

International

Prabowo Subianto is the President of Indonesia.

In Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto took over as the President of the world's third-largest democracy.

Prabowo will officially become the eighth President of the world's most populous Muslim majority nation.

Over 3 million people at risk of cholera in Sudan: UN.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that over three million people including five lakh children under five, are at risk of cholera in Sudan.

According to UNICEF, the vaccination coverage in Sudan fell to some 50 per cent from 85 per cent before the outbreak of the internal conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April last year.

India enhances grant to upgrade schools in Sri Lanka.

India has increased grant support for upgrading nine schools in Sri Lanka's plantation regions.

The Government of India has doubled its financial commitment, raising the total project cost to SLR 600 million.

This initiative will focus on improving the infrastructure as part of India's broader development partnership with Sri Lanka, which has prioritised education through various projects.

UN raises concerns over human rights violations in Pakistan.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has raised serious concerns over the spread of religious intolerance, forced kidnappings and conversion of Hindu and Christian minority girls, curbs on media, and freedom of expression in Pakistan.

The concerns were raised during the review of human rights conditions in Pakistan by the

UN's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) committee.

Important Days

World Statistics Day: 20th October

The fourth World Statistics Day is celebrated around the globe on 20 October 2024.

World Statistics Day is held every five years to highlight the significance of statistics in shaping societies, improving lives, and driving informed decision-making.

National

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar appointed as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW). She will be the 9th Chairperson of NCW.

Rahatkar has demonstrated leadership skills across various political and social responsibilities. During her tenure as the Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (2016-2021), she spearheaded initiatives like "Sakshama" (support for acid attack survivors), "Prajwala" (linking self-help groups to central government schemes), and "Suhita" (24x7 helpline service for women).

President Droupadi Murmu concludes three-nation visit to Africa

President Droupadi Murmu departed for New Delhi from Malawi after the completion of her three-nation visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi.

The visit came a year after the African Union was made a permanent member of the G20 during India's Presidency.

This visit had reaffirmed India's strong commitment to further strengthen India's existing cordial relations with the countries in Africa.

India's candidates elected to leadership positions in all 10 Study Groups of ITU in WTSA-2024.

India's candidates have been elected in leadership positions in all 10 Study Groups of the International Telecommunication Unions' (ITU) Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which is underway in New Delhi.

The study groups include operational aspects, economic & policy issues, security, future networks among others.

Jammu and Kashmir L-G clears resolution urging centre to restore statehood.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has cleared a resolution passed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet urging the Centre to restore statehood to the Union Territory.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, passed a unanimous resolution for the restoration of statehood in its original form

Business and Economy

HDFC Bank Q2 net profit rises 5.28% to ₹16,821 crore.

HDFC Bank Ltd., India's largest private sector bank, for the second quarter ended September 30 2024, reported 5.24% growth in standalone net profit at ₹16,821 crore as compared with ₹15,976 crore in the year-ago period.

Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter grew by 10.0% to ₹ 30,110 crore from ₹ 27390 crore, a year ago

Core net interest margin was at 3.46% on total assets, and 3.65% based on interest earning assets.

The bank's asset quality deteriorated during the quarter. Its Gross Non Performing Assets (NPA) grew 8.46% to ₹34,250.62 crore as compared to the year ago period.

GoM decides to cut GST on 20-litre water bottles, bicycles to 5%.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalisation decided to lower tax rates on 20-litre packaged drinking water bottles, bicycles and exercise notebooks to 5%.

The GoM also suggested hiking GST on shoes above ₹15,000 a pair and on wrist watches above ₹25,000 from 18% to 28%.

The final decision in this regard will be taken by the GST Council.

UCO Bank net profit rises 50% to Rs 603 crore

UCO Bank reported a 50% rise in net profit to Rs 603 crore for the September quarter, driven by better interest income.

Total income rose to Rs 7,071 crore, with net interest income increasing to Rs 2,301 crore.

Sports

Indian Junior Men's team start Sultan of Johor Cup 2024, with 4-2 victory over Japan

In hockey, the Indian Junior Men's team started their Sultan of Johor Cup 2024 campaign with a commanding 4-2 victory over Japan at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Malaysia.

The match also marked a significant milestone for Olympian PR Sreejesh, who embarked on a new chapter in his hockey career, making a successful debut as coach of the Indian junior men's team.

The Sultan of Johor Cup was founded in 2011, India and Great Britain became the first teams to win the title thrice.