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Far-right leader José Antonio Kast has been elected as next president of Chile

- ✓ Far-right leader **José Antonio Kast** has been elected as the next President of Chile.
- ✓ He secured a decisive victory with **over 58% of the vote**, defeating left-wing candidate **Jeannette Jara**.
- ✓ Kast will assume office in **March 2026** and is scheduled to be sworn in on **11 March 2026**.
- ✓ His victory marks Chile's **sharpest political shift to the right since the end of military rule in 1990**.
- ✓ The election campaign focused mainly on **crime, security, and immigration**.
- ✓ Kast has pledged **tough action on crime and irregular migration** along with **reductions in public spending**.
- ✓ He has expressed admiration for former dictator **Augusto Pinochet** and is also known as an admirer of **Donald Trump**.
- ✓ This was **Chile's first presidential election with compulsory voting**, with automatic voter registration for eligible citizens.



Chile:

- ✓ Chile is a country in South America. It is the southernmost country in the world.
- ✓ Its capital is Santiago. Its national language is Spanish. Its currency is Chilean peso.

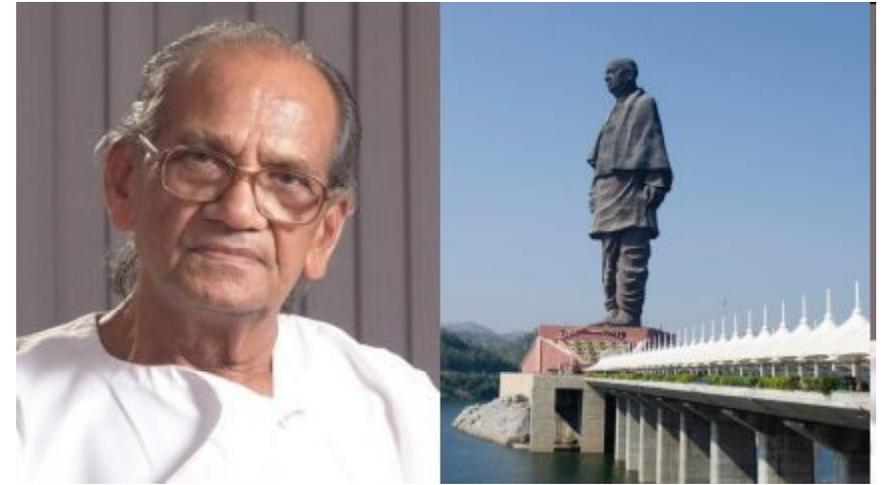
Cameron Green bought by KKR as the most expensive foreign player in IPL history

- ✓ Cameron Green was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs. 25.20 crore during the IPL 2026 auction held in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ With this sale, Green became the most expensive overseas player in the history of the Indian Premier League.
- ✓ The previous overseas record was held by Mitchell Starc, who was sold for Rs. 24.75 crore at the IPL 2024 auction.
- ✓ Overall, Green emerged as the third costliest player in IPL auction history.
- ✓ Only Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer have fetched higher prices at IPL auctions than Cameron Green.
- ✓ Green entered the auction with a base price of Rs. 2 crore, triggering intense bidding.
- ✓ As per IPL rules, Green will receive Rs. 18 crore, while the remaining Rs. 7.20 crore will be allocated to player welfare.
- ✓ Green last played in IPL 2024 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, scoring 255 runs and taking 10 wickets.



Legendary Sculptor and Statue of Unity Designer Ram Sutar Passes Away at 100

- ✓ He was 100 years old and had been suffering from age-related health issues.
- ✓ Ram Sutar was best known for designing the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ He was born on February 19, 1925, in Gondur village of Dhule district in present-day Maharashtra.
- ✓ He displayed a natural inclination toward sculpting from a very young age.
- ✓ Sutar was a gold medallist from the JJ School of Art and Architecture, Mumbai.
- ✓ His notable works include statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji at the Parliament complex.
- ✓ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contributions.
- ✓ Recently, he was also honoured with the Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar, the state's highest civilian award.



India-UAE Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone-II'

- ✓ The India-UAE joint military exercise **Desert Cyclone-II** commenced in **Abu Dhabi**.
- ✓ The exercise is being conducted from **18 December to 30 December**.
- ✓ The Indian contingent mainly belongs to a **battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment**.
- ✓ The **UAE Land Forces** are represented by the **53rd Mechanised Infantry Battalion** of similar strength.
- ✓ The exercise aims to enhance **interoperability and operational synergy** between the two armies.
- ✓ Training focuses on **urban operations and built-up areas**.
- ✓ Joint drills include **heliborne operations, mission planning, and fighting in urban terrain**, along with integration of **unmanned and counter-unmanned systems**.
- ✓ **Desert Cyclone-II** reflects the deepening **strategic partnership and military cooperation** between India and the UAE, reaffirming their commitment to **regional peace and security**.



Visa Waiver agreement signed between India and Saudi Arabia

- ✓ A bilateral visa waiver agreement was signed between India and Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.
- ✓ The agreement was signed to strengthen cooperation under the India–Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.
- ✓ The signing was carried out by Indian Ambassador Suhel Ajaz Khan and Saudi official Abdulmajeed Alsmari.
- ✓ This agreement grants reciprocal exemption from short-stay visa requirements for diplomatic, special, and official passport holders of both countries.
- ✓ The objective of the agreement is to facilitate official travel between the two nations.
- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia stated that the move will boost bilateral exchanges.
- ✓ Easier mobility of officials is expected to improve coordination across multiple sectors.
- ✓ The agreement is seen as a step toward strengthening long-term strategic ties.



Tripura Signs MoU to Enhance Agricultural Productivity

- ✓ On **17 December**, an MoU was signed between the **Tripura Agriculture Department** and the **Nagpur-based National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP)**.
- ✓ The agreement aims to improve **agricultural productivity** and achieve **foodgrain self-sufficiency** in the state.
- ✓ The collaboration focuses on conducting **in-depth research on cultivable land** across several districts of Tripura.
- ✓ The initiative was highlighted by **Tripura Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath**.
- ✓ It is expected to promote **sustainable farming practices** and strengthen Tripura's agricultural future.
- ✓ Earlier soil surveys were carried out in **South Tripura and Gomati** districts.
- ✓ The study is now being extended to **North Tripura, Dhalai, and Unakoti** districts.
- ✓ Soil scientists will guide **crop selection based on soil type and land suitability**, helping farmers adopt scientifically appropriate crop patterns.



India and Oman signed key agreements as PM Modi concluded his Oman visit

- ✓ As Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** concluded his visit to Oman, India and Oman signed several key agreements.
- ✓ Both countries agreed to expand cooperation in **trade, agriculture, education, maritime security, and cultural exchanges**.
- ✓ They moved forward on a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
- ✓ The proposed CEPA aims to **deepen commercial and economic integration** between India and Oman.
- ✓ It seeks to **reduce trade barriers** and create a **stable and predictable business framework**.
- ✓ The agreement is expected to **boost bilateral trade, attract investments, and generate employment** in both countries.



- ✓ An agreement on **maritime heritage and museums** was signed, enabling the exchange of **artefacts and expertise**, including cooperation with the **National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal**.
- ✓ Additional MoUs were signed in **agriculture, allied sectors, higher education, and millet cultivation**, promoting collaboration and exchanges of experts and scholars.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the **Order of Oman** by Sultan **Haitham bin Tarik** in recognition of his contribution to strengthening **India-Oman relations**.

Parliament Gives Final Approval to SHANTI Bill, 2025

- ✓ The **Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025** has received final approval from Parliament.
- ✓ The **Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on 18 December**, after it had already been approved by the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The Bill grants **statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**.
- ✓ It strengthens **regulatory oversight** in India's nuclear sector.
- ✓ The Bill consolidates provisions of the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act**.
- ✓ It aligns India's nuclear regulatory framework with **global best practices**.
- ✓ The government highlighted **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** as safer and more flexible nuclear power solutions.
- ✓ **Bharat Small Reactors** were presented as efficient clean energy options.
- ✓ India's nuclear safety standards will remain unchanged, following the principle of **“safety first, production next.”**



- ✓ Licences for nuclear power plants will require **renewal every five years**.
- ✓ Regulatory oversight will be aligned with **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** norms.
- ✓ The Bill introduces **graded liability caps for nuclear operators** to attract smaller investors.
- ✓ The scope of nuclear damage has been expanded to **explicitly include environmental damage**, while victim compensation will not be diluted.
- ✓ India currently has about **9 GW of nuclear power capacity**, with targets of **22 GW by 2032** and **100 GW by 2047**.

Release of Rs. 250 crore has been approved by the Assam Cabinet for the Bodoland Territorial Council

- ✓ The release of Rs 250 crore has been approved under the State-Owned Priority Development Fund (Rural) for the FY 2025-26.
- ✓ The funds will be used for rural infrastructure projects across Bodoland Territorial Council areas.
- ✓ The aim is to improve connectivity, livelihoods, and basic civic amenities.
- ✓ The focused financial support to Bodoland Territorial Council is necessary for sustaining peace, promoting development.
- ✓ This is also necessary for ensuring inclusive growth in the region.
- ✓ The region has witnessed significant transformation following the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) accord.
- ✓ The funds will strengthen grassroots-level development. It will enhance the delivery of public services in rural Bodoland.



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

- ✓ The declaration of Kumari Beel (270 hectares) and Dhamar Beel (337 hectares) in Goalpara district as Proposed Reserved Forests under the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 has also been approved by the Cabinet.
- ✓ The cabinet also appointed Simu Das as a Physical Instructor under the Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare.
- ✓ Simu Das is a member of the Indian women's blind cricket team that recently won the Women's T20 Blind World Cup.
- ✓ Transfer of 607 bighas of government land at Kareng Chapori in Dhemaji district for the setting up of a new Group Centre of the Central Reserve Police Force has also been approved by the Cabinet.

Goa Liberation Day 2025: 19 December

- ✓ Goa Liberation Day is observed annually on 19 December to mark the success of 'Operation Vijay'.
- ✓ Operation Vijay was carried out by the armed forces to liberate the state by defeating the Portuguese in 1961.
- ✓ Goa was part of the Portuguese colonies since 1510.
- ✓ Indian military had started 'Operation Vijay' on 18 December 1961 to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule.
- ✓ After 36 hours of operation, Indian troops reclaimed the Goa territory on 19 December.
- ✓ Portuguese governor, Manuel Antonio Vassalo e Silva, signed the certificate of surrender, which ended Portuguese rule in Goa.
- ✓ Goa was granted 25th statehood on 30 May 1987.



The Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the second edition of Sujal Gram Samvad

- ✓ The event was held on 19 December in New Delhi.
- ✓ Sujal Gram Samvad is a platform for direct interaction between the Centre and rural communities.
- ✓ It is a multilingual platform that allows dialogue in multiple languages.
- ✓ Sujal Gram Samvad is a first-of-its-kind initiative.
- ✓ It is designed to reduce the gap between policymakers and grassroots.
- ✓ This edition is focused on eight specific states. These states are Assam, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation is supporting the event.
- ✓ Their role is to ensure smooth and effective communication during discussions.



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