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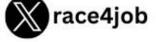


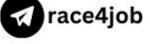


Thursday, 26 December 2024













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NEWS





Sairaj Pardeshi Shines at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships

Record-Breaking Performance in 81kg Men's Category

- India's Sairaj Pardeshi showcased a stellar performance at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha, Qatar, winning one gold and two silver medals. He clinched the gold medal in the overall lift category with a total of 310kg, setting a new national youth record. This marked India's first gold medal in the men's category at the event.
- In the snatch category, Sairaj lifted 139kg, earning a silver medal while setting another youth national record. Additionally, he lifted 171kg in the clean and jerk category, securing a second silver medal with yet another national youth record.

International Competition Highlights

Iran's Amirmohammad Rahmati claimed the silver medal in the total lift category with a weight of 307kg, while Saudi Arabia's Alzawri Mohammed Ali took the bronze with a lift of 306kg.

Sanjana's Impressive Performance in Women's 76kg Category

- In the women's 76kg category, Sanjana bagged five silver medals – three in the youth section and two in the junior section. She lifted a total of 210kg, comprising 90kg in the snatch and 120kg in the clean and jerk, adding to India's medal tally at the championship.
- Q. Who won one gold and two silver medals at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha? Sairaj Pardeshi.



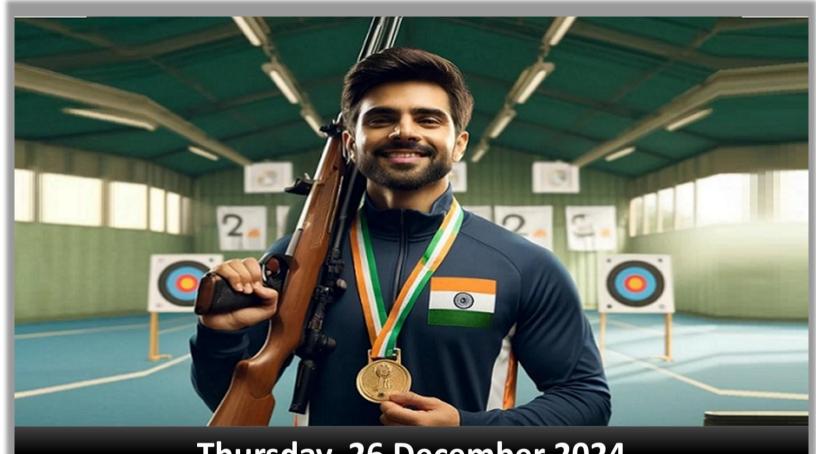












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Shahu Tushar Mane Wins Gold at Senior **National Shooting Championship**

Men's 10m Air Rifle Senior Category

Shahu Tushar Mane secured his first senior national title by clinching the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Rifle event at the 67th National Shooting Championship held in Bhopal. He outperformed Dhanush Srikanth, who claimed the silver medal, while Yash Vardhan bagged the bronze. Rudrankksh Patil, a notable competitor, finished just outside the podium.

Men's Junior 10m Air Rifle Competition

In the junior category, Maharashtra's Rudrankksh Patil, a former world champion, clinched the gold medal. The silver medal was won by Abishek Sekhar from Karnataka, and Haryana's Himanshu took the bronze medal in this event.

Men's 10m Air Rifle Youth Event

- Himanshu shone brightly in the youth category, winning the gold medal with an impressive score of 253.0. Madhya Pradesh's Yash Pandey secured the silver medal, while West Bengal's Abhinav Shaw claimed the bronze medal, rounding off an exciting competition.
- Q. Who won the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Rifle competition at the 67th Senior National Shooting Championship? Shahu Tushar Mane















India Secures \$500 Million ADB Loan for **Green Infrastructure Development**

Loan Agreement for Sustainable Projects

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$500 million loan agreement to finance green and sustainable infrastructure projects, supporting India's climate commitments. The loan, extended with a sovereign guarantee, will be directed to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).

Key Stakeholders in the Agreement

The agreement was signed by Ms. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India, and Mio Oka, Country Director for ADB.

Focus Areas of the Projects

- The funds will support infrastructure projects in areas such as connectivity, energy transition, urban development, education, and healthcare. These efforts aim to enhance India's progress toward sustainable growth and environmental resilience.
- Q. How much loan has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended to India for green infrastructure projects? \$500 million.



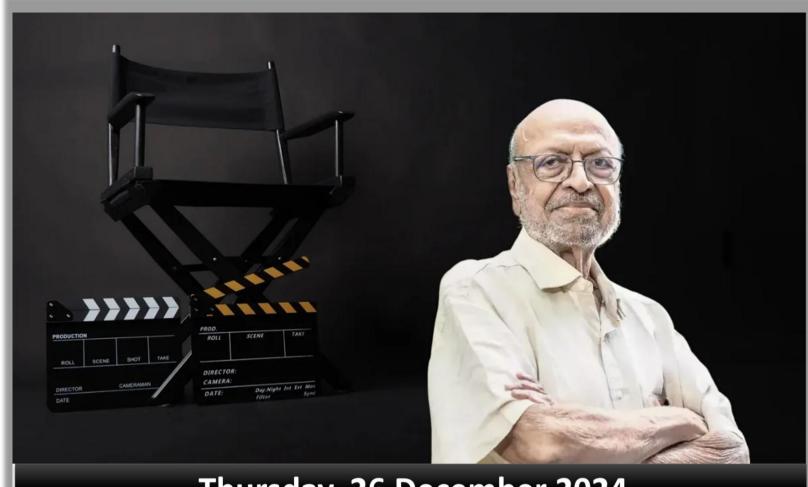












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Acclaimed Film Director Shyam Benegal Passes Away at 90

Renowned filmmaker Shyam Benegal passed away at the age of 90 in Mumbai, where he had been receiving treatment for chronic kidney disease.

Birth and Early Career

Born on December 14, 1934, in Hyderabad, Shyam Benegal initially ventured into the world of advertising films before making a mark in Indian cinema. His visionary approach to filmmaking redefined the industry and brought social issues and rural struggles to the forefront.

Iconic Films and Awards

- Benegal's films, including Ankur, Nishant, Bhumika, Manthan, Sardaari Begum, Zubeidaa, are considered landmarks in Indian cinema. His work earned him multiple National Awards, including for Manthan (1976), Bhumika: The Role (1977), Junoon (1978), Arohan (1982), Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero (2004), and Well Done Abba (2010).
- Q. Padma Shri awardee Shyam Benegal, who passed away recently, was the famous . Film Director















Former SC Judge V. Ramasubramanian **Appointed NHRC Chairperson**

Appointment of New Chairperson

Supreme Court judge Retired Ramasubramanian has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The appointment was made by President Droupadi Murmu. Alongside Justice Ramasubramanian, Priyank Kanoongo and Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.) have also been appointed as members of the commission.

Background of Justice Ramasubramanian

Justice V. Ramasubramanian was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court on September 23, 2019. He retired on June 29, 2023, after serving in the judiciary for several years.

Previous NHRC Leadership

- This appointment comes after the tenure of former Supreme Court Justice Arun Kumar Mishra, who concluded his term as NHRC chairperson on June 1, 2023. Following Justice Mishra's retirement, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani served as the acting chairperson of the commission.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)? **Supreme** Court Retired judge Ramasubramanian.



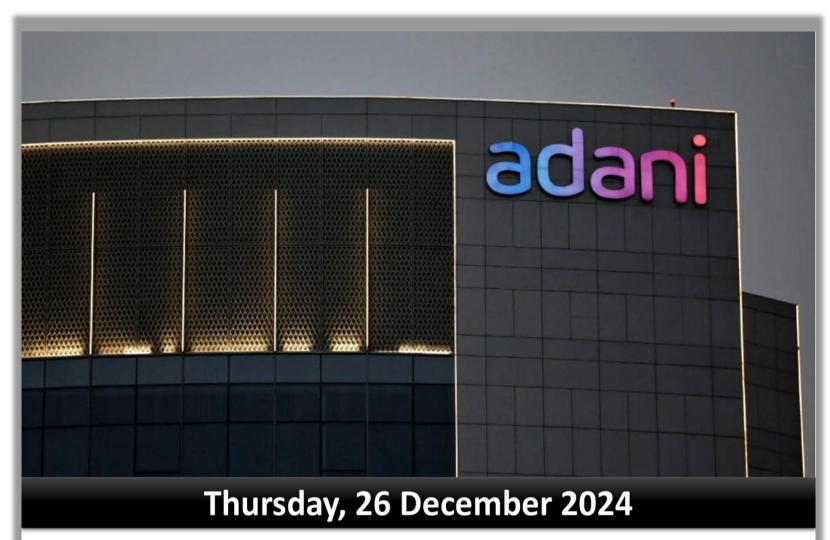












Adani Defence Acquires Majority Stake in Air Works MRO Firm

Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) has acquired an 85.8% stake in Air Works, India's largest private-sector Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) company, approximately ₹400 crore. This acquisition aligns with Adani's strategy to strengthen its presence in India's aviation sector.

Air Works' Capabilities

Air Works specializes in base maintenance for narrow-body, turboprop, and rotary aircraft, operating facilities in Hosur, Mumbai, and Kochi. The firm holds regulatory approvals from over 20 countries and employs more than 1,300 personnel, servicing both commercial and defense aircraft.

Growth Prospects in Indian Aviation

The Indian aviation sector has seen significant growth, with domestic carriers approximately 1,500 aircraft in the past two years. Companies like IndiGo, Air India, and Akasa Air have placed substantial orders, highlighting the need for expanded MRO services.

Q. Which company acquired an 85.8% stake in Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO firm, for crore? Adani Defence Systems ₹400 and Technologies Limited (ADSTL).















Senior National Badminton Championship 2024: Winners Announced

Men's Singles Champion

M. Raghu from Karnataka claimed his maiden men's singles title with a hard-fought 14-21, 21-14, 24-22 former champion Mithun Manjunath, victory over representing Railways. Raghu saved three championship points in a nail-biting final.

Women's Singles Champion

Haryana's Devika Sihag triumphed in the women's singles final, defeating Telangana's Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-15, 21-16 in a match that lasted 35 minutes.

Doubles Events

- Men's Doubles: Uttar Pradesh's Arsh Mohammad and Rajasthan's Sanskar Saraswat defeated Tamil Nadu's P. Naveen and V. Lokesh in a three-set match (21-12, 12-21, 21-19).
- Women's Doubles: Kerala's Arathi Sara Sunil and Tamil Nadu's V.S. Varshini overcame Manipur's Priya Devi Konjengbam and Uttar Pradesh's Shruti Mishra (21-18, 22-20, 17-21).
- Mixed Doubles: Uttar Pradesh duo Ayush Agarwal and Shruti Mishra secured the mixed doubles title by beating Delhi's Rohan Kapoor and Petroleum's G. Ruthvika Shivani (21-17, 21-18).
- Q. Who won the men's singles title at the Senior National Badminton Championship 2024? M. Raghu (Karnataka).















Marcel Ciolacu Reappointed as Romanian **Prime Minister**

Prime Minister Reappointment: Marcel Ciolacu, leader of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), has been reappointed as Romania's Prime Minister by President Klaus Iohannis after the December 1 parliamentary elections. He will head the new government.

Political Journey of Marcel Ciolacu:

- Current Role: Ciolacu served as Prime Minister since June 2023 and was previously the President of Romania's Chamber of Deputies (2021-2023).
- PSD Leadership: Elected as PSD leader in 2020, following a landslide victory in the party congress.
- Election Performance: Ran for President in 2024, securing 19.15% of votes in the first round, but did not advance to the runoff.

Historical Background:

- Ciolacu's leadership led PSD to win the 2020 legislative elections, but the party initially failed to form a majority coalition.
- After the political crisis in 2021, he formed a coalition with the National Liberal Party (PNL), returning PSD to power under the "National Coalition for Romania."
- Q. Who has been reappointed as the Prime Minister of Romania in December 2024? Marcel Ciolacu















Tonga Parliament Elects New Prime Minister

- New Prime Minister Elected: Aisake Eke, former Finance Minister, has been elected as Tonga's new Prime Minister in a special parliamentary session on December 24, 2024. He won the secret ballot with a 16-8 vote, defeating Trade Minister Viliame Latu.
- Context of Election: The election followed the resignation of former Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni earlier this month, ahead of a no-confidence vote. Eke was the initiator of the motion against Sovaleni.
- Tonga's Parliament Composition: The parliament includes members elected by the public and 9 noble representatives chosen by hereditary chiefs. Two members were unable to participate in the voting process.

Challenges Facing Tonga:

- Economic Impact: Struggles with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 volcanic eruption and tsunami.
- Climate Change: Growing threats to the South Pacific island nation of 105,000 people, spread across 171 islands.
- Tourism Dependency: Heavy reliance on tourism, which suffered setbacks from recent disasters.
- Q. Who has been elected as Tonga's new Prime Minister? Aisake Eke















SAIL wins eight national awards for communication excellence

- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been conferred with eight national awards by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI).
- These PRSI National Awards 2024 were given away at the 46th All India Public Relations Conference held at Raipur.
- SAIL was recognized in various categories viz.
- 1, E-Newsletter for SAIL Track,
- 2. Corporate Film (English),
- 3. Best Communication Campaigns (Internal Publics) for SAIL Gaurav Diwas celebration,
- 4. House Journal (English) for SAIL News,
- 5. Best PR Programme for Promoting Science & Technology for steel plant technologies,
- 6. Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign for promoting green steel,
- 7. Corporate Website, as well as
- 8. Annual Report.

SAIL

- Founded: 19 January 1954
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman: Amarendu Prakash
- Q. Which Indian public sector steel manufacturing corporation has been conferred with eight national awards by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)? SAIL



















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