

International

Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected South African President

South Africa's Parliament has re-elected Cyril Ramaphosa as the country's President following a landmark coalition deal between the governing African National Congress (ANC) and opposition parties. The new government of national unity combines Mr. Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA), and smaller parties.

UNHCR says record 120 million people displaced globally

The United Nations has said that a record-breaking 120 million people were living in a forcibly displaced status globally between the beginning of 2023 and May 2024. The new data was revealed in the Global Trends report by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The report said that around 117.3 million people remained forcibly displaced at the end of 2023, having been forced to flee persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told reporters that conflict remains an important driver of mass displacement. Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Palestine, Congo, Somalia, Haiti, Syria and Armenia were among the countries mentioned where conflict and violence had forced people to seek safety elsewhere.

India sends humanitarian aid to Papua New Guinea

India has dispatched 19 tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief supplies to Papua New Guinea's Enga province, which was impacted by a devastating landslide. The assistance is part of \$1 million aid package to the island nation, announced last month by India. The aid comprises 13 tons of disaster relief material including temporary shelter, water tanks, hygiene kits, meals ready to eat and 6 tons of emergency medicine and medical equipment, including dengue and malaria diagnostic kits and baby food.

US, Ukraine sign long-term security agreement on sidelines of G7 Summit

The US and Ukraine have signed an agreement laying out Washington's long-term security relationship with Kyiv on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy. US President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed the bilateral deal, which comes after 15 countries concluded similar long-term security agreements with Kyiv, including Britain, France, and Germany. The agreement broadly regulates cooperation between the two countries at all possible levels, including with regard to military equipment, training, and manoeuvres.

'Lal', 'Mursan' & 'Hilsa': Three Mars craters named after Indian physicist Devendra Lal, towns in UP, Bihar

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named three newly discovered craters on Mars, situated within the Tharsis volcanic region, after a prominent figure in India's science community and Indian locations. These craters were officially designated based on recommendations from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, India, marking a significant tribute to both scientific achievement and cultural heritage. The largest of these craters, spanning approximately 65 kilometres in diameter, has been named "Lal Crater" in honour of Professor Devendra Lal. Professor Lal, who served as the director of PRL from 1972 to 1983, made substantial contributions to the fields of cosmic ray physics and space research. Adjacent to Lal Crater are two smaller craters: "Mursan Crater" and "Hilsa Crater." Mursan Crater takes its name from the town of Mursan in Uttar Pradesh, India, while Hilsa Crater is named after the town of Hilsa in Bihar, India.

National

Sagar Defence Engineering bags DRDO, Navy contract for development of underwater-launched UAV

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with the Navy, has awarded a contract to the Pune-based

defence manufacturing firm, Sagar Defence Engineering, to develop an underwater-launched unmanned aerial vehicle (ULUAV).

The agreement, aimed at boosting India's underwater capabilities, pertains to developing a ULUAV that will launch from a submarine and operate autonomously, with the ability to land on another moving vessel. It will also come equipped with technologies such as cameras, sonar, and other sensors to collect data. The ULUAV will have high endurance and a long range, and hence, it will have a huge surprise element advantage.

Prerna Sthal to be inaugurated on June 16

Prerna Sthal, an earmarked area inside Parliament where key statues, including those of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhim Rao Ambedkar, have been moved away from their existing positions, will be inaugurated on June 16. The relocation was part of the plan to redevelop the Parliamentary precincts after the construction of the new Parliament building.

Srinivas Hegde, Chandrayaan-1 mission director, passes away

Srinivas Hegde, who was the mission director of India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1, passed away. Hegde, who was with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for more than three decades, was associated with several landmark missions undertaken by the space agency. He had participated in tens of space missions as a member of the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), formerly known as the ISRO Satellite Centre (Isac).

Business and Economy

TCS, HDFC Bank, Airtel, and Infosys among the Kantar BrandZ most valuable global brands report for 2024

Four Indian companies, namely TCS, HDFC Bank, Airtel and Infosys have secured positions on the list of the 100 most valuable global brands in this year's 'BrandZ' report. In the 2024 list, TCS has been ranked the 46th most valuable global brand, with a valuation of around \$44.8 billion. It is followed by HDFC Bank, in the 47th spot, with a brand value of approximately \$43.3 billion. At 73 is Airtel,

valued at around \$25.3 billion. Next, in the 74th spot, is Infosys, with its brand value of around \$24.7 billion. The cumulative brand value of all Indian brands on the Top 100 list is over \$130 billion. For the third year running, Apple has topped the list as the world's most valuable brand. It has a brand value of over \$1 trillion. Google is second on the list, with a total brand value of around \$753.5 billion. Microsoft occupies the third position and has a brand value of \$712.9 billion. They are followed by Amazon (\$576.6 billion) and McDonald's (\$221.9 billion) in fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

Ambuja Cements to acquire Panna Cement for ₹10,422 crore

Ambuja Cements Ltd. had signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of 100% shares of Panna Cement Industries Ltd. (PCIL) from its existing promoter group – namely P. Pratap Reddy and family, at an enterprise value of ₹10,422 crore. The acquisition will be fully funded through internal accruals, the Adani Group company said.

May wholesale inflation increases to 15-month high on food prices

Inflation in India's wholesale prices accelerated to a 15-month high of 2.61% in May, more than double April's pace, with food inflation surging to a 10-month peak of 7.4% driven by steeper prices for vegetables, fruits, pulses and cereals, and a resurgence of price rises in manufactured products after 14 months of deflation.

Exports grew 9%, but trade gap widened to 7-month high in May

India's goods exports grew 9.1% to \$38.13 billion in May, while imports rose 7.7% to \$61.91 billion, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said. However, despite exports growing faster than imports, the merchandise trade deficit surged to a seven-month high of \$23.78 billion in May. This was 5.5% higher than the deficit recorded in May 2023 and 24.5% over April's trade gap of \$19.1 billion, which in turn was the highest in four months.

Mumbai, Delhi luxury real estate among top 5 globally: Knight Frank

According to Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index January-March 2024', Mumbai and Delhi were among the top five global cities that recorded an increase in their average annual house prices, while Bengaluru witnessed a slight drop in prime residential or luxury homes in the January-March quarter of the calendar year 2024. In the last 12 months, Mumbai city witnessed a 11.5% rise in luxury real estate prices, reaching the third spot globally, after Manila and Tokyo. Delhi witnessed a rise of 10.5 percent in house prices during the quarter and was in the fifth position.

LIC increases holding in Dr. Reddy's

Life Insurance Corporation of India's holding in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has crossed 5%, with the institutional investor purchasing more than 1.08 lakh shares of the drugmaker. The shares were acquired from the open market, as an investment function, at an average price of ₹6,059.82 each. Consequently, the holding increased from 4.95% to 5.01%. In terms of number of shares, LIC holds 83,69,879 shares of Dr. Reddy's.

Sports

R. Ashwin reveals cricketing journey in his autobiography "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story"

Veteran India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, in collaboration with author Sidharth

Monga, has released his experience-filled cricketing journey in his autobiography titled "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story." The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). Ashwin was also a member of India's 2011 World Cup-winning squad, and has also won two Indian Premier League (IPL) titles and a Champions League T20 title with CSK.

Divya Deshmukh wins FIDE World Junior Girls' Chess Championship 2024

India's Divya Deshmukh has won the 2024 FIDE's World Junior Girls' Chess Championship after beating Bulgaria's Beloslava Krasteva in the final round at the Gift City Club in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Divya beat Krasteva in the 10th round with just 26 moves to claim her maiden U-20 title. She finished unbeaten in the championship by winning nine of her games while drawing the other two.

Euro Cup 2024 to kick-start on June 15

The 2024 season of the European Football Championship, also known as Euro Cup 2024, kicked off in Germany on June 15. A total of 24 teams will be vying for the cup. Italy are the defending champions after they defeated England in the final of the previous edition of the Euro Cup, which was held in 2021, a delay in the year due to COVID-19 pandemic. Germany goes into the tournament with the most titles (3), tied with Spain, while Georgia is the only team making its debut.