

International

Cambodia's National Assembly approved appointment of Prak Sokhonn as Deputy PM and Foreign Minister.

Cambodia's National Assembly has approved the appointment of Prak Sokhonn as the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. A total of 112 lawmakers in attendance, including Prime Minister Hun Manet, unanimously gave their vote of confidence to Sokhonn. Addressing the house before the voting, Prime Minister Hun Manet said the minor reshuffle was to promote more efficient implementation of Cambodia's foreign policy.

CoP29: India calls upon developed countries to fulfill agreed financial requirements of developing countries.

India has called upon the developed countries to fulfil the agreed commitments relating to the adapting finance needs of developing countries. In a statement at the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue Climate Change Adaptation, during the CoP29 to the UN Climate Change Summit at Baku in Azerbaijan, India said, developing countries are suffering the impacts of climate change largely due to the historical emissions of developed countries.

UN announces 55 Best Tourism Villages for 2024.

In this fourth edition of the Best Tourism Villages 2024, 55 villages from all regions have received this recognition, chosen from over 260 applications from more than 60 UN tourism member states. Another 20 villages were chosen to join the upgrade programme. Notably, India's Dhudmaras village in Bastar, Chhattisgarh has joined the list of the upgrade programme.

The Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism initiative was launched in 2021 to advance tourism's role in rural areas, preserving landscapes, cultural diversity, local values, and culinary traditions.

Dominica confers its highest national honour upon Prime Minister Modi.

The Commonwealth of Dominica has bestowed its highest national honour – the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President of Dominica

Sylvanie Burton has conferred the Award in recognition of Prime Minister Modi's contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.

India and Guyana sign ten agreements to enhance cooperation in health, hydrocarbons, agriculture.

India and Guyana have signed ten agreements to enhance cooperation in several areas including health, hydrocarbons, agriculture and allied sectors. The Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed on cooperation in the field of medical products, Janaushadhi scheme, Cultural Exchange Programme, deployment of UPI like system in Guyana and cooperation and collaboration in the field of broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and National Communications Network, Guyana. Besides, an MoU was also signed between National Defence Institute, Guyana and Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat.

National

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches first indigenous antibiotic drug named Nafithromycin for resistant infections.

The Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the first indigenous antibiotic drug named Nafithromycin for resistant infections. Nafithromycin is a game-changer against drug-resistant pneumonia, a condition responsible for over two million deaths worldwide annually.

The Made in India Antibiotic Nafithromycin has been developed with the support of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a unit of the Department of Biotechnology and has been brought to market under the trade name "Miqnaf". It is the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance-AMR.

The new antibiotic, developed by Wockhardt with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), is ten times more effective than current options and offers a safer, faster, and more tolerable solution for patients.

Prasar Bharati launches its OTT platform Waves

‘Waves’ Prasar Bharati’s OTT was launched during the opening ceremony of the 55th International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2024. The platform will offer a variety of channels in multiple languages, including news, entertainment, movies, TV shows, and games. The app ‘Waves- Family Entertainment Ki Nayi Lehar’ will be available on Android, iOS, and as a website. WAVES caters to diverse audiences with content in over 12 languages and over ten genres. Its expansive library includes regional content, women-centric content, and even animation content, along with live channels including Doordarshan and Akashvani.

The OTT app will also introduce features like integrated gaming for kids and online shopping via the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

More than 1.76 cr school students from 36 states and UTs participate in Veera Gatha 4.0.

More than one crore 76 lakh school students from all 36 states and Union Territories have participated in Project Veer Gatha 4.0. The students have sent poems, paintings, essays, and videos in honour of the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the personnel of the Armed Forces. The Project Veer Gatha was instituted in 2021 with the aim of disseminating the inspiring tales of valour, selfless sacrifice, and courage of the Gallantry Awardees. The Union Education Ministry said the project has provided a platform for the school students to do creative projects and activities based on heroic deeds and sacrifice of gallantry award winners.

228 infrastructure projects worth ₹15.89 lakh cr evaluated by Network Planning Group of PM GatiShakti

The Central government has said that 228 infrastructure projects worth 15 lakh 89 thousand crore rupees have been evaluated by the Network Planning Group of PM GatiShakti. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan in 2021 to bring synergy and synchronisation in planning infrastructure. The PM GatiShakti initiative has reduced the logistics costs of projects and improved overall performance.

Over ₹54,000 cr allocated in this financial year to implement PMAY-G

On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Ministry of Rural Development highlighted that this scheme is a movement to empower rural India, promote social equity, and uplift marginalised communities. The Ministry added that this flagship scheme aims to provide pucca houses with essential amenities to all eligible houseless households and those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses by March 2029. The scheme has been extended to include 2 crore more houses, with a total outlay of over 3 lakh crore rupees for the next five years. Over 54 thousand crore rupees have been allocated in this financial year to implement the scheme.

The Ministry said that this scheme converges with other schemes, including MGNREGA, SBM-G, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Surya Ghar, to ensure access to water, toilets, LPG, electricity, and solar energy for beneficiaries

Business and Economy

U.S. charges Gautam Adani with defrauding investors, hiding plan to bribe Indian officials.

Indian businessman Gautam Adani has been indicted in the U.S. on charges that he duped investors by concealing that his company’s huge solar energy project on the subcontinent was being facilitated by an alleged bribery scheme.

Mr. Adani was charged in an indictment unsealed with securities fraud and conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud. The case involves a lucrative arrangement for Adani Green Energy Ltd. and another firm to sell 12 gigawatts of solar power to the Indian government — enough to light millions of homes and businesses.

ADB approves 200 million dollar loan to strengthen Sri Lanka’s financial sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 200-million-dollar policy-based loan to support Sri Lanka in strengthening its financial sector. This marks the second subprogram under ADB’s Financial Sector Stability and Reforms Program towards

stabilising the country's economy and manage the financial crisis started last year.

Key reforms under the program include enhanced regulatory oversight by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Telcos can claim CENVAT credit for towers, shelters: SC.

The Supreme Court of India gave a major fillip to telecom companies by allowing them to claim Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) credit for the installation of mobile towers and peripherals like pre-fabricated buildings (PFBs), for which they pay excise duties.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and N. Kotiswar Singh held in a judgment that mobile towers and pre-fabricated buildings (PFBs) or shelters fall within the definition of 'capital goods' or 'inputs' under the CENVAT Rules, 2004 as they provided essential support for the "effective transmission of mobile signals and enhance their efficiency".

Moody's downgrades six Bangladeshi banks following sovereign rating cut

Global rating agency Moody's has revised its ratings for six Bangladeshi banks, citing

concerns over the country's recent sovereign downgrade. The banks affected are BRAC Bank, City Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Eastern Bank, Mercantile Bank, and Premier Bank. Moody's has revised the outlooks on the long-term (LT) deposit ratings of all six banks to negative from stable.

Earlier this week, Moody's downgraded Bangladesh's long-term ratings to B2 from B1, marking the second consecutive downgrade in under two years.

Sports

Hockey: India wins Women's Asian Champions Trophy beating China.

In hockey, India won the Women's Asian Champions Trophy at Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar. The Indian women's hockey team won their 2nd consecutive title by defeating China 1-0 in the final match. With this victory, India has equalled South Korea with three titles each.

India had previously defeated China 3-0 during the league phase.