



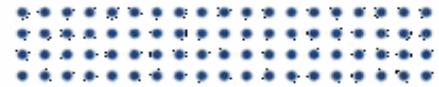
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**February
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Minister for Industries, Law and Coir Shri P Rajeeve unveiled the logo and web portal of the Kerala Brand as part of the ambitious project to tap into the increasing domestic and global demand for a wide range of high-quality products made in Kerala.

Minister for Industries, Law and Coir Shri P Rajeeve unveiled the logo and web portal of the Kerala Brand as part of the ambitious project to tap into the increasing domestic and global demand for a wide range of high-quality products made in Kerala. The logo of Kerala Brand bears the motto 'Nanma', a Malayalam expression that signifies 'Goodness'. Kerala Brand envisages to project the distinguishing features of products and services bearing Made-in-Kerala imprint to tap into the domestic and global market by highlighting their distinguishing features including quality, authenticity of raw materials and the ethical practices followed in production.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, launched 4 transformatory portals for a Modernized Media Landscape.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, launched 4 transformatory portals for a Modernized Media Landscape. These initiative is aimed at ensuring ease of doing business by fostering a more conducive business environment for Newspaper publishers and TV channels, enhance transparency and efficiency in government communication, provide easy access to authentic Government videos and create a comprehensive database of Local Cable Operators (LCOs). The 4 portals are: 1. The Press Sewa Portal, developed under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023) by the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI - erstwhile RNI). Along with the portal, the website offers easy access to relevant information, featuring an AI-based chatbot for user-friendly interactions. 2. In addition to the Press Sewa Portal, the Ministry is introducing the Transparent Empanelment, Media Planning and eBilling System for Central Bureau of Communication. 3. The 'NaViGate Bharat' portal i.e., the National Video Gateway of Bharat, developed by the New Media Wing of the Ministry, is a unified bilingual platform which hosts videos on the entire gamut of Government's development-related and citizen welfare-oriented measures. The portal eliminates the hassle of searching for official and reliable information from multiple sources, providing a one-stop platform for media and the general public. 4. National Register for LCOs: Strengthening Cable Sector National Register for Local Cable Operators (LCOs) is the first step to bring registration of LCOs currently with Post Offices spread across the country under a Centralised Registration System. A web form has been designed to collect information from local cable operators for the purpose of National Register. The National Register for LCOs has also been published online and is being updated regularly.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (Mahindra Finance) has

partnered with American technology company IBM to develop a 24x7 super app.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (Mahindra Finance) has partnered with American technology company IBM to develop a 24x7 super app. The digital platform aims to be a 24x7 gateway for consumers across India, offering a single interface to access a wide array of financial services. The development aims to make financial solutions more accessible to both urban and rural consumers, simplifying the management of products like loans, insurance, and investment solutions.

The World Bank Group (WBG) appointed Wencai Zhang as Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Administrative Officer.

The World Bank Group (WBG) appointed Wencai Zhang as Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Administrative Officer. Wencai, a Chinese national, comes from the Export-Import Bank of China where he is Vice President. He is also serving as a Trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, which promotes international accounting and sustainability standards globally. In the past decade, Wencai has been Vice President at the Agricultural Development Bank of China (ADBC).

India-born media executive Dr Samir Shah is set to be appointed as the new BBC chairman with effect from 4th March 2024 for a period of 4 years until March 2028.

India-born media executive Dr Samir Shah is set to be appointed as the new BBC chairman with effect from 4th March 2024 for a period of 4 years until March 2028. Samir was appointed a CBE for services to Television and Heritage in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours. He was previously made an OBE in the 2000 New Year's Honours List. Samir was elected a Fellow of the Royal Television Society in 2002. Samir was appointed Visiting Professor of Creative Media at Oxford University in 2019.

Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has resigned from his position as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL).

Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has resigned from his position as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL). One97 Communications Limited, the parent company of Paytm, has informed that PPBL has reconstituted its board, adding that Sharma's resignation will "enable this transition". The decision follows a series of measures imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including an order for Paytm Payments Bank to wind down operations by 15 March 2024 due to persistent compliance issues and supervisory concerns.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of

MR Kumar as a part-time non-official Director as well as Non- Executive Chairman on the Board of Bank of India for a term of three years.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of MR Kumar as a part-time non-official Director as well as Non- Executive Chairman on the Board of Bank of India for a term of three years. Kumar is the former chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India. Apart from Kumar, two other appointments were approved by the committee. The committee also approved the appointment of Srinivasan Sridhar as part-time non-official Director as well as Non-Executive Chairman, on the Board of Indian Overseas Bank. This appointment is for a term of three years. However, the appointment is subject to the condition that he resigns from the Board of Bank of Baroda. Aravamudan Krishna Kumar has also been appointed as a part-time non-official Director and Non-Executive Chairman on the Board of UCO Bank, for a term of three years.

Tuvalu's former Attorney-General Feleti Teo was appointed as 14th prime minister of Tuvalu, as Pacific Island nation in South Pacific Region.

Tuvalu's former Attorney-General Feleti Teo was appointed as 14th prime minister of Tuvalu, as Pacific Island nation in South Pacific Region. Teo was the only nominee after the previous prime minister, Kausea Natano, lost his seat at the January 26 election. Teo, who was educated in New Zealand and Australia, was Tuvalu's first attorney general and has decades of experience as a senior official in the fisheries industry – the region's biggest revenue earner. Feleti Penitala Teo OBE MP is a Tuvaluan politician and lawyer. He was elected to the Parliament of Tuvalu in the 2024 Tuvaluan general election, with his previous role being the executive director of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Prior to this appointment, A S Rajeev was Managing Director & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra, a public sector bank. Under the CVC Act, the Central Vigilance Commission became a three-member body, with the Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. While Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been Central Vigilance Commissioner since May 2023, Arvinda Kumar has been a Vigilance Commissioner since August 2022.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has re-designated KVS Manian as the joint managing director as of March 1, 2024.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has re-designated KVS Manian as the joint managing director as of March 1, 2024. Manian was previously appointed as the whole-time director on Nov.1, 2019 and later re-appointed for a further period of three years. He played a vital role in Kotak's journey from an NBFC to a bank. The other

appointments include Devang Gheewalla succeeding Jaimin Bhatt as the group chief financial officer with effect from April 1, 2024. Bhatt is superannuating on March 31, 2024.

Prabowo Subianto to be appointed as 8th President of Indonesia.

Prabowo Subianto to be appointed as 8th President of Indonesia. Prabowo Subianto will succeed Joko Widodo as the next President of the Southeast Asian nation. Branded as the “reformed” general, Prabowo Subianto is a former officer of the special forces and previously served as the Defence Minister of Indonesia. Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo is an Indonesian politician, businessman and former army lieutenant general, who is the current Indonesian Minister of Defense and President-elect of Indonesia.

Professor Aditi Sen De has been awarded the prestigious 32nd G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2023.

Professor Aditi Sen De has been awarded the prestigious 32nd G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2023. Aditi Sen De is an Indian scientist, a professor in quantum information and computation group at the Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad. She is the first female physicist to be given this honour. In 2022, she was elected as a member of Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Science Academy.

Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France’s highest civilian honour “Chevalier de la Legion d’honneur” at the French Embassy by French Senate President Gerard Larcher.

Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France’s highest civilian honour “Chevalier de la Legion d’honneur” at the French Embassy by French Senate President Gerard Larcher. The French government had announced the award for Tharoor, a former Union minister, in August 2022. The highest French civilian award came in recognition of Dr Tharoor’s tireless efforts to deepen Indo-French ties, commitment to international peace and cooperation, and as a long-standing friend of France. Instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion d’honneur is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the National Pension System Trust (Second Amendment) Regulations 2023 and Pension Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the National Pension System Trust (Second Amendment) Regulations 2023 and Pension Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2023. The amendments to NPS Trust Regulations simplify the provisions related to appointment of Trustees, their terms and conditions,

holding of meetings of Board of Trustees and appointment of CEO - NPS Trust. Amendments to Pension Fund Regulations simplify the provisions related to governance of Pension Funds in line with Companies Act, 2013 and enhanced disclosure by Pension Funds. The amendments in key areas aim at simplification and reducing compliance.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended the Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), to allowed authorised bank and non-bank PPI issuers to issue PPIs for making payments across various public transport systems.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended the Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), to allowed authorised bank and non-bank PPI issuers to issue PPIs for making payments across various public transport systems. The apex bank noted that, across India, public transport systems cater to a multitude of commuters on a daily basis. To provide convenience, speed, affordability, and safety of digital modes of payment to commuters for transit services, it has been decided to permit authorised bank and non-bank PPI issuers to issue PPIs for making payments across various public transport systems.

The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) has launched an “Automated Search Portal” to help public sector banks (PSBs) with antecedent verification of prospective borrowers and non-performing assets (NPAs).

The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) has launched an “Automated Search Portal” to help public sector banks (PSBs) with antecedent verification of prospective borrowers and non-performing assets (NPAs). The portal was launched by CEIB Director General Amit Mohan Govil and SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara in a meeting with all public sector banks in Mumbai. It aims at equipping banks with quick access to information for taking timely decisions with regard to credit sanction. As per the “Framework for timely detection, reporting, investigation etc relating to large value bank frauds” (May 13, 2015 and November 6, 2019) issued by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, PSBs seek report from the Bureau before sanction of loan exceeding ₹50 crore and above in case of new borrowers and if the existing borrower’s accounts turn NPA.

India has contributed 1 million US Dollars to the Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund IBSA, established by India, Brazil, and South Africa.

India has contributed 1 million US Dollars to the Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund IBSA, established by India, Brazil, and South Africa. The fund is aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger. India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over the cheque to the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Dima Al-Khatib.

The Government of Goa has announced a groundbreaking partnership with the World Bank to establish a pioneering Blended Finance Facility (BFF) aimed at bolstering climate resilience.

The Government of Goa has announced a groundbreaking partnership with the World Bank to establish a pioneering Blended Finance Facility (BFF) aimed at bolstering climate resilience. The announcement of the Blended Finance facility was made during the 2024 edition of the World Bank's India Climate and Development Partners' Meet, a prestigious annual conference held in Panaji from February 19 to 21, 2024. This conference serves as a platform for thought leaders and changemakers in the climate sector to convene and collaborate on pressing climate challenges. Aligned with the state's vision of "Samruddhi, Santulan, and Suramyata" as outlined in Viksit Goa 2047, the facility will support the operationalization of Goa's State Action Plan on Climate Change (2023-2033).

Fintech startup Paymart has partnered with 5 Indian banks to offer its innovative virtual, cardless, and hardware-less cash withdrawal service.

Fintech startup Paymart has partnered with 5 Indian banks to offer its innovative virtual, cardless, and hardware-less cash withdrawal service. Paymart has partnered with five prominent banks, including IDBI Bank, Indian Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, and Karur Vyasa Bank, to roll out this service nationwide. The startup plans to launch pilot programmes with its partner banks in February/March, with a phased nationwide rollout slated for April/May 2024. It successfully piloted the virtual ATM service with IDBI Bank for over six months.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$23 million loan to enhance access to quality fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$23 million loan to enhance access to quality fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India. The ambitious project spearheaded by ADB will see the establishment of an inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient International Fintech Institute (IFI) within GIFT's premises. The IFI, in collaboration with renowned global institutes and universities, will offer cutting-edge fintech training programs aligned with industry standards and international best practices. In line with ADB's commitment to fostering research and innovation, the program will channel resources towards exploring innovative solutions and technologies in various domains, including climate fintech, regulatory technology, social inclusion, and gender equality in finance.

HDFC Bank has received approval from markets regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sell 90% stake in HDFC Credila.

HDFC Bank has received approval from markets regulator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sell 90% stake in HDFC Credila. HDFC Bank will retain a 9.99% stake in HDFC Credila, which provides education loans to students pursuing higher education in India and overseas. The sale of HDFC Credila comes about eight months after the completion of HDFC's merger with HDFC Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties amounting to almost Rs3 crore on State Bank of India, Canara Bank, and City Union Bank for violation of regulatory norms.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties amounting to almost Rs3 crore on State Bank of India, Canara Bank, and City Union Bank for violation of regulatory norms. The penalty of Rs2 crore has been imposed on the State Bank of India (SBI) for contravention of certain norms related to the Depositor Education Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014. A penalty of Rs66 lakh has been imposed on City Union Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Prudential Norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning Pertaining to Advances — Divergence in NPA Accounts' and Know Your Customer Directions. The Reserve Bank has also levied a penalty of Rs32.30 lakh on Canara Bank for non-compliance with certain directions. A penalty of Rs16 lakh has been imposed on Ocean Capital Market Ltd, Rourkela, Odisha, for non-compliance with certain provisions related to non-banking financial companies.

RBL Bank partnered with Innoviti Technologies Pvt Ltd to create an omnichannel payments platform called Omnium for merchants.

RBL Bank partnered with Innoviti Technologies Pvt Ltd to create an omnichannel payments platform called Omnium for merchants. The platform integrates RBL Bank's banking and payment application programming interfaces to deliver quick and secure payments. The platform aims to unlock value lying hidden in a retailer's data and business processes, helping them grow faster and with lesser efforts than possible otherwise. Innoviti has used a modern domain-driven design methodology to build Omnium, integrating with RBL Bank's modern banking and payment Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), enabling a fast, seamless, and secure payment integration.

Amazon Pay, the fintech branch of e-commerce giant Amazon India, has been granted a payment aggregator license by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Amazon Pay, the fintech branch of e-commerce giant Amazon India, has been granted a payment aggregator license by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The fintech startup has recently joined a list of organisations authorised by the central bank to function as payment aggregators (PA). The approval from the banking regulator would allow Amazon Pay to strengthen its distribution channels.

ICICI Bank has acquired an additional 1.41% stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company through the open market.

ICICI Bank has acquired an additional 1.41% stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company through the open market. The lender bought 69,82,852 shares through multiple block deals on the stock exchanges at Rs1,666.35 a share. As of December-2023, the private sector lender held a 47.91% stake in the insurance major. Through a separate deal, Bharti Enterprises sold a 1.3% stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance for Rs1,042 crore. It sold 62,50,900 shares at Rs1,666.35 a share.

Goa Governor Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai unveiled his latest literary book, "Basic Structure and Republic," during a ceremony held in Raj Bhavan's Durbar Hall (Old), Panaji, Goa.

Goa Governor Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai unveiled his latest literary book, "Basic Structure and Republic," during a ceremony held in Raj Bhavan's Durbar Hall (Old), Panaji, Goa. A book written by Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai was released by Archbishop of Changanacherry, Kerala, H G Mar Joseph Perumthottam. This 212th publication by Governor Pillai draws upon the ancient Indian epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, to explore the foundational principles of Dharma and its correlation with victory, a concept resonated by the Supreme Court of India. The first copy was presented to Shri Subhash Shirodkar.

'Fool Bahadur', the first Magahi novel translated into English by Indian poet-diplomat, editor and translator Abhay K. was launched in Patna at the 4th edition of Grand Trunk Road Initiatives.

'Fool Bahadur', the first Magahi novel translated into English by Indian poet-diplomat, editor and translator Abhay K. was launched in Patna at the 4th edition of Grand Trunk Road Initiatives. The book was launched by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Press Secretary to the President of India Ajay Singh, and Principal Secretary to the Government of Bihar, S Siddharth. The book was published by Penguin Random House India. Fool Bahadur is a delightful novel set in colonial Bihar, a humorous reflection on the state's erstwhile society and bureaucracy.

The book 'Neeraj Chopra: The Man Who Made History' was written by Norris Pritam.

The book 'Neeraj Chopra: The Man Who Made History' was written by Norris Pritam. The book was published by Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt Ltd. The book, with simple prose and easy pace, tracks the iconic javelin thrower's life of a boy from the Haryana hinterland to a history-making global star. Pritam, by writing in some detail about the past of Indian athletics, has put Neeraj's achievement in the right perspective.

Assam Finance Minister Ajanta Neog presented a Rs 2.9 lakh crore budget for the 2024-2025 financial year with a deficit of Rs 774.47 crore and proposed no new tax.

Assam Finance Minister Ajanta Neog presented a Rs 2.9 lakh crore budget for the 2024-2025 financial year with a deficit of Rs 774.47 crore and proposed no new tax. The government will support the education of 10 lakh girls up to post-graduation level in order to eliminate child marriage from society. The Budget Estimates of 2024-25 show a receipt of ₹1,43,605.56 crore under the Consolidated Fund of the state. After adding the receipt of ₹1,44,550.08 crore under Public Account and ₹2,000 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate Receipts amount to ₹2,90,155.65 crore. As against this, the total expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in 2024-25 is estimated at ₹1,43,890.62 crore. The expenditure of ₹1,42,670.09 crore under the Public Account and ₹2,000 crore under the Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at ₹2,88,560.71 crore. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to reach Rs 6.43 lakh crore in the next financial year, compared to Rs 5.7 lakh crore in 2023-24.

Odisha finance minister Bikram Keshari Arukha presented the Annual Budget (Vote-on-Account) for 2024-25 in the State Assembly with an outlay of Rs2,55,000 crore, which is about 11 percent more than 2023-24 budget.

Odisha finance minister Bikram Keshari Arukha presented the Annual Budget (Vote-on-Account) for 2024-25 in the State Assembly with an outlay of Rs2,55,000 crore, which is about 11 percent more than 2023-24 budget. The FM has earmarked a programme expenditure of 1,40,000 for the FY 2024-25. Of this Rs 63,400 crore has been provided in the Vote-on-Account. Similarly, the administrative expenditure has been pegged at Rs1,03,500 47,660, up from Rs94,000 allocated in 2023-23 budget. The highest resource allocation of Rs 33,865 crore has been proposed for the school and mass education department. It constitutes 9.71 percent share in total budget size for the financial year 2024-25. The other departments which have got maximum allocations are the panchayati raj department Rs 22,543 crore (8.84 percent), health and family welfare Rs 19,729 crore (7.74 percent), water resources Rs 13,267 crore (5.20 percent) and planning and convergence Rs 12,043 crore (4.72 percent). According to the state finance minister, the overall food production in Odisha has doubled in the last 22 years. The state government implemented the KALIA scheme to speed up agricultural development and alleviate poverty. So far, 43.88 lakh small and 18.93 lakh landless farmers' families have been benefited under the scheme.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is also the Finance Minister, tabled a Rs 2.79 lakh crore budget in the assembly for the financial year 2024-25.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is also the Finance Minister, tabled a Rs 2.79 lakh crore budget in the assembly for the financial year 2024-25. The state registered a growth rate of 10.64 percent in the current fiscal. The state's budget estimate for the next fiscal was Rs 2,78,725.72 crore, an increase of Rs 16,840 crore, compared with the current financial year. Out of the total expenditure, Rs1 lakh crore was earmarked for "annual scheme outlay" with the largest share (22.20 percent) reserved for the education department, followed by rural development (13.84 percent). The estimated expenditure on health has been pegged at 7.41 percent of the annual scheme outlay, while 1.88 percent will be kept for "backward classes and most backward classes welfare". The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 sets a target for the government to establish financial discipline in the economy.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented the annual state Budget of Rs58,444 crore for 2024-25 with a focus on the agriculture and rural sectors, and announced an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented the annual state Budget of Rs58,444 crore for 2024-25 with a focus on the agriculture and rural sectors, and announced an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk. The government did not propose any new tax for the next fiscal. Presenting his second state Budget, Sukhu, who also holds the finance portfolio, announced a hike in MSP of cow milk from Rs 38 to Rs 45 per litre and buffalo milk from Rs 47 to Rs 55 per litre. Himachal is the first state to give MSP on milk. The rural-oriented Budget focused on strengthening farming and animal husbandry sectors, besides announcing steps to make the state self-reliant. The revenue receipts and expenditure are estimated at Rs 42,153 crore and Rs 46,667 crore, respectively, implying that the estimated revenue loss will be Rs 4,514 crore. The fiscal deficit was estimated at Rs 10,784 crore that was 4.75 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Of every Rs100 expenditure, Rs 25 would be spent on salaries, Rs 17 on pension, Rs 11 on interest, Rs 9 on loan repayment, and Rs 10 on grants to autonomous institutions and only Rs 28 would be spent on other activities and capital works. The CM also announced increasing the daily wages of MGNREGA workers by Rs60 from Rs 240 to Rs300 per day and increase the honorarium of functionaries of panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies. The government proposed to increase MLA discretionary grant from Rs 13 lakh to Rs 14 lakh and 'Vidhayak Kshetra Vikas Nidhi Yojana' from Rs 2.10 crore to 2.20 crore.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented the Vote on Account Budget for the year 2024-25 with an outlay Rs2,75,891 crore in the State Legislative Assembly.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented the Vote on Account Budget for the year 2024-25 with an outlay Rs2,75,891 crore in the State Legislative Assembly. This includes the Revenue expenditure is Rs201,178 crore and the Capital expenditure is Rs29,669 crore. The Finance Minister proposed 53,196 crore rupees in the Budget for the implementation of six guarantees, including cooking gas cylinders at 500 rupees, Indiramma House and 200 units of free power among others. The provision of additional funds will be made as required, once a complete assessment is made about the schemes. The government is committed to implementing Rythu Bharosa and modalities are being worked to enhance Rythu Bandhu to 15000 rupees annually from the current 10000 rupees but only to the eligible farmers. The Government is committed to improving the lives of citizens and prioritizing the welfare of the disadvantaged.

West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a Rs 3.6 lakh crore budget for West Bengal for 2024-25.

West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a Rs 3.6 lakh crore budget for West Bengal for 2024-25. Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, in her budget speech, highlighted the groundbreaking success of the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, benefiting 2.11 crore women and disbursing Rs10,101.87 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24. The augmented financial support will be disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), starting April 2024, with beneficiaries receiving it in early May 2024. West Bengal's fiscal deficit surged to Rs 68,250 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25, marking a significant increase of almost 37% from the previous fiscal year's deficit of Rs 49,966 crore in 2022-23. Monthly allowances for the general category have surged from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000, while for the SCs/ST communities, it has increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200. This enhancement necessitates an additional allocation of Rs 12,000 crore in the budget.

The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise-2024 "MILAN24", hosted by India, commenced on 19th February 2024 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise-2024 "MILAN24", hosted by India, commenced on 19th February 2024 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The exercise is being conducted from 19th to 27th February 2024 by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) of the Indian Navy (IN). The theme of the Exercise is "Cohesion, Camaraderie, Collaboration". 'MILAN' means 'a meeting of confluence and its motto – 'Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration' symbolises the enduring spirit of international maritime cooperation. MILAN 24 is the biggest International Naval Exercise in which 50 friendly foreign countries are being invited and nearly 20 foreign warships along with one maritime patrol aircraft. In addition, a large number of Indian Navy ships, submarines and aircraft including both aircraft carriers Vikrant and Vikramaditya would be participating in the event.

The Nepali Army and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command are co-hosting Exercise Shanti Prayas IV at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) in Panchkhal, Nepal from 20 February to 4 March 2024.

The Nepali Army and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command are co-hosting Exercise Shanti Prayas IV at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre (BPOTC) in Panchkhal, Nepal from 20 February to 4 March 2024. The exercise was inaugurated by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda in a ceremony held at the Nepali Army Headquarters in Bhadrakali, Kathmandu. This marked the beginning of an intensive training program aimed at enhancing the peacekeeping capabilities of the participating nations.

The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced on 25th February 2024 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced on 25th February 2024 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25th February to 9th March 2024. The contingent of both sides comprises of 40 personnel each. The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment and Indian Army contingent is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles. Aim of the Exercise is to foster Military Cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-urban environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The Exercise would focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills.

The Indian Coast Guard is jointly conducting 16th edition of the biennial exercise 'Dosti-16' with Sri Lanka and Maldives, from 22-25 February 2024 in the Male, Maldives.

The Indian Coast Guard is jointly conducting 16th edition of the biennial exercise 'Dosti-16' with Sri Lanka and Maldives, from 22-25 February 2024 in the Male, Maldives. During the exercise yesterday at Male, Maldives Defence Minister HE Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon was present. A total of five coast guard ships, Samarth and Abhinav from India, are participating in the exercise while Bangladesh is acting as an observer. The aim of the exercise is to further fortify the friendship, enhance mutual operational capability, and exercise interoperability and to build cooperation between the Coast Guards of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

As part of events planned to celebrate the "48th Raising Day of Indian Coast Guard", a "Day at Sea" was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard Regional Headquarters off Chennai harbour on 25th February 2024.

As part of events planned to celebrate the "48th Raising Day of Indian Coast Guard", a "Day at Sea" was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard Regional Headquarters off Chennai harbour on 25th February 2024. On this occasion, various distinguished guests which included families of ICG personnel, officials from Tamil Nadu State Administration, Port, CISF, and civil and private organizations were invited to sail on ships to witness operational prowess and ICG capabilities at sea. 8 ships of the Indian Coast Guard, with about 1,500 guests embarked, sailed out from Chennai harbour.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of up to 8.79% of the equity share capital of Pricol Limited (Pricol/Target) by Minda Corporation Limited (Minda/Acquirer).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of up to 8.79% of the equity share capital of Pricol Limited (Pricol/Target) by Minda Corporation Limited (Minda/Acquirer). The Acquirer is engaged in the business of manufacturing of auto - components parts and caters to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Tier-1 in various segments in India. The Target is engaged in the business of manufacturing of automobile components for OEMs, Tier-1 and replacement markets across India and globally.

Morgan Stanley Research expects India's GDP growth for FY25 to moderate to 6.5 percent from 6.9 percent projected for FY24.

Morgan Stanley Research expects India's GDP growth for FY25 to moderate to 6.5 percent from 6.9 percent projected for FY24. ICRA, meanwhile, has projected the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) GDP growth to moderate sequentially to 6 percent in Q3 FY24 from 7.6 percent, led by agriculture and industry sectors. Expecting the GDP growth to remain healthy, Morgan Stanley Research has projected growth for the third quarter of FY24 ending December 2023 at 6.5 percent, even as it slows from 7.7 percent in the first half of the current financial year. The capital outlay and net lending of 25 state governments shrank by 3.9 percent Y-o-Y, after having surged by 42.4 percent in Q2 FY24. The tighter monetary policies would translate into global inflation declining to 6.9% in 2023 and 5.8% in 2024 (2022: 8.7%).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given INSCO (Independent Sugar Corporation), a Madhvani Group company based in Africa, for green channel approval for the proposed acquisition of Hindustan National Glass (HNGIL).

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given INSCO (Independent Sugar Corporation), a Madhvani Group company based in Africa, for green channel approval for the proposed acquisition of Hindustan National Glass (HNGIL). The Commission had initiated an investigation following a complaint filed by AGI Greenpac. INSCO and AGI Greenpac had submitted bids to acquire HNGIL, India's largest glass company.

INSCO emerged as the single eligible bidder and AGI's plan received the vote from COC led by SBI.

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export credit agency, to boost the cooperation between the two countries.

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export credit agency, to boost the cooperation between the two countries. PFC is partnering with SACE, the export credit agency of Italy, for an innovative ECA-backed financing facility under its 'Push Strategy' initiative. Through this structure, PFC will benefit from an 80 percent guarantee from SACE, with HSBC acting as a coordinating bank, lead arranger and facility agent for the financing of up to 200 million euros.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has increased India's GDP growth forecast for Financial Year FY24 to 6.9% from 6.7% projected in January 2024.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has increased India's GDP growth forecast for Financial Year FY24 to 6.9% from 6.7% projected in January 2024. India's economy is expected to grow at 6.5% in FY25. The projection, however, is sharply lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 7% GDP growth next year. In FY24, the National Statistical Office has projected India's economy to grow at 7.3%. According to Ind-Ra, the private sector raised Rs3.56 trillion to fund 982 projects in FY23 – which is substantially higher than Rs1.98 trillion raised to fund 791 projects in FY22. The RBI in its latest bulletin had mentioned that the total cost of projects, for which loans were sanctioned by major banks stood at Rs2.4 trillion during April-December 2023, 23% higher on year.

As per S&P Global ratings, Credit growth in India is expected to moderate to 14 percent in FY25 from the existing 16 percent.

As per S&P Global ratings, Credit growth in India is expected to moderate to 14 percent in FY25 from the existing 16 percent. As per the report, system-level credit growth to moderate to 14 percent in 2024-25 from about 16 per cent year-on-year growth in the first three quarters of FY24. If credit and deposit growth rates remain steady, a period of deposit competition looms, squeezing bank margins to 2.9 percent from 3 percent. Adding to the stress on the private-sector banks, the lenders are growing at a much faster pace than public sector banks.

Tripura Chief Minister Professor Dr. Manik Saha launched the Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana (CM-JAY), a health insurance scheme that aims to provide coverage of Rs5 lakh per year to 4.15 lakh families in the state.

Tripura Chief Minister Professor Dr. Manik Saha launched the Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana (CM-JAY), a health insurance scheme that aims to provide coverage

of Rs5 lakh per year to 4.15 lakh families in the state. With this launch, Tripura became the first Northeastern state to launch a universal health cover. The CM-JAY was formally inaugurated at Netaji Subhash Vidyaniketan in Agartala, where the Chief Minister handed over the first batch of health cards to the beneficiaries.

International Mother Language Day is annually observed on 21 February to recognise and promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

International Mother Language Day is annually observed on 21 February to recognise and promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The theme for International Mother Language Day 2024 is "Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning". In November, 1999, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed International Mother Language Day, which was later welcomed by the General Assembly of the UN. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or UNESCO, International Mother Language Day was recognised on the initiative of Bangladesh and has been observed throughout the world since the year 2000.

The Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 every year in India to honour the contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the Indian economy.

The Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 every year in India to honour the contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to the Indian economy. The day commemorates the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, which came into effect in 1944. On February 24, 1944, the Central Excise and Salt Act was established. This is said to have paved the way for the establishment of the excise department in the country. This day is observed to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt Act, aimed at monitoring the production and regulation of salt and other manufactured goods. The Act was a combination of 11 Acts concerning excise duties and was passed to make changes in the law related to salt and central duties. Later, in 1966, the name of this Act was changed to The Central Excise Act, 1944.

National Science Day is annually observed on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian Scientist CV Raman.

National Science Day is annually observed on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Indian Scientist CV Raman. The Raman Effect is the phenomenon where light gets scattered when passed through a transparent material, leading to changes in wavelength and energy. In 1928, on February 28, CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect. He also received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 due to his significant contribution in the field of Physics. The theme for National Science Day (NSD) 2024 is "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat". 28th

February 2024 marks the observance of the 38th NSD.

World Thinking Day (WTD) is annually celebrated on February 22.

World Thinking Day (WTD) is annually celebrated on February 22. The theme of World Thinking Day 2024 is "Our World, Our Thriving Future: The Environment and Global Poverty". The history of World Thinking Day can be traced back to 1926 when delegates from across the globe met at Camp Edith Macy in New York for the fourth World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). World Thinking Day helps in raising funds for empowerment and development of around 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world.

World NGO Day, an event to celebrate the contributions made by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) worldwide, annually celebrated on February 27.

World NGO Day, an event to celebrate the contributions made by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) worldwide, annually celebrated on February 27. The theme for the 2024 World NGO Day is 'Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. The day was formally proposed and recognised in 2010 and announced in 2012. World NGO Day was observed for the first time by the United Nations, the European Union and other global organisations in 2014. The day is known for the attempts of NGOs to give compassionate guidance and promote social justice and contributions built in different fields.

World Protein Day is annually observed on February 27 to draw people's attention and create awareness on the health benefits of protein in our diets and to promote nutritional security worldwide.

World Protein Day is annually observed on February 27 to draw people's attention and create awareness on the health benefits of protein in our diets and to promote nutritional security worldwide. The World Protein Day originated as an initiative by the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC). Its aim is to educate people about the importance of adequate protein consumption for better nutrition and health. Established in 2020 by the Right to Protein awareness campaign, National Protein Day had its inaugural celebration on February 27, 2020. The theme for National Protein Day 2024 is 'Solve With Protein'.

According to the 2023 edition of the 12th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked again as the No. 1 cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world.

According to the 2023 edition of the 12th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked again as the No. 1 cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world. The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report was published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). IFFCO has also stepped up to the 72nd position in the overall turnover ranking from the 97th position in the last financial year. IFFCO, along with its 35,500-member cooperative societies, 25,000 PACS and 52,400 PMKSK centres progressing towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi', is a testimony of prosperity through cooperatives.

The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, with France securing the top spot, while India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position.

The Henley Passport Index for 2024 has been released, with France securing the top spot, while India's passport ranking has slipped one place from last year, moving from 84th to 85th position. The Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on the strength of their passports. In 2024, France leads the list, with its passport granting visa-free access to 194 countries. Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France. Meanwhile, Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position. India's neighbour, Maldives, continues to have a strong passport, maintaining its position at 58th place.

Malta has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 119th country to be part of this intergovernmental organization.

Malta has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming the 119th country to be part of this intergovernmental organization. This collaboration aims to enhance cooperation among solar resource-rich countries, promote the deployment of solar energy, and facilitate the achievement of global sustainable development goals. Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry, Malta, Christopher Cutajar signed the ISA Framework Agreement in the presence of Head of Depository and Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Abhishek Singh in New Delhi.

The 5th Plenary Session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) under the Presidency of T. Raja Kumar of Singapore concluded in Paris, France.

The 5th Plenary Session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) under the Presidency of T. Raja Kumar of Singapore concluded in Paris, France. Delegates from the FATF's Global Network of over 200 jurisdictions and observers from international organisations participated in three days of discussions on key money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing issues at the FATF headquarters in Paris. The Plenary also agreed to release for public consultation, a

range of options for potential changes to Recommendation 16 and its Interpretive Note on wire transfers. The FATF issued a statement on the Russian Federation. The FATF identified jurisdictions with materially important virtual asset activity, to support them in implementing the FATF's requirements to supervise and regulate this activity.

The Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT), the Bihar government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed an MoU to administer the Rs 50-crore Bihar Startup Scale-up Financing Fund' (BSSFF).

The Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT), the Bihar government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed an MoU to administer the Rs 50-crore Bihar Startup Scale-up Financing Fund' (BSSFF). The initiative is aimed at creating a conducive environment for startups and transforming Bihar into a startup hub. Under the policy, the state government has set up the BSFT with an initial corpus of Rs500 crore. Out of this, BSSFF has been established with an initial corpus of Rs50 crore for scale-up funding support to startups.

International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), Microsoft signed an MoU facilitated by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to boost AI startups in India.

International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), Microsoft signed an MoU facilitated by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to boost AI startups in India. This MoU is in line with the vision set forth by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his meeting with Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella last year. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics and Information Technology, and Jal Shakti, Rajeev Chandrasekhar presided over signing of the MoU. The MoU signing for the partnership between Microsoft and iCreate to launch the IMPEL AI program will catalyze AI startups in India. Microsoft and iCreate, in the presence of Minister Chandrasekhar launched iMPEL-AI (iCreate-Microsoft programme for Emerging Leaders in Artificial Intelligence) programme. The program will screen 1100 AI innovators across India to become AI Most Valuable Players (MVPs) and focus on priority themes of Healthcare, Financial Inclusion, Sustainability, Education, Agriculture, and Smart Cities. In the second stage, the program will select and scale 100 startups across India to build with Azure OpenAI, and the top 25 will receive go-to-market support from Microsoft's Global Network to develop advanced, globally competitive products.

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a Land Lease Agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) for the development of an "Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub".

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has signed a Land Lease Agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) for the development of an "Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub". The hub will come up on 1,200 acres of land

near Pudimadaka village of Atchutapuram Mandal in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The project includes construction of India's largest green hydrogen production facility (1,200 tons per day), which will enable further conversion of green hydrogen to derivatives such as green ammonia and green methanol, primarily catering to various export markets. The overarching objective of the Mission is to make India the Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

Akshayakalpa Farms and Foods Pvt Ltd has signed an MoU with UK-based British International Investment plc (BII) and agri-firm Samunnati to provide financing to up to 1,500 smallholder dairy farmers in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Akshayakalpa Farms and Foods Pvt Ltd has signed an MoU with UK-based British International Investment plc (BII) and agri-firm Samunnati to provide financing to up to 1,500 smallholder dairy farmers in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. As per the MoU, BII will extend guarantees for new and existing Akshayakalpa Organic smallholder farmers, who are typically outside of the formal lending ecosystem. This commitment is made through BII's 200 million pound Climate Innovation Facility, announced by the UK government at COP26 to provide finance for the most pioneering climate solutions in developing countries.

Uber has signed a MoU with India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to explore integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on its app.

Uber has signed a MoU with India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to explore integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on its app. Uber intends to further its presence and offerings in India, one of its key markets. The signing of the MoU was announced at an event in Bengaluru. The partnership entails Uber exploring integrations with the ONDC platform to diversify its range of mobility services available through the Uber app.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans of up to Japanese Yen (JPY) 232.209 billion for 9 projects across various sectors in India.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans of up to Japanese Yen (JPY) 232.209 billion for 9 projects across various sectors in India. The Notes were exchanged between Mr. Vikas Sheel, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi, Ambassador of Japan to India. The

ODA loan assistance has been committed to: The North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 3) (Tranche II): Dhubri-Phulbari bridge (JPY 34.54 billion); The North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 7): NH 127B (Phulbari-Goeragre section) (JPY 15.56 billion); The Project for Promoting Start-up and Innovation in Telangana (JPY 23.7 billion); The Project for the Construction of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 2) (JPY 49.85 billion); The Project for Promoting Sustainable Horticulture in Haryana (Tranche I) (JPY 16.21 billion); The Project for Climate Change Response and ecosystem Services Enhancement in Rajasthan (JPY 26.13 billion); The Project for the Establishment of the Medical College Hospital at Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Kohima (JPY 10 billion); The Project for the Improvement of Urban Water Supply System in Uttarakhand (JPY 16.21 billion); and The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) (Tranche V) (JPY 40 billion).

The Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) signed a MoU for the nutritional improvement of adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years through Ayurveda Interventions in a 12-month period.

The Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) signed a MoU for the nutritional improvement of adolescent girls in the age group of 14-18 years through Ayurveda Interventions in a 12-month period. The joint public health initiative for anaemia control among adolescent girls using Ayurveda interventions will be launched in five districts under Mission Utkarsh. The MoU, which was signed in the presence of Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and WCD Minister Smriti Irani, will cover, in the first phase, five aspirational districts of five states - Assam (Dhubri), Chhattisgarh (Bastar), Jharkhand (Paschimi Singhbhum), Maharashtra (Gadchiroli) and Rajasthan (Dhaulpur). In these anaemia-prone districts, the average prevalence of anaemia is approximately 69.5%. The project will cover approximately 10,000 Anganwadi Centres in the five districts. Irani also announced that the ministry will also take up a joint venture with the Ayush ministry and ICMR for effective interventions like yoga in Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) among adolescent girls.

Election Commission of India (ECI) signed a MoU with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Department of Posts (DoP) to amplify its voter outreach and awareness efforts ahead of the forthcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024.

Election Commission of India (ECI) signed a MoU with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Department of Posts (DoP) to amplify its voter outreach and awareness efforts ahead of the forthcoming General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024. The initiative is in continuation of ECI's untiring efforts to enhance electoral awareness in the country. Notably, ECI had recently signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education to

formally integrate electoral literacy into the educational curriculum of schools and colleges. As part of the MoU, IBA & DoP with its members and affiliated institutions/units will extend support in promoting voter education through their extensive network on a pro-bono basis, employing various interventions.

The Ministry of Ayush and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) signed a MoU in New Delhi to bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector.

The Ministry of Ayush and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) signed a MoU in New Delhi to bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector. This MoU will bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector and will serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration with RIS (a Policy Research autonomous institute of Ministry of External Affairs). Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha signed the MoU on behalf of Ministry of Ayush, whereas Director General Prof Sachin Chturvedi was the signatory on behalf of RIS. Also the academic cooperation between Ministry of Ayush and RIS includes continuance of Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM). Through FITM, RIS has contributed many policy papers, policy directions etc. Through this MoU, the Ministry of Ayush has agreed to continue this work.

The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM) of the Ministry of Public Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand signed a MoU to establish an Academic Collaboration in Ayurveda and Thai Traditional Medicine.

The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM) of the Ministry of Public Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand signed a MoU to establish an Academic Collaboration in Ayurveda and Thai Traditional Medicine. The signing ceremony took place during the 10th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting held at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The MoU, signed by B.K Singh, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin, Director General of the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Thailand. This collaboration is based on principles of equality and mutual benefit for both parties. Under this agreement, the two institutions will facilitate the exchange of experts for research and training programs. The focus will be on sharing information, technologies, and best practices related to Traditional Medicine.

Adani Defence & Aerospace unveiled its India's first private sector ammunition-missile manufacturing complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Adani Defence & Aerospace unveiled its India's first private sector ammunition-missile manufacturing complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The twin-facility complex, spread over 500 acres, was inaugurated by Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande

and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. 32 variants of ammunition in 12 categories were identified for manufacture by the Indian industry in phase one. The facilities will produce high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police. The facility has started rolling out small calibre ammunition, starting with 150 million rounds estimated at 25% of India's annual requirement. With a planned investment of over ₹3,000 crore, the complex will create over 4,000 jobs, with five times the multiplier effect on MSMEs, and the local ecosystem benefiting from it indirectly. The unveiling coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Balakot air strike when the Indian Air Force hit terror camps in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019.

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'SWAYAM Plus' platform, that will offer courses developed collaboratively with the industry in Delhi 27th Feb 2024.

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'SWAYAM Plus' platform, that will offer courses developed collaboratively with the industry in Delhi 27th Feb 2024. These employability and professional development-focused programs have been developed with leading industry players such as L&T, Microsoft, CISCO etc to bring to its learners. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) will be operating the 'SWAYAM Plus' Platform. The Key Features of SWAYAM Plus include: Multilingual content: The platform will be multilingual, encouraging a diverse audience to choose SWAYAM Plus as a platform of choice. AI-Enabled chatbot: An AI-enabled chatbot will assist the students choose the right courses based on their needs. Credit Recognition: Credit equivalency shall be established for courses offered by industry players.

India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.

India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has collaborated with IIM-Shillong to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'. This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) with wider national and international regions to fortify the local economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was visit Gujarat on 24th and 25th February 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Gujarat on 24th and 25th February 2024. He inaugurated and laid foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs52,250 crore in Gujarat. The PM arrived at Jamnagar and lead a roadshow in the city. PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development

projects worth more than Rs52,250 crore. The projects was launched are related to important sectors like health, road, rail, energy, petroleum & natural gas, and tourism among others. Prime Minister visited Dwarka and dedicated to the nation the country's longest signature stayed bridge called Sudarshan Setu connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island. With the construction of the bridge, pilgrims will no longer need to rely on boat transport to reach Beyt Dwarka. Built at a cost of Rs980 crores, this iconic bridge will also serve as a major tourist attraction of Devbhumi Dwarka. Prime Minister dedicated pipeline project at Vadinar and three Rail Electrification projects in the state. PM laid foundation stone of various projects including widening of Dhoraji-Jamkandorna-Kalavad section of NH-927D, Regional Science Center at Jamnagar, among others. PM travelled to Rajkot and dedicate to the nation five new AIIMS, at Rajkot, Bathinda, Raebareli, Kalyani and Mangalagiri. The PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than 48,100 crore at Race Course Ground, Rajkot.

The finance ministry has recognised SNV Aviation Private Limited (Akasa Air) as a 'designated Indian carrier'.

The finance ministry has recognised SNV Aviation Private Limited (Akasa Air) as a 'designated Indian carrier'. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 5 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the Central Government specifies Akasa Air having its registered office as 'designated Indian carrier' for the purpose of the said sub-section. Akasa Air will operate its first international flight between Mumbai and Doha from March 28, 2024. The carrier operated its first flight on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route on August 7, 2022.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was visit Uttar Pradesh on 19th February, 2024.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was visit Uttar Pradesh on 19th February, 2024. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal district. Prime Minister also unveiled the model of Shri Kalki Dham Temple and address the gathering on this occasion. Shri Kalki Dham is being constructed by Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust whose chairman is Acharya Pramod Krishnam. The programme was attended by many saints, religious leaders and other dignitaries. Prime Minister launched 14000 projects across Uttar Pradesh worth more than Rs10 Lakh crore at the fourth ground breaking ceremony for investment proposals received during the UP Global Investors Summit 2023 (UPGIS 2023) held in February 2023. The projects relate to sectors like Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, IT & ITeS, Food Processing, Housing & Real Estate, Hospitality and Entertainment, Education, among others. The programme was attended by about 5000 participants, including notable industrialists, representatives of top global and Indian companies, ambassadors and high commissioners and other distinguished guests. PM Modi was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the fourth edition of the Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC 4.0) in Lucknow. This initiative is expected to create over 33.5 lakh job opportunities

in Uttar Pradesh.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of centrally sponsored Scheme FMBAP with total outlay of Rs4,100 crore for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the continuation of centrally sponsored Scheme, "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" with total outlay of Rs4,100 crore for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (15th Finance Commission period). Under the Flood Management Programme (FMP) component of FMBAP with an outlay of Rs2940 crore, central assistance will be provided to State Governments for taking up critical works related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development and anti-sea erosion, etc. The pattern of funding to be followed is 90% (Centre): 10% (State) for Special Category States (8 North-Eastern States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of Jammu & Kashmir) and 60% (Centre):40% (State) for General/ Non-Special Category States. Under River Management and Border Areas (RMBA) component of FMBAP with an outlay of Rs1160 crore, flood control and anti-erosion works on common border rivers with neighbouring countries will be taken up with 100% central assistance.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs of continuation of implementation of Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of Rs1179.72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs of continuation of implementation of Umbrella Scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of Rs1179.72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Out of the total project outlay of Rs1179.72 crore, a total of Rs885.49 crore will be provided by MHA from its own budget and Rs294.23 crore will be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Government of India has proposed to continue the following projects under the Umbrella Scheme for "Safety of Women": 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2.0; Upgradation of Central Forensic Sciences laboratories, including setting up of National Forensic Data Centre; Strengthening of DNA Analysis, Cyber Forensic capacities in State Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs);

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has accorded approval for procurement of more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of around Rs19,000 crore.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has accorded approval for procurement of more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of around Rs19,000 crore. The missiles will largely be deployed

on various warships to enhance overall combat capabilities of the Navy. The proposal approved by the CCS entails acquisition of a mix of BrahMos missiles having a range of around 290 km and the latest extended range variant of the weapon with a range of around 450 km.

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Country's first Skill India Centre (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha.

Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the Country's first Skill India Centre (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha. Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International Shri Ved Mani Tiwari; and other dignitaries were present at the event. The initiative is designed to build the capabilities and knowledge of Yuva Shakti in trades that are high in demand such as Media & Entertainment, Leather, Tourism & Hospitality, and IT-ITeS. It stands as a progressive step towards creating a conducive learning environment that empowers youth with industry-specific skills through a unique combination of classroom and work-based learning. The SIC will play a pivotal role in designing curriculum along with industry experts which will be aligned with the changing industry needs, promote standardization, and create employment opportunities that meet the demand for skilled talent across industries.

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines during the stakeholders meet for implementation of the MoUs signed earlier at the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023).

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines during the stakeholders meet for implementation of the MoUs signed earlier at the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023). The "Sagar Aankalan" Guidelines for National Benchmarking of Indian Ports Performance would be applicable to all Indian seaports. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) successfully concluded the Stakeholders Meet - Implementation of MoUs at the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023). The signing of 360 MoUs, with an investment commitment of ₹8.35 lakh crore, and the announcement of additional investible projects worth ₹1.68 lakh crore, underscored the immense potential of India's maritime sector.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched three impactful books from SBM-G during the National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-(G)) held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched three impactful books from SBM-G during the National Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-(G)) held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The conference also featured digital displays of innovative solutions, technologies, and best practices in the rural WASH sector including SBM-G and JJM that served as an interactive experience offering the attendees a comprehensive look at the advancements and successes achieved across different States/UTs. Book Launch Highlights: 1. Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India- Vol. II (SBM-G): Swachhata Chronicle Volume 2 is a compilation of best practices from the community where impactful change continues to unfold for SBM-G. 2. 'Swachhata Green Leaf Rating (SGLR)' System Booklet is a benchmark index encompassing responsible sanitation across SBM-G aspects. 3. Compendium on Liquid Waste Management (LWM) Technologies: A consolidated booklet of approved technologies, operational guidelines, and successful case studies, providing a knowledge bank for stakeholders on LWM, serving as a guide, fostering a cleaner and healthier rural environment.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has launched "Joint National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions".

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has launched "Joint National Level Project of Health Screening and Management through Ayurvedic Interventions". The Ministry of Ayush through its research council CCRAS has taken this health Initiative for Tribal Students with the joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ICMR-NIRTH Jabalpur. Both the Union Minister together announced the joint initiative to address the health needs of children in Eklavya Model Residential Schools across tribal areas through public health initiatives.

The Government has announced an extension of the Interest Equalization Scheme for pre and post-shipment rupee export credit until June 30, 2024, according to a notification by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Government has announced an extension of the Interest Equalization Scheme for pre and post-shipment rupee export credit until June 30, 2024, according to a notification by the Reserve Bank of India. Under this extension, Manufacturers and Merchant Exporters dealing with specified 410 HS lines will benefit from a 2% interest equalization rate, while MSME manufacturers exporting under any HS line will receive a higher rate of 3%. Additionally, starting from the financial year 2023-24, banks pricing loans covered under the scheme at an average interest rate higher than the Repo rate + 4% will face specific restrictions.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Chhattisgarh' programme and laid the foundation stone of multiple development

projects worth over Rs34,400 crore.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Chhattisgarh' programme on 24th February, 2024 via video conferencing. During the programme, Prime Minister inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs34,400 crore. The projects cater to a number of important sectors including Roads, Railways, Coal, Power, Solar Energy among others. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Dedicated NTPC's Lara Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-I (2x800 MW) to the Nation and lay Foundation Stone of NTPC's Lara Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-II (2x800 MW) in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh. While Stage-I of the station is built with an investment of around Rs15,800 crore, the Stage-II of the project shall be constructed on the available land of Stage-I premises, thus requiring no additional land for the expansion, and entails an investment of Rs15,530 crore. Prime Minister inaugurated three key First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited, built at a total cost of more than Rs600 crores. Prime Minister inaugurated the Solar PV Project at Rajnandgaon built at a cost of around Rs900 Crore. Project will generate an estimated 243.53 million units of energy annually and will mitigate around 4.87 million tons of CO2 emissions over 25 years, equivalent to the carbon sequestered by about 8.86 million trees over the same period.

'Maharashtra MSME Defense Expo' was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at International Exhibition and Convention Center at Moshi near Pune.

'Maharashtra MSME Defense Expo' was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at International Exhibition and Convention Center at Moshi near Pune. The theme of the 2024 expo is "Inspire : Learn : Engage". To enhance cooperation and synergy with the industry, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) organised a DRDO-Industry Meet on February 25, 2024 during the Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024. During the meet, DRDO handed over 23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT) to 22 industries. The DRDO handed over SAMAR (System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating) assessment certificates to nine Industry Partners. SAMAR is a benchmark to measure the competency of defence manufacturing enterprises. A brief and overview on SAMAR was also provided during the function.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Jammu and Kashmir on 20th February, 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jammu and Kashmir and unveiled multiple development initiatives totalling over ₹32,000 crore, spanning various sectors such as education, railways, aviation, and roads. These projects encompass diverse areas like health, education, transportation, aviation, petroleum, and civic infrastructure. During the event, PM Modi hand over appointment letters to approximately 1500

newly recruited government employees from Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, the Prime Minister engaged with beneficiaries of various government schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu' program. Additionally, PM Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stones for numerous projects valued at around ₹13,375 crore, aimed at enhancing education and skilling infrastructure nationwide. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the campuses of three Indian Institutes of Management, in Jammu, Bodh Gaya and Visakhapatnam, and laid the foundation stone of several projects, including permanent campuses for three IITs, 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 13 Navodaya schools.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated and dedicated to the Nation around 2000 railway infrastructure projects worth more than Rs41,000 crores.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated and dedicated to the Nation around 2000 railway infrastructure projects worth more than Rs41,000 crores. Lakhs of people connected with the Viksit Bharat Viksit Railways event from 500 railway stations and 1500 other venues. In order to enhance the travel experience, 553 stations will be redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The foundation stones for these stations would be laid. Overbridges and underpasses across India will also be inaugurated. These 553 stations, spread across 27 states and union territories are being redeveloped at over Rs19,000 crore. These stations will act as 'City Centres' integrating both sides of the city. They will have modern passenger amenities like roof plaza, beautiful landscaping, inter modal connectivity, improved modern façade, kids play area, kiosks, food courts, etc. They will be redeveloped as environment friendly and also Divyang friendly. The design of these station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated two institutes of Ministry of Ayush in Jhajjar and Pune.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated two institutes of Ministry of Ayush in Jhajjar and Pune. The 'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' (CRIYN) at Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled 'NISARG GRAM' in Pune were inaugurated during the ceremony. The 'Central Research Institute of yoga and Naturopathy' is an Apex level Yoga and Naturopathy Research and education facility. Through this project, tertiary level Yoga and Naturopathy health care infrastructure will be created. The Institute includes a 200 bedded Hospital with OPD, Treatment Block, Academic block, Hostel and Residential Block apart from Yoga Block and Diet Block. The 19 Acre Project has been built with a cost of INR 63.88 CR. NISARG GRAM is a 250 bedded hospital with Multi-disciplinary Research and Extension Service Centre along with a Naturopathy Medical College for Under Graduate (UG)/Post Graduate (PG) /Para Medical Courses. The college is also having residential & non-residential facilities comprising

Boys & Girls Hostel, Auditorium, Yoga Hall, Cottages, and the famous Gandhi Memorial Hall is also an integral part of the campus. The 25 acre project costs total of INR 213.55 Crore.

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in partnership with the Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM), West Bengal and WildTeam, Bangladesh, organised a transboundary community engagement learning and sharing workshop from 4th and 8th February 2024, at Joymoni, Bagerhat District, Bangladesh.

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in partnership with the Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM), West Bengal and WildTeam, Bangladesh, organised a transboundary community engagement learning and sharing workshop from 4th and 8th February 2024, at Joymoni, Bagerhat District, Bangladesh. The Sundarbans, straddling both India and Bangladesh, is the largest mangrove forest in the world and home to the iconic Bengal tiger. Recognising the need for joint efforts to address conservation challenges, WTI and WildTeam orchestrated this unique exchange program, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experiences among key stakeholders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis joined the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar also addressed the gathering on the occasion. The theme of this edition is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create". The three-day Dialogue is witnessing participation of representatives from over 100 countries including Ministers, former Heads of State and Heads of Government, Military Commanders, Captains of Industry, Technology Leaders, Academics, Journalists, and Scholars on Strategic Affairs. Raisina Dialogue Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Finland, Ms. Elina Valtonen unveiled a logo celebrating 75 years of India-Finland diplomatic ties in New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Finland, Ms. Elina Valtonen unveiled a logo celebrating 75 years of India-Finland diplomatic ties in New Delhi. The year 2024 marks three-quarters of a century since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Kingdom of Denmark, as well as between India and Finland. The unveiling ceremony, attended by the Foreign Ministers of Finland and India, showcased the logo, symbolising the enduring friendship, cultural exchange, and collaborative spirit between the nations over the past seven decades. The logo not only honors the shared history but also anticipates a future marked by continued partnership, innovation, and mutual growth.

Renowned Indian filmmaker and academic Kumar Sahani passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Renowned Indian filmmaker and academic Kumar Sahani passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Kumar Sahani was an Indian film director and screenwriter, best known for his parallel cinema films Maya Darpan, Tarang, Khayal Gatha and Kasba. In 1969, he had the opportunity to intern under the famous French director Robert Bresson for the film 'A Gentle Creature'. Throughout his career, Sahani achieved numerous accolades, including the Filmfare Critics Awards for Best Film in 1972, 1990, and 1991. He also received the International Film Festival of Rotterdam – FIPRESCI Award in 1990 and the Prince Claus Award in 1998, solidifying his reputation as a distinguished figure in the world of cinema.

Former Maharashtra CM and ex-Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at the age of 86 in Mumbai.

Former Maharashtra CM and ex-Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at the age of 86 in Mumbai. Joshi's political career began with his involvement in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and later became a member of the Shiv Sena. In the 1980s, Joshi emerged as a key leader within the Shiv Sena, known for his organisational skills and grassroots connect. He was also elected as a Member of Parliament and was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004 when the Vajpayee government was in power. He contested the first elections of BMC polls in 1986 and three corporators of Sena won. He became a mayor in 1976 and was also a standing committee chairperson prior to that. He moved to the state politics in 1980s.

Renowned announcer and talk show host Ameen Sayani passed away due to a heart attack at the age of 91 in Mumbai.

Renowned announcer and talk show host Ameen Sayani passed away due to a heart attack at the age of 91 in Mumbai. Ameen Sayani was a legendary Indian announcer and talk show host. His program "Binaca Geetmala," which aired on Radio Ceylon and later on All India Radio's Vividh Bharati for nearly 42 years, broke all records of success. In 2009, he was presented with the Padma Shri award.

Eminent jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate Fali S Nariman passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi.

Eminent jurist and senior Supreme Court advocate Fali S Nariman passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007. Throughout his career, Nariman had been associated with several landmark cases. He also published an autobiography - Before Memory Fades- in which he devoted one chapter to the Bhopal gas leak case in which, as senior counsel, he represented Union Carbide Corporation.

FIFA World Cup winner Andreas Brehme, whose late penalty in the 1990 final against Argentina in Italy handed Germany their third world title, has passed away at the age of 63.

FIFA World Cup winner Andreas Brehme, whose late penalty in the 1990 final against Argentina in Italy handed Germany their third world title, has passed away at the age of 63. Brehme also played for Bayern Munich and Inter Milan among others before retiring in 1998. He won 86 caps for Germany, scoring 8 goals.

Padmashri Pankaj Udhas, The popular ghazal and playback singer, passed away at the age of 72 in Mumbai.

Padmashri Pankaj Udhas, The popular ghazal and playback singer, passed away at the age of 72 in Mumbai. Pankaj Udhas was born on May 17, 1951. He was an Indian ghazal and playback singer known for his works in Hindi cinema and Indian pop. His career began in 1980, with the release of the ghazal album Aahat. He went on to record several hits, including Mukarar in 1981, Tarrannum in 1982, Mehfil in 1983, Pankaj Udhas Live at Royal Albert Hall in 1984, Nayaab in 1985, and Aafreen in 1986. In 2006, Pankaj Udhas was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award.

The Digital Fly-by-Wire Flight Control Computer (DFCC) was integrated in prototype LSP7 and successfully flown.

The Digital Fly-by-Wire Flight Control Computer (DFCC) was integrated in prototype LSP7 and successfully flown. DFCC has been indigenously developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru for the Tejas - Mk1A. Digital Fly by Wire Flight Control Computer features Quadraplex Power PC based Processor, high speed autonomous state machine based I/O controller, enhanced computational throughput and complex on-board software complied to DO178C level-A safety requirements.

After 30 years of service the TU-142M aircraft of Indian Navy was decommissioned and displayed at museum in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

After 30 years of service the TU-142M aircraft of Indian Navy was decommissioned and displayed at museum in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. Kakinada MP V. Geetha inaugurated an aircraft museum, allowing the visitors to catch a glimpse of the Indian Navy's decommissioned aircraft TU-142M. Located just opposite to Submarine museum this became one more major tourist attraction at RK Beach Area. There is an entry fee of Rs70/- Per person no extra fee for camera. Equipments like sonobuoys, propeller, engine, survival kit, anti submarine missile, date recorder etc are displayed with all details.

The Ministry of Defence has inducted indigenously developed 46-meter Modular

Bridge into Indian Army.

The Ministry of Defence has inducted indigenously developed 46-meter Modular Bridge into Indian Army. Designed and developed by DRDO and produced by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), the bridging system was formally handed over in a ceremony at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The event was graced by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff. Senior dignitaries from Indian Army, DRDO, and MoD were also in attendance. Over the next four years, a total of 41 sets, valued at ₹2,585 Crores, will be progressively inducted. It is a mechanically launched single-span, fully decked 46-meter assault bridge, enabling the army to overcome obstacles such as canals and ditches with ease. Each set of Modular Bridge consists of seven carrier vehicles based on 8x8 Heavy Mobility Vehicles and two launcher vehicles based on 10x10 Heavy Mobility Vehicles.

NASA has initiated a series of extended flights across Asia with its colossal flying laboratory, the DC-8.

NASA has initiated a series of extended flights across Asia with its colossal flying laboratory, the DC-8. Air pollution is responsible for millions of deaths annually, making accurate identification and forecasting all the more significant. Commencing this week in the Philippines, NASA's DC-8 is conducting flights lasting up to eight hours, hovering as close as 15 meters (50 feet) from the ground to collect air particles for detailed analysis. The project, named ASIA-AQ, represents a collaboration between NASA and regional governments in an area grappling with some of the highest air pollution-related death rates globally.

PhonePe, a Walmart Inc. owned fintech, has launched a mobile application store 'Indus Appstore' for consumers in India.

PhonePe, a Walmart Inc. owned fintech, has launched a mobile application store 'Indus Appstore' for consumers in India. Indus Appstore will have more than 200,000 mobile applications and games in 12 Indian languages. PhonePe has informed that no app listing fees will be charged for one year, until 1 April 2025, for developers.

Skyroot Aerospace has launched the Kalpana Fellowship.

Skyroot Aerospace has launched the Kalpana Fellowship. This new program is India's first fellowship exclusively dedicated to empowering women engineers in the realm of space technology. Named in honour of the late astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the Kalpana Fellowship is designed to nurture the next generation of female talent in the space industry. The fellowship aims to provide a robust platform for women to engage hands-on with advanced space technology projects, thereby promoting innovation, creativity, and leadership among aspiring female space professionals.

Assert AI launched 'Pratham', a groundbreaking platform that is patented for its innovative approach to democratizing computer vision and artificial intelligence.

Assert AI launched 'Pratham', a groundbreaking platform that is patented for its innovative approach to democratizing computer vision and artificial intelligence. With Pratham, users can unlock the potential of Vision AI technology without the need for coding or AI expertise, marking a significant milestone in the field of computer vision technology. Pratham, which translates to "first" in Hindi, employs an innovative framework that places the power of computer vision directly into the hands of users, allowing them to analyze and utilize video data effortlessly.

SpaceX launched the 'Merah Putih 2' communications satellite on a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

SpaceX launched the 'Merah Putih 2' communications satellite on a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The company's Falcon 9 rocket launched the TelkomSat Merah Putih 2 at 3:11 p.m EST from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. It was the 300th successful mission for the workhorse rocket to date. It was the 17th launch and landing for this particular booster.

Indian shuttlers won 18 medals, including 3 gold, 4 silver and 11 bronze, at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2024, which concluded in Pattaya, Thailand.

Indian shuttlers won 18 medals, including 3 gold, 4 silver and 11 bronze, at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships 2024, which concluded in Pattaya, Thailand. Tokyo 2020 Paralympics silver medallist Suhas Yathiraj winning gold in the men's singles SL 4 category by beating Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-18, 21-8. The Indian badminton players upset Olympic champion and world No. 1 Lucas Mazur 21-16, 21-19 in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Krishna Nagar got the better of the People's Republic of China's Naili Lin 22-20, 22-20 for the men's singles title in the SH 6 category. In the men's singles SL 3 event, Pramod Bhagat defeated world No. 1 Daniel Bethell of England 14-21, 21-15, 21-14 to claim gold. Nitesh Kumar and Manoj Sarkar won bronze in the same category.

The 11th edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, Iran concluded on February 19, 2024.

The 11th edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, Iran concluded on February 19, 2024. India's Jyothi Yarraji broke the National Record to win gold in the women's 60m hurdles at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran. Two-time Asian Games silver medallist Harmilan Bains clinched India's first gold clocking 4:29.55 in the women's 1500m. Yarraji clocked 8.12s in the finals to break her own National Record and win India's second gold in the competition. China have finished atop the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2024 medal tally with 16 medals, having clinched eight gold, six silver, and a couple of bronze medals in the competition. Japan finished second with nine medals, including one bronze, four silver, and as many bronze medals. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan occupy the third spot in

the medal tally with 12 medals (four gold, two silver, and six bronze). Iran find themselves in the fourth position, having bagged 17 medals in the three-day tournament. The hosts won three gold, six silver, and seven bronze medals. Ankita won a silver medal in the women's 3000m race with a time of 9:26.22. Meanwhile, India's Gulveer Singh finished first in the men's event of the race and clinched the gold medal.

Indian cricketer Shubman Gill has been named as Punjab's 'state icon' for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

Indian cricketer Shubman Gill has been named as Punjab's 'state icon' for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Chief Electoral Officer Sibin C said cricketer and Punjab resident Shubman Gill would assist in ensuring polling of over 70 percent votes in the General Election. The star cricketer will be bestowed the responsibility of engaging in awareness campaigns to increase the voter percentage in the state. Gill's popularity has grown multi-fold over the IPL 2023 and ODI World Cup 2023.

The Indian Army team won the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2024 title, winning 21 medals including 10 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze.

The Indian Army team won the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2024 title, winning 21 medals including 10 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze. The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2024 was conducted in two phases. The first, from February 2 to 6, was held in Leh, Ladakh while the second was scheduled from February 21 to 25, in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir. Karnataka won the silver with nine gold medals and two silvers. Jammu and Kashmir won four medals. A local boy from Tangmarg, Shahid Ahmad Chachi, triumphed ski mountaineering in men's verticle category at Kangdoori with gold, the first one for UT. In the same event for women, Kamaya Kartikayan from Maharashtra, Menak Gunjyal from Uttrakhand and Gousia Gulzar from J&K won gold, silver and bronze respectively. Besides, in the sport of Alpine Skiing Slalom for women Anchal Thakur from Himachal Pradesh clinched Gold, Sobiya Nabi from J&K followed with silver and Diya Thakur from Himachal with bronze.

India wins 14 medals, including 9 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze medal at the Archery Asia Cup 2024, held in Baghdad, Iraq.

India wins 14 medals, including 9 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze medal at the Archery Asia Cup 2024, held in Baghdad, Iraq. In the women's individual recurve category, three-time Olympian Deepika Kumari won the gold medal by defeating compatriot Simranjeet Kaur 6-2. Meanwhile, in an all-Indian final, Dhiraj Bommadevara beat Tarundeep Rai 7-3 to win the men's recurve archery title. Parneet Kaur defeated Iran's Fatemeh Hemmati 138-135 for the women's gold medal match while Prathamesh Jawkar beat teammate Kushal Dalal 146-144 for the men's title. Indian women's recurve team comprising Simranjeet Kaur, Deepika Kumari and Bhajan Kaur defeated Uzbekistan 5-4 via shootout in a closely-fought final to clinch the gold.

On the other hand, the trio of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Ramesh Jadhav and Tarundeep Rai ousted Bangladesh 6-2 to claim the gold. Dhiraj and Simranjeet also teamed up to win the mixed team recurve gold, blanking Bangladesh 6-0 in the final.

Magnus Carlsen (NOR) defeated Fabiano Caruana (USA) in the second game of the Finals to win WEISSENHAUS Freestyle Chess G.O.A.T Challenge.

Magnus Carlsen (NOR) defeated Fabiano Caruana (USA) in the second game of the Finals to win WEISSENHAUS Freestyle Chess G.O.A.T Challenge. After losing to D Gukesh, Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB) in the Playoff Rapid, the world no.1 suffered his sole Classical time control loss against Alireza Firouzja (FRA). Levon Aronian (USA) finished third by defeating Abdusattorov. Firouzja won his match versus Gukesh to finish fourth. The total prize fund was US\$ 200000. The top three prizes were US\$ 60000, \$40000, \$30000 each.

The 11th edition of World Government Summit 2024 (WGS2024), was held in Dubai, UAE from 12th to 14th February 2024, with the theme "Shaping Future Governments'.

The 11th edition of World Government Summit 2024 (WGS2024), was held in Dubai, UAE from 12th to 14th February 2024, with the theme "Shaping Future Governments'. Held in Dubai since 2013, the World Government Summit (WGS) is a global event that brings together government officials, international organisations, and industry leaders to discuss and address global challenges. The World Government Summit is a global platform dedicated to shaping the future of government worldwide. The WGS2024 focuses on six main themes: government acceleration and transformation, artificial intelligence and the next frontiers, reimagining development and future economies, future societies and education, sustainability and the new global shifts, and urbanisation and global health priorities. It was attended by over 60 prominent speakers in key and interactive sessions, including leaders, decision-makers, ministers, CEOs, thought leaders, government officials, and experts, with over 4,700 individuals representing government entities from various countries.