

## International

### Japan Launches World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat

The world's first wood-panelled satellite has been launched into space to test the suitability of timber as a renewable building material in future exploration. The satellite LignoSat is scheduled to orbit the Earth for six months. The satellite, designed by researchers at Kyoto University in Japan, is made of honoki, a kind of magnolia tree. The tiny satellite, weighing just 900g, is heading for the International Space Station on a SpaceX mission.

The satellite will measure how wood endures the extreme environment of space, where temperatures fluctuate from -100 to 100 degrees Celsius every 45 minutes as objects orbit through darkness and sunlight.

### Russian Rocket Takes Iranian Satellites Into Orbit as Ties Grow Closer

A Russian rocket carrying a payload of satellites into orbit, including two from Iran, blasted off successfully. The Soyuz-2.1 spacecraft lifted off as scheduled from the Vostochny Cosmodrome launchpad in far eastern Russia and put its payload into a designated orbit nine minutes after the launch. Two Russian Ionosfera-M satellites—designed to monitor the space weather around Earth—and 53 small satellites, including two from Iran, were placed into orbit successfully.

Among the 53 small satellites, the two Iranian satellites were identified as the Kowsar, a high-resolution imaging satellite, and Hodhod, a small communications satellite.

## National

### President Droupadi Murmu Releases Three Publications of Supreme Court of India in New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu has released three publications of the Supreme Court about the 75 years of the court, prisons in India and legal aid. Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud said the three books were moments of self-

reflection, both for the Supreme Court as well as the larger legal system.

The Publications released were: (i) Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 years of the Supreme Court of India; (ii) Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion; and (iii) Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India.

### Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates Multi-Crore Jain Museum and Knowledge Centre in Pune

Union Minister for Transport Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the 'Abhay Prabhavana Museum' – the largest museum of ideas dedicated to Jain philosophy and Indian heritage – at Parvadi village, located around 50 kilometres from Pune. The mega circular structure has been constructed at a cost of ₹400 crore over a period of 10 years in collaboration with Jain scholars, thought leaders, artists and facilitators. 'Abhay Prabhavana Museum' has also been christened a knowledge centre created by the Firodia Institute of Philosophy, Culture and History (FIPCH), a division of Amar Prerana Trust (APT), under the guidance of Abhay Firodia, chairman, APT and founder, Abhay Prabhavana.

### Renowned Singer, Padma Bhushan Recipient Sharda Sinha Dies At 72

Popular folk singer and Padma Bhushan awardee, Sharda Sinha, has passed away. She was 72. Sharda Sinha was one of the most prominent musicians from Bihar. She sang extensively in Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Magahi languages. She was also known for her songs in Hindi films like Maine Pyar Kiya, and Hum Aapke Hain Kaun. In Anurag Kashyap's cult film, Gangs of Wasseypur, she sang 'Taar Bijli', a track which became immensely popular.

She was a recipient of Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour. In 1991, she was also awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Chip Maker Nvidia Surpasses Apple as World's Biggest Company**

Chip-making giant Nvidia surpassed Apple to become the highest valued company in the world as the artificial intelligence boom continues to excite Wall Street. Shares in the AI-based company rose 2.9% to \$139.93, swelling its market capitalisation to \$3.43 trillion, ahead of Apple at \$3.38 trillion on November 5, 2024.

The company has been a frontrunner in the AI race as it makes advanced computer chips that power AI technologies. These chips are essential for running complex AI tasks, like training large language models (e.g., ChatGPT) and supporting advanced data processing in data centres.

### **Former VP of China Development Bank, Zhou Qingyu Sentenced to 15 Years for Bribery Crimes**

Former Vice President of China Development Bank, Zhou Qingyu, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for bribery crimes. Mr. Zhou has also been fined 5.2 million yuan, and his illegal gains have been confiscated and turned over to the state treasury. An investigation into the case revealed that between 2013 and 2023, he took advantage of his various positions at the bank. In return, Zhou accepted money and valuables worth over 67.43 million yuan.

### **Noel Tata Appointed to Tata Sons Board**

Noel Tata, the half-brother of late Indian tycoon Ratan Tata, has been appointed to the board of Tata Sons, the group company that operates the \$165 billion salt-to-software conglomerate. The move follows Noel Tata's appointment last month as the chairman of the powerful and influential philanthropic arm of the Tata group, Tata Trusts.

### **Southwest Airlines Names IndiGo Co-founder Rakesh Gangwal as Chairman**

IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal has been appointed as the Chairman of American carrier

Southwest Airlines. Mr. Gangwal, who joined the board of Southwest in July this year, had also acquired shares worth USD 108 million of the airline recently. His appointment as the board chairman comes a little over a week after Southwest settled issues with Elliott Investment Management, one of the airline's largest shareholders, which had sought sweeping changes at the carrier.

### **Bitcoin Leaps to Record High as Traders Lean Towards Trump Victory**

Cryptocurrency Bitcoin has soared to a new record high as traders bet on victory for Donald Trump in the US presidential race, with the tycoon seen as the pro-crypto candidate.

The digital currency hit as much as \$75,005.08 on Wednesday morning, topping its previous all-time peak of \$73,797.98 in March.

## **Sports**

### **India Submits Letter of Intent to Host 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Future Host Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), expressing India's desire to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken about his government's aspiration to host the 2036 Olympics. India's commitment to hosting the 2036 Games was further emphasized at the IOC's 141st session in Mumbai last year.

### **World Soft Tennis Championship: India's Tanushree Pandey Clinches Silver Medal**

India's Tanushree Pandey has won the silver medal at the World Soft Tennis Championship at Jingshan in China. She faced a defeat against Chiang Min Yu of Chinese Taipei, 3-4, in the Under 21 Women's Individual Singles final. Earlier, Tanushree triumphed over her Japanese opponent, 4-3, in a fiercely contested semifinal match.

## **Hylo Open 2024: Malvika Bansod Loses to Mia Blichfeldt in Final**

Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod's impressive run at the Hylo Open Super 300 concluded with a runner-up finish, as she fell to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt 10-21, 15-21 in the final. She claimed notable wins en route to her first Super 300 final, including a victory over fourth seed Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam, but struggled to match Blichfeldt's pace, conceding the match in 43 minutes.

## **IPL 2025 Auction to be Held in Saudi Arabia on Nov 24-25**

The BCCI has announced that the auction for next year's Indian Premier League, IPL 2025,

will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25. This is the second successive year the auction is being held overseas as Dubai hosted the previous one ahead of IPL 2024. A total of 1,574 cricketers—1,165 Indian and 409 overseas—have been signed up for the auction this time.

The 10 franchises will collectively have around 641.5 crore rupees to spend for the available 204 slots.