

International

COP29: Baku Call launched on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery

The COP29 Presidency launched the Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery (BCCAP) - an initiative addressing the urgent link between climate change, conflict, and humanitarian needs. It recognizes that climate impacts, such as water scarcity, food insecurity, and displacement, can fuel conflict, particularly in vulnerable regions. The Call was introduced by Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov at a high-level panel.

Measles cases surge worldwide, infecting 10.3 million people in 2023: WHO

The World Health Organization has reported a significant surge in measles cases worldwide in 2023. According to a newly released report by the WHO, 10.3 million cases of measles were reported globally last year, an increase of 20 percent from 2022. The report said that nearly 107,500 people died from measles worldwide in 2023, with children under the age of 5 being hit the hardest.

Measles is a highly infectious virus, often characterized by a distinctive red, spotty rash that starts on the face and spreads downward, sometimes merging into larger patches.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un orders mass production of suicide attack drones.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered the mass production of suicide attack drones. Mr. Kim supervised the tests of drones designed to hit both land and sea targets. Suicide drones are explosive-carrying aerial vehicles designed to be deliberately crashed into enemy targets. North Korea unveiled its suicide drones for the first time in August.

Brazil's Valdecy Urquiza appointed new Interpol chief.

Brazil's police commissioner Valdecy Urquiza has been elected as the new Secretary General of Interpol or International Criminal Police Organization. Urquiza took over from the incumbent, Jurgen Stock. Stock has been at the helm of the world's largest police organisation for the past 10 years.

London is world's top city brand for second consecutive year: Brand Finance Global City Index.

London has again topped the Brand Finance Global City Index 2024, boasting an impressive score of 90.9 out of 100. London, Paris, and New York City retain the top 3 spots in second annual Brand Finance Global City Index 2024. Tokyo and Dubai ascend to 4th and 5th positions among top 100 city brands.

National

Nepal starts exporting energy to Bangladesh with Indian grid support.

In a first, Nepal began exporting electricity to Bangladesh by using India's electricity grid. The power flow was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal along with the Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal, Dipak Khadka and the Energy Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh Fouzal Kabir Khan.

The Centre earlier announced its decision to facilitate the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh, through the Indian grid with an export of up to 40 MW of power during the visit of the former Nepal Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India last year.

National Press Day 2024

National Press Day is being celebrated across the country on November 16th to honour the essential role of a free and responsible press in society. It was on this day in 1966 that the Press Council of India began its operations as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not unduly influenced or threatened. The theme for this year's event is "Changing Nature of the Press".

Business and Economy

S&P Global Ratings projects 6.5-7% growth for India's GDP till FY 2026-2027.

Driven by infrastructure development and increased consumption, India's GDP is projected to grow between 6.5 to 7 per cent annually in the next three fiscals up to 2027.

S&P Global Ratings has said this in its latest global bank outlook report. The new report by the agency added that structural improvements and good economic prospects will support the resilience of India's financial institutions. It added that higher demand coupled with stronger bank capitalisation should boost bank loan growth and the RBI's regulatory clampdown will strengthen the financial system in the medium term.

NITI Aayog's WEP, partners with Urban Company to support women MSMEs

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) under its award to reward initiative, launched a pilot program with Urban Company to support women MSMEs to scale up their businesses in the beauty and wellness sector.

The Aayog said that women entrepreneurs will be offered training across six key ecosystem needs of entrepreneurial growth. These are skilling, legal and compliance, access to finance, market, and business development services along with mentorship and networking.

Moody's predicting 7.2% GDP growth for India economy.

Moody's Ratings has predicted India's economic growth to expand 7.2 per cent in the current calendar year ending December 31. The rating agency said the country's economy is growing robustly and has the potential to sustain high growth rates as strong private sector financial health reinforces a virtuous economic cycle.

In the report, it noted that the Indian economy is in a sweet spot, with the mix of solid growth and moderating inflation. It forecasts 7.2 per cent growth for calendar year 2024, followed by 6.6 per cent in 2025 and 6.5 per cent in 2026.

Quick Commerce captures nearly half of kirana sales.

According to the report by Datum Intelligence, the quick commerce market size is expected to reach \$40 billion by 2030, a jump from \$6.1 billion in 2024. Nearly half (46 per cent) of the respondents report reduced spending at kirana shops, indicating a shift in customer behaviour towards quick commerce platforms.

Quick commerce refers to the delivery of consumer items in 10-30 minutes. Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy Instamart, and Flipkart Minutes are among the top quick commerce platforms in India.

The quick commerce market is projected to capture approximately \$1.28 billion of kirana sales by 2024, accounting for 21 per cent of total sales on these platforms.

Sports

India beat South Africa in 4th T20I.

India defeated South Africa by a margin of 135 runs in the fourth and final T20 International at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. With the win, India have won the four-match series 3-1. Opting to bat first, India posted a huge total of 283 for the loss of one wicket in 20 overs. Tilak Verma scored 120 off 47 balls while opener Sanju Samson contributed a 109 off 56 balls. India's onslaught included a record-breaking 23 sixes, the most ever in a T20 International between two Full Member sides.

India's sporting ecosystem to hit \$130 billion by 2030.

According to a report released by Google and Deloitte, India's sports ecosystem is expected to reach \$130 billion by 2030, growing at 14 per cent CAGR, nearly double the pace of India's GDP. The report stated that there is potential for creation of up to 10.5 million jobs and \$21 billion in indirect tax revenue by 2030 by the sector.

Anshul Kamboj becomes third bowler to take all ten wickets in an innings in Ranji Trophy

Haryana fast bowler Anshul Kamboj became the third cricketer to take all ten wickets in an innings in the Ranji Trophy. He achieved this feat when he dismissed Kerala's Shoun Roger at the Chaudhary Bansi Lal Stadium in Lahli, to finish with figures of 30.1-9-49-10 in the first innings.

Two other bowlers had taken all ten wickets in an innings in the Ranji Trophy previously: Bengal's Premangsu Chatterjee in 1956-57 and Rajasthan's Pradeep Sunderam in 1985-86.