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**March
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- Awards & Recognitions
- Sports
- Economy & Business
- Appointments & Resignation
- Defence
- Books & Authors
- Important Days
- Index & Reports
- Science & Technology
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- Obituary
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The President of India, Droupadi Murmu appointed former Supreme Court judge, justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar as the chairperson of Lokpal.

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu appointed former Supreme Court judge, justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar as the chairperson of Lokpal. Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar will be the second Lokpal of India, after Pinaki Chandra Ghose, who retired in May 2022 after a two-year tenure in office. The appointment was announced nearly three weeks after a selection committee of the Prime Minister, speaker of Lok Sabha, leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India, shortlisted his name. Former chief justice of the Jharkhand high court, justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty is currently the acting chairperson and judicial member. The President also appointed former high court chief justices -- justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, justice Sanjay Yadav, justice Ritu Raj Awasthi – as judicial members. Three others Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey were appointed as the non-judicial members.

Ajay Kanwal re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jana Small Finance Bank for three years.

Jana Small Finance Bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to re-appoint Ajay Kanwal as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for 3 years beginning 21 March 2024. His reign will last until 20 March 2027. Kanwal has more than 33 years of experience in financial services and has held various leadership positions in his banking career. He was the regional CEO of ASEAN and South Asia at Standard Chartered Bank before joining Jana SFB, and he also worked briefly as a Senior Advisor for TPG and Mastercard.

Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL).

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has announced the appointment of Mundkur S Kamath as the Managing Director (MD), following approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Kamath, who has been serving as the Executive Director since 2022, has been confirmed as the full-time MD until the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027, or until further notice, whichever comes earlier. The Board of Directors of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited appointed Shri Mundkur Shyamprasad Kamath, as Additional Director designated as Managing Director on the Board of the Company vice Shri Sanjay Varma in compliance with provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Regulations, 2015.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB), effective 29 February 2024.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of Tuticorin-based Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB), effective 29 February 2024. The approval is subject to Ravindran, stepping down from his directorships in Shriram Finance and Bandhan AMC, before assuming charge as the part-time chairman of the bank. This comes after the apex bank declined TMB's recommendation to appoint B Vijayadurai as part time non-executive chairman of the lender last year. Ravindran is also a chartered accountant and cost accountant. He has an extensive work experience of 29 years at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), where he served as the executive director from August 2011 to May 2022.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took oath his second term as Pakistan's prime minister.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took oath his second term as Pakistan's prime minister. Shehbaz's party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will lead a coalition government with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) as a key partner. The development comes despite former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed independents emerging as the largest number of winners, followed by PML-N and PPP. Shehbaz has earlier led a coalition government for 16 months till August 2023. Shehbaz Sharif is a Pakistani politician and businessman who is currently Prime Minister-elect of Pakistan. Previously, he served as the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan, in office from April 2022 to August 2023. He is the president of the Pakistan Muslim League.

Shri Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC Limited has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, NHPC Limited with effect from 1st March 2024.

Shri Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC Limited has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, NHPC Limited with effect from 1st March 2024. He joined NHPC on 18th November 1988 as Finance Professional. He is a member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India. He is also a member of Executive Board of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), New Delhi. He has proved himself as an outstanding Finance professional and has made his mark in the sustained progress of NHPC.

Hungary's parliament elected Constitutional Court chief Tamas Sulyok as the country's next president.

Hungary's parliament elected Constitutional Court chief Tamas Sulyok as the country's next president. Tamás Sulyok is a Hungarian lawyer who is serving as President of Hungary since 2024. He was the president of the Constitutional Court from 2016 until 2024. He was the Fidesz–KDNP candidate for the 2024 presidential election. Sulyok was nominated by the ruling coalition holding 135 out of 199 seats in

Hungary's parliament. All the pro-government lawmakers voted in favor of Sulyok, thus ensuring his victory in the first round of voting.

Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee, the Bengali translator of Stalin's Couch, has won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize.

Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee, the Bengali translator of Stalin's Couch, has won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize. Instituted in 2017 by the French Institute in India, it recognises translations of French books into Indian languages, including English. This is the second time a Bengali translator has won the prize, with Trinanjan Chakraborty winning for Kamel Daoud's Meursault, contre-enquête in 2022. The French original, Le Divan de Staline, by Jean-Daniel Baltassat, has been adapted into a 2016 movie of the same name.

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become 1st Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III.

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become 1st Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III. The award grants Mr. Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK. Airtel Africa is listed on the London Stock Exchange. Mittal in recent months led the revival of OneWeb, leading a consortium with the UK Government and other strategic investors to offer satellite broadband services globally. He is a member of the India-UK CEO Forum as well as a member of the Vice Chancellor's Circle of Advisors at the University of Cambridge.

The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi, at its meeting held at New Delhi unanimously elected 6 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna).

The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi, at its meeting held at New Delhi unanimously elected 6 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The Fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time. The General Council also selected 92 artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/ Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 & 2023. The General Council of the Akademi has also selected 80 young artists for Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2022 and 2023. The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of Rs25,000/- besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram. These awards will be conferred by the Chairman, Sangeet Natak

Akademi in a special ceremony. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards will be conferred by the Hon'ble President of India in a special investiture ceremony.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the Retirement Adviser (RA) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the Retirement Adviser (RA) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 on 20 February 2024. The amendments to Retirement Adviser Regulations simplify the provisions related to eligibility criteria, timelines to expedite the process of registration and removal of the requirement of submission of security deposits with an objective of Ease of Doing Business. Also now applications have to be disposed within 30 days and there is no need for security deposit, according to the Pension Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). These simplifications are in line with the Union Budget 2023-24 announcement to review regulations to reduce the cost of compliance and enhance the Ease of Doing Business.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a Financial Literacy Ideathon for postgraduate students, currently enrolled in recognised educational institutions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a Financial Literacy Ideathon for postgraduate students, currently enrolled in recognised educational institutions. The students are expected to come up with creative strategies to propagate financial literacy among the youth so as to empower them to engage in responsible financial behaviour and take informed financial decisions. The objective is to increase awareness on the advantages of inculcating financial discipline from an early age with inputs on saving, budgeting, power of compounding, banking essentials and cyber hygiene. Entries for the Ideathon can be submitted from February 26 - March 20, 2024. Prizes will be awarded to the top three submissions -- first prize: ₹1 lakh; second prize: ₹75,000; and third prize: ₹50,000.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) priced a USD 3.5 billion 5-year global bond, aimed at bolstering its ordinary capital resources and advancing its mission across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) priced a USD 3.5 billion 5-year global bond, aimed at bolstering its ordinary capital resources and advancing its mission across the Asia-Pacific region. This issue garnered around USD 14 billion of investor participation and is ADB's second-largest orderbook ever for a global benchmark bond. Notably, the 5-year bond features a coupon rate of 4.375 percent per annum, payable semi-annually, and is set to mature on 6 March 2029. Priced at 99.827 percent, the bond offers a yield of 12.7 basis points over the 4.25 percent United States Treasury notes due February 2029. The broad primary market distribution saw

35 percent of the bond placed in the Americas, 33 percent in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and the remaining 32 percent in Asia. In terms of investor type, banks accounted for 50 percent of the allocation, followed by central banks and official institutions at 37 percent, with fund managers and other investors comprising 13 percent.

Reserve Bank of India has revised regulatory framework for Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS) based on a review of developments in the payments landscape to streamline the bill payments process, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection.

Reserve Bank of India has revised regulatory framework for Bharat Bill Payment Systems (BBPS) based on a review of developments in the payments landscape to streamline the bill payments process, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection. The new framework, applicable from April 1, 2024, looks to streamline the process of bill payments, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection, among other changes. These directions seek to streamline the process of bill payments, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection among other changes. The revised framework will apply from April 1, 2024 to banks, NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited and other non-bank payment system participants.

Reserve Bank of India has updated the 'Enabling Framework for Regulatory Sandbox', increasing the timelines for various stages of the sandbox process and allowing applicants to enter into in-principle partnerships before applying for the sandbox.

Reserve Bank of India has updated the 'Enabling Framework for Regulatory Sandbox', increasing the timelines for various stages of the sandbox process and allowing applicants to enter into in-principle partnerships before applying for the sandbox. The RBI revised the timeline for the completion of various stages of a Regulatory Sandbox (RS) to 9 months from the previous 7. The updated framework for an RS also requires sandbox entities to ensure compliance with provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The framework (for RS) has been revised based on the experience gained over the last four and half years in running four cohorts and feedback received from fintechs, banking partners and other stakeholders.

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU with Greece-based Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments.

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), a subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an MoU with Greece-based Eurobank S.A. to enhance cross-border UPI payments. This agreement is aimed at revolutionising the

process of international money transfers, with a specific focus on streamlining remittances from Greece to India. The signing of MoU lays foundation for an alliance wherein both parties shall interface with each other as a point of contact for enabling Foreign Inward Remittance transactions from Greece to India. A strategic alliance with NPCI International is also fully in line with Eurobank's strategic commitment to becoming the bank of choice for Indian businesses seeking to establish themselves in Greece or in Cyprus, as an entry point for their EU franchise.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' to offers consumers the maximum value and flexibility to meet their credit needs.

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' to offers consumers the maximum value and flexibility to meet their credit needs. The offers five key features and would turn out to be a compelling alternative to conventional credit options. These key features are: 1) fixed monthly interest rate as low as 0.88 percent, i.e., 10.56 percent per annum 2) zero processing fee, 3) same day disbursement, 4) flexible repayment options and 5) minimal documentation.

World Bank has approved new programme of \$452 million loan to support Assam to improve connectivity for over 1.8 million people living in rural areas.

World Bank has approved new programme of \$452 million loan to support Assam to improve connectivity for over 1.8 million people living in rural areas. USD 452 million Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program is aimed at strengthening the resilience and management of roads and bridges to help people living in 1,739 villages gain round-the-year access to wholesale markets, schools, hospitals, and places of work. The \$452 million Programme loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will use the financing instruments of Program-for-Results and Investment Project Financing to link disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of results while providing technical assistance. The Program will also connect almost 633,000 women-led textile and handicraft producers living within 2 km of roads or collection points. The World Bank loan has a maturity of 19 years with a grace period of 4.5 years.

REC Limited has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.

REC Limited has partnered with the Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED) to support the education of around 75,500 children of Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh. REC has entered into this partnership through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm REC Foundation. REC has committed a financial assistance of Rs9.91 crores towards this noble cause. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between REC Foundation and UNISED has been signed during a ceremony held in New Delhi. The agreement was finalized by Head of CSR at REC

Foundation, Bhupesh Chandolia and Assistant Programme Director at UNISED, Rashmi Kumari, thus helping solidify UNISED's commitment to improving educational opportunities for underprivileged children. As part of this collaboration, UNISED will implement solar energy-operated smart classes and establish joyful learning resource labs in government schools across Siddharthnagar district.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred JM Financial Products Ltd (JMFPL) from financing against shares and debentures, including sanction and disbursal of loans against initial public offering (IPO) of shares with immediate effect.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred JM Financial Products Ltd (JMFPL) from financing against shares and debentures, including sanction and disbursal of loans against initial public offering (IPO) of shares with immediate effect. The action was necessitated due to certain serious deficiencies observed in respect of loans sanctioned by JMFPL, is a systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial company (NBFC) for IPO financing as well as non-convertible debentures (NCD) subscriptions. The RBI carried out a limited review of the books of the company on the basis of the information shared by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The business restrictions imposed on JMFPL will be reviewed upon the completion of a special audit to be instituted by the RBI and after rectification of the deficiencies to the satisfaction of RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) to launch interoperable payment system for internet banking to facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL) to launch interoperable payment system for internet banking to facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants. The launch of this facility will be done this calendar year. Currently, internet banking transactions processed through Payment Aggregators (PAs) are not interoperable, implying that a bank is required to separately integrate with each PA of different online merchants. Given the multiple number of payment aggregators, it is difficult for each bank to integrate with every PA.

Infibeam Avenues Ltd received the final authorisation for operating as an Online Payment Aggregator by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Infibeam Avenues Ltd received the final authorisation for operating as an Online Payment Aggregator by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The in-principle approval for this authorisation was granted in October 2022. Currently, a total of over 10 million merchants are available on Infibeam's CCAvenue platform, with the company crossing the onboarding of half a million merchants in the first half of financial year 2024 itself.

REC Ltd, a leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has successfully listed

two bonds worth Rs5,375 crore on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

REC Ltd, a leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has successfully listed two bonds worth Rs5,375 crore on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). One bond is worth Rs2,500 crores and has a 10-year maturity, with a redemption date of February 28, 2034, and yield of 7.47 percent. The other one is worth Rs2,875 crores with a maturity period of 3 years plus 2 months, with a redemption date of April 30, 2027 and a yield of 7.64 percent. These bonds are rated IND AAA by IRPL and ICRA AAA by ICRA.

Author Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, career diplomat and former assistant secretary general of the United Nations, launched her book 'Swallowing the Sun'.

Author Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, career diplomat and former assistant secretary general of the United Nations, launched her book 'Swallowing the Sun'. The book tells the powerful story of Malati, a brave woman during India's fight for freedom, and explores themes of independence, love, and difficult decisions. The book was launched by actor Kabir Bedi and author-publisher David Davidar at ITC Maurya, in New Delhi on 21 February, 2024. The event started with Ms. Neelima Dalmia Adhar, author & Honorary Convenor of Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF)-Delhi NCR. The Novel is published by Aleph Book Company.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a coffee table book titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a coffee table book titled 'FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023'. This book brought out by Sportstar, the sports magazine of The Hindu Group. The book captures moments from the 15th FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Patnaik highlighted the success of the World Cup in promoting hockey and engaging the younger generation.

As part of 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence' and to further boost Make-in-India initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs39,125.39 crore on 1st March 2024 in New Delhi.

As part of 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence' and to further boost Make-in-India initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs39,125.39 crore on 1st March 2024 in New Delhi. The Contracts were exchanged in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, under whose guidance these deals fructified. Out of the five contracts, one was with M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, two with Larsen & Toubro Limited and procurement of High-Power Radar (HPR) and two with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL). These deals will further strengthen indigenous

capabilities, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on Foreign Origin Equipment Manufactures in future. The contract for procurement of BrahMos missiles has been signed with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) at a cost of Rs19,518.65 crore. The contract for Procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system has also been signed with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) at a cost of Rs988.07 crore. The project is likely to generate employment of around 60,000 man-days over a period of 7-8 years.

Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2024, 3rd edition of India-Malaysia bilateral exercise, was held from 28 February to 2 March 2024 at Visakhapatnam.

Exercise Samudra Laksamana 2024, 3rd edition of India-Malaysia bilateral exercise, was held from 28 February to 2 March 2024 at Visakhapatnam. Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Naval Ship KD Lekir are participated in this exercise. The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy. Under Exercise Samudra Laksamana, the crews of the Indian and Malaysian navies held talks related to various procedures at the port.

Global rating agency Moody's raised India's GDP growth projection for 2024 calendar year to 6.8%, up from the 6.1% earlier.

Global rating agency Moody's raised India's GDP growth projection for 2024 calendar year to 6.8%, up from the 6.1% earlier. The increase in estimate was attributed to India's robust economic performance in 2023 and diminishing global economic challenges. Surpassing the analysts' expectations of 6.6 percent, India's economy grew 8.4 percent during the October-December quarter. However, the gross value added (GVA), which is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in the economy and excludes indirect taxes and subsidies, grew 6.5 percent. This year's interim budget targets capital expenditure allocation of Rs11.1 lakh crore or 3.4 percent of GDP in 2024-25 (fiscal year 2025), 16.9 percent above the 2023-24 estimates.

NTPC Green Energy Limited has signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited to develop renewable power parks and projects in Uttar Pradesh.

NTPC Green Energy Limited has signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited to develop renewable power parks and projects in Uttar Pradesh. The renewable energy (RE) power generated from the proposed joint venture company (JVC) will meet the Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO) of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL).

As per State Bank of India (SBI) report 'Ecowrap', GDP growth for the current financial year (FY24) could be within striking distance of 8 percent.

As per State Bank of India (SBI) report 'Ecowrap', GDP growth for the current financial year (FY24) could be within striking distance of 8 percent. The economy grew 8.4 percent in the third quarter of 2023-24 after exhibiting more than 8 percent growth in the preceding two quarters. The buoyancy in indirect tax mop-up (32 percent year-on-year growth), gap between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) growth widened. For fiscal 2023-24 GDP growth is expected to increase 7.6 percent and GVA growth by 6.9 percent. Fourth quarter GDP growth is expected at 5.9 percent. With the revisions, the GDP growth during April-December works out to be 8.2 percent.

The Indian economy grow 8.4 percent during the October-December quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (Q3FY24), according to gross domestic product (GDP) data released by the Statistics Ministry.

The Indian economy grow 8.4 percent during the October-December quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (Q3FY24), according to gross domestic product (GDP) data released by the Statistics Ministry. GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q3 of 2023-24 is estimated at ₹43.72 lakh crore, against ₹40.35 lakh crore in Q3 of 2022-23, showing a growth rate of 8.4 percent. GDP at current prices in Q3 of 2023-24 is estimated at ₹75.49 lakh crore, as against ₹68.58 lakh crore in Q3 of 2022-23, showing a growth rate of 10.1 percent. The RBI had maintained real GDP growth for 2023-24 at 7 percent with Q3 at 6.5 percent and Q4 at 6 percent. The construction sector also grew by 9.5 percent, driving growth in the quarter under review. Public administration, defence and other services posted 7.5 percent growth against 3.5 percent in the third quarter of the last fiscal.

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of sea slug named 'Melanochlamys Droupadi' in West Bengal and Odisha and have named it after the country's president.

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of sea slug named 'Melanochlamys Droupadi' in West Bengal and Odisha and have named it after the country's president. The marine slug is brownish-black with a ruby red spot and grows to a maximum length of up to seven millimetres. They collected nearly 150 specimens from the north-eastern coast of the Bay of Bengal and a thorough molecular analysis confirmed the novel status of the species. All the specimens were collected from the Digha coast of West Bengal and the Udaipur coast of Odisha state, along the north-western Bay of Bengal. Sea slugs live in marine habitats and are found across the planet from the shallow intertidal areas, to the deep sea, and from the polar to tropical regions. They feed on other small animals, including other species of smaller sea slugs, marine worms, as well as small fishes. It is the second species from the Indian region and the third true tropical species.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on 4th March 2024.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on 4th March 2024. Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology. The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology. It aims to develop about 30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies in the proposed timeframe. In the first edition of ADITI, 17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4) - have been launched.

International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is annually observed on 5th March to promote public awareness, particularly among youth, about the importance of disarmament.

International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is annually observed on 5th March to promote public awareness, particularly among youth, about the importance of disarmament. On 7 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution for. Declared 5 March every year as "International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day". The first International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness was observed on 5 March 2023. 5th March 2024 mark the observance of the second International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness.

World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and the need to protect endangered species.

World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and the need to protect endangered species. The theme of World Wildlife Day 2024 is 'Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation'. On 20 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 3 as the United Nations World Wildlife Day.

National Safety Week 2024 is being celebrated from 4 March to 10 March.

National Safety Day is observed every year on 4th March to spread awareness about the safety of workers in all sectors. National Safety Week 2024 is being celebrated from 4 March to 10 March. This year's theme is 'Focus on Safety Leadership for

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Excellence'. 4th March 2024 marks the observance of 53rd National Safety Week/National Safety Day. The Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Indian government established the National Safety Council on March 4, 1996. It is a self-supporting, non-governing organization. In 2000, the Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950 was used to create the National Safety Council as a public trust. In 1972, National Safety Day was announced to celebrate the establishment of National Safety Day.

Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed on 1st March to promote inclusion, equality, peace and create awareness among people.

Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed on 1st March to promote inclusion, equality, peace and create awareness among people about their rights to live a peaceful life, address discrimination and its impact on individuals, communities and societies. The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014 after UNAIDS, a joint United Nations program on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on 'World AIDS Day' in December 2013. The then-Executive Director of UNAIDS Michel Sidibé launched the day in 2014 with a major event in Beijing. The theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2024 is "To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights".

World Civil Defence Day is annually observed on 1st March to raise awareness about the measures that should be taken to ensure that people are safeguarded.

World Civil Defence Day is annually observed on 1st March to raise awareness about the measures that should be taken to ensure that people are safeguarded. In 1990, World Civil Defence Day was announced by International Civil Defence Organisation to promote safeguarding of people and their properties from accidents, natural calamities and other emergencies. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution inviting member states to observe March 1st as World Civil Defense Day. The theme of World Civil Defense Day 2024 is "Honor Heroes and Promote Safety Skills".

The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) celebrated its 48th Civil Accounts Day on 1st March 2024.

Civil Accounts Day is annually observed across India on 1 March to mark the Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS). The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) celebrated its 48th Civil Accounts Day on 1st March 2024. The occasion marks the establishment of the ICAS in 1976, separating the maintenance of accounts of the Union Government from audit. Consequent to a historical reform in Public Financial Administration, the maintenance of Accounts of the Union Government was separated from that of Audit by promulgation of ordinances by the President of India on March 1, 1976 paving the way for Departmentalized accounts. Consequently, the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) was constituted in 1976 and is headed by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Every year on the 1st of March, the organization celebrates its Foundation Day.

Rare Disease Day is observed on the last day of February, However, since the year 2024 is a leap year, Rare Disease Day is being observed on February 29.

Rare Disease Day is observed on the last day of February. However, since the year 2024 is a leap year, Rare Disease Day will be observed on February 29. In the year 2008, EURORDIS, with the Council of National Alliances announced Rare Diseases Day to be observed on February 29 keeping in mind the rarity of the date in the calendar. In the first year of celebrations, Rare Disease Day saw participation from eighteen countries in Europe. Since then, Rare Disease Day has been observed on the last day of February every year. Rare Disease Day is observed to create awareness on the rare diseases that exist and how they can affect the daily lives of the patients. Rare diseases, despite their name, are a significant health concern affecting millions worldwide. The theme for Rare Disease Day 2024 is "Share Your Colours".

World Seagrass Day is annually observed on 1st March to enhancing ecosystem services and functions is important for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

World Seagrass Day is annually observed on 1st March to enhancing ecosystem services and functions is important for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In May 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming March 1 as World Seagrass Day. The resolution by the General Assembly highlighted the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the conservation of seagrasses in order to contribute to their health and development, bearing in mind. 1st March 2024 marks the observance of the 2nd World Seagrass Day.

World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year to create awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss.

World Hearing Day is observed on March 3 every year to create awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss. The theme for World Hearing Day 2024 is "Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all!". It has been sponsored by WHO's Office for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness since 2007. Earlier, this day was recognized as 'International Ear Care Day'. After 2016, WHO renamed it as World Hearing Day. 3rd March 2024 marks the observance of the 18th World Hearing Day.

National Security Day (NSD) or Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas, is annually observed on March 4 in India to honours the Indian security forces.

National Security Day (NSD) or Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas, is annually observed on March 4 in India to honours the Indian security forces. The purpose of the day is to

express gratitude to our security forces, which include the police, paramilitary, guards, commandos, army officers, and other forces involved in maintaining our country's peace and security. The idea of National Security Day was launched in 1972. On March 4, 1966, the Ministry of Labour established the Safety Council to promote a long-term safety, health, and environmental movement.

World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is celebrated every year on 4th March to unite the world to take a stand against all forms of sexual exploitation.

World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is celebrated every year on 4th March to unite the world to take a stand against all forms of sexual exploitation. Since 2009, March 4th has been designated World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation. UNICEF estimated that over three million children worldwide are concerned by prostitution, and the International Labour Organization estimates that a million people are trafficked every year for purposes of sexual exploitation. The United Nations General Assembly designates July 30 as World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

World Obesity Day is annually observed on 4th March with the aim of changing perspectives on obesity, correcting misconceptions, ending stigmas and raising awareness on this medical condition.

World Obesity Day is annually observed on 4th March with the aim of changing perspectives on obesity, correcting misconceptions, ending stigmas and raising awareness on this medical condition. The day was convened by the World Obesity Federation in collaboration with its global members and was first observed in 2015 as an annual campaign. The theme of World Obesity Day 2024 is "Let's Talk About Obesity and..."

India's ranked improved to 113 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index, according to the 10th edition of Women, Business, and the Law (WBL) 2024 report released by the World Bank Group.

India's ranked improved to 113 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index, according to the 10th edition of Women, Business, and the Law (WBL) 2024 report released by the World Bank Group. The index measures the gender gap for women in the workplace. Over the years, India's score has remained constant at 74.4%, whereas a total of 14 countries around the world, including Denmark, Canada, and Finland, score a perfect 100 in the legal framework score. Some of the less developed countries like Ethiopia, Namibia, and even Burundi have better scores than India. Only 54.2% of the supportive frameworks needed were established in the country, the report revealed, although the global weightage in this regard was much lower at 39.5%. Furthermore, no economy has achieved complete legal equality for women. Women spend an average of 2.4 more hours a day on unpaid care work than men—much of it on the care of children.

The US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of its International IP (intellectual property) Index 2024, India ranked at 42 out of the 55 countries in the index with an overall score of 38.64 percent.

The US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of its International IP (intellectual property) Index 2024, India ranked at 42 out of the 55 countries in the index with an overall score of 38.64 percent. The United States emerged at the top of the list followed by the United Kingdom and France. The Index demonstrates the benefits that economies can receive when they adopt robust and enforceable IP standards. The top 10 economies in the world for IP rights are as follows: 1. United States (95.48%); 2. United Kingdom (94.12%); 3. France (93.12%); 4. Germany (92.46%); 5. Sweden (92.12%); 6. Japan (91.26%); 7. Netherlands (91.24%); 8. Ireland (89.38%); 9. Spain (86.44%); 10. Switzerland (85.98%). The report highlighted concerns over India's IP regime, pointing out the dissolution of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board in 2021 and a judiciary that lacks adequate resources.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the new Airstrip and St. James Jetty along with six community development projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius on 29 February 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the new Airstrip and St. James Jetty along with six community development projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius on 29 February 2024. The inauguration of these projects is a testimony to the robust and decades-old development partnership between India and Mauritius. The projects will fulfil the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agalega, strengthen maritime security and foster socio-economic development.

The Southeast Asian countries Comoros and Timor-Leste formally joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO), becoming the 165th and 166th members of the global trade body.

The 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has concluded with the acceptance of the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration. Hosted by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), MC13 held across five days at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center. The Abu Dhabi Declaration reflects consensus on a series of key trade and development policies. Ministers formally approved the WTO membership terms of Comoros and Timor-Leste at a special ceremony held at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi on 26 February 2024. The Southeast Asian countries Comoros and Timor-Leste formally joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO), becoming the

165th and 166th members of the global trade body.

Ministry of Defence has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with BEML Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited for indigenous development of Advanced Fuelling and Control System for Engines for heavy duty applications.

Ministry of Defence has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BEML Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) for indigenous development of Advanced Fuelling and Control System for Engines for heavy duty applications. The MoU was inked with Chairman & Managing Director, BEML Limited Shantanu Roy, CMD, MIDHANI Dr SK Jha and CMD, BEL Bhanu Prakash Srivastava, in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane in New Delhi on March 04, 2024. This collaborative initiative will focus on leveraging indigenous capabilities to design, test, and manufacture an Advanced Fuelling and Control System that offers enhanced efficiency, performance, and reliability.

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an MoU with Qualcomm to establish a strategic partnership that will foster innovation in India and support India based developers and start-ups working on innovative products and use cases.

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an MoU with Qualcomm to establish a strategic partnership that will foster innovation in India and support India based developers and start-ups working on innovative products and use cases. Qualcomm Technologies will support C-DOT with expertise and best practices, state-of-the-art technology, intellectual property training and tools, for enabling Indian startups, academia, and OEMs, and fast tracking the development and commercialization of indigenous telecom products. At the Mobile World Congress 2024 in Barcelona, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), supported by the Government of India, and Qualcomm Technologies have forged a strategic collaboration to advance Atmanirbhar Bharat and drive innovation within India's telecom sector.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a Joint venture Agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) for development of Renewable Energy Parks in the state of Maharashtra.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a Joint venture Agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) for development of Renewable Energy Parks in the state of Maharashtra. The company to be set up under the joint venture will develop GW-scale renewable energy parks and undertake projects of this scale in a phased manner. The agreement aligns with the green energy objectives of NTPC and is another step in the Government of

India's efforts towards energy transition. The Joint Venture Agreement was signed at NTPC headquarters in New Delhi by Director (Projects), MAHAGENCO, Abhay Harne and CGM (NGEL), V V Sivakumar.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd signed a joint venture agreement for setting up an ammonium nitrate plant in Odisha through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd signed a joint venture agreement for setting up an ammonium nitrate plant in Odisha through surface coal gasification (SCG) technology route. The plant will be set up in Odisha's Lakhanpur area of Coal India's subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd and is planned to produce 2000 tons of ammonium nitrate per day initially. The annual production is slated at 6.6 lakh tons of ammonium nitrate which would require 1.3 million tonnes of coal. The coal will be supplied by Coal India, while BHEL would bring to the table indigenously developed pressurized fluidized bed gasification technology for this purpose.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has signed a MoU with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to promote women led development in rural areas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has signed a MoU with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to promote women led development in rural areas. The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, Ministry of Rural Development Shri Charanjit Singh and Deputy Managing Director, NABARD Dr A K Soodin the presence of Chairman NABARD Shri VK Shaji and other senior officials from MoRD and NABARD. This MoU with NABARD will add to the multiple support initiatives which the Ministry under DAY-NRLM undertaking to enhance livelihood opportunities of SHG women. This will help enable SHG Didis graduate as entrepreneurs and enhance their incomes to become Lakhpati Didis as envisioned by the Prime Minister.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has amended the green credit Rules to incentivise environmental action and bolster forest restoration efforts.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has amended the green credit Rules to incentivise environmental action and bolster forest restoration efforts. The amendment introduces explicit criteria for land eligibility, outlines application procedures, and introduces a standardised methodology for calculating green credits generated through tree plantation activities. A green credit is a unit of incentive awarded for carrying out actions that have a positive environmental impact. It works like a reward point for activities such as tree planting, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, or pollution reduction. According to the notification, tree plantation for green credits can now only occur on degraded land parcels under state

or Union Territory control, encompassing open forests, scrub lands, wastelands, and catchment areas. The minimum land size for such projects is set at 5 hectares.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw released a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 100 years of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), one of the largest and oldest trade unions of railway workers.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw released a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 100 years of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), one of the largest and oldest trade unions of railway workers. Over 5,000 workers gathered at the Karnail Singh railway stadium in Delhi to honor illustrious history and the leaders who made significant sacrifices to protect the rights of workers. The unveiling of the postal stamp showcased the enduring legacy and invaluable contributions of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to India's railway system. It stands as a poignant reminder of the AIRF's century-long commitment to championing the rights and well-being of railway employees across India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was visit Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh on 22 February and 23 February 2024 during which he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs61,000 crore in the two states.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was visit Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh on 22 February and 23 February 2024 during which he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs61,000 crore in the two states. While Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone and initiate work commencement of multiple development projects worth more than Rs48,000 crore in Gujarat, he also launched and inaugurated projects worth over Rs13,000 crore for transforming Varanasi and its adjoining areas. In Ahmedabad, PM participated in the golden jubilee celebration of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). He visited Kakrapar Atomic Power Station and dedicate to the nation two new Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). He participated in a programme for prize distribution to the winners of Sansad Sanskrit Pratiyogita at Swatantra Sabhagar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He attend a public function commemorating the 647th birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas. He dedicate to the nation important projects, including Bharat Net Phase-II - Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited, which will provide high-speed Internet to more than 8,000 gram panchayats, multiple projects for rail line doubling, gauge conversion, new broad-gauge line in Mahesana and Banaskantha districts, and multiple road projects.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal launched 'Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry' and the website and logo of Startup Mahakumbh.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal launched 'Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry' and the website and logo of Startup Mahakumbh. Startup Mahakumbh is reflective of the India growth story. Bharat Startup Ecosystem Registry, to create a comprehensive database with details about all the startup ecosystem stakeholders under one roof across different categories. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal became the first person to register on the platform, signifying the government's commitment to nurturing India's burgeoning startup ecosystem. It is envisaged that the registry will facilitate easy access and discovery, fostering collaboration and growth within the ecosystem. Each registered user will receive a unique ID and access a personalised dashboard to connect with relevant stakeholders and access resources.

Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India, Smriti Zubin Irani has launched the logo and the website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality.

Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India, Smriti Zubin Irani has launched the logo and the website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality. Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, and other dignitaries were present at the occasion. The logo symbolises the collective nature of the alliance, reinforcing the message of collective wisdom and strength for Gender equity and equality. The Alliance is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and anchored by the CII Centre for Women Leadership with the World Economic Forum as a 'Network Partner' and Invest India as an 'Institutional Partner'.

12 distinctive products from Arunachal Pradesh received Geographical Indication (GI) tags with the support of NABARD.

12 distinctive products from Arunachal Pradesh received Geographical Indication (GI) tags with the support of NABARD. These products included Apatani textile, Monpa textile, Nyishi textile, Monpa handmade paper, Adi textile, Singpho Phalap (Singpho tea), Galo textile, Adi Apong, Dao (sword), Angnyat millet, Marua Apo (Marua millet beverage) and Tai Khamti textile. With this, a total of 20 indigenous products from the region have been given GI tags.

The Education Ministry and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry have jointly launched a nationwide awareness campaign "Mera pehla vote desh ke liye (my first vote for the country)", to encourage the first-time voters to participate in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The Education Ministry and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry have jointly launched a nationwide awareness campaign "Mera pehla vote desh ke liye (my first vote for the country)", to encourage the first-time voters to participate in the 2024 Lok

Sabha election. The main objective of the initiative is to engage and encourage young voters to come out and vote and to convey the importance of voting for the larger good of the nation. A comprehensive Voter Awareness campaign is being organised in different Higher Educational institutions across the country to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections. Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan directed all higher education institutions in the country to conduct comprehensive voter awareness activities at their campuses starting from February 28 to March 6, 2024.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group organised a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank Group organised a National Workshop on Logistics Efficiency Enhancement in New Delhi. The inaugural session of the workshop was held in the presence of Additional Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Rajeev S. Thakur; Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Shri E. Srinivas; Country Director, World Bank, Mr. Auguste Tano Kouame; and Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ms. Mio Oka. Over 100 participants from various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, officials from States, Multilateral Institutions, and Industry Associations participated in the event. The workshop was divided into three sessions. Session I covered discussions on the approach and methodology adopted in the calculation of the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by the World Bank. Session II discussed the corridor approach including Bharatmala and Sagarmala Corridors which is enhancing logistics efficiency, bringing down logistics costs, and increasing first and last mile connectivity. During session III, officials from States shared best practices, reforms, and digital initiatives undertaken to improve logistics efficiency.

According to a report 'Status of Leopards in India' released by the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

According to a report 'Status of Leopards in India' released by the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022. This is a gain of 75% from the 7,910 (6,566-9,181) estimated in 2014. As a result, the number of leopards photographed also increased from 1,647 in 2014 to 5,240 in 2018. The 2022 study deployed cameras at 32,803 locations and reported an 8% jump over the 12,852 (12,172-13,535) estimated in 2018. In the common areas covered in both surveys, the rise in numbers is a more modest 4.4%. The report was released by the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. Madhya Pradesh houses the largest population of leopards in the country: 3907 (2018: 3421), followed by Maharashtra (1985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off first tanker 'Swarna Sindhu', carrying the first parcel of crude oil from ONGC's Krishna Godavari deepwater project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off first tanker 'Swarna Sindhu', carrying the first parcel of crude oil from ONGC's Krishna Godavari deepwater project. This project will add 7 percent each to India's oil and gas production. Developed with an investment of over Rs 41,000 crore, the KG-DWN 98/2 Deepwater Oil Field M in the Krishna Godavari Basin is considered to be one of the most technologically complex projects in India's oil and gas industry to date. The project KG-DWN-98/2 Cluster-II will add a total of 30.5 Billion Cubic Meters of Gas and 14.24 Million Metric Tonnes of oil to the Indian domestic oil and gas production.

The US Consulate, in collaboration with the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) have launched the first-ever US-India Cyber Security Initiative to strengthen IT connections between the two countries.

The US Consulate, in collaboration with the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) have launched the first-ever US-India Cyber Security Initiative to strengthen IT connections between the two countries. The initiative aims to unite top cyber security experts globally to create jobs and develop cutting-edge solutions. The initiative will lead the city into a mentorship model in cyberspace and will also foster people-to-people ties in cyberspace. The Cybersecurity Initiative symbolizes the close collaboration between the United States and India, and these advancements also offer economic and social benefits globally, ensuring cybersecurity in the growing digital domain remains a vital concern.

The cabinet approved PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for installing rooftop solar in one crore households with a total outlay of Rs75,021 crore.

The cabinet approved PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for installing rooftop solar in one crore households with a total outlay of Rs75,021 crore. Prime Minister had launched the scheme on February 13, 2024. Scheme provides a central financial assistance of 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system, 60,000 for 2 kW systems and 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher. Households will be able to apply for subsidy through national portal and can select suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India with a one-time budgetary support of Rs150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28. Acknowledging India's leading role in conserving tigers, other big cats

and many of its endangered species, the Prime Minister of India during his speech on the occasion of Global Tiger Day, 2019 called for an Alliance of Global Leaders to curb poaching in Asia. The International Big Cat Alliance has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organizations working in the field of big cat conservation.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister, Narayan Rane launched 3 initiatives to women-oriented Entrepreneurial at the 9th SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit in New Delhi.

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister, Narayan Rane launched 3 initiatives to women-oriented Entrepreneurial at the 9th SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit in New Delhi. 3 Initiatives are- Panjikan se, Pragati, Unnati - Udyamita se Pragati, and WEP Mentorship Program. The programs will help women, especially in MSME, to grow and boost productivity. MSMEs and women will be the key to helping India become the 3rd largest economy soon. Panjikan Se Pragati-- This national campaign is a clarion call to women entrepreneurs across the nation to get Udyam registered and unlock a world of opportunities. Unnati _ Udyamita se Pragati tak-- This MSME – WEP Award-to-Reward (ATR) programme is a ground-breaking initiative to take Women MSME's to the next level of growth by providing comprehensive capacity building support through WEP. The annual Shakti International Women Entrepreneurs Summit is held each year in observance of International Women's Day.

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi has launched a groundbreaking initiative, the "Coal Logistics Plan and Policy".

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi has launched a groundbreaking initiative, the "Coal Logistics Plan and Policy" organized by the Indian National Committee World Mining Congress with the patronage of the Ministry of Coal in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Ministry's Integrated Coal Logistics Policy and plan, aimed at developing a technologically enabled, cost-effective, and sustainable logistic ecosystem. The launch of the Coal Logistics Plan marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards modernizing coal transportation, enhancing efficiency, and promoting sustainability.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 1st March 2024 under the theme "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonization in India".

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 1st March 2024 under the theme "Energy Transition through Electrification and Decarbonization in India". On the occasion, the Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister launched two of BEE's Standards and Labeling

Programs, one for Packaged Boilers and the other for Commercial Beverage Coolers, also known as Visi Coolers. He also released the inaugural edition of India EV Digest and the 5th edition of State Energy Efficiency Index. On the occasion, a Standards and Labeling Program for Packaged Boilers has been launched, to improve the energy efficiency of packaged boilers and facilitate consumers make informed choices. Packaged Boiler is a factory-made ready-to-use boiler, used for requirement of steam and hot water for all process industries. One star to five star will be awarded to each packaged boiler based on its thermal efficiency on the Net Calorific Value (NCV) basis in %, with 1-star being the minimum energy performance level. The program is being launched under voluntary phase, valid up to 31st December, 2026. The Minister also inaugurated and visited the e-cooking exhibition.

The 'Project ODISERV', was launched by the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in Sambalpur, Odisha.

The 'Project ODISERV', was launched by the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in Sambalpur, Odisha. The project aims to impart knowledge and skills to graduates through Bajaj Finserv's Certificate Programme for Banking Finance & Insurance (CPBFI) programme. The total duration of the training programme will be 100 hours, during which youth from tier-II and tier-III cities are trained for employment in the financial services sector. Project ODISERV will empower the youth of the country, make them more employable and fulfil their aspirations. 1100 students in Odisha have already been trained under Project ODISERV and a few of them have also received job offers. 60 colleges of Odisha across 11 cities and 10 districts are expected to be a part of the launch of the 100-hour training programme.

10 Products from 8 States got Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

10 Products from 8 States got Geographical Indication Tag. Which are: The traditional Majuli masks in Assam were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Centre. Majuli manuscript painting also got the GI label. Majuli, the largest river island in the world and the seat of Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition, has been home to the art of mask-making since the 16th century. Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic), a variety named after Riyawan village in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh also bagged the GI tag. The Odisha's renowned Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, a silver filigree art form that epitomizes fine craftsmanship and opulence in classical jewellery, has been honored with the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. Gujarat's Ambaji White Marble and Kutch Rogan Craft has been honored with the GI tag. Ambaji Superior White Marble is a type of Indian marble that has a pure white color with light gray veins running through it. The Hyderabad Lac Bangles have been granted registration with the Registrar of Geographical Indications. Tripura Risa Textile got Geographical Indications tag. Banglar muslin got Geographical Indications tag.

Banglar muslin is a traditional handloom craft from Bengal that is very popular. Lace crochet of Narsapur got Geographical Indications tag. Narsapur, a town located in the West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh, is renowned for its excellent crochet craft skills.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Piyush Goyal launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway), online digital platform of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Piyush Goyal launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway), online digital platform of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA). The 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' initiative will ease the farmers' warehousing logistics with the help of technology and aid the farmers in receiving fair prices for their produce. The initiative with its simplified digital process can ease the procedure of farmers' storage at any registered WDRA warehouse. In a ceremony held in New Delhi, Goyal articulated his vision for the agriculture sector as the cornerstone for India's journey towards becoming 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The security deposit charges at WDRA registered warehouses will soon be reduced to encourage more farmers, especially small farmers, to utilise the warehouses and enhance their income. The farmers stocking their produce at these warehouses would need to pay only one percent security deposit instead of the earlier three percent.

Minister of Communications, Railway, and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)' and 'Chakshu (चक्षुः)', a pioneering initiative empowering citizens to proactively report suspected fraud communication.

Minister of Communications, Railway, and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)' and 'Chakshu (चक्षुः)', a pioneering initiative empowering citizens to proactively report suspected fraud communication. "Sanchar Saathi" portal has helped successfully tackle such attacks. The two portals- DIP and Chakshu, these tools will further appreciably enhance the capacity and ability to check any kind of cyber security threat. Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) developed by the Department of Telecommunications is a secure and integrated platform for real time intelligence sharing, information exchange and coordination among the stakeholders. Chakshu (चक्षुः) is the latest addition to the citizen centric facilities already available on the Sanchar Saathi portal of DoT. This facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding like KYC expiry or update of bank account/payment wallet/SIM/gas connection/electricity connection, sextortion, impersonation.

Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan participated in the event related to the completion of the second Phase of Dak Karmayogi project and launched 25 new courses under it in New Delhi.

Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan participated in the event related to the completion of the second Phase of Dak Karmayogi project and launched 25 new courses under it in New Delhi. The Dak Karmayogi is an e-learning platform to enhance the competencies of about four lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks and Postal Department employees. The postal department is providing services to the people by adopting new technologies. He also lauded the postal department employees for their relentless work during the COVID-19 period. Shri Shyama Prasad Roy, Secretary, Capacity Building Commission (CBC), delivered insightful addresses, reaffirming the commitment to inclusive growth and continuous learning within the Department of Posts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several developmental projects.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several developmental projects. PM Narendra Modi visit Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. He inaugurated three key space infrastructure projects - PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota; the new 'Semi-cryogenics Integrated Engine and Stage Test facility' at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri; and 'Trisonic Wind Tunnel' at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram. The three projects, providing world-class technical facilities for the space sector, have been developed at a cumulative cost of about ₹1,800 crore. He also review the progress of the Gaganyaan Mission and bestow 'astronaut wings' to the astronaut-designates. He participate in the programme 'Creating the Future – Digital Mobility for Automotive MSME Entrepreneurs' in Madurai. He launch two major initiatives designed to support and uplift MSMEs in the Indian automotive industry, the TVS Open Mobility Platform and the TVS Mobility-CII Centre of Excellence. He laid the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure projects worth more than ₹17,300 crore in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. He laid the foundation stone of the Outer Harbor Container Terminal at V.O.Chidambaranar Port. He also dedicate tourist facilities in 75 lighthouses across ten states and union territories. He dedicate rail projects for doubling of Vanchi Maniyachchi - Nagercoil rail line, developed at a cost of ₹1,477 crore. He also dedicate four road projects in Tamil Nadu, developed at a total cost of about ₹4,586 Crore.

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Anant Ambani, Director on the boards of Reliance Industries Ltd and Reliance Foundation launched 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme. The programme will focus on rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad. The Vantara initiative has been conceptualised under the leadership of Anant Ambani, a Director on the boards of RIL and Reliance Foundation. Vantara is spread over 3000 acres within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat, it aims to be one of the leading contributors to conservation efforts globally.

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Carved out of Lower Subansiri, Keyi Panyor became the 26th district of Arunachal Pradesh. The new district, which was being demanded by the people of the Nyishi community for long, will have its headquarters at Ter Gapin-Sam Sarth. On 8th February 2024, the state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organization of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, paving the way for the creation of two new districts — Keyi Panyor and Bichom. Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu, in presence of the Union Minister of Earth Sciences from Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Kiren Rijju, inaugurated state's newly created district Keyi Panyor, at the General Ground Divisional Commissioner, Yachuli, Lower Subansiri District.

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away in Chhattisgarh at the age of 91.

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away in Chhattisgarh at the age of 91. He was senior-most team member which excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site on order of Allahabad High Court and had submitted a report that a temple was demolished to make a mosque. He was presented the Padmashree award in 2017 by late President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. He dedicated his life to archaeology and served the profession till 2018. He spent 99% of his life in the field. He was also general secretary of an All-India Association of Archaeologists and fought for their rights.

Canada's 18th Prime Minister Martin Brian Mulroney passed away at the age of 84 in Florida, USA.

Canada's 18th Prime Minister Martin Brian Mulroney passed away at the age of 84 in Florida, USA. Martin Brian Mulroney PC CC GOQ was a Canadian lawyer, businessman, and politician who served as the 18th prime minister of Canada from 1984 to 1993. After placing third in the 1976 Progressive Conservative leadership election, he was appointed president of the Iron Ore Company of Canada in 1977. He held that post until 1983, when he successfully became leader of the Progressive Conservatives. Mulroney's tenure as prime minister was marked by the introduction of major economic reforms.

Former Uttar Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Aziz Qureshi passed away at the age of 83 in Bhopal.

Former Uttar Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Aziz Qureshi passed away at the age of 83 in Bhopal. He had served as the governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram. He was first elected as an MLA in 1972 from Sehore seat in Madhya Pradesh and became a Lok Sabha member in 1984. He was a cabinet minister in the P C Sethi government in Madhya Pradesh in 1973. Qureshi was appointed the President of Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy by the then Kamal Nath government of Madhya Pradesh on 24 January 2020.

Samajwadi Party MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and India's oldest parliamentarian Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away at the age of 93 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Samajwadi Party MP from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and India's oldest parliamentarian Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away at the age of 93 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. He was first elected as an MLA from Sambhal in 1974 on the symbol of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal. In the subsequent elections of 1977, 1985 and 1989, he was elected from the same seat on different symbols. In 1990-1991, he was a member of the UP Cabinet. In 2019, Barq was in the headlines when he objected to the raising of "Vande Mataram" slogans in Parliament by BJP MPs as members took oath. In 2019, he won the seat for the fifth time, defeating the BJP's Parmeshwar Lal Saini by 1.74 lakh votes.

Indian Navy launched 'Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 18', 4th Barge of 11 x ACTCM Barge Project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane.

Indian Navy launched 'Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 18', 4th Barge of 11 x ACTCM Barge Project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane. The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Shirish Dube, Directorate of Ship Production. These Barges are indigenously

designed and built under relevant Naval Rules and Regulation of Indian Register of Shipping. The model testing of the Barge during design stage was undertaken at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam. These Barges are proud flag bearers of Make in India initiative of Government of India (GoI).

Russia launched 'Pars 1', an Iranian imaging satellite, into space, which has the capability of sending high-resolution images of surface locations from its orbit 500 km above Earth.

Russia launched 'Pars 1', an Iranian imaging satellite, into space, which has the capability of sending high-resolution images of surface locations from its orbit 500 km above Earth. The rocket also carried a Russian weather satellite and 17 Russian small satellites. The Pars 1 carries a 15-meter camera, enabling it to send high-resolution images of surface locations from its orbit. The launch of Pars-I with the Russian Soyuz-2.1b launcher was broadcast live by state television in Iran. The satellite was launched "from Russia's Vostochny launch base," some 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles) east of Moscow. The 110-kilogram (242-pound) satellite has three cameras to take images for environmental, agricultural and other purposes.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted two flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile from Integrated Test Range off Odisha's Chandipur.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted two flight tests of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile from Integrated Test Range off Odisha's Chandipur. These tests were carried out against high speed unmanned aerial targets under different interception scenario. During all the test flights, the targets were intercepted and destroyed by the missiles, meeting the mission objectives. The VSHORADS is propelled by a dual thrust solid motor and would be used for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges. VSHORADS missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics which have been successfully proven during the tests.

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyzer at the green hydrogen plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyzer at the green hydrogen plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat. The electrolyzer, featuring a rated power capacity of 1 MW (expandable to 2 MW), can produce hydrogen of 200 Nm³/Hr (normal meter cubed per hour), a unit to measure gas flow rate. The project is aligned with the National Green Hydrogen Mission, showcasing L&T as a key player in electrolyzer manufacturing.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace', first-ever Made-in-India ASTDS tug.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace', first-ever Made-in-India ASTDS tug. The Ocean Grace is the first make in India ASTDS Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW. The 'Ocean Grace' built at a cost of Rs45 crores, stands as a pinnacle of maritime engineering, equipped with cutting-edge technology and boasting a remarkable bollard pull of 60 tonnes. Union Minister also inaugurated Medical Mobile Unit (MMU). The Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) is part of port's commitment to corporate social responsibility. This initiative highlights 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of PM Modi.

SpaceX and NASA successfully launched their joint Crew-8 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

SpaceX and NASA successfully launched their joint Crew-8 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Together, NASA and SpaceX launched a crew of four to the ISS in the Dragon spacecraft, marking SpaceX's eighth crew rotation mission to the ISS within NASA's Commercial Crew Program. The NASA astronauts are commander Matthew Dominick, pilot Michael Barratt, mission specialist Jeanette Epps and Russian Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexander Grebenkin, who is also acting as mission specialist. It is the first mission to the ISS for all except Barratt, who is making his third visit.

Chandigarh University winning their maiden KIUG title in Khelo India University Games 2024.

Chandigarh University winning their maiden KIUG title in Khelo India University Games 2024. Chandigarh University claimed the title with a haul of 32 gold medals. They also won 18 silvers and 21 bronze for a total of 71 medals. As per the KIUG format, the team with the most gold medals wins the team title. Lovely Professional University came second at KIUG 2024 with 20 gold, 14 silver and eight bronze for a total of 42 medals while Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University were third with 12 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze for a tally of 51. Guru Nanak Dev University were the only contingent apart from the champions to cross the 50-medal mark. This was the fourth edition of the KIUG, which kicked off on 17-29 February 2024. Over 200 Indian universities competed for the KIUG 2024 title with around 4,500 athletes taking part in 20 sports.

Puneri Paltan defeated Haryana Steelers to win their first ever Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) title at the GMC Balayogi Sports Complex, Gachibowli,

Hyderabad.

Puneri Paltan defeated Haryana Steelers to win their first ever Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) title at the GMC Balayogi Sports Complex, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. They beat Haryana Steelers 28-25. The 2023–2024 Pro Kabaddi League was the tenth season of the Pro Kabaddi League, a franchise based kabaddi league in India. Jaipur Pink Panthers were the defending champions. Puneri Paltan have scored the most points [922], the most tackle points in PKL 10 [340], have inflicted the most All Outs [45] and have conceded the least points among the 12 teams [653].

India finishes runner-up after narrow loss to Kosovo in the final match of the Turkish Women's Cup 2024 football tournament at the Gold City Sports Complex in Alanya, Turkey.

India finishes runner-up after narrow loss to Kosovo in the final match of the Turkish Women's Cup 2024 football tournament at the Gold City Sports Complex in Alanya, Turkey. India lost 1-0 to Kosovo in their final match. The runners-up finish was, however, also the Indian women's best performance at the four-team tournament. India ended their campaign with six points from three games, three points behind the champions. Manisha Kalyan was awarded the Best Midfielder of the Tournament honour for her show in their three games. India had earlier beaten Estonia 4-3 before edging out Hong Kong China 2-0.