

Weekly Current Affairs 04th December to 09th December 2023 - English

National News

Gajraj System: AI-Based Elephant Protection on Indian Railways

The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks. This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants' presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions. The Gajraj system exemplifies a significant stride in utilizing advanced technology for wildlife conservation. By effectively detecting and preventing potential train-elephant collisions, the Indian Railways not only ensures the safety of its operations but also plays a crucial role in preserving India's wildlife heritage.

India Achieves Remarkable Environmental Milestone: Emission Intensity Falls 33% Ahead of Schedule

India has successfully slashed its GDP emission intensity by 33% between 2005 and 2019, exceeding its target 11 years ahead of schedule. A government report, 'The Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,' outlines the nation's substantial progress in decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. Despite a cumulative annual GDP growth rate of 7%, India's emissions increased by only 4% per year during 2005-2019. This remarkable feat showcases India's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth while curbing emissions.

India's Concerns Lead to Non-Signing of COP28 Health & Climate Declaration

India, a notable absentee from the list of signatories at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), refrained from endorsing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health. The primary point of contention arises from India's apprehensions about the practicality and achievability of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cooling within its healthcare infrastructure. Despite India's overall support for the ministerial event hosted by COP28 Presidency, the World Health Organisation, and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Health Day witnessed no participation from the Indian Health Ministry delegation. The COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, signed by 124 countries, underscores the imperative for urgent and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines various measures to achieve health benefits through climate action, such as just transitions, lower air pollution, active mobility, and shifts to sustainable healthy diets.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches 'Gram Manchitra' GIS App

To empower Gram Panchayats and improve grassroots spatial planning, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched tools like the GIS app "Gram Manchitra" and mobile solution "mActionSoft." Utilizing geo-spatial technology, these tools offer a unified platform for visualizing and planning developmental works, facilitating the formulation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Government Initiative to Establish Subsidized Staple Food Stores at Delhi Metro Stations

In a bid to address the soaring prices of essential food items, the central government is set to launch retail stores at major metro stations in Delhi. This initiative aims to make kitchen essentials, including onions, pulses, and atta, available to metro commuters at subsidized prices. The first proposed store will be situated at Central Delhi's Rajiv Chowk metro station, marking the commencement of this ambitious project. The establishment and operation of this store will be overseen by the National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India (NCCF). In a collaborative effort, NCCF will partner with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for this pilot project. The government envisions this venture as a potential solution to alleviate the financial burden on consumers by offering essential food items at affordable rates.

Cyclone Michaung Strikes Andhra Pradesh: Transition from Severe Cyclonic Storm to Depression

Cyclone Michaung, initially a severe cyclonic storm, made landfall on the south coast of Andhra Pradesh, wreaking havoc and leaving a trail of destruction. The storm weakened into a depression as it crossed the coast, centered in Central Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Currently, it is positioned approximately 100 km north-northwest of Bapatla and 50 km southeast of Khammam. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Office (CMO) reported significant consequences, affecting nearly 40 lakh people in 194 villages and two towns. Michaung's impact included the inundation of 25 villages, damage to 770 kilometers of roads, uprooting of 35 trees, and the unfortunate loss of three livestock.

Bengali

সংকল্প

WBPS Clerkship 2.0

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+ টাইপিং গাইডেন্স

Start Date: 4 Dec 2023



Wax Statue of Baba Ambedkar Installed in Jaipur Wax Museum

In a significant tribute to the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a wax statue has been unveiled at the Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort. The Founder Director of the museum, Anoop Srivastava, shared the motivation behind this addition, citing the demand from tourists and visitors. The wax statue was inaugurated on December 6, coinciding with Mahaparinirvan Day, commemorating the passing of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Anoop Srivastava highlighted the decision to create the wax statue was influenced by the numerous tourists from across India who frequented the museum, expressing a desire to see a representation of Baba Saheb. The statue stands as a testament to the enduring popularity of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy and the recognition of his pivotal role in shaping India's constitutional framework.

'Green Rising' Initiative Launched To Empower Youth In Meaningful Eco Initiatives

On December 8th, at COP28, UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, unveiled the "Green Rising" initiative. This groundbreaking initiative, carried out through India's YuWaah campaign, places a special emphasis on engaging youth in impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, drawing inspiration from the Mission Life movement. The global "Green Rising" initiative, along with the "Green Rising India Alliance," involves UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.

International News**India Re-Elected to International Maritime Organization with Highest Vote Tally**

In a significant development, India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2024-25 biennium with the highest tally. This re-election underscores India's influential role in the international maritime arena and reflects the global community's recognition of the country's contributions to seaborne trade. The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, expressed gratitude for the international support, highlighting the government's commitment to bolstering India's role in global maritime operations. The IMO Council, serving as the executive organ of the International Maritime Organization, holds a pivotal role in supervising the organization's work.

World Bank's Innovative Approach to Scaling Climate Finance Through Securitization

The President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga, has outlined a strategic initiative aimed at scaling up climate financing through securitization. This innovative approach, led by the Private Sector

Investment Lab (PSIL), focuses on creating a model of "originate-to-distribute" to attract substantial investments from deep-pocketed investors for climate-related projects. Ajay Banga emphasizes the goal of establishing a securitizable asset class in climate investments. The objective is to make these investments appealing to major players such as large pension funds and financial giants like BlackRock, providing an attractive avenue for deploying significant capital into climate deals. PSIL, launched under the World Bank's umbrella, collaborates with a group of 15 finance leaders, including Larry Fink of BlackRock, Thomas Buberl of AXA SA, and Noel Quinn of HSBC Plc.

India Provides \$250 Million Line of Credit to Kenya for Agricultural Modernization

In a significant development, India has extended a \$250 million Line of Credit to Kenya for the modernization of its agricultural sector. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the visit of Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto, where both countries expressed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties not only in agricultural but also in defense, counter-terrorism and technology. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the shared agricultural heritage of both nations and announced the Line of Credit to facilitate the modernization of Kenya's agricultural sector. The funds are intended to support projects aimed at advancing agricultural practices and technologies. The joint statement emphasized the exchange of experiences and the potential for increased partnership in innovation and technology.

Indonesia's Marapi Volcano Eruption

Indonesia's Mount Marapi, located in West Sumatra, recently erupted, leading to a tragic incident resulting in the loss of lives and the disappearance of several climbers. The eruption occurred on December 3, 2023, catching many by surprise as authorities scrambled to evacuate those in the vicinity. As Mount Marapi unleashed its fury, a massive cloud of volcanic ash blanketed the sky and debris covered roads and vehicles. The eruption took place with 75 people in the area and while efforts were made to evacuate, 26 individuals were left behind. Abdul Malik, the head of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency, reported that out of the 26, only 14 have been accounted for, with three survivors and a devastating 11 casualties. Indonesia is situated on the "Ring of Fire," a volatile tectonic region known for its seismic and volcanic activity. The country boasts 127 active volcanoes and Mount Marapi, standing at 2,891 meters (approximately 9,500 feet), is among the most active on Sumatra. Currently at the second-highest alert level on Indonesia's four-step warning scale, the volcano has a history of eruptions, with the deadliest recorded in 1979, claiming the lives of 60 people.

Italy Withdraws from China’s Belt and Road Project

Italy has officially withdrawn from China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) marking a significant departure from its previous stance as the only G7 nation to participate. This move comes more than four years after Italy initially joined the initiative in 2019 under the government of then Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. The decision was long-anticipated and signals a strategic shift in Italy’s approach to its relationship with China and the broader global geopolitical landscape. The Belt and Road Initiative, spearheaded by Chinese President Xi Jinping, aims to enhance China’s influence globally by investing in infrastructure projects across participating countries. With over 150 nations reportedly joining the initiative, it has become a cornerstone of China’s efforts to expand its economic and political clout internationally.

Lahore Leads In Global Pollution Ranking

Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan, is grappling with a severe smog crisis that poses significant threats to the health and well-being of its residents. According to IQAir, an organization that monitors global air quality, Lahore recently earned the dubious distinction of having the worst air quality in the world, with a hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) of 400 in the morning. This alarming revelation underscores the urgent need to address the underlying causes of the city’s deteriorating air quality. The AQI serves as a crucial metric for assessing the levels of pollution in the air. It is calculated based on five categories of pollutants: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Each of these pollutants has distinct sources, ranging from industrial emissions to vehicular exhaust and agricultural activities.

State News

Kolkata Inaugurated FITEXPO INDIA 2023

The FITEXPO INDIA 2023, one of Asia’s premier sports, fitness, and wellness trade expos, commenced on December 1 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan in Kolkata. The grand inauguration ceremony was attended by notable dignitaries, including the Guest-of-Honour, Shri Radhe Shyam Goenka, Chairman, Emami, and prominent figures from the fitness, sports, and wellness industry. The mega expo, sprawling over 3 lac sq feet of indoor and outdoor space, is set to captivate over 5000 fitness, sports, and wellness enthusiasts. With an expected footfall of over 1.25 lac, FITEXPO INDIA 2023 is poised to be a colossal success. The expo caters to both business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) interactions, making it a holistic affair.

Shri Amit Shah At Mati Kala Mahotsav, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, recently addressed the Khadi Mati Kala Mahotsav in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, emphasizing the multidimensional and multi-purpose aspects of the Khadi movement. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including Union

Minister Shri Narayan Rane and Shri Bhanupratap Singh Verma. In his address, Shri Amit Shah highlighted the historical significance of Khadi, tracing its origins back to Mahatma Gandhi. He emphasized how Gandhi Ji linked Khadi with the freedom movement, using it as a means to connect impoverished individuals with employment. The movement also aimed to reduce dependence on foreign goods and instill the spirit of Swadeshi and Swaraj in every village.

Meghalaya’s Lakadong Turmeric and Other Products Awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

In a significant development, Meghalaya’s Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Agriculture Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh made the announcement, highlighting the positive impact on local farmers and authentic product access for consumers. Considered one of the finest turmeric varieties globally, Lakadong turmeric boasts an impressive curcumin content ranging from 6.8 to 7.5 percent. Grown organically in the Lakadong area of Jaintia Hills, this turmeric is renowned for its dark color, and cultivation is carried out without the use of fertilizers. The GI tag is expected to enhance marketing opportunities for farmers, ensuring customers have access to the genuine product.

Lalduhoma Set to Assume Office as Mizoram’s Chief Minister

In a significant political development, Lalduhoma, the Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) leader and legislature party leader, is poised to be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 8. A Raj Bhavan official confirmed that Lalduhoma, along with other members of his council of ministers, will take the oath of office at 11 am in a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan. Earlier, Lalduhoma met with Governor Hari Babu Khambampati at the Raj Bhavan and formally staked claim to form the government. Following the meeting, the governor extended an invitation to Lalduhoma to take charge and form the new government.

Gujarat’s Garba Dance Enters UNESCO’s ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage’ List

In a momentous announcement, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel declared that the vibrant and culturally significant Garba dance has been officially recognized by UNESCO, earning a coveted spot on the “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.” The announcement was met with enthusiasm from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who commended the global acknowledgment of this traditional Indian dance form. The Garba dance, deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of Gujarat, has long been a symbol of devotion to Goddess Mother during the auspicious Navratri festival. Chief Minister Patel expressed pride in the approval, emphasizing that Garba has not only retained its age-old traditions but continues to evolve and thrive

5th Nagaland Honey Bee Day Celebrated In Kisama Village

The 5th Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, under the theme "Bee & Honey Trials." The event witnessed the presence of Deputy Chief Minister, Planning & Transformation and National Highway, T.R. Zeliang, who congratulated the mission and the accomplished Honey Bee farmers at both the State and District levels. Acknowledging the unique age-old tradition of beekeeping, T.R. Zeliang emphasized the need to transform it from a traditional hobby into a sustainable livelihood. Regular training programs on honey production and rearing have been provided to villagers, with the aim of improving beekeeping practices across the State.

Economy News**India's Fiscal Progress: GST Collections Surge to Record High in FY 2023-24**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reported a consistent upward trend in India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection, emphasizing the fiscal year's remarkable achievements in a Lok Sabha session. GST collection surpassed the Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark every month in the current fiscal year. April 2023 recorded a historic high, reaching Rs 1.87 lakh crore in GST collection. The average gross monthly GST mop-up for FY 2023-24 stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore, reflecting an 11% YoY increase from the previous fiscal year.

India's Stock Market Surpasses \$4 Trillion Mark, Closing in on Hong Kong

India's stock market achieved a significant milestone, surpassing a market value of over \$4 trillion. This development highlights the rapid growth of the world's fifth-largest equity market, closing the gap with a struggling Hong Kong. In less than three years, the market capitalization of companies listed on India's exchanges has surged by \$1 trillion. India's key stock benchmarks, already trading at all-time high levels, have experienced a remarkable 13% increase this year. This upward trajectory positions India's equity market for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year of gains. In contrast, Hong Kong's key equity measure has witnessed a 17% decline, with the overall market value dropping to less than \$4.7 trillion.

IDFC FIRST Bank Unveils Youth-Centric "FIRST SWYP" Credit Card in Collaboration with Mastercard

In a strategic move targeting the dynamic preferences of Millennials, this marks the second youth-focused credit card from IDFC FIRST Bank, following the success of the "FIRST Millennia Credit Cards." The launch of the FIRST SWYP card further solidifies the bank's commitment to meeting the diverse needs of Millennials and Gen Zs. nials and Gen Zs, IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced the "FIRST SWYP" credit card, a youth-centric offering designed to cater to the unique demands of the new-age customer.

India's Forex Reserves Surpass \$600 Billion Mark After Four-Month Interval

India's foreign exchange reserves have witnessed a notable upswing, reaching \$604 billion as of December 1, marking a significant milestone after a four-month hiatus. The last instance of the reserves crossing the \$600 billion threshold was recorded on August 11 earlier this year. In his recent monetary policy statement, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das highlighted a crucial development—the issuance of the master direction for foreign exchange market participants. This initiative is part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at assisting market participants in effectively managing risks within the dynamic foreign exchange market.

Union Cabinet Allocates Rs 2,500 Crore for Extended Interest Equalisation Scheme

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sanctioned an additional Rs 2,500 crore for the Interest Equalisation Scheme. The scheme is extended until June 30, 2024, aiming to support exporters from specific sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters. Facilitate pre and post-shipment Rupee export credit at competitive rates. Continue benefiting manufacturer and merchant exporters in identified tariff lines. Foster growth in the MSME sector, crucial for employment generation.

India Implements Duty-Free Import of Yellow Peas to Regulate Pulse Prices

In a strategic move to stabilize pulse prices, the Indian government, through the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), has lifted restrictions on the import of yellow peas. The move allows duty-free shipments of yellow peas until March 31, 2024, aiming to enhance the supply of pulses in the market. Yellow peas, primarily imported from Canada and Russia, were initially subjected to a 50% duty in November 2017. The recent decision shifts their import status from "Restricted" to "Free" as part of New Delhi's efforts to manage the overall pulse basket prices.

WBCS MAHAPACK PRO
Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে

A BANGLA

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- 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

Rankings & Reports News

LIC Ranks Fourth Globally in S&P Global's 2022 Insurance Report

In a recent report by S&P Global Market Intelligence, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has secured its position as the world's fourth-largest insurer. The ranking is based on the life and accident & health reserves of companies for the year 2022.

Global Ranking:

Allianz SE (Germany): Securing the top spot with reserves amounting to \$750.20 billion.

China Life Insurance Company (China): Claiming the second position with reserves totaling \$616.90 billion.

Nippon Life Insurance Company (Japan): Grasping the third position with reserves reaching \$536.80 billion.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC): Notably, LIC clinches the fourth spot globally, boasting reserves of \$503.7 billion.

Regional Dominance

European Firms: Among the top 50 global life insurance companies, European firms dominate the scene, occupying 21 positions.

United States: Leading on an individual country basis, the US houses the highest number of life insurers on the list, with eight companies headquartered in the region.

United Kingdom: Following closely, the UK claims the second spot among individual countries, hosting seven companies in the top 50.

Asian Representation

Overall Presence: Asian firms make a significant mark, securing 17 spots among the top 50 global life insurance companies.

China and Japan: These two Asian powerhouses share the top spots in the region, with five companies each headquartered in China and Japan.

Nirmala Sitharaman and Three Other Indians Secure Spots on Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women" of 2023

In the latest release of Forbes' annual list of "The World's Most Powerful Women," four notable Indian figures have garnered recognition. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HCL Corporation Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal, and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw have earned positions on this prestigious list. Ranked 60th, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, who assumed the role of HCL's Chairperson in July 2020, holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management. Beyond her corporate success, her passion for wildlife and conservation is notable, as per her official website. She is married to Shikhar Malhotra, and the couple has two sons.

Business News

LIC Introduces Framework for Shareholder's Director: Enhancing Board Structure

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), a leading insurance and investment corporation in India, has announced a significant update in its governance structure. As per the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Shareholders' Director) Regulations, 2023, notified in the Gazette of India on December 1, 2023, LIC has outlined a new framework for the addition of a shareholder's director to its board.

Bajaj Group Becomes Fifth Conglomerate to Breach ₹10 Lakh Crore in Mcap

On December 4, 2023, the Bajaj Group achieved a significant milestone by surpassing Rs.10 lakh crore in market capitalization, making it the fifth business houses to attain this feat. This elite club already includes prominent names like Tata, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and the Adani Group. Let's delve into the key factors contributing to this remarkable achievement and the individual companies that played a pivotal role. The market valuation of the Pune-based Bajaj Group has witnessed a remarkable 41% surge since April, underscoring its robust performance in the financial landscape. Bajaj Auto emerged as a major contributor, posting a staggering 63% increase during the same period.

Bharti Airtel Becomes the 8th Company to Surpass ₹6 Lakh Crore Mcap

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications companies, achieved a significant milestone by becoming the 8th company to surpass Rs.6 lakh crore on December 4. This surge was attributed to the positive market sentiment following the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victory in state elections. The company's stock witnessed a 2% increase during Monday's trade, contributing to a year-to-date gain of 28%. The buoyant market sentiment reflected in the overall stock market, with Bharti Airtel's shares gaining an additional 2% on Monday, bringing its year-to-date gain to an impressive 28%. In contrast, the benchmark Nifty recorded a 14.3% gain during the same period. The company has consistently delivered positive returns for the past five years, with 2019 marking the highest surge at close to 60%. The upward trend continued with gains of 12% and 37% in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Agreement News

Ujjivan SFB partners with Water.org To Offer Water, Sanitation And Hygiene Loans

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) has recently unveiled a strategic partnership with Water.org, a renowned global non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing solutions. This collaboration holds significant promise for addressing the pressing issue of water and sanitation in India, which boasts the world's highest population. The collaboration will extend beyond mere financial support, with Water.org offering technical assistance, market assessments, development of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, as well as monitoring and evaluation support. Ujjivan SFB, in line with its commitment to social responsibility, will provide loans ranging from ₹6,000 to ₹1,00,000 to both existing and new customers.

Indian Oil and EKI Energy Ink Deal to Promote 'Surya Nutan'

In a significant move towards sustainability, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IndianOil) and EKI Energy Services have joined forces to promote "Surya Nutan," an innovative indoor solar cooking system developed by IndianOil. This collaboration aims to leverage carbon finance and other sustainable means to enhance the production, distribution and adoption of this eco-friendly cooking solution. IndianOil, a Fortune 500 company with a prominent presence in India's hydrocarbon sector, has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2046. As part of its diversification strategy, the state-owned oil and gas producer has ventured into alternative energy sources. The development of "Surya Nutan" underscores IndianOil's dedication to environmentally friendly solutions.

Appointment News

Madagascar Court Confirms Andry Rajoelina's Election To The Presidency

Madagascar's Constitutional Court has recently confirmed the re-election of President Andry Rajoelina from the Young Malagasies Determined political party, marking his third term in office. The court declared Rajoelina the winner with 59% of the votes cast. The election took place amid significant challenges, including the withdrawal of ten out of thirteen presidential contenders. Despite their withdrawal, their names remained on the ballot, adding a layer of complexity to an already contentious electoral process. The opposition parties, critical of Rajoelina's candidacy for a third term, urged their supporters to abstain from voting, contributing to a historically low voter turnout of 46%. Head of the Constitutional Court, Florent Rakotoarisoa, announced Rajoelina's victory and affirmed that he is elected as the president for a third term.

Anand Kripalu Takes the Charge as Chairperson and Independent Director at Swiggy

Swiggy, a prominent player in the online food ordering and delivery space, has made a strategic move by appointing Anand Kripalu as the Chairperson and Independent Director of its Board. With an illustrious career spanning over 40 years in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry, Anand Kripalu brings a wealth of experience to Swiggy's leadership team. This appointment comes as part of Swiggy's ongoing efforts to strengthen its board with industry veterans. Swiggy's Board of Directors has officially welcomed Anand Kripalu as the Chairperson and Independent Director with immediate effect. His appointment adds a seasoned leader to the executive board, further enhancing the strategic direction and governance of the company.

Captain Geetika Koul Becomes First Woman Medical Officer Deployed at Siachen

In a historic development, Captain Geetika Koul, a woman army doctor, has been deployed at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, marking a significant stride towards gender inclusivity in India's armed forces. This follows the deployment of Captain Shiva Chouhan, from the Corps of Engineers, at the same location almost a year ago. The deployment of women officers like Captain Geetika Koul at Siachen and Lieutenant Commander Prerna Deosthalee's command appointment at INS Trinkat mark a new chapter for women in the armed forces. As India progresses towards greater gender inclusivity, these achievements highlight the commitment to recognizing and leveraging the capabilities of women officers, fostering a more diverse and resilient military force.

Banking News

RBI Cancels License Of Kolhapur Based Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a significant move on Monday by canceling the license of Kolhapur-based (Maharashtra) Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Ichalkaranji. The apex bank instructed the bank to cease all banking operations, effective from the close of business on December 4, 2023. In a statement, the RBI declared that Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited is now prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking,' which encompasses the acceptance and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This immediate action was taken as the co-operative bank was found to be lacking in adequate capital and earning prospects, thereby violating the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Monetary Policy Tools in India: A Comprehensive Overview

Monetary policy tools are crucial instruments employed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to regulate the money supply, influence economic growth, and manage macroeconomic factors like inflation and unemployment. Divided into Quantitative and Qualitative categories, these tools play a pivotal role in shaping the financial landscape of the country.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee(MPC) Meeting Highlights – December 2023

In the latest RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting, the key policy repo rate remains unchanged at 6.5%, reflecting the committee's unanimous decision. This marks the fifth consecutive meeting where the MPC opted to maintain the status quo on the repo rate, following a 25 bps increase in February 2023. The MPC projects a GDP growth of 7% for the fiscal year 2023-24. Inflation is anticipated to be at 5.4% for the same period, with a detailed breakdown indicating 5.6% for Q3 and 5.2% for Q4. Looking ahead to FY25, CPI inflation is projected at 5.2% for Q1, 4% for Q2, and 4.7% for Q3. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the MPC's vigilance, stating that 5 out of 6 MPC members voted in favor of withdrawing accommodation. The committee stands ready to take necessary actions to address emerging economic scenarios.

Science & Technology News**IBM Unveils Its Latest 1,000-Qubit Quantum Chip Named 'Condor'**

IBM has recently unveiled its latest quantum computing milestone with the introduction of Condor, a quantum processor boasting an impressive 1,121 qubits. This marks a significant advancement in IBM's quantum roadmap, showcasing a quantum machine with over 1,000 qubits for the first time. However, the company is now shifting its focus from sheer qubit quantity to prioritizing error resistance in its quantum machines. For several years, IBM has been diligently following a quantum computing roadmap characterized by a doubling of qubit numbers annually. The culmination of this effort is the Condor chip, featuring 1,121 superconducting qubits arranged in a distinctive honeycomb pattern. This achievement builds upon IBM's previous breakthroughs, including a 127-qubit chip in 2021 and a 433-qubit one in the preceding year.

Schemes and Committees News**Mandatory Display of PMAY-U Logo on Houses Ensures Transparency and Accountability**

In a significant move towards transparency and accountability, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has mandated the display of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) logo and beneficiary details on all houses constructed under the scheme. The directive applies to all States and Union Territories, aiming to streamline the implementation of the flagship mission

of the Government of India. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban, launched on June 25, 2015, is a flagship mission with the primary goal of addressing the urban housing shortage among the less privileged. The mission aims to ensure housing for all eligible urban households. Implemented through four verticals – Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR), and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) – PMAY-U adopts a multi-faceted approach to meet the diverse housing needs of urban communities.

Summits & Conference News**Global Investors Summit in Dehradun: December 8-9, 2023**

The Uttarakhand government is set to host the Global Investors Summit in Dehradun from December 8-9, focusing on showcasing over 15 investor-friendly policies. The summit aims to highlight good governance measures, a supportive regulatory framework, and sustainable practices to attract potential investors. Ahead of the Summit, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasized the state's safety, branding it as one of the safest in the nation and a prime investment destination. Investment proposals worth ₹2 lakh crore have been confirmed, with a primary focus on creating job opportunities.

PM Modi To Address Infinity Forum 2.0 On December 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the second edition of the Infinity Forum, a premier Financial Technology event scheduled for December 9, 2023. The event, hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City, is under the auspices of the Government of India. Building on the success of its inaugural edition in December 2021, the Infinity Forum 2.0 promises to be a global thought leadership platform focusing on financial services. The first edition of the Infinity Forum, organized in 2021, saw an overwhelming response with over 95,000 registrations from more than 80 countries. A key highlight of the event was the 'FinTech Showcase,' featuring over 100 virtual exhibitors alongside the main proceedings.



GPAl 2023: Artificial Intelligence Research Symposium To Be Held On December 12-14

Currently serving as the incoming Support Chair of GPAl, India is set to take on the Lead Chair position for GPAl in 2024. To showcase its commitment to the advancement of AI, India is hosting the Annual GPAl Summit from December 12 – 14, 2023. The event is anticipated to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on December 12, 2023. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAl), established in June 2020, is a groundbreaking multi-stakeholder initiative. India is one of the founding members of GPAl in 2020. With a primary objective to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the field of AI, GPAl supports cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. Initially launched with 15 member countries, GPAl has significantly expanded its membership to include 28 member countries and the European Union.

Awards & Honors News**Olympian M. Sreeshankar Clinches 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award**

In a celebration of athletic excellence, Olympian M. Sreeshankar has been honored with the prestigious 35th Jimmy George Foundation Award for emerging as the best sportsperson of Kerala. This recognition comes as a testament to Sreeshankar's outstanding achievements, including securing the long jump silver medal in both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. The Jimmy George Foundation Award, now in its 35th edition, is a distinguished accolade in Kerala's sporting community. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a plaque, symbolizing the recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of sports. The award committee, headed by Jose George and including Jimmy George's brothers Robert Bobby, Sebastian, Stanley, and Olympian Anju Bobby George, played a crucial role in selecting the deserving recipient.

Bihar Garners International Recognition At COP-28 For Afforestation Efforts

The actions undertaken by the Bihar government in the field of afforestation, particularly through the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan (Rural Development Department), received praise from the international community at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-28) in Dubai. During a dedicated session on "Building Climate Resilience" at the Indian Pavilion, Ms. Preyashi and Mr. Singh delivered a detailed presentation titled "Afforestation Activities in Bihar to Combat Climate Change." Ms. Preyashi highlighted the larger policy framework and inter-departmental coordination under Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan.

ISRO and Team Chandrayaan-3 Honoured for Outstanding Contribution to Brand India

In a historic moment on August 23, India's Chandrayaan-3 achieved remarkable lunar landing, making India the first country to reach the Lunar South Pole. The successful mission, a testament to India's scientific prowess, has solidified its status as a space superpower. Notably, this achievement did not only resonate in the scientific community but also garnered recognition in the business world. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Chandrayaan-3 team were recently honored with the "Outstanding Contribution to Brand India" award at the 19th India Business Leader Awards (IBLA), held in Mumbai on December 2. Chandrayaan-3's success is not only a reflection of India's scientific ingenuity but also a demonstration of efficient budget management. Executed at a cost of Rs.600 crore, the mission achieved what Hollywood's various depictions of space explorations often portray at a fraction of the cost. In contrast, the recent Russian moon mission, which unfortunately ended in failure, incurred a cost of around Rs.16,000 crore.

Amazon India Wins National Award For Empowering Individuals With Disabilities

Amazon India received the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from President Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhavan on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This accolade serves as a testament to Amazon India's unwavering commitment to fostering a diverse and equitable workplace where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. The company has implemented a comprehensive strategy that encompasses various facets of inclusivity, spanning its operations, products, and services. One of the key initiatives undertaken by Amazon India is the significant increase in the onsite representation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). To ensure an inclusive work environment, Amazon India has implemented innovative workplace adaptations and technologies.

Social Innovators from India Win Accolades at the 4th edition of AIGIF in Malaysia

The 4th edition of the ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF), hosted by Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), concluded on November 30, 2023. The event celebrated grassroots and student innovators from India and across the ASEAN Member States (AMS). Among the notable winners were Dr. Dipak Bharali, Mr. Sunil Shinde and Ms. Aanchal Aggrawal from India.

Indian-Origin Novelist Meira Chand Receives Singapore's Highest Arts Award

Singapore recently bestowed its prestigious Cultural Medallion upon three distinguished individuals, recognizing their artistic excellence and significant contributions to the nation's rich arts and culture. Among them, Meira Chand, an eighty-one-year-old Indian-origin writer, shares this esteemed accolade with novelist Suchen Christine Lim and Malay dance veteran Osman Abdul Hamid. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the Cultural Medallion to the recipients in a ceremony held at the Istana. The award, the city-state's highest arts honor, is accompanied by an SGD 80,000 grant for each awardee, supporting their continued artistic endeavors.

Time Magazine Names Lionel Messi 'Athlete of the Year' For 2023

Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023. This prestigious honor comes on the heels of Messi's historic eighth Ballon d'Or win, solidifying his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time. Beyond individual accolades, Messi's impact has transcended the football pitch, notably through his transformative move to Inter Miami, a Major League Soccer (MLS) club in the United States. Lionel Messi's exceptional skills and consistent excellence on the field have earned him the Ballon d'Or for an unprecedented eighth time. This achievement not only cements his personal legacy but also reflects his enduring influence on the global football stage. Messi played a pivotal role in Argentina's triumph at the 2022 World Cup, securing their first title in 36 years.

Prashant Agrawal Receives National Award For 'Best Personality- Empowerment of Differently-abled'

In a ceremony organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Prashant Agrawal, the President of Narayan Seva Sansthan, was honored with the prestigious National Award for 'Best Personality- Empowerment of Differently-abled.' The award was presented by President Draupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The event highlighted Agrawal's commitment to the cause of disability empowerment. Prashant Agrawal's recognition stems from his exceptional efforts in leading initiatives aimed at empowering differently-abled individuals. His instrumental role in establishing residential schools, vocational rehabilitation centers, and providing assistive devices has significantly impacted the lives of many.

Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker

In a momentous achievement, Federal Bank, a prominent financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious title of "Bank of the Year (India)" by The Banker, a renowned publication under the Financial Times umbrella. This accolade, one of the few global awards recognizing banks on a worldwide scale, reflects Federal Bank's exceptional commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry in the past year.

Important Dates News**World Soil Day 2023 Observed on 5 December**

Every year on December 5, people worldwide unite to commemorate World Soil Day (WSD), an occasion dedicated to recognizing the pivotal role soil plays in sustaining life on Earth. This annual event serves as a poignant reminder of the intricate relationship between soil, plants, animals, and humans, underscoring the critical need to preserve and protect this invaluable resource. As we approach World Soil Day 2023, the theme 'Soil and Water, a Source of Life' takes center stage, emphasizing the symbiotic connection between these fundamental elements. The United Nations has declared the theme for World Soil Day 2023 as 'Soil and water, a source of life.'

Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2023: BR Ambedkar Death Anniversary

December 6, 2023, marks the Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2023, commemorating the death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a towering figure in the Indian history. As the architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice, his contributions have left an indelible mark on the nation. This article explores the significance of Mahaparinirvan Diwas and delves into the life and contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The term Mahaparinirvan derives its significance from Buddhism's fundamental concept of Parinirvana. This state symbolizes the attainment of nirvana, freedom both in life and after death. In the context of Dr. Ambedkar, his embrace of Buddhism and renunciation of Hinduism align with the principles of Parinirvana. The use of the term Mahaparinirvan Diwas to mark his death underscores his stature as a revered Buddhist leader. The article sheds light on the historical and philosophical underpinnings of Mahaparinirvan. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and Independent India's first Law Minister, was a multifaceted leader known for his tireless efforts against untouchability. In 1947, he established the 'Drafting Committee' to present the final constitution draft. His leadership and commitment to social reform are encapsulated in his significant role in shaping India's constitutional framework.

International Civil Aviation Day 2023: 7 December

International Civil Aviation Day, observed on December 7, holds special significance as it marks the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944. This year's theme, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development," emphasizes the crucial role of innovation in shaping the future of civil aviation worldwide. The United Nations General Assembly declared December 7 as International Civil Aviation Day in 1996. This date commemorates the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ICAO, a pivotal organization working to foster global cooperation and uniformity in civil aviation.

Armed Forces Flag Day 2023 Celebrates on 7th December

Armed Forces Flag Day, celebrated on December 7 each year, holds a special place in our hearts as we pay tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stand guard at our borders. This day serves as a reminder of the unwavering dedication of our armed forces and provides an opportunity for citizens to contribute towards their welfare. Established on August 28, 1949, by the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces Flag Day was designated to honor the brave men and women in uniform. December 7 was chosen as the annual day for this tribute, a day to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of our armed forces personnel. Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country.

SAARC Charter Day: Celebrating 39 Years of Regional Cooperation

SAARC Charter Day is observed annually on 8th December, marking a significant milestone in the history of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). This day commemorates the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 during the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. This year, the regional group The SAARC Charter was signed by the Heads of State or Government of seven founding member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The signing ceremony took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, signifying the collective aspirations of the peoples and governments of South Asia to foster understanding, good neighborly relations, and meaningful cooperation. It celebrates its 39th Anniversary, highlighting the enduring commitment of South Asian nations to collaboration and mutual progress.

Human Rights Day 2023: Date, Theme and History

The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of a monumental global commitment—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, this transformative document remains a beacon of hope, enshrining the inalienable rights that every individual is entitled to, irrespective of diverse factors. 10 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world’s most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The chosen theme for the 2023 celebrations is “Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All.” Over the decades since the UDHR’s adoption, human rights have gained increasing recognition and protection worldwide.

Sports News

Vaishali Rameshbabu Becomes Grandmaster, Creating History with Brother Praggnanandhaa

Vaishali Rameshbabu, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain. This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the

footsteps of Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli. Her victory over Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes was pivotal in crossing the 2500 FIDE rating threshold required for the Grandmaster title. This accomplishment is particularly significant as it makes Vaishali and her younger brother, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, the first brother-sister pair in history to both hold Grandmaster titles. They have also become the first brother-sister duo to qualify for the Candidates, a prestigious chess tournament.

Obituaries News

Dinesh Phadnis, who played Fredericks in CID passed away

Actor Dinesh Phadnis, renowned for his portrayal of the funny and innocent CID officer Fredericks on the popular Sony TV show CID, has passed away. His demise was confirmed by his co-star Dayanand Shetty, who clarified that Dinesh suffered from liver damage and not a heart attack. The actor had been undergoing treatment at Mumbai’s Tunga Hospital. Earlier reports had suggested that Dinesh Phadnis had suffered a heart attack. However, Dayanand Shetty dispelled these rumors, revealing that the actor was actually dealing with liver damage. The clarification came amid speculations about the cause of Dinesh’s health issues.

Former Mr. Universe Bodybuilder Shaun Davis, Dies at 57

Former Mr Universe bodybuilder Shaun Davis has tragically passed away at the age of 57, leaving behind a legacy of remarkable achievements in the world of bodybuilding. Hailing from Derbyshire, in east England, Davis had an illustrious career that saw him clinch prestigious titles such as Mr Britain and Mr Europe before reaching the pinnacle of success by being crowned Mr Universe in 1996, as reported by Metro. At the height of his Mr. Universe success, Shaun Davis was known for his impressive physique, weighing a whopping 334lbs (151 kg). His imposing presence earned him the fitting moniker of ‘Dinosaur’ within the bodybuilding community. His dedication and hard work in the sport garnered him widespread admiration and respect.

Defence News

Indian Army Agniveer Salary 2023: A Comprehensive Overview

The Indian Army has recently announced the Agniveer Recruitment 2023, a dynamic initiative designed to bolster its ranks. This recruitment drive, characterized by rallies across various regions, aims to attract young men and women aged 17.5 to 23 years, passionate about serving in the armed forces. This article delves into the salary structure of the Agniveers, as outlined in the latest recruitment notification. Given the scheme’s four-year tenure, the salary for the Indian Army Agniveer salary package initiates at INR 30,000.

GRSE Delivers India's Largest Survey Vessel To Navy

In a significant achievement for India's maritime capabilities, the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd delivered the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country, INS Sandhayak, to the Indian Navy. The 110-meter-long vessel is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the navy, marking a crucial milestone in the indigenous shipbuilding industry. INS Sandhayak was launched on December 5, 2021, and subsequently underwent extensive fitting out and trials. The vessel's completion and delivery align with Navy Day, observed on December 4, adding a symbolic touch to the occasion. The dedication and precision exhibited by GRSE in the construction of this sophisticated survey vessel underscore the organization's commitment to bolstering India's naval capabilities.

Miscellaneous News

"Rizz" Crowned Oxford University Press Word of the Year by Generation Z

Oxford University Press has unveiled "Rizz" as its Word of the Year, reflecting the linguistic choices of Generation Z. The term, used to describe someone's ability to attract or seduce another person, triumphed over finalists like "Swiftie," "situationship," and "prompt" in the annual decision made by language experts at the renowned publisher of the Oxford English Dictionary. The selection of "rizz" as the Word of the Year by Oxford University Press highlights the dynamic nature of language, especially in the realm of Generation Z. This linguistic evolution serves as a testament to the ever-changing landscape of communication, reflecting the unique ways in which younger generations shape and redefine the words that encapsulate their experiences, perspectives, and interactions in the modern world.

Fusion Milestone: Japan Unveils JT-60SA, the World's Largest Experimental Nuclear Fusion Reactor

In a historic moment for the field of nuclear fusion research, the JT-60SA, the world's largest and most advanced experimental nuclear fusion reactor, has officially commenced operations in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture. Developed as a collaborative effort between the European Union and Japan, the JT-60SA represents a significant step forward in harnessing the potential of nuclear fusion as a clean and sustainable energy source.

Google Doodle Celebrates Ahmed The Elephant Known for His Big Tusks

Google Doodle, the creative and artistic platform used by Google to commemorate significant events and individuals, has dedicated a doodle today to Ahmed the Elephant. Ahmed's story is a remarkable tale of a majestic elephant born in 1919 in the forests of Mount Marsabit, Kenya. The doodle, featuring illustrations of elephants and tourists, serves as a tribute to Ahmed's legacy and the efforts to protect him from poachers. Ahmed's journey began in the pristine landscapes of Mount Marsabit, Kenya, where he was born in 1919. His majestic tusks, said to scare the ground, earned him the title "The King of Marasabit." Though rarely seen, Ahmed's legacy grew and hikers in the North Kenya mountains began spreading tales of this extraordinary elephant.

Bengali

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