

The week from 18 December 2023 to 24 December 2023

The IPL auction for 2024 was conducted in Dubai. A total of 72 players were handed IPL contracts, with 10 teams spending a combined amount of ₹230.45 crore. Almost 20% of this went to pacemen Mitchell Starc (KKR, ₹24.75cr) and Pat Cummins (SRH, ₹20.5cr)!

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was re-elected President of Egypt, winning almost 90% of the votes. He was able to do so only because he ensured a constitutional amendment in 2019 which allowed a President to be re-elected more than twice.

PM Modi inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse, the world's largest office complex, with floor area of 659,611 SQM, as certified by Guinness. It broke the previous record held by the Pentagon, the headquarters for the US Department of Defense.

International Migrants Day was observed on 18 December. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said- "On International Migrants Day, we highlight the urgent need for safe migration governance rooted in solidarity, partnership, and respect for human rights."

The 2nd Kashi Tamil Sangamam was organised in Varanasi to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi. The first edition was held in December 2022 as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Tourists India beat South Africa 2-1 in the ODI series. Arshdeep Singh was adjudged Player of the Series for claiming 10 wickets. India won the 1st and 3rd matches at Johannesburg and Paarl, while SA won the 2nd match at Gqeberha.

Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon claimed his 500 th test wicket, whilst helping Australia beat Pakistan at Perth. Australia has now beaten Pakistan in 16 consecutive tests in Australia! Lyon is the 9 th bowler to achieve this feat, with Ravi Ashwin close behind with 489 wickets.

For the first time, India will commence year-round observations in Svalbard, the world's northern-most inhabited place, in the Arctic region. India's Himadri station in the Ny-Alesund region of Svalbard, has facilities for laboratories and accommodation for eight people.

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