

18th December 2024

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

Britain became the first European Nation to Join CPTPP.

Key Points

- ❖ On 15th December, the UK became the first European nation to officially join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- ❖ The **UK will become the 12th country to join the trade agreement**, having first put in an application in early 2021. The other 11 countries are Australia, Japan, Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, Vietnam, Peru, Malaysia, Brunei, Canada and Mexico.

About CPTPP

- ❖ The **CPTPP is the successor to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact** that was negotiated by U.S. President Barack Obama, before his successor Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement in 2017.
- ❖ It is a **free trade agreement (FTA)** between Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.
- ❖ The CPTPP was signed by the **11 countries on 8 March 2018 in Santiago, Chile**.
- ❖ The CPTPP entered into force on 30 December 2018 for: Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore
 - On 14 January 2019 for Vietnam
 - On 19 September 2021 for Peru
 - On 29 November 2022 for Malaysia
 - On 21 February 2023 for Chile
 - On 12 July 2023 for Brunei Darussalam

India's first diabetes biobank

Chennai has become home to India's first diabetes biobank.

Key Points

- ❖ It is established by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF)**. It is located at MDRF.
- ❖ It is a repository of population-based biological samples aimed at supporting scientific research
- ❖ It is **designed to collect, process, store, and distribute biological samples to advance diabetes research**.
- ❖ The biobank has blood samples from two ICMR-funded studies, including the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) research. The study was conducted in all states and Union territories in phases from 2008 to 2020. The "The Registry of People with Diabetes in India with Young Age at Onset (YDR)", launched in 2006, is still ongoing.

Taste Atlas

Taste Atlas recently unveiled the 100 best food cities in the world for 2024-25.

Key Points

- ❖ TasteAtlas, known for its curated lists of world-class dishes and iconic restaurants, recently unveiled its 2024-25 rankings, and several Indian dishes have stolen the spotlight.
- ❖ The list celebrates the dishes and the restaurants that bring these flavours to life.
- ❖ While Indian cuisine has been ranked at 12th spot in the overall "100 Best Cuisines in the World" list, **as many as 4 Indian dishes have made it to the list of "100 Best Dishes in the World" and all of these dishes are non-vegetarian dishes**.

- ❖ Lechona from Colombia occupied the top spot with a rating of 4.78. It is followed by Pizza Napoletana from Italy, which secured the second position with a rating of 4.75.
- ❖ **Murgh Makhani, Hyderabad Biryani, Chicken 65 and Keema of India have been included in the list.**

Rank	Dish	Category	Rating	Most Iconic Locations
29	Murgh Makhani	Chicken Dish	4.52	Karim's (New Delhi), Moti Mahal (New Delhi), Gulati (New Delhi)
31	Hyderabad Biryani	Rice Dish	4.52	Jewel of Nizam (Hyderabad), Bawarchi (Hyderabad), Hotel Shadab (Hyderabad)
97	Chicken 65	Fried Chicken	4.44	Buhari (Chennai), Biryani Blues (Gurugram), Bheema's (Bangalore)
100	Keema	Stew	4.44	Leopold Cafe (Mumbai), Pal Dhaba (Chandigarh), Cafe Lota (New Delhi)

- ❖ Celebrating culinary excellence worldwide, the guide also announced the list of **"100 Best Food Regions in the World"**, where as many as **6 Indian cities have made it to the best cities in the world to have food.**
 - Mumbai was ranked on the 5th, Amritsar secured 43rd position, New Delhi was at 45th spot, Hyderabad at spot, Kolkata secured 71st place and Chennai was at 75th spot.
 - Topping this list is Naples in Italy, which is known for its 'Neapolitan Pizza' that has recently been listed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Geotube Technology based Treatment Plant

UP Jal Nigam (Urban) has set up a geotube technology-based treatment plant in Salori.

Key Points

- ❖ To make Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj safe and hygienic preparation are in full swing.
- ❖ In line with these efforts, **UP Jal Nigam (Urban) has set up a geotube technology-based treatment plant in Salori.**
- ❖ It is built at the cost of Rs 55 crore,

- ❖ The plant will treat wastewater from all **22 untapped drains in the city, ensuring that no untreated water flows into the Ganga.**
- ❖ The initiative is **aimed at ensuring that the waters of the holy river remain clean, uninterrupted, and meet the highest standards of purity** as millions of devotees are expected to gather in Prayagraj to take a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga-Yamuna-Saraswati rivers.

First Geo Science Museum

On 15th December 2024, the Vice President of India inaugurated the country's first Geo Science Museum in Gwalior.

Key Points

- ❖ The museum is prepared by the **National Science Museum Council in collaboration with Gwalior Municipal Corporation.**
- ❖ It contains unique information related to the origin of the earth, the development of mankind, human civilization and the universe. Precious objects like dinosaur eggs can be viewed by tourists at the museum.
- ❖ The museum serves as a gateway to the wonders of Earth's story—a sanctuary of knowledge where science and art converge to inspire curiosity.

Person In News- Appointments

Manish Jain

- ❖ He has been appointed as **YES Bank executive director.**



Preeti Lobana

- ❖ She has been appointed **Country Manager and Vice President of Google for India.**
- ❖ Prior to Google, Preeti Lobana held leadership positions at NatWest Group, American Express, Standard Chartered Bank and ANZ Grindlays Bank.



Person in News- Obituary

Smt Tulsi Gowda

- ❖ She was a **revered environmentalist from Karnataka** who recently passed away.
- ❖ She was also known as the **'Vruksha Maate' (Mother of Trees)**
- ❖ Acknowledging her life-long dedication, the Union Government honoured her with the Padma Shri award in 2021.



Places in News

Mount Semeru

- ❖ **Mount Semeru in Indonesia's East Java** erupts. A thick column of white-to-grey ash rose up to 1,000 meters into the sky, drifting northeast from the crater.
- ❖ The **Semeru is an active volcano located in East Java, Indonesia.**
- ❖ Standing 3,676 metres high, it is one of Indonesia's 127 active volcanoes.

Awards/ Titles

Jamsetji Tata Award



- ❖ **Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has been conferred the prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ).
- ❖ The **Award was announced at the ISQ Annual Conference 2024, held in Bengaluru.**
- ❖ She has been awarded for pioneering the biosciences movement in India and serving patients in India and across the world through an unwavering focus on quality, while leading Biocon to a preeminent global position.

About Jamsetji Tata Award

- ❖ The awards were instituted in **2004 by ISQ.**
- ❖ They are named after Jamsetji Tata, regarded as the **'Father of Modern Indian Industry'.**
- ❖ They recognize business leaders who have made significant contributions to Indian society and demonstrated focus on quality, commitment, and a record of outstanding results.

Sports

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- ❖ It is **India's premier domestic T20 cricket** tournament.
- ❖ It began in **2006** and is named after Syed Mushtaq Ali, a legendary Indian cricketer known for his aggressive batting.
- ❖ The inaugural edition **saw Tamil Nadu crowned as the first-ever champions**, marking the start of a thrilling competition that has only grown in popularity.
- ❖ Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024, **Mumbai defeated Madhya Pradesh by five wickets in Bengaluru to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.**
- ❖ This victory marks Mumbai's second SMAT title, their first coming in 2022.

- ❖ **Teams to win Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy more than once:**
- ❖ 1) Tamil Nadu - 3: 2006/07, 2020/21, 2021/22
- ❖ 2) Mumbai - 2: 2022/23, 2024/25
- ❖ 3) Baroda - 2: 2011/12, 2013/14
- ❖ 4) Gujarat - 2: 2012/13, 2014/15
- ❖ 5) Karnataka - 2: 2018/19, 2019/20

Important News- Other States

Chhattisgarh

- ❖ **Puvarti, a Maoist-affected village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district**, got its first television, powered by solar energy, on December 11.

Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister had announced the plans for making the **state to become the first in India to implement a dedicated yoga policy.**

Important News- Worldwide

Russia

- ❖ Russia to allow **visa-free entry for Indian tourists by spring 2025.**
- ❖ Currently, Indian travellers need a visa to visit Russia, based on their travel purpose: tourism, business, work, study, or humanitarian reasons.

- ❖ For example, the Unified E-Visa (UEV), introduced in August 2023, allows personal and business visits, with applications processed in just four days.

United States

- ❖ The **United States has developed a new anti-missile system called Dark Eagle**, which is capable of intercepting enemy missiles in mid-air.
- ❖ It is equipped with medium-range missiles and **has a launch speed of 20,826 km/h.** The system's ballistic missile features two stages, one of which includes a hypersonic glide warhead.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Cyclone Chido, a Category 4-Storm**, made landfall in Pemba, the capital of Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province on 15th December, 2024.
- ❖ ISRO's **CE20 Cryogenic Engine** passes critical sea-level hot test. The CE20 cryogenic engine is developed indigenously by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

