



Most Important Points for Daily News

➤ **Switzerland Enforces Facial Covering Ban, Raises Pensions in New Year**

Switzerland is implementing a series of significant changes starting January, 2025, which impact various sectors including legal, economic, and social frameworks. These include a ban on facial coverings, reforms to inheritance laws, increased pensions, and measures to strengthen bank solvency and liquidity. The changes reflect a growing alignment with European norms and a response to past financial crises. Here is a detailed overview of these changes.



➤ **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Assumes Command of IAF's Western Air Command**

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra assumed command of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Western Air Command, succeeding Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha, who retired after over 39 years of distinguished service.

Mishra's career spans over three decades, holding significant command and staff positions, and he is a recipient of prestigious service medals.



➤ **India's Coffee Exports Surge to Record High in FY24**

India's coffee exports have reached a remarkable milestone, achieving a record \$1.14 billion between April and November of FY24, marking a 29% increase from the same period last year. The growth has been fueled by rising global demand for Robusta coffee and supply chain challenges faced by major coffee-producing nations like Brazil and Vietnam. India's high-quality coffee, primarily from Karnataka, has carved a niche in premium global markets, further driving this surge.





Most Important Points for Daily News

➤ India-Nepal “Surya Kiran” Military Exercise Begins

The 18th edition of the India-Nepal joint military exercise “Surya Kiran” has commenced at Saljhandi, Nepal, on January, 2025. This annual exercise aims to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrains, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief under the United Nations Charter.



➤ Manish Singhal Appointed Secretary General of ASSOCHAM

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), one of India’s oldest apex business chambers (established in 1920), has appointed Manish Singhal as its new Secretary General.

Singhal, an industry veteran with over 35 years of experience, takes over from Deepak Sood, who served for five years and transformed the chamber’s operations, leaving behind a robust financial foundation.



➤ Bhuvnesh Kumar Appointed UIDAI CEO

IAS officer Bhuvnesh Kumar, a 1995 batch officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, assumed charge as the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on January, 2025. UIDAI, which administers Aadhaar, plays a pivotal role in India’s digital identity infrastructure. Kumar, who also serves as an additional secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), succeeds Amit Agrawal, a 1993 batch IAS officer. Under Kumar’s leadership, UIDAI aims to maintain its significant contributions to India’s governance and service delivery.





Most Important Points for Daily News

➤ Magnus Carlsen, Nepomniachtchi Share Blitz Title: Controversy Ensues

The decision by Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi to share the World Blitz Championship title at the FIDE Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York has caused significant uproar in the chess world. The controversy escalated after a video surfaced where Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi appeared to strategize on how to pressure FIDE into allowing them to co-win the title. Many prominent chess figures have voiced their criticisms, with accusations of possible match-fixing and manipulation of tournament rules.

