

# IACE

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## Jammu and Kashmir became the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- Jammu and Kashmir has taken a significant step towards empowering its vibrant community of artisans and crafts people by becoming the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the “**PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY)**”.
- This initiative, launched by the Central government in September 2023, aims to uplift and recognize the crucial role these skilled individuals play in preserving and enriching India’s cultural heritage.
- The inauguration of the training programme for the first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) in '**darzi craft**' was virtually conducted by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, and Secretary of the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari, at ITI Shopian.
- **About Jammu & Kashmir:**
- **Capital:** Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Manoj Sinha





## Prof B R Kamboj honoured with M S Swaminathan Award

- Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor Prof. **B.R. Kamboj** has been honoured with the prestigious **M.S. Swaminathan Award** in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.
- Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka, presented him this award.
- The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on '**One Health One World,**' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

- A special committee, constituted for the M.S. Swaminathan Award, selected Prof. B.R. Kamboj for his excellent achievements in the field of education, research, technology development and extension in agricultural science.
- Prof Kamboj has published about 300 research papers and articles in national and international journals, books and technical magazines.

## PM Modi inaugurates new terminal building of Trichy airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new terminal of Trichy Airport and laid the foundation stone for several development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli.
- The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.
- Tiruchirappalli International Airport is Tamil Nadu's second-largest airport in terms of international passenger traffic after Chennai.
- PM Modi claimed that his government has given Tamil Nadu 2.5 times more amount as compared to the 10 years of UPA rule from 2004-14.
- **About Tamil Nadu:**
- **Founded:** 1773
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **Capital:** Chennai





## **Padma Bhushan Awardee Prof Ved Prakash Nanda Passes Away**

- Professor Ved Prakash Nanda, a prominent member of the Indian diaspora in the USA, passed away.
- Born in 1934 in Gujranwala, British India, his journey transcended borders as his family migrated to India after the partition in 1947.
- Nanda was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2018 for his contributions to literature and education.

- He was a professor of International Law at the prestigious University of Denver, Colorado.
- Prof. Nanda assumed the role of Chairman of the Board at the Hindu University of America in January 2019.
- His guidance was instrumental in shaping the university's trajectory.
- Prof. Nanda received the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award for Community Peace Building.
- Numerous other awards underscore his significant impact in the field.

## Kia India appoints Gwanggu Lee as new MD and CEO

- Kia India has appointed **Gwanggu Lee** as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO).
- He will be the third MD and CEO of Kia India, succeeding Kook **Hyun Shim and Tae Jin Park**.
- India's former MD and CEO, Tae Jin Park, is retiring after his remarkable 36-year journey with Kia Corporation and a four-year stint with Kia India.
- Kia currently sells five models, including Seltos, Sonet and Carens, in the Indian market.
- **About Kia India:**
- **MD & CEO:** Gwanggu Lee
- **Founded:** 19 May 2017
- **Headquarters:** Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India





**KABIL**  
खनिज बिदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड  
KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD.

### **KABIL to invest over ₹200 cr towards securing lithium supplies in Argentina**

- India's KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) will invest ₹211 crore (\$ 25.712 million) over a five-year-period for exploration stage activities of five lithium blocks in Fiambala area of Argentina.
- An exploration and development agreement in this regard is expected to be signed with CAMYEN, a state-owned miner in Argentina's Catamarca province, later this month.
- Approval of Ministry of Mines, for the above proposals has also been received in December.
- As mutually agreed with CAMYEN, the agreement is planned to be signed in January 2024 in Argentina.



### **Hyderabad, Bengaluru airports score high in global on-time ranking**

- The airports at Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been ranked second and third among the top ten global airports in terms of operational performance and punctuality.
- In the 2023 On-Time Performance (OTP) Review prepared by aviation analytics firm Cirium, there are a total of three Indian airports - Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata and one Indian carrier- IndiGo.
- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is at the second spot in the global airports with an OTP of 84.42 per cent as well as large airports categories.

- Kempegowda International Airport is at the third position in both the segments with an OTP of 84.08 per cent.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in the US has topped both the lists with an OTP of 84.44 per cent.
- In the medium airports category, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose airport in Kolkata is ranked ninth with an OTP of 83.91 per cent.
- The medium airports category is topped by Osaka International Airport in Japan with an OTP of 90.71 per cent.
- India's largest airline IndiGo has an OTP of 82.12 per cent. It is ranked eighth in the low cost carriers category and is at the fourth spot in the Asia Pacific segment.
- The low cost carriers segment is topped by South Africa's Safair with an OTP of 92.36 per cent.

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# Kenya's Beatrice Chebet Shatters Women's 5km World Record in Barcelona

- Kenya's Beatrice Chebet smashed the women's world 5km record in Barcelona, Spain.
- The 23-year-old's time of 14min 13sec improved on the previous women-only world record of 14:29 set by Ethiopia's Senbere Teferi in September 2021.
- Her performance also bettered the women's world record set in a mixed race of 14:19, achieved by Ethiopia's Ejegayehu Taye at the same Barcelona meet in 2021.
- **About Spain:**
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Currency:** The Euro
- **Prime Minister:** Pedro Sánchez

## Beatrice Chebet: Kenyan athlete breaks women's world 5km record in Barcelona

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## Russia assumes the 2024 BRICS chairmanship

- Russia has begun the 2024 BRICS chairmanship, Russian President Vladimir Putin has emphasised that, under the motto "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security," they will act precisely in this manner and focus on positive and constructive cooperation with all countries concerned.
- On January 1, Russia was passed the baton of the BRICS chairmanship, an association that, according to the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022, now includes 10 countries.
- The ten countries include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.



- **About Russia:**
- **Capital:** Moscow
- **Currency:** Ruble or rouble
- **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin
- **President:** Vladimir Putin

# CCI approves Punjab government's buy of private thermal plant

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Punjab government's purchase of a private thermal plant, Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant.
- CCI approves the proposed acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding of GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Ltd by Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL).
- PSPCL has reportedly offered Rs 1,400 crore to lenders for the acquisition of the GVK power unit.
- This is the first such takeover of a private electricity generator by a state-run distribution company.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in March 2009 by Government of India under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of the Act.



- **About Punjab:**
- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Bhagwant Mann
- **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit

## Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal launches e-commerce start-up OppDoor

- Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has launched new e-commerce start-up OppDoor, business-to-business (B2B) platform.
- The startup aims to facilitate the global expansion of e-commerce firms by offering comprehensive end-to-end solutions.
- The launch of OppDoor holds particular significance as it marks Binny Bansal's re-entry into the e-commerce domain after the completion of a five-year non-compete clause following the sale of Flipkart to Walmart in 2018.
- OppDoor is set to provide its services primarily to e-commerce companies in various countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, Singapore, Japan, and Australia.
- Notably, India is yet to be mentioned on the company's website, signaling a broader international focus in the initial phase.
- The core objective of OppDoor is to offer end-to-end solutions to e-commerce companies, aiding them in navigating the complexities of global expansion.

