

International

John H. Hopfield & Geoffrey E. Hinton Awarded 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics

The 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks. The two Nobel laureates used tools from physics to develop methods that form the foundation of modern-day powerful machine learning. John Hopfield created an associative memory capable of storing and reconstructing images and other patterns in data. Geoffrey Hinton invented a method that autonomously identifies properties in data and performs tasks such as recognizing specific elements in images.

WHO Launches Health Labour Market Analysis Support Tool to Assist Africa

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the health labour market analysis (HLMA) support tool to assist Africa in assessing health workforce education capacity, supply, and demand.

The tool is designed to facilitate the integration of health workforce planning into labour market analysis. The WHO developed the HLMA Guidebook in 2021 and trained 75 experts from 25 countries in Africa.

Category 5 Storm Hurricane Milton Heads Toward Western Florida

In the US, Hurricane Milton has been upgraded once again to Category 5, as it moves toward western Florida following a brief weakening to Category 4. The hurricane could become the most severe storm system to hit Florida in over 100 years. The storm is expected to make landfall in the heavily populated Tampa Bay area by tomorrow. Sea surges of up to 20 feet are anticipated along coastal regions where evacuation orders have already been issued.

More than five million residents along Florida's western coast have been urged to evacuate ahead of the hurricane's landfall.

Dubai Hosts AccessAbilities Expo 2024

The Access Abilities Expo 2024 commenced at the Dubai World Trade Centre, with over 250 exhibitors from 50 countries showcasing the latest assistive technologies and rehabilitation practices for people with disabilities. The Access Abilities Expo, the largest of its kind in West Asia, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent, offers over 4,500 assistive technologies globally.

India is participating in the Expo through its Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, represented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector undertaking under the ministry.

India Eliminates Trachoma as Public Health Problem

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that this year, India has eliminated trachoma as a public health problem. With this, India has become the third country in the Southeast Asia region to achieve this milestone. During 1950-60, trachoma was among the leading causes of blindness in the country. To tackle the spread, the government of India launched the National Trachoma Control Program in 1963.

Trachoma is a contagious bacterial infection that affects the eyes and spreads through the eyes, eyelids, nose, or throat secretions of infected people.

National

India to Host World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in New Delhi

India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) of the International Telecommunication Union in

New Delhi from the 14th to the 24th of October. For the first time, this event is being organized in the Asia-Pacific region. The event will see the participation of over 3,000 world leaders. Technology experts from over 190 countries will collaborate in the program. The event aims to shape the future of technology standards in areas like 6G, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, big data, cybersecurity, machine-to-machine communications, and quantum technologies.

President Droupadi Murmu Confers 70th National Film Awards, Mithun Chakraborty Receives Dadasaheb Phalke Award

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 in New Delhi. On this occasion, legendary actor Mithun Chakraborty was honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest recognition in the field of cinema.

In other categories of National Film Awards, Kannada actor Rishab Shetty received the Best Actor award for his outstanding performance in the Kannada film *Kantara*, while the Best Actress award was given to Nithya Menen for the Tamil film *Thiruchitrambalam* and Manasi Parekh for the Gujarati film *Kutch Express*.

Nitin Gadkari Launches ‘Humsafar Policy’ to Improve National Highway Travel and Boost Wayside Amenities

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has launched the ‘Humsafar Policy’ in New Delhi to enhance the convenience of traveling on national highways and accelerate the development of wayside amenities.

Mr. Gadkari said that local marginal sections of society would benefit from this initiative. He further added that this scheme would facilitate smooth, safe, and pleasant journeys for users. Mr. Gadkari highlighted that this policy would

be environmentally friendly and has been prepared with ecology and cleanliness in mind.

Business and Economy

CBDT Forms Internal Committee to Oversee Comprehensive Review of Income Tax Act

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has formed an internal committee to oversee a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The goal of this committee is to make the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigation, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers. The Ministry also invited suggestions from stakeholders, experts, and the public on the Income Tax e-filing portal.

ADB grants \$162 mn Loan for New Infra, Tourism boost in Himachal Pradesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$162 million to support tourism development in Himachal Pradesh. The Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project targets the promotion of heritage and cultural sites in the Mandi and Hamirpur districts. It will also see the restoration of the historic Naggar Castle in Kullu, improvements to public spaces, and the construction of a new convention centre in Kangra.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu Convenes First State Finance Secretaries Conference in New Delhi

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has convened the first State Finance Secretaries Conference in New Delhi. The primary aim of the conference was to institutionalize the CAG’s outreach to stakeholders and strengthen communication with state governments to address public financial management issues.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Enrollments Cross 7-Crore Mark

According to data released today by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, the gross enrollments under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have surpassed seven crores, with an enrollment of over 56 lakh in the current fiscal year so far. The Social Security Scheme provides a guaranteed minimum pension of one thousand to five thousand rupees per month, based on contributions. It was launched in 2015 with the aim of creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially workers in the unorganized sector.

RBI Announces Scholarship Scheme for Faculty Members From Academic Institutions

The Reserve Bank of India has announced a scholarship scheme for faculty members from academic institutions. Under the scheme, full-time faculty members teaching economics or finance at any UGC or AICTE-recognized universities or colleges in India are eligible to apply for short-term research. The areas included under the scholarship are monetary and financial economics, banking, real sector issues and other topics of interest to RBI. The scheme aims to enhance awareness of the RBI's activities among faculty and students while providing exposure to various operational areas within the RBI.

Amazon Acquires MX Player App; Merges It With miniTV to Launch Amazon MX Player

Amazon has completed the acquisition of free streaming platform MX Player and merged it with its miniTV as part of a strategy to expand

its advertising-based video-on-demand (AVOD) business in India. With this acquisition, Amazon is merging two of India's most popular free AVOD services – MX Player and Amazon miniTV into one service—Amazon MX Player. As of September, the combined platform attracted over 250 million unique users, offering a range of original series, popular movies, and international shows dubbed in local languages.

Uber Pet Launched in Bengaluru

Uber Pet, an initiative by the ridesharing app that allows people to take their pets along for a ride, has been launched in Bengaluru. Uber Pet service is open to both cats and dogs.

One can select the Uber Pet option in the app and set the pick-up time, which can be anywhere between 60 minutes and 90 days in advance, to make the booking.

Sports

India Reaches Semi-finals of Asian Table Tennis Championship

India progressed to the semi-finals of the Asian Table Tennis Championship in the women's team event after defeating South Korea in the quarter-finals in Kazakhstan. This victory guaranteed the Indian team their first-ever medal in the championship.

Led by Manika Batra, India handed a 3-2 defeat to the Korean side. India will face Japan in the semi-finals.