

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' becomes Nepal's PM for third time



CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time. President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed Prachanda as the prime minister as per Article 76 (2) of the constitution. Prachanda has support of 165 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives which includes CPN-UML with 78, CPN-MC with 32, RSP with 20, RPP with 14, JSP with 12, Janamat with 6 and Nagarik Unmukti Party with 3.

Former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen sentenced to 11 years in prison for money laundering and bribery



In Maldives, former President Abdulla Yameen has been sentenced to 11 years in prison after being found guilty of money laundering and bribery. Yameen was accused of abusing his position and taking one million US Dollars from a private company to facilitate the sale of Aarah for resort development. Yameen, who lost power in 2018, was sentenced to five years in jail and fined 5 million dollars in 2019 for embezzlement in state funds.

China stages drills around Taiwan citing provocation



China's military said it had conducted "strike drills" in the sea and airspace around Taiwan on Sunday in response to what it said was provocation from the democratically governed island and the U.S. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, said the drills showed Beijing was destroying regional peace and trying to cow Taiwan's people. China has condemned the U.S. for a new defence authorisation law that boosts military assistance for Taiwan.

PM lauds India's achievements as world's 5th largest economy, surpassing 220 crore Covid vaccines and crossing export figures of 400b among others



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that 2022 was the year when India attained the status of the world's fifth-largest economy and made the record of surpassing 220 crore COVID vaccines. He highlighted that India crossed the magical exports figure of 400 billion dollars and welcomed the first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. He expressed delight that Indian youth showed tremendous power in the field of sports, be it the Commonwealth Games, or the victory of the women's hockey team. The Prime Minister lauded the strength, cooperation, and resolve of the people this year.

14 monuments, sites declared protected in 3 years: Minister



The Janardana Temple in Kerala's Wayanad, the Haveli of Agah Khan in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and Gonpa complex in Ladakh are among the 14 ancient sites which have been declared protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over the past three years. The list was shared by Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy in the Rajya Sabha. He also said the government had provided ₹15,622 lakh over the last three years as grant to zonal cultural committees to strengthen micro-culture in the country. Out of this, ₹5,881.46 lakh was allotted in 2021-22.

First Veer Bal Diwas to be observed on 26th Dec to commemorate martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's two young sons



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a historic programme marking Veer Bal Diwas at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi on Monday. Prime Minister had announced that 26th December will be observed as Veer Bal Diwas to mark the martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. On this occasion, Mr Modi will also flag off a march-past by about three thousand children in Delhi.

Registration, Diagnostics, Treatment fees at National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres to be waived off for Divyangjan



The Union government has said that Registration, Diagnostics and Treatment fees at National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres will be waived off for Divyangjan from the 1st of January next year. The fee will be waived for those who have Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities (UDID) cards and those who have disability certificates and are enrolled on the UDID portal.

Govt invites people to design Logo for Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission



The Central government has invited citizens to participate in designing a Logo for PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, representing the roots of the Robust and Accessible Healthcare system in India. The last date for submission is the 12th of January. Union Health Ministry said, the winner will receive a cash prize of one lakh rupees. The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is one of the largest pan-India health schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM-ABHIM on 25th October last year, 2021 to accomplish the vision of accessible and comprehensive healthcare across the country. It aims to fill the critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in urban and rural areas.

Documentary film-maker K.P. Sasi passes away in Kerala



Documentary filmmaker K.P. Sasi, who used his craft to highlight people's struggles across the country over the past four decades, passed away. He was 64. One of the earliest to adopt documentary filmmaking in the country, and a scathing critic of the development model being followed by the Indian state, he has given a voice to the oppressed from Narmada valley to Kashipur. Satire was one of the main tools in his films.

RBI mandates banks in country to renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by Jan 1



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks in the country to renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by 1st January. All the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement. They are required to sign a renewal agreement before the specified date. RBI's revised guidelines were first released in August 2021.

RBI advises the banks to install CCTV camera at entry and exit points of the strong room and the common areas of operation. It mandates to preserve its recording for a period of not less than 180 days. It has also instructed banks to ensure that any "unfair terms or conditions" are not covered in their locker agreements. Depositors can now get up to 100 times the bank charges if the valuables stored in the vaults are ransacked or lost due to fire or building collapse. However, the bank shall not be liable for any damage or loss of contents of locker originating from natural calamities or 'Acts of God'.

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) has acquired METRO Cash & Carry India



Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) has acquired METRO Cash & Carry India, German international wholesaler METRO AG's wholly owned subsidiary, for ₹2,850 crore. This acquisition will give RRVL access to METRO India's wide network of 31 large format stores across 21 cities, a large base of registered kiranas and other institutional customers, strong supplier network and some of the global best practices implemented by METRO in India

Flipkart separates from PhonePe; offers \$700 million to employees



Flipkart has completely separated its business operations from Phone's, the two entities announced, saying the move would allow both to chart their own growth paths. As part of this transaction, existing Flipkart Singapore and PhonePe Singapore shareholders, led by Walmart, have bought shares directly in PhonePe India. This completes the process, which began earlier this year of making PhonePe a fully India-domiciled company. The business groups will now operate as independent entities, with Walmart remaining the majority shareholder in both. The US retailer acquired a 77% stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion in 2018; PhonePe was part of the Flipkart group at the time.

FPI pumps more than 8,300 crore rupees in Indian capital markets



Foreign investors pumped more than 8,300 crore rupees in the Indian capital markets this month, so far. Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) invested 11,557 crore rupees in the equities market and 42 crore rupees in Hybrid market. On the other hand, FPIs pulled 2,900 crore rupees from the debt market and 399 crore rupees from the Voluntary Retention Route of the debt market taking the total net inflow in the Indian capital markets to 8,301 crore rupees in December, so far.

Prior to this, FPIs had pumped 33,847 crore rupees in November and 56,521 crore rupees in August. This is the fourth month in the calendar year 2022 when the net foreign fund inflow in the Indian capital markets is positive.

India clean sweeps two test match series against Bangladesh



An unbeaten 71 run partnership for the eighth wicket between Shreyas Ayer and R. Ashwin helped India to defeat Bangladesh in the second match to clinch the series 2-0 at Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka. Resuming at the overnight score of 45 for four, the visitors scored the required 100 runs losing three wickets in the first session of the 4th day.

Kathy Whitworth: Golfer who broke record for wins dies at 83



Kathy Whitworth - the professional golfer with the most trophies has died aged 83. Her 88 LPGA victories are the most ever on a professional tour. She took six more trophies than her rival Mary Kathryn "Mickey" Wright, as well as men's game joint record-holders Sam Snead and Tiger Woods.

Whitworth won six majors during her decades-long career, and came very close, being a runner-up in 1971, to winning the US Women's Open - the most prestigious trophy.

Brazilian Soccer legend Pelé's health has worsened, says hospital



Brazilian Soccer legend Pelé's health has worsened, and he now requires greater care due to the progression of his cancer, according to a statement by the Albert Einstein Jewish Hospital in São Paulo. 82-year-old Pelé was admitted to the hospital on November 29 for a respiratory infection and re-evaluation of the chemotherapy treatment over the colon cancer identified in September 2021. He was widely considered one of the greatest footballers of all time