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Charaichung Festival: Reviving Asia's First Royal Bird Sanctuary in Majuli

- ✓ 'Charaichung Festival' organized in Majuli to revive Asia's First Protected Royal Bird Sanctuary.
- ✓ The Charaichung Festival was organised in Assam's Majuli district to revive the nearly defunct Royal Bird Sanctuary.
- ✓ The festival was held for the second time on the world's largest river island.
- ✓ The festival commemorates the 392-year-old legacy of Asia's first protected Royal Bird Sanctuary, Charaichang, which was built by Ahom King Swargadeo Pratap Singha in 1633 AD.
- ✓ The four-day festival was celebrated from December 7 to 10 in Majuli.
- ✓ The festival has been organised with support from Majuli Sahitya and local residents to revive the bird habitat.
- ✓ Nearly 150 varieties of indigenous and migratory birds are found in and around Charaichung.
- ✓ The festival aims to restore the sanctuary, promote tourism and place Charaichung on the global heritage map.



India-Brunei Hold First Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence Cooperation

- ✓ **The first Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence Cooperation held by India and Brunei.**
- ✓ On 9 December, the inaugural Joint Working Group meeting on defence cooperation was held between India and Brunei in New Delhi.
- ✓ The meeting was organised to strengthen bilateral defence ties between the two countries.
- ✓ The discussions focused on enhancing military-to-military exchanges, expanding joint training initiatives, deepening maritime security collaboration, and strengthening cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- ✓ The two sides also explored opportunities in defense industry partnerships, capacity building, and technology cooperation.
- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Amitabh Prasad, and Brunei's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence, Poh Kui Choon.



- ✓ The Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Joint Working Group (JWG) were signed by the two officials, a move expected to facilitate and institutionalise future cooperation.
- ✓ The mechanism will serve as a structured platform to review and expand defence cooperation.

SEBI Launches PaRRVA to Verify Past Returns and Prevent Misleading Claims

- ✓ **PaRRVA launched by SEBI to verify past returns and curb misleading claims.**
- ✓ On 8 December, the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) was launched by SEBI to improve transparency.
- ✓ It is a new verification mechanism designed to authenticate past performance claims made by regulated market intermediaries.
- ✓ PaRRVA was operationalised on a pilot basis by Care Ratings in collaboration with NSE.
- ✓ PaRRVA will serve as an initial framework that will allow SEBI-registered investment advisors, research analysts and algorithmic stock brokers to present independently validated past returns to investors.
- ✓ The move aims to curb misleading claims made by influencers and unregistered entities.
- ✓ Under the new framework, PaRRVA will operate through a two-tier structure: a Sebi-registered credit rating agency that will function as the PaRRVA and a recognised stock exchange that will function as the PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC).



- ✓ Selective disclosure of favourable return periods will not be permitted under the framework.
- ✓ A uniform and transparent methodology will be used to independently verify past returns.
- ✓ An oversight committee will monitor both the agency and the data center, ensuring that procedures are followed and data privacy is protected.

Andrej Babis was sworn in again as Czech Prime Minister on December 9, 2025

- ✓ Andrej is a populist billionaire and former Prime Minister. He was Prime Minister from 2017 to 2021.
- ✓ In Czech Republic, parliamentary election were held in October.
- ✓ His political party, ANO or YES movement, won the October election.
- ✓ President Petr Pavel asked Babis to form a government.
- ✓ Babis agreed to form coalition government with two others.
- ✓ The parties have agreed to form a 16-member cabinet. The coalition occupies 108 of 200 lower-house seats.
- ✓ The timeline for appointing the full cabinet is still not clear.



Czech Republic:

- ✓ Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is historically known as Bohemia. Its capital is Prague.
- ✓ Czech koruna is its currency. Its government is unitary parliamentary republic.
- ✓ Petr Fiala served as the 13th prime minister of the Czech Republic from 2021 to 2025.

Jammu and Kashmir will host its first-ever International Dangal and Rustam-e-Jammu Kashmir Title 2025

- ✓ The competition will take place at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu on 17 December 2025.
- ✓ The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council is organizing the event.
- ✓ The mega sporting event aims to promote cultural pride, fitness, unity, and traditional sport of wrestling.
- ✓ Professional wrestlers from India, Iran, and other several countries will participate in the championship.
- ✓ Their participation will make it one of the biggest wrestling events ever held in the Union Territory.



India's first incubator-linked Deep Tech VC fund has been launched by IIT Bombay's SINE

- ✓ India's first incubator-linked deep-tech venture capital fund has been launched by IIT Bombay's Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE).
- ✓ The fund is called the Y-Point Venture Capital Fund. The total corpus of the fund is 250 crore rupees.
- ✓ The fund aims to supply crucial risk capital to India's deep-tech startups at early stage of their journey.
- ✓ The fund will invest in pre-seed and seed-stage companies.
- ✓ These companies will be from IIT Bombay and other major research institutions.
- ✓ Around 25 to 30 startups will receive support, with investments of up to 15 crore rupees each.
- ✓ The fund will target high-impact fields such as AI and advanced computing.
- ✓ It will also focus on manufacturing, new materials, space and defence technologies, nuclear tech, climate tech, and healthcare.



Anant Ambani has received the Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare

- ✓ He is the youngest and the first Asian to be honoured with this award from the Global Humane Society.
- ✓ The award ceremony was held in Washington DC. The award highlights his dedication to animal protection.
- ✓ The award celebrates his role in establishing Vantara.
- ✓ Vantara is an initiative for wildlife rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and species conservation.
- ✓ The Global Humanitarian Award is given only to individuals with global impact on animals and people.
- ✓ American Humane is the oldest national humane organisation in US.
- ✓ It also runs one of the world's most rigorous Global Humane Certified programmes.
- ✓ Vantara earned Global Humane certification after a comprehensive audit.



National Handicrafts Awards 2023 & 2024 Presented by the President in New Delhi

- ✓ The National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024 were presented by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.
- ✓ The awards honour exceptional craftsmanship and artistic excellence in India's handicraft sector.
- ✓ The handicrafts industry provides employment to over 32 lakh people, mostly from rural areas.
- ✓ Women make up about **68%** of the handicrafts workforce, contributing significantly to women's empowerment.
- ✓ Reducing GST on handicrafts from **18% to 5%** has supported the sector's growth.
- ✓ The government has set a target of **Rs. 1 lakh crore in handicraft exports by 2031-32**.
- ✓ A total of **12 Shilp Guru Awards** and **36 National Awards** were given across the two years.



Notable Shilp Guru Award winners include:

- ✓ Ajit Kumar Das (West Bengal, Hand-painted Textiles)
- ✓ D. Sivamma (Andhra Pradesh, Leather Puppet)
- ✓ Subhash Arora (Haryana, Metal Craft)
- ✓ Mohammad Dilshad (Uttar Pradesh, Wood Carving)

Notable National Handicrafts Award winners include:

- ✓ Hirabai Jhareka Baghel (Chhattisgarh, Metal Craft)
- ✓ Imtiyaz Ahmad (Uttar Pradesh, Handmade Carpet)
- ✓ Roshan Chhipa (Rajasthan, Artistic Textiles)
- ✓ T. Baskaran (Tamil Nadu, Stone Carving)
- ✓ Rupban Chitrakar (West Bengal, Painting)
- ✓ Baldev Baghmare (Madhya Pradesh, Tribal Art)

Birth anniversary of C. Rajagopalachari: 10 December

- ✓ 10 December is the birth anniversary of C. Rajagopalachari, who is popularly known as Rajaji.
- ✓ Rajagopalachari was born on December 10, 1878. He became India's last Governor-General. He was the only Indian to hold that post.
- ✓ He was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. Rajaji left his legal career in 1919 after meeting Gandhi to join the freedom struggle.
- ✓ He played a leading role in Rowlatt Act protests, the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- ✓ He was imprisoned five times between 1912 and 1941.
- ✓ Rajaji also served as the Premier of the Madras Presidency. He founded the Swatantra Party.
- ✓ He received the Bharat Ratna in 1954. This was for his contributions to politics, literature, and public service.
- ✓ He passed away on December 25, 1972.



Microsoft announced a investment of more than \$17.5 billion (around Rs. 1.5 lakh crore) in India's cloud and AI infrastructure

- ✓ This marks its largest investment in Asia. The funds will be used over four years.
- ✓ The aim of investment is to expand hyperscale infrastructure, and integrate AI into national platforms.
- ✓ It also aims to enhance workforce readiness. This investment builds on a \$3 billion commitment made in January.
- ✓ Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and PM Modi met and then Microsoft made announcement of this investment.
- ✓ Modi also met with other tech leaders. These included Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan.
- ✓ India has attracted major data center investment commitments.
- ✓ These include \$15 billion from Google and \$8 billion from Amazon Web Services.
- ✓ Microsoft doubled its AI training initiative. It now aims to train 20 million Indians by 2030 and plans to upskill its 22,000+ employees in India.



Microsoft

- ✓ Microsoft will integrate Azure AI into two key digital public platforms.
- ✓ These include India's Ministry of Labour and Employment and the National Career Service.

RBI Launches Two-Month Drive to Resolve All Pending Customer Complaints

- ✓ **RBI urges** banks and other **regulated entities to improve customer service** and reduce grievances, emphasizing customer-centric policies and operations.
- ✓ A special two-month campaign will be held from 1st January next year to resolve all complaints pending for more than a month with the RBI Ombudsman.
- ✓ RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted previous initiatives such as Re-KYC, financial inclusion measures, and the “**Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar**” **campaign** to enhance customer experience.
- ✓ The RBI has also implemented transparency measures, including online applications for services, reviewing the Citizens’ Charter, and publishing monthly summaries of application disposal and pending cases.
- ✓ Despite disposing of more than 99.8% of applications within stipulated timelines, a recent surge in grievances has increased pendency, prompting the upcoming focused resolution drive.



Indian Army Achieves Historic First Ascent of Mount Kangto, Arunachal Pradesh's Highest Peak

- ✓ **Indian Army's Eastern Command** mountaineering team **achieved a historic milestone by successfully summiting Mount Kangto (7,042 m)**, the highest and **previously unconquered** peak of Arunachal Pradesh, marking its first-ever recorded ascent.
- ✓ The 18-member team, flagged off on November 3, braved extreme weather, rarefied air, icy ridgelines, deep crevasses, and near-vertical ice walls, showcasing exceptional courage, discipline, teamwork, and resilience.
- ✓ The expedition was formally 'Flagged In' by Lt Gen RC Tiwari, who praised the mountaineers for their professionalism and perseverance, calling the feat a tribute to the Eastern Himalayas and the Indian Army's spirit of endurance and excellence.

