

The week from 26 February 2024 to 3 March 2024

The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, attended the Purple Fest, a cultural event featuring performances by Divyangjan (differently-abled) individuals at Amrit Udyan (formerly Mughal Gardens) in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The government organised the event to raise awareness and promote acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities in society.

Renowned singer Pankaj Udhas passed away in Mumbai on February 26 at 72. Known for popularising ghazals with simplified lyrics, he's remembered for *Chitthi Aayi Hai* in the film *Naam*.

Former Supreme Court judge AM Khanwilkar is now chairperson of anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal. This authority investigates corruption complaints against government functionaries and was formed in March 2019.

A runaway train travelled for 70 km from Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir to Hoshiarpur in Punjab before being safely stopped with blocks placed on the track. The 53-wagon train stone carrying train, hauled by two locomotives started moving on its own after its crew had disembarked.

The governments of India, Tripura, and the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) signed an agreement to address issues faced by the indigenous people of Tripura constituting 33% of the state's population. A committee will be formed to resolve the political, cultural, economic and linguistic issues faced by the indigenous people represented by TIPRA.

In women's football, India lost the Turkish Women's Cup 2024 final to Kosovo in Alanya. Ranked 65, India defeated Estonia and Hong Kong earlier, losing 1-0 to Kosovo with an injury-time goal.

A 2022 survey revealed 13,874 leopards in India, up from 12,852 in 2018. Madhya Pradesh reported the most (3,907), with over 1,000 each in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Over two-thirds of these leopards, threatened by poaching and habitat destruction, were recorded outside protected areas.

The US landed Odysseus spacecraft on the Moon, the first since Apollo 17 in 1972. Built by Intuitive Machines, it landed at the lunar south pole's Malapert A crater, marking the first private company moon landing.

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