

International

Death toll rises to 202 in flood related incidents in Spain.

In Spain, the number of deaths from flooding in the Valencian Community has risen to 202. The Spanish Meteorological Agency has issued a red warning for rainfall along the coast of Huelva in the southwestern part of the country. Nearly 40,000 people were without electricity. More military personnel have been deployed to assist in the search and cleanup operations.

Duma Boko declared as the 6th president of Botswana.

Duma Boko, the presidential candidate of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), was declared Botswana's sixth president. Earlier, outgoing President Mokgweetsi Masisi has conceded defeat as preliminary results showed his ruling party lost its parliamentary majority after nearly six decades in power. The BDP has governed the diamond-rich Southern African nation since 1966.

NASA's Voyager 1 comes back to life using 1981 Tech.

NASA's 47-year-old Voyager 1 spacecraft recently established contact with Earth after a brief halt with the help of a radio transmitter that has not been used since 1981. NASA engineers at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California re-established contact with the spacecraft.

The spacecraft, which is in interstellar space over 15 billion miles away, experienced a brief interruption in communication on October 16 due to a shutdown of one of its transmitters. This shutdown was likely triggered by the spacecraft's fault protection system, which powers down certain systems when power usage is too high.

UN COP16 nature summit creates permanent body for Indigenous peoples.

Countries at the U.N. COP16 summit on nature in Colombia have approved a measure to create a permanent body for Indigenous peoples to consult on United Nations decisions on nature conservation. The consultative body is considered a breakthrough in recognizing the role that Indigenous peoples play in conserving nature globally, including some of the most

biodiverse areas of the planet. Nearly 200 countries convened in the city of Cali, aiming to implement the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreement.

Pakistan Parliamentary body approves Bill to increase the number of Supreme Court judges to 25.

A Pakistan Parliamentary panel has approved a controversial Bill to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 17 to 25 despite its disapproval by the Opposition lawmakers who termed it an attempt to manipulate the judiciary.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act 2024' which sought to increase the number of judges from 17 to 25 was moved in the Senate last month by an independent senator with the rising number of pending cases.

The Bill aims to address the issue of delay in cases. About 60,000 cases are pending in the apex court.

'Brat' named word of the year by Collins dictionary.

The word Brat was named the Collins Word of the Year 2024. Collins simply refers to the word as a term for a badly-behaved child. Collins Dictionary wrote on its website. It defined "brat" as having "a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude."

The word sparked a cultural movement after British artist Charli XCX released her sixth studio album, "Brat," in June.

National

Bibek Debroy, Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council, passes away.

Noted author and economist Bibek Debroy, who had been the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman since 2017, passed away at the age of 69. Mr. Debroy was also a member of the Niti Aayog, which had replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission, and had wide-ranging interests beyond economics. He was also a Sanskrit scholar who had translated the Bhagavad Gita, the Vedas, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata into English; and was working on a project to translate the Puranas.

Rohit Bal, one Of India's top fashion designers, dies of aortic arrest.

Rohit Bal, one of India's most renowned fashion designers, has died at the age of 63. He was a founding member of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI). Known for his unique blend of traditional patterns with modern sensibilities, Bal's work redefined Indian fashion, and inspired generations. He won 'Designer of the Year' award at the Indian Fashion Awards in 2006, and the Kingfisher Fashion Achievement Awards in 2001. He was also named the Lakme Grand Finale Designer in 2012.

Business and Economy

GST collections in October stood at Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections surpassed ₹1.87 lakh crore in October, marking the second highest monthly collections on record, with growth rebounding to 8.9% in October from September's 40-month low uptick of 6.5%.

Net revenues, after factoring in refunds, grew at a slower pace of 7.9% to a tad over ₹1.68 lakh crore in October. However, this also marked a recovery from September's growth rate of 3.9% which was the slowest so far in 2024-25.

Partha Pratim Sengupta takes charge as the MD, CEO of Bandhan Bank.

Bandhan Bank Ltd. has announced that Partha Pratim Sengupta has taken charge as the Managing Director & CEO of the bank, effective November 1. He has led large businesses in various domains including business, credit, and technology. Ratan Kumar Kesh, who was presiding as the interim MD & CEO of the bank since July 10, 2024, will resume his role as the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, with the joining of Mr. Sengupta.

High-value debt listed entities: SEBI proposes doubling threshold to ₹1,000 crore

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed raising the threshold for

identifying High Value Debt Listed Entities (HVDLEs) to ₹1,000 crore from ₹500 crore at present to reduce compliance burdens. Currently, an entity having outstanding value of listed non-convertible debt securities of ₹500 crore and above are referred to as 'High Value Debt Listed Entities'.

In its consultation paper, SEBI has proposed introducing a sunset clause that would end governance obligations if an HVDLE's outstanding debt falls below the threshold for a specified period, providing more flexibility.

Sports

Anish Sarkar, 3-Year-Old from Bengal, becomes the youngest-ver FIDE-rated chess player.

Anish Sarkar, became the youngest-ever FIDE-rated player, after an impressive Elo rating of 1555. At just three years, eight months, and 19 days old, he has claimed the title of the youngest FIDE-rated chess player. Anish debuted at the 1st All Bengal Rapid Rating Open 2024, where he scored an impressive 5 points from 11 games. Just weeks later, Anish had the incredible opportunity to play against Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, India's top player and world-ranked No. 4, during a rapid rating tournament.

U19 World Boxing Championships : Krishna Verma clinches Gold Medal

India's Krishna Verma has won a gold medal at the U19 World Boxing Championships in Colorado, USA. However, five other Indian boxers in contention for the gold medals went down in their respective final. Krishna defeated Lerika Simon of Germany 5-0 to win the gold medal.

Chanchal Chaudhary, however, went down to Ruby White of England in the female 48kg category final as the Indian boxer was disqualified, forcing her to settle for the silver medal.