

International

Namibia kicks off 8th Presidential & National Assembly elections.

Namibia's eighth Presidential and National Assembly elections kicked off, with 15 presidential candidates and 21 political parties vying for leadership. According to the Electoral Commission of Namibia, nearly 1.45 million eligible voters are registered either domestically or at Namibian diplomatic missions abroad.

SWAPO has been Namibia's ruling party since the nation gained independence in 1990. In the 2019 elections, President Hage Geingob led SWAPO to victory, securing over 56 per cent of the National Assembly vote.

Indian-American Jay Bhattacharya is Donald Trump's pick to lead National Institutes of Health

US President-elect Donald Trump has selected a Stanford physician and economist Dr Jay Bhattacharya to be the next director of a key US public health agency. He has been selected to lead the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world's biggest government-funded biomedical research entity. With this, Mr. Bhattacharya becomes the first Indian-American to be nominated by Mr. Trump for a top administrative position.

New Zealand tops Sustainable Trade Index 2024, India ranked 23.

New Zealand has been retained as the 'most sustainable trade economy' for the third consecutive edition. It has risen one place in both the economic and societal pillars while maintaining its lead in the environmental pillar. India ranked 23rd globally in the Sustainable Trade Index 2024. India's overall score is 24, with 62.3 for economic factors, 13.3 for societal aspects, and 43.1 for environmental considerations.

Sustainable Index Report 2024 by Hinrich Foundation and IMD highlights and ranks global economies in trade sustainability based on three pillars: economic growth, societal advancement, and environmental resilience.

National

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates 12th edition of International Tourism Mart.

The Union Ministry of Tourism is organising the 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart at the UNESCO World Heritage site Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve to highlight the tourism potential of the North-Eastern region for both domestic and international audiences. This event serves as a vital platform, bringing together tourism businesses and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States.

To highlight the tourism potential of the eight northeastern states, Union Ministry of Tourism organises the International Tourism Mart at Kohora Range of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Central govt approves ₹1,115 crore for disaster mitigation and capacity building in 15 states.

The Central Government has approved over ₹1,115 crore rupees for disaster mitigation and capacity building projects for fifteen states. A high-level committee, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved this fund. The Committee approved 378 crore rupees for eight North East States, 139 crore rupees each for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, one hundred crore rupees for Maharashtra, 72 crore rupees each for Karnataka and Kerala, and 50 crore rupees each for Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Indian Coast Guard's SAREX-24 maritime exercise begins.

The 11th edition of Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (SAREX-24) was held in Kochi, Kerala. The exercise is being held alongside the 22nd National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting.

The event featured the largest ever real time simulations aimed at honing the skills for effective Search and Rescue Operations and collaborative efforts among the regional and international maritime stakeholders.

Centre launches National Campaign, Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat, in New Delhi

The Central government has launched a national campaign, 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat', in New Delhi. The primary agenda of the campaign is to make India a child marriage-free nation. Launching the campaign, Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi said the government has identified 130 districts where this campaign will be run in a focused manner. She highlighted that child marriage is not just a criminal offence but also a human rights violation.

During the event, she also unveiled the Child Marriage-Free Bharat portal. The online platform has been developed to support the campaign's mission of raising awareness, preventing child marriage, and effectively reporting incidents of child marriage.

Business and Economy

SBI raises ₹50,000 crore via bonds in FY25.

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised ₹50,000 crore through domestic bonds so far during FY25. The bond issuances include ₹30,000 crore in long-term, tier 2 bonds worth ₹15,000 crore and AT1 bonds amounting to ₹5000 crore. The AT1 bonds and Tier 2 bonds were issued with a call option after 10 years and on the anniversary day in the subsequent years.

State Bank of India raised ₹10,000 crore through its seventh infrastructure bond issuance earlier this month

Bank of India raises ₹5,000 cr via long-term bonds.

Bank of India (BOI) has raised ₹5,000 crore from a long-term bond (infrastructure) issue on a private placement basis. Bids amounting to ₹13,700 crore were received and the issue was oversubscribed by 6.85 times against the base issue size of ₹2,000 crore. It also had a green shoe option of ₹3,000 crore. The bank has decided to accept bids of ₹5,000 crore at coupon rate of 7.41% per annum.

Funding in India's GenAI ecosystem saw uptick in Q2 of FY25: Nasscom

India's GenAI start-up space witnessed a strong revival in funding activities in the second quarter of fiscal 2025, after suffering a huge dip in the previous (sequential) quarter, according

to a Generative AI Tracker released by the tech industry's apex body Nasscom.

According to the report, the space saw drastic ups and downs in the last over four quarters. Indian GenAI start-ups received only \$14 million investments in the second quarter of fiscal 2024, however, the third quarter of FY24 saw a jump to \$55 million, while the fiscal closed with \$74 million.

HUL board approves demerger of Ice Cream business into an independent listed entity.

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) board has approved the demerger of the ice cream business, which owns brands such as Kwality Wall's, Cornetto and Magnum, into an independent listed entity.

The existing shareholders of the FMCG major will receive shares in the new entity in proportion to their shareholding in HUL.

Inoperative EPF accounts' total amount up five fold to ₹8,505 crore in six years

The total amount in inoperative Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) has jumped over five-fold to ₹8,505.23 crore in financial year 2023-24 from ₹1,638.37 crore in fiscal year 2018-19, the Parliament was informed.

Honda forays into EV scooter business in India.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has made its maiden foray into the electric scooter segment by announcing two new EV scooters: Honda ACTIVA e: and Honda QCI, both available in five shades each.

These new EV scooters would be manufactured at Honda's Narsapura plant situated in the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Sports

Divith Reddy becomes World Champion in U8 World Cadets Chess Championship.

In chess, eight-year-old Divith Reddy won a gold medal at the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy. He accumulated nine points out of a maximum of 11, tying with compatriot Sattwik Swain. However, Divith secured the gold based on his superior tiebreak score. Sattwik claimed silver, while Ziming Guo of China took the bronze.

ICC Rankings: Jasprit Bumrah reclaims number one spot.

India's pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah reclaimed the number one spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings for men's Test bowlers. Bumrah dethroned South Africa's Kagiso Rabada. Match-winning performance in the first Test against Australia in Perth helped him to get the top rank. He picked up eight wickets in this match.

NADA suspends Bajrang Punia for 4 years.

India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a four-year suspension on Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia for

refusing to provide a sample during a doping test on March 10 at the national team selection trials. The four-year ban bars Bajrang from returning to competitive wrestling and restricts him from applying for international coaching roles.

Initially, NADA provisionally suspended Bajrang on April 23, which was followed by world governing body for wrestling, United World Wrestling, who had also suspended him. After Bajrang appealed the provisional ban, NADA's Anti-Disciplinary Doping Panel temporarily revoked it on May 31, pending a formal charge.