

International

Shirley Botchwey to be the First Woman from Africa to Hold the Office of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Shirley Botchwey will become the first woman from Africa to hold the office of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. She assumed office as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. She previously served as Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration from January 2017 to January 2024 and was also a member of Ghana's National Security Council. The Secretary-General is nominated by Commonwealth leaders and can serve a maximum of two terms of four years each.

Israel's Security Agency Shin Bet Gets a New Director

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has replaced the current Israel Security Agency Shin Bet Director, Ronen Bar, and appointed Vice Admiral (retired) Eli Sharvit, former head of the Israeli Navy, as the next director.

The Longest Continuous Speech in the US Senate History

New Jersey Democrat and U.S. Senator Cory Booker has made history, delivering the longest continuous speech in Senate history, an astonishing 25 hours and 5 minutes. He took the floor at 7 PM on March 31, and spoke uninterrupted until after 8 PM the following day, calling attention to what he described as a crisis in the American democracy under President Donald Trump. Booker shattered the previous record of 24 hours and 18 minutes, set in 1957 by segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond in a failed attempt to block the Civil Rights Act.

Finland Plans to Withdraw From the 1997 Ottawa Convention

Finland is planning to quit a global convention banning anti-personnel landmines and boost defense spending to at least 3 percent of GDP by 2029. Withdrawing from the 1997 Ottawa Convention will give the country the possibility to prepare for the changes in the security environment in a more versatile way. Poland and the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania said last month that they would withdraw from the Ottawa Convention due to threats posed by neighbouring Russia.

National

Fourth Edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph Gets Underway

The fourth edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph, the bilateral tri-service India-US Humanitarian

Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise, began at Visakhapatnam on April 1. The 15-day-long exercise is aimed at developing interoperability and formulation of Standard Operating Procedures for conducting Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations between the two countries.

The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, Passed

The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, was passed by the Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to give legal effect to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. The bill also empowers the central government to make rules to implement the provisions of the Convention and the protocol. The legislation designates the Directorate General of Civil Aviation as the registry authority for the purposes of the convention. The registry authority is responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft.

India Commemorates 52 Years of Project Tiger

On April 1, India celebrated 52 years of Project Tiger, a pioneering initiative that transformed the landscape of wildlife conservation. On April 1, 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger to protect the country's dwindling tiger population. Over five decades, the initiative has grown into one of the world's most successful wildlife conservation programs. From just 1,411 tigers in 2006, India's wild tiger population surged to 3,682 in 2022, making it home to nearly 75 per cent of the world's wild tigers. The country now has 57 tiger reserves, covering approximately 83,000 sq km of forest land.

India's Adoption Numbers at the Highest in 12 Years

India's adoption ecosystem has seen a significant boost in the Financial Year 2024-25, with a record 4,515 child adoptions, as per the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This marks the highest in the past 12 years. Of the total number, 4,155 were domestic adoptions, which reflects the growing acceptance of legal adoption in the country. The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) also introduced more than 8 thousand newly identified children into the adoption pool, ensuring that more children in need find loving families.

India's Renewable Energy Sector Achieves the Highest-Ever Capacity Addition

India's renewable energy sector has achieved the highest-ever capacity addition in the last financial year by installing 25 gigawatts. The sector witnessed an increase of almost 35 per cent in the previous financial year compared to 18.57 gigawatts achieved

in the financial year 2023-24. The country's journey in renewable energy was led by solar, which soared from 15 to nearly 21 gigawatts in the last financial year. New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi informed this while addressing a press conference in New Delhi.

Business/Economy

98.21 Percent of the 2000-Rupee Bank Notes Have Been Returned

98.21 percent of the 2000-rupee bank notes have been returned to the banking system, as per the RBI. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of banknotes of the 2000 rupee denomination from circulation. The RBI said in a statement issued that the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation was 3.56 lakh crore Rs at the close of business on May 19, 2023. It has since declined to 6,366 crore Rs at the close of business on March 31 this year. The 2000-rupee banknotes continue to be legal tender.

CBIC to Introduce Electronic Processing for Gems and Jewellery Trade

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has said it will introduce the electronic processing of the import and export of gems, jewellery, and machinery samples through personal carriage by air passengers. This will come into effect from the 1st of next month at specified airports.

NHAI Increases Toll Charges Nationwide

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has increased toll charges by 4 to 5 percent nationwide. The hike, effective immediately, will help fund highway maintenance and expansion. The revised rates apply to expressways and national highways across the country.

EPFO Empanels 15 More Banks

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) today expanded its Multi-Banking

Centralised Collection System by empanelling 15 more banks, bringing the total to 32. The newly empanelled 15 banks will enable direct payment of nearly 12,000 crore rupees in annual collections and allow direct access to employers who maintain their accounts with these banks. This initiative will streamline employer payments, enhance efficiency, and reduce transaction delays, benefiting crores of members.

Sports

Niharika Singhania Wins Gold

Indian equestrian player Niharika Singhania has clinched first position in the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition held in Belgium. Niharika brought home gold, competing against international participants. Niharika participated in the Two-Phase special event, riding on Hotese Charboniere. She finished the event with 40.72 and 40.34 penalty points.

Vandana Katariya Announces Retirement

Vandana Katariya, an Indian women's hockey stalwart, has officially announced her retirement from international hockey, bringing an end to an illustrious career spanning over 15 years. With 320 international appearances and 158 goals to her name, Vandana departs as the most-capped player in the history of Indian women's hockey.

ESports Conclave 2025 in New Delhi

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse inaugurated the ESports Conclave 2025 in New Delhi on April 1. The Minister noted that with the rapid growth of esports, India has the potential to advance significantly in the field of technology. In her address, she highlighted esports as an emerging sector and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to its promotion.