

Weekly Current Affairs 2nd January to 6th January 2024 - English

National News

Inauguration of India's First All-Girl Sainik School: A Milestone in Women Empowerment

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **first all-girl Sainik School in Vrindavan, Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh**. This groundbreaking event marks a significant advancement in women empowerment and educational reform in India. The Defence Minister hailed this initiative as a "golden moment in the history of women empowerment."

The Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School, with a capacity of nearly 870 students, is part of a broader initiative to establish 100 new Sainik Schools across India in partnership with NGOs, private entities, and state governments. This initiative aligns with the objective of increasing educational opportunities for girls aspiring to join the armed forces.

Abu Dhabi's First Temple to be Inaugurated by PM Modi on 14 Feb

Weeks after the consecration of the **Ram Mandir in Ayodhya**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate another significant temple on February 14 in **Abu Dhabi**. The **BAPS Hindu Mandir**, located in the capital's Abu Mureikha area, marks the first Hindu temple in the UAE and is anticipated to be one of the largest and most exquisite Hindu temples outside of India, as well as the largest in West Asia.

Anurag Thakur attends youth dialogue program on theme 'My Bharat Mera Yuva Bharat'

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has inspired young people to play a key role in building a strong and prosperous India. He was addressing a youth dialogue program organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra on the theme 'My Bharat Mera Yuva Bharat' at Malala Auditorium in Diu. Thakur emphasized the importance of channeling the energy of the nation's youth towards nation-building. He urged them to actively contribute to realizing the dream of a developed India by 2047. He highlighted the crucial role of capable youth in shaping a strong India and emphasized the significance of sports in this endeavor.

Amit Shah Launches Tur Dal Procurement Portal for Farmers

In a significant move towards agricultural reform, Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a tur dal procurement portal, enabling farmers to register and sell their produce to the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF). The portal guarantees a minimum support price (MSP) or market price for the farmers. Minister Shah, during the launch, also highlighted plans to extend this facility for urad, masoor, and maize farmers in the future. As part of the

inauguration, Minister Shah conducted Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), transferring approximately Rs 68 lakh to 25 farmers as payment for their tur dal sales through the portal.

68 Rajya Sabha Members, Including Notables like Manmohan Singh and Jaya Bachchan, Set to Retire in 2024

In the upcoming year, the political landscape in India is poised for a significant shift as 68 Rajya Sabha members, nine of whom are Union ministers, face retirement, intensifying the race for coveted six-year terms in the Upper House of Parliament. The electoral battleground has already been set with contests declared for three seats in Delhi and one in Sikkim.

Ayodhya Airport Renamed As 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport'; Gains International Status

The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to declare Ayodhya Airport as an international airport, marking a significant development for the city. The airport will be named "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham," reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the government's commitment to connecting Ayodhya to the world through a tweet following the announcement. The decision aligns with the government's vision to position Ayodhya as a key economic hub and a prominent pilgrimage destination.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Unveils Logo and Booklet for Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024

At a curtain-raiser program in New Delhi, Union Minister Piyush Goyal revealed the logo and booklet for the highly anticipated "Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2024." Emphasizing India's innovative and holistic approach under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Goyal encouraged the automotive industry to target a 50% export share, highlighting global economic opportunities. Scheduled from February 1-3, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, the expo boasts over 600 exhibitors from 50+ countries. It promises to showcase cutting-edge technologies in various specialized exhibitions, including Auto Show.

International News

BRICS group to double in 2024 after Saudi, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia join ranks

BRICS, the group of emerging-market nations comprising **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, is poised to undergo a significant expansion on **January 1**. South Africa's envoy to the bloc revealed that Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Egypt have accepted invitations to join, effectively doubling the organization's membership.

Felix Tshisekedi Named President of The Democratic Republic of Congo

The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** is once again in the spotlight as **President Felix Tshisekedi** secures victory in the highly contested December 20 election. However, the results have sparked condemnation from various opposition candidates who label the election a “sham” and demand a rerun.

President Tshisekedi emerged victorious with **approximately 73% of the vote**, leaving his closest rival, **Moise Katumbi**, with 18%. The election faced significant issues, including delayed openings of two-thirds of polling stations and malfunctions in 30% of voting machines on the first day. **Millions of voters endured long waits, with some ultimately abandoning the process.** Opposition leaders argue that these challenges were part of a systematic plan to rig the results in favor of President Tshisekedi.

IMF to Release \$700 Million Bailout Tranche to Pakistan in January

Cash-strapped Pakistan is poised to receive a crucial **\$700 million bailout tranche** from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the Executive Board meeting on January 11. The disbursement, under the existing **\$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA)**, is expected to provide much-needed financial support to Pakistan’s struggling economy.

Putin Kicks Off Russia’s 2024 BRICS Chairmanship

On January 1, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** officially marked the commencement of **Russia’s 2024 BRICS Chairmanship**. During this handover, President Putin emphasized the motto for the upcoming tenure, **“Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security.”** This signifies Russia’s commitment to fostering collaboration among the BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Oman To Host FIH Hockey5s World Cup Qualifiers

Oman is set to unveil its latest sports marvel—a cutting-edge complex designed to host the **FIH Hockey5s World Cup qualifiers**. This grand facility is a testament to Oman’s commitment to fostering excellence in the world of sports, particularly in the realm of hockey. Scheduled just ahead of the Summer 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, the FIH Hockey5s World Cup qualifiers promise to be a thrilling spectacle, attracting **eight international teams** vying for a chance to secure three coveted tickets to the upcoming Olympics.

Nepal To Export 10,000 MW of Power to India in next 10 years

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, currently on a two-day visit to Nepal, joined hands with his counterpart N P Saud to inaugurate three cross-border transmission lines. This marks a significant stride in enhancing connectivity between the two nations, fostering cooperation in the energy sector. India and

Nepal solidified their commitment to a long-term energy partnership with the signing of an agreement for the export of 10,000 MW of power to India over the next 10 years. The bilateral agreement, signed by India’s Energy Secretary Pankaj Agrawal and Nepal’s Energy Secretary Gopal Sigdel, is a testament to the shared vision of sustainable energy cooperation.

State News**Jharkhand Reduces Age Limit For Old-Age Pensions To 50**

In a significant move to enhance social security and address the challenges faced by marginalized communities, Chief Minister Hemant Soren of **Jharkhand** announced a reduction in the qualifying age for old-age pensions. The decision primarily targets tribals and Dalits, lowering the age threshold **from 60 to 50 years**. This bold initiative **aims to provide financial support to a broader segment of the population**, acknowledging the specific challenges faced by these communities.

PM Modi Inaugurates ₹1,156 Crore Projects in Lakshadweep

In a significant development, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated projects worth ₹1,156 crore during his visit to the Lakshadweep islands. Among these projects is the **Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fibre Cable**, a ₹1,072-crore initiative providing 100 Gbps internet connectivity to the islands.

Gujarat Government Inks Agreements Worth \$86 Billion Ahead of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

In preparation for the upcoming **biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit**, the Indian state of Gujarat has sealed preliminary investment deals totaling **7.17 trillion Indian rupees (\$86.07 billion)** with 58 companies spanning sectors like energy, oil and gas, and chemicals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home state has been strategically securing these agreements ahead of the summit scheduled from January 10 to January 12 in Gandhinagar.

West Bengal News**Bengali Writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya Receives 2023 Kuvempu Award**

In a prestigious recognition of his literary contributions, renowned Bengali writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya has been awarded the 2023 Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar. The national award, named in honour of the late Kannada poet Kuvempu, celebrates writers who have made significant contributions to any Indian language. Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya, an accomplished author with a prolific literary career, has penned over 90 books, encompassing a diverse range of genres, including travelogues and fiction for children. The esteemed award comes with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.

Economy News

India's Forex Reserves Surge to \$623.2 Billion, Registering a \$2.75 Billion Increase

In the week concluding on December 29, India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a substantial uptick, surging by \$2.759 billion, reaching a total of \$623.2 billion, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This follows a previous week's increase of \$4.471 billion, bringing the overall reserves to \$620.441 billion. Notably, in October 2021, India's forex kitty had achieved an unprecedented peak at \$645 billion.

Rankings & Reports News

Hyderabad, Bengaluru Airports Score High in Global On-Time Ranking

In a recent on-time performance review conducted by aviation analytics firm **Cirium**, **Hyderabad and Bengaluru airports** have emerged as global leaders in punctuality, securing the second and third ranks, respectively. With over 84 per cent on-time departures, these airports have showcased their commitment to efficiency and reliability in air travel.

UN Report: India's GDP Growth Forecast at 6.2% for 2024

In the eagerly awaited United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report, India emerges as a key player, projecting a GDP growth of 6.2% in the coming year. This slightly trails behind the 6.3% estimate for 2023, a testament to the country's robust domestic demand and the flourishing manufacturing and services sectors. South Asia, driven by India's prowess, is anticipated to witness a GDP surge of 5.2% in 2024 after a commendable 5.3% growth in 2023.

Business News

Flipkart's Binny Bansal launches OppDoor

In a significant development, Binny Bansal, co-founder of **Flipkart**, has ventured into the e-commerce space once again with his latest startup, **OppDoor**. The startup aims to facilitate the global expansion of e-commerce firms by offering comprehensive end-to-end solutions. The launch of OppDoor holds particular significance as it marks Binny Bansal's re-entry into the e-commerce domain after the completion of a five-year non-compete clause following the sale of Flipkart to Walmart in 2018.

Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), the Mumbai-based conglomerate with a diverse portfolio in energy and petrochemical businesses, concluded the year 2023 on a remarkable note. The company achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first in India to produce ISCC-Plus certified chemically recycled polymers**.

Adidas to set up its first Asia GCC outside China in Tamil Nadu

Adidas, the renowned athletic footwear and apparel giant, is making strategic moves to enhance its global operations by establishing its first and only Global Capacity Centre (GCC) in Asia outside of China. This significant development underscores the growing trend of multinational corporations choosing India as a prime destination for setting up their GCCs, capitalizing on the country's abundant software skills. The German corporation, headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Bavaria, is set to establish its Global Business Services (GBS) hub in Chennai. This move signifies a pivotal step for Adidas, as the Chennai facility becomes the first GCC outside of China in Asia. The choice of Chennai as the location for this hub reflects the city's rising prominence in the global corporate landscape.

REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years

REC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) established in 1969 under the Ministry of Power, has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). This collaboration aims to provide financial support of up to Rs. 35,000 Crores for a range of Infrastructure Projects over the next 5 years, showcasing the commitment of both entities to drive essential developments in the sector.

Agreement News

France And Germany To Provide 100 Million Euros For AMRUT Mission Financing

France's development agency, **AFD**, and Germany's **KfW Bank** are reportedly in talks with India to extend a **€100 million loan** to support the **country's urban infrastructure plan**, specifically the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0**. Negotiations for the loan are scheduled for early 2024, with the signing expected to take place in February.

Cabinet Approves India-USAID MoU For Railways' Net-Zero Emission Goal

In a significant move towards sustainable development, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The focus of this collaboration is to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by the ambitious target year of 2030. The primary objectives of this strategic alliance are to facilitate utility modernization, deploy advanced energy solutions and systems, foster regional energy and market integration, encourage private sector participation and engagement, and conduct training sessions and workshops.'

Appointment News

Arvind Panagariya Appointed Head Of Sixteenth Finance Commission By Government

In a significant development, the government has appointed **Arvind Panagariya**, former Niti Aayog vice chairman and Columbia University professor, as the **chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission**. The Commission is entrusted with the crucial task of recommending the tax revenue sharing formula between the Centre and the States for the upcoming five-year period starting from April 2026.

Vivek Srivastava Named DG Of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has recently approved the appointment of **Vivek Srivastava**, a seasoned 1989-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, as the **Director General of Fire Service, Civil Defence & Home Guards under the Ministry of Home Affairs**.

The decision was made official through an order issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) on December 28. This significant appointment is set to take effect from the date of Srivastava's joining the post and will **continue until June 30, 2025**, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier.

Ravindra Kumar Tyagi Appointed as CMD of Power Grid Corporation

Power Grid Corporation, a **leading state-owned enterprise**, announced a significant change in its leadership on **January 1**. **Ravindra Kumar Tyagi has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**, succeeding **Sreekant Kandikuppa** who retired upon reaching the age of superannuation.

NIVEA India Appoints Geetika Mehta As New Managing Director

Nivea India, a leading personal care products company, has appointed **Geetika Mehta** as its **new managing director**. This significant announcement marked a strategic move for the renowned brand.

Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO

Kia India has appointed **Gwanggu Lee** as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**, effective immediately. This transition marks an important shift in the leadership of the company, with Gwanggu Lee taking the reins from the former MD and CEO, **Tae Jin Park**.

Randhir Jaiswal Takes Over As MEA Spokesperson From Arindam Bagchi

In a significant transition at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), **Arindam Bagchi**, the official spokesperson, has passed on the baton to **Randhir Jaiswal**. This move comes after Arindam Bagchi's appointment as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other

international organizations in Geneva in October 2023. Mr. Bagchi, a seasoned 1995-batch **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer holding the position of Additional Secretary in the MEA, had taken over as the spokesperson in March 2021.

Adani Ports Elevates Karan Adani To MD, Appoints Ashwani Gupta As CEO

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (**APSEZ**), a **prominent player in the ports and logistics sector**, recently made significant announcements regarding its leadership structure. The company declared that CEO Karan Adani would be stepping into the role of Managing Director, **succeeding Gautam Adani**. In parallel, the company welcomed Ashwani Gupta, former global Chief Operating Officer at Nissan Motors, as its new CEO.

Puneet Chhatwal Appointed Chairman of FAITH

In a recent development, **Puneet Chhatwal**, the Managing Director and CEO of Indian Hotels Company Limited, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)**. This move comes as he succeeds **Nakul Anand**, the retired Executive Director at ITC Hotels.

Nadia Calvino Appointed as New President of the European Investment Bank

In a historic move, **Nadia Calvino** has been named the new president of the **European Investment Bank**, taking office on January 1. She succeeds Werner Hoyer to become the eighth president of the EU bank. Notably, Calvino is the first woman and the first Spaniard to lead this prestigious institution, marking a significant milestone in the bank's history.

Raghuram Iyer appointed as CEO of Indian Olympic Association

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has welcomed a seasoned professional, Raghuram Iyer, as its new CEO, marking a significant development after a meticulous selection process conducted by the nomination committee. The appointment, long-awaited and in response to reminders from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), brings a wealth of experience to the forefront. Raghuram Iyer, the former CEO of Rajasthan Royals, brings a diverse and rich professional background to his new role. His experience extends to prominent positions with IPL teams such as Lucknow Super Giants and Rising Supergiants.

Senior IAS officer Vikas Sheel appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank

India has appointed seven accomplished civil servants to crucial positions abroad, showcasing the country's global engagement. Notably, Mr. Vikas Sheel, a seasoned bureaucrat, is now the Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, emphasizing India's commitment to international development. Vikas Sheel, a 1994-batch Indian

Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is now the Executive Director at ADB. He brings valuable experience from his current role as Additional Secretary and Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission, contributing to India's representation at this prestigious institution.

Banking News

Mudra loans show record growth to ₹3-lakh crore in Q3 FY24
In a promising **New Year development** for small businesses, loans disbursed under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** have soared to an unprecedented **₹3-lakh crore in December 2023**, showcasing a remarkable **16%** year-on-year growth.

FinMin allows 30th tranche of electoral bonds

The Indian government has granted approval for the release of the **30th tranche of electoral bonds**, set to go on sale from **January 2 to January 11, 2024**. This development precedes the upcoming general elections later this year and coincides with the anticipated **Supreme Court** verdict on the validity of the electoral bonds scheme.

RBI Significantly Raises Bulk Deposit Limit for Large UCBs to ₹1 Crore and Above

In a significant move, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to substantially increase the bulk deposit limit for **large urban co-operative banks (UCBs)**. The new limit now stands at **₹1 crore** and above, a notable surge from the previous threshold of ₹15 lakh and above.

Tata Pay Secures RBI Payment Aggregator License for E-commerce Transactions

In a significant development, **Tata Pay**, the digital payments app under Tata Digital, has been granted a **payment aggregator (PA) license** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This license positions Tata Pay among industry leaders such as Razorpay, Cashfree, and Google Pay, enabling it to efficiently handle e-commerce transactions within its subsidiary entities.

Canara Bank CGM P Santhosh Appointed as MD of NARCL

In a surprising turn of events, P Santhosh, Chief General Manager at Canara Bank, has been appointed as the Managing Director of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from January 5, succeeding Natarajan Sundar, who resigned from the post. This unexpected change in leadership at the government-promoted asset reconstruction organization has raised eyebrows within the industry.

Science & Technology News

ISRO Tests Fuel Cell On PSLV-C58's POEM3 Platform Successfully

On January 1, 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing a 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based

Power System (FCPS) in its orbital platform, POEM3. This remarkable feat took place aboard the PSLV-C58 mission, marking a crucial step in the assessment of fuel cell technology for future space missions. The primary objective of the experiment was to evaluate the operation of Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cells in the challenging environment of space.

IIT Madras Researchers Engineer Plant Cells To Produce Drug For Cancer

Researchers from the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Madras and Mandi have achieved a significant milestone in the field of biotechnology. They have successfully metabolically engineered plant cells to boost the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin (CPT). CPT, traditionally extracted from the endangered plant *Nathapodytes nimmoniana*, has been a source of concern due to the plant's declining population. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has red-listed this species, noting a 20% decrease in its population in the past decade. This development by IIT researchers comes as a critical solution to both medicinal production and plant conservation.

Google DeepMind Introduces Mobile ALOHA Humanoid Technology

Stanford University has unveiled Mobile ALOHA, a robotic system designed to elevate the capabilities of bimanual mobile manipulation. This innovation builds upon the foundation of Google DeepMind's ALOHA system, taking it to new heights by introducing mobility and dexterity as focal points in robotic learning. Developed in collaboration with Berkeley University and Meta, Mobile ALOHA promises to reshape the landscape of robotics.

Schemes and Committees News

PM Modi Launched PRITHVI VIGYAN Scheme worth nearly 4,800 crore rupees

The Indian government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has launched an ambitious initiative named PRITHVI (PRITHvi Vgyan), a comprehensive scheme by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. With a significant budget of Rs. 4,797 crore, the program spans from 2021-26, marking a new era in the study and understanding of Earth sciences in India.

Awards & Honors News

Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award

In a notable achievement, **Prof. B.R. Kamboj**, the Vice Chancellor of **Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University**, has been bestowed with the prestigious **M.S. Swaminathan Award**. This recognition comes in appreciation of his significant contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.

Important Dates News

World Braille Day 2024

World Braille Day, annually observed on **January 4**, is a profound tribute to **Louis Braille**, the visionary mind behind the transformative braille system. Born in **1809 in France**, **Louis** faced the adversity of losing his sight in childhood. However, his resilience and determination led to the creation of one of history's most revolutionary systems.

Sports News

David Warner Retires from One-Day Cricket Ahead of Test Farewell

On New Year's Day, Australian cricket stalwart **David Warner** officially announced his retirement from ODI cricket. This announcement came just before his final Test match against **Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground**. Warner, a two-time Cricket World Cup champion, chose this significant moment to close the chapter on his remarkable ODI career.

In his illustrious ODI journey, Warner amassed **6,932 runs across 161 matches**, boasting an average of 45.30 and an impressive strike rate of 97.26. His career highlights include 22 centuries and 33 fifties, with a personal best of 179 runs in a single match. Warner's consistent performance made him a formidable force in international cricket, particularly in global tournaments.

World Rapid Chess C'ship: Koneru Humpy Wins Silver in Women's Event

India's Koneru Humpy showcased her prowess in chess by clinching the **women's individual silver medal** at the **2023 World Rapid Chess Championships held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan**. Despite a valiant effort, the **36-year-old Grandmaster succumbed to Russian player Anastasia Bodnaruk** in a tie-break sudden death on time. This article delves into Humpy's journey, her achievements, and the accompanying heartbreak faced by **Vidit Gujrathi in the open section**.

Indian Teenager Anahat Singh Bags Girls' U-19 2023 Scottish Junior Open Title at Edinburgh

In a dazzling display of skill and determination, **Anahat Singh**, a rising star in Indian squash, secured victory in the **girls' under-19 category at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open squash held in Edinburgh**. Her remarkable triumph added another feather to her cap, concluding a stellar year that included a double win at the National championships and success in the Asian Games.

Anahat Singh showcased her dominance on the squash court with a commanding performance in the final against home favorite **Robyn McAlpine**. The young talent claimed victory with a decisive scoreline of **11-6, 11-1, 11-5**, leaving no room for doubt about her supremacy in the **girls' under-19 division**.

Beatrice Chebet Breaks 5 km World Record in Barcelona Event

In a spectacular display of athletic prowess, **Kenya's Beatrice Chebet** concluded her remarkable year by smashing the **world record for the women's 5 km marathon at the Cursas dels Nassos in Barcelona**. **Clocking an astounding 14:13**, Chebet outpaced her competitors and bettered the previous record by six seconds, setting the stage for a memorable achievement. Although subject to World Athletics' ratification procedure, this victory marks a triumphant end to **Chebet's stellar 2023 campaign**.

Defence News

Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi Appointed As Vice Chief Of Navy

On January 4, 2024, Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM, officially took over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, succeeding in a distinguished naval career. The assumption of this crucial position was marked by a solemn tribute to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. As a symbol of respect and remembrance, Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi paid homage to the brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation. His act of placing a floral wreath at the National War Memorial underlines the deep sense of duty and reverence he holds for those who gave their lives for the country. Vice Admiral Tripathi's journey in the Indian Navy began after his commissioning on July 1, 1985. An alumnus of Sainik School Rewa and the National Defence Academy at Khadakwasla, his career has been marked by a series of key assignments and accomplishments.

Miscellaneous News

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers Becomes First Woman With \$100 Billion Fortune

Francoise Bettencourt Meyers has made history by becoming the **first woman to amass a staggering \$100 billion fortune**. This remarkable achievement not only cements her status as a global financial powerhouse but also signifies a significant milestone for the expanding fashion and cosmetics industries in France.