

International

Tajikistan's ruling party wins parliamentary elections.

Tajikistan's ruling People's Democratic Party won the parliamentary elections with 51.9 per cent of the vote. The ruling party led by President Emomali Rahmon secured 12 out of the 22 seats on party lists, and 37 seats in 41 single-mandate constituencies. Out of the 22 seats on party lists, the Agrarian Party secured five seats, the Economic Reform Party won three seats, and the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party each gained one seat.

COP16: Key outcomes agreed at the resumed UN biodiversity conference in Rome.

Countries have agreed at the resumed COP16 talks in Rome to a strategy for "mobilising" at least \$200bn per year by 2030 to help developing countries conserve biodiversity. Nations also agreed for the first time to a "permanent arrangement" for providing biodiversity finance to developing nations, "future-proofing" the flow of funds past 2030. Nations also agreed on two texts for tracking their progress towards achieving the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF is a landmark deal first made in 2022 aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Firefly Aerospace Lands Blue Ghost spacecraft on Moon.

US firm Firefly Aerospace achieved its first successful moon landing with the Blue Ghost spacecraft, touching down near Mare Crisium. The uncrewed lander, carrying 10 scientific payloads, marks Firefly as the second private company to land on the moon, following Intuitive Machines' partial success last year. The spacecraft travelled 2.8 million miles over three loops around Earth before landing, beginning a 14-day research mission powered by solar panels.

Intuitive Machines, another firm, is hoping to land its Athena spacecraft near the Moon's south pole in the next few days. Intuitive was the first private company to achieve a lunar landing. Its spacecraft Odysseus reached the Moon on 22 February last year.

Cholera outbreak kills over 200 people in Angola.

In Angola, the number of people killed in the latest cholera outbreak has risen to 201. The Health Ministry of Angola has announced that nearly 5,600 people have been infected since early January.

Cholera cases have been reported in 13 of Angola's 21 provinces. Cholera is an acute Diarrhoeal infection caused by consuming food or water contaminated with the bacterium Vibrio cholera.

World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated on 3 March.

United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to celebrate wild animals and plants. The WWD2025 Theme is Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.

National

India-Nepal sign MoU to cooperate in WASH sector.

India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to enhance cooperation in the Water Sanitation, Hygiene sector, and waste management. The primary agenda of the agreement is to promote collaboration between the two nations and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector, ensuring better access to clean drinking water and sanitation for their populations.

The MoU marks a new chapter in the India-Nepal partnership, ensuring that both countries work together for the well-being of their people and for a sustainable future.

India has over 6,300 river dolphins says first-ever estimation report.

The Prime Minister released the report of the first-ever riverine dolphin estimation conducted in the country, which estimated a total of 6,327 dolphins. This pioneering effort involved surveying 28 rivers across eight states, with 3,150 man-days dedicated to covering over 8,500 kilometres. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest numbers, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

'Diyaslai' book, an inspiring journey of Kailash Satyarthi

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion,

held a dedicated discussion on “Diyaslai”, the autobiography of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, as the chief guest.

In the 24 chapters of Diyaslai, Satyarthi narrates his journey- from being born into the family of a humble police constable in Vidisha to his lifelong struggle for the liberation of children from exploitation, culminating in the honour of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Business and Economy

Centre grants Navratna status to IRCTC and IRFC.

The Government of India has elevated IRCTC and IRFC to Navratna CPSE status, granting them greater financial autonomy and the ability to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without government approval. This move aims to enhance the competitiveness and efficiency of these Indian Railway companies, supporting their infrastructure expansion and modernization efforts.

With this, IRCTC and IRFC have become the 25th and 26th Navratna among the CPSEs, respectively, marking a major milestone for the Indian Railway companies.

The Indian government categorizes CPSEs into three groups: Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna. The centre's aim is to make these PSUs much more competitive and efficient.

HDFC Bank executes first trade in gold through IIBX.

HDFC Bank executed the first ever trade in gold by any bank on India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) under Special Category Client – Nominated Bank Category, the (IIBX). This trade conducted on February 28 imported gold through IIBX ecosystem by HDFC Bank and paved the way for other nominated banks to follow and start importing bullion through IIBX.

Indian women taking interest in Finance matters says NITI Aayog report.

The financial awareness among women has increased by 42 percent from the previous year. This was stated in a report titled From

Borrowers to Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story, which was launched by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. According to the report, around 27 million women were monitoring their credit till December last year.

The report shows that women's share of the total self-monitoring base increased to 19.43 percent in December last year, compared to 17.89 percent in 2023.

Sports

P.Iniyan wins Cannes Open

Indian Grandmaster P. Iniyan won the Cannes International Open, defeating compatriot V. Pranesh in the ninth and final round in Cannes, France. Iniyan ended the tournament on 7.5 points, a half point more than Delhi-based International Master Aradhya Garg, who finished second.

Vidarbha claim third Ranji Trophy title

Vidarbha claimed their third Ranji Trophy title with a dominant performance against Kerala. Their hard-fought first-innings lead and marathon second-innings batting display broke Kerala's resistance, sealing a memorable victory. Vidarbha carried out their plan — batting out Kerala and reached 375/9 with the knocks of Karun Nair (135) and Danish Malewar (73) followed by pacer Darshan Nalkande's 51 not out at No.9.

Koneru Humpy joins as brand ambassador of SOG Grandmaster Series.

The Skill Online Games Federation (SOGF) proudly announced the appointment of Padma Shri awardee Koneru Humpy, India's youngest-ever Woman Grandmaster and one of the country's most celebrated chess icons, as the Brand Ambassador of the SOG Grandmaster Series.

The SOG Grandmaster Series, curated by the Skill Online Games Federation, aims to establish a regulated and credible platform for competitive skill-based gaming, featuring formats such as chess, blind chess, and other strategic mind sports.