

National News

Hardeep Puri Inaugurates Second Floating CNG Station in Varanasi

In a landmark move towards a pollution-free Varanasi, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the city's second floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat. Developed by GAIL (India) Limited, this initiative signifies a significant stride in adopting sustainable energy solutions.

India Unveils Biogas Blending Plan to Reduce Natural Gas Imports and Achieve Net Zero Emissions

In a significant move towards energy sustainability, the Indian government has announced a phased introduction of blending compressed biogas with natural gas. This initiative aims to bolster domestic demand, decrease reliance on natural gas imports, and contribute to India's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2070. Commencing in April 2025, the government will initiate the mandatory blending of compressed biogas with natural gas at a rate of 1%. This initial phase will focus on utilization in automobiles and households, marking a crucial step towards diversifying the energy mix. As part of the phased approach, the mandatory blending percentage is set to increase to approximately 5% by 2028. This strategic escalation underscores the government's commitment to progressively integrating biogas into the mainstream energy consumption landscape, further reducing the carbon footprint.

Center Renames Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers to Ayushman Arogya Mandir

The Union Government has recently made a significant decision to rebrand the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tagline 'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam.' This move, communicated through a letter to all States and Union Territories by the Union Health Ministry, aims to enhance the identity and outreach of these primary healthcare facilities. The rebranding process is expected to be completed nationwide by the end of 2023.



Bengali

সংকল্প

WBPSA Clerkship 2.0

লাইভ ক্লাস + কনটেন্ট + মক টেস্ট
+ টাইপিং গাইডেন্স

Start Date: 4 Dec 2023

Modi Govt Plans 7 New Bills For Winter Session

The upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament is poised to witness significant legislative activity, with the Narendra Modi government planning to introduce seven new Bills alongside addressing 11 pending bills. The proposed legislations cover a diverse range of topics, from establishing a Central Tribal University in Telangana to providing women's quota in Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry Assemblies.

Union WCD Minister Launches 'Anganwadi Protocol for Divyang Children'

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, recently launched the Anganwadi Protocol Divyang Children in a national outreach program at Vigyan Bhawan on November 28, 2023. The event aimed to strengthen the overall well-being of Divyang children and was attended by key officials, experts and stakeholders from various ministers and organizations. Union Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani highlighted the ongoing efforts, with over 4.37 crore children receiving support for meals and ECCE, 4.5 crore children aged 0 to 3 benefiting from take-home relations and home visits and more than 8 crore children monitored for growth and health referrals. The Minister emphasized the importance of the Anganwadi network in achieving these milestones.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Approves ₹1,658 Crore Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Joshimath

Joshimath, a town in Uttarakhand, faced severe challenges due to landslides and ground subsidence. The high-level central committee, led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, approved a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction (R&R) plan amounting to ₹1,658.17 crore to address the aftermath of these natural disasters. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) aims to execute the recovery plan for Joshimath over three years, employing Build-Back-Better (BBB) principles, sustainability initiatives, and other practices. The MHA has designated technical agencies under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assist the state government in formulating and executing the recovery plan.

Amplifi 2.0: Urban Affairs Ministry's Data Initiative For Indian cities

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in India has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to centralize and streamline raw data from cities across the country. Launched as the Amplifi 2.0 (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India) portal, this endeavor aims to facilitate data-driven policy-making, empower academics, researchers, and engage stakeholders in the urban development process. The platform, operational for three weeks, has successfully onboarded 225 urban local bodies (ULB), with data currently available for 150 cities. However, the process revealed a significant challenge—lack of data maturity in cities. As a result, only 150 ULBs were initially able to share their data. In response, the Ministry sent data quality parameters to all cities, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive and reliable data.

Bharat Coking Coal Ltd Starts 5.0 MTPA Madhuband Washery Operations

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), a key player under the Ministry of Coal, has achieved a significant milestone with the initiation of commercial operations at its state-of-the-art 5.0 MTPA Madhuband Washery. The washery was formally inaugurated by Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi, marking a momentous occasion for the coal and steel sectors in India. The facility, formally opened in March 2022 stands out for its technological advancements and logistical efficiency, solidifying its position as one of the largest Coking Coal Washeries in India. The facility has undergone rigorous Load Tests, Trial Run, and Performance Guarantee Tests (PGT) to ensure its operational efficacy, showcasing BCCL's commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions to the coal industry.

International News

Robert Shetkintong Appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique

In a significant diplomatic move, Robert Shetkintong, the current Ambassador of India to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, has been designated as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique. This strategic appointment marks a key transition for Shetkintong, a seasoned diplomat and a 2001 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Shetkintong's diplomatic career has been characterized by a commitment to fostering international relations and representing India on the global stage. Having served as Ambassador to Ethiopia, he has played a curial role in strengthening bilateral ties between India and Ethiopia during his tenure.

UK Detects First Human Case Of H1N2 Pig Virus

On Monday, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) disclosed the first human case of H1N2, or the pig virus, discovered through routine national flu surveillance. The affected individual experienced mild illness and fully recovered, raising questions about potential pig-to-human transmission. The UKHSA detected the case through routine flu surveillance, highlighting the unidentified source of infection. Despite uncertainties, the agency reported the individual's recovery from a mild illness. This marks the first human instance of H1N2 in the UK, underscoring the virus's mysterious origin. Meera Chand, the incident director at UKHSA, emphasized the H1N2 virus's similarity to strains found in pigs. Though the first human case in the UK, the virus closely resembles those observed in swine populations, sparking concerns about potential pathways for transmission between pigs and humans.

UAE Unveils \$30 Billion Fund For Global Climate Solutions At COP28

The United Arab Emirates, playing host to COP-28, has made a groundbreaking commitment of US\$30 billion to ALTERRA, a climate initiative by Lunate, the world's largest private climate investment vehicle. This privately managed fund aims to mobilize a staggering US\$250 billion globally by 2030, focusing on climate investments to reshape emerging markets and developing economies. Part of the initial tranche of funding has been allocated to develop over 6.0 GW of new clean energy capacity in India. This includes the establishment of 1,200 MW of wind and solar projects, set to commence clean power production by 2025. COP-28 President, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, will chair ALTERRA, with Majid Al Suwaidi serving as its Chief Executive Officer. Established by Lunate, an independent global investment manager, ALTERRA is domiciled in the Abu Dhabi Global Market.

State News

Madhya Pradesh: India's Largest Tiger Reserve to Be Set Up in Damoh

In a landmark development, Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh is poised to become the home of the country's largest tiger reserve, marking a significant stride in wildlife conservation efforts. The central government has greenlit the merger of Noradehi Sanctuary with the Durgavati Sanctuary in Damoh, creating an expansive tiger reserve spanning an impressive 2,300 square kilometers. Situated around the Jabera area of Damoh district, the new tiger reserve is strategically located to enhance conservation efforts. The geographical concentration around Jabera is expected to provide an optimal environment for the flourishing of the tiger population. Damoh's Forest Divisional Officer, MS Uiquey, emphasizes the significance of the tiger reserve in safeguarding the existing tiger population of 16. The merger is not only anticipated to secure a haven for these majestic creatures but is also poised to attract additional tigers to the region, thereby augmenting its overall conservation value.

CSJMU in Kanpur gets A++ Grading by NAAC

Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University (CSMUJ) in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has achieved a significant milestone by securing the highest grading, A++, from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). This accomplishment places CSMUJ among select state universities in Uttar Pradesh with a similar prestigious status. The university's remarkable journey from a 'B' grade in 2006 and 2015 to the top-tier 'A++' rating reflects its dedication to academic excellence and overall institutional development. The NAAC team conducted an evaluation of the campus from November 3 to 5, 2023, focusing on various aspects of higher education, including academics, sports, research and overall achievements. The university's leadership, guided by Chancellor Anandiben Patel and Vice Chancellor Professor Vinay Kumar Pathak, spearheaded initiatives and committees to ensure comprehensive progress in departmental performance, hostel maintenance, administrative efficiency, educational facilities and infrastructure.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Greenlights Massive Investment in 12 Key Projects

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has given the green light to 12 pivotal projects, signaling a significant investment of Rs 84,918.75 crore. These initiatives are poised to generate substantial employment, benefiting 42,281 individuals across various sectors. The approved projects span multiple districts in Odisha, namely Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapada, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sambalpur, and Sundargarh. They cover a diverse range of sectors, including apparel and textiles, green hydrogen and green ammonia, steel, power, renewable energy, and chemical and petrochemical downstream industries.

J&K Approves Four New Industrial Estates in Order to Boost Local Economy

In a significant move to stimulate the local economy, the Jammu and Kashmir admini

The Administrative Council (AC) has approved the setting up of industrial estates at the following locations:

Budhi in Kathua District

Medicity Jammu in Jammu District

Chandgam in Pulwama District

Lelhar in Pulwama District

These industrial estates are slated to be developed on 1,379 kanals of land, involving a substantial investment of Rs 136.65 crore. stration, under the leadership of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, has given the green light for the establishment of four new industrial estates in the Union Territory.

Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 'Classic Imperial' Luxury Cruise In Kerala

On November 29, Nitin Gadkari virtually marked the inauguration of 'Classic Imperial,' a luxury cruise vessel, in Kochi. This event was a significant milestone in the efforts to promote cruise tourism in the region. The Union Minister commended the commissioning of the vessel, emphasizing the display of professional excellence and entrepreneurial skills. Nishith K. John, the entrepreneur behind 'Classic Imperial,' received accolades from the Union Minister for his role in bringing this ambitious project to fruition. The vessel, touted as the largest of its kind built in Kerala, can accommodate 150 people at a time. The Union Minister expressed his congratulations to John and assured him of the government's continuous support. 'Classic Imperial' has been constructed in adherence to the stringent safety standards set by the Indian Registrar of Shipping.

Nagaland Celebrates its 61st Statehood Day

Nagaland, a vibrant state in the northeastern region of India, is jubilantly celebrating its 61st Statehood Day on December 1, 2023. This marks a significant milestone in the historical journey of the Nagas, who became the 16th state of the Union of India on December 1, 1963. The state-level function, to be held at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Kohima, promises a day filled with cultural richness, reflections on the past and a focus

on the future. The day's festivities will commence with Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio taking the general salute and delivering an address to the people of Nagaland. In this address, he is expected to not only celebrate the achievements and opportunities since statehood but also unveil key initiatives for the future. Among these initiatives are the launch of the Nagaland School Safety Policy Digital Training Platform and the Nagaland Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map. These platforms are crucial steps toward ensuring the safety and resilience of the state.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Lays Foundation Stone for NSTI Plus

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, marked a significant step by laying the foundation stone for the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) Plus. The initiative aims to enhance the skills of Odisha's youth through demand-driven and high-quality vocational education. Under the Directorate General of Training (DGT), NSTI Plus will train 500 instructors in Phase-1 through the Craftsmen Instructor Training Scheme (CITS). Additionally, it plans to incorporate another 500 instructors for upskilling and reskilling, aligning with the vision of making India a global skilling destination.

Economy News**18 Largest States to Spend 18-20% More on Capex: Crisil**

India's 18 largest states are poised to witness a significant surge in capital expenditure for the fiscal year 2023-24, as per a recent report by Crisil. The report projects an 18-20% increase in spending compared to the previous year, attributing this growth to factors such as robust goods and services tax collections, stable central government devolution, and the allocation of interest-free loans totaling ₹1.3 lakh crore to states.

Women's Labor Force Participation Reaches Record High of 24% in Q2FY24, Unemployment Trends Shift

The second quarter of FY24 witnessed a historic surge in women's labor force participation, reaching an all-time high of 24%, according to official data. While this is a positive development, deeper analysis reveals nuances in the employment landscape for women.

Overall Unemployment Rate: The overall unemployment rate remained steady at 6.6%, with a marginal increase in men's unemployment to 6% from the previous quarter's 5.9%.

Women's Unemployment Rate: Notably, the women's unemployment rate dipped below 9% for the first time in five years, reflecting a positive trend.

Despite these positive trends in the labor market, there are indications that the Indian economy may have experienced a slowdown in the second quarter. The projected growth rate is 6.7%, as per a median estimate from an Economic Times poll, down from the 7.8% acceleration in the first quarter of FY24.

Forex Reserves Jump \$2.53 b to \$597.93 bn

India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a significant increase of \$2.5 billion in the week ending November 24, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This boost, primarily attributed to foreign portfolio flows into the debt market, reflects a strategic move by the RBI to manage the rupee's level. The surge in reserves is largely attributed to substantial foreign portfolio flows into the Indian debt market. Experts in foreign exchange suggest that the RBI strategically absorbed these inflows to regulate the rupee's value, contributing to the overall growth in reserves. Gold reserves increased by \$296 million, reaching a total of \$46.3 billion. This surge is attributed to a sharp rise in global bullion prices during the reporting week.

Business News

Sebi reduces minimum issue size for social stock exchange to Rs 50 lakh

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange. In a significant move, the regulator is introducing flexibility measures to facilitate this process. To support NPOs on the social stock exchange, SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh. This reduction aims to make fundraising more accessible for NPOs, fostering a conducive environment for social impact initiatives. These platforms will be brought under the regulatory framework for small and medium Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), ensuring a structured and secure environment for investors participating in this segment.

Virgin Atlantic Flies World's 1st 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel Flight From London To US

In a groundbreaking move, a Virgin Atlantic passenger jet, fueled entirely by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), completed a London-to-New York journey, showcasing the aviation industry's commitment to low-carbon options. Despite challenges, the flight signifies a crucial step towards reducing emissions in an industry responsible for 2-3% of global carbon emissions. Virgin Atlantic's Boeing 787, powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines, completed the long-haul flight using 100% SAF. Notably, it is the first commercial airliner to achieve such a feat, underlining the industry's push for cleaner alternatives.

India Inc Looking to Recruit Talent with 'Green' Skills

Indian companies are undergoing a transformative shift as they increasingly prioritize sustainability in their operations. According to a survey conducted by IBM and Morning Consult, a staggering 82% of Indian business leaders express a strong intent to hire professionals with expertise in green and sustainability technologies. In a survey encompassing over 250 business leaders, the report reveals that 4 out of 5 Indian

companies are actively seeking individuals with a background in sustainability. The demand for skills in sustainability technology is underscored, indicating a shift towards eco-friendly practices in corporate India. Despite the enthusiasm to embrace sustainability, the study highlights a significant skills gap in the field. Nearly 75% of business leaders express confidence in their organizations' plans to invest in IT sustainability training by the end of the next year.

TEC Plans to Expand in India & Middle East

Hong Kong-based flexible workspace provider, The Executive Centre (TEC), is strategically focusing on its fastest-growing markets, India and the Middle East, with plans to add approximately 500,000 sq ft. Despite global economic uncertainties, these regions have displayed resilience and robustness, making them prime targets for TEC's expansion. TEC has already invested nearly 200 crore in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, underlining its commitment to the Middle East. An additional 50 crore is earmarked for a new centre in the region, showcasing the company's confidence in the market's potential.

Adani Power to Co-fire Green Ammonia at Its Mundra Power Plant

In a significant step towards decarbonization, Adani Power Ltd (APL) has announced its pioneering green ammonia combustion pilot project at the Mundra power plant in Gujarat. This initiative aligns with APL's commitment to adopting sustainable practices and reducing its carbon footprint. As part of its multipronged decarbonization efforts, Adani Power is set to co-fire green ammonia, produced from green hydrogen, along with conventional coal in the boiler of a 330 MW unit at the Mundra plant. This innovative approach aims to blend up to 20% green ammonia with the total fuel requirement for the boiler. Green ammonia, derived from green hydrogen produced through electrolysis using renewable energy, serves as a carbon-neutral feedstock for the boilers. Notably, ammonia combustion does not emit carbon dioxide (CO2), making it a sustainable, long-term alternative to traditional fossil fuels.

WBCS MAHAPACK PRO

Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে

BANGLA

- লাইভ ক্লাস
- রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও
- অনলাইন মক টেস্ট
- ই-বুক স্টাডি ম্যাট
- হার্ড কপি মক টেস্ট বই
- একাধিক অপশনাল সাবজেক্ট
- পার্সোনালিটি টেস্ট এর গাইডেন্স ভিডিও
- অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন

Actis Unit BluPine Buys Acme Solar Assets for EV of ₹1,700 cr

London-based private equity firm Actis Llp has announced the successful acquisition of Kolkata-based Atha Group's 404MW solar power assets by its portfolio company, BluPine Energy. The deal, valued at around ₹2,100 crore, reinforces Actis' commitment to driving India's energy transition and expanding BluPine's renewable energy capabilities. BluPine Energy, a subsidiary of Actis Llp, has secured the 404MWp operating pan-India solar portfolio from Atha Group for an equity value of approximately \$100 million. The enterprise value of Atha's solar assets in the deal stands at ₹2,100 crore. This strategic move aligns with BluPine's goal to contribute significantly to India's clean energy transition by targeting a 4GW portfolio capacity over the next 4-5 years.

UPI recorded 11.24 billion transactions worth Rs 17.40 lakh crore

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform in India has witnessed remarkable growth, breaking records and setting new milestones in recent months. This article delves into the key statistics and trends surrounding UPI transactions, shedding light on the factors driving this surge and offering insights into future projections. In November, UPI transactions reached a staggering ₹17.40 lakh crore, surpassing the previous high of ₹17.16 lakh crore in October. This amounted to a 1.4% increase in the value of transactions on a monthly basis and an impressive 46% year-on-year growth, as reported by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Agreement News**PLI and FTAs to Give Fillip to Manmade Fibre Textile Exports**

Buoyed by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and favorable free trade agreements with the UAE and Australia, India's manmade fibre (MMF) textile industry is poised for substantial growth. Forecasts indicate a staggering 75% increase in exports, reaching \$11.4 billion by 2030, up from around \$6.5 billion in 2021-22. India currently holds the position of the second-largest producer of MMF textiles globally, following China. The MMF sector dominates global textile fibre consumption, commanding a significant 72% share, while natural fibres account for the remaining 28%. This shift towards MMF is attributed to the inherent limitations in the growth of cotton and other natural fibres. A government official emphasizes that "technical textiles" represent the sunrise sector and the future of the industry. Ambitious targets have been set to capitalize on this potential growth, particularly fueled by the PLI scheme and free trade agreements.

Appointment News**HDFC Bank appoints former NABARD chairman Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as director**

In a recent development, HDFC Bank's Board of Directors has greenlit the nomination of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as the Additional Independent Director. The tenure for this position is set for three years, commencing from January 25, 2024. Former Executive Chairman of Capital India Finance, a prominent Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC). Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from 2013 to 2020. Past roles include Chairman & Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company, Senior Vice President at IL&FS Water, and Managing Director of the Delhi State Cooperative Bank. Simultaneously, the HDFC Bank Board has given the nod for the appointment of V Srinivasa Rangan as the new Executive Director (whole-time Director). This three-year term is effective from November 23, 2023.

Sheshadri Appointed IDRCL Chair, Incumbent Gupta to Head NARCL

Former KPMG managing partner, Narayan Seshadri, is set to assume the role of Chairman at IDRCL, the government-backed bad bank, following the resignation of Diwakar Gupta. Gupta, in turn, is expected to take over as Chairman of NARCL. This leadership shift aims to expedite the resolution of bad loans, a process that has faced challenges and delays. Narayan Seshadri, a seasoned financial sector veteran, will take over as Chairman of IDRCL. Diwakar Gupta, former IDRCL Chairman, is anticipated to assume the role of Chairman at NARCL in the coming week. The IDRCL Chairman position became vacant as Diwakar Gupta resigned to join NARCL. Seshadri, currently an independent director at IDRCL, brings experience in revitalizing distressed companies.

Banking News**HDFC Securities Launches Mobile Trading App HDFC SKY on AWS Cloud**

In significant move to enhance its technological capabilities, HDFC Securities, a leading investment service provider in India, has successfully launched its mobile trading app, HDFC SKY, on Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud. The partnership with AWS is anticipated to yield substantial benefits, including a remarkable 50% reduction in annual IT infrastructure and management costs compared to traditional on-premises solutions. HDFC Securities is set to achieve a significant cost reduction of up to 50% by leveraging AWS cloud services, demonstrating the cost efficiency and scalability of cloud infrastructure.

BI extends payments infrastructure scheme by 2 years till Dec 2025, expands scope

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a two-year extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme until December 31, 2025. This move is aimed at promoting digital transactions at the grassroots level and includes an expansion of beneficiaries under the scheme. The PIDF scheme, operational since January 2021 for three years, initially focused on incentivizing the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centers, north-eastern states, and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In August 2021, beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi Scheme in Tier-1 and 2 centers were included. The decision to broaden the scope of targeted beneficiaries, now including those under the PM Vishwakarma scheme, is expected to give a boost to the RBI's efforts in promoting digital transactions at the grassroots level.

RBI Fines Bank of America, N.A., HDFC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took regulatory action on Thursday, imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms. Additionally, penalties were levied on five cooperatives banks for non-compliance with various regulatory requirements. The penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pass judgement on the validity of transactions or agreements between entities and their customers. The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999. This action comes as a consequence of non-compliance with the Reserve Bank of India's instructions, indicating a lapse in adherence to regulatory guidelines.

RBI inks pact with Bank of England on bond clearing settlement

Banking regulators in India and the United Kingdom (UK) achieved a significant milestone as they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The focus of the MoU is the oversight of the Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL), a crucial entity in local transaction settlement. This development opens the doors for substantial trade in Indian sovereign bonds routed through London lenders, marking a pivotal agreement for the commitment of personal funds and discharge of custodian roles. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) are the primary regulatory bodies involved in this agreement.

Science & Technology News**Space-Tech Startup Agnikul to Flight Test 3D-printed Engine By Year-End**

Chennai-based startup Agnikul is gearing up to launch its groundbreaking rocket, Agnibaan, featuring the world's first 3D-printed engine. The company, incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, is set to conduct a technology demonstrator mission by the end of this year, paving the way for its first commercial launch in 2024. Agnibaan boasts the pioneering Agnilet engine, a single-piece 3D-printed marvel,

designed and manufactured entirely in India. This engine, successfully test-fired in early 2021, marks a significant milestone in 3D printing technology for the country. Unlike traditional sounding rockets, Agnibaan is a highly customizable, single-stage launch vehicle capable of carrying up to 300 kg payloads to orbits around 700 km high (low Earth orbits).

India, US To Launch Joint Microwave Satellite For Earth Observation

India and the United States are set to elevate their space collaboration to new heights with the upcoming joint launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, in a recent meeting with a high-level NASA delegation led by Administrator Mr. Bill Nelson, announced the launch schedule for the first quarter of the next year. NISAR, slated for launch aboard India's GSLV, is a microwave remote sensing satellite designed for comprehensive Earth observation. The satellite's data will be instrumental in studying diverse aspects, including land ecosystems, solid earth deformation, mountain and polar cryosphere dynamics, sea ice behavior, and coastal ocean phenomena at both regional and global scales.

Railways To Upgrade 'Kavach' To LTE: Ashwini Vaishnaw

In a bid to enhance railway safety and address concerns over increasing accidents, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the Ministry of Railways' plans to upgrade its indigenous anti-collision system, Kavach, to 4G/5G (LTE-based) technology. Kavach, an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, has proven instrumental in preventing collisions by activating a train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to do so. Kavach, developed indigenously, has been deployed across more than 1,465 route kilometres (rkm), with ongoing work for an additional 3,000 rkm. The Ministry of Railways aims to expedite the implementation of this anti-collision system and make it more efficient over longer ranges.

Schemes and Committees News**Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Launched in SWGH**

An impressive launch marked the initiation of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in South West Garo Hills, orchestrated by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) at MFC, Ampati. The nationwide initiative, a pivotal component of the Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat campaign, aims to inform and empower citizens about the various flagship schemes programs introduced by the Central Government. South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner R.P. Marak addressed the gathering, emphasizing the significance of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He highlighted the lack of awareness among rural residents regarding the numerous welfare schemes meant for their benefit. Agriculture being the Nodal department, Marak outlined the district's plan target 540 villages under the campaign. Stressing the importance of Aadhar seeding for availing full benefits, he shared the action plan and activities to be implemented at the block and VEC levels.

PM Inaugurates 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS Deoghar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a significant milestone in the healthcare sector by inaugurating the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendras at AIIMS, Deoghar. This event also witnessed the launch of an ambitious program aimed at increasing the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country from 10,000 to 25,000. Additionally, the Prime Minister unveiled the Pradhan Mantri Mahila Kisan Drone Kendra, reflecting a holistic approach to healthcare and agricultural prosperity. The Prime Minister initiated an interactive session with Ruchi Kumar, the beneficiary and operator of the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Ms. Kumari shared her motivation behind establishing the Kendras, emphasizing the pressing need for affordable medicines in the region. Prime Minister Modi commended her efforts and highlighted the significant price difference, where medicines available for 100 rupees in the market are often priced at 10 to 50 rupees in the Jan Aushadhi kendra.

Summits & Conference News**Odisha CM Launches 'AMA Bank' for Gram Panchayat Banking**

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the "AMA Bank" scheme, a historic initiative aimed at providing banking services through CSP Plus banking outlets in all unbanked Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Odisha. This visionary project, unveiled in the first phase, marks Odisha as the pioneer state in India to conceptualize and implement such a comprehensive scheme for financial inclusion. The challenges posed by a lack of brick-and-mortar bank branches in approximately 65% of gram panchayats necessitated a revolutionary approach to ensure the last-mile delivery of public services.

2 day Seminar On Santha Kavi Bhima Bhoi & Mahima Cult Legacy Launched In Bhubaneswar

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the two-day 'International Seminar on Santha Kavi Bhima Bhoi and the legacy of Mahima Cult' in Bhubaneswar. The event witnessed the participation of numerous academicians, dignitaries, Vice-Chancellors, and eminent speakers, showcasing a profound exploration of the cultural and literary heritage of Odisha. The Central University of Odisha, Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, SOA Deemed University Bhubaneswar, and the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, CIIL, joined hands with the Ministry of Education to organize this enlightening seminar. Shri Pradhan, in his inaugural address, emphasized the significance of the literary contributions of Santha Kavi Bhima Bhoi and Santha Balaram Das's Laxmi

Puran. He highlighted how their philosophy addressed the issues faced by the most vulnerable in society, reawakening the cultural and literary consciousness of Odia society.

PM Modi proposes to host COP33 in India in 2028

In a significant announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended India's commitment to climate action by proposing to host the UN climate meet (COP33) in 2028. This offer was made during his address at the inaugural session of the World Climate Action Summit at COP28 in Dubai. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's dedication to the process and principles outlined by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He emphasized India's proactive role in addressing climate change challenges. Addressing the COP28 Summit, Modi underscored the centrality of climate justice in India's approach to climate action. He drew attention to India's G20 presidency and emphasized the importance of climate-related issues as a cross-cutting theme.

Awards & Honors News**REC Receives 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' award by Assocham**

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, achieved a significant milestone by receiving the "Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" Award at the 4th Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conclave organized by Assocham. Shri TSC Bosh, Executive Director of REC, graciously accepted the award on behalf of the organization. His acceptance of the award symbolizes REC's unwavering commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion within its workforce. The "Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion" award underscores REC's commitment to creating a workplace that celebrates differences, fosters innovation, and promotes equal opportunities for all employees. The company's HR policies play a pivotal role in achieving this milestone, contributing to a conducive and employee-friendly work environment.

Abdullahi Mire Wins 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate for his work championing the right to education for displaced children. Mire, who grew up in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, has put over 100,000 books in the hands of displaced children and youth in the country. He will be presented with the award at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 13, 2023. The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award consists of a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of USD 100,000. The global laureate is expected to reinvest the prize in the humanitarian initiatives they are being recognized for. Several regional winners will also receive a smaller monetary prize to further their humanitarian work.

Odisha Pavilion bags award at IITF-2023

The India International Trade Fair (IITF-2023) concluded on a triumphant note on November 27 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Among the standout highlights was the Odisha Pavilion, which not only captivated visitors from the outset but also clinched the prestigious gold medal for "Excellence in Display" in the State Pavilion category. The Odisha Pavilion, a focal point since the inception of the trade fair, maintained its silver streak by securing the coveted gold medal. The Director of Information and Public Relations Dept, Saroj Kumar Samal, received the award on behalf of Odisha. The Pavilion, under the direction of Suryaranjan Mohanty and Additional Director Santosh Das, showcased the State's unwavering commitment to women's empowerment and their role in economic prosperity. It featured a diverse array of tribal art, artifacts, and products.

NTPC Bongaigaon Secures Double Victory At Greentech Environment Award 2023

NTPC Bongaigaon, a key player in the power generation sector, has recently garnered significant acclaim for its exemplary contributions to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environment Protection. The power station proudly received two prestigious awards from the Greentech Foundation, underscoring its commitment to sustainable practices and social responsibility. At a ceremony held at Sonmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, NTPC Bongaigaon was honored with two distinct awards. The first trophy was bestowed upon the power station in the Environment Protection Category at the 22nd Annual Greentech Environment Award 2023. The second accolade came in the Rural Development Category at the 10th Annual Greentech CSR India Awards. The awards were presented by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment, Govt. of Assam, in the presence of esteemed dignitaries including Dr. Arup Kumar Mishra, Chairman, Assam Pollution Control Board, and Shri Shantanu Kumar Dutta, Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Assam.



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Top French civilian honour for ISRO scientist VR Lalithambika

In a momentous recognition of her significant contributions to space cooperation between France and India, Lalithambika VR, a distinguished scientist and former Director of the Human Spaceflight Programme at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was honored with the prestigious 'Légion d'Honneur.' The award was conferred upon her by Thierry Mathou, the Ambassador of France to India, in a ceremony held in Bengaluru. Lalithambika VR, aged 60, played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between the French National Space Agency CNES and ISRO. She received acclaim for her instrumental role in the signing of the first joint agreement in 2018, focusing on human spaceflight and, specifically, the field of space medicine. The Indo-French partnership took a significant stride forward under her leadership.

Important Dates News**World Sustainable Transport Day 2023: 26 November**

The United Nations General Assembly, in a decisive move towards fostering sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation, has designated November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day. This resolution underscores the critical role of transport in connectivity, trade, economic growth, and employment, while acknowledging its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. The pursuit of sustainable transport is not only an environmental imperative but a key strategy for achieving broader sustainable development goals. World Sustainable Transport Day 2023 focuses on the theme "Sustainable transport, sustainable development".

Sports News**Shubman Gill Takes the Helm as Gujarat Titans Captain for IPL 2024**

In a strategic move, Gujarat Titans have named Shubman Gill as the captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season. This decision follows the departure of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who was traded to Mumbai Indians. Shubman Gill, initially making his mark with the Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018, joined Gujarat Titans in 2021 for a substantial sum of Rs 7 crore. Known for providing explosive starts, Gill has become a linchpin for the team, showcasing his ability to set the tone of the innings.

Anish Bhanwala Becomes First Indian Shooter To Win a Medal In 25m Rapid Fire at ISSF World Cup Final

Anish Bhanwala etched his name in history by becoming the first Indian shooter to clinch a medal in the men's 25m Rapid Fire event at the ISSF World Cup Final. This accomplishment surpassed the efforts of past Indian shooters like Vijay Kumar in 2009 and Gurpreet Singh in 2015, who had reached the final but fell short of claiming a medal. Anish's journey to success began with winning the national championship in 2017, competing against formidable opponents such as Vijay Kumar. The same year, he became the junior world champion and successfully defended his title in 2018. The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games marked another milestone in his career as he secured a medal, signaling his emergence at the senior level.

Odisha to Host Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 from December 24, 2023

In a thrilling continuation of its inaugural success, Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) is all set to enthrall audiences with its grand second edition, scheduled to commence on December 24, 2023 and conclude on January 13, 2024. The Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha, will play host to this high-octane sporting event, promising excitement and entertainment to the millions of fans eagerly anticipating its return. Inspired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision of 'sports for youth, youth for the future,' the Odisha government has emerged as a hub for major global sports events. Boasting world-class multi-sport infrastructure, Odisha has become a destination for sports enthusiasts. The state's commitment to fostering sports is evident in its role as the host for the second edition of Ultimate Kho Kho.

Vidya Pillai Clinches 6-Red Snooker World Title

Seasoned cueist Vidya Pillai achieved a monumental milestone in her illustrious career as she secured the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship title in Doha, Qatar, just days before her 46th birthday. The Bengalurean showcased a stellar performance, dominating her opponents throughout the championship, with a standout victory of 4-1 against compatriot Anupama Ramachandran in the title clash. Vidya Pillai has garnered numerous international medals for India, attaining a gold medal in the IBSF World Team Snooker Championship in 2013. She secured another gold in the IBSF Australian Women's Ranking Snooker Championship in 2016. Notably, in 2017, she made history as the first Indian woman to reach the finals of the WLBSA World Women's Snooker Championship.

Rahul Dravid to Continue as India's Head Coach

Rahul Dravid has accepted the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) offer to extend his term as India's head coach, ensuring his continued leadership of the national team until at least the 2024 T20 World Cup in June. Dravid's initial two-year tenure concluded at the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup, but his impressive achievements and the team's growth under his guidance prompted the BCCI to seek his extension. His first assignment after the contract renewal will be the tour of South Africa. Despite not securing any ICC trophies during his

first stint, Dravid has guided India to the top of the Test, ODI, and T20I rankings, showcasing his tactical prowess and ability to nurture young talent. India's dominant performance in the 2023 ODI World Cup, winning all nine league matches and the semi-final before falling to Australia in the final, exemplified the team's progress under Dravid's leadership.

West Indies Shane Dowrich Announces International Retirement

In a surprising turn of events, Shane Dowrich, the seasoned wicketkeeper-batsman, has announced his retirement from international cricket and subsequently withdrawn from the West Indies squad set to face England in the upcoming ODI series. The West Indies Cricket Board (CWI) confirmed the unexpected decision, marking the end of Dowrich's international cricket journey. Shane Dowrich's return to the West Indies squad earlier this month came as a surprise, marking his comeback to international cricket after a hiatus of three years from Test cricket and four years from One Day Internationals (ODIs). However, his reentry was short-lived as the 32-year-old has now opted for retirement, stepping away from the game just ahead of the ODI series against England.

Ruturaj Gaikwad becomes the fastest Indian to 4,000 runs in men's T20

Ruturaj Gaikwad, the talented Indian cricketer, has achieved a remarkable milestone in men's T20 cricket. In the fourth T20I against Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Gaikwad etched his name in the record books by becoming the fastest Indian to amass 4,000 runs in the shortest format of the game. Let's delve into the details of this exceptional feat. Ruturaj Gaikwad entered the match needing just seven runs to reach the coveted 4,000-run mark in T20 cricket. He accomplished this remarkable feat in only 116 innings, showcasing his exceptional batting prowess. This achievement makes Gaikwad the quickest Indian batsman to achieve the milestone, surpassing the previous record held by KL Rahul, who reached 4,000 runs in 117 T20 innings. Virat Kohli, one of India's cricketing legends, is the third-fastest Indian to achieve this feat, taking 138 T20 innings to do so.

Obituaries News**C.K. Gopinathan, a Director On The Board Of Dhanlaxmi Bank Passed Away**

On November 27, the banking community and shareholders of Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank mourned the sudden demise of Mr. C.K. Gopinathan, a director on the bank's board and a significant shareholder. The loss was attributed to a major heart attack, marking the end of a distinguished career spanning more than 25 years in the banking and finance sectors. C.K. Gopinathan's journey in the world of finance began over two decades ago. With a wealth of experience, he made a mark in various capacities within the industry. Notably, he served as a Director at the Catholic Syrian Bank for nearly eight years, from September 26, 2008, to July 20, 2016, leaving an indelible impact on the institution.

Henry Kissinger, Nobel Peace Prize winner, passed away

Henry Kissinger, a towering figure in American foreign policy, passed away on November 29, 2023, at the age of 100. He served as the United States Secretary of State under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, and played a pivotal role in shaping US foreign policy during the 1970s. Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Fürth, Germany, on May 27, 1923. His family fled Nazi Germany in 1938, and he immigrated to the United States. After serving in the US Army during World War II, he studied at Harvard University, earning a doctorate in government in 1954.

Defence News**Indian Coast Guard and Navy to acquire 15 C-295 Aircraft for Maritime Surveillance**

In a significant stride towards enhancing self-reliance in the defence sector, the Indian Coast Guard and Navy are set to acquire 15 C-295 transport aircraft. The proposals for the acquisition are currently in advanced stages within the defence ministry, with the Navy eyeing nine planes and the Indian Coast Guard planning to procure six. The C-295 transport aircraft are being manufactured in India through a collaborative effort between Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus. This collaboration not only strengthens the country's defence capabilities but also promotes indigenous manufacturing and technological expertise. The aircraft will play a crucial role in maritime operations, aligning with the strategic objectives of the Indian armed forces. The acquired transport aircraft will be equipped with state-of-the-art radars and sensors, undergoing transformation into maritime patrol planes by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS).

India Navy appointed first woman commanding officer in naval ship

In a groundbreaking move aligning with the philosophy of 'all roles-all ranks,' the Indian Navy has achieved a historic milestone by appointing its first woman commanding officer for a naval ship. Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar made this announcement during a press conference held ahead of Navy Day. Admiral Kumar highlighted the Indian Navy's significant operational achievements over the past year. Ships, submarines, and aircraft maintained a high operational tempo in strategic waters, undertaking missions with military, diplomatic, constabulary, and benign roles. The Navy's units were consistently deployed across the Indian Ocean Region and beyond to safeguard and promote national interests.

Books & Authors News**The book, titled 'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers' by Sharmishtha Mukherjee**

The book, titled 'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers' authored by Sharmishtha Mukherjee. The book is being brought out by Rupa Publications. The book is also a mirror to the father-daughter relationship between Pranab Mukherjee and Sharmishtha. This and other nuggets of Mukherjee's life from an unprepossessing village in West Bengal's Birbhum district to a roller-coaster career thereafter are the highlights of an about-to-be-released biography penned by his daughter, classical dancer Sharmishtha Mukherjee.

India's Moment: Changing Power Equations Around the World Launched in London

The High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, Vikram K. Doraiswami launched the book titled India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World, by Professor (Dr.) Mohan Kumar, Dean, Strategic & International Initiatives, O.P. Jindal Global University last week. This book dwells on some of those fundamental factors and traces how India's positions in international negotiations have evolved over time.

Miscellaneous News**Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is set to become the second home for Asiatic lions**

After Gir National Park and Sanctuary, the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS) is set to become the second home to Asiatic lions. The Gujarat Forest Department presented its proposal to make BWLS the second home to the lions as part of "Project Lion @ 2047". Project Lion is an initiative launched by the Government of India in 2021 to conserve and protect the Asiatic Lion and its habitat. The project aims to address the threats faced by the Asiatic lion population in India, which is found only in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat. The project also aims to create new habitats for the lions to increase their distribution and establish a second home for them outside Gir.



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