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**December
2023**

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Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi & MoS Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve launched National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal.

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi mentioned that 20 Mineral Blocks have already been put on auction in the first tranche and many more are on the pipeline. The success of the auction would be crucial in the revenue generation for the state, creation of jobs, welfare of local communities and indigenous people, fostering collaboration among industry, academia, and government to strengthen supply chain of critical minerals. MoS Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve addressed the gathering after the launch and emphasized that the launch of the National Geoscience Data Repository will mark a significant milestone on the exploration journey of India.

6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize Celebrates Literary Excellence and Social Achievement

The 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize reached its pinnacle today, honoring exceptional achievements in both literary and social spheres. The esteemed ceremony, attended by Copenhagen-based Peter Bundalo, the revered Founder of the Tagore Literary Prize, commemorated the outstanding contributions of Abhijit Banerjee, the Nobel Prize laureate for Economics, recipient of the Tagore Prize for Social Achievement 2023, and Sukrita Paul Kumar, Poet, Critic and Translator wins the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize.

ISRO has been awarded the 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize by the Exploration Museum in Iceland's Husavik for its successful Chandrayaan-3 mission.

India's space endeavours have been lauded on the global stage as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) clinched the prestigious 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize, a testament to its unwavering dedication to lunar exploration. Bestowed by the Husavik Museum, this accolade stands as a recognition of ISRO's significant strides in advancing our comprehension of celestial mysteries through the triumphant Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Robert Solow, Nobelist who tied technology to economic growth, dies at 99

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded Solow the 1987 Nobel in economics for developing a mathematical model for expanding production, part of a field that became known as growth accounting. "Solow's growth model constitutes a framework within which modern macroeconomic theory can be structured," the Nobel organization said in announcing his award.

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announces National Sports Awards 2023

The applications were invited online and sportspersons/coaches/entities were permitted to self-apply through a dedicated Online Portal. A large number of

applications/nominations were received for these awards this year, which were considered by the Selection Committee headed by Justice A. M. Khanwilkar, Retd. Judge, Supreme Court of India and consisting members from eminent sportspersons, persons having experience in sports journalism and sports administrators.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023, Rajasekaran, E.V. Ramakrishnan, Patanjali Sastry Among Recipients!

The awards, spanning 24 languages, were recommended by a distinguished jury and approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi. The selection criteria included books first published between January 2017 and December 31, 2021. Among the notable awardees, Rajasekaran received recognition for his novel Neervazhi Paduvum, Sastry for his Telugu short story collection Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu, and Ramakrishnan for his literary study Malayala Novelinte Deshakalanga.

Padma Bhushan awardee Mohini Giri passes away

Former chair of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V Mohini Giri passed away after a period of brief illness. The iconic women's rights activist founded the Guild of Service in 1979, which was dedicated to empowering women, underprivileged children and war widows.

Annu Rani wins bronze, becomes first Indian female javelin thrower to win medal!

Annu Rani scripted history as she became the first Indian female javelin thrower to win a medal, a bronze, in the Commonwealth Games on the penultimate day in Birmingham on August 7, 2022. Rani sent the spear to a distance of 60m in her fourth attempt to finish third. Annu Rani sent the spear to a distance of 60m in her fourth attempt to finish third.

Aujas Cybersecurity Receives DSCI Excellence Award 2022!

Aujas Cybersecurity - An NSEIT Group Company and a leader in cybersecurity transformation services and solutions was awarded with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Excellence Award 2022 as the 'Cybersecurity Services Company of the Year' India geography for its strategic, proactive, and innovative security and privacy efforts.

In a groundbreaking moment for beauty pageants, the fifth season of Miss Continental International 2023 took centre stage in India for the first time, shattering the tradition of hosting the event in the Philippines or Malaysia

In a groundbreaking moment for beauty pageants, the fifth season of Miss Continental International 2023 took centre stage in India for the first time, shattering the tradition

of hosting the event in the Philippines or Malaysia. The pinnacle of this historic occasion was reached when the radiant Aastha Rawal, an accomplished actress, was crowned Miss Continental International 2023.

IndusInd Bank sold its entire 2.86 per cent stake in Nippon Life India Asset Management for Rs 795 crore through open market transactions.

Hinduja-promoted IndusInd Bank on Wednesday sold its entire 2.86 per cent stake in Nippon Life India Asset Management for Rs 795 crore through open market transactions. SBI Mutual Fund (MF), ICICI Prudential MF, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company, Societe Generale and Morgan Stanley Asia Singapore, were among the buyers.

SBI, HDFC Bank will need to maintain higher capital from FY25, says RBI!

State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank continue to be in the list of the domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) of the Reserve Bank of India, though the first two will require maintaining higher capital. While ICICI Bank continues to be in the same bucketing structure as last year, SBI and HDFC Bank move to higher buckets – SBI shifts from bucket 3 to bucket 4, and HDFC Bank shifts from bucket 1 to bucket 2.

World Bank and Department of Economic Affairs launch PPP Beginner's e-course to foster collaboration between public and private sectors in infrastructure capacity-building!

In a significant step towards fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors in infrastructure capacity-building, Shri Ajay Banga, President, World Bank Group, launched the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Beginner's e-Course in the presence of Shri Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director, World Bank Group, on 20th December 2023 at New Delhi.

Govt, ADB Sign USD 100 Mn Loan Agreement To Improve Urban Services, Tourism Facilities In Tripura!

The signatories of the loan agreement for the Tripura Urban and Tourism Development Project were Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary Department of Economic Affairs for the Government of India, and Nilaya Mitash, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, an official statement said. After signing the loan agreement, Mukherjee said the project will improve the municipal infrastructure and public services in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), along the main national highways in Tripura, besides upgrading key tourism sites.

IndusInd Bank launches 'eSvarna', first RuPay corporate credit card,

Cardholders can avail complimentary lounge access and fuel surcharge waiver!

IndusInd Bank has launched 'eSvarna', the country's first corporate credit card on the RuPay network, enabling the private sector lender to become the first to integrate UPI functionality with a corporate credit card. The card facilitates smooth transactions at merchant outlets and allows users the flexibility to make UPI payments by linking the card with UPI-enabled apps. It also comes with an array of exclusive perks and rewards, the release said.

Mutual Funds, demat accounts, Sebi extends deadline for nomination filing till June 2024!

Further, Sebi asked asset management companies (AMCs), depository participants and Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) to encourage the demat account holders and mutual fund unit holders to fulfil the requirement for nomination/opting out of the nomination by sending a communication on fortnightly basis by way of emails and SMS to all such unit holders who are not in compliance with the requirement of nomination.

HDFC Bank gets board approval for 3 years extension to Atanu Chakraborty as chairman!

Country's biggest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Wednesday said its board has approved three years extension to Atanu Chakraborty as non-executive chairman. The board has recommended the re-appointment of Chakraborty as the part-time non-executive chairman and independent director of the bank to the Reserve Bank of India RBI, for a second term of three years with effect from May 5, 2024 to May 4, 2027, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. The re-appointment will be subject to the approval of the RBI and the shareholders of the bank, it said. He was appointed chairman of the bank in May 2024.

NABARD to tap global climate capital for Indian agri sector, NABARD signs pact with ADB, Gates foundation to mobilise global finance for climate-resilient agriculture

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has teamed up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help the farming sector tackle the adverse impact of climate change. The two organisations, in association with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will tap climate capital to fund agricultural, natural resources and rural development (ANR) initiatives.

States' gross fiscal deficit below Budget Estimate for a 2nd yr, The implementation of goods and services tax (GST) has led to increased tax buoyancy for the states

States have sustained improvement in their finances — which was achieved in the financial year 2021-22 — even during 2022-23 with a combined gross fiscal deficit (GFD) at 2.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). This is below the Budget Estimates for the second consecutive year, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) report on state finances said.

Bank of Maharashtra unveils Comprehensive Suite of New Products and Services

Asheesh Pandey, Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra said," With the launch of more than 100 innovative products and services across diverse platforms such as Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, WhatsApp Banking, Credit Card services, and a spectrum of Digital Products, coupled with Operational upgradations and targeted initiatives for the MSME & Retail segment, the Bank is moving forward with its vision to pioneer innovations that resonates with the evolving needs of our customers. In today's age of rapid digital advancements, data analytics coupled with customer centricity are the keys that can beat any competition."

ICICI Pru AMC changes the minimum application amount for Nifty Bank Index Fund!

Accordingly, changes in Scheme Information Document (SID) and Key Information Memorandum (KIM) of ICICI Prudential Nifty Bank Index Fund have been made by the fund house. This notice by the AMC forms an integral part of the Scheme Information Document (SID) and Key Information Memorandum (KIM) of the scheme as amended from time to time. All the other provisions of the SIDs/KIMs/SAI/addenda of the schemes above remain unchanged.

RBI releases draft licensing framework for authorised persons under forex law!

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 26 released a draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorised Persons (APs)' under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. The focus of the draft norms is on rationalising the authorisation framework for money changers in view of the widespread availability of banking services to public, to look at alternate models for facilitating foreign exchange related services and improve the scope of services being offered by AD-Category II entities, a release stated.

Axis Bank users can now enjoy benefits of the American Express Network, On reaching annual spends of Rs.2.5 lakh, the annual fee for the next year is reversed.

The Axis Bank Privilege Credit Card on American Express network is packed with a host of attractive benefits such as activation benefit worth Rs 5000 and two complimentary domestic lounge access per calendar quarter. To be eligible for the card, you must be a resident of India with an annual net income of at least Rs

600,000. The joining fee is Rs 1500, but it is free for priority customers. The annual fee of Rs 1500 is reversed on achieving spends of Rs 2.5 lakh in the previous year

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Launches New Term Plan With Ulip Benefits

Named T.U.L.I.P (term and Ulip), it offers life cover up to 100 times the annual premium while giving the policy buyer the opportunity to earn returns like a Ulip. In addition, the policy also offers loyalty addition up to 30 per cent of the fund value as part of the maturity benefits, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance announced in a press statement.

In a stock exchange filing, LIC said the Department of Economic Affairs has decided to grant a "one-time exemption to LIC to achieve 25 per cent MPS within 10 years from the date of listing i.E., till May 2032".

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) informed on Thursday that the government has granted it a one-time exemption to achieve 25 per cent Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) within 10 years. LIC — the country's largest insurer — was listed in May 2022 where the government had sold over 22.13 crore shares, or a 3.5 per cent stake in the insurance behemoth, through an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations for strengthening multilateral development banks.

The World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs) laid out by an independent experts' group formed during India's G20 presidency. (MDBs) laid out by an independent experts' group formed during India's G20 presidency.

SEBI approves appointment of ex-IAS Pramod Agrawal as BSE Chairman, Pramod Agrawal, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has served as Coal India Chairman from February 2020 to June 2023!

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of former Coal India chief Pramod Agrawal as the chairman of the BSE. The appointment will be effective from January 17, 2024. Agrawal holds a BTech degree in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai and an MTech in Design Engineering from IIT Delhi. Agrawal, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, served as Coal India Chairman from February 2020 to June 2023. Prior to joining Coal India, he was Principal Secretary of the Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment and the Department of Labor, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

As part of the composite scheme of amalgamation, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd!

IDFC Limited and IDFC Financial Holding Company (IDFC FHCL) have received letters dated December 26, 2023 from RBI whereby RBI has conveyed its 'No Objection' to the composite scheme of amalgamation, subject to compliance with the terms specified therein," IDFC Ltd said in a regulatory filing. As part of the composite scheme of amalgamation, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd.

HDFC Life and NKGSB Co-operative Bank Ltd have entered into a Corporate Agency tie-up enabling NKGSB Co-operative Bank customers to avail life insurance products of HDFC Life.

NKGSB Co-operative Bank is a leading multi-state co-operative bank and has always been at the forefront of adding value to its products by establishing correspondent relationships and strategic alliances. Keeping pace with changing times and changing customer habits, the bank offers digital banking solutions such as mobile banking, internet banking and SMS banking to its customer base. India remains vastly under-insured, both in terms of penetration and density. Such tie-ups are good for the consumers, as access to life insurance products improves. This distribution creates an opportunity to penetrate the underserved segments. NGKSB customers will be able to avail a bouquet of traditional, term, pensions and annuity products of HDFC Life.

World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies!

The World Bank has approved a \$300 million loan to help the cash-strapped Pakistan address issues of climate change, health emergency and manage solid waste to reduce flooding chances in the country's financial capital Karachi, a media report said on Thursday. The Washington-based lender approved \$200 million for the Sindh Resilience project and USD 100 million for the Solid Waste Emergency and Efficiency project, The Express Tribune newspaper reported, citing an official statement issued by the bank's local office.

Indian Navy's stealth guided missile destroyer INS Imphal commissioned!

Enhancing maritime capabilities in response to China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean region, the Indian Navy commissioned its newest domestically constructed stealth-guided missile destroyer, INS Imphal, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Tuesday. The commissioning ceremony was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde.

Govt to extend RoDTEP benefits to e-commerce exports!

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the government has decided to extend the benefits of the export-boosting scheme Remission of Duties and Taxes

on Exported Products (RoDTEP) to e-commerce exports. The RoDTEP scheme, which came into effect three years ago, refunds the embedded non-creditable central, state, and local levies paid on inputs to exporters.

Uttar Pradesh now has more stock market investors than Gujarat, shows NSE data!

A retail trading boom is on in India. The frenzy is visible in the data put out by the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. — the world's largest derivatives bourse by the number of contracts traded. The number of investors in India went past the 8 crore mark this year, registering a 22.4% jump from December 31, 2022. 2023 was the year when the bourses were on a roll. The benchmark NSE Nifty 50 touched the milestones of 20,000 on September 11 and the 21,000-mark on December 8.

CCI clears stake acquisition in RCap by IIHL, IIHL BFSI (I) Ltd, Aasia!

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India on Wednesday said it has cleared the proposed stake acquisition in Reliance Capital by IndusInd International Holdings Ltd, IIHL BFSI (India) Ltd, and Aasia Enterprises. Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) is an RBI-registered non-banking, non-deposit-taking systemically important company (NBFC-CIC-ND-SI). It is engaged in the financial service sector.

All-in-one insurance product, Bima Vistaar, to be rolled out in Q1 of FY25!

Bima Vistaar, the first of its kind all-in-one affordable insurance product for life, health, and property cover, is set to be rolled out in the first quarter of the next financial year. "The product design and other key aspects for rolling out Bima Vistaar have almost been completed. We need a technology platform to launch the product, which is being looked into by the Life and General Insurance Councils," a senior official of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) told businessline on Friday.

Govt inks ₹1614-crore pact with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders for 6 offshore patrol vessels!

The acquisition of vessels, stated the Ministry, is aimed to boost the ICG's capability and reinforces the increased focus of the government towards maritime security. "These modern and high-tech Ships will play a critical role in enhancing surveillance, Law enforcement, Search and Rescue, Maritime Pollution Response, and other important capabilities including humanitarian assistance by the ICG," it pointed out.

Passengers got a feel of the Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) as operations began this January after being officially inaugurated in November 2022.

Referred to as 'Terminal in a Garden', T2 initially catered to domestic operations of a few airlines as Terminal 1 handled the bulk of domestic and international flights. Gradually, some more domestic carriers moved to T2. Passengers got a feel of the Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) as operations began this January after being officially inaugurated in November 2022.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod for acquisition of majority shareholding of Glenmark Life Sciences Limited by Nirma Ltd.

CCI approves acquisition of majority shareholding of the Glenmark Life Sciences Ltd by the Nirma Ltd", said a CCI post in platform 'X', which was formerly known as Twitter. In September this year, Nirma had announced that it would acquire 75 per cent stake in Glenmark Life Sciences for ₹7,500 crore. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals had decided to sell the 75 per cent stake to retire outstanding debt of ₹4,340 crore.

Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has received orders of ₹2,673 crore from Goa Shipyard Ltd for ₹1,701 crore and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers for ₹972 crore.

According to the PSU, this will require the participation of electronics and associated industries, including MSMEs, which are sub-vendors of BEL. Moreover, the equipment manufactured by BEL is part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme. The company has also received additional orders worth ₹86.15 crore since the last disclosure on December 15, and the said orders pertain to miscellaneous spares and services.

NHAI Revolutionising Road Travel, Nationwide GPS-based toll collection to be rolled out by March 2024!

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced that the government is planning to implement new technologies, including GPS-based toll collection systems, to replace existing highway toll plazas. The initiative aims to alleviate traffic congestion and ensure motorists are charged accurately for the distance traveled on highways. The rollout of new GPS satellite-based toll collection is scheduled to commence nationwide by March next year.

SBI to sign \$165 million LoC with World Bank for rooftop solar projects!

In September, SBI said that it plans to make home loans with rooftop solar installations mandatory for residential projects funded from the bank's long-term climate action funds drawn down from multilateral agencies. The lender has outstanding forex loans of \$2.3 billion from multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and KfW of Germany.

Sebi eases norms to encourage social stock exchanges and smaller REITs!

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has eased the norms for social stock exchanges and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to attract more participants into the arena and, at the same time, make more instruments available for trading for retail investors. The board of the capital market watchdog, which met on Saturday, approved the reduction in minimum issue size public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) by not-for-profit entities from the current Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.

Reliance Jio has partnered with IIT Bombay to develop an indigenous GPT platform called Bharat GPT!

Reliance Jio is set to partner with IIT Bombay to carry out the central government's initiative of establishing an indigenous GPT platform called Bharat GPT. Professor Ganesh Ramakrishnan from IIT's department of computer science and engineering, is exploring GPT and Large Language Model (LLM) solutions for this. Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio unveiled this collaboration at IIT-B's Techfest.

Noting India's medtech sector is import-dependent, with imports accounting for up to 80% in some cases, Mandaviya said the govt had taken steps to ensure medical devices were supplied within India

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched MedTech Mitra, an online portal that aims to assist medtech innovators in clinical evaluation, regulatory facilitation, and uptake of new products. The portal will be coordinated collaboratively by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the guidance of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

Merger-bound North East SFB appoints Satish Kumar Kalra as interim MD & CEO!

Kalra was earlier MD, CEO (in-charge), and Executive Director at Andhra Bank, which was later merged with Union Bank of India. He has expertise in Treasury Management, NPA Credit Management, and Risk Management and has worked as an independent director on the boards of PNB GILTS, Ind Bank Merchant Services, JK Cement Limited, and CanFin Homes.

Bajaj Finance had in a filing last month said that the RBI in its order dated November 15 directed the NBFC to stop sanction and disbursement of loans under its two lending products!

Shares of RBL Bank Ltd and Bajaj Finance Ltd took a beating in Tuesday's trade amid a media report that suggested that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted a one-year extension for their co-branded cards, less than what the two had requested for. The apex bank has granted an extension until December 21, 2024, as per CNBC TV-18 sources. Bajaj Finance had on October 27 sought a longer

extension for its credit card ties with RBL Bank, the report suggested.

Reliance signs non-binding pact with Walt Disney for merger of India business!

As per the report, valuation exercise by independent valuers will officially begin soon. The plan is to create a step-down subsidiary of RIL's Viacom18 that will absorb Star India via a stock swap, the report added. Reliance is expected to be the larger shareholder with at least 51 per cent, while Disney will own 49 per cent in the merged company. JioCinema will also be part of the deal. RIL is likely to pay cash for the controlling stake, the report stated.

China blasted Mengtian into space on Monday afternoon from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Center on the southern island province of Hainan!

Mengtian was blasted into space on Monday afternoon from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Center on the southern island province of Hainan. It was expected to take about 13 hours to complete the flight and docking mission. A large crowd of amateur photographers, space enthusiasts and others watched the lift-off from an adjoining beach. Many waved Chinese flags and wore T-shirts emblazoned with the characters for China, reflecting the deep national pride invested in the space program and the technological progress it represents.

The cumulative Roof Top Solar (RTS) installed capacity increased to 10.4 GW as of November 30, 2023, from 1.8 GW as of March 31, 2019!

The Programme envisaged the installation of 4 GW of RTS capacity in the residential sector by providing CFA. It has been extended till 31.03.2026 without a change in the financial outlay initially approved. Total CFA/subsidy released under Phase-II of the Rooftop Solar Program stood at about ₹2900 crore as of November 30, 2023.

ETO Motors gets Rs 12.45 crore grant from SIDBI to deploy 300 electric three-wheelers in Delhi and Hyderabad, build charging ecosystem too

The financial support to ETO Motors is under SIDBI's Mission 50K-EV4ECO which aims at strengthening the EV ecosystem in India, including uptake for two-, three- and four-wheelers through direct and indirect lending. The objective of this scheme is to provide access to affordable financing for electric vehicles and to develop charging infrastructure, including battery swapping.

CBDT issues guidelines under section 194-O of the Income-tax Act, 1961!

Vide CBDT Circular No. 20/2023 dated 28.12.2023 guidelines have been issued for removal of difficulties and clarity has been provided on various issues pertaining to applicability of section 194-O of the Act in a multiple e-commerce operator model framework, such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The Circular details several types of situations with examples & provides clarity on multiple issues.

Having received representations from various quarters, the CBDT Circular incorporates FAQs on varied issues.

Adani Green inks 1,799 MW solar power deal with SECI, completes 8,000 MW commitment!

Adani Green Energy Ltd finalised a power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India to deliver 1,799 MW of solar power. This agreement marks the completion of AGEL's power offtake commitments for the 8,000 MW manufacturing-linked solar tender awarded by SECI in June 2020

OYO partners with Khelo India and others to support differently-abled talent across India!

Global online hospitality firm OYO announced on Tuesday that they have partnered with Khelo India Para Games and Divyang Kala Mela to provide specialised and accessible accommodation for differently abled players across India. This step is taken to promote inclusivity by focusing on providing equitable access to quality accommodation for differently abled individuals, which is a focus area for the firm in 2024.

A group of rising stars is narrowing the gap with Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams, with eight women earning at least \$10 million apiece for the first time!

By the time Serena Williams announced in August that she was ready to hang up her racket after 27 years in professional tennis, she had built an estimated fortune of \$260 million. That made her one of only two athletes, along with her old rival Maria Sharapova, on the list of America's richest self-made women.

PwC Survey Reveals Cyber Risks As Top Threat For Indian Organisations!

According to PwC, the survey's final results are based on 3,910 responses from Business and Risk Management leaders (including CEOs, board members, risk management experts, operations managers, technology professionals, finance managers, and auditors) across 67 territories. The survey aimed to gather the opinions of these leaders on the status and direction of risk within their organisation. Out of the total participants, 163 Indian organisations took part in the survey. The survey also revealed that digital and technology risks are the top concerns for business leaders in India, accounting for 35 per cent of the total response

For tourists in Uttarakhand, gyrocopter rides will soon offer a view from above

The Uttarakhand government is all set to revolutionise tourism with the launch of India's first-ever Himalayan AirSafari using compact, agile aircraft known as gyrocopters. The first gyrocopter trial flight was successfully completed at Bairagi Camp, Haridwar on Saturday. The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, in

collaboration with Rajas Aerosports and Adventures Pvt Ltd, is introducing gyrocopters as a novel way to explore its stunning landscapes.

Shri Narayan Rane launches three sub-schemes under the RAMP programme- MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSE GIFT Scheme), MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) MSE Scheme on Online Dis

The MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments is a first of its kind scheme to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and Artificial Intelligence to address the incidences of delayed payments for Micro and Small Enterprises. The Ministry is also taking new initiatives under the existing schemes to provide enhanced support to the MSMEs. The Support for Commercialisation of IP Programme (MSME – SCIP Programme) will enable the innovators in the MSME sector to commercialize their IPR. In addition, the ZED Scheme of the Ministry has now been made completely free for women led MSMEs. The government guarantees payment of 100 percent financial support for the certification cost. These two interventions were also launched by the Union Minister. The Ministry exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the implementing agencies SIDBI (for MSME GIFT and MSME SPICE schemes) and with National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (for NICSI) for MSE ODR scheme.

Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, 3-yr Term Deposit, and more, Small savings schemes' interest rates hiked up to 20 bps for Q4FY24!

Sukanya Samridhi Scheme: The Centre on Friday hiked the interest rates of some of the small savings schemes, such as Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, 3-year Time Deposit, for the January-March 2024 quarter. In a notification, the Union finance ministry said that the interest rates of most schemes were at the same level, with minor tweaks for the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme and 3-year time deposit.

National Mathematics Day 2023

on December 22, India observes its National Mathematics Day in honour of Srinivasa Ramanujan, regarded as one of the greatest mathematicians to ever grace the planet. December 22, the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1920), is celebrated as National Mathematics Day.

Veer Bal Diwas 2023

Today is 26th December and today is celebrated as Brave Children's Day in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday participated in a program organized on the occasion of 'Veer Bal Diwas' at Bharat Mandapam in the capital and flagged off a march past of youth. Last year, on January 9, the day of Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Prime Minister had announced that December 26 would be 'Veer Bal Diwas' in memory of the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons - Sahibzade Baba

Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. Will be celebrated. So let us know what is Veer Bal Diwas, what is its history and what is its importance?

Good Governance Day 2023!

December 25, 2023, is celebrated as Good Governance Day 2023 in honor of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This day pays tribute to Vajpayee's leadership and contributions to society, marked by his three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

FIBA proud to celebrate a very special first 'World Basketball Day'

FIBA is excited and proud to celebrate a historic first-ever World Basketball Day after it became the first team sport to receive such a global recognition and prestigious honor. Arising from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and its plenary meeting that was held during August, on the eve of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023, a resolution was adopted that established the inaugural World Basketball Day on December 21. There is no better day to celebrate basketball than the day it was invented by Dr. James Naismith. It was on December 21 in 1891 that the first game of basketball famously took place in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The United Nations declares 2023 the International Year of Millets

These are the international years currently observed by the United Nations. The United Nations designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the Organization. Usually, it is one or more Member States that propose these observances and the General Assembly establishes them with a resolution. On occasion, these celebrations are declared by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, etc., when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their competencies. Some of them may be later adopted by the General Assembly.

National Farmers Day 2023?

This special day is all about giving a big shout-out to our farmers, the real heroes behind our country's growth. National Farmers' Day is also known as Rashtriya Kisan Diwas and is popular across India's agricultural and farming states, including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh, among others. Farmers' Day is also observed in other parts of the world. It is celebrated on the first Friday of December in Ghana, USA celebrates it on 12 October, in Zambia it is observed on the first Monday of August and Pakistan started celebrating the day on 18 December 2019.

National Consumer Day 2023!

In 1986, the Consumer Protection Act was passed and it received the assent of the President on December 24. Since then, National Consumer Rights Day has been celebrated on this day to commemorate the occasion. The Consumer Protection Act acts to protect consumers from defective goods, negligent services, and unfair trade practices. The six fundamental rights of the Consumer Protection Act are the Right to safety, Right to choose, Right to be informed, Right to be heard, Right to seek redressal, and Right to consumer education.

Tansen Music Festival 2023

Set in the humble village of Behat in Gwalior, the Tansen Music Festival or the Tansen Sangeet Sammelan/ Tansen Utsav is an alluring display of the art of music. The Tansen Music Festival, is a unique four-five day festival, dedicated to the pillar of Indian music, the great Tansen, and it is held at his tomb in Gwalior every year. Celebrated musicians come together and perform for sessions that go on all night. The prestigious festival was started by the Academy of Department of Culture and the Government of Madhya Pradesh to pay tribute to one of the biggest legends of Indian classical music, Mian Tansen.

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2023!

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of investing in systems to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The first ever International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, being held on 27 December 2020, was called for by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate the importance of the prevention of, preparedness for and partnership against epidemics.

Jacques Delors, Passionate Architect of European Unity, Dies at 98!

As president of the European Commission, the European Union's executive body, from 1985 through 1994, Mr. Delors maintained a nearly religious faith in the principle of a federal and communal Europe, even as the eurozone debt crisis, a contentious debate over migration and the essential question of whether rich northern countries would keep providing funds to their near bankrupt neighbors in southern Europe threatened to rip this vision apart.

PRAYAS is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration, said IOM

PRAYAS is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration, said IOM. "IOM intends to develop a roadmap for improved coordination between state and central governments that would encourage the sharing of good practices between states and enhanced engagement with the MEA on matters related to the international migration cycle," the IOM said.

Kempegowda International Airport T2, one of the world's most beautiful airports, wins special prize at UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles

Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the world special prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles. The World Judges Panel for the Prix Versailles 2023, chaired by renowned fashion designer Elie Saab, announced the latest architectural projects to win a World Title, according to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA.

Adani Total Gas and Flipkart sign MoU for supply chain decarbonisation!

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) and Flipkart entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on decarbonising Flipkart's supply chain. The initiative aims to reduce Flipkart's carbon footprint in the primary, secondary, and tertiary movements of goods across sourcing locations, warehouses, and customer deliveries.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species.

The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. It is a powerful tool to inform conservation action and policy. It provides information about species' range, population size, habitats and ecology, use and trade, threats, and conservation actions that help inform conservation decisions. Species are classified into one of nine Red List Categories: Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern, Data Deficient and Not Evaluated. Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered species are considered to be threatened with extinction.

Zerodha's Nithin Kamath joins Centre's reconstituted startup advisory panel, Kamath said that he was excited to join the council and that India needs to unlock its domestic capital to nurture startups

More Indians today than ever before are aspiring to be entrepreneurs thanks to government initiatives and messaging, the media coverage of the startup ecosystem, founder success stories, and more. The one thing we need to work on as a nation is to unlock domestic capital for startups/MSMEs. Reduce the dependence on foreign capital and get Indians to back Indian startups. Reduce the dependence on foreign capital and get Indians to back Indian start-ups," he wrote in a post.

Partnership to promote innovation and upskilling in Indian leather sector!

Solidaridad Regional Expertise Centre (SREC) and the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) have forged a strategic partnership to further strengthen the performance of the Indian leather industry in domestic and international markets. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed in Delhi today, marks an important milestone for the Indian leather industry. The MoU, effective from 1 January 2024 till 31 December 2028, initiates a pivotal five-year partnership between SREC, a prominent not-for-profit organization established in the year 2008, and CLE, operating under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Ministry of Textiles launches “Paat-Mitro” application to facilitate jute farmers.

The application can be freely downloaded from Google Play Store and all the functionalities are made available to the users free of cost. In addition to, the latest agronomic practices and Minimum Support Prices (MSP); Jute Gradation Parameters, Farmer-centric schemes like ‘Jute-ICARE’, weather forecasts, JCI’s Purchase Centers’ locations, Procurement Policies are also made available in the app. Farmers will also be able to track status of their payments for the raw jute sold to JCI under MSP Operation. Latest technology feature like Chatbot is included for their queries through this mobile application “Paat-Mitro”.

The bilingual (English and Hindi) work in 11 volumes, spread across about 4,000 pages, is a collection of the writings and speeches of Malaviya.

Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Kalra as interim MD and CEO, following the approval of the bank's board and the Reserve Bank of India. Kalra was earlier MD, CEO (in-charge), and Executive Director at Andhra Bank, which was later merged with Union Bank of India.

Govt notifies rules for leasing of seabed to offshore wind power developers

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday notified rules for leasing the sea bed for offshore wind power projects with the lease being valid for 3 years for resource measurement, which can be further extended by an additional period for two years. For the construction and operation of offshore wind energy farms, the lease period will be for 35 years, which can be extended further on a case-to-case basis.

Shri Piyush Goyal releases the “Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) 2023”

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Piyush Goyal said that LEADS is giving insights to States and UTs for further revolutionary reform in logistics sector, taking us towards our vision of Viksit Bharat. The report serves as a guide for stakeholders in the Logistics Sector by providing strategic insights, he added. He hoped that it will play a pivotal role in instilling healthy competition among States/UTs to enhance logistics performance. It also underscores notable initiatives like planning infrastructure on PM GatiShakti, ‘industry’ status for logistics, multimodal connectivity, digital initiatives in

logistics, City Logistics Plans, Multimodal Logistics Parks, etc, he said, adding that States/UTs need to emphasise skill development, capacity building, and the formalization of logistics policies, implementation of monitoring frameworks, and the promotion of green logistics. He said that Logistics sector will be a cornerstone in our endeavour to take India to a 10 fold growth from a USD 3.5 trillion to USD 35 trillion by 2047.

Devender Singh Kadian, who runs a chain of food joints on National Highways and is considered to be close to protesting wrestlers, claimed the senior vice president's post.

The much-delayed elections to the Wrestling Federation of India were finally held on Thursday with little surprise and the results and responses on expected lines as the supporters of former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh swept into power with a thumping majority.

Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Releases Commemorative Postal Stamp on First Foundation Day of AIIA Goa.

Among the distinguished guests present at the program were AIIA Director Prof Tanuja Manoj Nesari, AIIA Goa Dean Prof Sujata Kadam, Indian Post DG Smita Kumar name and Shri RS Manku, CMD, Andrew Yule and other distinguish along with other dignitaries, underscoring the significance of this momentous occasion. The satellite centre in Goa was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi last year. On this occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said "I want to congratulate the All India Institute of Ayurveda team as yesterday to mark the first foundation day of the All India Institute of Ayurveda's Goa we are releasing a commemorative postal stamp. The release of the commemorative postal stamp of AIIA Goa is a proud moment for us. The step taken will give global recognition to Ayurveda.

The Government of India and JICA sign Loan Agreements on Japan's Official Development Assistance Loan to India

The Loan Agreements were signed here today in New Delhi between the Government of India and JICA, New Delhi under Japanese Official Development Assistance Loan Program. The Loan Agreements were signed by Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA, New Delhi on Japanese Official Development Assistance Loan for the (i) Project for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 1) for JPY 40.074 billion (Rs.2470 Crore approx.), and (ii) Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals in India for JPY 15.000 billion (Rs.950 Crore approx.).

India took over as the co-Chair of IONS Working Groups on Maritime Security

and HADR.

During the Conclave, CNS, IN held fruitful interaction with the host, Adm Adoong Pan-lam, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Navy and complimented him for taking over Chairmanship of IONS. Both Leaders expressed commitment towards sustaining an upward trajectory of Bilateral Defence engagements including naming of IN - RTN Bilateral based on historical and cultural connect. Further, he also interacted with Heads of Delegation from Australia, Bangladesh, France, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Maldives, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Spain, and discussed bilateral maritime issues. On the side-lines of Conclave, the CNS also visited Indian Naval Ship Kadmatt, at Bangkok, and interacted with the ship's crew, commending them for successful long range deployment.

India Skills Report finds Kerala the most preferred State to work.

Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have come second and fourth respectively among cities where both men and women prefer to work regardless of their age, according to the report published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in association with various agencies including All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry and Association of Indian Universities.

Nina Singh, the first woman to be appointed as chief of CISF.

The Centre on Thursday appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). She will hold the top post till July 31, 2024."Nina Singh, IPS (RJ: 89) assumed the charge of DG #CISF engraving a historic milestone as the first woman to helm this esteemed position. Her visionary leadership will usher this multi-skilled and multi-dimensional force to greater heights.

President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to the three Criminal Code bills.

President Draupadi Murmu on December 25 gave her assent to the three new criminal code bills, which were cleared by Parliament last week. These new laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act — will replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

Ministry of commerce-backed e-commerce protocol Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

With Google Maps, ONDC is onboarding the Kochi Metro as a mobility service on its platform. Users can make ticket bookings for the metro service directly in Google Maps, through the ONDC framework. For Meta, ONDC is being integrated into WhatsApp, where small businesses will be able to streamline their onboarding process on the framework. The move will also form a key part of Meta's focus on monetizing its India market in 2024, said India head Sandhya Devanathan in an

interview on Tuesday.

Hopes for Gelephu mega-project, economic revival dominate voters in Bhutan ahead of January 9 elections

The Gelephu “mindfulness” mega-city project or Special Administrative Region (SAR) announced by Bhutan’s King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on Sunday, as well as fixing the economy and reversing youth migration trends, will be the major tasks for the future Prime Minister, whichever party wins the January 9 elections, both the contenders for the position told The Hindu.

Himachal Pradesh CM Launches Shimla Winter Carnival, Aims to Boost Tourism

Akashwani Correspondent reports that The tourist destinations of Himachal Pradesh are fully prepared to welcome tourists and the state government is also leaving no stone unturned to attract visitors. The Winter Carnival is being organized in Shimla till January 5. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu flagged off the cultural parade at the beginning of the carnival today. On this occasion, he said that 30 thousand tourist vehicles have arrived in Himachal Pradesh in the last two days, which is a good sign as the tourism industry is once again on its feet after the disaster.

Bisleri Ropes in Iconic Star Deepika Padukone as it's Global Brand Ambassador.

Bisleri, India's leading mineral water brand has roped in Global Indian Icon Deepika Padukone as its first-ever global brand ambassador in the new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp. The campaign is a fresh and never seen before take on hydration infusing excitement and fun. The ad film showcases Padukone grooving to a snappy and modern take on the iconic song 'Jhoom Jhoom Jhoom Baba' while relishing the pure refreshment of the original beverage, 'water'.

India, Oman adopt vision document to expand bilateral cooperation.

In a significant development in the India-Oman economic partnership, the third tranche of the Oman-India Joint Investment Fund has been announced, marking a major milestone in trade and capital cooperation between the two nations. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, in a special briefing at the Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday, highlighted the importance of this achievement during the State Visit of the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik, to India.

Amit Shah launched the “Tiranga Anthem” and released a commemorative postage stamp during the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Mr. Shah launched the “Tiranga Anthem” and released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, who designed the Tricolour, as a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign organised by the Culture Ministry. The

campaign promotes the hoisting of the national flag in all households from August 13 to August 15, to mark 75 years of Independence.

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar Appointed As Acting Chief Justice Of Jharkhand High Court.

The notification has been issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice has appointment of Justice Shree Chandrashekhar as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. The Notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice stated that in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, the Judge of the Jharkhand High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court with effect from December 29, 2023, which being consequent upon the retirement of Shree Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court on December 28, 2023. The appointment made follows the retirement of Chief Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, who will be serving as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court until December 28, 2023.

Angola was for days at the center of a spat over production quotas that delayed November's OPEC meeting.

Africa's second biggest oil producer, Angola has said that it is leaving OPEC after disagreements over its production targets, in a blow to the oil cartel chaired by Saudi Arabia. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting and approved by President João Lourenço. The decision comes after the producer group lowered Angola's oil output target last month as part of a series of cuts led by Saudi Arabia to help prop up prices.

Pakistan test fires indigenously developed weapons rocket system.

Pakistan on Thursday successfully conducted the test-flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, capable of delivering conventional warheads, with a maximum range of 140 km. According to Director General of Army, Media Wing, Major General Babar Iftikhar, Fatah-1 weapon system can hit targets up to a range of 140 km.

Biden nominates Indian-American VC for key post.

In addition to his work at Insight and for the Development Finance Corporation, Parekh serves as a Board Member for the Council on Foreign Relations, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, NYU Langone, the Tisch New York MS Research Center, and the Economic Club of New York.

India's coking coal imports at 5-year high; Russia now among top three suppliers.

India's coking coal imports are at a five-year high for the April-November period (11 months) of this fiscal at 38.14 million tonnes (mt). Imports were slightly higher on a Y-o-Y basis with nearly 38.12 mt of shipments coming in for the comparative period last year.

Minister Bhupendra Yadav launches NTPS, a unified system for forest goods' transport across India.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav virtually flagged off a timber-laden truck from Gandhidham in Gujarat's Kutch district and another loaded with forest products from Jammu and Kashmir after QR-coded transit permits were generated for the twin cargos by NTPS.

Cabinet approves opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to open of a Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand. Opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland would help in increasing India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen India's diplomatic representation in view of India's increasing global engagement. This will also help promote India's strategic and commercial interests and better serve the welfare of Indian community in Auckland. The Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operationalized within a time frame of 12 months.

India, Bangladesh agree to extend crucial Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route

According to the statement, three high-level talks between India and Bangladesh, including shipping secretary-level talks, 22nd meeting of standing committee under PIWT&T and the 3rd meeting of inter-governmental committee on use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for to-and-fro movement of goods, successfully concluded in Dhaka.

HAL opens new design and test facility for the development of strategic engines!

A new state-of-the-art design and test facility at the Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru was laid open to facilitate the development of strategic engines for powering trainer aircrafts, drones, regional jets and light and medium helicopters.

NQSTS aims to galvanise the Quantum Eco-System in the country and develop synergies to leverage the Quantum Technology to solve real-life problems!

NQSTS aims to galvanise the Quantum Eco-System in the country and develop synergies to leverage the Quantum Technology to solve real-life problems which is

designed to break boundaries, spark innovation and unite visionaries to envision and explore the disruptive use of quantum technology with shared global learning, according to the statement. To forge strategic partnerships to accelerate research and adoption of Quantum Technology a MoU was signed between QETCI and BeST Cluster to support the Bangalore Quantum Ecosystem, in the Research to Commercialisation, Startups and Market Opportunity Creation. A Quantum Security Centre was also launched and the logo was unveiled.

LAUNCH OF MISSILE CUM AMMUNITION (MCA) BARGE, LSAM 10 (YARD 78) ON 20 NOV 23 AT M/S SECON ENGINEERING PROJECTS PVT LTD, VISAKHAPATNAM!

The launch of 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78)', the 4th Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL), Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was undertaken at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh (launch site of M/s SEPPL). The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Shanmugam Sabesan, CRO (East). The contract for building 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge was signed between MoD and M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam on 19 Feb 21. The availability of these Barges would provide impetus to operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation and Disembarkation of articles/ ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

Razorpay, Cashfree receive final RBI nod for payment aggregator biz Other players such as PayU, Paytm, JusPay, among others are yet to receive a nod from the regulator to onboard new merchants

The embargo to onboard new merchants has been lifted today. The company has received the Payment Aggregator (PA) license from the RBI. It will now onboard new merchants on its payment gateway," a Cashfree Payments' spokesperson told Business Standard. In December last year, the RBI had asked Razorpay and Cashfree to stop onboarding new merchants.

Tata Boeing Aerospace has achieved a major milestone by delivering 250 made-in-India AH-64 Apache fuselages, for costumers like IAF and US Army.

Achieving a major milestone in the defence manufacturing sector, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited has successfully delivered the 250th fuselage for the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. The same was manufactured in TBAL's state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Iran's navy adds 'fully smart' cruise missiles with 1,000-km range to its armory

The report said both Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles had arrived at a naval base near the Indian Ocean in the southern Iranian port of Konarak, some 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran. Navy chief Adm. Shahram Irani said the Talaeieh has a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and called it “fully smart.” Irani said the cruise missile is capable of changing targets during travel.

Hyundai Motor India ropes in Deepika Padukone as brand ambassador!

Talking about the appointment, Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai Motor India, said, “We are happy to onboard actor Deepika Padukone as our brand ambassador. Her charm and career aligns with the Hyundai Motor brand. In this partnership, we envision Padukone as the perfect catalyst to bridge the gap between our cutting-edge automobiles and the aspirations of the young and dynamic demographic. We believe this collaboration will elevate our brand presence and create a profound connection with the energetic and forward-thinking audience we aim to reach.”

Russia, NASA agree to continue joint ISS flights until 2025?

The space sector -- including its so-called cross-flights that involve sending crews from different nationalities on one spacecraft -- is a rare area of cooperation remaining between Moscow and Washington since Russia sent troops to Ukraine. Russian and US space agencies have agreed to keep working together to deliver crews to the International Space Station (ISS) until at least 2025, Russian corporation Roscosmos said Thursday.

Navy unveils new Admirals' epaulettes in 'true reflection of Indian rich maritime heritage'!

The Indian Navy on Friday unveiled the new design of epaulettes that officers will wear, drawing inspiration from Rajmudra of Chhatrapati Shivaji. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the introduction of the new design during the Navy Day address on December 4 at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra. The current design has been released for the rank of Admiral, Vice Admiral and Rear Admiral – the top three positions in the naval forces.

A total of 400 scientists, including 250-300 from ISRO, and 1500 students, took part in NAFED 2018 along with entrepreneurs and scholars.

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre unveiled 'Feast' software, a finite element analysis tool at Panimalar Engineering College's Third National Finite Element Developers' session on Sunday, a college release said. The Indian made Feast Software is utilised in the country's rockets. A total of 400 scientists, including 250-300 from ISRO, and 1500 students, took part in NAFED 2018 along with entrepreneurs and scholars.

the Union Sports Ministry had asked the WFI to suspend its activities following

some arbitrary decisions taken by its newly-elected president and requested the IOA to form a panel to run the WFI!

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday announced a three-member ad-hoc committee, headed by its Executive Committee member Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, to run the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) following the newly-elected federation's suspension. Two days ago, the Union Sports Ministry had asked the WFI to suspend its activities following some arbitrary decisions taken by its newly-elected president and requested the IOA to form a panel to run the WFI.

Manchester City have won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time after beating Fluminense 4-0 in the 2023 final in Jeddah!

Goals from Julian Alvarez and Phil Foden either side of an own goal from Fluminense's Nino put City three goals ahead, before Alvarez's late strike secured a historic victory as City took apart the Copa Libertadores winners in an entertaining final at the King Abdullah Sport City. The win sets the seal on a remarkable 2023 for City, a year which has seen Pep Guardiola's rampant side become the first in the history of English football to hold the Premier League, FA Cup, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup simultaneously.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launches logo, jersey, and mascot of 6th Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai

Describing Khelo India as the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister told that it has become a movement now. The Minister told that this edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will introduce squash. Mr. Thakur told that to make India great in 2047, there should be collaboration in Sports with all the states. The Minister asserted that India has heaped medals in international sports events and for the first time it has also won the Thomas Cup. We are building a great future for the talented sports persons, he added. While mentioning Sheetal Devi, the para champion in archery, he asked the sports people to push the limits and be an inspiration for future generations. He told that region and religion do not matter, only performance matters. The minister said India will be bidding for 2036 Olympics and India will be among the ten top sporting nations.

Asian Youth Chess Championships 2023

Every Asian National Chess Federation can register only one Official Player in each category (maximum of 12 official players). No replacement from other categories can be made in case there is no Official Player in one category. Playing in a higher age category for an official place shall be treated as an additional player. All Champions in Standard chess in last year's edition are entitled with personal rights to play in this year's event according to their eligible category as Official Players if the stipulation of article 2.1 is met. One Head of Delegation (HOD) is accommodated at the expense of the Organizing Committee (OC).

Gen Z Superstar Kartik Aaryan, Onboard as the 'Brand Ambassador for Football on Sony Sports Network'!

Sony Sports Network, the premier destination for football in India, has joined hands with Bollywood's Gen Z superstar and youth icon - Kartik Aaryan, who is known to be a die-hard football fan, to become their Brand Ambassador for football. During his partnership with Sony Sports Network, Kartik will be seen promoting LIVE football action on Sony Sports Network around the year with 900+ matches from marquee football tournaments and leagues which include UEFA EURO 2024, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Conference League, UEFA Nations League, Bundesliga, Emirates FA Cup, Durand Cup and Roshn Saudi League amongst others.