

Spain's Valencia region reeled under the worst floods in recent memories, as rivers of mud and water flowed through its narrow streets, killing over 200; and devastating homes, businesses, and infrastructure across the region. Wide-spread public anger is focussed on the apparent delay in raising an alarm which might have allowed citizens to prepare better for the disaster.

Noted economist and writer Padma Shree Bibek Debroy passed away aged 69. Known for his work on labour reforms and railway overhaul, he was a member of the Niti Ayog, and then chairman of the PM's Economic Advisory Council. A multi-faceted personality, he is one of two persons to have translated both the Ramayana and the Mahabharata from the original Sanskrit into English.

New Zealand beat India 3-0 in the home Test series. India's humiliating loss- the first such in 90 years of Test match cricket in India- leaves the team having to win the 5-Test series in Australia by a margin of 4-0 or better. In the past few months, Indian cricket has gone from the zenith- of becoming World T20 champions to the nadir- a first ever 'whitewash' at home!

Over 75 million Americans have already cast their votes in the US Presidential election, which will conclude on 5 November. The election seems destined to go down to the wire, with former President, and Republic candidate, Donald Trump, and sitting Vice President, and Democrat nominee, Kamala Harris both neck-to-neck in various surveys.

Richard Cash, who collaborated with David Nalin in Bangladesh, to develop and implement the use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) in the treatment of cholera and other diarrheal diseases died aged 83. They devised a simple ORT remedy- a sugar and salt solution which could be made locally by the poorest of people, to reduce diarrheal disease mortality rates in third world nations.

With an average AQI of above 400, Delhi was the world's most polluted city on Diwali weekend. Vehicular emissions, industrial activity, and construction dust were major contributors, releasing harmful particulates and gases into the air. This is compounded by Delhi's geographical and meteorological conditions, which trap pollutants close to the ground. The advent of winter further exacerbates this situation.

Well-known fashion designer Rohit Bal died aged 63. The Srinagar-born Bal was known for employing rich fabrics like velvet and brocade and his elaborate designs were frequently inspired by Indian grandeur and royalty. He had a vast clientele, and his work helped bring Indian fashion to the forefront on a global level.



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