the first from India to win an FIA Constructors' World Championship, despite having an inconsistent season. He played a pivotal role in Invicta Racing's success, securing five podiums, including a race win in Hungary.

World Chess Championship: Indian challenger D. Gukesh lost 12th game to Ding Liren of China

Indian challenger D. Gukesh lost the 12th game to defending champion Ding Liren of China, levelling the World Chess Championship match in Singapore. Gukesh had been ahead by one point after his second win on Sunday, following seven consecutive draws. Liren's victory today tied the score at 6 points each, with two games remaining in the 14-round classical format, requiring 1.5 points to win the title.

India bags six medals at World Pickleball Championship

India produced a stellar performance at the Hong Kong leg of the World Pickleball Championship, securing a total of six medals, including one gold, three silvers, and two bronze. The duo of Vanshik Kapadia and Vrushali Thakare clinched the gold medal in the 19+ open mixed doubles category.

Kuldip Mahajan won a silver partnering South Korea's Kim Eung Gwon in the 19+ open mixed doubles.

India beat Sri Lanka 5-Nil in deaf bilateral cricket series in Delhi.

The Indian deaf cricket team achieved a dominant 5-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka in the bilateral ODI Deaf Cricket Series, held from December 2 to 8 in Delhi. The final match ended with a thrilling 13-run victory for India. India set a target of 289 runs, getting bowled out in 49.5 overs. Sri Lanka fought hard but fell short, managing 276 runs in 48.4 overs.