

International

Moldova Elections: President Maia Sandu re-elected for second term

In Moldova, Maia Sandu has been re-elected for a second term. Sandu defeated her opponent, Alexandr Stoianoglo, from the pro-Russian Party of Socialists, by over 10 percentage points. With more than 99 percent of the ballots counted, Sandu received 55.26 percent of the vote.

US Presidential Elections to take place on November 5.

The United States will go to polls on November 5 to elect a new President. Republican nominee and former President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate and Vice President Kamala Harris are locked in a tough fight for the top post.

In the United States, the President is not elected by popular vote but by an indirect election system called the Electoral College. A candidate aspiring to become the next US president needs an absolute majority of 270 or more votes out of 538 electoral college votes.

ILO report says that, 'More than half of Indian women remain outside labour force due to care duties'

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in its latest report 'The impact of care responsibilities of women's labour participation' has stated that India has 53 per cent of women outside the labour force due to care responsibilities. The report said that India would need further investment in the care economy, particularly in the early childhood care and education (ECCE) to support labour force participation of unpaid carers and gender equality in the workforce. The report also showed that 97.8 per cent women and 91.4 per cent men in India are

outside the labour force due to personal or family reasons.

Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Mali and India have more than 50 per cent of women outside the labour force due to care responsibilities.

National

India launches updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at COP 16 in Colombia.

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, released India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia.

The updated NBSAP, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, KMGBF, is a vital roadmap to address the strategies to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with a longer-term vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

India, Algeria sign MoU on bilateral defence cooperation.

India and Algeria have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral defence cooperation. The MoU will elevate the defence partnership between both nations, fostering mutual understanding and enhancing strategic interests. It was signed by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan and Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Saïd Chanegriha. Make In India initiatives and technology exchange were also discussed between both military leaders.

Business and Economy

Ambani's Reliance Jio IPO set for 2025.

Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani targets a 2025 Mumbai listing for his telecom business Jio, valued by analysts at over \$100 billion, and plans to launch his retail unit's IPO much later.

The telecom major JIO has achieved a stable business and revenue stream by becoming India's top telecom player with 479 million subscribers.

City Union Bank to extend secured digital lending to retail sector.

Following the successful launch of MSME digital secured lending model, private sector lender City Union Bank is planning to expand it to housing, affordable home loan, loan against property (LAP) and micro LAP segments in the fourth quarter. Currently, the bank is building capacity as well as human resources to support its retail credit growth, said its MD & CEO N. Kamakodi.

RBI invites applications for Deputy Governor's post.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has invited applications for one Deputy Governor's post from eligible applicants. One position is slated for vacancy as Deputy governor Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, in charge of monetary policy and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), is scheduled for retirement in mid January 2025.

The applicants, not to be more than 60 years of age as on 15.01.2025, need to have at least 25 years of work experience in Public Administration including experience at the level of Secretary or equivalent in the Government of India; or in an Indian or International Public Financial Institutions;

or having exceptional merit and track record at the national or international level in the relevant field.

Nearly 98% ₹2000 banknotes returned: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that 98.04% of the ₹2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, and only ₹6,970 crore worth such notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

NTPC, ONGC green arms form 50:50 JV for renewable energy

NTPC Limited and ONGC Limited have announced the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their green energy subsidiaries NTPC Green Energy Limited and ONGC Green Energy Limited respectively, to further promote their interest around renewable and new energy. The JVC will also seek opportunities to acquire renewable energy assets and will also consider participation in upcoming offshore wind tenders in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

India's manufacturing growth accelerates in October: PMI

Manufacturing activity in India's private sector recovered in October, breaking a three-month streak of deceleration after hitting an eight-month low in September, as per the survey-based HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) which inched up to 57.5 from 56.5 in the previous month.

A reading of over 50 on the PMI indicates an expansion in activity.

HCLTech announces AI/Cloud Native Lab in Singapore.

Indian IT company HCLTech announced an AI/Cloud Native Lab in Singapore that will be developed in partnership with the Singaporean government, slated to open next year.

HCLTech will be partnering with the Singapore Economic Development Board in order to move forward with the company's fifth lab globally. The other labs are located in the U.S., UK, Germany, and India.

Sports

Wriddhiman Saha announces retirement from cricket.

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha has announced his retirement from cricket, saying that the ongoing Ranji Trophy season will be his last one. The 40-year-old Bengal wicketkeeper has appeared in 40 Tests and nine ODIs since his international debut in 2010.

New York City sets world record for largest marathon.

The New York City Marathon has broken the record for the world's largest marathon, with 55,646 runners crossing the finish line in Central Park. That beat the record set by

Berlin's Marathon in September, when 54,280 completed the fellow World Marathon Major. The five-borough race included the most women finishers ever with 24,731.

Dutchman Abdi Nageeye won the men's race on Sunday, while Sheila Chepkirui led a Kenyan sweep of the women's podium.

Mandeep Jangra clinches WBF super featherweight title.

Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra won the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands. He delivered powerful punches from the outset, maintaining his stamina throughout the 10 rounds, while the British boxer struggled to keep pace.

Golf: Nelly Korda clinches first Rolex Player of the Year award

American world number one, Nelly Korda clinched her first Rolex Player of the Year award. She claimed the LPGA's points-based player of the year award with three events left in the 2024 season.

She claimed six victories in 2024 and had three additional top-10 finishes. At one point during the year Korda won five consecutive tournaments, a run she capped by securing her second major title.