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**December
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General Awareness Topic(Covered)

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Pharmacy Council of India launches new 'DIGI-PHARMed' portal for pharmacists

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) will launch a modified – “DIGI-PHARMed” application with four integrated services, aimed at regulating pharmacy education in the country by enrollment/registration of pharmacy institutions/pharmacists/pharmacy students/ Dr. Montu Kumar M Patel, Chairman, PCI inaugurated the revised “DIGI-PharmD” portal as the earlier version of the application was limited in scope where Pharmacy Institutes/Faculties/Pharmacy students could take full advantage of PCI digital services. For this purpose, PCI has decided to collaborate with the Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi, to develop a system of assessment and rating that will focus on process and educational outcomes and will help in maintaining quality and Will contribute to increase. Pharmacy education in the country. Under Chintan Shivar's initiative, QCI was tasked with developing a framework for evaluating and rating all medical institutions in the country. Under this initiative, QCI in consultation with PCI and MoHFW has developed 11 criteria and related parameters for evaluation and rating of pharmacy educational institutions.

Max Life Insurance appoints Rajiv Anand as Chairman, Analjit Singh resigns:

Max Life Insurance, a material subsidiary of Max Financial Services, has a new Chairman, Rajiv Anand. This follows the stepping down of Analjit Singh from the Chairmanship and membership of the Board of Directors of Max Life Insurance. On Monday, the Board of Directors of Max Life Insurance noted the resignation of Analjit Singh and approved the appointment of Rajiv Anand as the Chairman of the Board, Max Financial Services said in a filing with the stock exchanges. Before this elevation, Anand, a non-executive director of Max Life, was nominated by Axis Bank Ltd as Chairman of Max Life Insurance. In his resignation letter, Singh said “As the promoter of Max Financial Services and Max Life Insurance Company, it has been most fulfilling and rewarding to be an integral part of the start-up and witnessing the Company’s achievements and growth over the last 23-24 years”.

Famous cricketer Suresh Raina appointed as Youth Voter Awareness Ambassador for Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pandurang K Pol appointed former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina as the Youth Voter Awareness Ambassador for the Union Territory. Giving a letter to Raina, the CEO said that Suresh Raina is a cricket legend and a respected person in India, especially among the youth. "This influence can be used to encourage more individuals to participate in the electoral process, leading to higher voter turnout and greater civic engagement," the CEO said. Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Suresh Raina said that many players from Jammu and Kashmir are playing well at the national and international level. He said, "We hope that more people will come at the national and international level in the coming times." He also appealed that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir should also

come forward and elect their candidates from 09 December 2023. First one should register oneself as a voter. He said that for a healthy democracy it is very important that people vote in large numbers.

India Gets Its First Woman Aide De Camp:

Squadron leader Manisha Padhi, a 2015 batch Indian Air Force (IAF) officer, on Monday became the first woman in the country to ascend to the post of Aide-de-Camp (ADC). Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, on November 29, appointed Squadron Leader Padhi as the ADC from the armed forces at a brief ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in the state capital, Aizawl. "Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of Mizoram. Squadron Leader Manisha is India's first woman Indian Armed Forces officer to be appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of the country.

Safina Hussain, founder of Educate Girls, India, wins \$500,000 WISE Prize to get 1.4 million girls back to school

Safina Hussain, founder of 'Educate Girls', has become the first Indian woman to win the US\$5 lakh WISE Prize for bringing 1.4 million out-of-school girls in Indian villages back into mainstream education. The award, presented by Qatar Foundation at the 11th edition of the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) summit in Doha earlier this week, is one of the most prestigious awards in the field of education. "Sixteen years ago, when 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' was unheard of, I decided to set up an NGO, Educate Girls, to bring school drop-out girls back into mainstream education. Group Higher Education The WISE Prize for Education recognizes an individual for outstanding, world-class contributions to education. Recognizes or is the first award of its kind to recognize a team.

ISRO scientist Lalithambika conferred highest French civilian award

V R Lalithambika, the former director of the Directorate of the Human Spaceflight Programme at ISRO, was honoured with the prestigious Légion d'honneur, the highest French civilian award on Tuesday. This recognition was bestowed upon her in appreciation of her significant contributions to fostering space cooperation between France and India. The accolade was presented to her by the Ambassador of France to India, Thierry Mathou on behalf of the French government.

Anish Bhanwala wins bronze in World Cup Finals

Anish Bhanwala ended the medal drought for India in the shooting World Cup Finals by bagging the bronze medal in the 25-metre rapid fire pistol event in Doha, Qatar, on Friday.

ESIC bags "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award at the 23rd World Congress on Safety

and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia :

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) bagged the "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" Award in the recently held 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia. "Vision Zero" is a transformational approach for prevention of accidents at work places integrating the three dimensions of safety, health and well-being at all levels of work. ESIC was awarded with "ISSA Vision Zero 2023" as it had great success in outreach in the field of safety and health at work places by aligning the prevention strategy besides post-accidental mechanism for medical care and cash benefits to the workers and their dependents. The award also underlines the improvements that have been made in the service delivery of the ESI Corporation as well as increase in its administrative and operational efficiency using IT enabled initiatives.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners with Water.org to provide water, sanitation and hygiene loans

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced a partnership with Water.org, a global non-profit organization that helps people get access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing such as small loans. Partnership Under this, Water.org will assist Ujjivan SFB in identifying areas that need financing for clean water and clean sanitation. Water.org will provide technical assistance, market assessment, development of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, monitoring and evaluation support. To support this objective, Ujjivan SFB will offer loans ranging from ₹6,000 to ₹1,00,000 to existing as well as new customers to construct and/or renovate water and sanitation facilities. Watson Loan has been introduced to address the challenges of safe drinking water, proper sanitation, clean environment through creation of low-cost infrastructure for customers. This loan is available under group loan category.

Federal Bank and NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NEML) enter into agreement to streamline e-procurement, e-auction

Federal Bank has announced collaboration with NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NEML) to strengthen the integration of its e-procurement and e-auction systems. NEML, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), holds the leading market share in transparent price discovery across over 90 commodities. The alliance will facilitate an advanced e-procurement solution streamlining processes for Central and State Government organisations. Key benefits include nationwide participation, better price discovery and protection against cartel structures, allowing participants to increase their bid prices according to market scenarios. Key features of the collaborative effort are: end-to-end digital execution of payments and collections; A plug-and-play solution tailored for government customers; Simplified one-time documentation process for customers; Automated settlement of each remittance within the web portal of NEML; Customizable payment

advice to each beneficiary against payments; And no additional fees or costs.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance launches 'Salaried Term Plan' with rider options

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company, the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital, on Tuesday, December 5, announced the launch of 'ABSLI Salaried Term Plan'. It is a non-linked, non-participating, life individual premium plan that offers salaried professionals the freedom to design plans, as per their individual protection needs

Asian Development Bank provides US\$200 million loan for Jharkhand's climate resilient power system development project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$200 million loan agreement to upgrade 176 kilometers of state roads in the state of Jharkhand, opening new economic opportunities and improving access to services for the poor. Jharkhand State Roads II Project funds will be used to upgrade sections of four state roads to two-lane standard and support improvements in the design, safety and maintenance of the network. The first loan supported the upgrade of 311 kilometers (km) of state roads in Jharkhand and the new assistance will take the total to 487 km. The new project includes a number of safety and eco-friendly features including more than 60 bus stop shelters; 50 km of elevated footpaths in urban areas; 4 km dedicated cycle lane; and solar-powered streetlights. The project will also create employment opportunities for residents of nearby areas, including women, who will get a share of at least 20% of the jobs for afforestation work along the upgraded roads.

HDFC Bank launches Tata Neu Credit Cards

After the RBI lifted the ban, HDFC Bank kept adding credit cards. With Tata Neu, HDFC has released Tata Neu HDFC Bank Infinity Credit Card and Tata Neu HDFC Plus Credit Card, offering diverse rewards and benefits. With features like cashback, travel perks, and robust security measures, it caters to various lifestyles. The launch reflects Tata's expansion into financial services, aiming to provide customers with a seamless and rewarding payment experience.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding cooperation and exchange of information in relation to the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding cooperation and exchange of information in respect of Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL). "The MOU establishes a framework for the BoE to have reliance on the regulatory and supervisory activities of the RBI while safeguarding the financial stability of the UK. The MoU also reflects the importance of cross-border cooperation to facilitate

international clearing activities and the BOE's commitment to the governance of other regulators, RBI said in a statement. "This MoU reaffirms the interests of both authorities in enhancing cooperation in line with their respective laws and regulations. It will also enable the BOE to assess CCIL's application for recognition as a third country central counterparty (CCP), which would enable the U.K. to clear transactions through the CCIL. There is a pre-requisite for banks located," the statement said. The MoU was signed by RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Shankar and BOE's Deputy Governor for Financial Stability Sarah Breen in London.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) HDFC Securities has launched its mobile trading app, HDFC Sky, on the AWS cloud.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) HDFC Securities, one of the leading investment service providers in India, has launched its mobile trading app, HDFC Sky, on the AWS Cloud. With AWS, HDFC Securities expects to reduce its annual IT infrastructure and management costs by up to 50 percent compared to using on-premises infrastructure. Amazon's cloud computing unit, AWS, recently outlined plans to invest USD 12.7 billion in cloud infrastructure in the country by 2030 as it looks to meet the growing customer demand for cloud services. HDFC Sky serves 75 million customers and all HDFC group companies, investors and traders on trading of stocks, commodities, futures, currencies, initial public offerings (IPOs), mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Is. Vaishali Kasture, director and country leader, commercial sales, AWS India and South Asia, said the financial services industry in South Asia is increasingly using cloud technology and AI to deal with the growing demand from sophisticated retail investors.

SBI MF gets RBI nod to buy 9.99% stake in Karur Vysya Bank

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday has given its approval to SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (KVB).

Bandhan Bank board approves reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as MD and CEO

The board of Bandhan Bank has approved the reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of the Kolkata-based bank for a period of three years. The private sector lender, in its regulatory filing, said Ghosh's current tenure as MD and CEO of the bank will end on July 09, 2024, and in terms of regulatory provisions, an application for re-appointment of the MD and CEO will have to be made. Ghosh has over three decades of experience in the microfinance, banking and development sector. Private sector lender Bandhan Bank on October 18 reported a net profit of Rs 721.20 crore in the July-September quarter of the current financial year, up 244 per cent from Rs 209.3 crore in the same period last year. The bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA)

increased by 14.8 percent year-on-year in the quarter under review. In absolute terms, gross NPAs stood at Rs 7,874 crore in the July-September quarter, compared to Rs 6,854 crore in the year-ago period. Gross NPA in the last quarter stood at Rs 6,961 crore.

State Bank of India (SBI) stake in Jio Payments Bank reduced from 30% to 23% in FY 2023.

Colorado has infused ₹9.48 crore into the payments bank's account from its March quarter earnings, according to India's largest lender. In FY21, Jio Bank reported a loss of Rs 89.7 crore on revenue of Rs 13.39 crore. In FY2020, it reported a profit of Rs 50.36 lakh on revenue of Rs 19.39 crore. In FY21, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on the payments bank for delay in applying for the reappointment of its managing director and chief executive officer. RBI's action comes under Section 35B of the Organizational Act, 1949 (Act). The payments bank was required to submit an application four months before the date of contract expiry in case of re-appointment of its MD and CEO. Updates like Permanent Bank has already applied for small finance bank license. The Reserve Bank last year notified it as a benchmark bank, allowing it to expand its network implementation.

Bharat BillPay onboards SBI Card to simplify bill payments

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) onboarded SBI Card, to simplify and manage the way credit card bills are paid. All SBI cards customers will be able to pay and manage their credit card bill payments across all Bharat BillPay supported payment channels like online via banks, payment apps or even via any Bharat BillPay physical outlets.

Changing Power Equations Around the World Vikram K. Doraiswami, Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Launches book by JGU Professor in London

The High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, Vikram K. Doraiswami launched the book titled 'India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World', by Professor (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Dean, Strategic & International Initiatives, O.P Jindal Global University. The Guest of Honour was the Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom Chairman, India Business Group and Professor (Dr.) Mark E. Smith, President & Vice Chancellor University of Southampton. The Institutional partner was The India Centre for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development, University of Southampton, represented by Prof Sabu Padmadas, its Director.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj unveils GIS application to empower Gram Panchayats!

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken a significant step towards empowering Gram Panchayats through technology-driven spatial planning with the launch of the Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra." This initiative, underscored by Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, in a written reply in Lok Sabha, amplifies the role of technology in enhancing local governance. Gram Manchitra leverages geo-spatial technology to provide a unified platform for visualizing and planning developmental works across diverse sectors. The GIS application serves as a dynamic Geo-Spatial platform, enabling Gram Panchayats to comprehensively visualize and plan projects related to natural resource management, water harvesting, sanitation, agriculture, and more.

Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol, the first three ships of the 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (CSL) project being built by CSL, Kochi for the Indian Navy, were launched at CSL, Kochi.

Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol, the first three ships of the 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (CSL) project being built by CSL, Kochi for the Indian Navy, were launched at CSL, Kochi. In keeping with maritime tradition, Mahe was launched by Smt. Anjali Bahl in the presence of VADM Puneet Bahl, Commandant INA, Malvan was launched by Smt. Kangana Berry in the presence of VADM Suraj Berry, C-in-C, and Mangrol was launched. The ships were launched with the invocation of Atharvaveda in the presence of Smt Zareen Lord Singh, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, VADM Sanjay J Singh. The Mahe class ASW shallow water crafts are named after ports of strategic importance along the coast of India, and will endeavor to carry forward the glorious legacy of the earlier minesweepers that were named after them. The simultaneous launch of three ships of the same class highlights our progress in indigenous shipbuilding towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The first ship of the project is planned to be delivered in 2024.

US Firms recorded 51% share in global arms revenues in 2022

Forty-two American companies accounted for 51% of the total arms revenue of the top 100 firms in 2022 despite a 3.5% fall in revenues from sales of arms and military services compared to 2021. According to the latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, the 100 largest companies in the industry earned revenues totalling \$597 billion in 2022 due to production challenges and backlog and falling arms revenues among major companies in the United States. Among top 100 companies, the arms revenues of 42 American companies fell by 7.9% to \$302 billion in 2022 with 32 recording a fall in year-on-year revenue due to supply chain issues and labour shortage caused by the pandemic.

Union Bank collaborates with Accenture to boost operational efficiency!

Union Bank of India on Tuesday said it will be collaborating with Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency. This will also enhance its ability to offer customer-centric banking services and manage risk.

Indian economy to be third largest by 2030

India is set to become the third-largest economy by 2030 and is expected to be the fastest growing major economy in the next three years, S&P Global Ratings said in its report 'Global Credit Outlook 2024: New Risks, New Playbook' released Monday. India's growth path to become the third largest economy will depend on the "paramount test" of whether it can become the next global manufacturing hub moving away from being a services-led economy.

SBI to acquire another 20% stake in SBI Pension Funds for Rs 229.52 crore

State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire an additional 20 per cent stake in SBI Pension Funds, from SBI Caps, for Rs 229.52 crore, taking its stake to 80 per cent. "SBI has proposed the acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in SBI Pension Funds Private Limited currently held by SBICAPS (a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI). All regulatory approvals in this regard have been obtained," SBI said in a filing to the exchanges. The objective of the transaction is better management, SBI said. The acquisition, which will be in cash, will be completed by December 15, 2023.

LIC introduces a new plan named Jeevan Utsav

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced a novel plan encompassing individual savings and whole life insurance. The plan is called LIC's Jeevan Utsav with effect from November 29, 2023. This plan is non-linked and non-participating, offering extensive life insurance coverage throughout one's lifetime.

LIC unveils innovative framework for shareholders' director selection :

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has now put in place a framework for appointment of Shareholders' Director in its Board. This framework — which has been introduced through a new regulation — comes eighteen months after the country's largest life insurer came up with a mega Initial Public Offering (IPO) billed as the biggest float in the history of Indian primary market. The issue was essentially an offer for sale of 22.13 crore shares equivalent to 3.5 per cent stake of the government and helped the Centre mop up ₹20,500 crore through this offering. The Centre currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC.

India's GDP growth expected to slow to 6.3% in FY24, OECD.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) retained its growth projection for India at 6.3 percent for FY24 holding that surging services

exports and public investment will continue to drive the economy.

PR Icon Suganthy Sundararaj Receives PRSI National Award for Outstanding Contributions to Healthcare Communications

In what is a moment of pride for Apollo Hospitals, Suganthy Sundararaj, Regional Head, Public Relations, has been honoured with the PRSI National Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Public Relations Society of India and the public relations industry. The Award recognizes her dedication to the communications and public relations industry and her stellar role in shaping the strategic management of the public relations function in the healthcare domain.

UNCTAD eWeek charts a sustainable and inclusive path for the digital economy

UNCTAD eWeek 2023, held in Geneva and online from 4 to 8 December, united more than 3,500 participants from 159 countries to outline actions needed to turn digital opportunities into shared and sustainable progress

ONDC announces 'Build for Bharat' initiative for startups

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), in collaboration with Google Cloud India, Antler in India, Paytm, Protean and Startup India, announced an initiative called 'Build for Bharat'.

Bank of Baroda launches BOB Parivar Account!

Bank of Baroda has launched a new scheme under its festive deal campaign called the BOB Parivar Account for both current and savings accounts. This plan is focused on grouping all the members of a family under one bank account policy.

Tata Advanced Systems partners with Satellogic to develop local space technology capabilities in India

Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, has entered into an agreement with NASDAQ-listed Satlogic to manufacture low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites and develop space technologies in India. This collaboration is the first step in TASL's satellite strategy and marks an important milestone for SatelliteLogic as it enters the rapidly growing Indian defense and commercial market. TASL and Satellogic will collaborate on the development of a new satellite design and work together to integrate multiple payloads on a single satellite that will generate a variety of data in India. The projects will begin with training, knowledge transfer and local assembly of optical sub-metre resolution EO satellites, the first of which is planned to be launched as TSAT-1A. TASL, the aerospace and defense company of the Tata Group, and Satellogic One will collaborate on the development of new satellite designs and work together to integrate multiple payloads on a single satellite that will generate a variety of data in India.

Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) approves various acquisition proposals worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore to boost Indian defense sector

The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh gave approval regarding Acceptance of Requirement (AON) for various capital acquisition proposals worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore, out of which the acquisition amount is Rs 2.20 lakh crore (total 98%). This will provide a substantial boost to the Indian defense industry towards achieving the goal of 'self-reliance'. DAC has awarded AON the procurement of two types of anti-tank munitions, Area Denial Munitions (ADM) Type-2 and Type-3. Which are capable of neutralizing tanks and armored personnel carriers and enemy personnel. Under the Buy (India) category, AON has also been awarded for procurement and integration of Automatic Target Tracker (ATT) and Digital Baseline Computer (DBC) for T-90 tanks, which will enhance the combat advantage of T-90 tanks over rival platforms. Will help maintain. In addition, DAC has procured Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk 1A from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) (Indian-IDDMM) for the IAF, which Provided under AON.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2023.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report for the entire country for the year 2023. The assessment was done jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States/UTs, which can be used by various stakeholders to take appropriate interventions. As per the assessment report for 2023, the total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country is 449.08 billion cubic meters (BCM), which shows an increase of 11.48 BCM over the previous year (2022) and the annual groundwater extraction for the entire country is 449.08 billion cubic meters (BCM). Further, out of the total 6553 assessed units in the country, 736 units have been classified as 'over-exploited'. Furthermore, the analysis indicates improvement in groundwater status in 226 assessment units in the country compared to the 2022 assessment data. Furthermore, an overall reduction in the number of overexploited units and the stage of groundwater extraction level has also been observed.

Gajraj Systems to install AI based monitoring system to prevent elephant deaths on Indian Railways tracks!

Indian Railways is preparing to deploy "Gajraj System", an artificial intelligence-based solution, on 700 km of railway tracks in forest areas to reduce elephant deaths. The purpose of this monitoring system is to alert loco pilots about the presence of elephants on the tracks. Government figures show that an average of 20 elephants die every year in train collisions in the country, with the majority of incidents occurring

in the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) region. According to the NFR, from its launch in December 2022 to July this year, the system issued 9,768 alerts, an average of 41 alerts per day. Whenever an elephant steps on the track, the system issues alerts to various concerned parties, including the train controller, station master, train drivers and other stakeholders, thereby taking precautionary action to prevent potential hazards. Embedded within the OFC network, the device detects vibrations caused by elephants on the tracks, sending real-time alerts to the division control room and a mobile application. It is capable of detecting and locating elephants moving within a radius of 5 meters through fiber optic cable, this system works effectively.

The world's first portable hospital 'Arogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.

The world's first portable hospital, 'Arogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram on 2 December 2023. Indigenously designed under Project 'Bheeshma', the modular trauma management and support system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each with a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts. It can handle gunshot injuries, burns, head, spinal cord and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding. It can treat more than 200 patients. These cubes are lightweight and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere from airdrop to ground transportation. Air Vice Marshal Tanmay Roy said the mobile hospital is part of India's message of health for all and helping other countries in times of crisis.

Vivek Gupta becomes part-time government director in Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Board:

Ministry of Railways... has informed that the President of India has approved the appointment of Vivek Kumar Gupta, Principal Executive Director (Gati Shakti), Railway Board, as a part-time Government Director on the Board of RVNL with immediate effect.

ADB, India sign USD 295 million loan pact to upgrade state highways in Bihar!

(ADB) and the central government on Thursday signed an agreement for a USD 295 million loan to upgrade around 265-kilometre state highways with climate and disaster-resilient design and road safety elements in Bihar. The project supports the Bihar government programme to upgrade all state highways to standard two-lane widths and improve road safety, ADB said in a statement.

4 December is celebrated as International Banks Day in recognition of the important capacity of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in providing information and financing for sustainable development.

On 19 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 74/245, which designated 4 December as International Banks Day in recognition of the important capacity of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in providing information and financing for sustainable development. In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed its commitment to work tirelessly towards the full implementation of those goals by 2030. Extreme poverty, which includes poverty in all its forms and dimensions, is the greatest global challenge and an essential need for sustainable development. The Goals seek to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and addressing their unfinished work. Achieving sustainable development – particularly eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and combating climate change – requires a long-term perspective, in which governments, the private sector and civil society work together to tackle global challenges.

World Soil Day is observed on 5 December.

Soil is one of the integral parts of our lives. They provide us with necessary nutrients, are the bed for growth of food items, and are also home to diverse species. Maintaining the standard of soil and ensuring that the quality of soil is healthy is everyone's responsibility. Industrialisation and poor land management systems have degraded the quality of soil in many places, further leading to soil erosion, drop in fertility and loss of organic matter. World Soil Day is celebrated every year to ensure that people are informed about the significance of maintaining the quality of soil and how important it is in our life, and food system.

World AIDS Day is an international day celebrated every year on 1 December.

World AIDS Day, observed every year on 1 December, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. It is an opportunity for people around the world to unite and show support for people living with HIV, remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses, and advocate for increased efforts to prevent new infections. The day enables people to educate themselves and others about HIV transmission, prevention, testing, treatment and the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with the virus. Through campaigns, events and community activities, World AIDS Day plays a vital role in breaking down barriers, encouraging dialogue and promoting understanding. World AIDS Day serves as a rallying call for increased awareness, funding and action towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

BSF, the world's largest border security force with a strength of approximately 2.5 lakh personnel, celebrates its raising day on 1 December every year.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to the Border Security Force personnel who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on the 59th Raising Day of BSF in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. BSF is the world's largest border security force with a strength of around 2.5 lakh. The Personnel Force celebrates its Raising Day every year on 1 December. Deployed to guard the India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders, the BSF is the only force in the country that has a clearly defined role in wartime as well as peacetime. Deployed in the most challenging terrain and remote locations, BSF personnel act as guardians of India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. At present, the BSF has 192 (including three NDRF) battalions and seven BSF artillery regiments guarding the international border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Apart from this, BSF is also playing a role in anti-infiltration in Kashmir Valley, anti-insurgency in North East region, anti-Naxal operations in the states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and security of integrated check posts on Pakistan and Bangladesh international borders.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on 3 December to raise awareness and explore the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated every year to raise awareness and explore the challenges faced by people with disabilities. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated every year on 3 December. In 1992, the annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/3. The day was observed with the aim of understanding disability issues and gaining support to ensure that their rights to well-being, dignity and equal opportunities are practiced. The theme of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities is – Uniting for, with and by persons with disabilities to protect and achieve the SDGs. "The objective of organizing the day is to promote understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. It also aims to raise awareness of the benefits to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities.

Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on 4 December to recognize the role and achievements of the Indian Navy.

Indian Navy Day is celebrated every year on 4 December to recognize the role and achievements of the Indian Navy. This date holds historical significance as it commemorates 'Operation Trident' during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Navy Day celebrations in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, where the naval forces conducted an operational display. This year's

theme is "Operational Efficiency, Readiness and Mission Achievement in the Maritime Domain". Last year's theme was "Golden Vijay Varsh" to commemorate 50 years of India's victory in the India-Pakistan war in 1971. On this day, ceremonies and events take place at naval bases and establishments across the country. The ceremony includes impressive parades, operational demonstrations and display of naval capabilities, technical strength and strategic preparedness of the Navy. Navy Day also serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by naval personnel to maintain the country's maritime interests and defend against potential threats.

International Volunteer Day 2023:

International Volunteer Day, observed annually on December 5, is a celebration that highlights the contributions of volunteers worldwide and recognises the impact of their selfless actions on communities and societies. This day serves as a reminder of the crucial role that volunteers play in addressing global challenges, fostering solidarity, and promoting sustainable development.

National Pollution Control Day is celebrated every year on 2 December to be aware and create more awareness about finding ways to reduce pollution and reverse harmful changes.

Pollution is one of the serious issues in the world. Every year, people die due to various types of pollution, and now it is time that we become conscious of the way we live and use the planet's resources to ensure that the future is green and harmless. Be it air pollution, water pollution or environmental pollution, different types of pollution are increasing rapidly and spoiling the planet day by day. National Pollution Control Day is celebrated every year on 2 December to be aware and create more awareness about finding ways to reduce pollution and reverse harmful changes. It is important to create awareness about the different types of pollution generated by humans. It is equally important to find sustainable ways of living so that we can compensate for the damage done to the planet. National Pollution Control Day is celebrated to make people aware and provide information.

World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated every year on 2 December to support initiatives to promote digital literacy and provide computer training to those in need.

World Computer Literacy Day was first observed in December 2001 to promote digital education and raise awareness about the use of computers. The advent of digital technology has changed our lives forever. From financial transactions to online classes and from shopping to availing major government schemes, we have become more dependent on computers and internet for many important tasks of daily life. With increasing dependence on digital technology, learning computers is inevitable for everyone. World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated every year to promote digital literacy and support initiatives to provide computer training to those who cannot

afford it. The day aims to empower women and deprived sections of the society with knowledge and information to make them a part of the increasingly technology dependent world.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery This day is observed on 2 December to highlight the importance of eliminating contemporary forms of slavery including trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage etc.

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 December 1986. On this day, organizations, governments and individuals come together to fight against the condemnable practice of slavery in any form in the society. This day also reminds us of the dark past of racism, slavery and social oppression. The celebration recognizes the efforts of all those who continue to fight against modern manifestations of slavery such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the most serious forms of child labour, forced marriage and the recruitment of children into the armed forces. The theme of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2023 is 'Fighting the legacy of racism of slavery through transformative education' and emphasizes the continuing effects of the legacy of racism of the transatlantic slave trade. Such prejudices and biases continue to contribute to harmful beliefs and perceptions that continue to affect people around the world, especially those of African descent. This year's theme aims to end all forms of slavery through education.

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare observed on 11 November.

The Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare is an annual event held November 30 as a "tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism. It is officially recognised by the United Nations (UN) and has been celebrated since 2005.

Bose Krishnamachari has been included in the list of world's most influential personalities in the field of art.

Co-founder and Chairman of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, artist and curator Bose Krishnamachari has been included in the list of the world's most influential figures in the field of art prepared by the internationally renowned art magazine Art Review. Sri Krishnamachari has been ranked 38th in the list titled 'Power 100', which includes artists, thinkers, curators, gallerists, museum directors and collectors from all fields of contemporary art. The magazine noted the progressive uniqueness in his approach. The publication also makes a special mention of the Neurodiverse Project, an art show of neurodiverse artists moderated by Sri Krishnamachari. It says he has painted

murals on Manaveyam Street in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's traditional historical and colonial architecture photography exhibition and 'Contextual Cosmology'.

GGFR to evolve to the Global Flaring & Methane Reduction Partnership

GGFR will provide more than \$250 million and mobilize billions from the private sector to support those countries with the least capacity and resources to address these emissions. The partnership will focus on providing grant funding, technical assistance, policy and regulatory reform advisory services, institutional strengthening, and mobilizing financing to support action by governments and operators.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) published the 2023 global snapshot on HIV and supported progress and priorities for children, adolescents and pregnant women.

Nearly 98,000 adolescent girls aged 10-19 will be infected with HIV in 2022 – or 1,900 new infections every week, according to UNICEF's latest global snapshot on children living with HIV and AIDS, released ahead of World AIDS Day. While total infections among girls aged 10-19 have almost halved since 2010 – from 190,000 to 98,000 – last year girls were still twice as likely to be infected with HIV as boys. Globally, there were 270,000 new HIV infections among all children and adolescents aged 0-19 in 2022, bringing the total number of youth living with HIV to 2.6 million. In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence among adolescent girls and young women aged 10–24 is three times higher than their male counterparts. Progress toward ending AIDS remains slow, with one million deaths among children aged 0–19 years globally due to AIDS-related causes in 2022. 99,000 children and adolescents are dying, which is 15 percent of all AIDS-related deaths, even though this age group comprises only 7 percent.

Oxford University Press crowns 'rizz' as Word of the Year for 2023 :

If you're a frequent social media user, you've likely encountered the term 'rizz,' a popular Internet slang used by many to express charm or style. Considering how popular this word has become around the world, Oxford University Press has officially recognised and crowned 'rizz' as the Word of the Year for 2023.

Henry Kissinger, American diplomat and Nobel winner, dead at 100

Henry Kissinger, American diplomat and Nobel winner, dead at 100. Heinz Alfred Kissinger was born in Furth, Germany, on May 27, 1923, and moved to the United States with his family in 1938 before the Nazi campaign to exterminate European Jews

3 Indians KP Singh Nandan Nilekani and Nikhil Kamath feature in Forbes Asia's 2023 Philanthropy Heroes list

Forbes has released its 17th annual list of philanthropists who donated generously last year and committed to the causes they love. The Forbes Asia list acknowledges individuals who donate from personal funds, showing their commitment to various causes, and three Indians – DLF's KP Singh, Infosys' Nandan Nilekani, and Zerodha's Nikhil Kamat – made the list this year. Made space. KP Singh: Chairman Emeritus of DLF came into limelight after raising \$89 million by selling his remaining direct stake in the Delhi-based property developer. Nandan Nilekani: Infosys co-founder and chairman, recently donated \$38 million to IIT Bombay, marking his 50 years of association with the institute. Nikhil Kamath: Co-founder and Chief Financial Officer of Zerodha joined the Giving Pledge in June. He is the fourth signatory from India. According to Forbes, Kamath has promised to address climate change, energy, education and health inequities. At 37, Kamath, who is India's youngest billionaire, is new to the list.

India ranked 49th in the International Institute for Elastic Arts (IMD)'s World Digital Connectivity Ranking 2023

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) unveiled its 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), revealing India's 49th position among 64 economies. According to the IMD study, India has made significant progress in terms of cyber security knowledge, but lacks on fronts such as technology and future preparedness. The Netherlands climbed four places to second place, while Singapore, which leads the technology factor, remained in third place. Denmark, the previous overall leader, slipped to fourth place due to a decline in future preparedness and technology factors. Switzerland maintained its top position by excelling in the knowledge factor and joined the top five. In the Asia-Pacific region, India has fallen from 11th to 12th among 14 countries in the last four years. Globally, among 27 countries with a population of more than 20 million, India is now ranked 18th, down two places from last year. Examining India's performance, the nation showed improvement in cybersecurity knowledge, especially talent, training and education.

India elected executive committee member of UN's food standard-setting body:

India has been unanimously elected as a member representing the Asian region in the executive committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the food safety and quality standard-setting body created by the UN, at its meeting in Rome. The executive committee is an important arm of the CAC and the member countries have a considerable interest in getting its membership. In this capacity, India would not only get an opportunity to contribute substantially in the international standard setting process for different food product categories but will also be involved in the decision-making process, the health ministry said in a statement.

In 2022, India accounted for 66% of malaria cases in WHO South-East Asia

Region

In 2022, India accounted for 66% of malaria cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region noted the new — 2023 World Malaria Report — published by the World Health Organization (WHO). It adds that almost 46% of all cases in the region were due to Plasmodium vivax, which is a protozoal parasite and a human pathogen, which is the most frequent and widely distributed cause of recurring malaria.

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest number of votes in the elections for the 2024-25 biennial assembly.

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council with the highest number of votes in the elections for the 2024-25 biennial assembly. India's re-election ranks it among the 10 states with "greatest interest in international maritime trade", along with Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It received widespread support from the international community, including the International Maritime Organization, to continue serving the region. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the leading authority regulating the maritime industry, supporting global trade, transportation and all maritime operations. US Vision 2047 also sets goals to strengthen India's global maritime presence. 43 initiatives have been identified as part of the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 Action Plan, the key initiatives of which are on strengthening our global maritime presence including the appointment of a dedicated IMO Cell in India and a Permanent Representative at IMO Headquarters, London.

Assam Government and NDDB sign MoU for holistic dairy development in Assam

The MoU was signed by Chairman, NDDB and Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala and Hon'ble Assam Minister Shri Atul Bora. During the programme, Dr. Sarma and Mr Rupala also laid the foundation stone of the Purbi Dairy Extension Project under the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transport Project (APART) funded by the World Bank. As part of the expansion project, the processing capacity of Purbi Dairy will be increased from the existing 60,000 liters per day to 1.5 lakh liters per day. The expansion of the plant at Punjabiri in Guwahati will help Purbi Dairy to increase the production capacity of existing products as well as introduce new products like indigenous sweets, ice creams, flavored milk etc. The objective of the session was to create awareness and convey the benefits of the revised and reorganized schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt.

The Center and the Manipur government signed a peace accord with the UNLF, Manipur's oldest valley-based armed group.

The Government of India and the Government of Manipur signed a peace agreement with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), Manipur's oldest valley-based armed group. This agreement is set to promote the beginning of a new era of peace in the North East in general and Manipur in particular. While political agreements have been finalized with several ethnic armed groups in the North East as part of the Indian government's conflict resolution initiative, this is the first time that a valley-based Manipuri armed group agreed to give up violence and return to the mainstream. This agreement will not only end the hostilities between the UNLF and the security forces, which have claimed precious lives on both sides over the last half century, but will also provide an opportunity to address the long-standing concerns of the community. It is hoped that the return of the UNLF to the mainstream will encourage other valley-based armed groups to participate in the peace process at the appropriate time. A Peace Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be formed to monitor the implementation of the agreed ground rules.

IDEX-DIO signs 300th contract for defense innovation in the specific area of design and development of advanced Gallium Nitride Semiconductors

Innovation for Defense Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Department of Defense Production, has reached a milestone with the signing of its 300th contract. This contract relates to the design and development of advanced gallium nitride semiconductors required for next generation wireless transmitters in defense applications ranging from radar to EW (Electronics Warfare) jammers. The objective of the proposal is to design, develop and manufacture GaN components for defense in India using completely indigenous GaN technology. This will significantly increase indigenous design and development capacity, thereby paving the way for immense potential in the defense sector including exports. Additional Secretary (Defence Industry Production) and CEO/DIO T Natarajan met Defense Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and officials of the Ministry. In another development, continuing with the 'Make in India' initiative and commitment to make iDEX 'for the innovators to buy', BEL has collaborated with M/s Blurz Innovations Pvt Ltd for its solution TRIDENT, an Intelligent Procurement Contract.

Kerala Startup Mission signs MoU with Business Finland to promote start-up ecosystem

Kerala Startup Mission is set to join hands with Business Finland to strengthen the ecosystem of emerging companies in India and the Scandinavian country. Business Finland, under the country's Ministry of Employment and Economy, has been working for six years to attract business, tourism and foreign investment, as well as provide funding for innovation. KSUM signed an MoU with a Finnish government organization seeking support and maintaining regular contacts for mutual exchange of information and knowledge related to the start-up ecosystem in both the countries. The Kerala Finland Innovation Corridor, which is the collaboration platform being set up under the

MoU, will act as a bridge to carry out various initiatives by both the organizations. These go beyond start-up acceleration to efforts such as research collaborations, joint programs, and communications and marketing. A volunteer from KSUM exchanged the MoU with Laura Lindeman, Senior Director of Business Finland.

Unemployment rate in urban areas has come down

The unemployment rate in urban areas of the country decreased from 7.2% in July-September, 2022 to 6.6% in July-September 2023 according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

Godrej Capital Nirman partners with DBS Bank India, Visa and Amazon to aid MSME growth

Godrej Capital, the non-banking finance company (NBFC) arm of Godrej Group, announced partnership with DBS Bank India, Visa and Amazon to build its new digital platform Nirman to connect the suite of services offered to MSMEs. Nirman now has over 13 partners providing various services to MSMEs to increase their potential market reach, enable finance and banking support, simplify legal and compliance, enhance employee health and well-being and much more. Godrej Capital had announced the construction launch in April this year. Other partners on the platform are Onsurety (employee healthcare platform), Zolvit (tax and compliance support for MSMEs), MSMEEx (advisory platform for MSMEs), and new partners GeM Tech Paras (GEM Consultancy), EscrowPay (digital escrow account), GrethHR (HR and payroll software) and Serapis Knowledge Solutions (strategy and research firm).

Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) became the first airport in India to introduce CTX system for seamless screening experience.

Passengers using Terminal 2 (T2) of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will soon not be required to remove personal electronic devices like mobile phones and laptops from handbags at the security checkpoints before boarding. KIA operator Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) said the trial run of the CTX (computer tomography X-ray) machine at T2 will begin in the next few weeks. It will also eliminate the current process of patting down passengers after primary screening through walk-through metal detectors. T2, known as the 'Terminal in the Garden', was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2022 with a construction cost of around Rs 5,000 crore. It began domestic operations on January 15, 2023. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had ordered all major airports handling 50 lakh passengers to install 3D CTX machines for cabin checks by the end of the year, but most operators are likely to miss the deadline.

Energy research company Mercom India said rooftop solar power installations in the country grew by 34.7 per cent year-on-year to 431 MW during

July-September 2023 due to falling module prices.

Energy research firm Mercom India has projected rooftop solar power installations in the country to grow by 34.7 per cent year-on-year to 431 MW during July-September 2023 due to falling module prices. Rooftop solar capacity addition was more than 1.3 gigawatt (GW) in the first nine months of 2023, compared to 1.2 GW in January-September 2022. Gujarat led the way in installing rooftop solar, contributing 26.7 percent of the cumulative installations, followed by Maharashtra (13.5 percent) and Rajasthan (8.3 percent). The top 10 states accounted for about 77 per cent of the cumulative rooftop solar installations by September 2023. Between Q3 2022 and Q3 2023, Kerala recorded the highest compound growth of 15 per cent, followed by Gujarat (7.3 per cent) and Maharashtra (5.1 per cent). In the third quarter of 2023, 119 MW of rooftop solar tenders were announced, which is 61.6 percent less compared to 310.6 MW in the third quarter of 2022.

Bhopal Senior IAS officer Veera Rana (1988 batch) assumed additional charge of Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh.

Bhopal Senior IAS officer Veera Rana (1988 batch) assumed additional charge of Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh at Vallabh Bhawan here. She is the second woman IAS officer to hold the post of Chief Secretary of the state after late Nirmla Buch. Rana will retire in March 2024, which means he has four months of service left, unless he is given an extension. Former CS Iqbal Singh Bains, who retired, was earlier given two extensions of six months each. This is probably the first time that MP has separate CS for polling day and counting day. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had called a cabinet meeting without any formal agenda to bid farewell to retired CS Iqbal Singh Bains at Vallabh Bhawan. According to the order of the General Administration Department (GAD), after the retirement of Bains, Veera Rana will hold the additional charge of Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh till further orders. She is currently the Chairperson of the MP Board of Secondary Education and also the State Agricultural Production Commissioner.

Cabinet approves terms of reference for the 16th Finance Commission

The Union Cabinet has approved the terms of reference of the 16th Finance Commission. However, details on its members and Chairperson as well as exact terms of reference are expected to be approved at a later date. "The members would be notified as soon as possible as they have to finish the report within two years from the date of appointment," said Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur on Wednesday.

Securities and Exchange Board of India has postponed linking of scores with ODR portal to April 2024

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has extended the date of implementation of the new process for redressal of investor complaints through the SEBI Grievance

Redressal (SCORES) platform. Originally scheduled for execution on December 4, 2023, the new implementation deadline for linking scores with online dispute resolution platforms is now April 1, 2024. The ODR portal will facilitate enrollment of investors and market participants, allowing them to lodge complaints and upload relevant documents. It provides status updates on complaints received by ODR institutions which are service providers that handle and mediate investors' complaints. The new process aims to resolve complaints in a maximum of 60 days. Upon filing complaints through SCORES, entities including listed companies, brokers and mutual funds must resolve them within 21 calendar days. These complaints are automatically forwarded to the concerned entities for resolution, and action taken reports (ATRs) are expected to be submitted within the same period.

India's GDP growth rate is expected to slow to 7.6% in Q2FY24

The Indian economy grew 7.6 per cent during the July-September quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (Q2FY24) and remained the world's fastest growing major economy, according to gross domestic product (GDP) data. 'Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices is estimated to reach ₹41.74 lakh crore in Q2 2023-24, compared to ₹38.78 lakh crore in Q2 2022-23, showing a growth of 7.6 per cent. Is. Economists expect growth to slow down in the second quarter of this fiscal year compared to the previous quarter, where it recorded a strong growth of 7.8 percent. In the forecast data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the GDP growth rate for the September quarter has been estimated at 6.5 percent. India's growth will give the RBI room to focus on food inflation, which it kept on hold for the fourth consecutive policy meeting in October, which it believes is uncomfortably high.

Pakistan has been elected as the Vice Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2023-2025:

Pakistan has been elected as the Vice Chair of the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2023-2025, which is a significant victory for the country. The election took place during the 218th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board that was held in Paris. Pakistan was able to secure 38 votes out of the 58 Executive Board members, which was a major triumph over India, which only received 18 votes.

CCI nod for Atlas stake increase in Vodafone Group Plc

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed deal of Atlas 2022 Holdings Ltd to increase its shareholding in Vodafone Group Plc from 14.6 percent to less than 25 percent. It has also approved the acquisition of shareholding in Delanord Investments by Abu Dhabi Ports Company.

India puts up 20 blocks of critical and strategic minerals for auction

India's Ministry of Mines launched the first tranche auction of critical and strategic minerals in New Delhi on Wednesday, offering up 20 minerals for exploration, including recently discovered lithium reserves in Jammu & Kashmir.

Arunachal CM Pema Khandu, US Ambassador inaugurate 'The Hump WWII Museum'.

A museum dedicated to the martyred airmen who flew for the Allied forces during World War II was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu. The Hump WWII Museum at Pasighat, headquarters of East Siang district, is named after North-Eastern Assam and Yunnan, China. About 650 aircraft crashed on this route from 1942–45. "We are here today not just to mark history but to make history. "Look at the ways each of us can not only look at the past but do something to change the future," US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said after inaugurating the museum with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu. " Mr Khandu said The Hump is a tribute to the martyred heroes of World War II by the people of his state. He also lauded the efforts of Museum Director Oken Tayeng and his team in making The Hump a reality. Allied Army pilots flying from airfields in Assam to airfields in Yunnan This route was called 'The Hump' because their planes had to pass through deep valleys and mountains over 10,000 feet high.

The 54th International Film Festival of India held in Goa from 20th to 28th November.

British film "Catching Dust" opened the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 20, while American film "The Featherweight" will be the closing title. Hollywood actor Michael Douglas was invited to participate in the eight-day annual festival organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Fifteen entries (12 international, three Indian) are in line for the Golden Peacock, which is awarded to the best film and carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh. Indian films include the Kannada film Kantara, the Hindi film Sana and the Karbi language film Mirabeen. These include the Bengali films "Vidyapati" (1937) and "Chorus" (1974), Marathi film "Shyamchi Aai" (1953), Telugu film "Patal Bhairavi" (1951), Hindi film "Haqeeqat" (1964). The ministry said a total of 20 films from 11 countries have been selected for the film bazaar, which was held at the Marriott Resort in Goa from November 20 to 24. For visually impaired people, the movies "Sirf Ek Banda Kafi Hai" and "Shershaah" were made available with embedded audio description. The films "83" and "Bhaag Mikha Bhaag" will have built-in sign language for the hearing impaired.

President Draupadi Murmu awarded the President's Colour, the highest military honour, to the Pune-based Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) during its platinum jubilee year.

President Draupadi Murmu awarded the President's Colour, the highest military honour, to the Pune-based Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) during its platinum

jubilee year. Priests from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh religions conducted the consecration ceremony, after which Ms Murmu, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, presented the President's Insignia to the AFMC. The President's Colour, also known as the 'President's Mark', is the highest honor awarded to any military unit. AFMC was established on May 1, 1948. The institution conducts training of medical undergraduates and post-graduates, nursing undergraduates and post-graduates, dental postgraduates and paramedical staff. It is stated on the website of the institution that AFMC has the distinction of being the first medical college established by the armed forces of any country in Asia.

Radhakishan Damani along with his company – Avenue Supermarts – has topped the 'IDFC First Pvt Hurun India Top 200 Self-Made Entrepreneurs of the Millennium 2023'.

Radhakishan Damani, founder of the hugely popular DMart chain of hypermarkets, along with his company Avenue Supermarts has topped the 'IDFC First Private Hurun India Top 200 Self-Made Entrepreneurs of the Millennium 2023' with a market capitalization of Rs 2,38,188 crore. Stock market veteran Damani is followed by Flipkart's Bansal-Binny and Sachin (Rs 1,19,472 crore), Zomato's Deepinder Goyal (Rs 86,835 crore), Dream 11's Bhavit Sheth and Harsh Jain (Rs 66,542 crore). Damani, 68, is not the oldest in the list as he is joined by Happiest Minds' Ashok Suta (80), Medanta's Naresh Trehan (77), Ather's Ashwin Desai (72) and Jayateertha Rao (71). The youngest in the list of the rich is Zepto's Kaivalya Vohra, who is 21 years old. He is followed by BharatPe's Shashwat Nakrani (25), Dilsher Malhi (27) and Zupzee's Siddhant Saurabh (28), and Ritesh Agarwal (29). Mamaearth's Ghazal Alagh (35) tops the list as the youngest woman; Vinzo's Saumya Singh Rathod (35) and Pristine Care's Garima Sahni (37) are in the top three. In terms of cities, Bengaluru, often known as the start-up capital of India, has the most represented companies with 69 companies, followed by Mumbai (41), Gurugram (26), New Delhi (18) and Chennai (11).

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launches book Beyond the Misty Veil -- Temple Tales of Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched a book titled Beyond the Misty Veil -- Temple Tales of Uttarakhand by Aradhana Johri, which seeks to create awareness about the temples and promote tourism in the State. The author, a former Indian Administrative Service officer from the region. the book the significance of temples and the mythology associated with them. It was as an authentic introduction to the ancient temples for the people of the country and abroad.

A 33 per cent reduction in emissions intensity of India's gross domestic product (GDP) has been achieved between 2005 and 2019.

The Government of India has approved the submission of the country's Third National Communication (TNC) and Initial Adaptation Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The brief states that a 33 per cent reduction in emissions intensity of India's gross domestic product (GDP) has been achieved between 2005 and 2019. It is important to note that in the original presentation of the NDC, India had set a target of 33 per cent reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2030. With regard to another NDC target related to adding non-fossil fuel-based power capacity, India currently has 41 per cent share of clean energy in terms of capacity. This is higher than the original NDC target of 40 percent for non-fossil fuel-based electricity in 2030. The land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector remained a net sink in 2019, removing 4,85,472 gigagrams of carbon dioxide equivalent (GgCO₂e) emissions.

INS Sandhayak: GRSE delivers largest survey vessel built in India on Navy Day:

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers on Monday delivered the largest survey vessel built in India, INS Sandhayak to the Indian Navy on Navy day 2023. INS Sandhayak is the first in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built by GRSE. The Naval vessel was launched by on 05 December 2021

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has approved a Rs 1,658.17 crore recovery and reconstruction plan for Joshimath.

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has approved a Rs 1,658.17 crore recovery and reconstruction (R&R) plan for Joshimath. An official said that under the plan, the National Disaster Response Central assistance of Rs 1,079.96 will be provided from the recovery and reconstruction window of funds. Joshimath in Uttarakhand has been affected by landslides and ground subsidence and the Center has provided all necessary technical and logistical support to the state government. In January this year, land subsidence in Joshimath Many houses developed cracks due to the subsidence. According to government data, cracks appeared on 868 structures in nine wards of the city, while 181 structures fell in the unsafe zone. Situated at an altitude of 6,000 feet in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, the town, located on the route to Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib, is in the high-risk zone. Falls in seismic 'Zone-V'. Joshimath also serves as a major transit point for tourists visiting both Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib.

India joins Battery Energy Storage Systems Consortium for RE integration

India on Monday became a member of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, an initiative led by The Global Leadership Council (GLC) of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). As part of this collaborative effort, India stands among the pioneering nations committed to securing 5 Gw of BESS

commitments by the conclusion of 2024.

World's largest nuclear fusion reactor that mimics the Sun just came online:

Japan has unveiled the world's largest operational experimental nuclear fusion reactor. This colossal machine, dubbed JT-60SA, is housed in a hangar north of Tokyo in Naka, and represents a pivotal moment in the quest for clean and limitless power. Unlike traditional nuclear fission used in power plants, which splits atomic nuclei, fusion mimics the sun's energy production by merging two nuclei, potentially offering a safer and more abundant energy source.

Dr Akshata Krishnamurthy, 'first Indian citizen' to operate rover on Mars:

Dr Akshata Krishnamurthy became the 'first Indian citizen' to command a rover mission on Mars. She has now taken to Instagram to share her inspiring journey of getting into MIT and landing a job at Nasa. Dr Krishnamurthy shared that she came to the United States 13 years ago with a dream to work at Nasa and worked hard to make her dream come true.

China launches MisrSat-2 satellite jointly-developed with Egypt:

China successfully sent a satellite jointly developed with Egypt into space on Monday, marking a success in China-Egypt cooperation. The MisrSat-2 satellite was launched atop a Long March-2C carrier rocket at 12:10 p.m. Beijing Time from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, and has entered the preset orbit.

Garuda Aerospace secures 2nd type certificate for medium category drones

Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has secured the second type certificate for medium category drones from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the company said on Tuesday. The certificate for the medium category drones marks a pivotal step in propelling Garuda Aerospace to new heights of growth and scalability, company founder and CEO Agnishwar Jayaprakash said.

IN-SPACE launches seed fund scheme for startups using space technology!

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) on Monday announced the launch of a seed fund scheme for start-ups operating in the area of urban development and disaster management by using space technology.

Vaishali Rameshbabu became the 84th Chess Grandmaster of India. After becoming R Vaishali, she left the tag of being 'Pragyanand's sister'

Playing at the IV El Llobregat Open tournament in Spain, Vaishali Rameshbabu defeated FM Tamer Celebs in a match that had a huge impact. The win took Vaishali's rating points past 2500, granting her entry into the elusive Indian Grandmaster Club: current membership is 84. Vaishali also became part of a small

group: the title of Grandmaster is held by Indian women, which has only three members besides Vaishali, Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli. Having reached the pinnacle of the chess playing hierarchy – a Grandmaster title – Vaishali was given the title of 'Pragganananda', this would also go a long way in freeing her from the tag of being a 'sister'. While it was Vaishali who first started creating havoc on the chess field with her younger brother, setting records like becoming the youngest International Master in the world. Now just over a month old, in the span of 2017, Vaishali has achieved the goals she set for herself as a child, like one ticks off things on a shopping list: She Winning Ultra earned a spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament.

India's Ramkumar Ramanathan clinched his third ITF title by winning the Kalaburagi Open by defeating Austrian David Pichler in straight sets in a one-sided men's singles final.

India's Ramkumar Ramanathan clinched his third ITF title by winning the Kalaburagi Open by defeating Austrian David Pichler in straight sets in a one-sided men's singles final. Ramkumar, who won the ITF Mumbai Open last week, took just 64 minutes to see off Pichler's challenge 6-2, 6-1 at the Chandrashekar Patil Stadium and clinch his third ITF title in a span of 57 days. Indian Davis Cup team member Ramkumar received a winning check of US\$3200 and 25 valuable ATP points, while the visitors received prize money of US\$2120 besides earning 16 ATP points. After both players held serve for the first five games, Ramkumar took the first lead by breaking David in the sixth game and never looked back, hitting some brilliant winners to take the rest of the game and take the set 6-2. Named. The only game where Ramkumar struggled to hold serve was the fifth game, where he could not find answers to David's down the line winners. With two breaks in the fourth and sixth games, Ramkumar almost defeated his opponent 6–1 with aces and won the crown.