



Gukesh is youngest world chess champion

SPORTS



History was made on Thursday in Sentosa as 18-year-old D. Gukesh from Chennai became the youngest World Chess Champion, defeating China's Ding Liren in the final game of their match. Gukesh's victory, after 58 moves, earned him 7.5 points—the threshold for the title—breaking a 40-year record held by Garry Kasparov.

The game was close to a draw until Ding made a critical error on the 55th move, sealing his defeat. This was the first World Championship match between two Asian players, highlighting a historic clash between India and China, the two largest and most powerful nations in Asia.

Gukesh is only the third Asian to win the World title, following Viswanathan Anand and Ding Liren. He becomes the 18th undisputed World Champion since 1886, emphasizing the significance of his achievement.

Gukesh's campaign started poorly, losing the first game, drawing the second, and then winning the third. After eight drawn games, Gukesh took the lead with a win in the 11th game, but Ding equalized, setting the stage for a tense finish.

Gukesh had earned his place in the World Championship by winning the Candidates Tournament in Toronto earlier this year. He also played a key role in India's gold medal win in the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, where he secured individual gold on the top board, adding to his stellar performance at the 2022 Chennai Chess Olympiad.

SC halts suits on claims over places of worship

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

The Supreme Court ordered that civil courts cannot register new suits or make decisions on pending cases seeking to "reclaim" temples allegedly destroyed by Mughal invaders in the 16th century. The Special Bench, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, issued this directive while agreeing to hear petitions challenging the validity of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which preserves the status of religious places as they were on August 15, 1947.

The court also prohibited civil courts from conducting surveys of religious sites involved in these suits, which include 18 cases concerning 10 shrines. Justice K.V. Viswanathan emphasized that civil courts cannot proceed with cases while the Supreme Court is examining the matter.

The 1991 Act has been defended by various minority organizations, political parties, and senior lawyers, who argue it prevents the resurgence of communal tensions by safeguarding the religious character of places of worship. The Act prohibits changes to the nature of any religious site, as it existed on Independence Day, 1947.

The Supreme Court also noted that ongoing suits, including those involving surveys of the Gyanvapi and Shahi Eidgah mosques, are being challenged in appeals before it. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta for the Union government opposed the stay on civil proceedings, and the Centre was given four weeks to file a counter-affidavit.

WE AIM TO INSPIRE YOU

Centre is committed to protecting country's heritage, says Shekhawat

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT



Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, addressing a press conference on Thursday, reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting India's heritage amid controversies over religious heritage sites. He criticized those who oppose India's development, emphasizing the government's determination to expose such individuals while preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

Shekhawat highlighted the upcoming Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj (January 13–February 26, 2025) as a major event showcasing India's spiritual and cultural legacy. He also discussed the country's tourism growth, citing infrastructure advancements, global promotion, and projects aimed at enhancing India's tourism sector.

The tourism industry has created 76.17 million jobs, and foreign exchange earnings reached \$28.07 billion, up 42.53% since 2014. Domestic tourism saw a 95.64% increase, and India's ranking in the global travel and tourism index rose from 65 to 39. Over ₹6,800 crore was spent on destination development, with ₹3,295.76 crore allocated to lesser-known tourism sites. The e-tourist visa facility has also proven beneficial.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005

DISASTER MANAGEMENT



The Lok Sabha passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aimed at strengthening the national and state disaster management authorities. The bill, cleared by a voice vote, seeks to address issues raised by state governments in implementing the Disaster Management Act of 2005 and enhance coordination among stakeholders in disaster response.

Union Minister Nityanand Rai stated that the bill would improve the country's ability to handle disasters and address difficulties faced by states.

Disaster Management Act, 2005 :-

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act) was enacted in response to the catastrophic 2004 tsunami, although the concept for such legislation had been in development since the 1998 Odisha super cyclone. The Act led to the establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), which focuses on disaster research, training, awareness, and capacity building.

The DM Act was followed by the National Disaster Management Policy in 2009 and the National Disaster Management Plan in 2016.

Jharkhand HC stays law on 75% quota for locals in private jobs

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE



The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday stayed the implementation of a law mandating 75% reservation for local candidates in private sector jobs. The court's Division Bench, led by Chief Justice M.S. Ratna Sri Ramachandra Rao, ruled after hearing arguments from the Jharkhand Small Scale Industries Association (JSSIA), which claimed the law violated principles of equality, non-discrimination, and the right to conduct business.

The JSSIA argued that the Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates in Private Sector Companies Act, 2021, unlawfully restricted private companies from hiring non-local candidates, creating a division based on residency. The court noted a similar law in Haryana had been struck down by the Punjab-Haryana High Court, leading to the stay.

The law, in effect since 2021, requires private companies to reserve 75% of jobs with salaries up to ₹40,000 for local residents.

Officials on their toes as tiger strays into Jharkhand from Odisha's Similipal

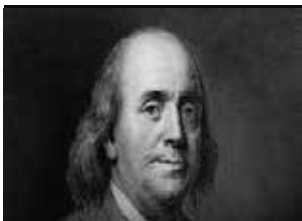
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Odisha has initiated coordination with Jharkhand to bring back Zeenat, a female tiger released into the Similipal Tiger Reserve to boost genetic diversity. The three-year-old tiger, translocated from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, wandered into Jharkhand, prompting Odisha's forest officials to act. Zeenat, who was released on November 24 after acclimatization, is now 35 km from Similipal and 20 km from Odisha's border.

Odisha's Forest Department is closely tracking her movements with a radio collar, while a joint tracking team, including Jharkhand's staff, is monitoring her. There are concerns Zeenat might cross into West

Bengal, requiring further coordination. If efforts to guide her back fail, Odisha officials may consider tranquillisation, a decision to be made at higher levels.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

CEA seeks a fix for mental health crisis afflicting the young

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT



Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran highlighted the mental health crisis among India's youth, stressing the need for collective action to address not only job creation and skill gaps but also physical and mental well-being. Speaking at a Confederation of Indian Industry event, he pointed out that excessive screen time, sedentary lifestyles, and unhealthy diets are contributing to anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies among young people. He emphasized that ensuring mental health should be a shared responsibility of the government, society, and the private sector to fully harness India's demographic dividend.

Nageswaran also outlined key priorities for the economy, including promoting productive employment, leveraging agriculture, boosting manufacturing and MSMEs, and enhancing innovation to improve the quality

of "Made in India" products.

Regarding the recent slowdown in GDP growth, which dropped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July-September quarter, Nageswaran acknowledged multiple possible factors behind the dip, including seasonal effects and post-COVID private sector challenges. However, he remains optimistic that India will achieve its projected growth rate of 6.5% to 7% for the year, as outlined in the Economic Survey.

Samsung accuses CCI of detaining employees, seizing data unlawfully

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Samsung has filed a legal challenge against India's competition watchdog, the Competition Commission of India (CCI), accusing it of unlawfully detaining its employees and seizing data during a 2022 raid linked to an antitrust investigation into Amazon and Flipkart. The investigation, which concluded in August, found that Samsung and other smartphone companies colluded with Amazon and Flipkart to exclusively launch products online, violating competition laws.

In its October 11 filing with the Chandigarh High Court, Samsung sought to quash the findings, arguing that the CCI illegally seized confidential material during the raid at an Amazon vendor's premises. The company claimed that three of its employees were detained, their phones seized, and all confidential data copied. Samsung is seeking the return of the seized material and a ban on the CCI using the data.

The High Court has granted an injunction halting the CCI's proceedings, but has not yet ruled on Samsung's requests regarding the seized data. The CCI, which is challenging similar injunctions by 22 other companies, has asked the Supreme Court to consolidate all challenges, accusing the companies of trying to obstruct the investigation.

The CCI's probe found that Amazon and Flipkart violated competition laws by favouring certain sellers, though both companies have denied any wrongdoing. Samsung also maintains that it was wrongly implicated in the investigation, as it was only cooperating as a third party.

Competition Commission of India (CCI) :-

The Competition Commission of India (CCI), established in 2003 and fully operational by 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002, is responsible for ensuring fair competition in India's market. Operating under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the CCI's primary functions include preventing anti-competitive practices, regulating mergers, safeguarding consumer interests, and promoting free trade.

Amendments to the law, such as those in 2009 and 2023, have enhanced the CCI's powers to address the evolving needs of the market, particularly in the context of digital economies.



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