



179 KILLED AFTER SOUTH KOREAN JET CRASH-LANDS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: A Jeju Air passenger plane carrying 181 people crashed in South Korea on Sunday, resulting in the tragic loss of 179 lives. 1 The aircraft skidded off the runway upon landing, bursting into flames. Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash, including a possible bird strike.



Key Points:

- **Fatal Crash:** A Jeju Air plane carrying 181 passengers crashed while landing in Muan, South Korea, resulting in the tragic loss of 179 lives.
 - **Cause Under Investigation:** A bird strike is being investigated as a possible cause, as the control tower issued a warning to the pilot.
 - **Distress Signal:** The pilot sent a distress signal shortly before the crash.
 - **Black Box Recovered:** Flight data and cockpit voice recorders have been recovered and are being analyzed.
 - **Extensive Damage:** The plane was significantly damaged, with only the tail assembly remaining recognizable.
- **Rescue Efforts:** Two flight attendants survived and are receiving medical treatment.
 - **Investigation Ongoing:** The runway remains closed, and authorities are conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the crash.

Conclusion:

The crash of the Jeju Air plane in South Korea is a tragic event. While the investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing, it highlights the importance of aviation safety and the need for continuous vigilance to prevent such accidents.

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HUMPY'S WIN CAPS INDIA'S 2024 CHESS DOMINANCE

SPORTS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

CONTEXT: Koneru Humpy won the Women's World Rapid Chess Championship in New York, adding to India's recent string of chess successes, including Gukesh's World Rapid Championship title and the Chess Olympiad victories



Key Points:

- **Humpy Wins World Rapid Title:** Koneru Humpy became the Women's World Rapid Chess Champion in New York, securing her second world rapid title.
- **India's Dominance in Chess:** This victory follows D. Gukesh's World Rapid Championship win earlier in the month and India's triumphs in both the men's and women's categories at the Chess Olympiad in September.
- **Humpy's Performance:** Humpy scored 8.5 points in 11 rounds, emerging victorious from a strong field of contenders.* **Harika's Placement:** D. Harika tied for second place in the women's section but finished fifth after tie-breaks.
- **Disappointing Day for Indian Men:** Arjun Erigaisi, a

contender for the title, finished fifth in the Open section.

Conclusion:

India has enjoyed a remarkable year in chess, with a string of impressive victories, culminating in Humpy's World Rapid Championship win. These achievements underscore the strength of Indian chess and its rising global prominence.

SIANG PROJECT TO HELP MITIGATE FLOOD RISKS POSED BY CHINA: ARUNACHAL CM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister's concerns regarding China's construction of a massive dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet and how the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in India can mitigate potential flood risks and ensure water security.



MAJOR POINTS:

- **China's Dam Project:** China is constructing a massive dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, raising concerns about potential water diversions and increased flood risks in India.
- **Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP):** India is planning the SUMP with the primary objective of maintaining the natural flow of the Siang River and mitigating flood risks, with hydropower generation as a secondary goal.
- **Concerns and Mitigation:** The SUMP aims to create a reservoir to store water, ensuring consistent river flow and mitigating the impact of potential sudden water releases from Chinese dams.

- **Need for Vigilance:** The Chief Minister emphasized the need for vigilance and preparedness, given the unpredictability of China's actions.
- **Addressing Local Concerns:** Extensive surveys and public hearings will be conducted to address concerns about displacement and environmental impact.

CONCLUSION:

The construction of the Chinese dam on the Brahmaputra River highlights the need for India to proactively address potential water security challenges. The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, while facing its own set of challenges, presents a crucial step towards mitigating the risks posed by the Chinese dam and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the river ecosystem.

SECURITY FORCES FACED RESURGENCE IN MILITANCY IN JAMMU REGION THIS YEAR

INTERNAL SECURITY

CONTEXT: The resurgence of militancy in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir in 2024, highlighting increased militant activity, higher security force casualties, and the challenges faced by security forces in combating this resurgence.

Key Points:

- **Resurgence of Militancy in Jammu:**
 - The Jammu region witnessed a significant resurgence of militancy in 2024, with all ten districts affected.
 - Security forces faced a higher number of casualties compared to militants in the region.
- **Shift in Militant Tactics:**
 - Militants have adopted new tactics, including establishing bases in the Pir Panjal Valley and operating in remote forest areas.
 - They have also demonstrated improved training and survival skills.
- **Increased Civilian Casualties:**
 - Both the Jammu and Kashmir regions witnessed a rise in civilian casualties due to militant attacks.
 - Notable incidents include the killing of nine pilgrims in Reasi and the attack on a tunnel project in Ganderbal.
- **Security Force Response:**
 - Security forces have deployed the National Security Guard (NSG) to combat the evolving threat in Jammu.
 - Crackdown on militants and their supporters continues in Kashmir, with arrests and property attachments.

CONCLUSION:

The resurgence of militancy in the Jammu region presents a significant challenge to security forces. The changing tactics of militants, including their increased presence in remote areas and improved operational capabilities, necessitates a robust and adaptable counter-insurgency strategy.

TURNOUT OF OVERSEAS INDIANS IN LOK SABHA ELECTION LOW, SAYS EC

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Context: Despite an increase in overseas Indians registering as electors for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, turnout remained exceedingly low, prompting discussions on the need for alternative voting mechanisms like postal ballots or proxy voting to enhance participation.

MAJOR POINTS

- **Registration and Turnout:**
 - Approximately 1.2 lakh overseas Indians registered as electors in 2024, a rise from 99,844 in 2019.
 - Actual voter turnout was minimal, with only 2,958 overseas electors participating, 90% of whom were from Kerala.
 - Large states like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu reported zero turnout, while Gujarat and Maharashtra saw negligible participation.
- **Challenges for NRI Voters:**

- Current laws require registered NRI voters to travel to their home constituencies in India to cast their votes, posing financial and logistical barriers.
- Factors like high travel costs, work obligations, and educational commitments hinder participation.
- Proposals for Reform:
 - A 2018 Bill granting proxy voting rights to overseas Indians was passed in the Lok Sabha but stalled in the Rajya Sabha.
 - In 2020, the EC proposed extending the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) to overseas voters, but this proposal awaits government approval.

CONCLUSION:

The low voter turnout among overseas Indians highlights the urgent need for electoral reforms to facilitate their participation. Mechanisms like postal ballots or proxy voting could bridge this gap, ensuring that the growing number of registered NRI electors can actively contribute to India's democratic process.

CENTRE GETS 6.21 LAKH APPLICATIONS UNDER PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The Scheme aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies over five years.

MAJOR POINTS

- Target: Provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies over five years.
- Pilot program: Launched in October 2024 with a target of 1.25 lakh internships.
- Applications: Received 6.21 lakh applications against 1.27 lakh opportunities.
- Financial assistance: Interns will receive ₹5,000 per month (₹4,500 from government, ₹500 from company CSR).
- Additional grant: The government will provide a one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidentals to each intern.

Conclusion

The pilot program of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme has received a significant response from young people, exceeding the number of available internship opportunities. This initiative aims to provide valuable work experience and financial support to young Indians, potentially enhancing their employability.

U.S.-INDIA TIES WILL BE STRENGTHENED, BUT EXPECT TARIFF HIKES'

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: As Donald Trump prepares for his second term as U.S. President, former envoy to India Kenneth Juster reflects on the trajectory of U.S.-India ties, emphasizing the strong bilateral relationship, potential economic negotiations, and shared strategic concerns, particularly regarding China.

MAJOR POINTS**U.S.-India Relationship:**

- Trump's first term saw a significant enhancement in U.S.-India ties, including defense cooperation, energy exports, and support during the 2020 border tensions with China.
- Strategic clarity exists between the two nations regarding challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Trade and Tariffs:

- Trump has been critical of India's protectionist policies and may impose tariffs of 10-20% on various countries, including India.
- These tariffs could prompt negotiations for a broader trade and economic agreement.

Iran Sanctions:

- The Trump administration's maximum pressure campaign on Iran may resume, potentially affecting India's oil imports from Iran.

Legal and Diplomatic Considerations:

- Ongoing U.S. investigations into cases like Adani and Pannun are unlikely to impact broader bilateral ties.

- The next U.S. envoy to India should understand Trump's operating style to effectively manage communications with the Indian government.

Diplomatic Traditions:

- While foreign leaders typically do not attend U.S. inaugurations, Trump and Modi share a strong personal rapport.

CONCLUSION:

Under Trump's second term, U.S.-India relations are poised to deepen, driven by shared strategic interests and opportunities for economic collaboration. While challenges like trade disputes and Iran sanctions persist, these are expected to serve as catalysts for further negotiations, solidifying a multifaceted partnership.

MODI ANNOUNCES A SERIES OF EVENTS TO MARK 75 YEARS OF THE CONSTITUTION

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat address, announced a series of initiatives to commemorate 75 years of the Indian Constitution, highlighted India's progress in public health, cultural promotion, and agricultural innovation, and emphasized collective effort as a cornerstone of national achievements.

MAJOR POINTS**• Constitutional Milestone:**

- Year-long celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution commenced on November 26, including a dedicated website, constitution75.com, to engage citizens.
- PM Modi called the Constitution a guiding light and encouraged people to explore its content and legacy.

• World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES):

- India will host WAVES for the first time, aiming to establish itself as a hub for global content creation.

• Global Cultural Connections:

- Highlighted Ayurveda's growing popularity in Paraguay, led by Erica Huber.
- Commended Fiji's initiative to promote Tamil, the world's oldest language, with support from India.

• Public Health Progress:

- WHO reports an 80% reduction in malaria cases and deaths in India from 2015 to 2023, attributed to collective efforts.

• Agricultural Innovation:

- Farmers in Kalahandi, Odisha, have achieved significant success using modern farming techniques, growing their business to crores.

CONCLUSION:

PM Modi's address underscored the importance of collective effort in fostering national progress, from celebrating the Constitution to advancing public health, cultural heritage, and agricultural practices. These initiatives reflect India's commitment to holistic development and global leadership.

ALL EYES ON PSLV-C60 MISSION AS ISRO LOOKS TO END 2024 ON A HIGH

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: The upcoming PSLV-C60 mission, highlights its significance as a precursor to future Indian spaceflight endeavors, including human spaceflight and interplanetary missions. This details the mission's objectives, including the SpaDeX experiment for in-orbit docking and the deployment of numerous payloads for technological demonstrations.

Key Points:**• PSLV-C60 Mission:**

- Scheduled for December 30, 2024, this mission will carry two satellites, 'Chaser' and 'Target,' for a crucial Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
- The fourth stage of the rocket will carry over 20 payloads, including technology demonstrators, scientific experiments, and payloads from academic institutions and private companies.

○ Key payloads include those for robotic manipulation, space debris capture, plant growth studies, and communication technologies.

● **Significance:**

- SpaDeX is a crucial step towards India's future space station (BAS) and interplanetary missions.
- The mission will demonstrate crucial technologies like in-orbit docking, robotic manipulation, and advanced propulsion systems.
- It will also provide valuable data and insights for future human spaceflight missions.

● **Other Important Developments:**

- ISRO has begun assembling the LVM-3 rocket for its first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, marking a significant step towards India's human spaceflight program.
- The successful PSLV-C59 mission demonstrated the PSLV's capability to launch spacecraft into highly elliptical orbits.

Conclusion:

The PSLV-C60 mission is poised to be a significant milestone for Indian space exploration. By successfully demonstrating key technologies and paving the way for future missions, it will play a crucial role in advancing India's ambitions in space.

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION AND REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The proposal for simultaneous elections under the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) Bill has sparked debates about its impact on India's representative democracy, raising concerns over procedural lapses, inclusivity, federalism, and electoral accountability.

MAJOR POINTS:

● **ONOE Proposal:**

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to align Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, with mid-term elections limited to the remainder of the original tenure.
- Amendments to Articles 83, 172, and 327 will be implemented post-2029 elections to initiate simultaneous elections by 2034.

● **Democratic Concerns:**

- Procedural lapses in the ONOE process include inadequate consultation periods, lack of explanatory material, and poorly framed public engagement questions.
- Jayaprakash Narayan's critique of parliamentary democracy highlights risks like minority governments, populism, centralisation, and high election costs, relevant to the ONOE debate.

● **Implications for Representative Democracy:**

- Risks to federalism and inclusivity as national narratives might overshadow state-specific issues.
- Reduced electoral accountability due to fewer opportunities for voter evaluation.

● **Challenges in Representative Democracy:**

- A 2024 Pew Research study highlights global disillusionment with representative democracy, calling for reforms to rebuild trust and address inefficiencies.

CONCLUSION:

While ONOE aims to enhance efficiency, it raises critical concerns about inclusivity, federalism, and accountability. A truly representative reform process must engage diverse stakeholders meaningfully, ensuring policy decisions reflect the democratic ethos and aspirations of all citizens.



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THE CHALLENGE OF HOLDING JUDGES ACCOUNTABLE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The challenges in holding Indian judges accountable for misconduct, focus on the difficulties of the impeachment process and the limited success of past attempts. It highlights the case of Justice V. Ramaswami, who was found guilty by a committee but not removed by Parliament, and the resignation of Justice P.D. Dinakaran before the completion of impeachment proceedings, raising concerns about loopholes in the current system.

THE GIST

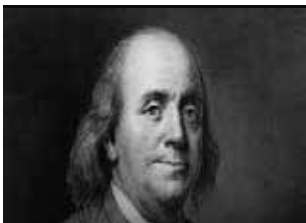
- Only two judges so far have been found guilty for their “misbehaviour” by the three-member committee, which must comprise of a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court and an eminent jurist.
- Article 124 (4) of the Constitution stipulates that the panel’s finding must be voted upon by Parliament. The motion requires either a two-thirds majority of present MPs voting in favour of the motion or an absolute majority in each House, for the judge to be removed.
- Such instances highlight that members of India’s higher judiciary enjoy a disproportionately greater level of immunity when compared with even elected officials as they “continue to enjoy the perks of being a retired judge, like pension” and other benefits, said jurist Mohan Gopal.

KEY POINTS:

- **Difficult Impeachment Process:**
 - The process for removing a judge is complex and involves multiple stages, including a successful impeachment motion in Parliament and a subsequent inquiry by a three-member committee.
 - The high threshold for removal, requiring either a two-thirds majority of present MPs or an absolute majority in each House, makes it difficult to successfully impeach a judge.
- **Limited Success:**
 - Only two judges have been found guilty by the inquiry committee, and in both cases, the impeachment motion was either defeated in Parliament or the judge resigned before the process could be completed.
 - This highlights the significant challenges in holding judges accountable for misconduct.
- **Concerns Regarding Immunity:**
 - Retired judges continue to enjoy significant benefits, including pensions, even if they are found guilty of misconduct.
 - This raises concerns about the level of immunity enjoyed by members of the judiciary compared to elected officials.
- **Case Studies:**
 - The case of Justice V. Ramaswami, who was found guilty of misconduct but not removed by Parliament, demonstrates the limitations of the impeachment process.
 - The resignation of Justice P.D. Dinakaran before the completion of the inquiry raised concerns about loopholes in the system, as it allowed him to avoid the consequences of the investigation.
- **Need for Reform:**
 - Experts, including jurist Mohan Gopal, have argued that the inquiry process should continue even if a judge resigns, to ensure accountability and prevent judges from avoiding scrutiny.
 - Reforms are needed to strengthen the mechanisms for holding judges accountable and ensure public confidence in the judiciary.

Conclusion:

The existing framework for holding Indian judges accountable presents significant challenges, including a complex and difficult impeachment process, limited success in past cases, and concerns regarding judicial immunity. These challenges raise serious questions about the effectiveness of the current system and the need for reforms to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and public trust in the judiciary.



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

–Benjamin Franklin

ACCELERATED MOVEMENT: THE LOGISTICS SECTOR IS HIGH ON DELIVERY, LOW ON COST

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT: The growth and transformation of India's logistics sector are highlighted by government initiatives like the National Logistics Policy and Gati Shakti, technological advancements, and the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, including the need for a skilled workforce and further cost reduction.

KEY POINTS:

● Significant Progress:

- Logistics costs have declined significantly in recent years, contributing to India's improved ranking in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index.
- Government initiatives like the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM Gati Shakti have played a crucial role in boosting efficiency and reducing costs.
- Digital platforms like ULIP and the Logistics Data Bank are enhancing transparency and streamlining operations.
- GST implementation has significantly reduced travel time for trucks and lowered costs.

● Growth and Transformation:

- The logistics sector is experiencing robust growth, driven by e-commerce, increasing domestic consumption, and government initiatives.
- The sector is transitioning from unorganized to a more structured industry.
- India is becoming a key player in the global supply chain, benefiting from the "China Plus One" strategy.

● Future Outlook:

- Experts are bullish on the sector's future prospects, with continued growth expected.
- Focus on digitalization, data transparency, and advanced technologies will drive further growth.
- Government support for warehousing infrastructure, including infrastructure status and FDI, is crucial.
- Skill development of the workforce is essential to unlock the sector's full potential.

● Challenges and Opportunities:

- Further cost reduction through technology integration and improved ease of doing business is necessary.
- Implementation of the Indian Port Bill and a faster transition to coastal transportation are crucial for maritime connectivity.
- Multi-modal connectivity, including rail, waterway, and road, is key to strengthening India's logistics infrastructure.

CONCLUSION:

The Indian logistics sector is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by government initiatives, technological advancements, and increasing demand. While considerable progress has been made, continued efforts are required to address challenges, enhance efficiency, and unlock the sector's full potential to support India's economic growth and global competitiveness.



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ALWAYS IN FAVOUR OF H1-B VISAS, SAYS TRUMP AS HE SIDES WITH MUSK ON WORK PERMIT ROW

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The debate over the H1-B visa program has intensified, with former President Donald Trump expressing support for the program despite his previous anti-immigration stance, while tech leaders like Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy advocate for its necessity to attract skilled talent, highlighting divisions between traditional Trump supporters and Silicon Valley executives.

MAJOR POINTS: Former President Donald Trump supported the H1-B visa program, which allows highly skilled workers to enter the U.S., citing its utility at Trump-owned facilities. This stance contrasts with his previous hardline immigration policies that formed a cornerstone of his election platform. Meanwhile, a heated debate has emerged between Trump's traditional anti-immigration supporters and tech leaders like Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. Musk, himself an H1-B beneficiary, emphasized the importance of attracting elite engineering talent to maintain America's competitiveness, while Ramaswamy criticized an American culture of mediocrity, warning of economic threats from nations like China.

CONCLUSION:

The H1-B visa debate underscores a growing rift between anti-immigration advocates and proponents of skilled immigration, with tech leaders urging a focus on global talent to sustain America's innovation and competitiveness. This discussion highlights the challenges of balancing economic priorities with political ideologies on immigration.



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