

# Daily News Analysis

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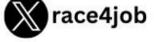




#### Friday, 27 September 2024











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## India Signs BBNJ Agreement to Protect Marine **Biodiversity on High Seas**

- India has taken a significant step in international environmental conservation by signing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.
- The agreement was signed by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- Objective: The BBNJ Agreement, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), aims to protect and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, commonly referred to as the high seas.
- Geographical Scope: The high seas lie beyond a nation's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical miles (370 km) from a country's coast.
- Significance for India: India's participation highlights its commitment to global environmental protection and sustainable management of ocean resources.

#### Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) **Biodiversity Agreement:**

- The BBNJ Agreement focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, commonly known as the high seas.
- Q. Which international agreement did India sign to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas at the United Nations Headquarters? Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement



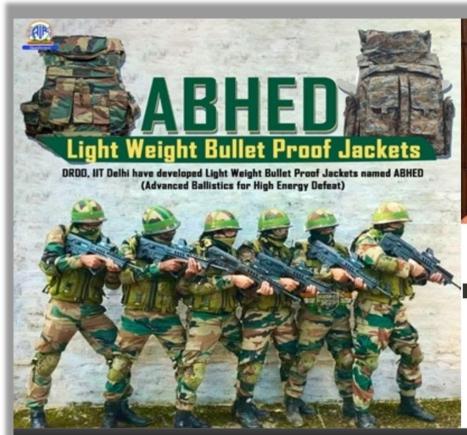














OU WITH IIT-DELHI O DEVELOP LIGHT VEIGHT BULLET PROOF JACKETS

Friday, 27 September 2024

## DRDO Signs MoU with IIT Delhi to Develop Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has entered Memorandum into a Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi for the development of Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat (ABHED).
- Objective: This collaboration aims to design jackets made from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material, meeting the highest threat levels while remaining within the weight limits stipulated in the General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) of the Indian Army.
- Key Innovation: The jackets, known as Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat, are made from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material, designed to meet the highest threat levels.
- Military Standards: These jackets are lighter than the maximum weight limits set by the General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) of the Indian Army, ensuring advanced protection and mobility for soldiers.
- Significance: This development highlights the synergy between defence R&D, academia, and industry in enhancing the protection of armed forces through cuttingedge technology.
- Q. With which institution has DRDO signed an MoU to develop Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets? IIT Delhi















## SEBI Launches FPI Outreach Cell to Assist **Foreign Investors**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a dedicated Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Outreach Cell under the Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD).
- **Objective:** This cell aims to facilitate direct engagement with Foreign Portfolio Investors, assisting them in navigating the Indian securities market.
- Key Functions: The FPI Outreach Cell will provide guidance during the pre-application stage, helping with documentation and compliance. It will also support investors during the onboarding phase, addressing any operational challenges related to registration and beyond.
- **Significance:** This initiative is expected to enhance the ease of doing business for foreign investors in India, promoting smoother market access.

#### **SEBI:**

- SEBI was established in 1988 as a non-statutory body and was granted statutory powers through the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, India.
- SEBI is the regulatory authority for the securities market in India, responsible for protecting the interests of investors, promoting the development of the securities market, and regulating its functioning.
- Q. Which regulatory body launched the FPI Outreach Cell to assist foreign investors in India? **SEBI**















# Kamal Chawla Wins Gold in IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship

- Indian snooker player Kamal Chawla secured his first-ever IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship title, defeating Asjad Iqbal of Pakistan in the final held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This victory marks a major achievement for Chawla, who was the runner-up in the 2017 edition of the championship.
- India also bagged three bronze medals through Malkeet Singh, Vidya Pillai, and Keerthana Pandian.

## In the women's section, Vidya Pillai, Additional Medals:

Women's Category: the defending champion, settled for a bronze after losing in the semifinals to Ng On Yee of Hong Kong.

## International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF):

- Founded: 23 November 1923
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Ivo Ferriani
- Q. Which Indian snooker player won the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship in 2024? Kamal Chawla















Friday, 27 September 2024

# Nitin Madhukar Jamdar sworn in as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court

- Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court at Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Justice Jamdar was appointed as a judge of the Bombay High Court on January 23, 2012.
- He is a legal luminary in administrative and constitutional law and played a pivotal role in computerizing the Bombay High Court and championed digitization.
- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Jamdar as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court on July 11.
- On 21 September, the Central Government notified the appointment of His Lordship as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

#### **Kerala High Court**

- Established: 1 November 1956
- Authorized by: Constitution of India
- Appeals to: Supreme Court of India
- Judge term length: Mandatory retirement by age of
- Q. Who was recently sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court? Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar.















## IMF approves \$7bn bailout for Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan to support its struggling economy.
- The bailout package was sanctioned after Pakistan committed to reforms, including overhauling its agricultural income tax and transferring certain fiscal responsibilities to provincial governments.
- This is Pakistan's largest and most expensive loan in its history.
- The first tranche of \$1.1 billion is expected to be disbursed by September 30, 2024.
- The interest rate on the loan is less than 5%, with a second instalment likely within the current fiscal year.

# Pakistan had to implement IMF-demanded measures, such as:

- Expanding the tax base.
- Enforcing taxes on agricultural income.
- Increasing electricity and natural gas prices.

Q. How much was the IMF's recent Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan? \$7 billion.



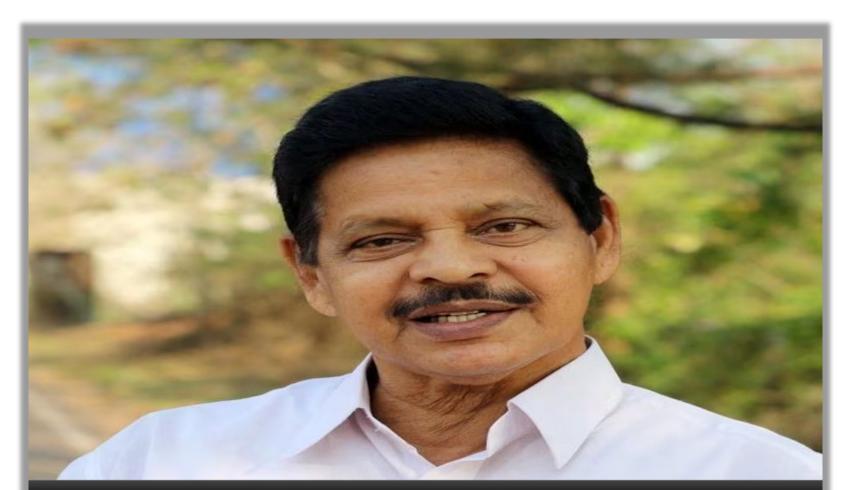












#### Friday, 27 September 2024

# Veteran Congress leader KP Kunhikannan passes away

■ KP Kunhikannan, veteran Congress leader and former Udma MLA, passed away at 75 in Kannur due to injuries from a severe accident.

#### **Political Career**

- First District Congress Committee (DCC) president of Kasaragod (1984).
- Elected as Udma MLA in 1987 and 1991.
- Began political career in 1977 as Youth Congress State General Secretary.
- Close associate of Congress leader K. Karunakaran.
- Later distanced from Karunakaran's faction and rejoined Congress.

#### **Key Roles**

- Served as KPCC General Secretary, Chairman of KeraFed, and held multiple significant leadership roles in cooperatives.
- Contested 2021 assembly elections from Trikaripur.
- Part of a Youth Congress delegation to Russia.

#### **Personal Life**

- Born on 9 September 1949 in Kaithapram, Kannur.
- Survived by his wife, K. Sushila, and children K.P.K. Thilakan, K.P.K. Tulasi, and their families.
- Q. Veteran Congress leader KP Kunhikannan died. In context to same Which district's first DCC president was KP Kunhikannan? Kasaragod District















#### Friday, 27 September 2024

## Malta's honeybee declared national insect

- The Maltese honeybee (Apis Mellifera Ruttneri), locally called "In-nahla ta' Malta," has been officially declared the National Insect of Malta.
- It joins five other species with national designation in Malta, which are:
- National Bird: The Blue Rock Thrush (Il-Merill).
- National Plant: The Maltese Rock-Centaury (Widnet il-Baħar), a rare shrub found along Malta and Gozo's coastal cliffs.
- National Invertebrate: The Maltese Freshwater Crab (Il-Qabru), the only endemic decapod in Malta, living in freshwater habitats.
- National Tree: The Sandarac Gum Tree (L-Gharghar), a rare conifer found only in Malta and parts of North Africa.
- National Fish: The Maltese Ruby Fish (Maltese Dott).

#### Role in Agriculture and Biodiversity

- Honeybees are crucial for pollination, supporting agriculture and biodiversity.
- They produce honey, beeswax, and other valuable products.
- Evolved in isolation on the Maltese Islands, the honeybee is perfectly adapted to the local hot and dry summers.
- Q. Which country recently declared its honeybee (Apis Mellifera Ruttneri) as the national insect of the nation? Malta













# OpenAl







#### Friday, 27 September 2024

### 3 top OpenAI executives depart as Sam Altman rejigs leadership team

- Three major leaders at OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, announced their departures, during a period of change and expansion for the AI firm.
- Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati, VP of Research Barret Zoph, and Chief Research Officer Bob McGrew revealed their plans to leave.

#### **Company Context:**

- OpenAI is undergoing significant changes amidst a \$6.5 billion funding round, potentially raising the company's valuation to \$150 billion.
- The funding is part of a transition to a for-profit benefit corporation, which includes offering CEO Sam Altman an equity stake.
- Previously, a non-profit board controlled the for-profit operations of OpenAI.
- Concerns: The exits of these executives may raise questions about investor confidence in the company.

#### Mira Murati's Background:

- Murati has been with OpenAI for six and a half years, joining as VP of Applied AI and Partnerships in December 2020, and becoming CTO in May 2022.
- She played a key role in launching GPT-4 in May 2023, known for its advanced voice conversation capabilities.
- Q. Who are the three major leaders leaving OpenAI? Mira Murati, Barret Zoph, and Bob McGrew















# Japan launches IGS Radar 8 reconnaissance satellite with penultimate H-2A rocket

- Japan launched the classified IGS-Radar 8 satellite with the second-to-last H-2A rocket.
- A Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-2A rocket in a figuration with a pair of SRB-A3 solid boosters lifted off from Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan.
- Information Gathering Satellite (IGS) Radar 8 was launched into sun-synchronous orbit (SSO).
- Japan's Cabinet Satellite Information Center will operate the satellite.
- The IGS series includes both optical and radar satellites.
- Radar 8 will gather data for intelligence purposes and environmental and natural disaster monitoring, as with earlier IGS satellites.
- The H-2A debuted in 2001 and has flown 49 times with a single failure, suffered in 2003, resulting in the loss of the IGS-2 satellite.
- The operation of the H2A is expected to end in fiscal 2024 through next March with the launch of rocket No. 50.
- Q. Japan launches IGS Radar 8 reconnaissance satellite with penultimate H-2A rocket. In context to same the H-2A rocket is manufactured by whom? Mitsubishi Heavy Industries



















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