

International

184 Nations Meet in Geneva to Finalize Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution

In Geneva, negotiators from 184 countries have gathered to make a strong global treaty to stop plastic pollution. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) is underway in Geneva to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. As per the UN Trade and Development, in 2023, global plastic production reached 436 million metric tons, while trade in plastics has surpassed 1.1 trillion dollars, accounting for five per cent of global merchandise trade.

Bangladesh Elections to be Held in February Next Year

Bangladesh's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin has said that the upcoming 13th Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) elections will be held in the first half of February next year. The schedule may be announced in early December, two months before the elections.

Former Chadian PM Succes Masra Sentenced to 20 Years

Former Chadian Prime Minister Succes Masra was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a criminal court. Chad's criminal court found him guilty of inciting the public to hatred and hostility. He was arrested in May after a government probe alleged that he incited people to violence, which led to the death of 42 people in clashes in Mandakao village in the southwestern province of Logone Occidental.

National

Defence Minister Lays Foundation Stone for BEML Rail Hub

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone for the BEML Rail Hub for manufacturing project worth 1,800 crore rupees in Madhya Pradesh. The facility, described as the 'Brahma' of rail coach manufacturing, will be set up on over 60 hectares of land in Umaria village of Raisen district. It is expected to provide employment to more than 5,000 people. The unit will manufacture coaches for Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Metro trains.

Skyroot Test Fires India's Largest Privately Developed Rocket Stage

Space start-up firm Skyroot Aerospace has successfully completed a static test firing of the rocket's Stage 1 solid fuel booster, made from advanced carbon composite materials. This successful static fire test marks a crucial step forward in validating the performance and reliability of Vikram-1's first stage, which provides the powerful thrust needed to lift the rocket and its payload into orbit.

The static test, conducted at the spaceport under the aegis of ISRO, validated the performance of the 30-tonne booster stage of Skyroot's Vikram-1, which is targeted for its maiden flight later this year.

NITI Aayog Launches Portal for 'Work for Viksit Bharat'

NITI Aayog has officially launched the 'Work for Viksit Bharat' portal for recruitment of consultants and young professionals in diverse sectors, including agriculture, climate change, data analysis, industry and foreign investment, health and more. The newly launched portal, accessible at workforbharat.niti.gov.in, offers opportunities for various roles, from young professionals to senior consultants. The initiative seeks to bring skilled individuals into the policymaking and development ecosystem to contribute directly to India's growth strategy under the Viksit Bharat vision.

Ex-CJI DY Chandrachud's Upcoming Book Talks About Understanding Relevance of the Constitution

Penguin Random House has announced the forthcoming publication of 'Why the Constitution Matters' by Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired as the 50th Chief Justice of India in November 2024.

The publisher said that Justice Chandrachud's book, which will be published at the end of August 2025, explores the enduring relevance and transformative power of the Indian Constitution.

Business and Economy

ICICI Bank Reports Lowest Attrition Rate

ICICI Bank has reported the lowest employee attrition rate among large private sector lenders in the last three financial years, reflecting higher stickiness due to competitive remuneration and a better working environment. The employee attrition rate at the bank declined to 18% in FY25 from 24.5% in FY24.

HDFC Bank has recorded an employee attrition rate of 22.6 per cent in FY25, compared to 26.9 per cent in FY24. The attrition was 25.5 per cent for Axis Bank, down from 28.8 per cent in FY24, and Kotak Mahindra Bank's manpower exit rate fell to 33.3 per cent from 39.6 per cent in the previous year.

KSFE, First Miscellaneous NBFC in India to Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Business Turnover

The Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) has achieved a significant milestone. It is now the first miscellaneous non-banking financial company in India to reach a business turnover of one lakh crore rupees. It posted a profit of Rs 512 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year, confirming its status as a consistently profitable public sector enterprise.

AU Small Finance Bank Must Fulfil One Precondition to Become Universal Lender

AU Small Finance Bank is set to become a universal bank, a fresh one from RBI in almost 11 years, pending promoter Sanjay Agarwal's transfer of his 22% stake to a holding company within 18 months. Converting the promoter's stake to a non-operative financial holding company (NOFHC) is a precondition for the license, as per the RBI's in-principle approval.

Weaver Services to Buy Centrum Housing Finance

Weaver Services, backed by Gaja Capital, is set to acquire a 75% stake in Centrum Housing Finance for ₹600 crore. Weaver Services, founded by former HDFC executives (including its M&A head Satrajit Bhattacharya), will acquire 75% of Centrum Housing Finance for ₹600 crore. This puts the enterprise valuation of the mortgage lender at ₹800 crore, about 2 times the company's adjusted net worth.

PNB Set to Sell NPAs Worth Rs 5,000 Crore to ARCs

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has identified about 100 non-performing asset (NPA) accounts for sale to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) during the current financial year. As per the PNB MD and CEO Ashok Chandra, the book size will be somewhere around Rs 4,000-5,000 crore.

Sports

India Hosts World Athletics Bronze-Level Continental Tour for First Time

The World Athletics Bronze-Level Continental Tour 2025 event was hosted for the first time in the country at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar of Odisha.

The one-day meet witnessed 160 women and men athletes from 17 countries. This included 93 from India competing in 18 track and field events, including the 100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m races, javelin throw, and other disciplines.

Asia Rugby U-20 Sevens: China Wins Women's Title, Hong Kong Lift Men's

In the Asia Rugby Under-20 Sevens men's final, Hong Kong defeated Sri Lanka to claim the championship title. In the women's category China thrashed Hong Kong to win the title of the championship.

In the third-place playoff, the Indian women's team, led by Bhumika Shukla, defeated Uzbekistan in a closely fought match, winning 12-5 to claim third place.

Asian Surfing Championships: Ramesh Budhial Wins Medal in Open Men's Category

In the Asian Surfing Championships, Ramesh Budhial became the first Indian to win a medal, securing bronze in the Open Men's category in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Budhial, also the first Indian to reach the medal round, scored 12.60 points and finished third. Korea's Kanoa Heejae took gold with 15.17 points.

Rishabh Yadav Wins India's First Medal in World Games 2025

In the World Games 2025, Rishabh Yadav etched his name into the history books by clinching India's first individual medal, securing a bronze in the men's compound archery event, in Chengdu, China. The 22-year-old, seeded 10th, outclassed senior teammate and multiple World Cup gold medallist Abhishek Verma 149-147 in a high-quality bronze medal match.