

International

Britain becomes the first European nation to join the CPTPP.

Britain became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member of the bloc. Established in 2018, the bloc safeguards against Chinese hegemony in the region, providing British companies access to a market of over 500 million people, contributing over 15% of the world's GDP. The bloc comprises Canada and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Mikheil Kavelashvili elected the next President of Georgia.

Mikheil Kavelashvili has been elected the next President of Georgia, amid growing resentment over the government's postponement of the European Union accession process until 2028. Mikheil Kavelashvili is a former footballer and MP from the ruling Georgian Dream party. Kavelashvili, the only candidate for the job, was chosen in Parliament by a direct ballot of a 300-member electoral college made up of MPs and representatives of local government. 224 out of 225 members of Georgia's electoral college voted for him. The election process took place according to the constitutional changes that ended the direct election of the President and took effect this year.

Impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea.

In South Korea, the Parliament today voted to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his short-lived martial law declaration earlier this month. Yoon would become the second President in South Korea's history to be removed from office through impeachment, after former President Park Geun-hye in 2017. After this impeachment by the Parliament, President Yoon's powers will be suspended until the Constitutional Court decides whether to reinstate or remove him from office.

Martyred Intellectuals Day observed in Bangladesh

Bangladesh observed the Martyred Intellectuals Day to mark the day of horror when Pakistani forces killed hundreds of intellectuals including teachers, doctors, journalists, and others in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh in 1971. On 14 December 1971, just two days before Bangladesh got liberation, the Pakistani occupation forces with the help of their local collaborators named Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, went on a torture and killing spree of the most prominent intellectuals of the country.

National

Geoscience Museum Inaugurated.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Geoscience Museum at the Victoria Market Building in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The GSI Geoscience Museum is a unique initiative by the Geological Survey of India to showcase the wonders of Earth sciences while promoting scientific temperament and knowledge-sharing among the public. The state-of-the-art GSI Geoscience Museum is set to become a hub for geoscience education and public engagement.

Sherqui-La Victory Day celebrated.

To mark the historic liberation of the strategic Sherqui-La pass during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the local community, celebrated Sherqui-La Victory Day, at Silmoo, in Kargil. The celebration reaffirmed the bonding between the Indian Army and the people of Kargil and commemorated a momentous victory while strengthening the bond of patriotism and community.

The tenth edition of the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo concludes.

In Uttarakhand, the tenth edition of the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo concluded in Dehradun. A record 12 thousand delegates registered in this edition of the world-class event. 54 countries participated in this event, in which 300 foreign delegates participated in this program and showed their appreciation for AYUSH. The ninth edition of the event was held in Goa last year, where 5,102 delegates had registered.

The 3rd edition of the Mega event, the Viraasat Sari Festival 2024

The 3rd edition of the Mega event, the Viraasat Sari Festival 2024, began at Handloom Haat, Janpath, in New Delhi. The fair has brought together handloom weavers, sari designers, and sari lovers and buyers across the country as per the Union Textiles Ministry. The handloom sector is one of the key sectors employing a large number of people, especially women. The handloom sector of India engages more than 35 lakh persons.

Subsidized helicopter route connecting Jammu-Poonch-Mendhar.

In a welcome development for the people of the Mendhar sector in Poonch district, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a new subsidized helicopter route connecting Jammu-Poonch-Mendhar with an additional option of Jammu-Mendhar-Jammu route. The subsidized helicopter service in the Mendhar sector aims to enhance connectivity in the remote areas of the region, particularly those facing accessibility challenges.

The 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT

Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi participated virtually in the 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT held in Japan. The 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT serves as a testament to the growing commitment among regional and global powers to strengthen defence ties and promote a peaceful, stable, and secure Indo-Pacific. The Summit brought together Army Chiefs and Senior Generals from several nations, including Japan, the United States, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea.

Presentation of the prestigious President's Colour

At the event of the presentation of the prestigious President's Colour, a symbol of service, renunciation, and sacrifice to the Chhattisgarh Police in Raipur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Chhattisgarh Police is carrying out the anti-naxal campaign with full bravery and dedication to fulfill the resolve of the Central Government to make Chhattisgarh Naxal-free before 31st March 2026.

Business/Economy

Indian capital markets witness heavy inflows

Foreign investors poured in nearly 28,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets in the first two weeks of December. As per the depositories data, the foreign portfolio investors, or FPIs, brought in 22,766 crore rupees into the Indian equities markets and 4,814 crore rupees into the debt market. This follows heavy outflows in the last few months. So far this year, FPIs have invested 1.2 lakh crore rupees into the Indian capital markets.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India record their highest-ever aggregate net profit

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India have recorded their highest-ever aggregate net profit of around 1 lakh 41 thousand crore in the financial year 2023-24. The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio has declined, dropping to 3.12 percent in September this year. This is a steep decline from the peak GNPA of 14.58 percent in March 2018. The Finance Ministry revealed that the PSBs have also contributed significantly to shareholder returns, paying a total dividend of almost 62 thousand crore rupees over the past three years. The ministry hailed this remarkable financial growth of the sector's operational efficiency, improved asset quality, and stronger capital base.

Sports

TB Mukt Bharat Awareness Cricket Match

The Lok Sabha Speaker XI won against the Rajya Sabha Chairman XI in the TB Mukt Bharat Awareness Cricket Match at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The friendly cricket match featured Members of Parliaments across political parties. The cricket match aimed at raising awareness and advocated a tuberculosis-free country.