



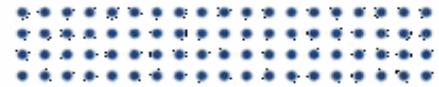
Prime Reader

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**January
2024**

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General Awareness Topic(Covered)

- National
- International
- Banking & Finance
- Awards & Recognitions
- Sports
- Economy & Business
- Appointments & Resignation
- Defence
- Books & Authors
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Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shailesh Kumar Singh launched DAY-NRLM's "SARATHI" app at Krishi Bhawan, which is to be used as the national tech solution for the strategy for working with most vulnerable.

Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shailesh Kumar Singh launched DAY-NRLM's "SARATHI" app at Krishi Bhawan, which is to be used as the national tech solution for the strategy for working with most vulnerable. He explained how this is a step in the right direction considering saturation and inclusion as key priorities for the Ministry of Rural Development. The SARATHI app has been developed in partnership with The/Nudge Institute and will be immediately deployed in six states where DAY-NRLM's Innovation funding is driving special projects for 24,000 most vulnerable households. Voices from the community and states added to this narrative with their stories of first-hand usage of the SARATHI app.

Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become prime minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats.

Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become prime minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats. Tobgay, 58, will become Bhutan's PM for the second time. He was leader of the opposition in Bhutan's first parliament when it was established in 2008 after the start of the reign of the present king. He served as prime minister from 2013 to 2018 and shares a strong chemistry with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as the chief minister of Bihar for a record ninth time.

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as the chief minister of Bihar for a record ninth time. He was administered the oath of office by Governor Rajendra Arlekar at Raj Bhavan. Along with Kumar, eight new ministers took oath in the new NDA government. The last time Nitish Kumar took oath as chief minister was in 2022 when he severed his ties with the NDA and joined the RJD, Congress and the Left alliance in Bihar. Between 2022 and 2024, Nitish Kumar took the lead in forging the alliance of the opposition parties to unitedly fight the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In June 2023, he hosted the first meeting of the opposition parties before it even adopted the INDIA name. Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha were appointed as the two Deputy Chief Ministers in new Bihar government. The oath ceremony of the new government took place at the Raj Bhavan in Patna, Bihar. BJP chief JP Nadda and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan were also present at the event.

After making a huge name in mobile accessories products, VARNI has appointed cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as their brand ambassador.

After making a huge name in mobile accessories products, VARNI has appointed cricketer Ravindra Jadeja as their brand ambassador. Kishan Mali, Founder & Managing Director of VARNI, made an official announcement last year on the 10th year anniversary of VARNI.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani has been re-elected for a fourth term in a poll disputed by the opposition as "fraudulent".

Comoros President Azali Assoumani has been re-elected for a fourth term in a poll disputed by the opposition as "fraudulent". He secured the win with 63% of the vote. However, turnout was low amid an opposition boycott - just 16% of people voted in the presidential election.

Sharat Chauhan, a 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Puducherry.

Sharat Chauhan, a 1994 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Puducherry. Chauhan, who previously served in Arunachal Pradesh. His appointment comes as part of a series of transfers within the AGMUT cadre. The outgoing Chief Secretary, Rajeev Verma, a 1992 batch IAS officer, will assume the position of advisor to the Chandigarh administrator following his tenure in Puducherry. Verma took charge as Chief Secretary on April 29, 2022, and now transitions to a new role in Chandigarh.

The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in GIFT City, Gujarat.

The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in GIFT City, Gujarat. Hosted by Karan Johar, Ayushmann Khurrana and Maneish Paul, the star-studded night saw dazzling red-carpet appearances, breathtaking performances and inspiring winning moments. Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor won the Best Actor award in a lead role for the film Animal, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actress award in a lead role for Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. Vidhu Vinod Chopra received the Best Director award for the film 12th Fail. Along with this, 12th Fail won the Best Screenplay and Best Film (Popular) awards. The film is based on Anurag Pathak's 2019 non-fiction book about the real-life story of the 12th failed IPS Manoj Kumar Sharma.

President Droupadi Murmu presented National Voters' Day (NVD) awards on the occasion of 14th National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25 January 2024 in New Delhi.

President Droupadi Murmu presented National Voters' Day (NVD) awards on the occasion of 14th National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25 January 2024 in New Delhi. The President presented the Best Electoral Practices Awards for the year 2023. The awards was presented to State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections during 2023 in different spheres such as IT

initiatives, Security Management, Election Management, Accessible Election, Electoral Roll and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach. Furthermore, the awards was also given to important stakeholders including government departments, and media organizations for their valuable contribution towards voters' awareness. In addition to this, the first copy of the ECI Publication 'ECI initiatives for General Elections 2024' was presented to the President by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, and a short voter awareness film - 'My Vote My Duty' screened.

Padma Awards 2024 announced

Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines / fields of activities, viz- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. These Awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year. For the year 2024, the President has approved conferment of 132 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards. 30 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 8 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 9 Posthumous awardees.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Awards 2023.

India's Virat Kohli has won the ICC Men's One Day International (ODI) Cricketer of the Year 2023 and Suryakumar Yadav has won the ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer of the Year 2023. The India batter Suryakumar Yadav has won the award for the second time in a row. Suryakuamr scored 733 runs in 17 innings at an average of 48.86 while striking at 155.95 in 2023. This is the fourth such award for Kohli, who was the second most prolific run-scorer in ODIs last year behind compatriot Shubman Gill.

President Draupadi Murmu to present Prime Minister's National Children's Award 2024 to 19 children!

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu conferred the "Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar" instituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to 19 children. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Minister of State for Women and Child Development, dignitaries, Anganwadi workers, and young children from various institutions were also present in a special function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

on 22nd January 2024.

An India born prolific lawyer, Ajit Mishra, has been conferred with "Freedom of the City of London Award" at Guildhall for his outstanding contribution in legal and public life.

An India born prolific lawyer, Ajit Mishra, has been conferred with "Freedom of the City of London Award" at Guildhall for his outstanding contribution in legal and public life. Mishra is Founder and Chair of UK India Legal Partnership (UKILP). He is a dual qualified lawyer and corporate partner at Knights.

Former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, which is India's highest civilian honour, by the president.

Former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, which is India's highest civilian honour, by the president. The socialist icon is well-known for his efforts to uplift the backward classes in Bihar. Karpoori Thakur was the pioneer in providing the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) with the benefit of reservation as he implemented the recommendations of the Mungeri Lal Commission during his tenure as Bihar CM from 1977 to 1979. As chief minister of Bihar, he announced reservations for socially and economically backward groups, the extremely backward classes, educated women and poor women in 1978.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance introduced iSelect Guaranteed Future Plus, a comprehensive plan designed to deliver life insurance and assured benefits, ensuring the safeguarding of goals and providing peace of mind.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance introduced iSelect Guaranteed Future Plus, a comprehensive plan designed to deliver life insurance and assured benefits, ensuring the safeguarding of goals and providing peace of mind. This plan offers financial security and stability, catering to individuals and their families at various life stages and significant milestones. The product encompasses a range of crucial features, including a life cover serving as a safety net for the policyholder and their loved ones, ensuring financial security during uncertain periods.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced an extension to the timeline for the verification of market rumours by listed entities.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced an extension to the timeline for the verification of market rumours by listed entities. The new effective date for implementation for the top 100 listed entities has been extended to June 1, 2024, and for the top 250 listed entities, the deadline is now December 1, 2024. The regulation mandates the top 100 listed entities by market capitalisation, and subsequently, the top 250 listed entities, to verify and confirm, deny, or clarify market rumours.

Zomato Payments Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zomato, has been granted a certificate of authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an 'Online Payments Aggregator'.

Zomato Payments Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zomato, has been granted a certificate of authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an 'Online Payments Aggregator'. The authorisation came into effect from January 24, 2024. Payment aggregators facilitate e-commerce websites, mobile apps, and merchants to accept payment instruments from customers for their transactions, without the need for merchants to create their own payment interface.

IIM Bangalore's NSRCEL and SIDBI have collaborated to establish a pre-seed fund, specifically for start-ups in the deep tech and emerging businesses area.

IIM Bangalore's NSRCEL and SIDBI have collaborated to establish a pre-seed fund, specifically for start-ups in the deep tech and emerging businesses area. The MoU signed between the two organizations laid the foundation for a multi-year relationship to nurture startups and lead them towards scaling up their business activities. The centre's singular focus has been on supporting founders who are building disruptive solutions in their early stages.

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched Smart Wealth Annuity Guaranteed Pension Plan - SWAG Pension Plan, A Non-Linked, Non-Participating Individual/Group General Annuity Savings Plan.

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched Smart Wealth Annuity Guaranteed Pension Plan - SWAG Pension Plan, A Non-Linked, Non-Participating Individual/Group General Annuity Savings Plan. Key features of SWAG Pension Plan: Wide range of annuity variants to suit the customers' retirement needs; Immediate annuity with flexibility to decide the return of a chosen proportion of premiums paid to the surviving annuitant or nominee; Increasing annuity up to 6% per annum ensuring readiness for the rising inflation; Early Return of Premium on attaining milestone age which varies from 70 years to 85 years (in blocks of 5 years); Provides the option to the surviving annuitant to withdraw the chosen proportion of annuity in advance on the death of the first annuitant; Customers can plan early and get a higher annuity on retirement by deferring the first annuity from the first month itself up to 12 years.

According to a RBI report on 'Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions', Panchayats need to intensify their efforts to augment their own tax and non-tax revenue resources and improve their governance for sustainable growth.

According to a RBI report on 'Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions', Panchayats need to intensify their efforts to augment their own tax and non-tax revenue resources and improve their governance for sustainable growth. The report noted that with 68.8 percent of India's population residing in rural areas (as per the 2011 Census), local

governments at the panchayat level assume a significant role in translating the vision and developmental policies of both the Central and State governments into action. The report underscored that the prompt establishment of State Finance Commissions (SFCs), eschewing the sizeable delays that occur currently, assumes importance.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a circular encapsulating the framework for offer for sale (OFS) of shares to employees through stock exchanges such as BSE and NSE.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a circular encapsulating the framework for offer for sale (OFS) of shares to employees through stock exchanges such as BSE and NSE. The promoters of eligible companies will be permitted to sell shares within two weeks from the offer for sale (OFS) transaction to the employees of such companies. The promoters are meant to make necessary disclosures in the OFS notice to the stock exchange including number of shares offered to employees and discount offered. Key provisions of this circular include the following: 1. Bidding will be allowed during trading hours on T+1 day only. 2. Employees will place bids only at cut-off price of T+1 day. 3. The maximum bid amount will be ₹5 lakh. 4. Each employee is eligible for allotment of equity shares up to ₹2 lakh. 5. In case there is under-subscription in the employee portion, the unsubscribed portion may be allotted to such employees whose bid amount is over ₹2 lakh on a proportionate basis for a value in excess of ₹2 lakh subject to the total allotment to an employee not exceeding ₹5 lakh. 6. The employees are supposed to pay upfront the margin to the extent of 100 percent of the order value in cash or cash equivalents.

General Insurance Council, in consultation with all general and health insurance companies, has launched the 'Cashless Everywhere' initiative.

General Insurance Council, in consultation with all general and health insurance companies, has launched the 'Cashless Everywhere' initiative, wherein policyholders can get treated in any hospital they choose, and a cashless facility will be available even if such a hospital is not in the network of the insurance company. This cashless facility is currently available only at hospitals where the respective insurance company has an agreement or tie-ups. If the policyholder chooses a hospital without such an agreement, the cashless facility is not offered, and the customer has to go for a reimbursement claim, further delaying the claim process. This Cashless Everywhere is subject to: For elective procedures, the customer should intimate the Insurance Company at least 48 hours prior to the admission. For emergency treatment, the customer should intimate the Insurance Company within 48 hours of admission. The claim should be admissible as per the terms of the policy and the cashless facility should be admissible as per the operating guidelines of the Insurance Company.

LIC launches a new annual plan 'Jeevan Dhara-2 Plan 872'!

This product, which will be available from Monday, is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings deferred annuity plan. The annuity is guaranteed from inception, and 11 annuity options are available to prospective policyholders. The minimum age at entry is 20 years (last birthday) for annuitant/primary/secondary annuitant. The maximum age is 80, 70, and 65 years minus the deferment period, depending upon the annuity option chosen.

Yes Bank becomes the first Indian bank to transact export funds on RXIL's ITFS platform

In a groundbreaking move, YES BANK has become the inaugural Indian bank to execute an export finance transaction on RXIL Global IFSC Limited's International Trade Financing Services Platform (ITFS). The collaboration marks a significant stride in digitization and cross-border business for YES BANK. The platform, registered under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), offers a digital avenue for arranging credit through Factoring, Forfaiting, and other trade financing services at competitive rates with swift processing. This historic transaction is the first of its kind on the ITFS platform in conjunction with any bank in India.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Invests 58.4 Million in India's Largest Renewable Energy InvIT!

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has recently injected INR 4.86 billion (approximately USD 58.4 million) into India's largest renewable energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT). Known as Sustainable Energy Infra Trust (SEIT), the InvIT is backed by eight operational solar power generation assets with a total capacity of 1.54 gigawatts-peak, strategically positioned across India.

Unity Bank Partners with Uncia for its Supply Chain Finance Platform Uncia Chain!

Uncia Chain, its flagship Supply Chain Finance (SCF) platform, is designed to provide a hassle-free implementation journey for its customers. It offers a feature-rich product suite that houses all business constructs the physical Supply Chain industry looks up to, for its financing needs. It effortlessly manages to handle all functions of a three-party financing construct by bringing buyer, seller and lender in one platform, by providing templated variations of all onboarding and transaction journeys that occur between these parties. Uncia's ability to be cloud-agnostic, database-agnostic, and efficient in ERP integration constructs, has enabled it to elevate Uncia Chain to a highly configurable, rapid deployment framework. Case in point being the implementation of Uncia Chain for Unity Bank, which was accomplished in less than 100 days.

Govt Expands Scope of Financial Services at IFSC GIFT city; Notified 4 Additional Services!

As per a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, various services, including book-keeping, accounting, taxation, and financial crime compliance, have been included as part of financial services. The government has expanded the scope of activities that can be undertaken at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) by including services such as book keeping, and accounting. Various services, including book-keeping, accounting, taxation, and financial crime compliance, have been included as part of financial services.

SBI Life has Launched 'Saral Swadhan Supreme' and 'Smart Swadhan Supreme'!

SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme' and 'SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme' have been meticulously crafted to empower individuals to safeguard their loved ones from life uncertainties while simultaneously building a robust financial safety net. SBI Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has recently launched two products— 'SBI Life - Saral Swadhan Supreme' and 'SBI Life - Smart Swadhan Supreme'. These two new products not only provides a life cover but also benefit of return of premiums at maturity, to fulfil customer's financial objectives.

RBI's economic activity index nowcasts Q3 growth at 7%!

RBI's economic activity index (EAI) has nowcast GDP growth for Q3 (October-December) FY24 at 7 percent, according to an article in the central bank's latest monthly bulletin. This is higher than the real GDP growth projection of 6.5 percent for Q3FY24 made in the Governor's December 2023 monetary policy statement. The RBI acts as a regulator and supervisor of the overall financial system. This injects public confidence into the national financial system, protects interest rates, and provides positive banking alternatives to the public. Finally, the RBI acts as the issuer of national currency.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank. As per the terms of scheme of amalgamation, Fincare Business Services, promoter of Fincare SFB, shall infuse Rs700 crore into Fincare SFB prior to the completion of the merger.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance introduces ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with 'benefit enhancer'!

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance recently introduced the ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with “benefit enhancer”, the industry's inaugural annuity plan offering customers the flexibility to receive a full premium refund at any point from the date of purchase. This product offers a variety of annuity options.

Postage stamps on Ram Temple released by PM Modi!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative postage stamps on the Ram temple on Thursday, along with a book of stamps on the Ramayana from around the world. He said the appeal of Lord Ram, Sita, and Laxmana transcends the boundaries of “time, society, caste, religion, and region.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday released a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and a book featuring stamps from around the world honouring the revered deity.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the first edition of 'Political History of Assam (1947-1971)'- Volume 1.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the first edition of 'Political History of Assam (1947-1971)'- Volume 1. This volume delves into the political history of Assam during the post-independence era, spanning from 1947 to 1971. This book will encompass the political events of Assam from 1947 to 2020 in three volumes and will be completed by 2025. Previously, the state government had initiated a project for the Compilation & Publication of 'Political History of Assam' in three volumes, with Dr. Rajen Saikia serving as the editor for the project.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah launched a book titled 'A Promised Nation Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi- the Maker of New India'.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah launched a book titled 'A Promised Nation Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi- the Maker of New India', written on the life and works of PM Modi in Braille script in New Delhi. The book is written on the life and works of Modi Ji in Braille script. The book will help people with visual impairment to know about the life journey of Modi Ji and the transformation he has ushered in.

Amit Shah released the book titled 'Assam's Breathing - Laschat Barfu Kan'!

In his address, Shri Amit Shah highlighted the remarkable story of Lachit Barphukan, who fought against bigotry and power-hungry forces in the Northeast. He likened Lachit Borphukan to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj of Eastern India, emphasizing the significance of his role in India's freedom struggle. Shri Shah underlined the importance of the Battle of Saraighat, stating that if Lachit had not emerged victorious, Assam might have become a part of Bangladesh. He credited Lachit for halting invasions from Khilji to Aurangzeb, safeguarding Assam and contributing to the region's integration with India.

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel unveiled the book "Smritivan: An Unparalleled Apotheosis of Commemoration to 2001 Victims of Gujarat Earthquake" in Gandhinagar.

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel unveiled the book "Smritivan: An Unparalleled Apotheosis of Commemoration to 2001 Victims of Gujarat Earthquake" in Gandhinagar. The coffee table book, published by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), just before the 23rd anniversary of the Kutch earthquake, narrates the tale of the transformation of Bhujia Dungar following the 2001 earthquake. It also captures the developmental journey of Gujarat under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The book showcases the achievements of Smritivan on Bhujia Dungar, evolving from barren land into the world's largest Miyawaki Forest with a plantation of five and a half lakh trees.

54th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos - Klosters, Switzerland, from January 15-19, 2024, on the theme 'Rebuilding Trust'.

54th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos - Klosters, Switzerland, from January 15-19, 2024, on the theme 'Rebuilding Trust'. The 54th annual meeting, according to the forum's official website, was focused on the core principles of trust, emphasizing transparency, consistency, and accountability. This served as the center for Government-to-Business (G2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B) networking, hosting roundtables, sessions, and panels on leading topics.

Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Exercise Desert Knight' along with French Air and Space Force (FAF) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force.

Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted 'Exercise Desert Knight' along with French Air and Space Force (FAF) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force. While the French participation included the Rafale fighter aircraft and a Multi Role Tanker Transport, the UAE Air Force fielded the F-16. These aircraft operated from the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE. The IAF contingent comprised of Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J and Air to Air Refueller aircraft. The exercise in Indian FIR was conducted over the Arabian Sea, with IAF aircraft operating from bases within India.

The inaugural edition of India-Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' commenced at Mahajan, Rajasthan.

The inaugural edition of India-Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' commenced at Mahajan, Rajasthan. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 29th January to 10th February 2024. The Saudi Arabian contingent comprising 45 personnel is being represented by Royal Saudi Land Forces. The Indian Army contingent also comprising 45 personnel is being represented by a Battalion from the Brigade of the Guards (Mechanised Infantry).

Ex Khanjar 2024: 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise commenced at HP!

The Indian Army contingent, consisting of 20 personnel, is proudly represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces). On the other side, the Kyrgyzstan contingent, also comprising 20 personnel, is represented by the Scorpion Brigade. This diverse participation showcases the commitment of both nations to joint efforts in combating terrorism and enhancing their special forces capabilities.

ICAI collaborates with IIM Ahmedabad to develop 'Vision 2049'!

CA Institute, which is the world's largest accounting body, has initiated an exercise to develop a 'Vision 2049' document to position itself as a globally recognised leader in the accounting profession. This vision document will be prepared in collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad, CA Institute, which is the world's largest accounting body, has initiated an exercise to develop a 'Vision 2049' document to position itself as a globally recognised leader in the accounting profession.

SEBI Chairman launches CDSL scheme "Additional Bahubhai"!

SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch launched two multi-lingual initiatives of Central Depository Services Ltd aimed at increasing inclusivity and accessibility in the capital market. In celebration of its silver jubilee year, Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), Asia's first listed depository, proudly announces the launch of two unique multi-lingual initiatives to signify its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in the capital market landscape.

NSE remains world's largest derivative exchange in 2023 for fifth straight year!

Continuing its dominance among peers for five years, the National Stock Exchange of India emerged as the world's largest derivative exchange in 2023 by the number of contracts traded. In addition to this, it ranked 3rd in the world in the equity segment by number of trades (electronic order book). NSE Group (National Stock Exchange of India and NSE International Exchange) has once again emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange group in the calendar year 2023 by number of contracts traded based on statistics published by Futures Industry Association (FIA), a derivatives trade body.

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Launched Project for Artificial Reefs in Kerala!

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Launched Project for Artificial Reefs in Kerala Union Minister Parshottam Rupala, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD) virtually launched the project of depositing artificial reefs in the seabed in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, In a significant move to boost fish

production and promote sustainable fishing, Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurated an artificial reef project in Vizhinjam, Kerala. This initiative aims to double the income of fishermen by enhancing fish stocks and contributing to the economic well-being of the local fishing community.

India became Fourth-Largest Stock Market, Overtakes Hong Kong!

The total value of shares on Indian exchanges hit \$4.33 trillion at Monday's close, compared to Hong Kong's \$4.29 trillion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, making it the fourth largest stock market in the world. India's stock market overtook Hong Kong's to become the fourth largest in the world. The total value of shares in India equaled \$4.33 trillion at Monday's close, over Hong Kong's \$4.29 trillion.

ICRA estimates that GDP growth rate will moderate to below 6% in the third quarter of financial year 2023-24!

The firm's economists also referred to the slump in the Centre's capital expenditure in Q3, with October and November seeing a 8.8% dip year-on-year, and their expectations of "little-to-no" growth in the Gross Value Added (GVA) by the Agriculture sector, in their rationale for the growth downtick in the last quarter. The sharp fall in Kharif crop output and weak progress of Rabi sowing for some crops will hurt the farm sector GVA.

Centre forms committee to examine steps to safeguard interests of SCs!

"It will examine the administrative steps that can be taken to safeguard the interests of the scheduled caste communities, like the Madigas and other such groups, who have represented that they are not evenly getting their due share of benefits. The committee will comprise secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Personnel and Training, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Department of Legal Affairs and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is leveraging cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies for the benefit of farmers and to increase overall productivity!

On 17th January 2024, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Farmers' Welfare Programme Implementation Society, IndiaAI under Digital India Corporation, and Wadhvani Foundation. The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Dr. P.K. Meherda, Additional Secretary, Ms. Ruchika Gupta, Advisor(Digital), Shri Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary(Extn.), Shri Muktanand Agrawal, Director (Digital), other senior officials from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Electronics & IT and Shri Prakash Kumar, CEO, Wadhvani Institute of Technology and Policy.

Government of India raised Rs 2500 by paying 3.5% shareholder in NHPC scheme!

The government will sell 3.5 percent stake in power producer NHPC at a floor price of Rs66 per share, bringing in Rs2,300 crore to the exchequer. The sale in NHPC The offer will open tomorrow for non-retail investors. Retail investors can place bids. The government will disinvest 3.5 percent of the equity, including a greenshoe option of 1 percent.

HDFC Bank Disposes 2.01% stake in CAMS for Rs.252.34 Cr!

HDFC Bank has divested a 2.01 percent stake in Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) for all cash consideration of ₹252.34 crore. The Bank sold 9,86,315 shares of CAMS (a 2.01 per cent equity stake) through the secondary market route on BSE & NSE between August 25, 2023, and January 23, 2024. The sale price (average) was ₹2,558.43 per share. CAMS is a technology-driven financial infrastructure and services provider to mutual funds and other financial institutions.

Japan's Softbank Sold Another 1.95% Stake in Paytm!

Japanese investor SoftBank has offloaded two per cent of its stake in One 97 Communications, the parent company of fintech major Paytm, over the past one month. SVF India Holdings (Cayman) Ltd, a SoftBank entity, has been reducing its stake in the company by selling its shares in open markets over the past few months. After selling a 2 per cent stake in the fintech company, SoftBank's total shareholding has come down to 5.06 per cent. The company held a 13.24 per cent stake in February 2023.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) to acquire up to 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) to acquire up to 9.99% stake in HDFC Bank. RBI has advised LIC to acquire the additional HDFC Bank shares within a year. Further, LIC must ensure that its aggregate holding in the bank does not exceed 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the bank at all times. The central bank approved LIC's application, subject to its compliance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined".

Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined". The rebranding embodies "revitalised commitment to reimagine the country's credit landscape with excellent credit solutions and customer-centric offerings". It aims to offer customer-centric, solution-driven assistance that assures service through innovation.

Titagarh Rail Systems (TRSL) of Kolkata and Amber group of Delhi have collaborated to enter the railway component and subsystem business by forming a joint special purpose vehicle (SPV).

Titagarh Rail Systems (TRSL) of Kolkata and Amber group of Delhi have collaborated to enter the railway component and subsystem business by forming a joint special purpose vehicle (SPV). Both TRSL and Amber group, via its wholly owned subsidiary Sidwal Refrigeration Industries Pvt Limited, will invest approx Rs 120 crores each to obtain around 50% each in the SPV. These investments will be used to set up the new railway component business as well as a fresh equity investment in Italy's Firema, to expand their business into the European markets.

PM Modi Launches 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a new Rooftop Solar Power Scheme!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (January 22) announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems. This isn't the first scheme for promoting the installation of rooftop solar power systems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (January 22) announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana', a government scheme under which one crore households will get rooftop solar power systems.

HP Govt Launches 'My School-My Pride' Campaign to Transform Govt Education System!

In a move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, Himachal Pradesh has unveiled the 'My School-My Pride' campaign under the 'Apna Vidyalay' programme, aimed at revolutionising the quality of education in government schools. This initiative will encourage active participation from individuals and organisations to adopt schools and contribute to various aspects of students' growth. This team will step in during teacher shortages or leaves, ensuring continuous academic support. Non-academic teams will contribute to sports, co-curricular activities, skill training, arts, and more.

National Girl Child Day 2024 – January 24!

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, celebrated National Girl Child Day on 24th January 2024 at the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). National Girl Child Day observed

annually on January 24th in India, plays a pivotal role in highlighting the importance of empowering girls and addressing the challenges they face in society. Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this day marks a commitment to promote gender equality, empower girls, and protect their rights.

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is annually observed on 27 January to remember and honour the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during World War II.

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is annually observed on 27 January to remember and honour the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during World War II. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in November 2005, with resolution 60/7. This date was chosen to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, in 1945.

National Tourism Day is celebrated in India on January 25 to educate people about the importance of tourism.

National Tourism Day is celebrated in India on January 25 to educate people about the importance of tourism. It was established by the Indian government to raise awareness regarding the importance of tourism for India's economy. National Tourism Day was established to promote the tourism industry and recognise its contribution to the growth and sustainability of tourist destinations and local communities.

The first-ever International Day of Clean Energy is observed on 26th January 2024.

The first-ever International Day of Clean Energy is observed on 26th January 2024. International Day of Clean Energy 2024 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to raise awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy for the benefit of the people and the planet. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/77/327 on 25 August 2023 and declared that the International Day of Clean Energy will be observed every year on 26th January.

World Leprosy Day 2024 was celebrated on 28th January.

Every year, World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month of January. This year 2024, World Leprosy Day falls on January 28, which is being celebrated on a Sunday. In 1954, French Journalist Raoul Follereau established World Leprosy Day to be celebrated to campaign to create awareness about this disease and explore the treatment options available that can provide the patients with a better life. The day was chosen by the Journalist as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

who had compassion and empathy for people affected with this disease. The theme of World Leprosy Day 2024 is "Beat Leprosy". This theme is chosen to beat the stigma associated with the disease, as well as create awareness about it.

International Day of Education celebrated on January 24!

Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. The event will be celebrated on January 25 at the UNESCO headquarters in New York. "International Day of Education 2024 will be a global platform to sustain political mobilisation, take forward national commitments and global initiatives, and step up public engagement in favour of education as the path to peace, sustainable development and individual and collective well-being.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) was celebrated on 30 January.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) was celebrated on 30 January. To mark the first global health day of the year, WHO is organizing or participating in a series of events. World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) is a global healthcare event celebrated on 30th January every year since 2021 with the goal of celebrating achievements made toward control of the World Neglected Tropical Diseases. The Theme of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2024 is "Unite. Act. Eliminate".

Every year, International Customs Day is observed on January 26.

Every year, International Customs Day is observed on January 26. In the year 1953, the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) confirmed this date to be observed as International Customs Day. The session was inaugurated in Brussels, Belgium. Members from 17 European countries attended that session. In 1994, CCC was renamed as World Customs Organisation, and currently consists of 182 member states across the world. Since then, International Customs Day has been observed. The theme of International Customs Day 2024 is 'Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose'.

National Voters' Day is celebrated annually on January 25 to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 1950.

National Voters' Day is celebrated annually on January 25 to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 1950. It's a day dedicated to strengthening the democratic process by encouraging voter participation and emphasizing the importance of every vote in shaping the nation's future. The ECI is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections in the world's largest democracy. 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure' is the theme of National Voters' Day 2024.

Highlights of India's Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's visit to Iran!

As the crisis in the Red Sea spurred by the Israel-Hamas war escalates, India has begun a diplomatic outreach to crucial players to secure the country's trade and strategic interests. The outreach treads a line of neutrality in the conflict between the Western powers and the Islamic world wherein India has not joined the US-led multinational naval coalition in the Red Sea while it remains critical of the Houthis' violence.

19th NAM Summit held in Kampala, Uganda, EAM S Jaishankar led Indian Delegation!

19th NAM Summit set to begin in Uganda's Kampala; EAM Jaishankar to lead Indian delegation. The 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit is set to kick off on Friday in Uganda's capital, Kampala, with the Indian delegation led by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held in Kampala, Uganda on 19-20 January 2024. The Summit will be preceded by deliberations at the Ministerial and Senior Officials levels. Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh is representing India at the NAM Foreign Ministers' meeting which will precede the NAM Summit. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan will represent India at the G-77 Third South Summit which will be held in Kampala on 21-22 January 2024.

The World Bank, through its International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has introduced a groundbreaking seven-year USD 100 million Plastic Waste Reduction-Linked Bond.

The World Bank, through its International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has introduced a groundbreaking seven-year USD 100 million Plastic Waste Reduction-Linked Bond. This innovative financial instrument links investor returns to Plastic Waste Collection Credits, Plastic Waste Recycling Credits, and Voluntary Carbon Units generated by projects in Ghana and Indonesia. The selected projects aim to address global plastic pollution challenges by reducing and recycling plastic waste in vulnerable communities. The bond structure offers potential financial benefits if projects and credit monetization perform as expected, providing a win-win scenario for investors, local communities, and ecosystems.

Canadian Filmmaker & Producer Norman Jewison Passed Away!

Four years later, he was given a similar award in Canada for his contributions to the country's film industry, which included the setting up of the Canadian Film Centre. "I have tended to show humanity as fallible, sensitive, befuddled, misled but redeemable, rather than mindless, relentlessly violent," he wrote in his autobiography in 2004. In 1999, he received a lifetime achievement award from America's Academy

of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

North Korea touts 'underwater nuclear weapons system', blasts US drills.

Pyongyang tested the Haeil-5-23 in waters off the east coast as the US and its allies were “seriously threatening the security” of the country and “destabilising the regional situation”, North Korea’s Ministry of Defence said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Friday. “Our army’s underwater nuke-based countering posture is being further rounded off, and its various maritime and underwater responsive actions will continue to deter the hostile military manoeuvres of the navies of the US and its allies,” the statement said, warning of “catastrophic consequences” for the US and its “followers”.

Ex Cyclone II: 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise commenced in Egypt!

Exercise Cyclone II”, the 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, commenced on 22nd January 2024 in Anshas, Egypt. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 22nd January to 1st February 2024. The Exercise will involve planning and execution of special operations in sub conventional domain and conducted in three phases. While the first phase will include Military Exhibitions and Tactical Interactions, second phase will focus on training on Improvised Explosive Device (IED), counter IED and Combat First Aid. The third and final phase will encompass Joint Tactical Exercise based on Fighting in Built-up Area and Hostage Rescue Scenarios.

MeitY Signs MoU with Cuba for Cooperation on Digital Public Infrastructure!

India will collaborate with Cuba by building upon development partnership on digital transformation leading to a smooth adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure in Cuba. The MoU intends to promote digital transformation. The signatories were Shri S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY from India’s side and Mr Wilfredo Gonzalez Vidal, First Deputy Minister of Communications, from Cuba’s side. The MoU intends to promote digital transformation (viz INDIA STACK) through Capacity Building programs, exchange of best practices and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

REC Limited has signed a MoU with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) to collaborate on a suite of funding solutions for Renewable Energy Projects as well as large-scale infrastructure projects in India.

REC Limited has signed a MoU with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) to collaborate on a suite of funding solutions for Renewable Energy Projects as well as large-scale infrastructure projects in India. Commitment to financing key infrastructure projects echoes shared vision for a robust and

interconnected future. The MoU was signed by Executive Director (Finance), REC, Daljeet Singh Khatri and Executive Director & Chief Strategy Officer, NIIFL, Prasad Gadkari, in the presence of CMD, REC, Vivek Kumar Dewangan and CEO and MD, NIIFL, Rajiv Dhar.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, have renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, have renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). During the five-year term of MoU, MoRD will work with ROSHNI – Centre of Women Collectives led Social Action (CWCSA), to strengthen interventions for better results of Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH (FNHW) for rural communities. This partnership will strengthen nutrition, gender equity and livelihoods for women.

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Govt of India signed an MoU at New Delhi for implementation of the “Modified PKC-ERCP” (integration of original PKC with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project of Rajasthan).

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Govt of India signed an MoU at New Delhi for implementation of the “Modified PKC-ERCP” (integration of original PKC with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project of Rajasthan), which is the second project under the national perspective plan of interlinking of rivers (ILR) program of Government of India. The MoU was signed by Dr Rajesh Kumar Rajora, ACS, WRD, Govt of MP, Abhay Kumar, ACS, WRD, Govt of Rajasthan and Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS, GoI on broad planning of the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link duly integrated with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and preparation of its DPR.

The Ministry of defence has signed a contract worth Rs1,070 crore with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for the acquisition of 14 fast patrol vessels.

The Ministry of defence has signed a contract worth Rs1,070 crore with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for the acquisition of 14 fast patrol vessels. The deal aims to strengthen the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and enhance the country's maritime security. Fast patrol vessels (FPVs) are small, agile and versatile ships that can perform a variety of tasks in coastal and offshore waters. They are used for patrolling, surveillance, search and rescue, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, fisheries protection and pollution control operations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of

the Supreme Court of India in Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India in Delhi. During the event, he launched several citizen-centric information and technology initiatives, including Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts 2.0, and a new bilingual website for the Supreme Court. In his address, the Prime Minister congratulated everyone on the occasion, marking the beginning of the Supreme Court's 75th year. He highlighted the significant role the Supreme Court plays in upholding the principles of freedom, equality, and justice outlined in the Indian constitution. PM Modi highlighted the government's commitment to improving the physical infrastructure of courts and informed about the approval of Rs 800 crore for expanding the Supreme Court Building Complex. He praised the Chief Justice of India for monitoring the digitization of all courts in the country.

Asia's largest civil aviation event, Wings India 2024, was held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, India from January 18–21, 2024.

Asia's largest civil aviation event, Wings India 2024, was held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, India from January 18–21, 2024. The event includes exhibitions, static displays, demonstration flights, media conferences, and business meetings. The event's theme is "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047". It featured aircraft of various sizes, and was around 1500 delegates from over 100 countries, 5,000 business representatives, and more than 100,000 visitors. Wings India 2024 was the comprehensive event on the civil aviation industry calendar including the inaugural ceremony, global ministerial conference, global CEOs' forum, B2B / B2G meetings, awards ceremony, cultural evening, and business networking dinner. Also, the event includes an exhibition, chalets, demonstration flights, static displays, media conferences, one-to-one business meetings, and many more.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects worth more than Rs 19,100 crore in Bulandshahr district in western Uttar Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects worth more than Rs 19,100 crore in Bulandshahr district in western Uttar Pradesh. He inaugurated a 173-km-long double-line electrified section between New Khurja and New Rewari on the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) by flagging off goods trains from the two stations through video conference. The prime minister also inaugurated a rail line connecting the Mathura-Palwal section and the Chipiyana Buzurg-Dadri section. These new lines will improve rail connectivity of the national capital to southern-western and eastern India. Modi unveiled multiple road development projects. He also inaugurated Indian Oil's Tundla-Gawaria pipeline. Built at a cost of about Rs 700 crore, this 255-km-long pipeline project has been completed well ahead of its scheduled time.

NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW),

Government of India, and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations jointly launched the 'Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in India' in New Delhi.

NITI Aayog, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India, and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations jointly launched the 'Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood Systems in India' in New Delhi. It was launched during a two-day Multi-stakeholder Meeting held on January 18-19, 2024, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The Forum facilitated discussions and deliberations on six key areas namely, (i) Climate resilient agriculture (experiences and pathways) (ii) Digital infrastructure and solutions (iii) Financing climate resilient agrifood systems (domestic and global) (iv) Climate resilient value chains (v) Production practices and inputs for climate resilience and (vi) Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion for climate resilience.

India's ACME and Japan's IHI Corporation Signs pact to supply Green Ammonia from India to Japan!

The agreement, signed by Manoj Upadhyay, Founder and Chairman of Acme Group, and Hiroshi Ide, President and CEO of IHI Corporation, paves the way for the supply of 0.4 million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of green ammonia from Odisha, India, to Japan. Gurgaon-based ACME Group signed an offtake term sheet for the supply of green ammonia from its project in Odisha to IHI Corporation, a Japanese integrated heavy industry company. The term sheet covers the supply of 0.4 million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of green ammonia from Phase-1 of ACME's Gopalpur on a long-term basis.

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MoE issues new rules for coaching centres; No enrollment of students under 16 years of age.

Coaching centres in India have been prohibited from enrolling students below the age of 16, according to new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education on Thursday (Jan 18). The regulatory framework has been introduced to manage the unregulated growth of private coaching centres across the country. Coaching centres cannot enrol

students below 16 years of age, make misleading promises and guarantee rank or good marks, according to new guidelines announced by the Ministry of Education.

India was celebrated its 75th Republic Day on 26th January 2024.

India was celebrated its 75th Republic Day on 26th January 2024. This year French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest. This year's Republic Day theme is 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Loktatantra ki Matraka'. The Republic Day 2024 parade commenced at 10:30 am (IST) from New Delhi's Vijay Chowk. The venue accommodate approximately 77,000 people, with 42,000 reserved for the general public. This year's top attractions include a women's tri-service group parade, a French contingent to join the R-Day parade, six Indians to join the French military team in the Republic Day parade, AI to take space in the parade, ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 to be highlighted.

Sony Terminates Merger Agreement with Zee Entertainment!

As per the merger agreement, inked on December 22, 2021, Zee and Sony Pictures Networks India (now known as Culver Max), along with Bangla Entertainment Pvt Ltd, were to be merged into a single entity within 24 months, The collapse of a planned \$10-billion merger with Sony's unit has heaped pressure on Zee Entertainment, one of India's most popular TV networks, to pursue deals with new partners or focus on areas such as digital entertainment to revive its fortunes. A Zee-Sony India merger would have created a media powerhouse in the world's most populous nation with 90-plus channels across sports, entertainment and news segments, which, India's antitrust body at one time said could have "un-paralleled bargaining power" when backed by Sony's global reach.

Cameroon became the First Country to Roll Out Malaria Vaccine in Child Immunization Program!

Cameroon is the first country in the vaccine campaign. Plans are to introduce the vaccine in 20 additional countries by 2025. The rollout of malaria vaccines in Africa – the world's first routine immunization program against this mosquito-borne disease – has raised excitement for a surprising reason. Cameroon will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa.

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu on 19 January 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the southern state of Karnataka on Friday, January 19, i.e., today, to inaugurate a Boeing facility. He will also be visiting neighbouring states Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu on the same day, according to an official release from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). PM Modi will first set foot in Maharashtra in the morning to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various development projects in Solapur.

5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference of NFSU held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat!

Shri Amit Shah said that this conference is being inaugurated at a time when India's criminal justice system is entering into a new era. He said that India has abolished the 150-year-old original laws of criminal justice and introduced new laws. He said that two of the major issues in these three laws are related to this conference. First, to deliver timely justice and second, to curb crimes by increasing conviction rate. He said that in all three laws, efforts are being made to take both these issues forward with the help of technology. Home Minister added that we have taken a bold decision and it has been made mandatory for a Forensic Science Officer to visit the crime scene of offences which have punishment of 7 years or more. He said that this will simplify the investigation, it will be easier for the judges and it will also make the prosecution simple. This will also help us in increasing the conviction rate. Along with this, efforts are also being made to modernize the entire process. Shri Shah said that after 5 years, India's criminal justice system will be the most modern system in the world.

ONGC Gets MoPNG's Approval to Form Green Energy Subsidiary.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has approved the formation of a subsidiary company of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for green energy and gas business. The company will engage in businesses related to green hydrogen, hydrogen blending, renewable energy solar, wind and hybrid etc., biofuels, biogas business and LNG. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has received the approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary company for green energy and gas business.

9th India International Science Festival held in Faridabad, Haryana!

The 9th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF 2023) was held from 17th to 20th January 2024 at Faridabad, Haryana. The festival aims to celebrate the achievements of India in the frontier areas of science and technology. The 9th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) is set to be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad, Haryana from 17th January to 20th January 2024. The mega science fair promises a unique blend of scientific exploration, innovation and public engagement.

PM Modi unveiled Ramlalla idol at Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, UP.

The "Pran Pratishtha" ceremony began at 12.20 pm, after which Mr Modi took to the venue to address the gathering of over 7,000 people. "Today our Ram has come. After centuries of waiting, our Ram has arrived," PM Modi said, adding, "Our Ramlala will no longer live in a tent. Our Ramlala will live in a grand temple." The consecration

ceremony was held after the first phase of temple construction, which was the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid. The title was made possible by a Supreme Court decision in 2019.

Indian government plans to create educational study material in 22 languages using 'Anuvashini' app.

In a decision aimed at providing students with the opportunity to study in their own language, the Government of India has decided that study material for all courses under school and higher education will be made available digitally in Indian languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. In an order issued by the Ministry of Education, the government has directed all school and higher education regulators like UGC, AICTE, NCERT, NIOS, IGNOU and heads of INIs like IITs, CUs and NITs to make study material in Indian languages available for all courses in the next three years. UGC, AICTE and the Department of School Education have also been asked to take up the issue with regard to state schools and universities.

The Indian Army threw open the 'India Selfie Point' near the Line of Control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Army threw open the 'India Selfie Point' near the Line of Control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir. The 'India Selfie Point' has been gifted by acclaimed artist Rouble Nagi, who has set up several such points elsewhere in Jammu and Kashmir. The 'India Selfie Point' was conceptualised with an aim to provide a unique engaging environment for the individuals and groups alike.

The first-ever IUCN assessment of the Himalayan Wolf is out.

The Himalayan Wolf *Canis lupus ssp. chanco* is classified as Vulnerable under C2a(ii) based on population size estimate of 2,275-3,792 mature individuals based on best available data while also acknowledging uncertainty in this estimate," the assessment on the Red List website read. The Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*), a prominent lupine predator found across the Himalayas the taxonomic status of which was a puzzle till late, has been assessed for the first time in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List. And the news is bad.

Arunachal Pradesh: 9th edition of Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) concludes.

The 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF), a state festival of Arunachal Pradesh, will take place at Seijosa in the Pakke Kessang district from January 18-20, 2024, according to a statement by the organising committee, The festival focuses on wildlife conservation, with a particular emphasis on hornbills. Four species of the birds — Wreathed, Great Indian, Oriental Pied and the endangered Rufous-necked — are found in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) of Arunachal Pradesh. The area is also home to the Nyishi, the largest tribal group in Arunachal

Pradesh. Down To Earth (DTE) had reported in 2019 about the announcement by then Chief Minister Pema Khandu declaring PPHF a state festival.

PM inaugurates 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit!

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar today. The theme of this year's summit is 'Gateway to the Future' and includes the participation of 34 partner countries and 16 partner organizations. The Summit is also being used as a platform by the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region to showcase investment opportunities in the North-Eastern regions.

Raw Kharek fruit of Gujarat gets Geographical Indication tag.

Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag from the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDT) of India. Jubilant farmers of the semi-arid district have hailed the decision. The office of the CGPDT awarded a certificate of GI to Kuchchhi Kharek or Kutchi dates earlier this month on January 2 after granting an application filed by the Unidates Farmer Producer Company Limited (UFPCL), a farmer producer organisation of Kutch.

IPS officer Lijit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal.

The Sashastra Seema Bal, one of India's central armed police forces, is primarily responsible for guarding the country's borders with Nepal and Bhutan. The appointment of Daljit Singh Chaudhary, an experienced officer, is expected to bring in renewed vigour and strategic expertise in managing the crucial border areas, especially in the context of emerging security challenges in the region. Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). This appointment is a significant development in the administrative reshuffling within India's internal security apparatus.

Luigi "Gigi" Riva, Italy's leading all-time national team goalscorer died aged 79.

Luigi "Gigi" Riva, Italy's leading all-time national team goalscorer died aged 79. Riva, whose physical presence and powerful shooting earned him the nickname Rombo di Tuono (thunder-clap), scored 35 goals in 42 appearances for the national team. He was part of the Italy team that won the European Championship in 1968 and also played in the 1970 World Cup when they were runners-up to the great Brazil team featuring Pele.

Rana Talwar, the first person from Asia to head a global bank (Standard Chartered) passed away at the age of 76 after being unwell for some time.

Rana Talwar, the first person from Asia to head a global bank (Standard Chartered) passed away at the age of 76 after being unwell for some time. Talwar was a board member at DLF, having joined the realty major in 2006. He began his career with Citibank India in 1969, swiftly ascending through the ranks to lead its retail businesses in Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe, and North America. Then, in the summer of 1997, the St Stephens alumnus joined Standard Chartered, assuming the position of CEO after some months, becoming the first Asian to head an international bank.

Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away at the age of 48 after a 17-year long battle with brain tumour.

Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away at the age of 48 after a 17-year long battle with brain tumour. Sukhbir Singh Gill had represented India at the Sydney Olympics (2000), the Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur (2002), and the FIH Champions Trophy in Cologne (Germany) in 2002, bringing Chandigarh on the international map. He began playing hockey at Shivalik Public School, Sector 41, and also trained at the Hockey Stadium, Sector 42. Later, he went to DAV College, Sector 10.

ISRO has successfully deployed the magnetometer boom on board the Aditya-L1 satellite to measure the low intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space.

ISRO has successfully deployed the magnetometer boom on board the Aditya-L1 satellite to measure the low intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space. The six metre-long magnetometer boom is deployed in the Halo orbit at the Lagrange point L-1, on January 11, 2024. The boom had been in stowed condition for 132 days since the Aditya-L1 launch. The boom carries two state-of-the-art, high-accuracy fluxgate magnetometer sensors that measure the low intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space.

The Indian Navy and the BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) test-fired an extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (BrahMos-ER).

The Indian Navy and the BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) test-fired an extended-range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (BrahMos-ER). The test was likely for the 800 km extended range version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The test revalidated 'Aatmanirbharta' for "extended range precision strike capability from combat and mission ready ships". The test took place in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as part of the induction trials for the extended-range variant. The extended-range variant, known as BrahMos-ER, is capable of striking land and sea targets at a maximum range of 400 to 500 kilometres.

WHO certifies Cabo Verde malaria-free; third African country to do so!

The country has recently adopted a blue economy strategy to protect its environment and promote sustainable development. In January 2024, Cabo Verde was declared malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO). City of Mindelo on the island of Sao Vicente, Cabo VerdeThe World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Cabo Verde (also known as Cape Verde) as a malaria-free country, becoming the third country to acquire the status in the global health organisation's African region. The country has now joined Mauritius and Algeria, who were certified in 1973 and 2019, respectively.

The Indian Navy successfully launched LSAM 19 (Yard 129), a versatile barge equipped with ammunition, torpedoes, and missiles.

The Indian Navy successfully launched LSAM 19 (Yard 129), a versatile barge equipped with ammunition, torpedoes, and missiles. It marks the completion of the fifth barge under the 11 x ACTCM Barge Project. The LSAM 19 was manufactured by MSME Shipyard, Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, Thane, at the SPPL launch site dedicated to the Indian Navy. The launching Ceremony was presided over by Commodore V Pravin, AWPS(Mumbai, Maharashtra).

Iran launched three satellites simultaneously amid regional conflicts that involve what Western governments say are Iranian-backed militia groups.

Iran launched three satellites simultaneously amid regional conflicts that involve what Western governments say are Iranian-backed militia groups. The satellites were carried by the two-stage Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier and were launched into a minimum orbit of 450 kilometres (280 miles). The trio of satellites consisted of two communications and navigation cubesats known as Keihan 2 and Hatef 1, and a third satellite known as Mehda. The Mahda satellite, which weighs around 32 kilogrammes and was developed by Iran's Space Agency, is designed to test advanced satellite subsystems.

The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built survey ship, INS Nirupak, was decommissioned after 38 years of illustrious service to the nation in a ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on January 29, 2024.

The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built survey ship, INS Nirupak, was decommissioned after 38 years of illustrious service to the nation in a ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on January 29, 2024. The ship, third of its class was launched on June 4, 1981, at GRSE and commissioned into service on August 14, 1985 by Vice Admiral Jayant Ganpat Nadkarni, then Chief of Naval Staff. The ship is based at Visakhapatnam under the administrative and operational control of Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The ceremony was presided by Vice Admiral Adhir Arora, AVSM, NM, Chief Hydrographer to the Govt of India at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

Union Minister Ajay Bhatt Flags Off Astra Missile for IAF delivery!

The Astra missile, a beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile, stands as a testament to India's technological prowess. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by BDL for the IAF, the Astra Weapon System boasts unparalleled capabilities in its category, with a remarkable range exceeding 100 kilometers. Union Minister of State for Defence, Ajay Bhatt, marked a historic moment on January 14, by flagging off the indigenously developed Astra air-to-air missiles. The ceremony took place at the Kanchangbagh unit of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in Hyderabad, signifying a crucial step towards the missile's induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

MoPNG Hardeep Singh Puri launches first pilot project to produce jet fuel from alcohol!

Pramod Choudhari, president of Praj Group, and other officials of Indian Oil and other companies were also present at the launch event. Shri Puri said that there is a huge demand for biofuel in the international market, and hence supply of raw agricultural material has become a challenging factor. He further informed that, in the recent World Economic Forum organised at Davos, it was seen that many countries around the world have high expectations from India for bio turbine fuel.

NASA Unveils X-59 Quiet Supersonic Jet Known as 'Son of Concorde'!

New York to London in just three and a half hours soon! The aeronautic officials debuted a new X-59 supersonic aircraft which is capable of flying faster than the speed of sound. The 100-foot-long and 30-foot-wide plane was rolled out by NASA and Lockheed Martin on Friday in Palmdale, California. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Lockheed Martin, a global aerospace and defence company unveiled the X-59 quiet Supersonic Jet, a one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft known as the 'Son of Concorde'.

CoRover.ai Launched India's first Indigenous GenAI 'BharatGPT'!

CoRover.ai has introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM), with the goal of transforming AI interactions across 22 Indian languages. As a homegrown Generative AI platform, BharatGPT seamlessly integrates with both voice and text, offering a unique solution to language diversity challenges. CoRover.ai has introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM), with the goal of transforming AI interactions across 22 Indian languages. As a homegrown Generative AI platform, BharatGPT seamlessly integrates with both voice and text, offering a unique solution to language diversity challenges.

Air India launches India's first Airbus A350-900 flight from Bengaluru to

Mumbai!

Air India operated its first Airbus A350 aircraft from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport to Mumbai. India's first Airbus A350-900 and is being operated in Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi. Air India announced that the flight took off from Bengaluru's KIA at 7.05 am. The Airbus has a capacity of 316 passengers and the flight saw 294 onboard. In the future, the airbus will be deployed on longer routes, and the domestic routes will be for better compliance and operation purposes.

Iran's IRGC NeQM 100 satellite carrier launched by Soraya Satellite!

The Soraya satellite was manufactured by the Iranian Space Research Center, the semiofficial Fars news agency reported. Additionally, the IRGC successfully test-launched the Qaem-100 satellite carrier in November 2022, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency. Iran has successfully launched its Sorayya satellite into orbit, in a move likely to increase Western concerns about Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

JAXA Successfully Drops Neslim on Lunar Surf S; Japan becomes 5 anish shining on the moon!

Japan became the fifth country in history to reach the moon when its spacecraft landed on the lunar surface. But an issue with the power supply means that the mission could be in jeopardy. Officials also said they needed more time to analyze whether the spacecraft, which wasn't carrying astronauts, made a pinpoint landing — one of the priorities of the mission.

Tata Group secures IPL title sponsorship for 2024-28 at record-breaking \$300 million!

Indian conglomerate Tata Group has bagged the title sponsorship of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for 2024-28 for a "record-breaking" \$300 million. With the IPL franchises offering lucrative multi-league contracts that most cricket boards cannot match, the Indian league's growth may deepen concerns about players prioritising T20 leagues over international cricket. This unprecedented amount not only sets a new benchmark in the history of the league but also reaffirms the IPL's position as a premier sporting event with global impact.

India Won Eight Medals in Asian Shotgun Championships 2024!

The Asian Shotgun Championships were held from January 14 to 21. The event also doubled as the qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics for Indian shooters in trap and skeet events. Indian shooters won a total of eight medals in Kuwait and obtained two Olympic quotas for the country. In a spectacular display of skill and determination, the Indian shooting duo Raiza Dhillon and Gurjoat Singh Khangura clinched the bronze medal in the mixed skeet team event at the Asian Shotgun

Championships 2024 in Kuwait City. The event marked a triumphant conclusion for India, securing a total of one gold, three silvers, and four bronze medals on the closing day.

East Bengal beat Odisha FC 3-2 in the final of the Kalinga Super Cup 2024.

East Bengal beat Odisha FC 3-2 in the final of the Kalinga Super Cup 2024. The 12-year-long wait for trophy ends in Bhubaneswar as they have beaten Odisha FC 3-2 to win the Kalinga Super Cup. The 2024 Super Cup was the fourth edition of the Super Cup and the 42nd season of the national knockout football competition in India.

The Australian Open 2024 concluded on January 28, with Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka winning the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.

The Australian Open 2024 concluded on January 28, with Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka winning the men's and women's singles titles, respectively. It was the first-ever Grand Slam title for Sinner and second for Sabalenka, who has now won two back-to-back Australian Open titles. Sinner became the second Italian in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam. At the age of 22, he also became the third youngest since 1988 after Djokovic and Jim Courier to win the prestigious hard court major. Sinner also became the first champion at Melbourne Park outside the Big 3 since 2014.

Brisbane Heat defeated Sydney Sixers by 54 runs in the final to win Australia's Big Bash League 2023-24.

Brisbane Heat defeated Sydney Sixers by 54 runs in the final to win Australia's Big Bash League 2023-24. Sixers were bowled out for 112 runs while chasing 167. Spencer Johnson (4 wickets), Xavier Bartlett (2 wickets) and Mitchell Swepson (2 wickets) bowled exceptionally well. Spencer claimed a career-best 4-26 against Sydney Sixers as The Heats registered a 34-run win in the title clash.

BCCI Awards 2024, Shubman Gill and Deepti Sharma Win Best International Cricketers of 2022-23!

Shubman Gill won the best men's international cricketer (Polly Umrigar Award) of 2022-23 in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Awards(Naman Awards) 2024 held in Hyderabad, Telangana. Deepti Sharma won the best women's international cricketer of 2022-23. Shubman Gill won the best men's international cricketer (Polly Umrigar Award) of 2022-23 in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Awards(Naman Awards) 2024 held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the second State Mining Ministers' Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the second State Mining Ministers' Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The Conference is yet another step in the direction of making India's mineral sector 'Aatma Nirbhar' and promoting Sustainable Mining in the country. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr Mohan Yadav was the Chief Guest of the event and several Mines Ministers of other States also graced the conference. More than 80 Secretary level officers, Principal Secretaries/ Special Secretaries (Mines), and DGMs/DMGs from 28 States participated, along with the officials of the Ministries of Mines and Coal. Union Minister and the Chief Minister also visited the exhibition "Beyond Mining" organized on the sidelines of the Conference.

The third South Summit was held at Kampala in Uganda from 20 to 23 January 2024 With the theme "Leaving No One Behind".

The Third South Summit is a platform to bring energy to the cooperation among its 134 member States of the Group of 77 (G-77) in a more competitive world. India, at the Third South Summit in Kampala, Uganda, underscored the pivotal role of the Global South as the world's "future growth engine," and emphasised the need for South-South Cooperation to address contemporary challenges and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the statement delivered by the Minister of State for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan, India highlighted the diversity and unity of the Group of 77 (G77), bringing together nations from diverse geographies, economies, and political systems.