

International

South Korea: Global meeting end without agreement on treaty to combat plastic pollution.

A global meeting in South Korea's Busan to finalise a treaty to combat plastic pollution concluded without an agreement. This was the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which has been working since 2022 to draft a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

The week-long talks exposed deep divisions between countries calling for limits on plastic production and harmful chemicals and those focusing only on managing plastic waste. Negotiators from nearly 200 nations held closed-door discussions to bridge differences on key issues, but the draft released yesterday left most concerns unresolved. The most contentious issue of the talks has been whether there will be a limit on the amount of plastic that companies are allowed to produce.

Centre-left party wins Iceland's election need coalition to govern.

Iceland's centre-left Social Democratic Alliance has won the most votes in snap elections, prompted by the collapse of the coalition in power for the past seven years. The Social Democrats won 15 seats in the 63-seat parliament, the Althingi, with 20.8 percent of the votes. The conservative Independence Party, which led the outgoing government, won 14 seats with a 19.4 percent vote share, and the centrist Liberal Reform Party won 11 seats and 15.8 percent of the votes. Three other parties also won seats.

Voting underway in Romania to elect new Parliament.

Voting is underway in Romania to elect the new Parliament. More than 18 million Romanian citizens, including those living abroad are casting ballots to fill 332 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 137 in the Senate. Over 8,000 candidates from 31 political parties, alliances, and 19 national minority organisations are in the fray. Major parties in the race include the Social Democratic Party, SOS Romania, National Liberal Party, Alliance for the Union of Romanians, Right Force, Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, and Save Romania Union. Parties must secure at least 5 per cent of the national vote or over 20 per cent in at least four constituencies to gain parliamentary representation.

Putin signs off record Russian defence spending.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved budget plans, raising 2025 military spending to record levels as Moscow seeks to prevail in the war in Ukraine. Around 32.5% of the budget posted on a government website has been allocated for national defense, amounting to 13.5 trillion rubles (over \$145 billion), up from a reported 28.3% this year.

Angela Merkel's book "Freedom: Memoirs 1954-2021" released.

Former German Chancellor's autobiography and new book titled "Freedom: Memoirs 1954-2021" (published by St. Martin's Press) was launched. Merkel's "Freedom: Memoirs 1954-2021" looks back on her life from her childhood and youth in former East Germany, German reunification, and her political rise through the end of her 16-year chancellorship in 2021. The book is being simultaneously published as an audiobook and in translation in several languages, including French and English.

National

EAM Dr Jaishankar releases Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan- The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has released Vikram Sampath's book titled "Tipu Sultan-The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum" in New Delhi. Addressing at the launch event, Dr Jaishankar highlighted that the book aptly captures not just the flavour of a fast-moving and complicated era, but offers insights into politics, strategy, administration, sociology and diplomacy.

Centre working on a national policy paper on female labour force participation.

The Centre will soon bring out a national policy document on female labour force participation with a focus on providing an enabling atmosphere like a viable care economy structure. An inter-ministerial team from the Ministries of Skill Development, Labour, Rural Development and Women and Child Development is working on it.

PM Modi to inaugurate Asthalakshmi Mahotsav on Dec 6.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the three-day Asthalakshmi Mahotsav 2024 on 6th of next month at Bharat Mandapam in New

Delhi. The festival will showcase the cultural, natural and artisanal wealth of all the eight North-East states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and Sikkim.

Business and Economy

FPIs' selling continues in November at ₹21,612 crore.

Foreign investors pulled out ₹21,612 crore (\$2.56 billion) from the Indian equity market in November, mainly owing to the rising U.S. bond yields, strengthening dollar and expectation of a slowdown in the domestic economy.

While the sell-off continues, the quantum of net outflow significantly reduced compared to October, when FPIs recorded a massive withdrawal of ₹94,017 crore (\$11.2 billion). With the latest pull out, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have experienced total net outflow of ₹15,019 crore in 2024 so far.

Overall Coal Production in November 2024 reaches 90.62 million tonnes.

Coal Ministry has achieved a milestone in November, with overall coal production reaching 90.62 million tonnes compared to 84.52 MT in the same month last year. This marks a 7.20 percent growth in coal production. Meanwhile, coal production for 2024-25 up to November has reached 628.03 MT, compared to 591.32 MT during the same period in 2023-24. This reflects a growth of 6.21 percent.

sports

Arjun Erigaisi becomes 2nd Indian to achieve 2800 ELO rating in chess.

India's Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has become the second Indian in history to reach the prestigious 2800 Elo rating in classical chess. With the remarkable feat, the 21-year-old has joined the legendary Viswanathan Anand in this

exclusive club. Erigaisi also currently holds the world number four ranking.

Arjun Erigaisi has become the 16th player in history to break the 2800 Elo barrier in classical chess ratings.

Syed Modi International Tournament: PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen wins singles titles.

Indian Shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen were crowned the Singles champions at the Syed Modi International Tournament in Lucknow. Sindhu has won the Women's Singles title, overpowering China's Wu Luo Yu, 21-14, 21-16 in the final. Lakshya Sen drubbed Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-6, 21-7 in final to win Men's Singles title.

Earlier, Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won the Women's Doubles title. They defeated Chinese duo Bao Li Jing and Li Qian, 21-18, 21-11 in the Summit Clash.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes charge as Chairman of ICC.

The outgoing BCCI secretary Jay Shah took charge as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), becoming the fifth Indian to head the global body.

Shah, who has been the secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the last five years, was the unanimous choice of ICC's Board of Directors and succeeds New Zealand attorney Greg Barclay.

Qatar Grand Prix 2024: Max Verstappen wins.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen followed up his Formula 1 drivers' title with another win in an incident-packed Qatar Grand Prix as Lando Norris was hit with a penalty that ended his challenge for the race victory.

Charles Leclerc took the second place, the Ferrari driver crossing the line six seconds back from Verstappen, while McLaren's Oscar Piastri completed the podium in the third position.