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IMPORTANT EXAM COVER
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WBPSF FOOD SI, CLERKSHIP, RAIL, BANK, SSC**



HIGHLIGHTED POINTS

- Celebrating 50 Years Coal India's Foundation Day
- Indian Military Heritage Festival 2024: A Tribute to India's Military Legacy
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna Sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India
- COP29: The Crucial Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan
- NASA Partners with Microsoft to Simplify Access to Earth Science Data

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Monthly Current Affairs – November 2024 English

National News

India May to Welcome Indonesia's President on Republic Day 2025

New Delhi is considering inviting Indonesia's newly elected President, Prabowo Subianto, as the chief guest for its Republic Day 2025 celebrations, according to sources. This potential invitation underscores a growing partnership between India and Indonesia, with plans for high-level meetings, defense cooperation, and possibly even the participation of the Indonesian military in the Republic Day parade.

NSE Launches Multilingual Mobile App and Website

On the occasion of Diwali and to mark its 30th anniversary, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched its official mobile app, NSEIndia, and expanded its corporate website to support a total of 12 languages. This initiative aims to create a more inclusive financial ecosystem for millions of investors across India, allowing them to access market information in their preferred regional languages.

India Commits to 30% Protected Areas in Updated Biodiversity Plan

India has unveiled its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) during the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, committing to protect at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030. This ambitious target aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at the previous conference in 2022, which aims for global protection of 30% of land and ocean areas while restoring degraded ecosystems crucial for providing clean water and air.

**EAM Jaishankar Inaugurates India's New Consulate in Brisbane**

India's new consulate in Brisbane was inaugurated on 4th of November, 2024 by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, marking a milestone in strengthening India-Australia relations. Jaishankar highlighted the recent transformation in bilateral ties, driven by initiatives like a trade agreement that has opened up significant opportunities for both countries.

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar Launches 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' and Unveils 'TULIP' Platform

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' with a grand opening at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. Organized by key Corporations under the Ministry, including the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCDFC), and National Safai Karmachari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

Moldova's President Maia Sandu Wins Second Term Amid Russian Interference Claims

Moldova as pro-Western President Maia Sandu won a second term in a highly contested presidential runoff. With the country divided over its future alignment—whether closer to the European Union or maintaining ties with Russia—the election was marred by allegations of interference, vote-buying, and intimidation. Sandu's victory is seen as a decisive push toward Moldova's EU integration, but the result reflects deep-seated geopolitical tensions and internal divisions. Maia Sandu secured 55% of the vote against her Russia-aligned opponent, Alexandr Stoianoglo, who garnered 45%, according to Moldova's Central Electoral Commission (CEC). Sandu's victory comes as a relief for Moldova's pro-European government, which fully supported her re-election bid to accelerate Moldova's path toward European Union membership.

Switzerland's Burqa Ban Law to Take Effect in 2025

Switzerland is set to enforce its controversial "burqa ban" starting January 1, 2025, following approval in a closely contested 2021 referendum. The law, which prohibits facial coverings in public spaces, has sparked significant debate and criticism, particularly from Muslim associations.

Zimbabwe Launches ZIMSAT-2 to Advance Space Programme

Zimbabwe has launched its second satellite, ZIMSAT-2, from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia, a major milestone in the country's growing space programme. This satellite, equipped with a high-resolution multispectral camera, will aid in agriculture, resource exploration, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. It follows the successful launch of Zimbabwe's first satellite, ZIMSAT-1, in November 2022, marking continued progress in space technology and innovation.

President Murmu Witnesses Naval Operations Aboard INS Vikrant

Honorable President Droupadi Murmu embarked on her first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on 7th November. During this significant event, she witnessed a series of advanced operational demonstrations, showcasing the Indian Navy's combat capabilities and maritime prowess.

Sitharaman Launches MSME Outreach, Expands SIDBI in Karnataka

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme in Bengaluru, jointly organized by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Key officials, including Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister for MSMEs (virtually from Gaya, Bihar), and other dignitaries were present. The programme linked around 150 MSME clusters virtually, emphasizing access to financial services and boosting MSME growth nationwide.

Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Celebrates 5 Years of Religious Connectivity

The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, connecting India and Pakistan, marks its fifth anniversary today. The corridor leads to the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent the last 18 years of his life. The corridor was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 9, 2019, during the 550th Prakash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Over the past five years, more than 3.4 lakh devotees have visited the site. The corridor is a significant step in religious diplomacy, allowing pilgrims from India to visit this sacred site without a visa. As of today, 417 pilgrims have traveled, the highest this year.

Justice DY Chandrachud Retires, Leaves Enduring Legacy in Judiciary

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India on Sunday, after two years marked by groundbreaking rulings and significant reforms. His leadership has left a lasting impact on the Indian judiciary, shaping its future with transformative decisions and a focus on judicial independence, transparency, and accessibility.

Hindalco Tops Global Sustainability Rankings for 5th Year

Hindalco Industries Ltd., the metals arm of the Aditya Birla Group, has secured the top position as the world's most sustainable aluminium company for the fifth consecutive year, according to the 2024 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. The company earned a total score of 87 points, improving by 9 points from 2023, and surpassed its closest competitor by 22 points. Hindalco's consistent efforts to raise its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards have played a pivotal role in this achievement.

MHA Greenlights CISF's First All-Women Unit

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the creation of the Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) first-ever all-women battalion, announced on 12th November, 2024. This historic move aims to promote gender equality and inspire more women to contribute to the CISF's mission of securing the nation's strategic assets.

Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir Opens in Silvassa, Inaugurated by President

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir school at Zanda Chowk in Silvassa on 13th November. During her visit, she enjoyed lighthearted interactions with the students, joining them in games and reciting poems together.

Govt Invests in 12 Projects Under National Technical Textiles Mission

The government approved 12 research projects worth ₹13.3 crore on 12th November, under the National Technical Textiles Mission. This decision was made by the 10th Mission Steering Group, led by Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh.

Clean Ganga Mission Introduces Dolphin Ambulance

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is spearheading several important initiatives under the Clean Ganga Mission, focusing on the preservation of the Ganga's biodiversity, particularly endangered species like the Ganga

Dolphin. These efforts are part of a larger vision to restore the ecological balance of the river while protecting the flora and fauna that depend on it. One of the key initiatives in this mission is the launch of a special Dolphin Ambulance to aid in the rescue of injured Ganga Dolphins, a species vital to the river's ecosystem.

First Bodoland Mohotsav to Be Inaugurated by PM in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsav on 15th November at 6:30 PM at the SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi. The two-day festival, which will be held on 15th and 16th November, will celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Bodoland region. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering during the inauguration.

Sabarimala Pilgrimage Gets Dedicated Weather Service from IMD

For the first time, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has introduced a localized weather forecasting system for the Sabarimala pilgrimage, similar to those used for the Amarnath and Char Dham yatras. The IMD announced the installation of three rain gauges at key locations Sannidhanam, Pamba, and Nilakkal.

PM Modi to Unveil Projects on Birsa Munda's Birth Anniversary in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar on Friday to attend a function marking the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a revered freedom fighter known as "bhagwan" by tribal communities of the Chhota Nagpur plateau. Modi will travel to a remote village in Jamui district, approximately 200 km from the state capital, to celebrate "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas".

External Affairs Minister Inaugurates Symbiosis Dubai Campus

On the occasion of the inauguration of Symbiosis International University's first international campus at Dubai Knowledge Park, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and UAE Minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan highlighted the significance of the event for both nations, particularly in terms of education and bilateral relations.

PM Modi Inaugurates 1st Bodoland Mohotsav, Celebrating Peace and Progress

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsav in Delhi, a two-day event celebrating the language, literature, and culture of the Bodo community. The

event underscores the significant progress achieved after the Bodo Peace Accord in 2020, marking the end of decades of conflict and violence. The festival aims to foster unity, promote the Bodo culture, and highlight the region's development under the current government's leadership.

US Returns \$10 Million Worth of Looted Antiques to India

In a major development, the United States has returned over 1,400 looted artifacts worth \$10 million to India as part of an ongoing initiative to repatriate stolen cultural items from South and Southeast Asia. Among the returned artifacts is a celestial dancer sandstone sculpture, which had been illegally smuggled from central India to London before being sold to a patron of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

ALT EFF 2024 Film Festival Returns to Mumbai to Ignite Climate Conversations

The All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) returns to Mumbai for its 2024 edition, running from November 22 to December 8 at Liberty Cinema. Since its inception in 2020, ALT EFF has become a significant platform for environmental storytelling, bringing global issues of sustainability and climate change to the forefront through cinema. The festival is expanding its reach, with screenings in over 70 cities across India, including villages, fostering a wider conversation on environmental challenges.

UN Lists Chhattisgarh's Bastar Village as Tourism Destination

The small village of Dhudmaras, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme. This programme highlights villages with potential for sustainable tourism development and aims to enhance local tourism infrastructure, promote cultural heritage, and improve residents' quality of life.

HMJS Launches "Bhu-Neer" Portal for Groundwater Permits

Shri C.R. Paatil, the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, digitally launched the "Bhu-Neer" portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024. The portal, developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), aims to improve groundwater regulation in India. The initiative aligns with the Government's focus on transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater management.

Shivangi Desai Crowned Miss Charm India 2024

Shivangi Desai, a 22-year-old final-year law student at the Indian Law School (ILS) Pune, has made India proud by winning the prestigious Miss Charm India 2024 title. Representing India at Miss Charm 2024 in Vietnam this December, Shivangi's journey showcases a blend of intellect, beauty, and resilience. From a young age, she has excelled in academics, pageantry, and cultural promotion, cementing her position as a role model for young aspirants.

Prasar Bharati Launches OTT Platform 'Waves'

Prasar Bharati, India's public broadcaster, has launched its own OTT platform 'Waves' at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). With a diverse content library, it aims to deliver a mix of nostalgic classics and contemporary programming, making it a hub for family-friendly entertainment. The platform is available on Android and iOS, offering content in over 12 languages and spanning multiple genres such as infotainment, gaming, education, shopping, and live events. This launch marks a significant step toward realizing the Digital India vision, especially for rural audiences, by bridging the digital divide.

PM Modi Gifts Kolhapur's Silofar Panchamrit Kalash to Nigerian President

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu with a Silofar Panchamrit Kalash, a stunning example of Kolhapur's traditional metal craftsmanship, during his visit to Nigeria. This marks a significant diplomatic gesture, highlighting India's rich cultural heritage and reinforcing the growing ties between India and Nigeria. The kalash, made of high-quality silver, features intricate engravings typical of Kolhapur's renowned metalwork, with designs that include floral motifs, deities, and traditional patterns. This gift reflects both India's artistic legacy and its commitment to cultural exchange with Africa.

**India's First Constitution Museum Inaugurated at O.P. Jindal University**

India's first Constitution Museum, inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on November 23, 2024, at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) in Sonapat, Haryana, aims to enhance public understanding of the Constitution. This initiative, launched alongside the National Convention on the Constitution of India, is a tribute to the architects of the Indian Constitution and a celebration of its 75-year journey since adoption.

Indian Army Chief Named Honorary General of Nepali Army

General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army, was recently conferred with the title of Honorary General of the Nepal Army by the President of Nepal, Ramchandra Paudel. This honor reflects the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and military ties between India and Nepal. The tradition of honorary generalship between the two nations highlights the strong, enduring friendship and strategic cooperation shared by their armies.

Govt Should Include Coking Coal in Critical Minerals List: NITI Aayog

The NITI Aayog has recommended adding coking coal to India's critical minerals list, emphasizing its importance in steel production and infrastructure development. This aligns with global trends, such as the European Union's declaration of coking coal as a critical raw material. India's heavy reliance on imports (85% of its coking coal) underscores the need to enhance domestic production.

The report "Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the Import of Coking Coal" advocates for policy changes to leverage India's 16.5 billion tonnes of medium coking coal reserves and achieve self-reliance while adhering to Net Zero commitments by 2070.

Gwalior Unveils India's First Self-Sufficient Gaushala with a State-of-the-Art CBG Plant

In a groundbreaking initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first modern, self-sufficient gaushala in Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The gaushala, named Adarsh Gaushala, houses a state-of-the-art Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant, marking a major milestone in India's journey toward achieving sustainable development and promoting green energy solutions. This project reflects Modi's vision of turning "Waste to Wealth", highlighting how organic waste can be transformed into valuable resources.

PM Modi Graces Odisha Parba 2024 in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Odisha Parba 2024 celebrations held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. Organized by the Odia Samaj from November 22-24, this flagship event highlighted Odisha's vibrant cultural, social, and political heritage. The Prime Minister's address celebrated Odisha's legacy, its historical contributions, and its promising future.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches VISION Portal to Empower Underprivileged Youth

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the VISION Portal (Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network) on 21 November 2024 in New Delhi. Developed by the Utsav Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Gurugram, the portal aims to uplift underprivileged youth through education, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods. It bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience by funding student internships and fostering innovation.

National Mission on Natural Farming: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture

The Government of India has launched the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) with an allocation of ₹2,481 crore, aiming to promote natural farming across the nation. This scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on November 25, 2024, will target 1 crore farmers and cover around 750,000 hectares of land over the next two years. The initiative integrates various past efforts, including the Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati and Gobardhan Mission, to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and other locally adapted farming methods.

Cabinet Approves PAN 2.0: Digital Transformation of Taxpayer Services

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PAN 2.0 Project, an upgrade of the current PAN/TAN system, with a financial outlay of ₹1,435 crore. The project aims to streamline and digitize the PAN services, enhancing taxpayer registration and service delivery. PAN 2.0 is a part of the government's Digital India vision, which focuses on improving the digital infrastructure and making the PAN a common identifier across various government systems.

ICAI Signs MoU with CBSE to Enhance Commerce-Based Skill Courses in BFSI Sector

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to

promote commerce-based skill courses, particularly within the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector. This collaboration aims to equip students with industry-aligned competencies to enhance their employability and career prospects in accountancy and finance, bridging the gap between academic learning and professional requirements.

Supreme Court Approves Urgent Land Acquisition for Yamuna Expressway Development

The Supreme Court has upheld the Uttar Pradesh government's decision to acquire land urgently for the development of the Yamuna Expressway. The Court justified the invocation of the urgency provisions under Sections 17(1) and 17(4) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, allowing the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) to proceed without waiting for objections from landowners.

Government Extends Atal Innovation Mission Till 2028

The Indian government has extended the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the flagship program of NITI Aayog, until 31st March 2028, with an expanded scope and renewed objectives. This new phase, known as Atal Innovation Mission 2.0, was approved by the Union Cabinet during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th November 2024.

President Droupadi Murmu Unveils Sanskrit and Maithili Translations of the Indian Constitution

On 26th November 2024, marking Samvidhan Diwas and the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Indian Constitution in New Delhi. The event celebrated the rich diversity of India's linguistic heritage and reaffirmed the significance of the Constitution as the guiding framework for the country.

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Sanraksha App launched for Enhancing Rail Passenger Safety

The launch of the 'Sanraksha' mobile application by Indian Railways aims to enhance the safety and security of passengers. It integrates advanced technology, including data analytics and potential AI applications, to train and build the capacity of railway staff while ensuring passenger safety. The app was launched after a successful pilot project in the Nagpur division, and it is being rolled out across various railway zones to create a more secure environment for travelers.

Centre Receives 28 Proposals from 23 States for New City Development

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has received 28 proposals from 23 states for the development of new cities, as part of the central government's initiative to meet the growing demand for urban expansion. This marks a significant step in fulfilling the commitment made in February 2021 to develop eight new cities. The proposals are under scrutiny, with a focus on ensuring quality and adherence to eligibility criteria set by the 15th Finance Commission.

40 Tourism Projects to Revitalize Lesser-Known Destinations Across India

In a bid to promote sustainable tourism and balance tourist traffic, the Ministry of Tourism has approved 40 projects worth over Rs 3,295 crore, aimed at transforming lesser-known destinations into iconic sites. Spanning 23 states, these projects are expected to stimulate local economies and

enhance tourism infrastructure. This initiative is in line with the past efforts to reduce overcrowding at popular tourist spots by focusing on underdeveloped regions.

IIT Guwahati to Host Nation's Largest Science Festival

The India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, India's largest science celebration, will take place at IIT Guwahati, Assam, from November 30 to December 3, 2024. Organized under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), with the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) as the coordinating body, IISF promotes science-society engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration.

India Re-Elected to UN Peacebuilding Commission for 2025-2026

India has been re-elected to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term, reaffirming its pivotal role in international peace efforts. The announcement was made by India's Permanent Mission to the UN, highlighting the country's unwavering dedication to promoting global stability as a founding member and major contributor to UN peacekeeping. This accomplishment underscores India's ongoing engagement with the PBC since its establishment in 2005.

SC Collegium Recommends Justice Manmohan for Apex Co

The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, has proposed the elevation of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan to the apex court. Justice Manmohan's recommendation comes at a time when the Supreme Court operates with 32 judges, two short of its sanctioned strength of 34, following the retirements of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli. The five-member Collegium, which includes Justices BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, and AS Oka, recently convened to finalize the decision.

Ashtalakshmi Festival Starts December 6

The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav 2024, a grand three-day cultural festival, will be held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from December 6th to 8th, 2024. Organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and managed by its CPSE, the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHDC), the Mahotsav aims to showcase the vibrant cultural and economic potential of Northeast India. The mascot, Purvi, a young girl symbolizing all eight northeastern states, was introduced during the curtain-raiser event.

International News

Kemi Badenoch: A Historic Rise as Conservative Party Leader and UK Opposition Chief

Kemi Badenoch, 44, made history on November 2 as the first Black woman to lead the UK's Conservative Party, succeeding Rishi Sunak, Britain's first British Indian party leader. Following Sunak's resignation after the Conservatives' electoral defeat in July, Badenoch won the leadership race, defeating former minister Robert Jenrick by securing 53,806 votes out of a turnout of 72.8% among Conservative Party members.

US Election Results 2024: Date, Time and Parties Name

The United States is gearing up for one of the most significant political events of the decade: the 2024 presidential election. Set to take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, this high-stakes election has already drawn worldwide attention as Americans prepare to cast their votes for the country's next leader. This election will be a contest between two influential figures: Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Both campaigns have intensified, particularly in critical battleground states, making this election one of the most anticipated political events globally.

Donald Trump Set To Back In The White House As 47th President Of USA

Donald Trump has clinched a critical victory in Wisconsin, securing 276 electoral votes—well above the 270 needed—to reclaim the White House as America's 47th president. Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump expressed gratitude for the "extraordinary honor" bestowed upon him by the American people, acknowledging his unique role as both the 45th and now the 47th president.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission Members Resign Amid Crisis

All members of Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) resigned on Thursday, shortly after the release of a critical report highlighting an increase in mob violence. The NHRC, chaired by Kamal Uddin Ahmed, along with members Md Salim Reza, Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Biswajit Chanda, and Tania Haque, submitted resignation letters to the president, according to BDNews24.com.

Australia to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

Australia is set to implement a significant move by banning social media access for children under 16, starting in November. This proposed ban targets platforms like Instagram and Facebook, which have been linked to various issues such as body image concerns, cyberbullying, and mental health challenges among the youth. While this ban doesn't block internet access, it aims to mitigate the harmful impact these platforms have on young minds. However, the question remains: Will this measure be effective in shielding kids from the digital world's dangers?

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Erupts, Ash Column Reaches 6,500 Meters

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in eastern Indonesia erupted on November 7, spewing a massive ash column over 6,500 meters high, as authorities ramped up warnings and evacuation efforts. The 1,584-meter volcano, located on Flores Island, has shown increasing volcanic activity since November 3, with eruptions causing fatalities and severe damage. Indonesia, situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire, is highly susceptible to volcanic eruptions, and Lewotobi's latest eruption serves as a stark reminder of the region's volatility.

Rare H5 Bird Flu Case Found in Canadian Patient in B.C, Canada

Canada has reported its first-ever presumptive human case of H5 bird flu, with British Columbia confirming the diagnosis. A teenager tested positive for avian influenza caused by the H5 influenza virus, marking a significant development in the country's efforts to monitor and manage the spread of avian diseases. The case was disclosed through an official statement on the province's website, with health authorities calling it a rare event.

Li Quanhai Re-Elected as World Sailing President for Second Term

At the World Sailing General Assembly held in Singapore on November 9, Li Quanhai was re-elected as president for a new four-year term. The only Chinese president of an Olympic International Federation, Li's re-election marks a significant achievement for both him and the sport. He received 55 votes, securing a decisive victory over his competitors, Rodion Luka (UKR) with 2 votes and Philippe Rogge (BEL) with 29 votes. Li's leadership has been central to the growth and stability of World Sailing in recent years, and his continued role signals the future direction of the sport globally.

Canada Cancels SDS Visa Program Ended for India and 13 Other Countries

The Government of Canada has officially announced the termination of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was widely popular among Indian students for expedited processing of study permits. Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously benefited from faster application handling through the SDS will now have to apply through the regular study permit system.

Leadership Shift: Ramgoolam Set to become New PM of Mauritius

In a significant political shift, Mauritius' opposition appears poised for victory in the recent legislative elections, as Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceded defeat on 11th November. Opposition leader Dr. Navin Ramgoolam is expected to assume the role of prime minister for the third time, leading his Alliance of Change coalition.

Alix Didier Fils-Aime Sworn in as Haiti's New Prime Minister

Businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aime has been sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister, vowing to address the country's critical security issues and restore stability. His predecessor, Garry Conille, was ousted just five months into office following a power struggle with Haiti's transitional council over ministerial appointments.

Trump Picks Elise Stefanik as U.N. Ambassador

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, marking his first Cabinet pick for his second term. Stefanik, a staunch defender of Israel and a key Trump ally, has been a prominent voice in Congress, especially on foreign policy and security issues. At 40, Stefanik's career has been marked by her vocal support for Trump and her leadership role within the GOP, making her an influential figure in both domestic and international politics.

Dominica to Award Its Highest National Honour to PM Modi

The Commonwealth of Dominica has announced that it will award Prime Minister Narendra Modi its highest national honour, the Dominica Award of Honour, in recognition of his significant contributions to the island nation, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This prestigious award will be presented to the Indian Prime Minister by Sylvania Burton, the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown,

Guyana. The summit is set to take place next week, and the award ceremony will be one of the key highlights of the event.

Australia Appoints First Anti-Slavery Commissioner to Combat Modern Slavery

In a landmark move, Australia has appointed its first Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Chris Evans, who will serve a five-year term starting in December 2024. The position is designed to strengthen efforts across the government, business, and society to combat modern slavery, which includes human trafficking, forced labour, and deceptive recruiting. The move is in line with the Albanese Government's commitment to address modern slavery, with a focus on victim support, raising awareness, and improving business accountability in supply chains.

China Unveils Megaport in Peru, but Locals Feel Left Behind

China's \$1.3 billion megaport in Chancay, Peru, majority-owned by Chinese shipping giant Cosco, promises to connect South America to Asia and boost regional trade. However, locals in this coastal desert village, where many live without basic services, express dissatisfaction, claiming the port harms their livelihoods and brings no tangible benefits. While the government envisions significant economic growth, the residents of Chancay, particularly the fishermen, see the project as a threat to their resources and environment.

Tropical Storm Sara Hits Honduras, Threatens Floods in Central America and Mexico

Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in northern Honduras late Thursday, bringing heavy rain and the threat of life-threatening flooding to parts of Central America and southern Mexico. The storm hit near Brus Laguna, Honduras, and is expected to continue its path west, impacting Belize and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Forecasts predict up to 30 inches of rain in some areas, with winds of 45 mph (75 km/h) and slow movement at 10 mph (17 km/h).

Shanghai, Tokyo, New York, and Houston Leading Emitters of Greenhouse Gases

A new dataset released at the United Nations climate talks reveals that cities in Asia and the United States are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Shanghai tops the list of polluting cities, followed closely by Tokyo, New York, and Houston. The data, compiled by Climate Trace using advanced observations and artificial intelligence, highlights the urgent need for global action to combat climate change.

From Congress to Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's New Role for National Intelligence

Former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard was appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on November 13. Announcing the decision on Truth Social, Trump praised Gabbard's fearless spirit and commitment to defending constitutional rights and national security.

Typhoon Man-yi Strikes Northern Philippines

Super Typhoon Man-yi, locally known as Pepito, has made a second landfall on the Philippines' main island of Luzon, bringing severe winds, torrential rains, and life-threatening storm surges. The powerful storm has caused widespread damage, particularly in Cantanduanes, where it uprooted trees, destroyed buildings, and disrupted power supplies.

Gabon Approves New Constitution in Historic Referendum

Gabon held a landmark referendum, where 91% of voters approved a new constitution, marking a significant political shift in the country. The constitution aims to end 55 years of dynastic rule and reintroduce a democratic civilian government. The ruling military junta, which took power in August 2023 through a coup, orchestrated the referendum, signaling a new era of governance.

Brazil Officially Hands Over G20 Presidency to South Africa

Brazil officially transferred the Group of 20 (G20) Presidency to South Africa during the closing ceremony of the annual G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This marks a historic milestone as South Africa becomes the first African nation to lead the G20, with a robust agenda planned for its presidency.

Iraq Conducts First National Census in 40 Years

Iraq is conducting its first nationwide census since 1987, under Saddam Hussein's regime, with a significant operation involving 120,000 researchers. This extensive demographic survey, scheduled over two days, will collect data from households across all 18 governorates of the country. To facilitate the process, the Ministry of Interior has imposed a two-day curfew.

Japan and Wales to Partner with Nagaland for Hornbill Festival 2024

Japan has been announced as the official partner country for the 25th edition of Nagaland's renowned Hornbill Festival, alongside Wales, which was confirmed earlier. This strategic partnership, forged through meetings between Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Japanese Embassy

representatives, including Takashi Ariyoshi and Mayumi Tsubakimoto, marks a significant moment in the state's cultural calendar.

Kenya Cancels Airport and Energy Deals with Indian Tycoon Gautam Adani Amid U.S. Bribery Charges

Kenyan President William Ruto announced on November 21, 2024, the cancellation of multimillion-dollar deals with Indian business tycoon Gautam Adani, citing concerns over bribery and fraud allegations. The decision follows U.S. indictments against Adani, one of Asia's richest men, accusing him of securities fraud and a bribery scheme linked to a solar energy project in India.

This announcement comes amid mounting criticism and protests in Kenya, where Adani's deals were seen as controversial and potentially harmful to workers' rights and job security.

UK and India to Relaunch FTA Talks in Early 2025

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with India, set to restart in early 2025. This decision follows a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where both leaders emphasized strengthening their strategic partnership, which covers key sectors such as security, defense, technology, climate, health, and education. The bilateral trade between the two countries stands at GBP 42 billion annually.

Bali Celebrates Hindu Festival of Gratitude

Bali is home to a rich cultural heritage that blends Hindu philosophy, local animist traditions, and Buddhist influences. One of the most important cultural events in Bali is the Ngusaba Goreng, a two-week-long Thanksgiving festival celebrating a rich harvest. Central to the festival are sacred dances like Rejang Dewa and Rejang Pucuk, which are performed by girls who have not yet reached puberty. These rituals embody the deep spiritual connection between the Balinese people, their heritage, and the divine.

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Mali's Junta Replaces Prime Minister Choguel Maiga with Abdoulaye Maiga

The political landscape of Mali witnessed another significant shift on November 21, 2024, as the ruling military junta announced the dismissal of Prime Minister Choguel Maiga. Replacing him is the junta's spokesperson, Abdoulaye Maiga, according to an announcement on state television ORTM. This decision comes amid growing criticism of the junta's handling of the promised transition to democracy and signs of rising tensions within the country's political circles.

Operation Tamarisk The Cold War's Secret Garbage War

Operation Tamarisk was a covert intelligence operation that took place during the Cold War, a period marked by fierce rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. In a bid to gain any advantage, intelligence agents resorted to unconventional means to gather information. One of the most unusual and gritty operations was the collection and analysis of discarded waste left behind by Soviet troops in East Germany.

Yamandu Orsi: Uruguay's New Modern Left Leader

Yamandu Orsi, a 57-year-old former history teacher and mayor of Canelones, has emerged as Uruguay's president-elect, marking a return to center-left governance under the Broad Front coalition. Garnering 49.8% of votes in the November 2024 runoff, Orsi defeated Alvaro Delgado of the conservative National Party, who secured 45.9%. His victory reflects a shift in Uruguay's political landscape after five years of conservative rule, promising change while maintaining the country's moderate ethos.

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India and Bosnia And Herzegovina Strengthen Ties at 4th Foreign Office Consultations

India and Bosnia & Herzegovina held the 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Sarajevo, led by Arun Kumar Sahu, Additional Secretary (Central Europe) from India, and Tarik Bukvic, Head of the Department for Asia and Africa from Bosnia. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral political ties, trade and investment, scientific collaboration, cultural relations, and enhancing people-to-people connections through student and youth exchanges.

Australia Bars Under-16s from Social Media

Australia has enacted a world-first legislation to ban children under 16 from social media platforms, such as TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, as part of its effort to protect minors from online harm. The law imposes hefty fines of up to AUD 50 million for non-compliance, with social media companies given a year to implement the changes. While proponents laud the move as essential for child safety, critics argue the legislation is rushed, may pose privacy risks, and could unintentionally harm vulnerable youth.

Jaishankar Opens Indian Embassy's New Chancery in Italy

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated the new Chancery of the Indian Embassy in Rome, emphasizing the deep historical ties between India and Italy. He highlighted the maritime connections and the shared commitments to global issues such as freedom of navigation and maritime security. The inauguration reflects the expanding partnership between the two nations and aims to strengthen services for the Indian diaspora.

India-Sri Lanka Joint Operation Seizes 500 kg Crystal Meth

The Indian and Sri Lankan Navies successfully conducted a joint anti-narcotics operation in the Arabian Sea, intercepting two Sri Lankan-flagged fishing vessels and seizing approximately 500 kg of crystal methamphetamine on November 24-25, 2024. The operation was launched based on inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy, showcasing the growing synergy between the two nations in combating transnational crimes.

State News**Karnataka Embraces Bali Padyami Festival**

Karnataka is celebrating the Bali Padyami festival (Bali Pratipada) on marking the fourth day of Deepavali. This festival commemorates the return of the Asura king, Bali Chakravarty, from Pathala Loka to Bhuloka, a journey made possible by the boon granted to him by Lord Vishnu during his Vamana Avatar.

Uttar Pradesh Boosts Veterinary Services with New Policy

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced a new policy to enhance veterinary services by introducing diploma and certificate courses in animal husbandry and para-veterinary medicine. This decision, taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aims to address the shortage of veterinarians in the state, where only 8,193 are available compared to the national total of about 34,500. By training more para-veterinarians, the government seeks to empower rural communities with essential animal health services, addressing the challenges posed by the current lack of resources and adequate training.

MP Cabinet Approves 35% Job Reservation for Women in State Services

Madhya Pradesh cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, approved a 35 percent reservation for women in all state government recruitments. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya in Bhopal.

Supreme Court Targets Child Marriage Elimination in Rajasthan by 2030

The Supreme Court's recent guidelines to eliminate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030 have provided a significant boost to civil society organizations working to combat this issue. With a focus on holding local panchayats, school authorities, and child protection officers accountable, these guidelines aim to address the widespread practice of child marriages in the state.

Ningol Chakkouba Festival Celebrated with Joy Across Manipur

Ningol Chakkouba, one of the most significant festivals of the Meitei community in Manipur, was celebrated across the state with immense religious fervor and joy. Traditionally held on the second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei in the Meitei calendar, the festival symbolizes family bonds and togetherness.

Telangana Launches Statewide Caste Census

On November 6, 2024, Telangana's Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharani officially launched a statewide door-to-door survey at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) office in Hyderabad. Conducted by the State Planning Department, the survey aims to gather comprehensive data on the social, economic, political, caste, and educational status of all households across Telangana.

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Form Joint Panel for Cheetah Project

In response to recent incidents of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighboring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee has been established between the two states. The committee's primary focus will be on the conservation of these felines, ensuring the development of suitable habitats, and facilitating the future relocation of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

Bihar's Sultanganj Station Gets New Name Ajgaibinath Dham

Sultanganj railway station in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is set to be renamed in honor of the revered Hindu shrine, Ajgaibinath Dham. The announcement was made by Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader, Samrat Choudhary. He revealed that the proposal to rename the station has been approved by the municipal council of Bhagalpur.

Igas Bagwal: Celebrating Uttarakhand's Vibrant Folk Heritage

Uttarakhand, a state rich in culture and tradition, observes a unique festival known as Igas Bagwal. This festival, also called Budhi Diwali or Harbodhni Ekadashi, is celebrated in the mountainous regions with reverence and joy, precisely 11 days after Diwali. Rooted in local customs, Igas Bagwal represents the essence of Uttarakhand's folk heritage, uniting communities through shared festivities and traditional practices. This article delves into the significance, customs, and cultural essence of Igas Bagwal, offering insight into one of the most treasured festivals in Uttarakhand. This year this festival starts from 12 November.

Which States Launched Double-Decker Electric Buses?

As cities work to reduce pollution and ease traffic, using electric vehicles like buses is becoming more important. Several Indian states are now leading the way by starting double-decker electric bus services, a big step towards eco-friendly public transportation. These buses not only reduce pollution but also carry more passengers, helping make public transport both efficient and sustainable. The launch of double-decker electric buses by states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka sets an inspiring example for other regions. By investing in electric public transport, these states are not only leading in innovation but are also making strides towards a cleaner and greener India. The success of these programs may soon inspire other cities to follow suit, moving India closer to a sustainable urban transport ecosystem.

Delhi's New Mayor AAP's Mahesh Kumar Khichi

Mahesh Kumar Khichi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, emerged victorious in the Delhi mayoral polls. Khichi secured 133 votes, defeating BJP's Kishan Lal, the councilor from Shakurpur ward, by a narrow margin of three votes. This marks the conclusion of the long-delayed election for the Delhi mayor's office.

University of Wollongong Opens India Campus at Gujarat's GIFT City

In a significant move to expand its global presence, Australia's University of Wollongong (UOW) has officially inaugurated its India campus at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar. The new campus, offering Master's degrees in Financial Technology and a Graduate Certificate in Financial Technology, marks a strategic entry into the Indian educational landscape, aligning with India's rapidly growing fintech sector. This development comes on the heels of Deakin University's opening of its own campus in GIFT City earlier in July 2024.

Odisha's 24 Coastal Villages Recognised as 'Tsunami Ready' by UNESCO

In a major achievement for Odisha, 24 coastal villages from six districts have been officially recognised as 'Tsunami Ready' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. This recognition was granted during the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium in Indonesia on November 11, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the state's efforts to improve disaster preparedness and community resilience in tsunami-prone areas.

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve: India's 56th Tiger Reserve

The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, has successfully raised \$500 million through five-year bonds from international investors. This marks yet another significant milestone for the state-owned banking giant, reflecting its strong global investor confidence and robust credit standing. The issuance was conducted through SBI's London branch and witnessed overwhelming interest, with bids amounting to \$3 billion, showcasing robust global appetite for Indian debt securities.

Karnataka to Set Up 3 Global Innovation Districts to Boost GCC Growth

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the establishment of three Global Innovation Districts (GIDs) in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi to attract and support Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in the state. The announcement was made at the 27th Bengaluru Tech Summit, where the CM also highlighted the launch of India's first dedicated GCC policy, aiming to empower innovation.

These innovation districts will be key pillars in Karnataka's strategy to foster research, development, and emerging industries, alongside strengthening its position as a global tech hub.

Justice D. Krishnakumar Takes Office as Chief Justice of Manipur HC

On November 20, 2024, the Central Government, via the Ministry of Law and Justice, notified the appointment of Justice D. Krishnakumar from the Madras High Court as the new Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur. This decision follows the superannuation of Justice Siddharth Mridul, the current Chief Justice of Manipur HC. The appointment was made following recommendations by the Supreme Court Collegium, which emphasized Justice Krishnakumar's legal acumen and integrity.

Telangana Pushes for EV Adoption with New Policy

In an effort to promote environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and reduce air pollution, the Telangana government unveiled its new Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy on November 17, 2024. Released by state transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar, the policy aims to curb pollution in Hyderabad and surrounding areas, ensuring the city avoids severe air quality issues similar to those faced by New Delhi. The policy includes several incentives and measures to encourage EV adoption across the state.

Tamil Nadu's AI Mission: Centre of Excellence to Boost Startups and Academia

At The Hindu AI Summit 2024, Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Information Technology and Digital Services, announced Tamil Nadu's initiative to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) with an AI lab. This move is aimed at fostering research, development, and supporting startups and academic institutions. The state is also integrating AI into governance, enhancing services in healthcare, agriculture, and public sector monitoring. This strategic shift reflects the state's commitment to leveraging AI's potential for both societal benefit and innovation.

Bihar to Host Khelo India Youth Games and Para Games in 2025

In a landmark development, Bihar will host the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) in April 2025, showcasing the state's growing capabilities in hosting major sporting events. This follows the successful organization of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, further cementing Bihar's reputation in the sports arena. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who emphasized the importance of sports in achieving the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Karimganj District Gets New Name Sribhumi, Says CM Sarma

On November 21, 2024, the Assam government officially renamed the Karimganj district to Sribhumi, along with its headquarters town, Karimganj, which will now be called Sribhumi town. This move, authorized by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, aims to honor the cultural heritage and historical significance of the region. The name change reflects the longstanding demand from the local people and connects the district to its spiritual roots, as described by Rabindranath Tagore over 100 years ago.

Cyclone Fengal: Heavy Rains Predicted for Tamil Nadu

A potential cyclone named 'Fengal,' suggested by Saudi Arabia, is forming in the Bay of Bengal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The system, originating as a cyclonic circulation on November 21 near the South Andaman Sea, is likely to evolve into a Low Pressure Area (LPA) by November 23 and intensify into a depression by November 24. This comes on the heels of Cyclone Dana, which severely impacted Odisha in October 2024.

Amara Raja Infra Sets Up India's First Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station in Leh

Amara Raja Infra, part of the \$2 billion Amara Raja Group, has completed the setup of India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh, for NTPC Ltd. This innovative project will enable emission-free transport in the region, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to embrace green mobility.

The station, designed to produce 80 kg of green hydrogen daily, supports NTPC's green mobility initiatives under the National Hydrogen Energy Mission. Inaugurated by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, it will also aid in the operation of five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region. The project is poised to play a key role in the development of hydrogen infrastructure across India.

Cybercrime Surge in Top States: Govt's 13-Pronged Strategy

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has revealed that Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra have emerged as the top states registering the highest number of cybercrime cases in the last three years, with Telangana leading the pack. The Central Government has implemented a 13-pronged strategy to curb cybercrimes, aiming to strengthen the detection, investigation, and prosecution of these crimes. Between 2020 and 2022, Telangana recorded 30,596 cybercrime cases, Karnataka registered 31,433, and Maharashtra saw 19,307 incidents.

Cyclone Fengal to Cross TN-Puducherry Coast: IMD and ISRO on High Alert

The deep depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal, likely to intensify into Cyclone Fengal, is set to make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram on November 30, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. ISRO and IMD are actively monitoring the system, with ISRO satellites EOS-06 and INSAT-3DR providing real-time updates. IMD issued an orange alert for Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, and Cuddalore, and a yellow alert for Chennai, Tiruvallur, and other districts. Heavy rains in the Cauvery delta region have already caused significant crop damage.

France to Feature Prominently at 30th Kolkata International Film Festival

The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) is set to showcase a diverse range of films from 41 countries, with a special emphasis on French cinema. Scheduled from December 4 to 11, 2024, the festival will feature 175 films, including contemporary works by French women filmmakers, classic French films, and a variety of international and Indian cinema. This year's festival promises a rich mix of screenings, interactive sessions, and seminars, including appearances from prominent figures like Vidya Balan and R Balki.

ICG Hosts 11th SAREX-2024 Off Kochi Coast

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 11th edition of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2024) off the Kochi coast, showcasing India's maritime safety capabilities. Inaugurated by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, the two-day event featured sea drills, workshops, and discussions aimed at enhancing regional search-and-rescue collaboration. The exercise aligns with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, highlighting its role as a proactive maritime partner. It brought together key Indian agencies and 38 international observers, signaling India's.

Gujarat's Gharchola Handicraft Gets GI Recognition

Gujarat's iconic handicraft, 'Gharchola,' has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Union government, taking the state's total GI tags to 27, with 23 dedicated to handicrafts. This recognition highlights the rich cultural heritage and exquisite craftsmanship of Gujarat's artisans. Presented during the "GI and Beyond - Virasat Se Vikas Tak" program in New Delhi, the accolade underscores the state's commitment to preserving and promoting its artistic traditions.

Economy News

Canara Bank Aims for ₹6,000 Crore Recovery in H2 FY25

State-owned Canara Bank is setting a significant target for loan recovery, aiming to recoup approximately ₹6,000 crore from bad loans in the second half of the current fiscal year (H2 FY25). This strategic goal reflects the bank's ongoing efforts to improve asset quality while building on its recent financial performance.

Cabinet Approves ₹10,700 Crore Equity Infusion for FCI

In a significant financial boost, the Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of ₹10,700 crore for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on Wednesday. This move is expected to reduce FCI's dependency on high-interest debt for funding its large-scale food distribution efforts. It aligns with the government's ongoing strategy to enhance food security and minimize subsidy burdens.

Govt Reconstitutes CAC to Strengthen Apprenticeship Training and Drive Industry Reforms

In a move to enhance apprenticeship programs across India, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has restructured the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC), tasked with reforming existing rules and promoting industry adoption of on-the-job training. This reconstituted council, with a three-year mandate, is designed to bolster apprenticeship opportunities and encourage workforce development.

Supreme Court Overturns 1967 Ruling on AMU's Minority Status

In a historic 4-3 decision on November 8, 2024, the Supreme Court overturned its 1967 ruling in the Azeez Basha case, which had denied Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) minority institution status. This landmark judgment paves the way for AMU's minority status to be reassessed based on its historical, administrative, and founding context, under the protective framework of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. While AMU's status remains undecided, the verdict has crucial implications for how educational institutions are recognized under constitutional provisions.

5th National EMRS Fest Celebrates Tribal Heritage & Birsa Munda's Legacy

The 5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav, organized by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), is taking place from 12th to 15th November 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, at Shiksha 'O' Anusandhan.

This event, hosted by the Odisha Model Tribal Educational Society (OMTES), marks a significant moment in honoring the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. With the theme "A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters," this event underscores the deep connection between India's tribal communities, their culture, and their history.

55th International Film Festival of India: A Celebration of Global Cinema in Goa

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to begin its 55th edition in Panaji, Goa. This annual event, which has become synonymous with cinematic excellence, is once again transforming Goa into a lively hub of global culture, talent, and cinema. For film enthusiasts, industry leaders, and aspiring filmmakers, IFFI offers a platform not only to showcase their films but also to experience a unique blend of artistic celebration and cultural exchange.

Amit Shah Greenlights Rs. 725.62 Crore for Fire Services Expansion

In a major step towards enhancing disaster resilience, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved three significant projects worth Rs. 725.62 crore under the "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States." These projects, aimed at bolstering fire safety infrastructure, will benefit Chhattisgarh (Rs. 147.76 crore), Odisha (Rs. 201.10 crore), and West Bengal (Rs. 376.76 crore). This approval comes as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen disaster management and response systems in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a disaster-resilient India.

Deposit Growth Matches Credit Amid Lending Slowdown

In the fortnight ending November 1, 2024, deposit growth nearly matched credit growth, with credit increasing by 11.9% and deposits growing by 11.83% year-on-year (Y-o-Y), according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This alignment comes after a period where credit growth consistently outpaced deposit growth since March 2022, driven by a significant widening gap that reached as high as 700 basis points. The shift reflects the impact of RBI's regulatory measures and the moderation of credit growth, especially in sectors like unsecured loans and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

Fastest Growing G20 Economy India's 7% GDP Growth Tops G20 Chart

India has emerged as the fastest-growing economy among G20 countries, with a projected GDP growth rate of 7% for 2024. This remarkable achievement highlights India's economic resilience and potential amidst global challenges.

The rankings, released during the ongoing G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, underscore the disparity in growth rates among G20 nations and set the stage for discussions on sustainable development, global governance reforms, and strategies to combat poverty, hunger, and inequality.

India's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.4% in Q2

In the July-September 2024 quarter, India's urban unemployment rate decreased to 6.4%, marking the lowest level observed in recent years. The rate has dropped from 6.6% in the previous quarter and remains consistent with the rate recorded in the same period last year. This improvement reflects positive trends in employment, particularly in urban areas, indicating progress in job creation and labor force participation.

Morgan Stanley Cuts India's FY25 Growth Forecast to 6.7%

Morgan Stanley has revised India's FY25 growth forecast from 7% to 6.7% due to weaker-than-expected economic data from Q2, with the economy now projected to grow at a slower 6.3%. Despite this downgrade, the firm remains optimistic about a recovery in the latter half of FY25, anticipating growth to rebound to around 6.7-6.8%, driven by agricultural output and government spending.

Zomato to Replace JSW Steel on BSE Sensex from December 23

On November 22, 2024, the Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), announced the latest reconstitution of the benchmark BSE Sensex index. As part of this rejig, Zomato, the online food delivery giant, will replace JSW Steel in the 30-stock index. This reshuffling will take effect from December 23, 2024 and includes changes in other indices such as the BSE 100, BSE Sensex 50, and BSE Sensex Next 50.



India's Forex Reserves See Sharpest Weekly Fall in Record, Hit 4-Month Low

India's foreign exchange reserves suffered their largest weekly drop on record, falling by \$17.76 billion to a four-month low of \$657.8 billion for the week ending November 15, 2024. This marks the sharpest decline since records began in 1998, surpassing the previous high of \$15.5 billion during the global financial crisis of October 2008. The primary causes for the fall include the strengthening of the US dollar, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention to protect the rupee, and declining gold prices.

S&P Global Revises India's GDP and Inflation Projections

S&P Global Ratings maintained India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 at 6.8% while revising FY26 down to 6.7% from the earlier estimate of 6.9%. The agency also raised its inflation projection for FY25 to 4.6%, reflecting persistent food inflation and supply shocks in agriculture caused by climate factors like changing rainfall patterns and heatwaves. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), mandated to keep inflation at $4\% \pm 2\%$, is expected to cut policy rates only once this fiscal year, with the repo rate held steady at 6.5% since February 2023.

GST Collection on Health and Life Insurance

The Union Government collected ₹16,398 crore as GST from health and life insurance services in FY24, reflecting a significant 680% increase from ₹2,101 crore in FY20. However, this marked a slight drop compared to ₹16,770 crore in FY23. Life insurance contributed ₹8,135 crore, while health insurance added ₹8,263 crore in FY24. Additionally, ₹2,045 crore was raised from reinsurance services, with ₹561 crore from life reinsurance and ₹1,484 crore from health reinsurance. Specific schemes like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Jan Arogya Bima Policy remain exempt from GST.

India Secures \$98 Million ADB Loan to Enhance Horticulture Health

India has secured a \$98 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance horticulture productivity by promoting plant health management. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP) and aims to increase crop yields, improve quality, and build resilience against climate change.

Rankings & Reports News

Global AI Preparedness India's Position Among Leading Nations

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the global economy, reshaping labor markets, industries, and societal dynamics. This transformation brings vast opportunities along with complex challenges. According to a forecast by Grand View Research, the global AI market is expected to grow at a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 36.6% from 2024 to 2030, highlighting AI's expanding role in various sectors.

Significant Rise Himalayan Glacial Lakes Increase 10.81% from 2011 to 2024

A recent government report indicates that glacial lakes and water bodies in the Himalayan region have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024, primarily driven by climate change. This expansion raises concerns about the heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The report, accessed by PTI from the Central Water Commission (CWC), highlights that lakes in India have seen an even more significant growth, with a surface area increase of 33.7%.

QS Asia Rankings 2025: India's Top 10 Universities and Their Growing Impact

The QS Asia Rankings 2025 recently unveiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) reflect India's significant academic progress on a global scale. With 161 Indian universities included among the 984 ranked institutions across Asia, and six institutions making it to the top 100, this ranking affirms India's expanding influence in the academic landscape of Asia. In 2025, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) leads among Indian institutions, achieving 44th place overall in Asia. Not far behind, IIT Bombay ranks at 48th, followed by IIT Madras at 56th. These institutes, along with others in the top 100, embody India's commitment to academic excellence, research, and global reputation.

Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024, Check Top 10 Philanthropists

The EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 reveals an inspiring rise in philanthropic contributions across India. With over 200 philanthropists donating nearly ₹8,783 crore, this year's report reflects an increasing dedication among the nation's wealthiest individuals to drive social change. At the top of the list is Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL Technologies, who continues to be India's most generous philanthropist. For the third time in five years, Nadar has led in donations, contributing ₹2,153 crore in FY 2024—translating to an average of ₹5.9 crore per day.

ISA Launches World Solar Report Series

The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, spotlighting key areas in the global transition to sustainable energy. This year's release includes four reports: the World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.

India's Historic Rise: Ranked 6th Globally in WIPO Patent Filings 2023

India has made remarkable progress in intellectual property (IP) filings, securing 6th place globally for the first time in 2023, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Global Patent Filing Report. This achievement reflects a robust growth of 15.7% in patent filings, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth in India. With more than 64,480 patents filed in 2023, India's contributions are now among the top 10 nations globally across major IP rights, including patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.

London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again

London has topped the list of the world's top 100 "city brands" for the second consecutive year, according to Brand Finance's Global City Index. The ranking, released on Thursday, was based on a survey of 15,000 people across 20 countries, including Türkiye, the US, Germany, Australia, the UAE, Brazil, China, and others.

India Drops Two Spots in Global Climate Index

India has maintained its position as one of the top 10 performers in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2025, despite slipping two spots compared to last year. The report highlights India's commendable efforts in reducing per-capita emissions and its accelerated adoption of renewable energy. Published by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International, the CCPI assesses 63 countries and the European Union, which collectively contribute to 90% of global emissions.

World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi

The Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Minister of Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, launched the World Bank's report titled Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States in New Delhi on November 22, 2024. The report focuses on bridging skill gaps in young people and aligning school curricula with industry needs.

Business News

NTPC and ONGC Drive India's Green Energy Future with New Joint Venture

NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), two Maharatna public sector giants, have officially launched a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their green energy subsidiaries – NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL). This collaboration, formalized after receiving approvals from DIPAM and NITI Aayog, marks a significant step in accelerating India's renewable and new energy goals. The companies have now applied to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to establish the JVC, following the signing of their joint agreement during India Energy Week in February 2024.

BEML Recognized with 'Self-Certification' Honor

BEML Limited has been awarded the prestigious "Self-Certification" status for its defense equipment by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) of the Government of India. The certification was presented by RA Govardhana, ADGQA (V&EE), HQ DQAV, to Shantanu Roy, the Chairman and Managing Director of BEML Ltd., during a special event held at the company's headquarters.

Royal Enfield Launches EV Brand "Flying Flea"

Royal Enfield has recently unveiled its highly anticipated electric vehicle (EV) brand, "Flying Flea", an homage to one of the brand's most iconic models. The original Flying Flea was a compact, lightweight motorcycle designed in the 1940s for military use during World War II. Engineered to be air-dropped behind enemy lines, the bike was valued for its nimble handling and ability to navigate rugged terrains. Its unique design and military legacy eventually paved the way for a civilian model that remains popular among enthusiasts today.

IFC Invests \$400 Million in Bajaj Finance for Climate and Women Empowerment

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has announced a strategic partnership with Bajaj Finance Ltd. (BFL), committing \$400 million as part of a \$1 billion fundraising initiative to enhance access to climate finance in India. This investment is aimed at expanding financing for electric vehicles (EVs), energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG), and women-owned micro-enterprises, aligning with India's climate goals and promoting financial inclusion.

Tata Power Invests Rs 550 Crore in Renewable Energy for Noida International Airport

Tata Power has partnered with Noida International Airport (NIA) to supply renewable energy, investing Rs 550 crore in

solar and wind power capacity development. This strategic move is part of Tata Power's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure in India's aviation sector. The collaboration will see the development of a 13 MW solar power facility and 10.8 MW of wind energy, powering NIA's operations and contributing to the airport's long-term sustainability goals.

ADB Approves \$200 Million Loan for Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to enhance the urban infrastructure and climate resilience of Uttarakhand under the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project. This initiative aligns with both the Government of India's urban development agenda and the state's efforts to provide sustainable and livable urban spaces. The project will upgrade essential urban services, including water supply, sanitation, drainage, flood management, and urban mobility, in five cities of Uttarakhand—Haldwani, Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar.

\$8.5B Disney-Reliance Merger Completed for Indian Assets

Reliance Industries and Walt Disney have finalized an \$8.5 billion merger of their Indian media assets, concluded on 14th November. The merged assets have been reorganized into three distinct divisions, each led by its own CEO, marking a new era for the two media giants in India.

Moody's Optimistic About India's Economic Growth Despite Volatility

Moody's Ratings has projected steady growth for India, maintaining its forecast of 7.2% GDP growth for 2024, despite some signs of slowdown in urban demand and mixed corporate results in Q2. The global rating agency highlighted positive economic indicators, including strong household consumption, increased rural demand, robust investment, and manufacturing activity. These factors, combined with government infrastructure spending and rising capacity utilization, support the outlook for the country's economy.

Galaxy Health Insurance Launches 'Galaxy Promise' to Tackle Rising Healthcare Costs

Galaxy Health Insurance has launched its first product, 'Galaxy Promise', offering comprehensive family health coverage with flexible sum insured options ranging from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 1 crore. This product is aimed at providing affordable healthcare solutions amidst rising medical costs, with various plans catering to different customer needs.

Tata Acquires Majority Stake in Pegatron's iPhone Plant in Tamil Nadu

Tata Electronics has secured a deal to acquire a 60% stake in Pegatron's only iPhone plant in India, located in Tamil Nadu. This partnership strengthens Tata's position as a major Apple supplier and marks a significant shift in the geopolitical supply chain dynamics, with India becoming a key hub for iPhone manufacturing. The joint venture will involve Tata handling day-to-day operations, while Pegatron provides technical support. The plant, which employs around 10,000 people, currently produces 5 million iPhones annually. This acquisition places Tata at the forefront of Apple's efforts to diversify its manufacturing away from China.

Meta Fined ₹213.14 Crore Over WhatsApp Privacy Policy: Challenges Loom

Meta has announced its intention to appeal a ₹213.14 crore fine imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) regarding its 2021 WhatsApp privacy policy update. CCI accuses the company of anti-competitive practices, including forcing users to accept new data-sharing terms, which Meta denies. The ruling could have significant implications for digital platforms balancing user privacy, competition, and business growth in India.

Alphabet Gets CCI Nod to Invest in Flipkart

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has granted approval to Alphabet Inc.'s subsidiary, Shoreline International Holdings LLC, to acquire a stake in Walmart-owned Flipkart Pvt Ltd. This follows Flipkart's May 2024 funding round, where Alphabet's Google invested \$350 million out of a total \$1 billion raised. Walmart, which holds an 85% stake in Flipkart, contributed \$600 million. Separately, CCI has also approved MUFG Bank Ltd.'s acquisition of an additional stake in Delhi-based digital lender DMI Finance, raising MUFG's shareholding to 20%.

Piyush Goyal Launches Ease of Doing Business Portal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the (Confederation of Indian Industry) CII Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Regulatory Affairs Portal at the 2nd DPIIT-CII National Conference on Ease of Doing Business in New Delhi. The portal aims to provide real-time updates on government and CII initiatives to enhance business efficiency, ensure transparency, and foster accountability. It features a dedicated member dashboard for tracking suggestions and progress, reflecting a commitment to transforming India's business ecosystem.

Agreement News

CDS Gen Chauhan Signs Key Defense Pact with Algeria

India and Algeria have formalized their commitment to strengthening bilateral defense ties with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation. The agreement was signed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Said Chanegriha, the Chief of Staff of the Algerian People's National Army. This significant development occurred during Gen. Chauhan's official visit to Algeria from October 31 to November 3.

Cairn Joins UNEP's OGMP 2.0 as India's First Oil & Gas Pioneer

Cairn Oil & Gas, a part of Vedanta Group, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the United Nations Environment Programme's Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0. By signing this agreement, Cairn committed to reducing methane emissions effectively, marking a significant step towards environmental sustainability in the oil and gas sector.

IREL and Kazakhstan's UKTMP Collaborate for Titanium Slag JV in Odisha

In a significant Indo-Kazakh collaboration, IREL (India) Limited, a CPSU under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC (UKTMP JSC) have inked a joint venture agreement to establish IREUK Titanium Limited, aimed at producing titanium slag in Odisha, India.

\$200 Million Deal Signed to Enhance Uttarakhand's Green Mobility and Urban Infrastructure

The Indian government has signed a \$200 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance urban infrastructure and improve essential services in Uttarakhand. The initiative aims to modernize water supply systems, sanitation, urban mobility, and other key public amenities, thereby fostering sustainable development in the state.

India, BIMSTEC Sign Deal for Energy Hub in Bengaluru

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced the signing of an agreement to establish the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka. MEA Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumder and BIMSTEC Secretary General Indramani Pandey formalized the agreement, aiming to foster greater energy cooperation among BIMSTEC member states.

Russia's Pantsir System A Strategic Addition to India's Defence Arsenal

India and Russia have reached a significant agreement to jointly manufacture the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system, marking a major step in supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defence sector. The agreement was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India's Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Russia's Rosoboronexport (ROE).

Tata Power and Druk Green Power Collaborate on 5,000 MW Green Energy Project in Bhutan

Tata Power has entered into a strategic partnership with Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC) to develop at least 5,000 MW of clean energy generation capacity in Bhutan. This collaboration aims to harness Bhutan's vast hydropower potential and contribute to the region's energy security and sustainability. The initiative aligns with Bhutan's vision to diversify its energy portfolio and improve regional energy integration.

Tata Power Signs Historic \$4.25B Agreement with ADB

Tata Power, a leading integrated power company in India, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$4.25 billion to finance various clean energy projects. This collaboration aims to promote renewable energy sources, improve India's power infrastructure, and contribute to achieving the country's ambitious renewable energy goals. The partnership includes financing for large-scale solar-wind hybrid projects, pumped hydro storage systems, and enhancing power distribution networks.

ISRO and ASA Join Hands for Gaganyaan Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into a significant collaboration with the Australian Space Agency (ASA) to support India's first crewed spaceflight program, Gaganyaan. On November 20, 2024, the two space agencies signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) to enhance cooperation on crew and crew module recovery, which is crucial for the success of the Gaganyaan mission. This agreement will provide India with the necessary assistance to ensure the safe recovery of astronauts in the event of a contingency during the mission.

India Joins Riyadh Design Law Treaty

India has signed the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT), a landmark agreement adopted by member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This treaty aims to harmonize industrial design registration procedures globally, making processes simpler, more efficient, and accessible for applicants. After nearly two decades of negotiations, the treaty introduces innovative measures to

promote equitable access to intellectual property (IP) protection and encourage growth in industrial design sectors.

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi Appointed Chief of BrahMos Aerospace

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been named the new Chief of BrahMos Aerospace, the organization behind the globally renowned BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. With a stellar career of over three decades, Dr. Joshi has made groundbreaking contributions to missile technology, non-destructive testing (NDT), and the professional development of industry experts. His appointment signifies a continued focus on innovation and excellence in India's defense sector.

Electric Propulsion Pact Signed by India, UK

India and the United Kingdom have finalized a framework agreement to co-design and co-produce electric propulsion systems for future warships, advancing their strategic defense collaboration. Signed in Portsmouth during the third joint working group meeting on electric propulsion capability partnership, this initiative underscores the commitment to indigenous development of advanced naval technologies.

Appointment News**Itaru Otani Appointed as Chairman of India Yamaha Motor**

India Yamaha Motor has appointed Itaru Otani as its new Chairman, a significant move aimed at enhancing the company's presence in India's dynamic two-wheeler market. With over 30 years of experience at Yamaha Motor Company, Otani brings a wealth of expertise from leadership positions in diverse global markets, including Australia, Brazil, and Japan. His appointment signals a strategic shift to align Yamaha's offerings with the evolving preferences of Indian consumers, focusing on innovative and stylish products that cater to local demands.

Wriddhiman Saha Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha has officially announced his retirement from all formats of cricket, marking the end of an illustrious career that spanned nearly two decades. Saha shared the news via a social media post on Sunday (November), revealing that the ongoing Ranji Trophy season would be his last. Known for his exceptional wicketkeeping skills and steady presence with the bat, Saha has been a prominent figure in Indian cricket, especially in the Test arena.

FSIB Recommends Rahul Bhawe as New MD & CEO of IFCI

In a significant development for the financial sector, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Rahul Bhawe, currently the Deputy Managing Director of IFCI Ltd, for the position of Managing Director (MD) and CEO. This recommendation comes after FSIB evaluated four candidates, taking into account their performance, overall experience, and established criteria.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India

On November 11, 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, whose tenure ended on November 10, 2024. Justice Khanna's appointment follows the recommendation of Justice Chandrachud and is officially notified by the Centre on October 24. He will serve a six-month term until May 13, 2025, bringing a legacy of landmark judgments into his new role.

Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand

Sonu Sood, the celebrated actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist, has taken on an exciting new role as the Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand. Widely recognized for his philanthropy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, this appointment adds another feather to his cap, expanding his global reach and impact. This collaboration between Sonu Sood and Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports marks an important step in promoting Thailand as a tourism destination in India.

NEHHDC Announces Mara Kocho as Incoming Managing Director

Mara Kocho has been recommended as the next Managing Director (MD) of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). His appointment was approved by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on 11th November, 2024.

Indian Oil Welcomes Arvindar Singh Sahney as New Chairman

Arvindar Singh Sahney has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, as per an order from the petroleum ministry on 13th November. Sahney, 54, currently serves as the Executive Director of Business Development in the Petrochemicals division at IOC.

Professional Golf Tour of India Welcomes Amandeep Johl as CEO

The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announced that Amandeep Johl will take over as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) starting January 2025. A well-respected figure in Indian golf, Johl brings a wealth of experience to his leadership role.

Harbhajan And Sania Mirza Named Dubai Sports Council Ambassadors

The Dubai Sports Council has appointed four global sports icons as its Sports Ambassadors, including former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh and renowned tennis player Sania Mirza. This initiative aims to enhance Dubai's reputation as a global sports destination and strengthen its sports ecosystem by attracting prestigious international events, nurturing local talent, and promoting sports tourism.

Valdecy Urquiza Elected New Secretary General of Interpol

Brazilian Federal Police Commissioner Valdecy Urquiza has been elected as the new Secretary General of Interpol at the organization's 92nd General Assembly, held in Glasgow, Scotland, from November 4 to 7, 2024. Urquiza will take over the role from the outgoing Secretary General, Jurgen Stock, on November 7, 2024, marking a significant leadership transition in the world's largest police organization.

Government Appoints K Sanjay Murthy as Next CAG

The government has announced the appointment of K Sanjay Murthy as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. A 1989-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, Murthy will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu. Currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Murthy is set to take over one of India's most significant constitutional roles, responsible for ensuring financial accountability and transparency in public expenditure.



Mithali Raj Appointed Mentor for ACA Women's Cricket Operations

Mithali Raj, the former captain of India's women's cricket team, has been appointed as the mentor for Women's Cricket Operations by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA). In her new role, she will focus on scouting and nurturing young cricket talent across the state, contributing significantly to the development of women's cricket in Andhra Pradesh.

Pankaj Tripathi Appointed Festival Ambassador for Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024

In a remarkable recognition of his contribution to Indian cinema and the performing arts, acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi has been appointed as the festival ambassador for the Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024, a prestigious international theatre festival. This marks a significant moment for both the actor and the festival, as Pankaj Tripathi's appointment underscores the growing cultural recognition of Arunachal Pradesh and its thriving arts scene.

G. Balasubramanian Appointed as High Commissioner to Maldives

Balasubramanian, a distinguished Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1998 batch, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives. With extensive diplomatic experience spanning key global postings, his appointment underscores India's strategic emphasis on strengthening its ties with the Maldives, a crucial partner in the Indian Ocean Region.

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi Appointed Chief of BrahMos Aerospace

Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been named the new Chief of BrahMos Aerospace, the organization behind the globally renowned BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. With a stellar career of over three decades, Dr. Joshi has made groundbreaking contributions to missile technology, non-destructive testing (NDT), and the professional development of industry experts. His appointment signifies a continued focus on innovation and excellence in India's defense sector.

Banking News**SEBI Proposes Reforms to Enhance Flexibility and Protection for REITs and InvITs**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a range of proposed changes for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts

(InvITs), and Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs) aimed at enhancing market flexibility and investor protection. This aligns with SEBI's ongoing efforts to strengthen governance, reduce financial risk, and improve operational efficiency in these investment structures.

SEBI's New Securitisation Rules: Key Investor Safeguards

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed significant changes to the securitisation framework to bolster investor protection and streamline regulatory requirements. The proposal includes a minimum investment threshold, limitations on investor participation, mandatory dematerialisation, and liquidity safeguards. Public feedback is invited until November 16, 2024, as SEBI aims to build on its 2008 framework and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2021 securitisation guidelines.

SBI Mutual Fund Surpasses ₹10 Lakh Crore AUM, Leading the Industry

SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) has made headlines by becoming the first fund house in India to surpass the ₹10 lakh crore mark in assets under management (AUM), reaching ₹10.99 lakh crore in the September quarter, a notable increase from ₹9.88 lakh crore in June. This achievement places SBI MF ahead of its closest competitors, ICICI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund, which have AUMs of ₹8.41 lakh crore and ₹7.47 lakh crore, respectively.

Punjab & Sind Bank Launches e-Bank Guarantee Facility with NeSL

Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has announced the launch of its e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in collaboration with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL). This innovative service modernizes the traditional bank guarantee process, transitioning from paper-based issuance requiring physical stamping and signatures to a fully digital format utilizing e-stamping and e-signatures.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Real-Time International Money Transfer Tracking

IDFC FIRST Bank, in partnership with Swift, has introduced a groundbreaking real-time tracking service for international money transfers. Available on its award-winning mobile app and internet banking platforms, this service positions IDFC FIRST Bank as the first Indian bank to offer end-to-end traceability for cross-border payments. This service aligns with the bank's "Customer First" philosophy, aimed at bringing the transparency and speed of UPI and IMPS digital payments to international transactions.

Deutsche Bank Infuses ₹5,113 Crore to Boost India Operations

Deutsche Bank has injected ₹5,113 crore into its Indian operations, marking its largest capital infusion into the country in recent years. This move, aimed at funding growth and expanding services across corporate, investment, and private banking, demonstrates the bank's long-term commitment to India. With this fresh capital, Deutsche Bank's regulatory capital for its India branches has increased by 33% to nearly ₹30,000 crore, tripling in the last decade. The bank plans to leverage India's strategic position in global trends like digital transformation and infrastructure development to drive future growth.

SBI Unveils Innovation Hub at Singapore Fintech Festival

State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with APIX—a global collaborative platform for financial institutions and FinTechs—has launched the 'SBI Innovation Hub' at the Singapore Fintech Festival from November 6-8, 2024. The hub provides a dedicated space for global FinTechs, startups, and innovators to create next-generation financial solutions that meet the digital needs of SBI's diverse customer base. This initiative underlines SBI's commitment to driving financial innovation, accelerating digital transformation, and promoting financial inclusion.

RBI Designates 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds Under FAR for Non-Resident Investments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the list of Government securities available for non-resident investment under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by designating 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) as 'specified securities.' These bonds will be issued by the government in the second half of the fiscal year 2024-25, aligning with the increasing global inclusion of Indian Government Securities (G-Secs) in international bond indices, such as JPMorgan Chase's GBI-EM GD index, Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government indices, and FTSE Russell's EMGBI.

RBI's New Framework for Converting FPI Holdings to FDI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework that allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to convert their investments into Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if their holdings exceed the 10% equity threshold in Indian companies. This move is designed to streamline the process, making it easier for FPIs to align with FDI guidelines, provided they have the necessary government and company approvals. The new rules, effective from November 11, 2024, offer FPIs the option to reclassify excess shares within five trading days, ensuring compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and sectoral FDI caps.

SBI Seeks \$1.25 Billion in 2024's Largest Dollar-Denominated Loan

State Bank of India (SBI) is aiming to secure a \$1.25 billion five-year loan, which would be the largest dollar-denominated loan from India's financial sector in 2024. The loan, arranged by CTBC Bank, HSBC, and Taipei Fubon Bank, will be used for general corporate purposes. SBI's move follows a trend of increasing foreign currency borrowing by Indian financial institutions, particularly non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), due to stricter domestic regulations. Despite the rising demand, India's total dollar-denominated loan volume has decreased by 27% this year.

Karnataka Bank Launches Innovative Financial Products for Students

Karnataka Bank Ltd. has introduced two student-focused financial products, 'KBL Peak' and 'KBL Genius', aiming to support students in achieving their academic goals and managing their finances efficiently. These products, launched on World Prematurity Day, enhance the bank's commitment to contributing to India's educational and economic growth by providing financial freedom to students. With 'KBL Peak' offering education loans up to ₹2 crore and 'KBL Genius' featuring a student savings account with free cyber insurance, the bank strengthens its ties with educational institutions across the country.

SBI Horniman Circle Marks 100 Years of Legacy

The State Bank of India (SBI) celebrated the centenary of its iconic Horniman Circle Branch with the unveiling of a specially minted ₹100 commemorative coin by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The event also featured the release of the 5th edition of The Evolution of the State Bank of India, detailing the bank's transformation between 1981 and 1996. From its humble beginnings with just 100 branches in 1920, SBI today boasts over 22,640 branches, with plans to expand further in FY25. The bank's impressive digital presence, financial inclusion efforts, and significant role in India's banking revolution were highlighted during the event.

India Launches First AI Data Bank to Boost Security and Innovation

India has launched its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Bank, a landmark initiative to foster innovation and enhance national security. Announced by Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the 7th ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024, this step is part of India's broader strategy to leverage AI for economic growth and governance. The initiative aims to provide researchers, startups, and developers with access to high-quality datasets for creating scalable AI solutions, positioning AI as a key enabler for sectors such as healthcare, space exploration, and national security.

Bima Sugam: A Step Towards a Digital Insurance Ecosystem

The growing concern over mis-selling of insurance products by banks has prompted the introduction of the Bima Sugam platform, a digital initiative by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda, addressing the issue at SBI's Annual Business & Economic Conclave, emphasized that banks should prioritize their core lending activities and ensure customers are not coerced into buying unsuitable insurance products.

SEBI Abolishes 1% Security Deposit Mandate for Public Issues

In a significant move to enhance ease of doing business, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has abolished the requirement for issuer companies to deposit 1% of the issue size with stock exchanges before launching public issues of equity shares.

This decision, effective immediately, aligns with SEBI's ongoing reforms to streamline market processes and minimize redundant compliance burdens. Previously, the 1% security deposit acted as a safeguard for resolving investor complaints post-issue, but SEBI's circular underscores the redundancy of this requirement due to the evolving regulatory framework.

DPIIT Approves Hinduja Group's IIHL Acquisition of Reliance Capital

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has granted approval for the ₹10,000-crore acquisition of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCAP) by IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL), a Hinduja Group-backed firm. This marks a significant development in the resolution of the debt-ridden Reliance Capital, which had accumulated liabilities exceeding ₹40,000 crore. The deal, which has passed through the necessary regulatory clearances, paves the way for the finalization of the acquisition, resolving one of the key challenges facing the troubled financial entity.

RBI Doubles UPI 123Pay Limit to ₹10,000 for Feature Phones

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, enhancing its utility for India's 400 million feature phone users. Launched in March 2022, UPI 123Pay enables digital transactions without internet access through IVR, missed calls, and sound-based payments. Alongside, the UPI Lite wallet limit has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 to facilitate small-value transactions. These moves aim to deepen financial inclusion and boost the adoption of digital payments, particularly among underserved populations.

PNB Joins PCAF, Strengthens Climate Action Commitments

Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's second-largest public sector bank, has become a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), marking a major step in its climate action journey. This decision aligns with global standards for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions accounting and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft framework on climate-related financial risk disclosures, showcasing PNB's dedication to sustainability and climate transparency.

IndusInd Bank and UNICEF Join Forces for Climate Resilience in India

IndusInd Bank and UNICEF have launched a strategic initiative under the bank's flagship CSR program, focusing on Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Efficient Administrative Systems. The collaboration aims to enhance climate-informed administrative frameworks and strengthen resilience against climate-induced disasters across five aspirational districts in India—Dharashiv (Maharashtra), Begusarai (Bihar), Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu), Baran (Rajasthan), and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh). This program, part of IndusInd Bank's Holistic Rural Development initiative, aligns with its commitment to uplifting communities and fostering environmental sustainability.

Canara HSBC Life Unveils OmniGen AI to Transform Underwriting

Canara HSBC Life Insurance has launched OmniGen AI, a groundbreaking generative AI solution aimed at optimizing risk evaluation in underwriting. This innovative system leverages cutting-edge technology on Amazon Web Services (AWS), enabling underwriters to make faster, more precise decisions based on a comprehensive set of data points. By integrating AI-driven models, the company aims to reduce errors, improve consistency, and accelerate policy issuance. This strategic move builds on its commitment to transforming the underwriting process, offering enhanced operational efficiency, and providing a superior customer experience.

Science & Technology News**ISRO Begins Groundbreaking Analogue Space Mission in Leh**

ISRO announced the launch of its analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh. This innovative mission aims to simulate life in an interplanetary habitat, addressing the challenges associated with establishing a base station beyond Earth. Through this initiative, ISRO seeks to gather insights and prepare for future space exploration endeavors.

ISRO to Launch EU's Proba-3 Satellite in December, Aims for Bold Space Milestones

In a significant advancement for India's space sector, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the European Union's Proba-3 Solar Observation Mission in December from Sriharikota. The satellite, arriving at Sriharikota, is designed to study the Sun's faint corona, a crucial aspect of solar science. This marks India's third collaboration with the EU in space, following the earlier launches of Proba-1 and Proba-2.

World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat

Japanese scientists launched the world's first wooden satellite, named LignoSat, marking a pioneering experiment in sustainable space technology. Developed by Kyoto University in collaboration with Sumitomo Forestry, this satellite aims to explore the potential of timber as a material for future space habitation and structures. The innovative project, which uses honoki wood, is designed to test the resilience of wood in the extreme conditions of space, possibly paving the way for long-term human settlements in space with renewable resources.

New Fire-Resilient, Dual-Blooming Plant Species Discovered in Western Ghats

In a groundbreaking discovery, scientists have identified a new fire-resilient species of Dicliptera in the Northern Western Ghats of India, named Dicliptera polymorpha. This new species is notable for its ability to thrive in harsh, fire-prone grasslands and its rare dual-blooming behavior, making it a significant addition to the biodiversity of the region. The discovery was made by a team from the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, led by Dr. Mandar Datar, with the support of local botanist Aditya Dharap and Ph.D. student Bhushan Shigwan. The species was found in Talegaon-Dabhade, an area known for its grasslands and fodder markets.

IIT Madras, ISRO Collaborate on Spacecraft Thermal Research Centre

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is teaming up with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to create a Centre of Excellence focused on research in 'Fluid and Thermal Sciences'. ISRO will provide seed funding of Rs 1.84 Crore to establish this center, which aims to advance research in these critical areas for space exploration.

NASA Partners with Microsoft to Simplify Access to Earth Science Data

NASA and Microsoft have collaborated to create "Earth Copilot," an AI-driven chatbot aimed at democratizing access to complex Earth Science data. Earth Copilot leverages Microsoft's Azure cloud and advanced AI capabilities to make NASA's extensive geospatial data repository accessible to a broader audience. Traditionally complex and requiring expert knowledge, this data can now be retrieved using simple, plain-language queries, such as assessing the impact of hurricanes or monitoring climate change effects.

SpaceX to Launch India's Communication Satellite GSAT-20

India's heavy communication satellite GSAT-20, weighing 4,700 kg, will be launched from Cape Canaveral, USA, by Elon Musk's SpaceX on November 19, 2024. The satellite, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will provide essential communication services, including internet connectivity to remote areas. This marks a significant milestone in India's space endeavors, as the satellite is too heavy for India's own launch vehicle, the LVM-3 "Bahubali".

ISRO's GSAT-N2 Communication Satellite Deployed by SpaceX

On November 18, 2024, SpaceX successfully launched the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) GSAT-N2 communication satellite from Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. This advanced satellite, designed to enhance broadband connectivity and support India's Smart Cities Mission, was carried aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Marking the first commercial collaboration between ISRO and SpaceX, the launch demonstrates India's growing reliance on international partnerships to achieve its ambitious space and technological objectives.

IISc Introduces STRONG for Nanopore Research

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have introduced a groundbreaking language called STRONG (String Representation Of Nanopore Geometry), which encodes the shape and structure of nanopores. This new tool is set to revolutionize nanopore research by enabling machine learning (ML) models to predict their properties accurately. Published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, the development aligns with ongoing advancements in the integration of computational tools and materials science.

ISRO's Shukrayaan Set for Venus Voyage After Govt. Approval

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made several groundbreaking announcements regarding its future missions and technological advancements. These initiatives, shared by Nilesh Desai, Director of ISRO, include plans for Venus exploration, advancements in lunar and Mars missions, the development of India's space station, and upgrades to weather and communication systems. These missions signify India's strides in space exploration and its aspirations for deeper interplanetary studies.

Proba-3: ISRO to Launch ESA's Precision Formation Flying Solar Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission on December 4, 2024, using its PSLV-XL rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. This pioneering mission will study the Sun's corona, the outermost and hottest layer of the Sun's atmosphere, through an artificial solar eclipse created by two satellites flying in precise formation. Proba-3 represents a significant technological breakthrough and an example of international collaboration in space exploration.

India's First Space AI Lab: TM2Space's MOI-TD Revolution

Hyderabad-based space tech company TakeMe2Space (TM2Space) is set to launch MOI-TD (My Orbital Infrastructure – Technology Demonstrator), India's first AI laboratory in space, aboard ISRO's PSLV C60 rocket in mid-December 2024. This mission will enable real-time in-orbit data processing, drastically reducing data transmission costs and opening space research to a broader audience. TM2Space, known for its advancements in nano-satellites, aims to democratize space technology and accelerate India's role in cutting-edge space innovation.

Schemes and Committees News**Andhra Pradesh CM Launches Deepam 2.0 Scheme for Women**

On November 1, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited Edupuram in Srikakulam district to launch the Deepam 2.0 scheme, aimed at empowering women by providing them with free gas cylinders. During his visit, Naidu personally handed over a gas cylinder to a beneficiary, Santhamma, and even lit her stove, preparing tea as a gesture of support for the initiative.

Cabinet Approves PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme for Higher Education

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme on November 6, 2024, aimed at providing financial support to meritorious students seeking higher education. The scheme ensures collateral-free, guarantor-free loans for students enrolling in top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) across India, covering tuition fees and other educational expenses. With an outlay of ₹3,600 crore, this scheme targets to benefit 22 lakh students annually, empowering them to pursue their academic dreams without financial barriers.

Finance Minister Launches Union Bank's Nari Shakti Branches to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated five specialized "Nari Shakti" branches of Union Bank of India in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Jaipur. These branches aim to boost financial inclusion and support for women entrepreneurs, especially in the manufacturing and service sectors. By launching these branches, the government and Union Bank emphasize empowering women through accessible finance, skills training, and advisory services, strengthening India's goal of gender-focused economic growth.

'One Day One Genome' Initiative Unveiled to Unlock India's Microbial Potential

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) have launched the 'One Day One Genome' initiative to map and highlight India's microbial wealth. Announced by India's G-20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, on BRIC's 1st foundation day at the National Institute of Immunology (NII) on November 9, 2024, the initiative aims to showcase the critical role of unique bacterial species in India's environment, agriculture, and human health. This project will leverage genome sequencing to explore and unlock the microbial world's immense potential for various advancements.

Cabinet Approves 'One Nation One Subscription' Scheme

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, allocating ₹6,000 crore for 2025-2027. This initiative aims to provide seamless access to high-impact scholarly articles and journals for nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers across 6,300 government-managed higher education and R&D institutions. This scheme aligns with India's ViksitBharat@2047 vision, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to foster a research-driven educational ecosystem. Access will be managed digitally through the INFLIBNET platform, under the UGC.

PM Modi to Launch 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Haryana on 9th December

On 9th December, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Panipat, Haryana, aimed at empowering women by creating job opportunities in the insurance sector. Under this scheme, women will become agents of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), enabling them to sell insurance and earn an income. This initiative is part of the broader efforts to promote women's empowerment and economic independence.

'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' Portal

The Department of Justice launched the 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign to celebrate 75 years of India as a Republic and the adoption of its Constitution. Launched on January 24, 2024, by the Vice-President of India, the campaign aims to reaffirm the commitment to the Constitution and raise public awareness on legal rights and duties. A series of regional events are being held to decentralize the outreach of the campaign.

Govt Issues 1.4 Million Ayushman Cards to Citizens Aged 70+

The government has made significant progress in ensuring the health and welfare of senior citizens through the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). As of November 25, 2024, approximately 14 lakh Ayushman Vay Vandana cards have been issued to senior citizens aged 70 and above under the scheme. This initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to vulnerable populations.

Summits & Conference News**ILO's 352nd Governing Body Meeting Kicks Off in Geneva**

The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is currently taking place in Geneva. This important gathering began on October 28 and will run until November 7, bringing together representatives from member countries to discuss key labor issues and strategies for improving working conditions globally.

India Secures ISA Presidency Again, Ashish Khanna New Director General

India and France have been re-elected as the president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), respectively, at the seventh ISA assembly held in New Delhi. During the inaugural day of the assembly, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced that India would continue to hold the presidency until 2026.

India Hosts Maiden Asian Buddhist Summit to Strengthen Asia's Spiritual Development

India is hosting the first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi from November 5 to 6, 2024, under the theme, "Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia." This event, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), celebrates the deep-rooted Buddhist heritage in India and underscores its role in promoting peace and unity across Asia.

Indian Navy Hosts 3rd Mahasagar Summit on Maritime Security

The Indian Navy successfully conducted the third edition of the Mahasagar summit, continuing its flagship outreach initiative for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Held virtually under the theme, "Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR," the summit brought together senior leaders from 10 countries to discuss collaborative efforts to tackle shared maritime threats.

Amit Shah Chairs 32nd Kendriya Hindi Samiti Meeting in New Delhi

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, chaired the 32nd meeting of the 'Kendriya Hindi Samiti' in New Delhi. The Kendriya Hindi Samiti is the apex body responsible for providing guidelines for the development and promotion of the Hindi language across the country.

COP29: The Crucial Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan

The 29th UN Climate Summit, COP29, kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 11, 2024, with discussions set to focus on vital climate finance mechanisms, particularly the new "New Collective Quantified Goal" (NCQG). The summit, running until November 22, aims to address urgent global climate issues and secure financial commitments to assist developing nations in combating the devastating effects of climate change, caused largely by greenhouse gas emissions. COP29 has been dubbed the "Finance COP" due to its central focus on financial strategies, including a push for greater funding commitments and the role of the private sector in driving climate action.

UAE Unveils Energy Efficiency Alliance at COP29

The UAE has announced the establishment of the Global Energy Efficiency Alliance at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This initiative aims to double annual global energy efficiency rates by 2030, aligning with the UAE's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable resource use. Building on the historic 'UAE Consensus' established at COP28, this alliance seeks to foster

international collaboration and innovation in energy efficiency, emphasizing the role of knowledge sharing, partnerships, and investment in achieving sustainability goals.

G20 Rio Summit 2024: A Focus on Global Challenges and Turbulence

The 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro concluded with the adoption of the Rio Declaration, addressing critical global issues such as climate change, the Ukraine war, conflicts in West Asia, and economic inequality. The declaration outlined pathways to sustainable growth, multilateralism, and humanitarian intervention while exposing deep divisions among member nations.

Ayushman Bharat: Vay Vandana Cards Achieves Milestone

On the auspicious occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and Ayurveda Day, celebrated on October 29, 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took a historic step by inaugurating multiple health sector projects worth approximately ₹12,850 crore at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi. The event marked a significant moment in India's healthcare sector, with the announcement of free treatment for all senior citizens aged 70 and above, further cementing India's commitment to accessible and affordable healthcare. The newly launched Ayushman Vay Vandana Card has achieved a significant milestone by enrolling more than 10 lakh senior citizens aged 70 and above.

Detailed Outcomes of the 2024 G20 Summit: Rio de Janeiro Declaration

The Rio de Janeiro Declaration, released at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18, 2024, emphasizes several core commitments, including the taxation of billionaires, energy transition, and support for global climate initiatives like COP30 in Brasil. This historic declaration marks the culmination of Brazil's presidency, led by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who outlined the achievements and progressive themes championed during the summit.

Global Hunger and Poverty Alliance Launched By Brazil's President Lula

On November 18, 2024, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This landmark initiative, involving 148 founding members, including 82 countries and a variety of international organizations, financial institutions, and NGOs,

aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty globally by 2030.

Sagarmanthan 2024 Charting India's Maritime Future

India's maritime sector stands as a beacon of its economic ambitions and global aspirations. With a 7,500-kilometer coastline, 12 major ports, and over 200 minor ports, the nation handles the lion's share of its trade via the seas, contributing significantly to its GDP. The Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024 has reinforced India's commitment to becoming a global maritime leader by fostering discussions on sustainability, innovation, and connectivity.

UN Climate Change Conference COP 29 in Baku, November 2024

The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. This pivotal event will address crucial issues such as the enhanced transparency framework, the collective quantified goal on finance, and the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Armenia Becomes 104th Full Member of International Solar Alliance

Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone for global solar energy collaboration. The ISA, established in 2015, aims to scale up solar energy adoption, reduce costs, and facilitate innovation. Under India's leadership, the ISA has launched impactful projects worldwide. Armenia's membership highlights its commitment to sustainable energy solutions, contributing to the ISA's goal of mobilizing USD 1000 billion by 2030 for solar energy deployment.

India Hosts First Global Cooperative Conference in 130 Years

India will host the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi from November 25 to 30, 2024. This marks the first time in the 130-year history of the ICA that the global cooperative movement's premier event will be held in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025 during this event.

Kaziranga Hosts 12th International Tourism Mart, Spotlighting Northeast India's Riches

The 12th Edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM) kicked off on November 27, 2024, in Kaziranga, Assam, with the aim of showcasing the immense tourism potential of Northeast India. Organized annually by the Ministry of Tourism, the event serves as a key platform for both

domestic and international audiences to explore the diverse cultural, natural, and biodiversity-rich offerings of the region.

13th National Seed Congress Opens in Varanasi

The 13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, was inaugurated on November 28, 2024, by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan via virtual address. The three-day event is hosted at the International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), Varanasi, bringing together over 700 delegates from various sectors. The Congress focuses on innovation, collaboration, and actionable strategies to enhance the Indian and global seed sectors.

PM Modi to Inaugurate Rising Rajasthan Global Summit in Jaipur on Dec 9

On December 9, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Rising Rajasthan Global Summit at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC) in Sitapura. The three-day event, from December 9-11, marks a significant milestone for Rajasthan, as the state aims to boost its industrial growth and attract investments. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma emphasized that the event will play a crucial role in accelerating Rajasthan's economic trajectory under Modi's leadership.

Awards & Honors News

Anil Pradhan Honored with Rohini Nayyar Prize

Anil Pradhan has been awarded the prestigious Rohini Nayyar Prize for 2024, recognizing his impactful contributions to rural development in India. Known for his dedication to empowering rural communities, Pradhan's work has brought positive change and opportunities to underserved areas.

Kunal Dalal Honored at Education World India School Rankings 2024

Kunal Dalal, Managing Director of JBCN Education, was recently honored as the Education Leader of the Year at the Education World India School Ranking Awards 2024-2025 held in Gurgaon. This prestigious recognition celebrates his visionary leadership and dedication to building a progressive network of international schools.

Veteran Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, renowned for his acclaimed works such as Clear and Present Danger, Salt,

and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The festival, which will be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2024, has Australia as its Country of Focus this year.

British Writer Samantha Harvey Wins Booker Prize for Fiction with "Orbital"

British author Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel "Orbital," a thought-provoking and imaginative exploration set in the unique setting of the International Space Station (ISS). The novel, which Harvey refers to as a "space pastoral," delves into the fragility of Earth and the profound connection humans have with their planet, using the perspective of astronauts in orbit.

Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' Triumphs at Leeds International Film Festival

Manoj Bajpayee's critically acclaimed film The Fable has won the Best Film award at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival, adding to its growing recognition on the global stage. The film, directed by Raam Reddy, clinched the award in the Constellation Feature Film Competition, which honors groundbreaking cinema worldwide. This triumph is a significant achievement for both Indian and international film industries, with The Fable gaining widespread acclaim for its unique storytelling and portrayal of magical realism.

Hyderabad Airport Earns Global Recognition for Digital Innovations

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has received global recognition at the prestigious 'Airport Excellence Awards' during the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024, held on November 12 at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. This marks a significant milestone in the airport's journey toward leveraging advanced technology to enhance airport operations and passenger experiences.

Victoria Kjaer Theilvig Becomes Denmark's First Miss Universe

The 73rd Miss Universe pageant held in Mexico marked a historic milestone for Denmark as Victoria Kjaer Theilvig was crowned the nation's first-ever Miss Universe. The 21-year-old from Søborg outshone 125 participants, including India's Rhea Singha, and became a global sensation. With her blend of intelligence, elegance, and advocacy, Victoria made history and inspired millions worldwide.

PM Honored with “Grand Commander of the Order of Niger”

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious national award, “Grand Commander of the Order of Niger”, by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, at the State House. This honor celebrates Prime Minister Modi’s visionary leadership, transformative governance, and significant contributions to fostering stronger India-Nigeria ties and the aspirations of the Global South.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023: Honouring Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad for Peace Efforts

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace activist, on November 19, 2024. This prestigious award recognizes their remarkable efforts to promote peace and non-violence.

Coal India Limited Honoured with Green World Environment Award 2024

Coal India Limited (CIL), under the aegis of the Ministry of Coal, has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving the prestigious Green World Environment Award 2024 in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category. Alongside this accolade, CIL was also honoured with the title of Green World Ambassador, reflecting its commitment to sustainability and social welfare. This award recognizes CIL’s exemplary efforts in balancing its industrial operations with significant social and environmental contributions.

PM Modi Receives Highest Honors from Guyana and Dominica

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred prestigious awards by Guyana and Dominica in recognition of his significant contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his efforts in strengthening international ties, especially between India and these Caribbean nations. These awards highlight the deepening diplomatic relations and the global recognition of Modi’s leadership in global health, climate resilience, and development cooperation.

PM Modi Receives Global Peace Award in Washington

The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly launched non-governmental organization, was inaugurated on November 22, 2024, at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland, USA. The organization aims to foster unity and uplift minority communities within the Indian American diaspora. During the launch event, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was honored in absentia with the ‘Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment’, recognizing his efforts in inclusive development and minority welfare.

55th International Film Festival of India 2024, Check Complete List of Winners

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) came to a magnificent conclusion on 28th November 2024 at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa, marking the end of a nine-day celebration of global and Indian cinema. The closing ceremony honored cinematic excellence, promoted creative dialogue, and celebrated young and seasoned filmmakers from across the globe.

Important Dates News**Celebrating 50 Years Coal India’s Foundation Day**

Coal India Limited (CIL) celebrated its 50th Foundation Day on 1st November, marking a significant milestone as it entered its golden jubilee year. The day began with a respectful tribute at the Coal Martyrs’ Memorial, where CIL’s Chairman PM Prasad, along with Functional Directors and the Chief Vigilance Officer, honored the contributions and sacrifices of coal industry workers throughout the decades.

International Day for the Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

The United Nations observes the International Day for the Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict each year on November 6 to raise awareness and encourage global efforts to protect the environment in times of conflict. This day sheds light on the often-overlooked environmental impacts of armed conflict and underscores the importance of environmental protection as part of peacebuilding efforts.

World Radiology Day 2024: Date, Theme, History And Significance

World Radiology Day, celebrated every year on November 8, honours the contributions of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the German physicist who discovered X-rays in 1895. This monumental discovery has since revolutionized medical diagnosis and treatment by providing non-invasive ways to see inside the human body. Observing this day serves as a reminder of the importance of radiology in modern healthcare, recognizing the dedication of radiographers, and promoting a greater understanding of X-ray therapy in patient care.

National Education Day 2024: Honouring Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Every year on November 11, India observes National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India. This day emphasizes the importance of education in shaping the nation’s future and serves as a reminder of Azad’s vision for an educated and empowered India. With a significant portion of India’s population under the age of 35, the importance of quality education and skill development has never been more critical.

World Pneumonia Day 2024: Theme, History, Significance, and Prevention Tips

World Pneumonia Day, observed each year on November 12, is dedicated to raising awareness about pneumonia, a potentially life-threatening yet preventable and treatable respiratory illness. The day brings global attention to pneumonia’s impact, particularly among children under five and the elderly, who are most vulnerable. Through a coordinated effort by health organizations, governments, and communities, the observance highlights preventive methods, promotes better treatment options, and seeks to lower the mortality rate linked to this disease. Here’s a detailed look at the theme, history, significance, and practical preventive measures to help combat pneumonia.

Children’s Day 2024: Date, History, and Significance in India

Every year, on November 14, India celebrates Children’s Day, also known as Bal Diwas, to honor and uplift its young citizens. This significant day also marks the birth anniversary of India’s first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, affectionately called “Chacha Nehru” for his deep admiration and love for children. Nehru’s vision of children as the nation’s future is commemorated on this day as a commitment to nurturing India’s youth.



Birsa Munda Jayanti 2024, Know Everything About It

Birsa Munda Jayanti, also known as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas or Tribal Pride Day, is celebrated on November 15th every year. This day marks the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a brave tribal leader and freedom fighter. He is remembered for leading the Ulgulan movement against British rule and fighting for the rights of tribal people in India.

Jharkhand Foundation Day 2024

Jharkhand Foundation Day is celebrated on November 15th each year. This day marks the formation of Jharkhand as the 28th state of India in the year 2000. Before becoming a separate state, Jharkhand was part of South Bihar. November 15th is also special as it is the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a respected tribal leader and freedom fighter.

Guru Nanak Jayanti 2024, Know Date, Time, History and Significance

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also called Gurburab or Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav, is an important festival for Sikhs. It celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh guru, who taught unity, equality, and selfless service. In 2024, this special day will be marked with great respect and joy on November 15, which will be Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s 555th birth anniversary.

National Press Day Observed Every Year On November 16

National Press Day is observed every year on November 16 to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966. This day serves as a reminder of the indispensable role of a free press in a vibrant democracy like India and highlights the importance of ethical journalism. In addition to celebrating the press’s role, National Press Day also serves as an occasion to acknowledge the challenges faced by media professionals and to emphasize the significance of safeguarding press freedom in the country.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2024, Date, Significance, and History

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually on November 7 in India, a day dedicated to increasing awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. Since its inception in 2014, this observance has aimed to educate the public on how to prevent and manage cancer—a disease that continues to affect millions of lives across the country. The day also pays homage to the renowned Polish-French scientist Marie Curie, whose work in discovering radioactive elements laid the foundation for radiation therapy, a critical tool in modern cancer treatment.

World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence 2024

World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence Observed on November 18, this day emphasizes raising awareness about the widespread and devastating issue of child sexual abuse and violence. It aims to promote global action to prevent abuse, provide healing, and uphold the rights and dignity of affected children.

National Integration Day 2024, Honoring Indira Gandhi's Legacy of Unity and Progress

National Integration Day, observed every year on November 19, marks the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India. This day is an opportunity to reflect on her enduring legacy and the significant role she played in shaping India's political, social, and economic trajectory. As the nation continues to evolve into a global power, National Integration Day serves as a reminder of Gandhi's dedication to strengthening the fabric of national unity and integration, an essential aspect of India's continued growth and success.

Celebrating Awaas Diwas 2024: 8th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)

The Ministry of Rural Development commemorates Awaas Diwas 2024, marking the 8th anniversary of the flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). Launched on November 20, 2016, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, this scheme has been pivotal in fulfilling the vision of "Housing for All." The anniversary highlights the achievements, innovations, and continued commitment to transforming rural housing in India.

National Philosophy Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

National Philosophy Day, also recognized globally as World Philosophy Day, is celebrated every year on the third Thursday of November. This day highlights the profound influence of philosophy in shaping human thought, fostering critical discourse, and addressing contemporary global challenges. In 2024, this day is observed on 21st November. Established by UNESCO in 2002, the occasion underscores the importance of philosophy in promoting intercultural dialogue and questioning assumptions that underpin human understanding.

World Television Day 2024, Celebrating the Power of Television

World Television Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to underscore the role of television as a vital medium of

communication. It highlights the profound impact of television in shaping global awareness, influencing decision-making, and fostering education. Beyond entertainment, television serves as a platform to address critical global issues, including peace, conflicts, and social development. The day reminds us of the need to leverage this powerful medium for positive societal change.

Guru Tegh Bahadur's Shaheedi Divas 2024: A Tribute to the Ninth Sikh Guru's

Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru, known for his bravery and sacrifice. He played a key role in shaping Sikhism and stood firmly against injustice. His Martyrdom Day, also known as Shaheedi Diwas, is observed annually on 24th November to honor his ultimate sacrifice for the rights of others.

International Jaguar Day 2024, Date, History and Significance

Every year on November 29, the world observes International Jaguar Day to raise awareness about the significance of jaguars and the urgent need for their conservation. As apex predators in the Americas, jaguars (scientifically known as *Panthera onca*) are vital to maintaining ecological balance. However, their survival is increasingly threatened, making this day an important occasion for action and advocacy.

Sports News

Indian Boxers Shine at U-19 World Boxing Championships with 17 Medals

Parthavi Grewal, Vanshika Goswami, and Hemant Sangwan showcased their exceptional talent by securing gold medals as Indian boxers made a remarkable impact at the inaugural U19 World Championships organized by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. The Indian contingent delivered an impressive performance, culminating in a total of 17 medals.

India Submits Formal Bid for 2036 Olympics

India has officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, marking a significant step in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event. The bid was submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on October 1, 2023, as part of the ongoing effort to elevate India's global sporting profile. This would be the first time India hosts the Olympics, fulfilling a dream long cherished by its citizens.

Jangra Seizes WBF World Championship Title

Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra claimed the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in an intense match in the Cayman Islands. The 31-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver medallist Roy Jones Jr, dominated most rounds and secured a significant victory, marking only one defeat in his professional career so far.

Max Verstappen's Triumph at Brazil Grand Prix 2024

Max Verstappen's phenomenal win at the Brazil Grand Prix has left the Formula 1 world in awe. Despite starting in 17th place, Verstappen stormed to victory under challenging rain-soaked conditions at Sao Paulo's Interlagos circuit. His remarkable drive, skill, and resilience not only impressed fans but also earned admiration from Formula 1's multiple world champions, including Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso. This victory inches Verstappen closer to his fourth straight world championship, placing him among the greatest drivers in F1 history.

Arjun Erigaisi's Climb Continues Now World's Second Best in Chess Ratings

Arjun Erigaisi made a significant leap in the chess world by securing the world No. 2 spot in live ratings on 7th November. His victory over Alexey Sarana in Round 3 of the Chennai Grand Masters tournament boosted his live rating to 2805.8, propelling him past both USA's Fabiano Caruana, who stands at 2805.0, and American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura at 2802.0.

Zverev Triumphs at Paris Masters, Securing 2024 Title

Alexander Zverev, the German tennis star from Hamburg, claimed his second Masters 1000 title of 2024 with a decisive 6-2, 6-2 victory over France's Ugo Humbert in the Paris Masters final. This impressive win not only underscores Zverev's dominant form on the indoor hard courts but also propels him past Spain's Carlos Alcaraz into the ATP world's No. 2 ranking, further cementing his status as one of the top players this season.

3 Year Old Anish Chooses GothamChess Over Peppa Pig, Scores Big

Three-year-old Anish Sarkar from Kolkata, India, is defying expectations with his passion for chess, setting aside typical toddler favorites like Peppa Pig and Baby Shark for chess idols like International Master Levy Rozman and Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen. Anish has become the world's youngest-rated player, achieving an impressive initial FIDE rating of 1555.

FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024: Harmanpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh Shine

The FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 ceremony, which took place on November 8, 2024, in Muscat, Oman, celebrated the top performers in international hockey. Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh was named the Men's Player of the Year, while legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was awarded the Men's Goalkeeper of the Year. The awards are determined by a voting process that includes national team captains, coaches, experts, and fans, as well as media representation.

Tayyab Ikram Re-elected FIH President: A Triumph for Pakistan's Hockey

Tayyab Ikram has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for a second consecutive term, a significant achievement for Pakistan's hockey. At the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat, Oman, Ikram secured 79 votes out of 126, surpassing his competitor, Marc Coudron of Belgium, who received 47 votes. His re-election not only signifies personal recognition but also reinforces Pakistan's growing influence in global hockey.

PM Hails Pankaj Advani's Success as World Billiards Champion 2024

Pankaj Advani, the veteran Indian cueist, has once again showcased his mastery in the sport by securing his 28th world title. At the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on November 9, 2024, he triumphed over England's Robert Hall 4-2, marking his seventh consecutive World Billiards Championship win.

Aravindh Chithambaram Clinches Masters Title at Chennai Grandmasters 2024

GM Aravindh Chithambaram made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title. Meanwhile, GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to claim the Challengers title at the Anna Centenary Library on 11th November, 2024.

Tim Southee to Bid Farewell to Cricket After World Test Championship

Tim Southee, New Zealand's all-time leading wicket-taker, has announced his decision to retire from international cricket after the completion of the current ICC World Test Championship campaign. The 35-year-old former Test captain will retire following the Black Caps' upcoming home series against England, marking the end of an illustrious Test career that has spanned almost two decades.

'Know Your Medicine' App Launched to Promote Clean Sports

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched a nationwide call to action to strengthen the fight against doping in sports, urging athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community to adopt the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.

Indian Tennis Star Prajnesh Gunneswaran Announces Retirement

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, the Indian tennis star who won a bronze medal in singles at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, announced his retirement from professional tennis. The 35-year-old Chennai-born player reflected on his career, expressing gratitude for the journey and the lessons learned along the way. Known for his resilience and achievements, Gunneswaran made significant contributions to Indian tennis.

FIFA Unveils NASA-Inspired Trophy for Expanded 2025 Club World Cup

FIFA has revealed the new 2025 Club World Cup trophy, a golden masterpiece created in collaboration with Tiffany & Co. The trophy, which will be awarded at the first-ever 32-team tournament in June and July 2025, boasts a 24-carat gold-plated finish and intricate engravings symbolizing football's past and future. Inspired by NASA's Voyager missions, the periodic table, and astronomical maps, it signifies a new chapter in the sport's history. Despite backlash over the tournament's expansion, FIFA envisions the trophy as a prestigious symbol for the future of club football.

India Defends Women's Asian Champions Trophy Title with 1-0 Win Over China

India's Women's Hockey Team successfully defended their title at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, defeating China 1-0 in the final. The victory marked India's third ACT title, showcasing their dominance in the tournament's history alongside South Korea. Deepika's stunning reverse-hit goal in the 31st minute was the difference, securing India's back-to-back championship win.

Nandan Kumar Jha Elected President of International Mind Sports Association (IMSA)

India's Nandan Kumar Jha has been appointed as the new president of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), an organization dedicated to the governance and promotion of mind sports globally. This significant announcement was made during the IMSA's annual general

assembly held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. With a mission to integrate mind sports like chess, esports, and bridge into the mainstream sports community, Jha's appointment marks a historic moment for India's growing influence in the field of intellectual games.

Eden Gardens to Honour Jhulan Goswami with Stand

India's legendary cricketer Jhulan Goswami is set to receive a remarkable tribute at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has announced that a stand at the venue will be renamed in her honor, marking her as the first woman cricketer to receive this recognition. The official unveiling will take place on January 22, 2025, during the India-England T20I match. This accolade highlights her extraordinary achievements in women's cricket and her continued contributions to the sport.

Italy Clinches Fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title with Paolini's Dominance

Italy claimed its fifth Billie Jean King Cup title on November 20, 2024, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final held in Malaga, Spain. Jasmine Paolini's commanding 6-2, 6-1 victory over Rebecca Sramkova sealed the triumph for Italy, following Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4 win over Viktoria Hrucakova. The victory marked redemption for Italy after their loss in the previous year's final and further solidified their standing as a dominant force in women's international tennis.

Sony Sports Secures Rights for All ACC Tournaments (2024-2031)

On 22nd November evening, Jay Shah, the ICC president-elect and current chief of the BCCI and ACC, announced a landmark partnership between the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Sony Sports Networks. The deal, which will span from 2024 to 2031, will see all ACC tournaments broadcast exclusively on Sony Sports, marking a significant boost for cricket's visibility in the region.

India's Historic Victory Over Australia: Breaking a 47-Year Record

India scripted history, on November 25, 2024, with a massive 295-run victory against Australia in the first Test of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series at the Optus Stadium, Perth. This stunning win gave India a 1-0 lead in the series and marked a significant milestone in their Test cricket journey.

This triumph shattered a 47-year-old record, making it India's biggest victory against Australia in Australia in terms of runs. The previous record stood at 222 runs, achieved at Melbourne on December 30, 1977.

North-East United FC Clinches Governor's Gold Cup Victory

The 40th edition of the Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament reached its thrilling climax on 24th November, 2024 at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. NorthEast United FC emerged victorious after a dramatic 4-3 penalty shootout win over Gangtok Himalayan SC, adding another memorable chapter to the tournament's legacy. The final match, attended by Sikkim's Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and Governor Shri Om Prakash Mathur, showcased the competitive spirit and sportsmanship of both teams.

Reetika Hooda Strikes Gold at World Military Championships

In a remarkable feat for Indian wrestling, Reetika Hooda clinched the gold medal in the women's 76kg category at the World Military Championships, becoming the second Indian woman to win gold at the event. This achievement comes on the heels of Jyoti Sihag's triumph in the 55kg category, marking a momentous debut for India's women's contingent at the prestigious tournament.

NADA Suspends Bajrang Punia for Four Years Over Doping Violation

In a significant development, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a four-year suspension on Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia for violating the anti-doping code. The suspension follows his refusal to provide a urine sample for a dope test during selection trials for the national wrestling team on March 10, 2024. This decision, which extends beyond NADA's initial provisional suspension in April 2024, has barred him from competitive wrestling and coaching opportunities abroad.

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Siddarth Kaul Retires from Indian Cricket

Siddarth Kaul, a 34-year-old fast bowler, announced his retirement from Indian cricket, marking the end of a 17-year-long career that began with a first-class debut in Mohali. Kaul, who represented India in six international

matches (three ODIs and three T20Is), shared the news on Instagram, reflecting on fulfilling his childhood dream of representing India and expressing his intent to explore opportunities overseas. He was instrumental in domestic circuits and achieved notable success in both white-ball and red-ball cricket.

Obituaries News**Legendary Folk Singer Sharda Sinha Passes Away at 72**

Legendary folk singer, Sharda Sinha, known fondly as the "Bihar Kokila" (Nightingale of Bihar) has passed away at age 72 due to complications from cancer. Sinha's voice brought joy and pride to countless people, especially those who celebrated the traditional festivals of Bihar. Her songs, full of warmth and authenticity, made her a beloved figure in Indian folk music.

H S Sodhi, Celebrated Polo Player, Dies at 86

Harinder Singh Sodhi, fondly known as 'Billy,' a celebrated figure in Indian polo, passed away at the age of 86 due to age-related ailments. Renowned for his skill and dedication to the sport, Sodhi reached a rare and highly respected handicap of plus-five at the height of his career, marking him as one of the sport's true stalwarts in India. His legacy in Indian polo is remembered with admiration and respect.

Revolutionary Sarangi Virtuoso Pandit Ram Narayan Passes Away at 96

The world of Indian classical music mourns the loss of Pandit Ram Narayan, a revolutionary sarangi virtuoso who passed away on November 8, 2024, at his residence in Bandra, Mumbai. He was 96 years old. Renowned for his instrumental mastery and dedication, he elevated the sarangi from a traditional accompaniment instrument to a celebrated solo act in the Hindustani classical music arena. His legacy is deeply cherished by his family, admirers, and countless music lovers across generations. Through his work, Pandit Ram Narayan inspired a new appreciation and respect for the sarangi and its place in classical music.

World-Renowned Mridangam Scholar Varadarao Kamalakara Rao Passes Away

The music world has lost a legendary artist and scholar in Mridangam, Varadarao Kamalakara Rao, who passed away at the age of 88 in Rajahmundry. Renowned for his expertise and innovative approach to Mridangam, Rao dedicated his life to Indian classical music and inspired generations with his unique rhythm and technique. His contributions to Carnatic music, collaborations with celebrated musicians, and the numerous honors he received throughout his life underscore his impact on Indian music.

Former Supreme Court Judge Justice HS Bedi Passes Away at 78

Justice Harjit Singh Bedi, former Supreme Court judge and ex-Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, passed away at the age of 78. Known for his significant role in reviewing cases of alleged fake encounters in Gujarat, Justice Bedi was an eminent legal luminary who served the judiciary with distinction. His cremation is scheduled for Friday in Chandigarh.

John Prescott, Former Deputy PM of Britain, Dies at 86

John Prescott, one of Britain's most recognized politicians and a champion of the working class, passed away at the age of 86. Rising through the trade union movement, he became deputy prime minister in Tony Blair's government, holding the position for a decade. Known for his plain-speaking style and connection to Labour's roots, Prescott played a pivotal role in modernizing the party while maintaining its traditional values. His career, marked by significant achievements in environmental policy and social justice, left an indelible mark on British politics.

Breyten Breytenbach, Renowned South African Writer, Dies at 85

Breyten Breytenbach was a South African-born poet, memoirist, and former political prisoner known for his fierce opposition to apartheid and his literary works that captured the struggles and disillusionment of his time. His life journey, marked by exile, imprisonment, and intense political activism, shaped him into one of the most significant voices of his generation. Breytenbach's death at the age of 85 in Paris, where he had lived as an expatriate, marks the end of an era for South African literature and anti-apartheid resistance. Below is a detailed study of his life, works, and legacy.

Essar Group Chairman Shashi Ruia Passes Away

Shashikant Ruia, co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group, passed away at 81 after a prolonged illness. Known for his visionary leadership, Ruia played a pivotal role in shaping India's corporate landscape and making Essar a global conglomerate. His journey from a modest family business to establishing a world-class enterprise is a testament to his exceptional acumen, commitment to innovation, and dedication to philanthropy.

Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Renowned Economic Historian, Dies

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, a prominent economic historian and macroeconomist, passed away on November 28, 2024. Renowned for his revolutionary contributions to economic history and his commitment to Left politics,

Bagchi's scholarship bridged economic theory and historical data, influencing both economists and historians alike. His work continues to shed light on India's colonial economic history, development, and underdevelopment, providing profound insights into the impact of imperialism.

Defence News**India-Vietnam Joint Military Exercise Begins in Ambala**

The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise, "VINBAX 2024," began on Monday at Ambala. Scheduled from November 4 to 23, the exercise will take place at both Ambala and Chandimandir, aiming to strengthen military cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.

Indian Military Heritage Festival 2024: A Tribute to India's Military Legacy

The 2nd edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) is set to begin on November 8, 2024, in New Delhi. The two-day event, backed by the Ministry of Defence and several esteemed institutions, aims to bring together global and Indian think tanks, academicians, corporations, and military experts to discuss topics related to India's national security, foreign policy, and military heritage.

India Begins 'Poorvi Prahaar' Tri-Services Drill After China Disengagement

India has launched a significant tri-services military exercise, 'Poorvi Prahaar,' beginning November 8, aimed at strengthening military readiness across the eastern front. This 10-day exercise follows the recent disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops at key friction points in eastern Ladakh, including Depsang and Demchok, and underscores India's commitment to enhanced defense capabilities.

7th Annual India-Sri Lanka Coast Guard Meet Boosts Regional Maritime Security

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) held their 7th Annual High-Level Meeting in Colombo on November 11, 2024. The meeting was attended by a four-member ICG delegation, led by Director General S. Paramesh, and a SLCG delegation headed by Director General Rear Admiral YR Serasinghe.

India Launches First Space Defense Exercise Antariksha Abhyas - 2024

The Defence Space Agency, under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, is conducting Antariksha Abhyas - 2024, a groundbreaking three-day exercise from November 11 to 13, 2024. This first-of-its-kind space exercise aims to simulate and address the growing threats to space-based assets and services.

Successful Flight Trials for DRDO's Pinaka Weapon System

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, conducted as part of the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials. This critical milestone involved three phases of testing across different field firing ranges, demonstrating the system's operational effectiveness, precision, and advanced capabilities.

India's Hypersonic Missile Test A Leap in Defense Technology

India has successfully conducted the flight trial of its first long-range hypersonic missile, a significant achievement in the country's defense capabilities. This development places India in an exclusive group of nations with the technology to deploy hypersonic weapons.

Sea Vigil 24 Culminates A Step Towards Coastal Resilience

The fourth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise, Sea Vigil 24, concluded successfully on 21st November 2024, showcasing India's steadfast commitment to enhancing its maritime security and coastal defense. Conducted over a 36-hour tactical phase, the exercise covered India's 11,098 km coastline and 2.4 million sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It involved over 21 agencies across six ministries, strengthening the country's readiness to counter evolving maritime threats.

Coast Guard to Hold 'SAREX 24' in Kochi from Nov 27-30

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is set to conduct the 11th edition of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises & Workshop (SAREX-24) in Kochi from November 27 to 30. The event, organized under the aegis of the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board, aims to enhance India's capabilities in maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations through a collaborative approach involving various national and international stakeholders.

India Tests K-4 Missile from INS Arighaat

India has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing the K-4 nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of 3,500 km from the nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal. This test strengthens India's nuclear deterrence and places the nation among the select few capable of launching nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.

Indian Army Unveils 'Eklavya' Digital Training Platform

The Indian Army has launched "Eklavya," an online learning platform aimed at revolutionizing officers' training. Unveiled by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), the initiative aligns with the Army's 2024 theme, "Year of Technology Absorption," and its broader vision for a "Decade of Transformation." Developed at zero cost in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), the platform integrates seamlessly with the Army Data Network.

Books & Authors News**A Book Title "Friends - India's Closest Strategic Partners" by Prof. Sreeram Chaulia**

Prof. Sreeram Chaulia's latest book, Friends - India's Closest Strategic Partners, dives into the intricate world of India's foreign relations, offering a unique perspective on India's closest allies and strategic partners. The book sheds light on how India is positioning itself globally as a "Vishwa Mitra," or "World Friend," a philosophy centred on cultivating goodwill and cooperation with other nations.

Ramachandra Guha Latest Book, Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism

Renowned historian and public intellectual Ramachandra Guha is widely celebrated for his profound insights into Indian history and society, especially as the biographer of Mahatma Gandhi. However, his contributions extend well beyond biography and history; he is a pioneering figure in Indian environmentalism. His latest book, Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism, is a testament to his commitment to exploring India's unique ecological heritage. In this work, Guha challenges traditional Western perspectives on environmentalism and highlights India's deep-rooted environmental consciousness, which has evolved in response to socio-economic and cultural necessities.

Exploring Physics Beyond the Higgs Boson Launches

HarperCollins India proudly announces the release of Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W Boson and Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown, authored by Manik Kotwal and translated by Jerry Pinto. This inspiring biography chronicles the extraordinary journey of Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal, a pioneering Indian physicist who played a crucial role in groundbreaking research related to the Higgs boson and the W boson. Written by his mother, this deeply personal narrative celebrates Dr. Kotwal's achievements offer a unique perspective on his life through a mother's eyes.

Miscellaneous News

Collins Dictionary Names “Brat” 2024 Word of the Year

In a reflection of evolving social attitudes and pop culture influences, Collins Dictionary announced “brat” as its Word of the Year for 2024. The word, redefined by British singer Charli XCX and popularized through her album of the same name, has come to represent a “confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude.” Originally used to describe a misbehaving child, “brat” now embodies a culturally resonant spirit of self-expression and rebellion that resonates globally, with notable support from US presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament Inaugurated in Ladakh

Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, inaugurated the much-awaited 4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament at the newly constructed Polo Stadium at Goshan, Drass. This event, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, marked a significant milestone for the region as it showcased not only the traditional sport of horse polo but also the growing emphasis on youth development and sports infrastructure in Ladakh.

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