

Bihar to Host Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025

Key Points:

- ❖ The Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will take place in March 2025 at the Rajgir Sports Academy in Bihar, India. The international event will be hosted for the 2nd time in Bihar, after the state successfully organized the inaugural edition in 2012 at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna (Bihar).
- ❖ The Women's Kabaddi World Cup is an international competition for women's kabaddi teams, organized by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF).



- ❖ The 2025 edition will feature 14 countries, including India, China, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Poland, Argentina, South Africa and South America.
- ❖ The tournament aims to promote kabaddi as a global sport, providing an international platform for women's teams to showcase their talent.

33rd Santosh Trophy title for Bengal as they beat Kerala in the final

Key Points:

- ❖ The most successful team in the history of the Santosh Trophy, West Bengal added one more to its collection by defeating Kerala in the final of the 78th edition of the Santosh Trophy. It was the 33rd Santosh Trophy for the Bengal team.
- ❖ The final of the 78th edition of the Santosh Trophy 2024-25 was played at the GMC

Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana on 31st December 2024.

- ❖ Santosh Trophy is a premier domestic state-level football tournament for men in India organised by the All India Football Federation.



- ❖ The 78th edition of the Santosh trophy was organised by the All India Football Federation across the country.
- ❖ The final round of the Santosh Trophy was hosted by the Telangana Football Association from 14 -31 December 2024 in Hyderabad.
- ❖ 31 teams participated in the tournament and played in the Group stage. The Group stage matches were held in different parts of the country while the final round was held in Hyderabad. 12 teams qualified from the group stage to the final round.
- ❖ The 12 teams were grouped into A and B Groups in the final round. Group A: West Bengal, Manipur,, Services, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, and Rajasthan. Group B: Goa, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya and Odisha.

About the Santosh Trophy

- ❖ The Santosh Trophy is a state-level tournament for the men. It was started by the Indian Football Federation in 1941 and is now managed by its successor All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- ❖ The states, Union Territories of India, Services(combined team of Army, Navy, and Air Force,) and Railways compete in the Santosh Trophy.

- ❖ The first edition was won by Bengal in 1941-42 defeating Delhi. West Bengal is the most successful team in the tournament with 33 titles. Punjab is second with 8 title wins. Kerala and Services share the third spot with seven title wins each.

Historic moment as Zimbabwe President signs into law a bill to abolish death penalty

Key Points:

- ❖ Zimbabwe officially abolished the death penalty on Tuesday after President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed into law an act that will commute to jail time the sentences of about 60 prisoners on death row.
- ❖ There has been a moratorium on executions in the southern African country since 2005, although courts have continued to hand down the death sentence for crimes including murder, treason and terrorism.
- ❖ At least 59 people were known to be under a death sentence in Zimbabwe at the end of 2023, Amnesty International said in a statement welcoming the new act as an "historic moment".

ସରକାରୀ ଗେଜେଟରେ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡ ଅଧିନିୟମ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଦଣ୍ଡାଯାଇଛି ଯେ, କୌଣସି ଅପରାଧ ପାଇଁ କୋର୍ଟ ଆଉ ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡ ଦେଇ ପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ। ଯେକୌଣସି ବିଦ୍ୟମାନ ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡକୁ ଜେଲ ଦଣ୍ଡରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ।

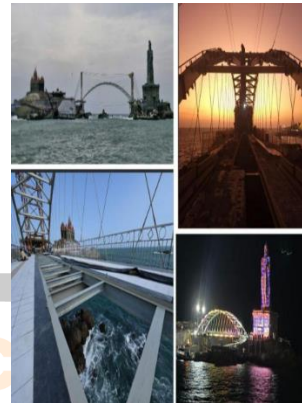
ତେବେ ଜରୁରୀକାଳୀନ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡର ନିଲମ୍ବନକୁ ହଟାଯାଇପାରିବ ବୋଲି ଏକ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାରେ କୁହାଯାଇଛି। ଆମେନିଷ୍ଟ ଇଣ୍ଟରନାସନାଲ ଏକ ବିବୃତିରେ ଏହି ନୂତନ ପଦକ୍ଷେପକୁ ଏକ ଐତିହାସିକ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ଭାବରେ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରି କହିଛି ଯେ, ୨୦୨୩ ଶେଷ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଜିମ୍ବାୱେରେ ୫୯ ଜଣଙ୍କୁ ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡ ଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲା।

CM Stalin inaugurate India's 1st glass bridge over sea in Kanyakumari

Key Points:



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated India's first glass bridge over the sea in Kanyakumari on 31st December 2024.
- ❖ The glass bridge connects the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the 133-foot Thiruvalluvar statue in the Kanyakumari district.
- ❖ The glass bridges are made of laminated glass or toughened glass, are transparent, and are built in tourist places especially in the mountainous regions so that the tourists can experience breathtaking scenes. The longest glass bridge in India is located in Vagamon, Kerala which is 40 meters long and at an altitude of 3600 feet.



- ❖ Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, was an Indian poet and philosopher. He is best known as the author of the Tirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love. The text is considered an exceptional and widely cherished work of Tamil literature.



- ❖ Thirukkural week in Tamil Nadu The opening of the bridge marked the

inauguration of the Silver Jubilee of the unveiling of the Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar statue by the late chief minister and father of M K Stalin, M Karunanidhi.

- ❖ Chief Minister Stalin also announced that his government would celebrate the last week of every December as “Thirukkural week” to spread the poet's teaching in his renowned work “Thirukkural”.

About the Glass Bridge in Kanyakumari

- ❖ The bridge in Kanyakumari is 77 meters long, 10 meters wide, and 133 feet high. The tourists visiting these two tourist places used to take a ferry, but can now also walk over the glass bridge to visit these tourist places. The 37-crore project to build the glass bridge is part of the state government initiative to boost tourism in the area.

Longest Glass Bridge in World and India

- ❖ Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge in the Hunan province of China is the world's highest and longest glass bridge. It is 430 meters long, 6 meters wide, and 300 meters above the ground. The longest glass bridge in India is located in Vagamon, Idukki district of Kerala. It is a cantilevered glass bridge that is 40 meters long and at an altitude of 3600 feet.

Interest rates remain unchanged on National Small Saving Schemes

Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Finance has made no change in the interest rates on the various schemes under the National Small Saving Scheme, for the last quarters of the 2024-25 fiscal year. The interest rate will remain unchanged from 1st January to 31st March 2025. The Union Ministry of Finance has reviewed the interest rates on the small saving schemes every quarter since 2016.

What are the National Small Savings Schemes?

- ❖ The National Small Savings Scheme is managed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India offered to the general public through the post office and also through banks in the case of the Public Provident Fund. The government offers interest rates on the deposits made by the public in these schemes. The investment in these schemes is 100 % safe as it is guaranteed by the government of India.

Use of the Deposits

- ❖ The money received by the government is pooled by the government in the National Small Savings Fund which is used by the central government to meet its fiscal deficit.

Categories of Schemes

- ❖ The National Small Savings Schemes are grouped into three categories - Post office deposits, savings certificates, and social security schemes.

Post Office Deposits & Interest Rates

- ❖ Under the Post Office deposits, there are saving accounts and time deposits (recurring and fixed) Saving Accounts: The minimum account opening requirement is Rs 500 and no maximum limit. The interest rate is 4 % per year. It is the only savings account in India that is not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:

- ❖ For girl children below 10 years of age.
- ❖ Accounts can be opened in a maximum of two girls' names.
- ❖ Rate of Interest 8.2 % per year.
- ❖ Minimum account opening Rs 250 and maximum 1.50 lakhs in a financial year.
- ❖ Deposit for a maximum period of 15 years from the opening of the account.
- ❖ The account can be closed after 21 years from the date of opening of the account or at the time of marriage of the girl after she attains 18 years of age.



Saving Certificates

National Saving Certificates (NSC):

- ❖ The minimum account opening amount is Rs 1000 and no maximum limit.
- ❖ Interest rate -7.7% per year.
- ❖ The duration of the scheme is 5 years.
- ❖ The principal and interest amount is paid after 5 years.

Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP):

- ❖ The minimum account opening is Rs 1000 and no maximum limit.
- ❖ The interest rate is 7.5% and the deposit amount doubles in 115 months.
- ❖ The principal and interest amount is paid after 115 months.

Mahila Samman Saving Certificates :

- ❖ Minimum account opening Rs 1000 and maximum Rs 2 lakh. It is for women only.
- ❖ Interest rate 7.5% per year.
- ❖ The duration of the scheme is 2 years.
- ❖ The principal and interest amount is paid after 2 years.

