

The week from 4 March 2024 to 10 March 2024

Shehbaz Sharif took the oath as the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second time since 2022. The 72-year-old, a former Punjab Chief Minister and brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, assumes leadership of a coalition government facing security and economic challenges. Asif Ali Zardari took the oath as Pakistan's President for the second time since 2008.

Bengaluru's popular The Rameshwaram Café reopened to customers a week after being targeted by an IED blast that left 10 people injured. The suspect of the attack, not yet apprehended, was captured in several CCTVs, showing him taking multiple buses to prevent leaving clues for his capture and taking an indirect route to and from the crime scene.

Arun Goel resigned as Election Commissioner, leaving the Election Commission of India with only Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. The post for the other Election Commissioner had been vacant since Arun Kumar's retirement in February. ECI members are selected by a committee comprising the PM, a Union Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

An RTI response to information sought by The Hindu newspaper revealed that executives of ChatGPT's Open AI met with the Election Commission of India in February to explore ways to prevent the misuse of ChatGPT in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. A major concern about ChatGPT is its potential to produce misinformation and disinformation to mislead voters.

In a landmark moment, French lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a bill enshrining voluntary abortion as a constitutional right for French women. By explicitly establishing abortion as a right, it will be much harder to prevent women from voluntarily terminating a pregnancy in France.

The Indian Naval destroyer INS Kolkata assisted two ships caught in separate missile/drone attacks in the Gulf of Aden. On March 4, the warship responded to MSC Sky II after it was attacked and escorted it to Djibouti. On March 6, INS Kolkata responded to MV True Confidence to rescue its multinational crew that had abandoned ship following a fire on board.

India's first metro line built underwater was inaugurated in Kolkata on March 6 by PM Narendra Modi. Part of a longer route, the 4.8-km underground Esplanade-Howrah Maidan section, built at a cost of ₹4,960 crore, passes below the Hooghly River through an underwater transport tunnel.

India defeated England in a Test series 4-1 at home on March 9. India wrapped up the final Test on day 3 by dismissing England at 195 runs all out, winning the match by an innings and 64 runs at Dharamshala. India suffered its only defeat of the series in the first Test in Hyderabad in January.

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