

International

Cyclone Chido: At least 22 killed, over 1400 injured in France's Mayotte.

In France's Mayotte, at least, 22 deaths and more than 1400 injuries have been reported so far due to Cyclone Chido. A territory of France, Mayotte is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and the coast of Mozambique. Rescue workers have been searching for survivors amid the debris of shantytowns that were bowled over by 200 kilometres per hour winds.

At least 34 people have also been killed by Cyclone Chido in Mozambique since it made landfall there on Sunday.

Sri Lanka to offer visa-free travel to Indian nationals from Jan 2025.

Indians will be among the nationals from 39 countries, who will have free visas to travel to Sri Lanka from January 2025. This was announced by the visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath during an interaction organised by the India Foundation in New Delhi. He said, a parliamentary gazette notification will be made next January, where Sri Lanka will give free visas to 39 countries, including India.

7.3 magnitude earthquake hits Vanuatu, 14 dead.

A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the island nation of Vanuatu, with its epicentre located near the capital, Port Vila. The earthquake has claimed at least 14 lives, with the death toll expected to rise. More than 200 injured individuals are currently being treated at Vila Central Hospital in Port Vila.

Vanuatu, located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, is an archipelago consisting of 13 main islands and numerous smaller ones. It lies approximately 800 km west of Fiji and 1,770 km east of Australia.

National

One Nation, One Election Bill tabled in Lok Sabha.

The bills related to One Nation One Election have been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has moved the motion to introduce the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Ninth Amendment) Bill 2024 and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the House. 269

members have voted in favour of the introduction of the bill and 198 against it.

Science and Technology Minister launches India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit Kisan Kavach.

Science and Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit, Kisan Kavach in New Delhi. This bodysuit is designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure. The washable suit offers protection against pesticide-induced toxicity, which often leads to severe health complications, including breathing disorders, and vision loss.

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth presides over commissioning ceremony of INS Nirdeshak.

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth participated in the commissioning of the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art hydrographic vessel INS Nirdeshak, at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. Nirdeshak, the second ship of the Survey Vessel (Large) Project, is designed to conduct hydrographic surveys, navigation aid, and support maritime operations. With an endurance of over 25 days at sea and a top speed exceeding 18 knots, INS Nirdeshak is set to enhance India's Maritime capabilities.

This vessel will play a pivotal role in mapping the nation's waters and strengthening India's strategic presence in the Indian Ocean Region through its foreign cooperation surveys.

Business and Economy

CBIC chairman launches four new initiatives to enhance taxpayer services.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has launched four new initiatives to enhance taxpayer services. These four citizen-centric initiatives include a revised citizen's charter, a revamped citizen's corner for complete tax-related information, an ease of doing business tab for making suggestions, and CBIC archives for tax repository.

India becomes 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in the world.

India has become the 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in the world, which was on the 23rd rank in 2019. The country's smartphone exports have also breached the 20 thousand crore rupees mark in a single month, in November 2024.

According to industry associations' data, the country's smartphone exports were recorded at 20 thousand 395 crore rupees last month, representing a staggering 92 per cent increase over the same month last year, when the figure was 10 thousand 634 crore rupees. This achievement outshines the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme commitment to export 70-75 per cent of production value in the financial year 2024-25.

Amazon to create a total of 2 mn jobs in India by 2025.

Amazon has claimed that it has created 1.4 million direct and indirect jobs in India in the last four years and was currently on track to create another 6 lakhs jobs to take the total jobs count to 2 million in the country by 2025.

These jobs would be created across sectors like IT, ecommerce, logistics, manufacturing, content creation, skill development, and others.

RBI lifts curbs on ECL Finance, Edelweiss ARC.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to lift the restrictions placed on ECL Finance Ltd. and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd., with immediate effect.

The RBI had on May 29, 2024 imposed business restrictions on these two supervised entities belonging to the Edelweiss Group.

The decision, effective immediately, follows the companies' successful implementation of remedial measures to address regulatory concerns.

Sports

Badminton: Indian women's doubles pair Treasa-Gayatri achieve career-best world ranking of 11.

In Badminton, Indian women's doubles pair, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, have

achieved their career-best world ranking of 11 in the latest BWF World Rankings. The pair had a decent outing at the BWF World Tour Finals, defeating higher-ranking Pearly Tan and Thinnah Muralitharan of Malaysia and came close to stunning World No. 1 Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning of China.

In the men's singles, Lakshya Sen remains the best Indian male shuttler with a world ranking of 12.

In women's singles, PV Sindhu jumped one place to become world number 15 after her exploits at the Syed Modi India International, last month.

2nd T20I: West Indies beat India by 9 wickets to level series 1-1.

In women's cricket, West Indies beat India by nine wickets in the second women's T20 International to level the three-match series 1-1 at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Captain Hayley Matthews led from the front with 85 runs unbeaten as the West Indies chased down the target of 160 with 26 balls to spare. Earlier, invited to bat India posted 159 for 9 in their allotted 20 overs.

World Chess Champion Gukesh withdraws from FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championship

World Chess Champion D. Gukesh has pulled out of the upcoming FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship. Gukesh's withdrawal comes after an impressive FIDE World Chess Championship campaign, where he emerged victorious against Ding Liren.

Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa will represent India at the event. The field will be headed by world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, along with super-grandmasters Fabiano Caruana, Ian Nepomniachtchi, and Hikaru Nakamura.

The FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships will be held from December 26-31 in New York.