



**Prime Reader**

CHASE YOUR VISION & DREAMS



**January  
2024**

**GA BOOSTER**  
**Weekly**  
**PDF**



[www.primereader.co.in](http://www.primereader.co.in)

- BANK
- SSC
- UPSC
- RAILWAY
- SBI
- IBPS



website : [www.primereader.co.in](http://www.primereader.co.in)  
contactus : [support@primereader.co.in](mailto:support@primereader.co.in)

Telegram : PrimeReader

## General Awareness Topic(Covered)

- National
- International
- Banking & Finance
- Awards & Recognitions
- Sports
- Economy & Business
- Appointments & Resignation
- Defence
- Books & Authors
- Important Days
- Index & Reports
- Science & Technology
- Govt Scheme
- Obituary
- Committee & meeting
- Summit
- Environment
- MOU
- Acquisition & Mergers



## Our paid course services

- Weekly Reading
  - Pdf Download
  - Mock Test
- Monthly Reading
  - Pdf Download
  - Mock Test
- Topic- Wise Reading
  - Pdf Download
  - Mock Test
- Exam Oriented Reading
  - Pdf Download
  - Mock Test
- Daily Current Affairs
  - Daily Mock Test
  - Pdf Download
- News Topic Wise
- One Liner Weekly
- One Liner Monthly
- One Liner Quarterly
- One Liner Half Yearly
- Pdf Hub (Unlimited Download)
- Software Technology System (Auto News Analysis)
- म्हा Mock Test

Visit on : [www.primereader.co.in](http://www.primereader.co.in)  
Telegram : [PrimeReader](https://t.me/PrimeReader)  
Contactus : [support@primereader.co.in](mailto:support@primereader.co.in)  
**70 4444 2011**

### **Aitana Bonmatí and Lionel Messi win Fifa best player awards for 2023?**

Aitana Bonmatí and Lionel Messi win Fifa best player awards for 2023. Aitana Bonmatí said she was “proud” to be part of a generation of women “changing the game and the world” as the Spain World Cup star claimed the title of the Best Fifa women's player for 2023 at a star-studded award ceremony in London. Lionel Messi won the men's award for a third time, but in a ceremony styled as a celebration of the women's game, Bonmatí's prize was the climactic moment of the night. The Spain and Barcelona forward, who said she was already nostalgic for 2023, was also the only person on stage to even hint at the Luis Rubiales scandal that tarnished the Women's World Cup final.

### **Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023: Indore and Surat Share Cleanest City Title?**

In a prestigious ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 witnessed President Droupadi Murmu conferring accolades to 13 distinguished awardees across various cleanliness categories. Indore, for the remarkable seventh consecutive time, secured the cleanest city title. However, this year, it shared the honors with Surat, marking a unique joint victory. The President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the awards at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

### **Three times Padma awardee, veteran classical singer Prabha Atre passes away due to heart attack!**

Three times Padma awardee and renowned classical singer Prabha Atre passed away due to a heart attack on Saturday. The 92-year-old veteran singer was going to participate in a program in Mumbai on the same day. "Her leaving the world is very painful, Indian music will always be indebted to her, I pay my heartfelt tribute to her, and may God give strength to her family to bear this loss," said Devendra Fadnavis while expressing grief over her demise.

### **RBI cancels licence of Hiriya Urban Co-op bank with immediate effect!**

"The (RBI), vide order dated January 12, 2024, has cancelled the licence of "The Hiriya Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Hiriya". Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 12, 2024," said a bank statement. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide order dated January 12, 2024, has cancelled the licence of "The Hiriya Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Hiriya". Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 12, 2024.

### **Karnataka Bank and NBFC Clix Capital enter co-lending partnership ?**

Karnataka Bank (KBL), a leading private sector bank, and Clix Capital, one of India's fastest-growing new-age NBFCs, have entered into a digital co-lending partnership through the Yubi Co.lend Platform. Speaking on the collaboration, Mr. Srikrishnan H, Managing Director & CEO, Karnataka Bank said, "Our Co-lending partnership with Clix Capital will focus on digital credit to MSMEs with superior product and service offerings through our wide network of branches. By this arrangement the much needed liquidity at affordable rates for the MSME sector will be a reality. Clix Capital and Karnataka Bank will jointly address the MSME's requirements adding impetus to the micro-credit facilities segment keeping in mind the sustainable economic growth for the country".

### **BoB launches its new '360 deposit scheme!**

The Bank of Baroda special FD scheme --"bob360 Term Deposit" -- is available for a tenor of 360 days. bob360 Term Deposit offers high rate of interest for Domestic Term Deposits to Residents/NRO and Resident Senior Citizen. It is not available for NRE Deposits as per RBI guidelines, said the bank. New Delhi: Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has launched a Special Short Term Deposit Product offering higher Rate Of Interest in Short Term deposits.

### **RBI approves re-appointment of Vasudevan P. N. as MD and CEO of Equitas SFB!**

The Reserve Bank of India gave its nod for the re-appointment of P N Vasudevan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of private sector Equitas Small Finance Bank. The tenure of his appointment would be for a period of three years with effect from July 23.

### **SBI launches Green Rupee Term Deposit?**

The bank offers three tenures of 1111 Days, 1777 Days and 2222 Days and interest rate varies if the investment is made under retail scheme or bulk deposit scheme. According to the ICICI Bank website, "These aren't just your typical financial instruments; they're a commitment towards safeguarding the environment, offering investors a unique blend of fiscal security and ethical investing." Under the scheme, the bank offers 6.65% on tenure of 1111 Days, 1777 Days.

### **PFC gets RBI nod to set up wholly-owned finance company in GIFT City?**

PFC is in receipt of the no objection letter dated January 9, 2024, from the RBI for setting up a finance company (as a wholly-owned subsidiary) at IFSC in GIFT City, Gujarat. "PFC's entry into the IFSC is expected to open up new business opportunities and establish PFC's global presence," PFC said in a BSE filing. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Tuesday received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a wholly-owned finance company. The company is planning to set up a

subsidiary at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat.

### **DCB Bank names Praveen Achuthan Kutty as MD & CEO?**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officially approved the nomination of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the MD & CEO of the Bank. Murali M Natrajan, the present MD and CEO, will step down from his position on April 28, 2024, and Praveen will take over the next day. Development Credit Bank (DCB) Limited, a renowned commercial bank in India, has officially named Praveen Achuthan Kutty as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a three-year term beginning April 29, 2024.

### **REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen!**

Commenting on the occasion, Chairman & Managing Director, REC Limited, Mr. Vivek Kumar Dewangan said: "The journey towards India's energy transition demands a visionary approach to financing that aligns with our commitment to sustainable development towards a cleaner and greener energy landscape. REC stands resolute in its pledge to promote green and clean energy through this green issuance. As a frequent issuer in the international debt capital markets, we are always on the lookout to tap new markets and further diversify our funding sources. We are delighted to successfully price our inaugural Euro-Yen Green bonds, which reaffirms REC's position as an established issuer with deep access to global funding, while maintaining the overall cost of funding lower than the industry standards."

### **ICICI Bank Canada Introduces Mobile Banking App, 'Money2India'!**

ICICI Bank Canada, a completely owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited, has introduced its mobile banking app, 'Money2India (Canada).' This app enables customers from any Canadian bank to seamlessly transfer funds, 24/7, to any bank in India without the necessity of opening an account with ICICI Bank Canada. Users can send up to CAD 30,000 in a single transaction using this service, as per a report carried by news agency PTI

### **IREDA and Indian Overseas Bank join hands in co-lending for Renewable Energy Projects?**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), setting the stage for collaborative efforts in co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of Renewable Energy projects across the nation. Encompassing a range of services, the MoU includes provisions for co-lending and co-origination support for all Renewable Energy projects. The partnership aims to streamline loan syndication and underwriting processes, management of Trust and Retention Account (TRA) for IREDA borrowers, and work towards fixed interest rates over a 3–4-year period for IREDA borrowings.

### **DBS Bank India collaborates with StartupTN to foster entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu!**

DBS Bank India has partnered with StartupTN to support over 1,000 early-stage enterprises in Tamil Nadu. DBS Bank India, the subsidiary of financial services group DBS Singapore, on Thursday said it has partnered with the Tamil Nadu government backed StartupTN to foster entrepreneurship in the state. DBS Bank India has announced a partnership with StartupTN, the nodal agency of the Tamil Nadu government in fostering innovation and promoting entrepreneurship throughout the State. The collaboration is aimed at strengthening the ecosystem and driving innovation within the State by providing crucial support to startups, including knowledge sharing through various forums and facilitating connections with potential investors.

### **RBI imposes Rs 2.49 crore penalty on 3 banks including Punjab & Sind!**

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 2.49 crore on three banks, including Dhanlaxmi Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank, for contravention of regulatory norms. A penalty of Rs 1.20 crore has been slapped on Dhanlaxmi Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions', KYC and certain norms related to interest rate on deposits.

### **Indian economy outperforming peers; projected to grow at 6.2% in 2024!**

India is projected to grow at 6.2% in 2024, supported by robust domestic demand and strong growth in the manufacturing and services sectors. The UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2024 report launched on January 4, gross domestic product in South Asia is projected to increase by 5.2% in 2024, driven by a robust expansion in India, which remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

### **IndusInd Bank ties up with EazyDiner to launch credit card!**

IndusInd Bank has launched the 'EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Platinum Credit Card' in association with EazyDiner. The credit card offers an additional discount of ₹500 while paying through the EazyDiner App via PayEazy for both dining and take-away at select restaurants. Sumant Kathpalia is the Managing Director and CEO at IndusInd Bank. Sunil Mehta is the current chairman of the board. The other members on the board are Shanker Annaswamy, T. T. Ram Mohan, Akila Krishnakumar, Rajiv Agarwal, Sanjay Asher, Bhavna Doshi, Jayant Deshmukh and Pradeep Udhas.

### **Vice President releases the book 'Reflections on India's Public Policies' co-authored by 1984 batch IAS Officers!**

The Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar said that Civil services are the backbone of governance, and have played a fundamental role in the implementation

of Government policies in the country. He was addressing senior officers and other dignitaries at the release of the book 'Reflections on India's Public Policies', co-authored by 1984 batch officers of the Indian Administrative Service, at the Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi today.

### **Indian Army to Observe 2024 as the Year of Technology Absorption?**

**Leveraging Technology for Transformation:** The primary objective of this initiative is to use technology as a driving force for transformative change, focusing on operational and logistic requirements and collaborating with the domestic defence industry for project development. **Cyberspace Capabilities Enhancement:** The Indian Army has embarked on a mission to boost its cyber capabilities. Personnel are being trained to effectively use technology and exploit the cyber domain through institutionalized, procedural, and technological measures. **Project SAMBHAV:** A notable aspect of this initiative is Project SAMBHAV, an end-to-end secure, network-agnostic mobile ecosystem that operates on state-of-the-art 5G technology. It is designed to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move.

### **Armed Forces Medical Services & AIIMS, New Delhi collaborate to conduct combined research projects?**

DGAFMS Lt Gen Daljit Singh & Director, AIIMS Professor M Srinivas signed the MoU to explore possibilities of joint research projects, common educational activities, and a faculty exchange program. The faculties of these two organizations would explore facilities available with both institutions, especially in investigations, research, and patient care services. The faculty exchange program will smoothen faculty movement from one institution to another for research and training purposes. A collaboration board of five members from both institutions has been formed, which will have monthly meetings to explore possible collaborations.

### **2024 Military Strength Ranking: US Tops, Bhutan At The Bottom!**

Global Firepower's 2024 rankings reveal the United States as the world's strongest military, trailed by Russia, China, and India. Assessing 145 nations on 60 factors, the rankings offer nuanced insights into military prowess. South Korea rises to the fifth spot, while Bhutan claims the least powerful position. Global Firepower's Military Strength Rankings for 2024 assess 145 countries, taking into account more than 60 factors such as the number of troops, military equipment, financial stability, geographic location, and available resources. These factors together determine a PowerIndex score, where lower scores indicate stronger military capabilities.

### **Indian, Japanese Coast Guards engage in joint exercise off the coast of Chennai!**

The camaraderie between the Indian and Japanese Coast Guards was on display in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast on Friday, January 12, 2024, as their vessels and aircraft were involved in a joint exercise, practising various procedures. Besides ICGS Shaurya, ICGS Shaunak, ICGS Sujay, ICGS Samudra Paheredar, ICGS Rani Abbakka and ICGS Annie Besant, ICGS C-440 and ICGS C-449 represented the Indian side, while visiting JCGS Yashima represented the Japanese during the exercise.

### **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves proposal to launch Group (Term) Insurance Scheme for Casual Paid Labourers engaged by BRO!**

Keeping in view the severe risk posed to the lives of CPLs posted in hazardous work-sites, inclement weather, inhospitable terrain and occupational health hazards, and considering the deaths occurred/reported during their engagement, the provision of insurance coverage on humanitarian grounds will prove to be a great morale booster to the CPLs. This scheme will serve as a social security and welfare measure to the CPLs working in remote and far-flung areas of the nation. It will go a long way in securing the livelihoods of their families

### **CCI approves amalgamation of Shriram LI Holdings Private Limited with Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited!**

SLIC is a life insurance company, registered with IRDAI. SLIC is a part of the Shriram Group of Companies and is engaged in the business of effecting contracts of insurance upon human life, develop and market a variety of products in life insurance business, unit linked life insurance products and any other activity within the ambit of provisions of Insurance Act, 1938.

### **NITI Aayog & WFP launch Compendium of Inspiring Stories on Millets Mainstreaming in India, Asian and African countries!**

The compendium is expected to act as a reference for integrating millets into mainstream food systems, offering insights for making informed decisions and exchange through South-South Cooperation and policy dialogues. Some of the areas that came across as common strands in the open discussion during launch included the promotion of millets as a staple food, dietary diversification through millets and focused increase in investments and productivity. Also present at the launch and discussion were Ms. Pradnya Paithankar, Head of Unit- Climate Change, Resilient Food Systems and DRR, WFP, Dr. Rajeshwar Chandel, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Assistant Director General, ICRISAT and Chef Manjit Gill, President, Indian Federation of Culinary Associations.

### **Govt announces INR 515-crore solar power scheme for electrification of tribal areas!**



Under the Scheme, off-grid solar systems will be provided for the electrification of 100,000 un-electrified households in PVTG areas where electricity supply through the grid is not techno-economically feasible. These areas will be identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in 18 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, and union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

### **India to grow into a \$7 trillion economy by 2030, says PHDCCI report!**

“With a consistent GDP growth rate exceeding 7 per cent over the past two years and a projected continuation of this trend in the current year too, the economy is expected to surpass USD 4 trillion in 2024 and thereafter move to the next orbit in 2025,” said Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHDCCI in a press statement. India is expected to grow into a \$7 trillion economy by the year 2030, establishing itself as the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region and the third-largest globally, industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) said in a latest report on Wednesday.

### **Voluntary freezing of trading accounts: How will SEBI's new norms safeguard investors?**

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has asked stock brokers' Industry Standards Forum (ISF) to lay out a framework to provide a facility for voluntary freezing or blocking the online access of the trading account to their clients due to suspicious activities. SEBI has decided that a framework for trading members to provide the facility of voluntary freezing/blocking the online access of the trading account to their clients on account of suspicious activities will be laid down on or before April 1, 2024. The guidelines will be formulated by the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum (ISF) under the aegis of stock exchanges, and in consultation with the capital markets regulator.

### **Launch of 25T Bollard Pull Tug, Bheeshma at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, Kolkata?**

25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, Bhishm was launched by Cmde S Sreekumar, Warship Production Superintendent (Kolkata) on 14 Jan 24 at M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (M/s TRSL), Kolkata. This Tug is a proud flag bearer of “Make in India” initiative of Govt of India. Contract for construction and delivery of six 25T BP Tugs was concluded with M/s TRSL, Kolkata 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). The availability of Tugs will provide impetus to Operational commitments of IN by facilitating assistance to Naval ships and submarines during berthing and un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring in confined waters. The Tugs will also provide afloat firefighting assistance to ships alongside, at anchorage and will also have capability to conduct limited Search and Rescue

Operations.

### **Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. becomes BSI Certified 1st ISO 27001:2022 Petrochemical Company in India!**

Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL), a leading petrochemicals company in India, is proud to announce its achievement of becoming the first ISO 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organisation in the industry by BSI (British Standards Institution), a renowned certification body. This milestone showcases HPL's commitment to maintaining a robust and secure information security governance structure throughout its digital transformation journey.

### **Over 24.8 cr people moved out of multidimensional poverty in India in 9 years!**

As many as 24.82 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty in nine years to 2022-23, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh registering the largest decline, Niti Aayog said in a report on Monday. The national multidimensional poverty measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 sustainable development goals-aligned indicators, according to NITI Aayog.

### **Indian brands make big strides in Global 500 Rankings: Jio, SBI among top rankers, HDFC rises after merge!**

Global 500 Rankings: Indian brands are pushing the bar with Tata, Infosys, LIC, HDFC, Reliance Group, Airtel, HCL Tech, SBI, Wipro, Mahindra Group, Jio, L&T, Indian Oil, Crédit Agricole, and Bajaj Group were the companies among Indian companies making their place in the Brand Finance Global 500 2024 report. Leading the charge are Jio and SBI, claiming the titles of 17th and 24th strongest brands globally, respectively. Reliance Jio's growth marked a testament to the company's disruptive force in the telecom industry, while SBI's continued strength underscores its position as a financial behemoth, the report further added.

### **Eighth Tri-services Armed Forces Veterans Day celebrated by Eastern Command Headquarters on Jan 15?**

Shri Rajnath Singh reasserted the unwavering commitment of Ministry of Defence towards the welfare of ex-servicemen, stating that from implementing the One Rank One Pension scheme to providing health care and re-employment, the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been leaving no stone unturned to ensure the well-being of the veterans. He added that while the Government is making more efforts as the nation is progressing, it is also a collective responsibility of the people to treat the soldiers & their dependents as their own family and ensure that they stand with them always. He appealed to the people to further strengthen their will to honour the retired as well as the serving soldiers.

### **Frederik X proclaimed king of Denmark after his mother Queen Margrethe II abdicates.**

Margrethe, 83, is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily relinquish the throne in nearly 900 years. Many thousands of people gathered outside the palace where the royal succession took place, the mood jubilant as the Nordic nation experienced its first royal succession in more than a half-century, and one not caused by the death of a monarch.

### **World added 50% more renewable energy but more needed.**

The world added 50 percent more renewable energy capacity in 2023 over the previous year but more is needed in the battle against climate change, the International Energy Agency said Thursday. The increase was the fastest growth rate in the past two decades and the 22nd year in a row that renewable capacity additions set a new record, the Paris-based IEA said.

### **MoU signed for global hydrogen trading mechanism?**

According to GIFT City, such an initiative is set to be the second-of-its-kind globally. Subsequently, a global hydrogen price index shall be launched, a benchmark that will play a role in price discovery and market information on the burgeoning green hydrogen market in India. The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) last Friday signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a global hydrogen trading mechanism in collaboration with GIFT City IFSC, a statement issued by the GIFT City said on Tuesday.

### **IAS Veera Rana Appointed Chief Secretary of MP Government, Becomes 2nd Woman in Top Post.**

Over a month after Veera Rana, a 1988-batch IAS officer, was handed the additional charge of Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, she has been appointed as Chief Secretary of the state, an official said on Wednesday. Veera Rana was serving as acting chief secretary after the retirement of incumbent Iqbal S Bains. The Chief Secretary is usually the senior most IAS officer of the senior most batch in the state. The appointee for the office is approved by state Chief Minister, based on appointee's ability and strong confidence with him or her. No fixed tenure is imposed on the office but term can be extended.

### **Bernardo Arévalo sworn in as Guatemala's President despite months of efforts to derail inauguration.**

Bernardo Arévalo sworn as Guatemala's new president, Argentina's Javier Milei makes his Davos debut, and why Brazil's Spotify Wrapped is a regional outlier. Arevalo is the son of reformist Juan Jose Arevalo, who in 1945 became

Guatemala's first democratically elected president after decades of dictatorship. The chess-playing, jazz-loving polyglot is facing a tricky task ruling Guatemala.

### **Narayana Health gets Irdai nod to launch health insurance business.**

In a press release, IRDAI said, "Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in its 124th meeting held on December 28, 2023, has granted a Certificate of Registration to a new health insurer namely, Narayana Health Insurance Limited to carry health insurance business in India after a hiatus of 5 years." Post the approval, the number of Standalone Health Insurance Companies (SAHI) will rise to 6 from the existing 5.

### **New species of butterfly discovered in Western Ghats after 33 years.**

A team of scientists and lepidopterists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) has announced the discovery of a butterfly species — the Conjoined Silverline (*Cigaritis conjuncta*) — in the forests of Kodagu district, part of the biodiverse Western Ghats. Bengaluru: A team of scientists and lepidopterists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) has announced the discovery of a butterfly species — the Conjoined Silverline (*Cigaritis conjuncta*) — in the forests of Kodagu district, part of the biodiverse Western Ghats.

### **Assam CM announces scheme to help women become entrepreneurs in state.**

In the first phase, each applicant will be provided with a grant of ₹10,000 for the first year to start any business from a list of 145 business plans prepared by the government, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday announced the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Asoni scheme aimed to help 3.9 million women associated with self-help groups (SHGs). It would be named as the Chief Minister's Women Entrepreneurs Scheme. Here, CM Sarma said that through this scheme they want to transform women from rural areas into entrepreneurs with the target of creating 'Lakhpatis' out of them. He also said that through this scheme women would be helped in three phases

### **Centre appoints Maheshwar Rao as Bangalore Metro's full-time managing director.**

Since former MD Anjum Parvez was given the charge of the additional chief secretary of rural development and panchayat raj last year, the appointment of a full-time MD for BMRCL has been a long-standing demand of mobility activists, especially given that major metro works are to be completed on a war footing in order to decongest Bengaluru traffic, reduce vehicle pollution and boost public transport.

### **Researchers from Mizoram University discover new coral snake species.**

A new species of coral snake has been discovered in Mizoram. The discovery has been made by the Mizoram University's zoology department researchers and their peers from outside the state. The researchers have named the new coral snake species as *Sinomicrurus Gorei*, after a medical officer Dr Gore from the British regime era. Locally, it is known as Rul Thi Hna due to its resemblance to a local Mizo necklace known as Thi Hna. The discovery has been made during the study of skeletons and DNA of coral snakes in the state. Following the discovery, the findings were published in the British Science Journal, Systematics & Biodiversity on January 10.

### **Chhattisgarh Launches "Ramlala Darshan" Scheme: Free Pilgrimage to Ayodhya Dham.**

Chhattisgarh Government will launch the Ramlala Darshan Scheme, a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The decision was made during a state cabinet meeting held in Raipur. Chhattisgarh's "Ramlala Darshan" scheme offers free Ayodhya pilgrimage for 20,000 residents per year, fulfilling PM Modi's promise. To fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee, the state will send around 20,000 residents to Ayodhya for darshan of Shri Ramlala every year.

### **Land Ports Authority Releases Report on Gender-Inclusive Framework for Cross-Border Trade in India.**

Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) today released a report on 'Engendering Land Ports in India' in New Delhi. The main objective of the report is to develop a framework for gender inclusive cross border trade and tourism through land Ports in the country. Talking to Akashvani News, chairman of LPAI Aditya Mishra said that the report released today is a step towards making a gender positive environment. He added the Land Ports Authority of India will implement the recommendation of the reports to make land Ports more gender neutral.

### **Union Minister of State for Ayush Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai launches the Module.**

The Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with World Health Organization has prepared a classification of diseases used in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems under TM-2 module of ICD-11 series. A Donor Agreement between the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Ayush was also signed earlier for this classification. This effort will further strengthen and expand India's healthcare delivery system, research, Ayush insurance coverage, research & development, policy making system. Apart from this, these codes can also be used to formulate future strategies to control various diseases in the society.

### **Former VP Lai Ching-te won Taiwan's presidential election amid warnings from China which sees Lai as a 'separatist'.**

William Lai Ching-te from the governing Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), who is seen as a “dangerous separatist” by China, has won Taiwan’s presidential election. Lai, the current vice president, who has asserted the self-ruled island’s sovereignty, beat his nearest rival Hou Yu-ih of the conservative Kuomintang (KMT) by more than 900,000 votes in Saturday’s elections. Former VP Lai Ching-te won Taiwan’s presidential election amid warnings from China which sees Lai as a ‘separatist’.

### **Maharashtra’s Pench Tiger Reserve Achieves Milestone as India’s First Dark Sky Park.**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, recognizing the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource, played a pivotal role in conferring this distinction. Prabhu Nath Shukla, the deputy director of the reserve, highlighted the significance of preserving natural darkness for nature conservation, maintaining ecological integrity, and contributing to the well-being of communities in urban centers.

### **Rural development Min signs pact with SBI to facilitate loans for SHGs.**

The Rural Development Ministry and State Bank of India on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHG), an official statement said. The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Charanjit Singh and Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Corporate office Mumbai, Shantanu Pendsey.

### **The Indian Army has developed SAMBHAV, an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem, aiming to offer secure communication with instant connectivity.**

The Indian Army has developed SAMBHAV, an end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem, aiming to offer secure communication with instant connectivity. SAMBHAV operates on 5G technology and aligns with the Indian government’s vision of dual-use infrastructure and civil-military fusion. The ecosystem. Aiming to fall in line with the mantra of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, the Indian Army has indigenously developed an “end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem” aiming to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move, according to officials. The ecosystem – SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) – operates on the contemporary 5G technology and will represent a “significant leap forward in India’s defence capability”, a senior official said.

### **‘Ex-Ayutthaya’: First India-Thailand naval exercise has significance with Ayodhya.**

The maiden bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy has been named 'Ex-Ayutthaya', which symbolises the significance of two of the oldest cities -- Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand. Both these cities have rich cultural ties and shared historical narratives dating back to several centuries. 'Ex-Ayutthaya', which translates to 'the invincible one' or 'undefeatable', was conducted from December 20-23, 2023. Indigenously built Indian naval ships Kulish and IN-LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise. The Royal Thai Navy was represented by His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan.

### **NHAI's 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Initiative To Streamline Toll Collection.**

The 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative is a proactive step taken by NHAI to address concerns related to the misuse of FASTags. Reports have surfaced indicating instances where multiple FASTags were issued for a single vehicle, leading to misuse and evasion of toll charges. This initiative seeks to promote a one-to-one correspondence between vehicles and FASTags, ensuring transparency and accountability in toll collection.

### **Max Life Diversifies ULIP range with an all-new Midcap Momentum Index Fund.**

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. ("Max Life"/ "Company") has introduced the 'Midcap Momentum Index Fund' (SFIN: ULIF02801/01/24MIDMOMENTM104) in the ULIP segment. The new fund offering is structured around the Nifty Midcap 150 Momentum 50 Index, which has displayed a noteworthy 28.7 per cent\* 5-year and 26.7 per cent\* 10 year CAGR returns (returns as on 31st Dec'23). Investors can participate in the new fund until January 29, 2024, at a unit price of Rs 10, applicable exclusively during this limited NFO period.

### **PM Modi commends NDRF on 19th Raising Day, acknowledges unparalleled bravery.**

NDRF was raised on January 19, 2006 as a multi-skilled stand-alone Disaster Response Force to respond to all natural and man-made disasters. The Prime Minister expressed admiration for the NDRF personnel, acknowledging their unparalleled bravery and tireless efforts in confronting the most challenging emergencies in a post. Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the valiant members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on the occasion of their 19th Raising Day on Friday.

### **INS Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir decommissioned after 40 Years of Glorious Service.**

Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir were built at Gdynia Shipyard, Poland as Polnocny class Landing Ships and were commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1984, 1985 and 1986 respectively, in presence of Shri S K Arora (Cheetah and Guldar) and Shri A K Das (Kumbhir) then Ambassadors of India to Poland. The Commanding Officers of

the three ships were Cdr V B Mishra, Lt Cdr SK Singh and Lt Cdr J Banerjee respectively. During her initial years, Cheetah was based at Kochi and Chennai for brief periods, and Kumbhir and Guldar were based at Visakhapatnam. The ships were subsequently re-based at Andaman and Nicobar Command, where they served till their decommissioning. These ships were in active Naval service for nearly 40 years, and collectively traversed about 17 lakh nautical miles whilst being at sea for over 12,300 days. As the amphibian platforms of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, these ships have conducted over 1300 beaching operations for landing of army troops ashore.

### **Empowering Inclusivity: DEPWD and NHRDN Join Forces to Boost Employment for Divyangjans.**

In a landmark move, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) and the National Human Resources Development Network (NHRDN) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding on the closing day of the International Purple Fest in Goa. This strategic collaboration aims to aggregate employment opportunities for Divyangjans through the innovative PM-DAKSH-DEPWD digital portal. This MoU marks a pivotal step in expanding the Department's outreach, fostering connections with HR professionals nationwide. The objective is to amplify efforts in facilitating meaningful employment opportunities for Divyangjans, fostering a more inclusive and diverse workforce.

### **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra and Goa on 26th October, 2023.**

At around 1 PM, Prime Minister will reach Shirdi, Ahmednagar District, where he will perform pooja and darshan at Shri Saibaba Samadhi Temple. He will also inaugurate the new Darshan Queue Complex at the temple. At around 2 PM, Prime Minister will perform the Jal Pujan of Nilwande Dam and dedicate a canal network of the dam to the nation. At around 3:15 PM, Prime Minister will attend a public programme in Shirdi, where he will inaugurate, dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth about Rs 7500 crore in sectors like health, rail, road and oil and gas.

### **NHAI Unveils India's First Steel Slag Highway.**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has unveiled India's inaugural Steel Slag Highway on the Mumbai-Goa stretch. This pioneering road technology, introduced last Saturday, utilises steel slag, a byproduct of the steel manufacturing process, as a key component. The innovative approach aligns with the country's commitment to eco-friendly infrastructure solutions.

### **Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka best performing States in developing startup ecosystem.**



Gujarat, Kerala and Karnataka have emerged as the best-performing States in developing startup ecosystems for budding entrepreneurs, according to the ranking of States and Union Territories (UTs) by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat have been ranked as the best performers in the fourth edition of the States' Startup Ranking (2022). The ranking is based on their initiatives taken to develop the startup ecosystem for promoting budding entrepreneurs

### **Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passes away at 71 due to cardiac arrest in Lucknow.**

Urdu poet Munawwar Rana died on Sunday, January 14. He was 71. Rana, who had been suffering from throat cancer, breathed his last at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow. The poet is survived by his wife, four daughters and a son, PTI has reported. Munawwar Rana was 71 years old at the time of his death. The Urdu poet had been suffering from lung and throat infections from the last few years. He was receiving treatment regularly due to kidney problems, so he had to undergo dialysis.

### **India Meteorological Department celebrates 150th Year of its establishment and service to the nation.**

India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated 150th Year of its establishment and service to the nation today. The Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar graced the occasion as Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony celebration of 150th years of its establishment. Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Dr. M Ravichandran, Secretary MoES presided over the function. Former Secretaries of Ministry of Earth Sciences, former Director Generals of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Heads of various sister organisations in MoES, Secretaries of various Ministries, Chief Secretaries & Resident Commissioners of various States and Union Territories, Heads of various disaster management agencies, Heads of various Universities and institutions, employees of IMD, researchers & academicians and press & electronic media participated in the ceremony. Around 1,200 delegates countrywide participated in the event organised in New Delhi.

### **Goa to launch India's-first regenerative tourism model.**

Goa becomes India's first state to launch Regenerative Tourism! Experience a sustainable and transformative journey with eco-friendly activities, One-of-a-kind experiences with local communities & while embracing Regenerative Tourism in Goa. The Goa government to introduce a new model for regenerative tourism, a scheme which will revolve around 11 spiritual sites or Ekadasha Teertha. Also known as the Rome of the East, the state's tourism strives to utilise the potential of its history and heritage by involving the local communities. Through this initiative, tourists will be able to foster a deeper connection with the places they visit and appreciate their

cultural significance.

### **Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh launches the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application for the Revised Fund Flow Procedure under MPLAD Scheme.**

The objective of MPLAD Scheme is to enable the Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs. The revised set of guidelines aims to broaden the scope of the Scheme so as to enable the MPs to recommend the developmental works as per the changing needs of the community; with an emphasis on improving the functioning, implementation and monitoring of the MPLAD scheme.

### **More than 92,000 entities recognized as startups since launch of Startup India.**

The regular businesses are often measured by success or failure in a specific number of years of operation, whereas, the startups and scale-ups (established startups) are more accurately measured by failure or success in a particular phase making it difficult to put together a statistic covering all types of new businesses and their failure rate with any level of accuracy. Therefore, the information with respect to the success or failure of startups is not centrally maintained by the Government. Startup India initiative was launched on 16th January 2016 with an objective to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and startups in the country that would drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The details of various programs undertaken by the Government to promote startups across the country under Startup India initiative are given below.

### **ILO pegs global unemployment rate at 5.2 per cent in 2024.**

The International Labour Organisations has projected the global unemployment rate a tad higher at 5.2% in 2024 compared to 5.1% in 2023 and said that working poverty will persist while the income inequality will widen, suggesting a need for greater social justice for a sustainable recovery. In its World Employment and Social Outlook Trends: 2024 report, released on Wednesday, the ILO said labour markets have shown surprising resilience despite deteriorating economic conditions.

### **Google Pay India signs MoU with NPCI International to expand UPI to countries beyond India!**

The MoU has three key objectives. To broaden the use of UPI payments for travelers outside of India, enabling them to conveniently make transactions abroad. To assist in establishing UPI-like digital payment systems in other countries, and to focus on easing the process of remittances between countries by utilizing the UPI infrastructure, thereby simplifying cross-border financial exchanges.

### **ISRO develops second generation Distress Alert Transmitter!**

The DAT-SG has the facility to send back acknowledgement to the fishermen who activate the distress alert from sea. "This gives an assurance to him (the fisherman) of rescue coming to him. Apart from transmitting distress signals from the Sea, DAT-SG has the capability to receive messages from control centres, The first version of DAT has been operational since 2010, using which messages were sent through a communication satellite and received at a central control station (INMCC: Indian Mission Control Centre), where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and location of the fishing boat.

### **Horticulture production estimated at 355.25 million tonnes; an increase of 8.07 million tonnes!**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released Third advance estimate of area and production of various horticultural crops for the year 2022-23. The estimation of total horticulture production for the year 2022-23 is 355.25 million tonnes, which is about 8.07 million tonnes more (increase of 2.32%) than the year 2021-22 (final). Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Arjun Munda said that this achievement of continuously increasing horticulture production in the country is due to the hard work of our farmer brothers & sisters, scientists and agriculture and farmer friendly policies of the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

### **India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina!**

The Agreement was signed in presence of Governor of Catamarca Lic Raul Jalil, Vice Governor of Catamarca, Eng Ruben Dusso and Minister of Mines Catamarca, Marcelo Murua and Ambassador of India to Argentina, Dinesh Bhatia. The signing ceremony was virtually attended by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Government of India, H. E. Shri Pralhad Joshi & Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shri V. L. Kantha Rao.

### **China Deploys 'Einstein Probe,' A Lotus-Shaped Satellite, To Monitor Cosmic Turbulence?**

China has recently sent a groundbreaking astronomical satellite named Einstein Probe (EP) into space on a mission to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe. The satellite, shaped like a lotus in full bloom, employs innovative X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye. Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, this mission marks a significant step in unraveling the secrets of the cosmos.

### **DRDO performs successful flight test of India's next generation Akash missile?**

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday conducted a successful flight test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile. The test was done at 10:30 AM from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur,

off the coast of Odisha, against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at very low altitude. The AKASH-NG missile system is state-of-the-art and possesses capability of intercepting high-speed, agile aerial threats. It has a range of around 80 km.

### **Mitsubishi Heavy Launches H-IIA Rocket Carrying Japan's Spy Satellite?**

Challenges and Developments: The transition to the H-3 rocket has faced challenges, including a failed test launch in March of the previous year. However, a new experimental launch is planned for February 15, indicating continued progress and commitment to advancing Japan's space exploration capabilities. The Optical-8 satellite is designed primarily for intelligence gathering. It is equipped with advanced optical devices to collect security information. This development is crucial for Japan's strategic surveillance and defence capabilities, especially considering regional geopolitical dynamics.

### **Hockey player Ajit Singh Gill, Singapore's oldest Olympian, dies at 95!**

Singapore's oldest Olympian and former national hockey player of Indian-origin, Ajit Singh Gill, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 95 after battling end-stage renal failure. Ajit Singh Gill, who competed in the 1956 Melbourne Games, is survived by his 92-year-old wife Surjit Kaur, five children, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.