

International

The rising volcanic activity of Mount Kanlaon

The Philippines ordered local government units to complete the evacuation of people within the six-kilometer danger zone around Mount Kanlaon volcano amid rising activity. Mount Kanlaon on the island of Negros in central Philippines erupted on the 9th of December. The eruption spewed a voluminous smoke over 4,000 meters into the sky.

Bangladesh celebrates its Victory Day

Bangladesh celebrated its Victory Day on December 16. It was on this day in 1971, that the country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long War of Liberation. The nation took a renewed pledge to translate into reality the hopes and aspirations of the War of Liberation and the dreams of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices to liberate their beloved motherland from the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

National

Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passes away

Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passed away in the United States on December 15. Ustad Zakir Hussain was born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai. As the eldest son of the illustrious tabla player Allah Rakha, he was naturally drawn towards music from a very young age. In a career spanning six decades, Hussain won five Grammy Awards, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year. Hussain received the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

The nation celebrates Vijay Diwas

The nation celebrated Vijay Diwas on December 16 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. It was on this day in 1971, that the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini. The end of the war also resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.

Fourth National Conference of Chief Secretaries

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the fourth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi. Chief Secretaries, senior officials of all States and Union Territories, and domain experts, among others, attended the conference.

The conference aimed to further strengthen the partnership between the Centre and the State Governments, with a focus on enhancing cooperative federalism and ensuring better coordination to achieve faster growth and development.

The Embassy of Moldova inaugurated in New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi, jointly inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi. Moldova also signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and officially joined the ISA.

State's first semiconductor assembly inaugurated in Gujarat.

In Gujarat, Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil inaugurated the state's first semiconductor assembly and testing outsourced plant at Surat yesterday. Surat's Suthi Semicon has set up a plant at Bagumra in Palsana taluka, investing 840 crore rupees. The plant will produce three

lakh semiconductor chips per day. Electronic chip production has already started in this plant.

Desert tourism circuit planned in Gujarat

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled plans to establish a desert tourism circuit shortly to boost tourism in Kutch. The Chief Minister said that the state government is planning to establish a desert tourism circuit from Dhordo so that tourists coming for the Rannotsav can also visit other places like Matana Madh, Kalo Dungar, Narayan Sarovar, Mandvi by direct bus service. The Rannotsav has officially started from November 11th and will be held till March 15th, 2025.

Business/Economy

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)eases in November.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)eased to 1.89 percent in November, as prices of food items, especially vegetables turned cheaper, as per the government data released on December 16. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 2.36 percent in October 2024. It was 0.39 percent in November, last year. As per the data, inflation in food items eased to 8.63 percent in November, as against 13.54 percent in October. The decline was led by a dip in vegetable inflation which stood at 28.57 percent, as against 63.04 percent in October.

The fiscal deficit of the central government to be 4.8 percent of GDP for FY25

The fiscal deficit of the central government is projected to be 4.8 per cent of GDP for FY25, slightly below the budgeted estimate of 4.9 per cent, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings. The improvement is attributed to healthy tax collections, despite certain shortfalls.

The report also noted that the Gross tax revenue has seen strong performance in goods and

services tax (GST) and income tax collections. These gains have helped negate the impact of weaker collections in corporate tax and union excise duties.

Cargo promotion scheme 'Jalvahak' unveiled

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, unveiled the cargo promotion scheme 'Jalvahak' to boost cargo movement on three national waterways. Jalvahak is aimed at incentivising the movement of long-haul cargo via national waterways on the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Barak rivers. The cargo promotion scheme provides a direct incentive to the cargo owners to transport their goods via inland waterways for a distance of more than 300 km.

Sports

Bastar Olympics

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today attended the closing ceremony of the Bastar Olympics at Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar. During the ceremony, eight teams performed an impressive march-past. This also included a team of surrendered Naxalites. More than one lakh fifty thousand players participated in the Bastar Olympics. About three thousand players displayed their talent in its divisional-level competition.

India wins the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024

In hockey, India won the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 championship in Muscat, Oman. In the summit clash, the Indian team defeated China 3-2 in a penalty shootout to successfully defend its title. India won their maiden Women's Hockey Junior Asia Cup title last year by defeating the Republic of Korea. India's Deepika Sehrawat, with 12 goals ranked the top scorer of the tournament.

Daily Current Affairs

(16th December 2024)

Mumbai wins the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024

In Domestic Cricket, Mumbai won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024. In the final match, Mumbai registered a five-wicket victory over Madhya Pradesh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. It was Mumbai's second title win. In 2022, Mumbai clinched its maiden title against Himachal Pradesh. Suryansh Shedge won the Player of the Match award in the final for his overall performance, while Mumbai's Ajinkya Rahane was named the man of the series.

Women's Premier League, 2025 auctions

In the Women's Premier League, 2025 auctions which were held today, Deandra Dottin, Simran Shaikh, G Kamalini, and Prema Rawat returned with the highest bids. The auction took place at ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru. The biggest story of the auctions was the big deals for uncapped, talented Indian players. Mumbai batter Simran emerged as the costliest uncapped player roped in by Gujarat Giants for 1.9 crore rupees.