

### International

#### Nepal launches campaign to end the practice of child marriage

##### About News:-

- ❖ More than 100 people, including child rights activists from Nepal and India, children, and civil society members have joined hands to launch the 'Child Marriage Free Nepal' campaign amidst Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's pledge to end this crime.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ The event, which was held in Kathmandu on Tuesday, was led by Nepal's Minister for Women, Children, and Senior Citizens Kishor Sah Sudi, alongside Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, former chief minister of Lumbini province and founder of BASE (Backward Society Education) Nepal, and India's child rights activist Bhuvan Bibhu.
- ❖ According to a press release issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Women and Children launched the campaign with support from the Indian organisation Just Right for Children and Nepal's Backward Society Education.
- ❖ Between December 2 and 8, three dozen countries from three continents participated in the JRC's Child Marriage Free World pledge-taking ceremonies against child marriage.
- ❖ Representatives from all seven provincial governments in Nepal joined the event.
- ❖ Prime Minister Oli has also expressed solidarity with the cause, taking a pledge against child marriage and wishing the campaign success.
- ❖ Nepal has the second highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia. The legal age for marriage in Nepal for both men and women is 20.

##### About Nepal:-

- ❖ Capital:- Kathmandu
- ❖ Currency:- Nepalese rupee
- ❖ Prime Minister:- K. P. Sharma Oli

### National

#### Maldives foreign minister embarks 3-day visit to India for bilateral talks

##### About News:-

- ❖ Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel arrived in New Delhi on Thursday for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations in key areas, including maritime security, trade, and investment. This visit comes nearly three months after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's state visit to India.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Khaleel, who previously served as the Maldives' Health Minister, has consistently acknowledged India's pivotal role in supporting the Maldives, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This trip further builds on the rapport established during President Muizzu's October 2024 visit, where Khaleel was part of the delegation.
- ❖ President Muizzu's visit was a landmark event, underscored by his meetings with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other senior officials. Discussions focused on bolstering the development partnership, expanding financial assistance, and exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration. India's continued financial support, including a one-year interest-free extension of T-bills and a \$400 million currency swap agreement, was met with gratitude from the Maldivian side.
- ❖ The visit also included business forums in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore, where President Muizzu presented investment opportunities in special economic zones, luxury private islands, eco-friendly resorts, and integrated tourism projects.

- ❖ Khaleel's current visit is expected to follow up on those discussions, addressing progress in sectors like social housing, infrastructure, agriculture, trade, healthcare, renewable energy, women's empowerment, and human resource development. Both nations continue to prioritize their shared vision for a "Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership" as they deepen their ties.

#### About Maldives:-

- ❖ Capital:- Malé
- ❖ Currency:- Maldivian rufiyaa
- ❖ President:- Mohamed Muizzu

### State

#### PM to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects in Delhi on 3 January

##### About News:-

- ❖ In line with his commitment to 'Housing for All', Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit newly constructed flats for the dwellers of Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) clusters under the In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation Project at Swabhiman Apartments, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, at around 12:10 PM, on 3 January 2025. Thereafter at around 12:45 PM, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects in Delhi.

PM to inaugurate and lay foundation stone of multiple development projects in Delhi on 3 January



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ The Prime Minister will inaugurate the 1,675 newly constructed flats for the dwellers of JJ clusters and also hand over keys to eligible beneficiaries at Swabhiman Apartments in Ashok Vihar, Delhi. The inauguration of newly constructed flats will mark the completion of the second successful In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation Project by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).
- ❖ For every Rs 25 lakh spent on the construction of a flat by the government, eligible beneficiaries pay less than 7% of the total amount, comprising Rs 1.42 lakh as a nominal contribution and Rs 30,000 for five years of maintenance.

- ❖ The Prime Minister will also inaugurate two urban redevelopment projects- the World Trade Centre (WTC) at Nauroji Nagar and the General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) Type-II Quarters at Sarojini Nagar.
- ❖ The World Trade Centre at Nauroji Nagar has transformed the area by replacing over 600 dilapidated quarters with state-of-the-art commercial towers, offering around 34 lakh square feet of premium commercial space with advanced amenities. The project incorporates green building practices, with provisions such as a zero-discharge concept, solar energy generation, and rainwater harvesting systems.
- ❖ The GPRA Type-II Quarters at Sarojini Nagar include 28 towers that house over 2,500 residential units, offering modern amenities and efficient use of space. The project's design incorporates rainwater harvesting systems, sewage and water treatment plants, and solar-powered waste compactors encouraging eco-conscious living.
- ❖ Prime Minister will also inaugurate CBSE's Integrated Office Complex at Dwarka, Delhi built at around Rs 300 crore. It includes offices, an auditorium, an advanced data center, comprehensive water management system among others. The ecofriendly building has been constructed to high environmental standards and was designed as per Platinum Rating standards of the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- ❖ Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of three new projects in Delhi University worth over Rs 600 crore. It includes the Eastern Campus at Surajmal Vihar in East Delhi and the Western Campus at Dwarka. It also includes building Veer Savarkar College at Roshanpura, Najafgarh, having state-of-the-art facilities for education.

##### About Delhi:-

- ❖ Capital:- New Delhi
- ❖ Lt. Governor:- Vinai Kumar Saxena
- ❖ Chief Minister:- Atishi Marlena Singh

## Appointment

### Vitul Kumar Takes Charge as CRPF Director General

#### About News:-

- ❖ The Centre on Monday assigned senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Vitul Kumar to officiate charge for the post of Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) upon the retirement of the incumbent force chief Anish Dayal Singh on December 31, 2024.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as Special Director General of the CRPF.
- ❖ He will hold the position until the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever comes earlier, according to an office memorandum issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ "The competent authority has approved to assignment of the officiating charge for the post of Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to Vitul Kumar, IPS(UP:93), Special Director General, Central Reserve Police Force upon superannuation of Anish Dayal Singh, IPS (MA:88) on December 31, 2024 till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier," reads the document.
- ❖ Born on August 3, 1968, in Punjab's Bhatinda, Kumar holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electronics.
- ❖ Throughout his career, Kumar has held various significant positions within the police force. He was promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) on February 9, 2009, Inspector General (IG) on December 31, 2012, and Additional Director General (ADG) on January 1, 2018. In September 2024, he was appointed as Special Director General of the CRPF against existing vacancies till his retirement on August 31, 2028.

- ❖ Kumar's service has been recognized with several honours, including the President's Police Medal (PPM) awarded on January 26, 2021, and the Police Medal (PM) on August 15, 2009. He has also received the Director General's Commendation Disc in Silver on January 26, 2016, and in Gold on January 26, 2018.
- ❖ As of December 2024, following the retirement of the incumbent Director General, Anish Dayal Singh, Kumar has been assigned the officiating charge for the post of Director General of the CRPF. He will serve in this capacity until a regular appointment is made or until further orders.

## Defence

### Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Assumes Command Of Iaf's Western Air Command



#### About News:-

- ❖ Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra assumed command of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command on 01 January 2025.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The Air Marshal was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot on 06 December 1986.
- ❖ He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy Pune, Air Force Test Pilots School, Bangalore, Air Command and Staff College, USA, and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK.
- ❖ A Fighter Combat Leader and an experimental Test Pilot, Air Marshal Mishra has more than 3000 hours of flying experience.
- ❖ In his service career spanning over 38 years, the Air Marshal has tenanted important command and staff appointments.



- ❖ These include the Commanding Officer of a Fighter Squadron, Chief Test Pilot at the Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), Air Officer Commanding two frontline air bases, Director (Operational Planning and Assessment Group), Principal Director (ASR) and Asst Chief of Air Staff (Projects) at Air HQ (VB), Commandant ASTE and Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Doctrine, Organisation and Training).
- ❖ He was Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) before taking over his present appointment.
- ❖ The Air Officer is a recipient of the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' and 'Vishisht Seva Medal'. Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra succeeds Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha who superannuated on 31 December 2024 after putting in more than 39 years of distinguished service in the IAF.

### Award

#### Odia poet Prativa Satpathy to receive Gangadhar National Award

##### About News:-

- ❖ Odia poet Prativa Satpathy will be conferred the Gangadhar National Award for Poetry 2023 by Sambalpur University on the occasion of its 58th foundation day on January 5.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Satpathy, a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, came into prominence in the 1960s with Sesha Janha. Her writings in Odia have been translated into several Indian and foreign languages.
- ❖ Named after renowned Odisha poet Gangadhar Meher, the award, instituted by the university in 1989, is presented every year during its foundation day function.
- ❖ The award carries a citation, shawl, and cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, said Nruparaj Sahu, Registrar of Sambalpur University.

- ❖ Earlier, eminent personalities including Gulzar, Alli Sardar Zafri, Kedar Nath Singh, Ayyapa Panikar, Shakti Chattopadhyay, K Sachidanandan, Dillip Chitre, and Jayanta Mohapatra have received the Gangadhar National Award for excellence in the field of poetry.

### Sport

#### Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Announces National Sports Awards 2024



##### About News:-

The Sports Ministry confirmed the National Sports Awards 2024 recipients list on Thursday (January 2). The winners will receive their respective awards from the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, at a special function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday (January 17).

##### Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024

Sportsperson	Discipline
Gukesh D	Chess
Harmanpreet Singh	Hockey
Praveen Kumar	Para-Athletics
Manu Bhaker	Shooting

##### Arjuna Award

Sportsperson	Discipline
Jyothi Yarraji	Athletics
Annu Rani	Athletics
Nitu	Boxing
Saweety	Boxing
Vantika Agrawal	Boxing

Salima Tete	Hockey
Abhishek	Hockey
Sanjay	Hockey
Jarmanpreet Singh	Hockey
Sukhjeet Singh	Hockey
Rakesh Kumar	Para-Archery
Preeti Pal	Para-Athletics
Jeevanji Deepthi	Para-Athletics
Ajeet Singh	Para-Athletics
Sachin Khilari	Para-Athletics
Dharambir	Para-Athletics
Pranav Soorma	Para-Athletics
H Hokato Sema	Para-Athletics
Simran	Para-Athletics
Navdeep	Para-Athletics
Nitesh Kumar	Para-Badminton
Thulasimathi Murugesan	Para-Badminton
Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan	Para-Badminton
Manisha Ramadass	Para-Badminton
Kapil Parmar	Para-Judo
Mona Agarwal	Para-Shooting
Rubina Francis	Para-Shooting
Swapnil Kusale	Shooting
Sarabjot Singh	Shooting
Abhay Singh	Squash
Sajan Prakash	Swimming
Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling

#### Arjuna Award (lifetime)

Sportsperson	Discipline
Sucha Singh	Athletics
Murlikant Petkar	Para-Swimming

#### Dronacharya Award (Regular Category)

Coach	Discipline
Subhash Rana	Para-Shooting
Deepali Deshpande	Shooting
Sandeep Sangwan	Hockey

#### Dronacharya Award (Lifetime Category)

Coach	Discipline
S Muralidharan	Badminton
Armando Agnelo Colaco	Football

#### Book

**Legendary Former Indian Cricketer Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani releases his autobiography "Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards"**

**About News:-**



- ❖ On December 29, 2024, Legendary former Indian Cricketer and wicket-keeper Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani, a One Day International (ODI) World Cup winner with India in 1983, released his autobiography titled "Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards".

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The book was launched on his 75th birthday at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru (Karnataka), and was published by Penguin Play.

- ❖ The book was authored over 5 years by Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani and was co-authored by Debashish Sengupta and Dakshesh Pathak.
- ❖ The book explores the personal glimpses of his life, his cricket journey both on and off the field, and intense anecdotes from his career bringing the audiences a look into the world of 80s cricket.
- ❖ The event witnessed the presence of legendary cricketers, EAS Prasanna, Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman, and Infosys founder Narayana Murthy along with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister (DYCM) D. K. Shivakumar

### Obituary

#### Renowned Botanist K S Manilal dies at 86

##### About News:-

- ❖ Eminent botanist and Padma Shri awardee K S Manilal, celebrated for translating the ancient Latin text "Hortus Malabaricus" into English and Malayalam, died following age-related ailments, family sources said here on Wednesday. He was 86.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal, popularly known as K S Manilal, was a former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut.
- ❖ Condoling Manilal's demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his rich work in botany will continue to be a guiding light for generations of upcoming botanists and researchers.
- ❖ Manilal's decades-long contributions to botany, particularly his efforts to translate Hortus Malabaricus, a 17th-century botanical treatise documenting the rich flora of the Malabar region (south-western coast of India) into English and Malayalam, earned him widespread recognition.
- ❖ The treatise remains a vital resource for researchers, academicians, and students studying the region's botanical history.
- ❖ Manilal penned several books and published over 200 research papers besides introducing many new plant species. He is a recipient of several national and international awards.
- ❖ The Centre honoured him with Padma Shri in 2020 for his contributions in the field of science.

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