

International

European Union rules requiring all new smartphones, tablets and cameras to use same C-type charger comes into force.

European Union rules requiring all new smartphones, tablets and cameras to use the same charger came into force.

The EU said it will cut costs and waste. Manufacturers are now obliged to fit devices sold in the 27-nation bloc with a USB-C, the port chosen by the European Union as the common standard for charging electronic tools. The EU has said the single charger rule will simplify the life of Europeans and slash costs for consumers.

Russia declares federal emergency over Black Sea oil spill.

Russia warned of severe environmental damage from a huge oil spill in the Black Sea caused when two tankers collided in a storm near Crimea, which declared a state of emergency.

Two Russian-flagged oil tankers were severely damaged during a storm near the Kerch Strait, leading to the release of thousands of tons of heavy fuel oil, known as mazut, into the Black Sea. The spill has polluted approximately 55 kilometers (34 miles) of coastline.

Important Days

International Cello Day: 29th December

International Cello Day is celebrated on December 29th to honor the cello and the life of cellist Pablo Casals:

The cello is a bowed string musical instrument with four strings tuned for perfect harmony. It looks like a large violin, which one can play while sitting down and holding it in between their legs.

National

ISRO to launch Space Docking Experiment SpaDeX.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its Space Docking Experiment, SpaDeX.

ISRO's year-end mission will be a historic one as it will seek the rare feat of docking or merging two satellites in space.

SpaDeX mission will mark India's entry into the exclusive league of nations capable of mastering space docking.

The PSLV rocket, will launch two satellites equipped with indigenous technology, the 'Bhartiya Docking System,' to demonstrate this complex feat.

Medical professional Sandip Shah appointed chairperson of NABL-QCI.

Dr. Sandip Shah has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).

QCI, NABL's parent organization, is an autonomous body promoting a quality-centric mindset in products and services for every citizen.

Business and Economy

Reliance buys Karkinos Health for Rs 375 crore.

Reliance Industries bought healthcare platform Karkinos for ₹375 crore.

Reliance Strategic Business Ventures, an arm of India's most valuable company, completed acquisition of Karkinos Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. with the allotment of requisite shares.

Karkinos provides technology-driven innovative solutions for the early detection, diagnosis and management of cancer.

RBI allows PPI holders to have UPI transactions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted to enable UPI payments from/to full-KYC Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) through third-party UPI applications like Google Pay and PhonePe as per its previous announcement made in the Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies.

Previously, UPI payments were limited to bank accounts or PPI issuers' applications, restricting user flexibility. This change marks a significant step towards achieving a unified digital payment ecosystem, reducing dependency on specific platforms.

Sports

Delhi SG Pipers defeat Gonasika 4-2 in shoot-out in Hockey India League Opener.

In the inaugural match of the Hockey India League (HIL) played at Rourkela last night, Delhi SG Pipers beat Gonasika 4-2 in a shoot-out after the match ended 2-2 at the end of the regulation time.

Tomas Domene converted two penalty corners for Delhi SG Pipers, while Struan Walker and Victor Charlet were the goal scorers for Gonasika.

Magnus Carlsen withdraws from Chess Championship over dress code dispute.

World chess number one Magnus Carlsen has quit a major tournament after being told he could not carry on playing while wearing jeans. The chess great had been defending his titles at the Fide World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in New York when officials made the request.

The chess federation (Fide) said its dress code regulations were designed to ensure fairness and professionalism for all participants.

CEC Ice Hockey Championship kicks off in Leh, Ladakh.

18th Edition of CEC Ice Hockey Championship kicked off at Leh, Ladakh.

Ice Hockey is one of the prestigious winter Sporting event in Ladakh. It is organised under natural weather conditions in freezing temperatures. A series of Ice Hockey tournaments are held during the winter months and are organised by civilian, defence and locals due to its popularity among the masses from the past three decades.

Sachin Tendulkar accepts MCC's honorary club membership.

Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has accepted the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), renowned for managing the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) invitation to become an Honorary Cricket Member.

MCC is one of the most reputed sports clubs globally.