

Weekly Current Affairs 15<sup>th</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - English

## National News

**Maharashtra's Pench Tiger Reserve Achieves Milestone as India's First Dark Sky Park**

Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has made history by securing recognition as India's inaugural Dark Sky Park, marking its position as the fifth in Asia. This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the reserve's unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of the night sky and creating an optimal setting for astronomy enthusiasts. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, recognizing the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource, played a pivotal role in conferring this distinction. Prabhu Nath Shukla, the deputy director of the reserve, highlighted the significance of preserving natural darkness for nature conservation, maintaining ecological integrity, and contributing to the well-being of communities in urban centers.

**PM Modi to Inaugurate NACIN Campus in Andhra Pradesh**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN) at Palasamudram in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district. The event is scheduled for January 16, marking a significant development in the region's educational infrastructure. The establishment of NACIN in Andhra Pradesh aligns with the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014. The foundation stone for the facility was laid in 2015, and the academy represents a significant investment in the region's educational and administrative capabilities.

**NHAI's 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' Initiative To Streamline Toll Collection**

In a significant move to enhance the efficiency of the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system and streamline traffic at Toll Plazas, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative. This strategic measure aims to curb the prevalent practice of using a single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a specific vehicle. The 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative is a proactive step taken by NHAI to address concerns related to the misuse of FASTags. This initiative seeks to promote a one-to-one correspondence between vehicles and FASTags, ensuring transparency and accountability in toll collection. NHAI is actively promoting the completion of the 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) process for the latest FASTag. Users are urged to update their KYC details in adherence to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. FASTags with valid balances but incomplete KYC details will face deactivation or blacklisting by banks after January 31, 2024.

**Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Inaugurates Asia's Largest Aviation Expo Wings India 2024**

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad. This event marks a significant milestone in the Indian aviation sector, highlighting its growth and future potential. The theme of Wings India 2024 is "Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal: Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047".

**PM Unveils Rs. 4,000 Crore Projects In Kochi, Kerala**

In a momentous event, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated three pivotal infrastructure projects in Kochi, Kerala, signaling a significant stride towards transforming India's ports, shipping, and waterways sector. These projects, collectively worth over Rs 4,000 crore, align with the Prime Minister's vision to enhance the nation's maritime capabilities and foster self-sufficiency. The inauguration included the unveiling of the New Dry Dock (NDD) at Cochin Shipyard Limited, a national pride and an engineering marvel. With a length of 310 meters and built at an investment of ₹1799 crores, the NDD is set to accommodate large vessels, including aircraft carriers and other significant ships.

**Defence Minister Unveils 35 BRO Projects In Border Regions**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during a recent event, emphasized the pivotal role played by residents living near the borders in serving the nation. He equated their contributions to that of soldiers, asserting that while soldiers protect the country in uniform, border-area residents contribute in their own unique way. The occasion marked the inauguration of 35 projects, including 29 bridges and six roads, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) across seven states and union territories, with a total cost of ₹670 crore.

RRB ALP  
STAGE-I CBT  
মক টেস্ট সম্পূর্ণ বাংলায় সমাধান  
20 Total Tests  
Test Series

**PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, marked a historic day in Solapur, Maharashtra, by laying the foundation stone for 8 AMRUT projects and dedicating over 90,000 completed houses under PMAY-Urban. The event also witnessed the distribution of PM-SVANIDHI benefits to 10,000 beneficiaries, showcasing the government's commitment to inclusive development. In a significant stride towards urban rejuvenation, Prime Minister Modi kickstarted eight AMRUT projects, collectively valued at around Rs. 2,000 crores. These projects aim to enhance infrastructure, utilities, and overall living standards in Solapur, Maharashtra.

**International News****Denmark's King Frederik X Ascends As Queen Margrethe II Steps Down After 52 Years**

Denmark witnessed a historic moment on January 14 as King Frederik X ascended the throne, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who formally abdicated after an impressive 52 years as the monarch. The capital brimmed with anticipation and excitement as large crowds gathered to witness this significant event in the nation's history. The announcement of Queen Margrethe II's abdication came as a shock to the nation on New Year's Eve. At 83, she revealed her plans to become the first Danish monarch in almost 900 years to voluntarily relinquish the throne. The pivotal meeting saw the attendance of government representatives, Queen Margrethe, the new King Frederik X, his Australian-born wife Mary – now the queen consort, and their eldest son Christian, 18, who assumes the role of the new heir to the throne.

**Taiwan Elects Pro-Sovereignty William Lai in Historic Election, Further Straining China Ties**

In a groundbreaking election, Taiwanese voters have chosen William Lai Ching-te, a pro-sovereignty candidate from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), as their president, marking a significant departure from China. Lai, the current vice president, secured an unprecedented third consecutive term for the DPP by defeating his conservative rival, Hou Yu-ih of the Kuomintang (KMT), by over 900,000 votes. China, branding Lai as a "dangerous separatist," expressed anger over the election results, asserting Taiwan as part of China and framing the choice as one between "war and peace." China has escalated its military presence around Taiwan, raising concerns about potential conflict.

**India Secures Lithium Blocks in Argentina to Address ₹24,000 Crore Import Dependency**

In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022. India has taken a crucial step towards reducing its ₹24,000 crore lithium import dependency, primarily sourced from China.

The deal finalized between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company. The Indian government plans to invest around Rs 200 crore over the next five years for exploration, signaling a strategic commitment to securing a domestic supply of critical minerals.

**World Economic Forum and Telangana Government Collaborate to Establish C4IR in Hyderabad**

In a groundbreaking move, the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Telangana government are jointly establishing the 19th Centre of the WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR) in Hyderabad. The WEF-Telangana Centre, slated for launch in February 2024, will be the world's inaugural thematic center dedicated to health tech and life sciences. The collaboration, solidified during a meeting between Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and WEF President Borge Brende at Davos, underscores the commitment to advancing healthcare technology.

**China's Betavolt Unveils Groundbreaking Nuclear Battery: 50 Years of Maintenance-Free Power Generation**

China's Betavolt, a cutting-edge startup, has introduced a groundbreaking nuclear battery that claims to provide uninterrupted electricity for 50 years without the need for charging or maintenance. The miniaturization of atomic energy sets this battery apart as the first of its kind globally, challenging conventional views on nuclear technology.

**Japan's Lunar Ambition: Smart Lander Mission Set for Success on January 20**

Japan is poised to join an exclusive group of nations that have successfully landed on the Moon. The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), is scheduled to touch the lunar surface on January 20, 2024. This mission marks a significant milestone in Japan's space exploration endeavours and offers a unique opportunity to advance lunar science.

**State News****Kerala Launches Operation AMRITH To Combat AMR**

The Kerala Drug Control Department has taken a proactive step to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through Operation Amrith (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health). This initiative aims to curb the overuse of antibiotics in the state by conducting surprise raids in pharmacies and detecting over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription. AMR, or antimicrobial resistance, refers to the ability of bacteria and microbes to resist the drugs used to inhibit or kill them. Recognized as a "silent pandemic," AMR was associated with approximately 5 million deaths globally in 2019, with 1.3 million deaths directly attributed to it.

### The Kashi Ropeway – A Spiritual Journey Inspired by Lord Shiva

The Kashi Ropeway in Varanasi, inspired by the theme of Lord Shiva, is set to be a landmark project combining spirituality and modern transportation. This article provides an overview of this unique initiative, intended to enhance the travel experience in one of India's most sacred cities.

**Inspiration:** The ropeway stations at Varanasi Cantt feature artefacts reflecting Lord Shiva, including the damru (drum), trident, conch, river, moon, and riverfront.

**Cultural Integration:** Efforts are being made to showcase significant aspects of Varanasi at the ropeway stations, integrating the city's rich spiritual heritage.

### Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates Puri Jagannath Temple's Heritage Corridor

The SMPP (Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa) introduces a 75-meter-wide space around the temple, referred to as the heritage corridor. This expansive area has been meticulously divided into nine distinct zones, each serving a specific purpose aimed at enhancing the overall experience for visitors and preserving the cultural heritage surrounding the Shree Jagannath Temple.

### Assam Govt Unveils Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan

The Assam government recently launched a financial assistance scheme, the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan (MMUA), with the aim of empowering rural women entrepreneurs. The program is designed to provide financial assistance to women who aspire to embark on their entrepreneurial journey independently, beyond their association with Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative introduces unique conditions, focusing specifically on the number of eligible children for the beneficiaries. The MMUA scheme is designed to promote the development of rural women who are part of self-help groups. It aims to transform them into "Rural Micro Entrepreneurs" with an annual income target of ₹1 lakh per member.

### Moh-Juj Fights: A Cultural Resurgence in Assam

After a hiatus of nine years, Moh-Juj, the traditional buffalo fights, have made a comeback in Assam. This revival, held during the Magh Bihu festival in mid-January 2024, marks a significant cultural reclamation in Assam. The Assam Government's approval, along with strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensures a balance between cultural preservation and animal welfare. The tradition of Moh-Juj was suspended in 2015 following the Supreme Court's ban on similar events like Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu. The ban was primarily due to concerns regarding animal cruelty. However, recognizing the cultural significance of Moh-Juj, the Assam government, after deliberations and the issuance of detailed SOPs, decided to permit these events again.

### Maharashtra Secures Investments of Rs 3.53 Trillion at Davos

In a significant stride towards its ambitious goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the signing of 19 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during his visit to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. Accompanied by Industries Minister Uday Samant and senior officials, Shinde expressed his determination to lead the state towards economic prosperity. The state government successfully sealed investment MoUs amounting to Rs 3.53 lakh crore (USD 44 billion) across various sectors, including electronics, IT, data centers, gems and jewelry, agriculture, automobile, and renewable energy. An additional expression of interest for Rs 1 lakh crore investment was also received, catapulting the total potential investment to Rs 4.5 lakh crore (almost USD 57 billion).

### West Bengal News

#### Mamata Banerjee Opens 47th Kolkata Book Fair, Featuring the UK As The Theme Country

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 47th International Kolkata Book Fair on January 18, amidst a drizzle that posed challenges for last-minute preparations for several stall owners. Despite the weather, the event kicked off at the Boi Mela Prangan in Central Park, Salt Lake, marking an early start compared to the previous edition when the gates opened on January 30. The United Kingdom (UK) holds the spotlight as the theme country for this year's book fair, which is scheduled to continue till January 31.

### Economy News

#### Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka Lead In Startup Ecosystem Development: DPIIT

The startup ecosystem in India witnessed a significant boost as Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the best-performing states in the Startup Ranking for 2022. The rankings, released by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, highlight the commendable initiatives undertaken by these states to foster the growth of startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs. Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were also recognized as top performers in this dynamic landscape.

#### SEBI Chairperson Launches CDSL's Multi-Lingual Initiatives for Investor Ease

In celebration of its silver jubilee year, Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), Asia's first listed depository, took a significant step towards inclusivity and accessibility in the capital market landscape. SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch launched two groundbreaking multi-lingual initiatives at the silver jubilee function held on January 17. CDSL introduced a revolutionary upgrade in investor Consolidated

Account Statement (CAS), enabling investors to receive statements in their preferred language among 23 diverse Indian languages. This initiative, titled 'Apka CAS - Apki Zubaani,' aims to provide easier accessibility, offering investors a consolidated view of their securities held in a demat account in a language of their choice.

## Rankings & Reports News

### TCS ranked second most valuable IT brand in global list

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a prominent name in the global IT services sector, has achieved a significant milestone by being rated the second most valuable IT services brand in the world, according to the 2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking by Brand Finance. This achievement underscores TCS's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global expansion, positioning it as a leader in the technology industry.

## Business News

### LIC overtakes SBI to become the most valuable PSU

In a significant turn of events, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has not only staged an impressive comeback but has also surpassed the market capitalization of the State Bank of India (SBI). This article explores the recent surge in LIC's share price, its journey since listing, and the factors contributing to its remarkable revival.

### L&T Secures 'Mega Order' for Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Electrification Project

L&T Construction's railways strategic business group has clinched a significant contract valued between ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 crore for a pivotal segment of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. The 'mega' order, received from a Japanese agency overseeing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR), entails the construction of 508 route km of high-speed electrification works.

### Adani Group Announces Rs 50,000 Crore Investment for 1 GW Data Centre in Maharashtra

In a major development at the World Economic Forum 2024, the Adani Group unveiled plans to invest Rs 50,000 crore over the next decade in establishing a 1 GW hyperscale data centre in Maharashtra. The conglomerate's flagship company, Adani Enterprises Ltd, and the Maharashtra government formalized this commitment through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

### LIC Introduces Jeevan Dhara II Deferred Annuity Plan

Unveiled by LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, the new Jeevan Dhara II plan offers a non-participating, individual savings, deferred annuity option. The plan provides life cover during the deferment period and boasts a higher annuity rate at advanced ages.

## Agreement News

### IndoSpace Signs Rs 2000 Cr Deal With Tamil Nadu Govt

IndoSpace, a leading player in industrial and logistics real estate, has solidified its commitment to Tamil Nadu's economic development by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) valued at Rs 2000 crore. This landmark agreement was unveiled during the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024, a prestigious event attended by key dignitaries, including MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.

### IIT Madras and Altair Collaborate to Launch eMobility Simulation Lab

In a strategic partnership, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has joined forces with Altair, a global technology leader specializing in simulation, high-performance computing (HPC), and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Together, they are set to inaugurate the cutting-edge eMobility Simulation Lab within the Department of Engineering Design at IIT Madras. The eMobility Simulation Lab is poised to become a hub for advanced research and training in the field. Thanks to Altair's generous financial backing, the lab will be equipped with state-of-the-art products and tools, featuring Altair's modeling and simulation technologies.

### Google Pay Partners With NPCI To Extend UPI Payments Globally

In a significant move towards fostering international digital transactions, Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) have joined hands to propel UPI payments beyond the borders of India. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities is poised to revolutionize the way Indian travellers engage in financial transactions abroad. The primary objective of the MoU is to enhance the usage of UPI payments for Indian travellers outside their homeland. With this collaboration, Google Pay (GPay) becomes the conduit, enabling seamless and convenient transactions for Indian globetrotters.

### National Farmers Society, IndiaAI, Wadhvani Foundation Signs MoU For AI-Driven Agriculture

In a significant development towards revolutionizing the agricultural landscape of India, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been recently inked between the National Farmers' Welfare Programme Implementation Society, IndiaAI (Digital India Corporation), and Wadhvani Foundation. This collaborative effort aims to propel India to the forefront of AI-driven digital agriculture, leveraging the expertise and support of the Wadhvani Foundation in formulating and executing a robust AI strategy.

**Appointment News****VICE ADMIRAL AN PRAMOD APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVAL OPERATIONS**

In a significant development, Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed the pivotal role of Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) on January 15, 2024. A distinguished alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course at Naval Academy, Goa, Vice Admiral Pramod was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1990.

**Senior IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal**

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

**RuPay Prime Volleyball League Season 3: Hrithik Roshan Onboards as Brand Ambassador**

The RuPay Prime Volleyball League (PVL) has taken a significant stride in its marketing and promotion efforts by appointing the acclaimed Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan as the brand ambassador for its third season. This development marks a notable merger of sports and entertainment, promising to enhance the visibility and appeal of the league.

**Banking News****Karnataka Bank and Clix Capital Forge Digital Co-Lending Partnership via Yubi Platform**

In a strategic move aligned with Reserve Bank of India guidelines, Karnataka Bank (KBL), a prominent private sector bank, and Clix Capital, a rapidly growing NBFC, have joined forces through the Yubi Co.lend Platform. This digital co-lending partnership targets the Indian MSME sector, a key driver of the country's GDP and employment growth.

**Science & Technology News****I-STEM To Launch 'Samavesha' At IISc Bengaluru To Enhance Research Collaboration**

The Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map, known as I-STEM, is set to embark on a groundbreaking initiative named 'Samavesha.' This ambitious project, spearheaded by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, aims to transform research

collaboration in the country by facilitating easier access to scientific facilities and laboratories. The inauguration ceremony of 'Samavesha' is scheduled to take place at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. One of the pivotal aspects of the project is the establishment of an online portal that will connect researchers and industries with scientific institutes.

**Oxford Scientists Initiates First Human Trials For Deadly Nipah Virus Vaccine**

In a groundbreaking initiative, researchers at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom have commenced the first-in-human vaccine trials for the deadly Nipah virus. This initiative is a significant step forward in addressing the severe impact of the virus on various Asian countries, including India. The trials will be conducted on 51 individuals aged 18 to 55 and are led by the Oxford Vaccine Group. The experimental vaccine, named ChAdOx1 NipahB, aims to combat the Nipah virus, a highly lethal disease with a fatality rate of approximately 75%. The Nipah virus has been responsible for outbreaks in several Asian countries, such as Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and India. Notably, a recent outbreak occurred in Kerala in September of the previous year.

**ISRO Unveils Advanced Distress Alert Transmitter For Fishermen**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been at the forefront of technological innovation, contributing significantly to various fields. One such noteworthy development is the second-generation 'Distress Alert Transmitter' (DAT-SG), a remarkable advancement in satellite communication and navigation capabilities. Operational since 2010, the DAT-SG has become a crucial tool for fishermen at sea, allowing them to send emergency messages and receive real-time acknowledgments. With over 20,000 units currently in use, it has proven to be a reliable and effective tool for fishermen in distress.



বন্দেভারত এক্সপ্রেস ব্যাচ  
Railway ALP, Technician ,  
Group D , NTPC  
Starts: 29 Jan, 2024

**Schemes and Committees News**

**Defense Minister Sanctions Insurance Scheme for BRO Workers**

India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, has recently approved a groundbreaking scheme aimed at providing insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). This move is designed to address the inherent risks associated with the challenging tasks these workers undertake in remote and hazardous areas. The scheme is expected to offer financial security and welfare to the families of casual paid labourers who play a crucial role in building infrastructure in the country's farthest frontiers.

**Summits & Conference News**

**Switzerland to Host Ukraine Peace Summit on Zelenskiy's Request**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has secured Switzerland's agreement to host a global peace summit aimed at resolving the conflict sparked by Russia's incursion into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Switzerland, known for its neutrality and past mediation roles, will facilitate talks to find a resolution.

**Awards & Honors News**

**US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024**

In a groundbreaking moment, Second Lt. Madison Marsh, an officer in the U.S. Air Force, was crowned Miss America, marking the first time an active-duty service member has clinched this prestigious title, as confirmed by the Air Force. Hailing from Colorado, the home of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Marsh proudly represented her state in the pageant. Her academic background is just as impressive, having graduated from the academy with a degree in physics, according to details provided in her Miss Colorado biography. In an interview with the Air Force Institute of Technology in November, Marsh highlighted the values she cherished within the pageant community.

**REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23**

REC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Public Sector Unit and a leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the Ministry of Power, has been honored with the prestigious 'Plaque' at the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The recognition is in the 'Financial Services Sector (Other than Banking and Insurance)' category for the financial year 2022-23. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) bestowed the award based on rigorous evaluation criteria, including the company's accounting practices,

disclosure policies, presentation of financial statements, adherence to Indian Accounting Standards, statutory guidelines, and regulations. This accolade follows REC's recent achievements, including the 'Golden Peacock Award' for exceptional performance in risk management conferred by the Institute of Directors (IOD).

**Assam Govt To Honor Ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi With 'Assam Baibhav' Award**

Former Chief Justice of India and current Rajya Sabha MP, Ranjan Gogoi, is set to be honored with the prestigious 'Assam Baibhav' award, the highest civilian award in Assam. This announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, who highlighted Gogoi's significant contributions to the field of justice and jurisprudence. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 10. This marks the third year of the Assam Baibhav awards, with the inaugural award presented to business magnate Ratan Tata in the first year, followed by journalist Tapan Saikia in the second year.

S. No	Name	Year	Field
1	Ratan Tata	2021	Social Service
2	Dr. Tapan Saikia	2022	Healthcare & Public
3	Sri Ranjan Gogoi	2023	Law & Justice

**Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards**

Skyways Air Services Pvt Ltd has been recognized for its outstanding cargo services at the prestigious Wings India Awards held in Hyderabad. This recognition is a testament to Skyways Air Services' commitment to excellence in the aviation cargo sector. The event also honored various other entities in different categories, including the best airports, airlines, and service providers. The GMR Group was recognized as the Best Aviation Service Provider, and Indian Oil Skytanking Pvt Ltd for fuel services. Other categories included sustainability, innovation, connectivity, and training.

**Important Dates News**

**Indian Army Day 2024, Date, Theme, History and Quotes**

Indian Army Day is a special day celebrated on January 15 every year. In 2024, it will be celebrated on Monday, January 15. This day is important because it marks the anniversary of the Indian Army getting its first Indian chief in 1949. This chief was General K.M. Cariappa, who took over from the British. The theme for Indian Army Day in 2024 is "In Service of the Nation." This means that the Indian Army is always ready to serve and protect our country. Their motto is "Service Before Self," showing that they always think of the country first.

## Kokborok Day 2024: Celebrating the Cultural Heritage of Tripura

Kokborok Day, observed annually on January 19th, is a significant cultural event in Tripura, India. The 2024 celebration marks the 46th anniversary of Kokborok's recognition as an official language of the state alongside Bengali and English. This day celebrates the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the Tripuri people. Kokborok, also known as Tripuri or Tiprakoka, is the native language of the Tripuri community in Tripura and neighbouring regions. It belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, closely related to the Bodo, Dimasa, and Kachari languages spoken in Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.

## Sports News

### Rohit Sharma Becomes The First Men's Player To Play 150 T20Is

In a historic moment for Indian cricket, Rohit Sharma, the captain of Team India, etched his name in the record books by becoming the first men's player to feature in 150 T20 International matches. This milestone was achieved during the second T20I against Afghanistan at the Holkar Cricket Stadium, marking a remarkable feat in Rohit's illustrious career. During the first T20I against Afghanistan, Rohit Sharma not only captained his side to victory but also secured another milestone by becoming the first player to win 100 T20Is. This accomplishment underlines his leadership prowess and the team's success under his captaincy.

### Real Madrid Wins Against Barcelona in Spanish Super Cup

Real Madrid played against Barcelona and won 4-1. This big game was part of the Spanish Super Cup final and happened on January 14, 2024. It took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### Indian President Inaugurated 5th Meghalaya Games

On January 15, 2024, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the 5th Edition of the Meghalaya Games in Tura, Meghalaya. In her address, the President highlighted the tremendous potential for the development of sports and sportspersons in the North East region, citing its rich tradition of a strong sports culture. The 5th edition of the Meghalaya Games is accommodating nearly 3000 athletes, engaging in competitions across 23 disciplines distributed among 16 venues in Tura throughout a span of 6 days. The 5th installment of the Meghalaya Games holds historical significance on multiple fronts. Notably, it marks the inaugural occasion of being hosted in Tura, a departure from its previous exclusive location in Shillong. Additionally, this edition introduces traditional indigenous games into its lineup, and it is distinguished as the first instance where the inauguration is carried out by the President of India.

## Praggnanandhaa Surpasses Viswanathan Anand to Become India's No.1 Chess Player

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China. This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee. Praggnanandhaa's triumph was notable as he played with black pieces and displayed strategic superiority from the onset of the game. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China. This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee. Praggnanandhaa's triumph was notable as he played with black pieces and displayed strategic superiority from the onset of the game.

### Carlos Sainz's Historic Victory in Dakar Rally 2024

Carlos Sainz, at the age of 61, has made history by winning the Dakar Rally for the fourth time. His latest victory in the 2024 rally marks him as the oldest winner of this gruelling race. Sainz, also known as 'El Matador', is renowned for his extraordinary skills and endurance in one of the most challenging motorsport events in the world. Sainz's Dakar journey is marked by diversity and adaptability, having won the rally with four different manufacturers: Volkswagen (2010), Peugeot (2018), Mini (2020), and now Audi (2024). His experience and skill have proven invaluable in navigating the varied and challenging terrains of the Dakar Rally.

### PM Launches Khelo India Youth Games 2023 In Chennai, Tamil Nadu

The 13th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games was inaugurated with great enthusiasm by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The opening ceremony witnessed not only the commencement of the much-awaited sporting event but also the launch and foundation stone laying of significant projects in the Broadcasting sector, valued at around Rs 250 crores. Prime Minister Modi graced the event with his presence and participated in a vibrant cultural program. The highlight of the ceremony was the lighting of the Games' torch, symbolizing the official inauguration of Khelo India Youth Games.

## Obituaries News

### Renowned Urdu Poet Munawwar Rana Passes Away At 71

Munawwar Rana, a celebrated Urdu poet, passed away at the age of 71 due to cardiac arrest in Lucknow. He had been enduring a prolonged illness, including throat cancer, kidney, and heart-related ailments. He was receiving treatment at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in Lucknow.

## Defence News

**Ex-Ayutthaya: India-Thailand First Naval Exercise Connects to Ayodhya**

In a historic move, the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) joined forces for the maiden bilateral exercise named 'Ex-Ayutthaya' in December 2023. This maritime collaboration, symbolizing the invincible spirit, holds profound significance as it connects the ancient cities of Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, reflecting shared historical narratives and rich cultural ties dating back centuries.

**Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty Assumes Role As Commandant, Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala**

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty officially assumed the prestigious position of Commandant at the Indian Naval Academy on January 15, 2024. A seasoned officer with a remarkable career, Vice Admiral McCarty brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this significant role. The Vice Admiral is a graduate of the Defence Service Staff College in Wellington (2005) and the National Defence College in New Delhi (2017). These institutions have played a crucial role in shaping his strategic acumen and preparing him for leadership roles within the Indian Navy.

**Indian Army, MeitY Collaborate For Enhanced Defense Technology**

The Indian Army, in a groundbreaking collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY),

is spearheading the development of cutting-edge military-grade software. This partnership aims to harness the power of technology for bolstering national defense capabilities, focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, and healthcare.

## Books &amp; Authors News

**"Conversations with Aurangzeb": A Novel by Charu Nivedita**

"Conversations with Aurangzeb" is a novel by Tamil literary icon Charu Nivedita, translated into English by Nandini Krishnan. This book represents a unique fusion of historical narrative and satirical commentary, offering readers a fresh perspective on both historical and contemporary themes.

## Miscellaneous News

**India records its first-ever confirmed sighting of a rare Tibetan Brown Bear**

In a remarkable development for India's wildlife conservation, the first-ever confirmed sighting of the rare Tibetan Brown Bear (scientific name: *Ursus arctos pruinosus*) was recorded in the high altitudes of North Sikkim. This discovery, made by the joint efforts of the Sikkim Forest Department and WWF-India, marks a significant addition to the country's mammal diversity and highlights the ecological richness of the region.

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