

International

Hong Kong published a draft of a new national security law

Hong Kong published a draft of a new national security law. The bill, titled the "Safeguarding National Security Bill," includes life sentences for major offenses such as treason and insurrection.

The bill also includes sentences of up to 20 years for espionage and 10 years for crimes linked to state secrets and sedition.

The home-grown legislation is set to become the city's second national security law, following the one Beijing imposed in 2020 after quashing huge and sometimes violent democracy protests.

National

Byrnihat is India's most polluted city

According to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Byrnihat, an industrial town near the Assam border, is India's most polluted city.

The report states that Byrnihat has a monthly average concentration of PM2.5 pollution of 183 µg/m³, which is around 60 µg/m³ higher than Bihar's Araria, the second-most polluted city in the country.

Hapur in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan's Hanumangarh were the third and fourth most polluted cities, respectively.

President Droupadi Murmu nominated Sudha Murty to the Rajya Sabha

President Droupadi Murmu nominated Sudha Murty, the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, to the Rajya Sabha on International Women's Day.

The president of India nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha for a six-year term for their contributions to arts, literature, sciences, and social services.

Prime Minister gives awards to online content creators

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award at Bharat Mandapam and emphasized on engaging with a global audience.

The awardees included personal trainer-turned-podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, who goes by BeerBiceps, and has partnered with the Digital India Corporation to interview a series of Cabinet Ministers; Abhi and Niyu, a married duo with more than five million YouTube subscribers; Keerthika Govindhasamy of the Instagram account Keerthi History; and Pankti Pandey, a former ISRO scientist who is now a sustainability influencer.

Business & Economy

Vegetable food prices up 7% over last year

Vegetarian food prices rose 7% in February, driven by a spurt in onion and tomato prices, even as non-vegetarian plate costs dropped 9% from a year ago, as per rating agency Crisil's monthly report on food plate costs called 'Roti Rice Rate'.

The prices of rice and pulses, which account for 21% of the cost of a representative home-cooked vegetarian food plate as per the firm's calculations, rose 14% and 20%, respectively.

Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) committed Rs 9,500 crore for the promotion of new ventures in the country

SIDBI chairman S Ramann said that the Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) has committed Rs 9,500 crore for the promotion of new ventures in the country.

The FFS was unveiled by the Prime Minister on January 16th 2016, in line with the Start-up India Action Plan.

Indian consumers can use the UPI to pay Nepalese merchants

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Fonepay Payment Service, Nepal's largest payment network, announced the launch of UPI for cross-border transactions between India and Nepal.

UPI-enabled apps can be used to make instant, secure, and convenient UPI payments across various business stores in Nepal.

Liquid funds saw a 69% increase in inflows

According to AMFI, liquid fund inflows in February 2024 increased 69% from January to ₹83,642.33 crore. This was the highest inflow for liquid funds in February.

ETF Fund inflow jumped to ₹6,461.67 crore from ₹571 crore in January. Large-cap funds in February witnessed reduced inflows of ₹921.14 crore in February from ₹1,287 crore in January, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

Karnataka and Rajasthan unveil India's first critical mineral license auctions

Karnataka and Rajasthan launched India's first auction of exploration licenses for critical and deep-seated minerals. The minerals include gold, copper, lithium, cobalt, nickel, silver, and other difficult-to-mine minerals.

The auction aims to enhance the mining sector and explore these minerals, which play a critical role in the transition to green energy. The auction includes one block each of gold, copper, and lithium in Karnataka and three blocks in Rajasthan, including rare earth elements, rare metals, and potash.

Sports

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the French Open 2024 semifinals

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the top seeds and former champions in men's doubles badminton, have stormed into Men's Doubles Semifinal. They defeated Thai pair Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren 21-19, 21-13 in a Quarterfinal match in Paris.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag will face the South Korean pair of Seo Seung-jae and Kang Min-hyuk in the Men's Doubles semifinal.