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1. Mallika Sarabhai became the Chancellor of Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University (Dec. 7, 2022)

Mallika Sarabhai became the Chancellor of Kerala

The **Kerala Government** on 6 December appointed well known classical dancer **Mallika Sarabhai** as the chancellor of the **Kerala Kalamandalam deemed university**.

Important facts

- Last month the government amended the rules of the university to remove Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** from the post of its chancellor.
- Since it is deemed to be university, norms of the University Grants Commission will not be applicable to it.
- The amended rules of the deemed university also stated that the governance system and management structure of the Kerala Kalamandalam shall be in accordance with the decision of the state government.
- Born as the daughter of renowned dancer **Mrinalini Sarabhai** and space scientist **Vikram Sarabhai**, Mallika Sarabhai is a world renowned **Bharatanatyam** and **Kuchipudi** performer.
- Apart from being a dancer, she has also proved her mettle in the fields of theatre, film and television and has also established herself as a writer, publisher and director.

2. Shafali Verma to lead India's in the inaugural ICC women's U-19 Women's T20 World Cup (Dec. 6, 2022)

Shafali Verma to lead ICC women's U-19 Women's T20 World Cup

Eighteen-year-old opening batter **Shafali Verma** will lead India at the **inaugural [ICC \(International Cricket Council\) Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup](#)**, to be played in **South Africa** from January 14 next year.

She will be one of two senior India players at the event apart from wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh. The coach of the team is **Nooshin Al Khadeer**.

The U19 T20 World Cup will take place in the South African cities of **Benoni** and **Potchefstroom** between 14 and 29 January 2023.

Sixteen teams have been divided into four groups. India are in Group D of the Under-19 World Cup along with South Africa, UAE and Scotland.

The final will be played in Potchefstroom on 29 January 2023.

3. Hrishikesh Kanitkar appointed batting coach of Indian women cricket team by BCCI (Dec. 6, 2022)

Hrishikesh Kanitkar appointed batting coach of Indian women cricket team

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 5 December 2022 announced the appointment of **Hrishikesh Kanitkar** as the Batting Coach of the Senior Women's cricket team. Kanitkar will take charge of the team from the upcoming five-match T20I series against Australia starting 9th December in Mumbai.

The Indian national women cricket team has been without a head coach for the past two months since the completion of the tenure of Romesh Powar.

Romesh Powar has since joined the **National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru** as a spin bowling coach.

Hrishikesh Kanitkar was the head coach of the under -**19 men's cricket team which won the world cup held in West Indies in 2022.**

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

It is the governing body of men's and women's cricket in India. It selects the Indian team for International tours and for International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cup tournaments.

The BCCI is an autonomous, private organisation and does not fall under the purview of the National Sports Federation of India.

It was set up in 1928.

Grant Govan was the first President of the BCCI.

Headquarters: **Mumbai**, Maharashtra

President: **Roger Binny**

4. Noted economist, former Union minister Yoginder Alagh passes away (Dec. 6, 2022)

Yoginder Alagh passes away

Noted economist and former Union minister **Yoginder K Alagh** passed away at his home in Ahmedabad on 6 December 2022 after prolonged illness. He was 83 years old.

Alagh was an emeritus professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research Ahmedabad.

Y K Alagh was born in Chakwal in present-day Pakistan in 1939 and studied at the University of Rajasthan. He had a doctorate degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

He was also a former vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. He was **Union minister of state** for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and Power during 1996-98. He was also a member of the Planning Commission.

5. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar appointed chairperson of NSCI (Dec. 6, 2022)

Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar appointed chairperson of NSCI

Prof Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, retired professor at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), has been appointed as part-time **chairperson of National Statistical Commission of India (NSCI)** for three years.

Important facts

- Prof Karandikar joined CMI as a visiting professor in 2010 and was its director from January 2011 to April 2021.
- He is best known for his three decades of work on probability theory, as well as the applications of mathematics and statistics to the real world.
- He has designed, supervised and analysed nationwide opinion polls for Indian parliamentary elections as well as state legislatures since 1998.
- He was a member of the committee constituted by the **Election Commission (EC)** of India to advise the EC on the sampling scheme for EVM-VVPAT verification.

National Statistical Commission of India (NSCI)

- It was established in 2005 based on the recommendations of the **Rangarajan Commission**.
- The commission was established through an executive order and it works under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The Rangarajan Commission recommended the establishment of a permanent National Commission on Statistics to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country.
- The Commission consists of a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members, an ex-officio Member and a secretary.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**

6. India, Germany sign Migration and Mobility Agreement to make access to study, research and work easier in both countries (Dec. 5, 2022)

India, Germany sign Migration and Mobility Agreement to make access to study

India and **Germany** signed a **Migration and Mobility Agreement** on 5 December 2022 which will facilitate easier access for people to study, research and work in both countries. The agreement was signed in New Delhi in the presence of the German Foreign Minister **Annalena Baerbock** and the Indian External Affairs minister **S.Jaishankar**.

The German foreign minister is on a 2 day (5-6 December) visit to India.

During the meeting, both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and shared their views on a number of important regional and global issues. Mr. Jaishankar welcomed Germany's decision to join the Indian-Pacific oceans initiative.

Speaking on this occasion, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said, India and Germany share a close bond. She thanked India for assuming the G-20 presidency terming it a very special task.

Federal Republic of Germany

Germany is also known as Deutschland.

Capital : **Berlin**

Currency : **Euro**

President : **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**

Chancellor : **Olaf Scholz**

The German Chancellor is equivalent to the Prime Minister in India.

7. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates the National Conference on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming in New Delhi (Dec. 5, 2022)

Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming

On the occasion of the [World Soil Day](#), Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the **National Conference on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming** on 5 December 2022 in **New Delhi**. Every year 5 December is observed as World Soil Day.

The Conference was organized by the **NITI Aayog** in collaboration **with GIZ affiliated to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.**

In the conference, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog **Suman Berry**, CEO Parameswaran **Iyer** were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said that due to chemical farming and other reasons, soil fertility is getting eroded and to meet this serious challenge the government is promoting natural farming.

He said that the Central government has launched the National Mission on Natural Farming as a separate scheme with an expenditure of **Rs 1,584 crore**.

An additional area of 4.78 lakh hectares has been brought under natural farming in 17 states.

Under the Namami Gange programme, the project of natural farming is going on along the banks of the Ganges.

To promote soil management the government has issued more than **22 crore Soil Health Cards** to the farmers. Soil Health gives information to farmers about the health of the soil they are using for cultivation of crops. It tells them which types of crops are suited for their soil. It was launched in February 2015.

8. Virat Kohli is the new brand ambassador of Noise (Dec. 5, 2022)

Virat Kohli is the new brand ambassador of Noise

Noise, India's consumer tech brand has roped in the youth icon cricketer- **Virat Kohli** as its **new brand ambassador** for their **smartwatch series** on 2 December.

Important facts

- The new partnership will bring together the two domains together which is said to exemplify the brand.
- The partnership will further help in deepening consumer trust and allegiance.
- Noise and Virat Kohli- both are leaders in the smart connected lifestyle industry and the cricket world respectively.
- Noise signed Kohli because of his super-athlete fitness, which makes him a role model for the brand.
- Noise has staked claim to emerge as one of the strongest Indian brands in the smartwatch segment.
- Over the tenure, Virat will be involved in a robust campaign that entails all touchpoints related to the smartwatch segment of the company.
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9. City of Joy' author Dominique Lapierre dies at the age of 91 (Dec. 5, 2022)

Dominique Lapierre dies at the age of 91

The Author of the bestselling books on India like "Freedom at Midnight" and "City of Joy" Dominique Lapierre died on 4 December 2022. He was 91 years old.

The French author Dominique Lapierre in partnership with the American writer Larry Collins wrote six books which have sold more than 50 million copies worldwide.

Books co-authored by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins

- **Is Paris Burning?**
- **O Jerusalem,**
- **The Fifth Horseman,**
- **Is New York Burning?**
- **City of Joy and**
- **Freedom at Midnight.**

"Or I'll Dress You in Mourning", was authored by Dominique Lapierre only.

City of joy was about the hardships of a rickshaw puller in Kolkata. The book **Freedom at Midnight** was on the Independence movement in India.

10. Unnati Hooda settles for a silvers as India wins 5 medals at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships (Dec. 4, 2022)

Unnati Hooda settles for a silvers as India wins 5 medals

Top Seeded **Unnati Hooda** had to settle for a silver medal after she lost to Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the final of the under 17 women's singles of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships held in **Nonthaburi, Thailand** on 4 December 2022.

Top Seeded **Unnati Hooda** lost to Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the finals and had to settle for silver in the under 17 women's singles final of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships held in **Nonthaburi, Thailand** on 4 December 2022. Unnati Hooda earlier created history by becoming the first Indian to enter the U-17 women's singles final at the Asia Junior Championships.

India finished the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022 with **5 medals -3 silver and 2 bronze medals.**

On the last day of the championships India won two more silver medals.

Anish Thoppnai lost to Chung-Hsiang Yih of Chinese Taipei in the under -15 men's singles to settle for a silver.

Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat lost to Chinese Taipei's Lai Po Yu and Yi-Hao Lin in the men's under-17 doubles.

Bronze medal winner for India

India's under-15 men's doubles pair of **Bjorn Jaison** and **Aathish Sreenivas PV** also had to settle for a **bronze medal** after they lost their semi-final to top seeds Muhammad Mubarrok and Raihan Pramono of Indonesia.

India's Gnana Datt lost to Chung-Hsiang Yih of Chinese Taipei in the -15 men's semi-final to settle for a **bronze medal.**

At the last edition held in **2019** in Suzhou, China, India's **Tasnim Mir** and Tara Shah clinched gold and silver medals, respectively, in the U-15 women's singles event.

Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022

The Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2022 was organised by Badminton Asia at **Nonthaburi, Thailand** from 29 November to 4 December 2022.

The championship was held for men's and women's under15 and **under 17 categories.** It involved singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles.

It was first held in 1997 and is being held every year. The 2020 and 2021 edition was not held due to covid pandemic.

