

The week from 16 Dec 2024 to 22 Dec 2024

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that he was ready to compromise over Ukraine in possible talks with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. On his part, Trump, a self-styled master of brokering agreements and author of "Trump: the Art of the Deal" (1987), has vowed to swiftly end the conflict, without giving any details on how he might achieve that.

NASA has delayed Sunita Williams return to Earth yet again, she is now expected to return in late March 2025. Williams had originally embarked on an 8-day mission to the International Space Station. This latest setback is due to a delay in the launch of SpaceX's Crew-10 mission.

A Saudi doctor, who had been seeking assylum in Germany since 2006, drove a car through a crowded Christmas market in the eastern German city of Magdeburg. The horrific incident left at least 5 dead, with 200 plus people injured, of whom over 40 are critically injured. Police are investigating the terror attack.

Off spinning allrounder Ravichandran Ashwin announced a surprise retirement from all forms of international cricket. He finished his career as India's 2nd highest Test wicket taker with 537 wickets in 106 Tests at an average of 24. He also scored 3,503 runs with 6 Test tons. He was man-of-the-Series 11 times – a record he shares with M.Muralidharan.

PM Modi met Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Sabah during the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup, where he was the chief guest. He is the first Indian PM to visit Kuwait in 43 years. Mr Modi outlined India's approach as a "Vishwabandhu", a friend to the world, and lauded the Indian community in Kuwait for their hard work

Reigning champions, Springdale Senior School, Amritsar, won the INTACH National Heritage Quiz 2024. They beat DPS, Greater Noida; Presidency School, RT Nagar, Bengaluru; and Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi in the Grand Finale held at New Delhi. The quiz series, first held in 2014, was conducted in 130 cities, with 22 zonal finals.

Hazel Raikundalia, a 2nd year MBBS student, completed her 3rd Arabian Sea challenge by swimming from Alibag to Gateway of India, a distance of 38.2km in 9hrs52min. Here previous swims were from Elephanta, and then from Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India. She has learnt swimming at the Thane Club, under coach Umesh Uttekar.

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