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1. Nikos Christodoulides elected as the new president of Cyprus (Feb. 13, 2023)

Former Foreign Minister **Nikos Christodoulides** was elected **President of Cyprus** on 13 February after a second and final round of voting.

An overview of the news

- Christodoulides, 49, won **51.9% of the vote**, while his opponent **Andreas Mavroyanis, 66, took 48.1%**.
- More than **72.4 percent** of people voted in Cyprus this time, which is higher than before.
- He was appointed **Government Spokesperson in 2014 and Foreign Minister in 2018**.
- Christodoulides is supported by the **Democratic Party**, the Movement for Social Democracy and the Democratic Alignment.
- Cyprus was divided in **1974**, when Turkish forces occupied the northern part in response to a Greek-sponsored coup d'état.
- Since then the current issue between Cyprus and Turkey is the ongoing dispute between the Greek Cypriots in the south and the Turkish Cypriots in the north.

Republic of Cyprus

- It is an island **European country** in the **eastern Mediterranean Sea**.
- It gained its Independence from **Britain in 1960**.
- The country has a majority population which are of Greece descent while the minority population are of Turkish origin.
- Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 and created a Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983.
- Except Turkey no country recognises Turkish Cyprus.
- India also recognises the Cyprus government.
- Capital: **Nicosia**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Nikos Christodoulides**

2. Moldov's PM Natalia Gavrilita resigns (Feb. 11, 2023)

Moldovan Prime Minister **Natalia Gavrilita** announced her resignation on 10 February.

An overview of the news

- She resigned, citing lack of support in the former Soviet republic. She was in power only for **18 months**.
- Moldova's President **Maia Sandu** has accepted Gavrilita's resignation and said she will speak to parliamentary groups about a possible replacement.
- Ms. Gavrilita's party won a majority in the elections held in **August 2021**.
- The next prime minister of Moldova could be **Dorin Risen**, a European security adviser who is a supporter of Sandu.
- Rieken is expected to be approved as the country's prime minister without interference.
- Moldova, a **former Soviet republic** with a **population of 2.5 million people**, is already facing a host of issues such as rising inflation, a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine and a severe energy crisis in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Moscow significantly reduced its **electricity supply to Moldova**.
- Last year alone, the country saw protests against a dramatic increase in prices, particularly for **Russian gas**.

About Moldova

- Moldova is located between **Ukraine and Romania**.
- Capital: **Chişinău**
- President: **Maia Sandu**
- Official Language : **Romanian**
- Currency : **Moldovan leu**

3. Govt appoints two new Supreme Court judges (Feb. 11, 2023)

The Central Government has approved **Justice Rajesh Bindal** and **Justice Arvind Kumar** as **judges of the Supreme Court**.

An overview of the news

- **Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Rajesh Bindal** and **Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Arvind Kumar** have been made judges of the Supreme Court.
- The total number of judges in the Supreme Court has **gone up to 34**, which is also the **sanctioned number of 34 judges**.
- On **January 31**, the six-member collegium of the Supreme Court sent the names of these two judges to the government for approval.

- Earlier on **December 13, 2022**, the names of **five judges** were recommended. These five judges were sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court on 6 February.
- These include the names of Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice **Pankaj Mithal**, Patna High Court Chief Justice **Sanjay Karol**, Manipur High Court Chief Justice **PV Sanjay Kumar**, Patna High Court Justice **Ahsanuddin Amanullah** and Allahabad High Court Justice **Manoj Mishra**.
- Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud** has to finalise 19 judicial appointments in his tenure till November 2024.

4. Legendary American pop composer Burt Bacharach passes away at 94 (Feb. 10, 2023)

Legendary American pop songwriter **Burt Bacharach**, whose prodigious work created a chart-topping soundtrack for the **1960s and 1970s**, died in **Los Angeles** at the age of 94 on 9 February.

An overview of the news

- His compositions included rock classics such as '**Do You Know the Way to San Jose**' and '**Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head**'.
- He worked with a constellation of stars during his long career, from **Dionne Warwick** and **Aretha Franklin** to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones.
- He has won three Oscars (including "**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**"), an Emmy, eight Grammy Awards and two Golden Globes.
- He was born on **May 12, 1928**, in **Kansas City, Missouri**, but moved to New York in his early years.
- He studied and learned music at several American universities, before serving in the US Army in the post-World War II era.
- In 1957, he met songwriter Hal David, with whom they formed one of the most successful duos in music history.

5. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian captain to score a century in all three formats of the game (Feb. 10, 2023)

Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has **become the first Indian captain to score a century in all three formats** of cricket.

An overview of the news:

- **Rohit achieved this feat by playing an innings of 120 runs** on the second day of the first test of the **series being played in Nagpur against Australia**.

- At the international level, **three captains have achieved this feat before Rohit**,
- including former Sri Lankan captain Tillakaratne Dilshan, former South African captain Faf du Plessis and Pakistan captain Babar Azam.
 - This is Rohit Sharma's 9th century in Test cricket.
 - Rohit has scored three centuries as captain in ODIs and two in T20s. While Rohit has scored a total of 30 centuries in ODI cricket and 4 centuries in T20.

Records of Rohit Sharma:

- The player who scored the most runs (264) in a match in One Day International cricket is
- He is the only batsman to have scored three double hundreds in ODI history.
- Rohit is the player with the most centuries (5) in a single World Cup (2019).
- Rohit is the player to hit most sixes (16) in a match.

6. Indian-American student named as 'World's Brightest' student for second time (Feb. 8, 2023)

Indian-American schoolgirl **Natasha Periyannayagam** has been named in the **Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth's list** of "world's most talented" students for the second year in a row.

Who is Natasha Perianayagam?

- Natasha Periyannayagam is **13 years old** and studying at **Florence M Gaudiner Middle School in New Jersey, United States.**
- She took the John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) exam in **2021**. At that time she was a **fifth grader**.
- Natasha's performance in the **Verbal and Quantitative Aptitude Test** was equivalent to achieving a **90 percentile** in grade eight, earning her a place on that year's honours list.
- The list is compiled based on the results of upper-grade-level tests of more than **15,000 students from 76 countries.**
- CTY uses grade level testing to identify advanced students around the world and present a clear picture of their academic abilities.
- Natatha's parents are from **Chennai**, she loves doodling and reading **JRR Tolkien** novels in her spare time.

7. Satyanarayana Raju appointed as the new MD & CEO of Canara Bank (Feb. 8, 2023)

The **Central Government** has appointed **K Satyanarayana Raju** as the new **Managing Director and CEO** of the state-owned **Canara Bank**.

An overview of the news:

- **He will replace LV Prabhakar**, who resigned from his post on December 31, 2022.
- He was working as Executive Director in Canara Bank since March, 2021.
- Satyanarayana Raju has vast experience in Branch Banking, Corporate Credit, Retail Credit etc.

Canara Bank:

- It is a leading commercial bank of India.
- It was established in 1906, by Sri Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.
- Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank on 1 April 2020. After this merger, Canara Bank has become the fourth largest bank in the country.
- Headquarters Bangalore, India

8. Pakistani wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal announces retirement from all forms of cricket (Feb. 8, 2023)

Recently Pakistan's wicket-keeper batsman Kamran Akmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

An overview of the news:

- Kamran Akmal decided to retire after being made a part of the national selection committee by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).
- Akmal was recently appointed as the batting consultant for the Babar Azam-led side Peshawar Zalmi for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

International career:

- Akmal made his Test match debut against Zimbabwe in November 2002 and he also made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in November 2002.
- Akmal featured in 53 Tests, 157 ODIs and 58 T20 Internationals for Pakistan.
- In Test matches, he has 2648 runs at an average of 30.79, including six centuries and 12 half-centuries.
- He has scored 3236 runs in ODIs at an average of 26.1 including five centuries and 10 half-centuries.

• He has 987 runs in T20 at a strike rate of 119.64.

9. For the first time, Indian-American woman elected as president of Harvard Law Review (Feb. 7, 2023)

Apsara A Iyer, a second year student at **Harvard Law School**, has been elected as the **President of the prestigious Harvard Law Review**.

An overview of the news

- Apsara A Iyer, 29, has become the **first woman** to be named to the post in the prestigious publication's **136-year-long history**.
- Iyer will replace **Priscilla Coronado**.
- Iyer was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- The Law Review, operated under the Harvard Law School, is an organisation that reviews and selects articles published in the legal field.

Who Is Apsara Iyer?

- She graduated from **Yale in 2016** with a B A in **Economics and Math, and Spanish**.
- She then did an **MPhil at Oxford** as a Clarendon Scholar because of his dedication to archeology and indigenous communities.
- In 2018, Iyer joined the **Manhattan District Attorney's Antiquities Trafficking Unit (ATU)** which tracks down stolen art and artifacts.
- She has previously been a contributor to the Law School's Harvard Human Rights Journal and the National Security Journal.
- She is also a member of the **South Asian Law Students Association**.

10. Former Indian cricketer Monty Desai appointed coach of Nepal cricket team (Feb. 6, 2023)

The Nepal Cricket Association has appointed former Indian cricketer **Monty Desai as the head coach of the Nepal national cricket team**.

An overview of the news

- Monty Desai will **replace another former Indian cricketer Manoj Prabhakar**, who resigned from his post in December 2022.

- Nepal Cricket Association has signed a two-year deal with Monty Desai.
- Monty has been the head coach of teams like West Indies, Canada, UAE.
- Monty has also served as the head coach of the Rajasthan Royals team in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- **Nepal Cricket Team Captain - Rohit Kumar Paudel**

Head coach of other Asian countries cricket team

- India - Rahul Dravid
- Pakistan - Saqlain Mushtaq
- Bangladesh - Chandika Hathurusingha
- Afghanistan - Jonathan Trott