

## International

### Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah becomes Namibia's first female President.

In Namibia, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party has won the country's eighth presidential election, becoming its first female president. The electoral commission announced that she secured more than 57 per cent of the votes, while her closest rival, Panduleni Itula, garnered 26 per cent.

Nandi-Ndaitwah, currently serving as the Vice President, has been a dominant figure in Namibian politics since the country gained independence from South Africa in 1990.

### South Korean President lifts emergency martial law.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has announced the lifting of emergency martial law after the National Assembly voted to end it, following fierce opposition from lawmakers across the political spectrum. His Cabinet approved a motion to terminate martial law approximately six hours after the surprise emergency declaration. The Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed that troops mobilised to enforce martial law have returned to their bases, restoring a sense of normalcy.

In an earlier late-night television address, President Yoon had described the measure as necessary to safeguard the nation from North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements.

### ISRO to launch European space agency's Proba 3 satellite.

Indian Space Research Organisation will launch PSLV C59 carrying European Space Agency's PROBA 3 satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. Proba 3 is a commercial dedicated mission of the NewSpace India limited to ISRO. PSLV C59 will inject the spacecraft into a highly elliptical orbit to demonstrate precise formation flying.

## National

### Centre launches 16 initiatives to empower Divyangjans.

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 on December 3, the union government launched sixteen initiatives in New Delhi to empower Divyangjans across the nation. Some of the key initiatives that were launched by the Minister include the launch of the, Sugamya Bharat Yatra 'Kadam Knee Joint, Standard Bharti Braille Code, 'Pathways to Access: Part III, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, and the Braille Book Portal.

### Centre approves proposals worth over 21 thousand crore rupees for naval defence equipment.

The Defence Acquisition Council has approved five capital acquisition proposals amounting to over 21 thousand 772 crore rupees. The council under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi has granted Acceptance of Necessity for the procurement of 31 New Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts for the Indian Navy. Defence Ministry said these are designed to perform the task of Low-Intensity Maritime Operations, Surveillance, Patrol, and Search and Rescue operations close to the coast. In addition, these vessels will play an effective role in Anti-Piracy missions, especially in and around Indian Island territories.

The Ministry said the council has also accorded approval for the procurement of 120 Fast Interceptor Crafts.

### NCVET recognizes IN-SPACe as awarding body to boost vocational training in space sector

The National Council for Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) as an awarding body. The recognition aims to strengthen the vocational education and training landscape in the space sector.

Recognizing the institution as an awarding body will help standardize and accredit specialized training programs, aligning them with national and global frameworks and facilitating greater integration with key national initiatives like the Skill India Mission.

The IN-SPACE operates as an autonomous agency under the Department of Space.

### **India invites Israel for partnership in developing quantum technologies.**

India has invited Israeli startups to partner with Indian institutions to co-develop critical quantum technologies. Israel's Industry and Economy Minister Nir Barkat, who is currently on a visit to India, called on Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh. The meeting between the two ministers focused on discussing collaboration in startups, particularly in space and quantum technology. They also discussed collaborative innovation initiatives in the agriculture and health sectors. The two ministers also explored partnerships in semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT).

### **Lok Sabha passes Banking Laws Bill allowing four nominees in bank accounts.**

The Lok Sabha has passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The Bill seeks to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

The Bill also seeks to increase the option for nominees per bank account to four, from the existing one. The bill also proposes to redefine substantial interest for directorships, which could increase to two crore rupees instead of the current limit of five lakh rupees.

### **President Droupadi Murmu confers national awards for empowerment of persons with disabilities.**

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the national awards for the empowerment of persons with disabilities to 33 exemplary

individuals and institutions on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 in New Delhi. The awardees included young achievers like 13-year-old Prathamesh and Janhavi, as well as senior citizens like 75-year-old Saroj Arya, showcasing a diverse spectrum of talent and dedication.

Highlighting India's success at the Paralympics 2024, the President noted that while India secured only one medal in 2012, this year's Paris Paralympics saw Indian athletes winning an impressive 29 medals.

### **Navy Day 2024 observed on December 4**

Navy Day is being celebrated on the 4th of December every year to recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy. It was on this day in 1971, during Operation Trident that the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels including PNS Khaibar, killing hundreds of Pakistani Navy personnel.

### **Business and Economy**

### **India positioning itself among top 10 global suppliers.**

India has made significant strides in its global export landscape, positioning itself among the top 10 global suppliers, with all sectors reaching export values exceeding 1 billion dollars in 2023. Supported by robust government initiatives, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry stated that the country is not only expanding its export base but is also strengthening its reputation as a reliable global supplier.

The country has shown notable progress across various sectors, including petroleum oils, agrochemicals, semiconductors, and precious stones.

### **RBI asks banks to activate inoperative/frozen accounts.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to take urgent necessary steps to bring down the number of inoperative/ frozen accounts and make the process of activation of such accounts smoother and hassle free.

The banks have been told to enable seamless updation of KYC through mobile/internet banking, non-home branches and Video Customer Identification Process.

The order was issued after the RBI's Department of Supervision, which recently conducted an analysis, found that the number of inoperative accounts/ unclaimed deposits in several banks was on the higher side vis-a-vis their total deposits as well as in absolute terms.

## Sports

### India's Pavan Kampelli wins Bronze medal in e-football event

India's Pavan Kampelli secured a bronze medal in the e-football event at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok, Thailand. This is the first-ever medal for India at the Asian Esports Games. Pavan had recently emerged as the winner of the WAVES Esports Championship 2025 for eFootball last month.

### Men's Junior Asia Cup: India enters final with 3-1 victory against Malaysia

India defeated Malaysia 3-1 in the second semi-final match to enter the final of the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup in Muscat, Oman. India scored through Dilraj Singh (10th minute), Rohit (45th) and Sharda Nand Tiwari (52nd) to secure their place in the final.

India will take on arch-rivals Pakistan in the final. Pakistan had defeated Japan 4-2 in the first semifinal.

### World Chess Championship 2024: Game 7 ends in draw

India's D Gukesh and China's Ding Liren played out a draw in the seventh round of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024 at the Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore. At the halfway stage of the championship, both players have won one game each and drawn four, leaving them tied at 3.5 points apiece. Each player still needs four more points to win the championship.

### Indian squash legend Raj Manchanda dies

India's legendary squash player Raj Manchanda, the Arjuna Award recipient and winner of six national titles, died at the age of 79. Manchanda, one of the most recognisable faces in the Indian squash fraternity, was the undisputed national champion from 1977 to 1982 and won an unprecedented 11 titles for the Services.

### Australian tennis great Neale Fraser dies

Australian tennis great Neale Fraser, who won 19 Grand Slam titles, died aged 91. A contemporary of Rod Laver, Lew Hoad and Roy Emerson, Fraser won the Wimbledon in 1960 and back-to-back U.S. national titles in 1959-60 along with 16 Grand Slam championships in men's and mixed doubles. Fraser guided Australia to the Davis Cup titles in 1973, 1977, 1983 and 1986.