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**February
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Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi launched a web portal of CMPFO namely C-CARES developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi launched a web portal of CMPFO namely C-CARES developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It's aiming to address the long-standing issue of digitizing its records and work processes. The portal, C-CARES, will allow CMPF subscribers and coal companies to login and perform various functions tailored to their needs.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Jay Shah was appointed as president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term on 31 January 2024.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Jay Shah was appointed as president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term on 31 January 2024. His extension for another year was unanimously approved at the ACC Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Bali, as he was the midst of his second year of his second two-year term as the ACC Chief. His extension was proposed by Shammi Silva, the president of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), and the nomination was unanimously backed by all ACC members.

Johor Ruler Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar sworn oath of office as the 17th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (17th King of Malaysia) for a five-year term.

Johor Ruler Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar sworn oath of office as the 17th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (17th King of Malaysia) for a five-year term. The ceremony of taking the oath of office and signing the instrument of office was held at the 264th (Special) Meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Balairung Seri (throne room), Istana Negara. At the ceremony, the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, sworn in as Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the same period. Sultan Ibrahim replaces Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, who completed his reign as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong on January 30.

JMM legislature party leader Champai Soren on 2 February 2024 took oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi.

JMM legislature party leader Champai Soren on 2 February 2024 took oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi. This comes two days after Hemant Soren's resignation as the CM and his arrest by the ED. The 67-year-old tribal leader sworn in as the 12th chief minister of the state. He is the sixth CM from

the Jharkhand's Kolhan region which comprises East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.

Nangolo Mbumba has been sworn in as the interim president of the southern African country of Namibia, after the death of President Hage Geingob.

Nangolo Mbumba has been sworn in as the interim president of the southern African country of Namibia, after the death of President Hage Geingob. Nangolo Mbumba officially becoming the nation's 4th president. Nangolo Mbumba, born on August 15, 1941, had previously served as the second vice president of Namibia since 2018. A dedicated member of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Mbumba boasts an extensive career, having led various ministries in Namibia. Geingob, the first prime minister and third president of Namibia, traversed a remarkable journey from an anti-apartheid activist to a statesman of great repute throughout his career.

Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr has been appointed as a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO's Education for All initiative.

Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr has been appointed as a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO's Education for All initiative. The Brazil international was appointed at a ceremony at his club's training centre, becoming the second footballer from his country to serve as a UNESCO goodwill ambassador after Pele. He is a role model for an entire generation and UNESCO is honored to have him today as one of its goodwill ambassadors.

Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, an IRSE 1988 batch officer, has assumed charge as Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL).

Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, an IRSE 1988 batch officer, has assumed charge as Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL). Before joining NHSRCL, Shri Gupta served as the Principal Executive Director/Gati-Shakti at the Railway Board (Ministry of Railways). He has held various senior positions in Central & Western Railway, including Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), Chief Track Engineer, Chief Bridge Engineer and Divisional Railway Manager (DRM).

Justice Pratinidhi Srinivasacharya Dinesh Kumar took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Pratinidhi Srinivasacharya Dinesh Kumar took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office to him. Justice Kumar was born on February 25, 1962. He is an alumnus of National College and BMS College in Bengaluru. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on January 2, 2015 and permanent judge on December 30, 2016.

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has been roped in as the brand ambassador of audio products brand boAt.

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has been roped in as the brand ambassador of audio products brand boAt. Ranveer Singh has also made an investment in the company. The Ranveer Singh invested an undisclosed amount in boAt, becoming a key stakeholder in the company. The company co-founded by Aman Gupta has also announced an upcoming campaign featuring Singh for Boat's sub-brand 'Nirvana series'. The 360-degree ad campaign has been conceptualised and executed with the Bangalore-based creative agency Talented.

Senior IAS officer Radha Raturi was appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand.

Senior IAS officer Radha Raturi was appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand. Raturi, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1988 batch, replaces Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. She is the first woman to hold the top administrative post in Uttarakhand. During her long administrative career, She has held several important positions.

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council appointed its foreign minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as the country's new prime minister.

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council appointed its foreign minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as the country's new prime minister. Outgoing PM Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed will take on the role of an advisor to the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council. Bin Mubarak came to prominence in 2015 when he was kidnapped by the country's Iran-aligned Houthis while he served as Yemen's presidential chief of staff during a power struggle with then-President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The Central Government has notified the appointments of Chief Justices for 6 High Courts.

The Central Government has notified the appointments of Chief Justices for 6 High Courts. Justice Gurmeet Singh as Acting Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. Justice S. Vaidyanathan as Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Justice Arun Bhansali as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. Justice Vijay Bishnoi as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court. Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. Kumari Justice Ritu Bahri as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed three full-time members and a part-time member to the 16th Finance Commission.

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed three full-time members and a part-time member to the 16th Finance Commission. The three full-time Members are Ajay Narayan Jha, former Member of the 15th Finance Commission and former Secretary, Department of Expenditure; Annie George Mathew; former Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure; and Niranjana Rajadhyaksha, Executive Director, Artha Global. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India, will be a part-time member. The 16th Finance Commission would have to make its report available by October 31, 2025 covering a period of five years from April 1, 2026.

Former Railway Board Chief Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Former Railway Board Chief Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Former chief PD Vaghela vacated the post in November 2023 after his two-year tenure ended. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Lahoti, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways ... as Chairman, TRAI for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until he attains the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has appointed Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) former Deputy Governor HR Khan as part-time Chairman.

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has appointed Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) former Deputy Governor HR Khan as part-time Chairman. Raj Vikash Verma has completed his tenure as part-time Chairman and Independent Director of the bank on 29th January, 2024 and will cease to be part-time Chairman and Independent Director of the bank. Khan is a former Deputy Governor and the Executive Director at the RBI. He was also a member of the committees on digital payments set up by the government and the RBI.

REC Limited has been bestowed with the prestigious Best Green Bond - Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been bestowed with the prestigious Best Green Bond - Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024. REC has received the award for issuance of \$750 million USD Green Bonds in April 2023 which was also the first USD Green Bond issuance from India post India's assumption of G20 Presidency and the largest ever Senior Green Bond Tranche by a South or South-East Asian issuer. The bond issue was priced at a minimum new issue premium of 7.5 bps, which was tighter than the most recent high-rated issuances from the region.

Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the nation.

Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the nation. Mr Advani has served as the Deputy Prime Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, besides heading several ministries. He has been a member of both Houses of the Parliament between 1970 and 2019. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister. He distinguished himself as our Home Minister and I&B Minister as well. Lal Krishna Advani served as the 7th Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004. He is one of the co-founders of the BJP and a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Dr Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, was honoured with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year - 2023' Award by Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India.

Dr Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, was honoured with the 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year - 2023' Award by Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India. The award, presented to her at a prestigious conference by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) on 'Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat', on 30th January, 2024, at Hotel The Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri in New Delhi recognizes her remarkable contributions to the industry that place her among the distinguished few women chairpersons of Fortune500 and ET500 India companies. The conference was attended by distinguished figures like Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and representatives of IACC. It aimed to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties between India and the US.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt gave away the best marching contingents and tableaux awards for the Republic Day Parade on January 30, 2024.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt gave away the best marching contingents and tableaux awards for the Republic Day Parade on January 30, 2024. He announced separate results – one by a panel of judges and other through an online public vote conducted by MyGov and congratulated all the winners. Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of Marching Contingents from three Services, Marching Contingents from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)/other auxiliary forces and tableaux from various States/Union Territories and Ministries/Departments. On the basis of the assessment of the panels, the results are as under: Best Marching Contingent among the three services – Sikh Regiment Contingent; Best Marching Contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces – Delhi Police Women Marching Contingent; Best three Tableaux (States/UTs); First – Odisha (Woman Empowerment in Viksit Bharat); Second – Gujrat (Dhordo : A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism); Third – Tamil Nadu (Kudavolai System in ancient Tamil

Nadu – Mother of Democracy); First position for states/UTs tableau was given to Gujarat (Dhordo: A Global Icon Of Gujarat's Border Tourism) followed by Uttar Pradesh (Viksit Bharat Samradh Virasat), Andhra Pradesh (Transforming School Education in Andhra Pradesh – Making Students Globally Competitive).

The Reserve Bank of India has issued a circular, revising the eligibility norms for the inclusion of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued a circular, revising the eligibility norms for the inclusion of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. This move comes in alignment with the Revised Regulatory Framework for UCBs released on July 19, 2022. 1. Background and Regulatory Framework Update: The circular, referenced as UBD.CO.BPD(PCB).No.20/16.05.000/2013-14 dated September 27, 2013, initially set the norms for inclusion. According to the Government of India notification F.No.3/16/2023-AC dated September 04, 2023, licensed Tier 3 and Tier 4 UCBs meeting specific criteria are eligible for inclusion.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has instructed general insurance companies to ensure that Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH).

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has instructed general insurance companies to ensure that Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH). General insurance companies are required to establish board-approved policy guidelines for AYUSH coverage and offer policyholders the choice to select their preferred treatment option. These guidelines are scheduled to be implemented from April 1, 2024. The guidelines should outline quality standards and procedures for AYUSH hospitals or daycare centres to join as network providers for cashless treatment. In recent times, AYUSH treatments have garnered increased popularity and have become an established branch of medicine. Considering the growing demand for AYUSH treatments, there is a need to consider these treatments at par with other treatments.

India has officially introduced the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, marking a significant step towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI.

India has officially introduced the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, marking a significant step towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI. Indian visitors can use their UPI-enabled application to make a payment by scanning a QR code on the Eiffel Tower website. The UPI, an instant payment system established by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016, integrates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile app, streamlining various

banking functions, seamless fund routing, and merchant payments.

With loans to some countries extended through Exim Bank of India being classified as “doubtful debt” in 2023-24, the Ministry of External Affairs has provided Rs9,013.72 crore to the financial institution after it invoked Government of India guarantee on these loans.

With loans to some countries extended through Exim Bank of India being classified as “doubtful debt” in 2023-24, the Ministry of External Affairs has provided Rs9,013.72 crore to the financial institution after it invoked Government of India guarantee on these loans. The Exim Bank had to invoke the guarantees after decade-plus old loans extended to some African countries turned into non-performing assets. The MEA has provided a further Rs4,383.40 crore in 2024-25 towards payment to Exim Bank towards guarantees that may be invoked against doubtful debts, indicating more such loans to countries might get classified as NPAs in the coming years.

ESAF Small Finance Bank has officially declared a bancassurance collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.

ESAF Small Finance Bank has officially declared a bancassurance collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance. The partnership plays a crucial role in ESAF Small Finance Bank’s strategy to broaden its range of offerings, demonstrating its commitment to providing financial security to a more extensive segment of the unbanked and under-banked population. This partnership aligns with goal of providing customers with a broad range of financial solutions.

Federal Bank launch RuPay NCMC wallet Debit cards.

Federal Bank launch RuPay NCMC wallet Debit cards. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is a feature introduced on RuPay Contactless Debit Card which allows card holders to make payments across NCMC enabled terminals at metro stations, buses, etc in an offline mode within fraction of second. NCMC is equipped with multiple functions, including stored value payments (currently up to Rs2000/- and subject to change as prescribed by RBI from time to time) to simplify travel across different modes by digitizing payment.

Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar released a book titled “9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana” at Surajkund, Faridabad.

Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar released a book titled “9 Incredible Years of Haryana Government: Emergence of a New and Vibrant Haryana” at Surajkund, Faridabad. The event also witnessed the presence of Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatraya, Chief Minister, Manohar Lal and several other distinguished guests. After releasing the book, the Vice President, in his address, described the state of Haryana

as a role model for the country. This book, highlighting the accomplishments of the current government over the past nine years, has been published in both Hindi and English languages.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled a book, 'Artificial Intelligence and National Security' at the Defence Literature Festival, "Kalam and Kavach," in Pune.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled a book, 'Artificial Intelligence and National Security' at the Defence Literature Festival, "Kalam and Kavach," in Pune. The festival, hosted by Army Southern Command at the prestigious RSAMI Institute, Pune, showcased a remarkable fusion of tradition and innovation in the realm of national security. Army Southern Command along with Pentagon Press hosted the Defence Literature Festival, Kalam and Kavach at the RSAMI Institute in Pune.

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the budget for financial year 2024-25 in the state assembly with an outlay of Rs 7.36 lakh crore, higher from current fiscal's budget of Rs 6.90 lakh crore.

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the budget for financial year 2024-25 in the state assembly with an outlay of Rs 7.36 lakh crore, higher from current fiscal's budget of Rs 6.90 lakh crore. The total outlay of Rs 7,36,437.71 crore for the next fiscal includes new schemes worth Rs 24,863.57 crore. The state's budget for 2023-24 was Rs 6.90 lakh crore that included new schemes worth Rs 32,721 crore. For the next fiscal, the state government's budget has estimated the total receipts at Rs 7,21,233.82 crore, which includes a revenue receipts estimated at Rs 6,06,802.40 crore and capital receipts at Rs 1,14,531.42 crore. The share of tax collection in revenue receipts is estimated at Rs 4,88,902.84 crore, which includes state's own tax revenue of Rs 2,70,086 crore and its share in central tax pool at Rs 2,18,816.84 crore. The total expenditure is estimated at Rs 7,36,437.71 crore.

Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane co-chaired the 12th Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting with Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Oman Dr Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi in Muscat on 31 Jan 2024.

Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane co-chaired the 12th Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting with Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Oman Dr Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi in Muscat on 31 Jan 2024. During the meeting, both sides reviewed and appreciated the robust defence cooperation between India and Oman. The JMCC meeting delved into many new areas of cooperation in the fields of training, Joint exercise, Information sharing, Oceanography, Ship Building & MRO, that would build mutual trust and

interoperability between militaries of both nations. Further, they also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest.

Global ratings agency Fitch estimate, that the fiscal deficit will reach 5.4% of the GDP in FY25, more than the government's target of 5.1% announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the interim budget.

Global ratings agency Fitch estimate, that the fiscal deficit will reach 5.4% of the GDP in FY25, more than the government's target of 5.1% announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the interim budget. Fitch termed the government's decision to lower the fiscal deficit target for FY24 to 5.8% of the GDP from 5.9% as a "modest change". The deficit target of 5.1% in FY25 would keep the government on track to reach its goal of shrinking the deficit to 4.5% in FY26. The 11% increase in capital expenditure for FY25, if implemented as planned, could achieve real GDP growth of 6.5%. The continued emphasis on capex investment, with a further 11 percent spending increase, should remain supportive of the growth outlook in 2024-25, when real GDP growth is expected at 6.5 percent.

The Indian economy is anticipated to experience a consistent growth of 6.7 percent annually from 2024 to 2031, as per the latest report by CRISIL.

The Indian economy is anticipated to experience a consistent growth of 6.7 percent annually from 2024 to 2031, as per the latest report by CRISIL. This projection slightly surpasses the pre-pandemic average of 6.6 percent. After achieving a robust 7.3 percent growth in the current fiscal year, CRISIL predicts a moderation to 6.4 percent in the next financial year. The report points out that in December 2023, India's inflation level stood at 5.7 percent, primarily driven by fluctuating vegetable prices and food grain inflation.

As per International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook update, Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.5 percent in both 2024 and 2025.

As per International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook update, Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.5 percent in both 2024 and 2025. The report pegged global growth at 3.1 percent in 2024 and 3.2 percent in 2025. Growth in China is projected at 4.6 percent in 2024 and 4.1 percent in 2025, with an upward revision of 0.4 percentage points for 2024 since the October 2023 World Economic Outlook. Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.5 percent in both 2024 and 2025, with an upgrade from October of 0.2 percentage point for both years. Global headline inflation is expected to fall from an estimated 6.8 percent in 2023 (annual average) to 5.8 percent in 2024 and 4.4 percent in 2025.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the following on 30th January 2024.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved proposed subscription of CCPS B in API Holdings Ltd by CDPQ Private Equity Asia Pte Ltd. CDPQ Private Equity Asia Pte Ltd (Acquirer) is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of CDPQ and is located in Singapore. CDPQ is a Canadian institutional fund, which acts as a long-term institutional investor that manages funds primarily for public and para-public pension and insurance plans in Canada. The Acquirer, CDPQ and their affiliates are collectively referred to as the 'Acquirer Group'. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed acquisition of additional shares of API Holdings Limited by Naspers Ventures B.V. The Naspers Ventures B.V. (Acquirer), is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Prosus N.V. (Prosus), which is in-turn, a direct subsidiary of Naspers Ltd. (Naspers). The Acquirer is an investment holding company and its principal activity is to make investments by providing direct and indirect equity and debt funding. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the subscription of compulsorily convertible preference shares of API Holdings Limited by MacRitchie Investments Pte Ltd. and EvolutionX Debt Capital Master Fund 1 Pte Ltd.

Researchers from national and international institutions have discovered a new frog species named as 'Sphaerotheca Varshaabhu' in urban Bengaluru.

Researchers from national and international institutions have discovered a new frog species named as 'Sphaerotheca Varshaabhu' in urban Bengaluru. The burrowing frog species, belonging to the genus Sphaerotheca is Named as 'Sphaerotheca Varshaabhu', which takes its name from the Sanskrit words, varsha, meaning rain, and bhu, meaning taking birth. This name is attributed to its behaviour of coming out of its burrows during early monsoon showers to breed and continue its life cycle.

Researchers of the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), functioning under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have discovered two eel species, one each from the coasts of Gulf of Mannar in Ramanathapuram and Kochi in Kerala.

Researchers of the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), functioning under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have discovered two eel species, one each from the coasts of Gulf of Mannar in Ramanathapuram and Kochi in Kerala. The species collected from the Gulf of Mannar has been named 'Ariosoma kannani' (to honour the late Prof L Kannan, Former Director of Marine Biology at Annamalai University and former Vice Chancellor of Thiruvalluvar University). And the species from Kerala coast has been named 'Ariosoma gracile' in accordance with its morphological characters. The discovery of the eels of genus Ariosoma add to the ten eel varieties recently discovered by the national bureau.

A team of researchers led by the Department of Zoology at Calicut University and Kerala Forest Research Institute has discovered a new species of kangaroo lizard named 'Agasthyagama Edge' at Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala.

A team of researchers led by the Department of Zoology at Calicut University and Kerala Forest Research Institute has discovered a new species of garden lizard at Kulamavu in Idukki. According to the research work published in the science journal Vertebrate Zoology, the new species, popularly known as the northern kangaroo lizard, has been named Agasthyagama Edge. Agasthyagama edge or the northern kangaroo lizard, which belongs to the Agamidae family, is known to have a maximum snout-vent length of 4.3 cm. The elusive northern kangaroo lizard is only 30mm to 43mm long. It lives underneath the dead leaf biomass and feeds on little insects. Unlike other garden lizards, the Agasthyagama Edge does not climb trees. If attacked, the lizard can stand upright and run on its hind legs.

The Odisha government on January 29 announced the launch of LABHA ('Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya') Yojana a 100% State-funded minimum support price (MSP) scheme for minor forest produce (MFP).

The Odisha government on January 29 announced the launch of LABHA ('Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya') Yojana a 100% State-funded minimum support price (MSP) scheme for minor forest produce (MFP). The decision, which the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik termed historic, is likely to impact the State's large tribal population, which numbers close to one crore or 23% of Odisha's total population. The LABHA Yojana aims to determine the MSP for MFP annually, ensuring that primary collectors, primarily tribals, can sell their produce at the fixed MSP. The amount will be transferred as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary's account, targeting the inclusion of over 30,000 tribal beneficiaries. The procurement automation system, aligned with the 'Vision 5T' framework, utilizes technology to ensure transparency.

Every year, International Day of Human Fraternity is observed on February 4.

Every year, International Day of Human Fraternity is observed on February 4. The International Day of Human Fraternity takes into consideration the impactful efforts of the United Arab Emirates to encourage the values of tolerance, coexistence, and peace worldwide. On February 4, 2019, the historic document - Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together – was signed by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, and Pope Francis.

World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.

World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971. The theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing". In 1971, the Ramsar Show was embraced, and in 2021, the UN General Assembly took on Resolution 75/317, which laid out 2 February as World

Wetlands Day.

World Cancer Day is observed on 4 February.

World Cancer Day is observed on 4 February. It is the global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Article X of the charter formally declared February 4 as World Cancer Day. UICC was established in the year 1993. It has its headquarters in Geneva. The 2022-2024 World Cancer Day theme is: 'Close the Care Gap: Together, we challenge those in power'.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 48th Raising Day on February 1, 2024, in New Delhi, commemorating its remarkable journey from a modest beginning in 1977 to becoming a formidable force in maritime security.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 48th Raising Day on February 1, 2024, in New Delhi, commemorating its remarkable journey from a modest beginning in 1977 to becoming a formidable force in maritime security. The ICG was formed in 1977, emerging from the need for a dedicated organization to handle diverse maritime tasks alongside the Indian Navy. Over the years, it has grown into a formidable force, boasting 158 ships and 78 aircrafts. It serves as a day to acknowledge and appreciate the vital role the Indian Coast Guard plays in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.

World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed every year in the first week of February, from February 1 to 7.

World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed every year in the first week of February, from February 1 to 7. This observation has emerged from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution that seeks a worldwide celebration of interfaith harmony. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was started in 2010 by HM King Abdullah II and HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan.

January 30th is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed in India on several dates. January 30th is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Also, March 23 is remembered as the day when three brave freedom fighters, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, were hanged by the British. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the Birla House during his evening prayers on January 30, 1948. Gandhiji was a freedom fighter, a simple man with great determination, a man who gave his life for India's independence, welfare, and development.

The 2024 edition of Safer Internet Day was celebrated on Tuesday, 6 February 2024.

The 2024 edition of Safer Internet Day was celebrated on Tuesday, 6 February 2024. This special celebration, which takes place in February of each year, aims to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people. This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day. The day started as an initiative of the EU SafeBorders project in 2004. It was taken up by the Insafe network as one of its earliest actions in 2005. The day is celebrated in approximately 200 countries and territories across the globe.

The Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) has released the rankings of business schools in 2024.

The Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) has released the rankings of business schools in 2024. The institutions are evaluated on seven parameters and ranked by Maction Consulting under the Federation for World Academics (FWA). More than 300 management institutions are evaluated, out of which, 50 government and 160 private management institutions are ranked. The IIRF rankings 2024 include six categories consisting of the Overall Ranking of Government and Private Institutions, the Top 50 Business Schools Under University Program, the Top 50 Business Schools for Research, the Top 50 Schools of Eminence for Employability and the Top 20 Emerging Business Schools. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) is the top-ranked MBA college in India. IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, and IIM Kozhikode are some of the top-ranked IIMs in India. IIM Ahmedabad's score also placed it 32.92 index points ahead of Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI) in Jamshedpur, which ranked as India's top private graduate business school for the second straight year. XLRI sneaked past the Management Development Institute Gurgaon among privates by an even thinner 2.59 index points.

India ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index for 2023, according to a Transparency International report.

India ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index for 2023, according to a Transparency International report. The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released by Transparency International shows that most countries have made little to no progress in tackling public sector corruption. Over two-thirds of the 180 ranked countries scored below 50 on the scale, indicating a prevalence of corruption. The CPI evaluates nations based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, ranging from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). For the sixth consecutive year, Denmark secures the top position on the index with a score of 90 due to its "well-functioning justice systems". Following closely, Finland and New Zealand hold the second and third positions with scores of 87 and 85, respectively. This year, the top 10 countries on the index include Norway (84), Singapore (83), Sweden (82), Switzerland (82), the Netherlands (79), Germany (78), and Luxembourg (78). Taking the bottom spots in the index are Somalia (11), Venezuela (13), Syria (13), South Sudan (13), and Yemen (16). These countries are all affected by

protracted crises, primarily armed conflicts.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director, Mukesh Ambani, has secured the top position among Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director, Mukesh Ambani, has secured the top position among Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024, was unveiled by Brand Finance in its latest survey. This year Ambani was ranked at the first position in Brand Guardianship Index 2024 among the 'Diversified' conglomerates. Ambani was ranked ahead of global majors like Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Google's Sundar Pichai, Apple's Tim Cook and Tesla's Elon Musk, as well as fellow Indians such as N Chandrasekaran of Tata Group and Anish Shah of Mahindra Group, among many others.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a MoU with Government of Maharashtra for development of Green Hydrogen and derivatives (Green Ammonia, Green Methanol) of up to 1 million Ton capacity per annum.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a MoU with Government of Maharashtra for development of Green Hydrogen and derivatives (Green Ammonia, Green Methanol) of up to 1 million Ton capacity per annum. The MoU has been signed as a part of Government of Maharashtra's Green Investment Plan for the next five years. The agreement envisages a potential investment of approximately ₹ 80,000 crores.

Kolkata-based PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and UK's Rolls-Royce have signed a 'frame and individual licence' agreement for production of the MTU IMO Tier II compliant Series 4000 marine engines to power government ships.

Kolkata-based PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and UK's Rolls-Royce have signed a 'frame and individual licence' agreement for production of the MTU IMO Tier II compliant Series 4000 marine engines to power government ships. This collaborative effort has significant market potential in coming years for all fast patrol vessels, interceptor boats and fast attack craft projects of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard. Under this agreement, the engines will be manufactured at the Diesel Engine Plant of GRSE in Ranchi.

With an objective to develop a robust National Highways network, NHAI has signed a MoU with Geological Survey of India (GSI) to provide services to NHAI for site specific geotechnical consultancy and assist in vetting of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) from geotechnical point of view.

With an objective to develop a robust National Highways network, NHAI has signed a MoU with Geological Survey of India (GSI) to provide services to NHAI for site specific geotechnical consultancy and assist in vetting of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) from geotechnical point of view. This unique initiative of collaboration between two Government organizations to share best practices will go a long way in providing strong impetus to quality construction of National Highways.

Karnataka signed a MoU with Wistron (ICT Service Management Solutions) in connection with the latter's plans to set up a laptop manufacturing plant in the State.

Karnataka signed a MoU with Wistron (ICT Service Management Solutions) in connection with the latter's plans to set up a laptop manufacturing plant in the State. Under the MoU, the Taiwan-based company would invest ₹1,500 crore to set up the laptop factory which would create around 3,000 jobs. The company has sought 32 acres of land for the proposed project, and the government is considering providing the required in the surroundings of the Bengaluru region. The global company known for technology service providing products has planned to commence works related to setting up the plant in July 2024 and to start manufacturing laptops by January 2026.

National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed an MOU with BRAC International, a Global South-led organisation with a mission to empower people and communities.

National Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (NRLPS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed an MOU with BRAC International, a Global South-led organisation with a mission to empower people and communities. The MoU has been signed for inclusion of the poorest of the poor under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), a flagship programme under MoRD. The MoU was formalised by Additional Secretary and CEO of NRLPS, Charanjit Singh and Country lead for India, BRAC International, Shweta S Banerjee in the presence of Joint Secretary, Smriti Sharan, Director, Raman Wadhwa and Executive Director, BRAC International Shameran Abed.

State-run GAIL India has signed a long term contract for procuring liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of 0.5 MTPA for a period of ten years beginning 2026.

State-run GAIL India has signed a long term contract for procuring liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of 0.5 MTPA for a period of ten years beginning 2026. This is pursuant to an MoU dated October 30, 2022, between GAIL and ADNOC P.J.S.C. This significant development between GAIL and ADNOC will reinforce the robust cultural and economic bonds between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Drone maker Marut Drones has delivered two customised drones to state-owned mining major NMDC for use in mining.

Drone maker Marut Drones has delivered two customised drones to state-owned mining major NMDC for use in mining. Equipped with cutting-edge features, including advanced sensors such as magnetometer, hyperspectral and lidar, the drones will help enhance the capabilities of the NMDC for accurate exploration and mapping. Their innovative coaxial design not only ensures stability but also facilitates precise manoeuvrability, which is crucial for effective mineral exploration.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the French Republic Mr Emmanuel Macron paid a State Visit to India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day of India.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the French Republic Mr Emmanuel Macron paid a State Visit to India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day of India. This is President Macron's second State Visit to India and the sixth visit by a French Leader as Guest of Honour for the Republic Day. President Macron's visit for India's Republic Day follows the Prime Minister's historic visit to France as Guest of Honour at the French National Day on 14 July 2023, during which the two leaders unveiled Horizon 2047. President Macron joined the President of India for an 'At-Home' reception in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Prime Minister Modi and President Macron reaffirmed their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in Horizon 2047 and other documents from the July 2023 Summit. India and France reaffirmed their commitment to jointly address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India releases All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India releases All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022. The Ministry has been conducting AISHE since 2011, covering all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in the country registered with AISHE collecting detailed information on different parameters such as student enrollment, teachers, infrastructural information, etc. The total enrolment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 4.14 crore in 2020-21. There has been an increase of around 91lakh in the enrolment from 3.42 crore(26.5%) in 2014-15. The Female enrolment has increased to 2.07 crore in 2021-22 from 2.01 crore in 2020-21. There has been an increase of around 50lakh in the female enrolment from 1.57 crore (32%) in 2014-15. The enrolment of SC students is 66.23 lakh in 2021-22 as compared to 46.07lakh in 2014-15 (an increase of 44%). The enrolment of SC Female students has increased to 31.71 lakh in 2021-22 from 29.01 lakh in 2020-21 and 21.02 lakh in 2014-15.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in collaboration with Government of Madhya Pradesh, organised a national event at Sirpur Lake, Indore through Indore Municipal Corporation and Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation, Government of Madhya Pradesh to celebrate World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2024.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in collaboration with Government of Madhya Pradesh, organised a national event at Sirpur Lake, Indore through Indore Municipal Corporation and Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation, Government of Madhya Pradesh to celebrate World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2024. The theme of WWD-2024 is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives. It highlights how wetlands contribute to flood protection, clean water, biodiversity and recreational opportunities, all of which are essential for human health and prosperity. Three publications were also released during the event including revised guidelines for 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)', 'Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool: A Practitioners' Guide', and a Compendium on Phyto-diversity of Ramsar Sites in India'. The winners of the National Slogan writing, Painting, and photography competitions on the theme of "Wetlands and Human wellbeing" were also announced. World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.

Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.

Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner. Major focus areas towards maximising administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, generic and specific training programmes and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024. Naval Civilian Personnel constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce and contribute significantly to its operational effectiveness across all domains.

The guidelines, named "Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Pilot projects for use of Green Hydrogen in the Shipping Sector", have been issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 1st February, 2024, under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The guidelines, named "Scheme Guidelines for implementation of Pilot projects for use of Green Hydrogen in the Shipping Sector", have been issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 1st February, 2024, under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Under the Mission, along with other initiatives, the Ministry of New

& Renewable Energy will implement pilot projects in the shipping sector, for replacing fossil fuels and fossil fuel-based feedstock with Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. These pilot projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and the implementing agencies nominated under this Scheme. Two areas have been identified as thrust areas under the pilot projects.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a new medal, Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak by merging four existing medals.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a new medal, Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak by merging four existing medals. Four Medals- Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal, Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak and Union Home Minister's Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science. The award will be in the form of a medal, styled and designated as the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak. The medal will be circular in shape, made of silver gold gilt, and will have embossed on the obverse the symbol of 'face of Sardar Patel' in the centre with the words of 'Jai Bharat' inscribed below and will have engraved on the upper edge, the words 'Rashtra Prahari' (in Hindi) and the words 'Sentinel of the Nation' (in English) inscribed on the lower edge. On the reverse, it will have embossed the Ashoka Chakra in the centre with the words 'Satya Seva Suraksha' inscribed below.

Chennai Metro Rail has become the first metro service to be included in the ONDC Network.

Chennai Metro Rail has become the first metro service to be included in the ONDC Network, marking a significant step forward in digital commerce for metro services. Following its launch in Chennai, ONDC has announced plans to include other metro services such as Kochi Metro, Kanpur Metro, Pune Metro, and more in its network. Customers can effortlessly purchase single journey and return journey tickets for the Chennai Metro through buyer apps on the ONDC Network like Rapido, Namma Yatri and redBus.

Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 4th National Chilika Birds Festival at an event coordinated by the department of tourism, department of forest, and Chilika Development Authority.

Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 4th National Chilika Birds Festival at an event coordinated by the department of tourism, department of forest, and Chilika Development Authority. The festival commenced with a captivating 'Photo Exhibition' grand opening. The three-day program which will continue up to January 29 witnessed the participation of 52 selected birders from different parts of India.

The Tamil Nadu government has declared 80,114.80 hectares of reserve forests in Bargur Hills in Erode district, as the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Tamil Nadu government has declared 80,114.80 hectares of reserve forests in Bargur Hills in Erode district, as the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. This stretch of protected forests, links the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary, and has been notified as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State. The announcement about the setting up of the sanctuary was first made in the 2023 State Budget. A notification issued by the Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, G.O. (Ms) No. 19, dated January 30, 2024, said these forests occupies a prominent position in the Eastern Ghats as they merge with the Western Ghat at the Nilgiris. This region is part of the corridor that connects the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) to the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Tiger Reserve and the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, and plays a crucial role in maintaining a viable tiger population.

Union Minister for the Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, launched two digital modules within the SagarSetu (NLP-Marine) platform.

Union Minister for the Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, launched two digital modules within the SagarSetu (NLP-Marine) platform. These pioneering modules, namely the Maritime Single Window (MSW) and the Mercantile Maritime Department (MMD), were inaugurated in the esteemed presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Minister of State for the Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Senior officials from the Ministry. With the launch of the Maritime Single Window (MSW) module of SagarSetu (NLP-Marine), MoPSW aligns with global standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Launched in April 2023, the 'SAGAR-SETU' mobile app, an extension of NLP-Marine, offers real-time information on vessels, gate details, container freight stations, and transactions.

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the scheme for the promotion of coal/lignite gasification projects of government PSUs and private sector with an outlay of Rs8,500 crore towards incentive for coal gasification projects under three categories.

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the scheme for the promotion of coal/lignite gasification projects of government PSUs and private sector with an outlay of Rs8,500 crore towards incentive for coal gasification projects under three categories. Total outlay of Rs8,500 crore will be provided as financial assistance for coal gasification projects under three categories. In category I, Rs4,050 crore provisioned for Government PSUs in which upto 3 projects will be supported by providing a lump-sum grant of Rs1,350 crore or 15% of capex, whichever is lower. In category II, Rs3,850 crore is provisioned for the private sector as well as Government PSUs in which a lump-sum grant of Rs1,000 crore or 15% of capex, whichever is lower provided for each project. In category III, Rs600 crore provisioned for demonstration Projects (indigenous technology) and/or small-scale product-based Gasification Plants under which a lump-sum grant of Rs100 crore or 15% of capex,

whichever is lower, will be given to the selected entity that will have a minimum Capex of Rs100 Crore and minimum production of 1500 Nm³/hr Syn gas. EGoS chaired by Secretary Coal shall be fully empowered to make any changes required in the modalities of the scheme subject to the condition that overall financial outlay remain within Rs8,500 crore.

India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscape" for the UNESCO World Heritage List of 2024-25.

India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscape" for the UNESCO World Heritage List of 2024-25. A total of 12 components have been included in the nomination. The "Maratha Military Landscapes" depict the vision of a strong military of the Maratha rulers and the exemplary fortification. The Maratha Military Landscapes express the eventful history of the country. The Salher fort, Khanderi fort, and the Panhala fort are some of the twelve forts nominated. It was between the 17th and the 19th centuries when the Maratha Military Landscapes developed. A total of 12 forts belonging to the Maratha empire have been nominated.

Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the report on the 'Status of Snow leopards in India' during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi.

Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the report on the 'Status of Snow leopards in India' during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi. The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program is the first-ever scientific exercise that reports Snow leopard population of 718 individuals in India. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is the National Coordinator for this exercise that was carried out with support the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru and WWF-India.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched the Computerization project of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) of all States and Union Territories in New Delhi on January 30, 2024.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched the Computerization project of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) of all States and Union Territories in New Delhi on January 30, 2024. This program is being organized by the Ministry of Cooperation, in collaboration with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The project, under the aegis of the Ministry of Cooperation, shows the commitment of the Modi government to modernize the cooperative sector and enhance efficiency by bringing the entire cooperative ecosystem on a digital platform.

The government announced diversion of Chenab river water through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district to expedite the 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

The government announced diversion of Chenab river water through diversion tunnels at Drabshalla in Kishtwar district to expedite the 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir. The river diversion will enable isolation of dam area at river bed for starting the critical activity of excavation and construction of dam. It will expedite project construction activities and help in minimising delays so as to facilitate all efforts being made by the project to meet the scheduled commissioning date of May 2026.

The 4th edition of the annual Orange Festival was held from 24 January to 25 January 2024 at Local ground Rüsoma village in Kohima district, Nagaland.

The 4th edition of the annual Orange Festival was held from 24 January to 25 January 2024 at Local ground Rüsoma village in Kohima district, Nagaland. Themed under "Organic Orange", the two-day festival was inaugurated by Minister for Women Resources & Horticulture Salhoutuonuo Kruse. The two-day Orange festival also showcases live music performances, culinary, art exhibitions, and other activities.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) with an outlay of Rs29,610.25 crore for another three years up to 2025-26.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) with an outlay of Rs29,610.25 crore for another three years up to 2025-26. The scheme will incentivize investments for Dairy processing and product diversification, Meat processing and product diversification, Animal Feed Plant, Breed multiplication farm, Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri-waste management) and Veterinary vaccine and drug production facilities. Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention for 8 years including two years of moratorium for loan up to 90% from the scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families distributed through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) families distributed through Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) for two more years i.e. 31 March 2026.

Under the Scheme, the Central Government gives subsidy of Rs18.50 per kg per month of sugar to AAY families of participating States. The approval is expected to extend benefits of more than Rs1850 crore during period of 15th Finance Commission (2020-21 to 2025-26). The scheme is expected to benefit about 1.89 crores AAY families of the country.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing and ratification of Bilateral Investment Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing and ratification of Bilateral Investment Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Treaty is expected to improve the confidence of the investors, especially large investors, resulting in an increase in Foreign Investments and Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) opportunities and this may have a positive impact on employment generation. The approval is expected to increase investments in India and is likely to help in realizing the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging domestic manufacturing, reducing import dependence, increasing exports etc.

The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at Kochi.

The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at Kochi. After the Covid-19 pandemic, CCSCH7 was the first session of this committee to be conducted physically. 109 delegates from 31 countries attended the session. CCSCH7 achieved excellent results. In this session, quality standards for 5 spices, namely small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allpice and star anise were finalised. CCSCH has forwarded these five standards to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) recommending for adoption at final Step 8 as full-fledged Codex standards. In this manner the committee finalised the first group standard for 'spices derived from fruits and berries' (covering 3 spices, viz, juniper berry, allspice and star anise) in the present session. The 7th session of CCSCH witnessed participation of a large number of Latin American countries for the first time.

N. Scott Momaday, whose portrayal of a disaffected World War II veteran's journey to spiritual renewal in his novel "House Made of Dawn" won a Pulitzer Prize, the first for a Native American author, died at the age of 89.

N. Scott Momaday, whose portrayal of a disaffected World War II veteran's journey to spiritual renewal in his novel "House Made of Dawn" won a Pulitzer Prize, the first for a Native American author, died at the age of 89. The death was announced in a statement by his publisher, HarperCollins. Mr. Momaday also wrote critically

acclaimed poetry, memoirs and essays. Navarre Scotté Momaday was an American and Kiowa novelist, short story writer, essayist, and poet from Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Dr Nitya Anand, who developed India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', passed away at SGPGIMS Lucknow following a protracted illness at the age of 99.

Dr Nitya Anand, who developed India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', passed away at SGPGIMS Lucknow following a protracted illness at the age of 99. From 1974 to 1984, Anand served as the Central Drug Research Institute's (CDRI) former director. Since CDRI's founding in 1951, he has been its member. He oversaw 100 PhD students, published over 400 research papers, and received over 130 patents. He was the driving force behind Centchroman's discovery, also referred to as "Saheli".

Eminent actor and director Sadhu Meher, who had made a mark in both Hindi and Odia cine industries, passed away in Mumbai at the of 84.

Eminent actor and director Sadhu Meher, who had made a mark in both Hindi and Odia cine industries, passed away in Mumbai at the of 84. A native of Manamunda in Odisha's Boudh district, Meher began his career in 1969 with Hindi films like 'Bhuvan Shome', 'Ankur', and 'Mrigaya' before shifting focus to Odia cinema. Five years later in 1974, he became the first from Odisha to win a national award for best actor, for his role in Shyam Benegal's Hindi film 'Ankur'. Meher was also known for his role in other Hindi films like 27 Down (1974), Manthan (1976) and Inkaar (1977).

Former Union minister Harmohan Dhawan died following a prolonged illness at a private hospital in Mohali at the age of 83.

Former Union minister Harmohan Dhawan died following a prolonged illness at a private hospital in Mohali at the age of 83. A former Chandigarh MP, Dhawan was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1989 as Janta Party nominee. He went on to become the civil aviation minister in the Chandra Shekhar-led government. Born on July 14, 1940, in Fatehjung, District Caimbalpur, Dhawan migrated to Ambala after Partition where he did his Matriculation from BD High School, and Intermediate from SD College, Ambala Cantt. In the year 1970, Dhawan started a small scale unit and became president of Industries Association of Chandigarh. He joined politics in 1977. Later, he entered the hospitality sector with the establishment of the "Mehfil" restaurant in 1979.

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of India of MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion.

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of India of MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion. The US approved the sale of 31 MQ-9B armed drones to India at an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion, an acquisition that will bolster India's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance patrols in sea lanes of operation. The proposed mega drone deal was announced during the historic State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi here in June 2023. It has delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale.

Dr Neeraj Mittal, Chairman, Digital Communications Commission and Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC), launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal".

Dr Neeraj Mittal, Chairman, Digital Communications Commission and Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC), launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal". Launched portal on the sidelines of 'Bharat Telecom 2024 - An Exclusive International Business Expo' being organized by Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) in collaboration with DoT from January 29-30, 2024. As part of its initiatives, the DoT announced a call for 6G R&D proposals on the integrated portal, inviting proposals for accelerated research on 6G ecosystem development. Secretary also launched Future Tech-Experts registration portal in collaboration with PANIIT USA, a pivotal step to aid and guide the Indian Telecom ecosystem. This initiative will be prominently featured on the Bharat 5G Portal.

A Green Propulsion System, developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of DRDO, has successfully demonstrated in-orbit functionality on a payload launched by PSLV C-58 mission.

A Green Propulsion System, developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of DRDO, has successfully demonstrated in-orbit functionality on a payload launched by PSLV C-58 mission. This project - 1N Class Green Monopropellant thruster for altitude control and orbit keeping of micro satellite - was sanctioned to a Bengaluru-based start-up Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd (Development Agency). The Telemetry Data from PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru has been validated with ground level solution and is found to have exceeded all performance parameters.

IIT Madras has joined hands with Munitions India (MIL) to develop India's first indigenous 155mm guided smart ammunition.

IIT Madras has joined hands with Munitions India (MIL) to develop India's first indigenous 155mm guided smart ammunition. This collaboration aims to enhance the

accuracy and range of the existing shells used in artillery guns. The objective is to achieve a circular error probable (CEP) of 10m for the 155mm shell, which refers to the radius of a circle centered at the aimpoint. Currently, the ammunition produced in the country has a CEP of 500m. Additionally, the project aims to increase the impact and lethality when the ammunition hits the target.

US space agency NASA has announced the discovery of a 'super-Earth,' a planet that might support life and is located 137 light-years away.

US space agency NASA has announced the discovery of a 'super-Earth,' a planet that might support life and is located 137 light-years away. Dubbed 'TOI-715 b', it is said to be about one and a half times as wide as Earth. The same system also might harbour a second, Earth-sized planet.

The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has partnered with ISRO for NISAR Phase II research programme.

The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has partnered with ISRO for NISAR Phase II research programme. NASA and ISRO are collaboratively developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR), scheduled for launch in 2024. NISAR aims to revolutionise earth resource observation by providing high-resolution data for extensive areas. The first phase involved the validation of ground truth data in the forest biomass of Shimoga, Hoshangabad (MP), and Nilambur regions. The second phase will concentrate on optimizing drone-mounted optical and LIDAR data for forest biomass stock estimation in the study areas of Shimoga, Nilambur, and Hoshangabad (MP) within a larger inventory plot.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Odisha.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Odisha. The trials took place between January 30 and February 2. According to the Ministry of Defence, the trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a revised robust configuration using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad to provide reduced launch acceleration.

A new satellite data acquisition and processing facility (Oceansat3 and X/L band ground station) and release of a postal stamp on marked the 25 years of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Pragatinagar.

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Master General for TS circle PVS Reddy handed over 'INCOIS My Stamp', unveiled by NITI Aayog member Vijay Kumar Saraswat, to institute director T Srinivasa Kumar in the presence of the Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran, former directors and secretaries.

China launches powerful Jielong-3 rocket, paves way for more commercial missions.

China launches powerful Jielong-3 rocket, paves way for more commercial missions. A small but powerful Chinese rocket capable of sending payloads at competitive costs delivered nine satellites into orbit, in what is gearing up to be another busy year for Chinese commercial launches. The Jielong-3, or Smart Dragon-3, blasted off from a floating barge off the coast of Yangjiang in southern Guangdong province. It was the third launch of the rocket, developed by China Rocket Co, a commercial offshoot of a state-owned launch vehicle manufacturer, since December 2022.

25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy in presence of Rear Admiral Subir Mukherjee, NM, ASY(Kochi).

25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy in presence of Rear Admiral Subir Mukherjee, NM, ASY(Kochi). This Tug is a proud flag bearer of "Make in India" initiative of Govt of India. Contract for construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tugs was concluded with M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd (M/s SSPL), an MSME, in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative of the Government of India. These Tugs are being built under the classification rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

INS Sandhayak (Yard 3025) was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at an impressive ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on February 03, 2024.

INS Sandhayak (Yard 3025), the first Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ship, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at an impressive ceremony held at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on February 03, 2024. The primary role of the ship is to carry out full scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels/routes, coastal areas and deep seas, towards enabling safe marine navigation. In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations. The commissioning ceremony marked the formal induction of the first of the four ships of the SVL Project under construction at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The project has been steered by the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy.

India finished as runner-up at the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup after a 7-2 loss to the Netherlands in the final in Muscat.

India finished as runner-up at the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey 5s Women's World Cup after a 7-2 loss to the Netherlands in the final in Muscat. Janneke van de Venne opened the account for the Dutch team in the second minute of the match. Bente van der Veldt scored twice in the next six minutes to make it 3-0. Jyoti Chhatri (20th minute) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (23rd) scored for India in the summit clash.

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympic Games, has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympic Games, has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games. He will be part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26, 2024. Bindra, a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

India's Leon Luke Mendonca clinched the 2024 Tata Steel Challengers title with a final round win over compatriot Divya Deshmukh at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.

India's Leon Luke Mendonca clinched the 2024 Tata Steel Challengers title with a final round win over compatriot Divya Deshmukh at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands. The 17-year-old Mendonca finished the tournament with 9.5 points in 13 rounds and was half a point clear of the second placed Grandmaster Daniel Dardha of Belgium and GM Marc Andria Maurizzi. Meanwhile, the candidate Dommaraju Gukesh finished as a runner-up to China's Wei Yi after a loss in the tie-break playoffs of the Masters section. Gukesh, who was in a five-way tie for the lead alongside Vidit Gujrathi, Anish Giri, Nodirbek Abdusattarov, and Yi heading into the 13th round, defeated Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo in the final round.

Khelo India Youth Games 2024, the sixth edition of the flagship event under the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on January 31, 2024.

Khelo India Youth Games 2024, the sixth edition of the flagship event under the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on January 31, 2024. Over 5,600 athletes from all over the country competed at the Khelo India Youth Games 2024, which ran from January 19 to 31. Tamil Nadu hosted the KIYG 2024 in four cities - Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore. Maharashtra defended their Khelo India Youth Games title after topping the medals tally with 57 gold medals, 48 silver and 53 bronze. It was their fourth KIYG title. Host state Tamil Nadu finished second with 38 gold, 21 silver and 39 bronze for their best-ever finish. Haryana, who have won two KIYG titles, came third with 35 gold, 22 silver and 46 bronze medals. A total of 926 medals - 278 gold, 278 silver and 370 bronze - were on offer across 26 sports at KIYG 2024 Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra also won the last edition of the KIYG held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a total medals count of 161 - 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze. No other team barring Maharashtra and Haryana have won the KIYG title to

date.