





26<sup>th</sup> November- 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023



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#### **NATIONAL NEWS**

### 1.President Murmu unveils Ambedkar's statue in Supreme Court on Constitution Day

- President Droupadi Murmu on November 26 unveiled a statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar in the Supreme Court premises on the occasion of Constitution Day.
- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal paid their tributes to the father of the Indian Constitution folding hands and offering flowers to the over 7-feet tall sculpture.

# 2.Centre launches third phase of Yuva Sangam, students from M.P. to visit West Bengal

- The third phase of Yuva Sangam, the Union Government's initiative to sensitise students on diversity across India, started on Saturday with a delegation of 50 students from Madhya Pradesh travelling to West Bengal for a cultural-cum-education tour.
- Under the programme, the students within the age group of 18 to 30 will get 'multi-dimensional exposure' in five broad areas including technology and people-to-people relations.

# 3.Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir'

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for distribution aids and assistive devices to person with disabilities (Divyangjan) at Himmatnagar in Sabarkantha District of Gujarat, in the presence of Shri Dipsinh Rathod, Member of Parliament, Sabarkantha, Smt.
- The distribution camp at Himmatnagar (Sabarkantha) was interconnected online with the other camps conducted simultaneously at other 19 locations covering 09 states across the country for distribution aids and assistive devices to more than 50 thousand pre-identified Divyang beneficiaries under the ADIP scheme of Government of India.

#### 4.MoS, Communications Devusinh Chauhan inaugurates Hamfest India 2023 in Ahmedabad

- Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, inaugurated Hamfest India 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This two-day national convention commenced.
- Hamfest India 2023 brings together a diverse community of amateur radio operators, showcasing the latest innovations, communication techniques, and technological advancements.

# 5. 4th Cyclonic Storm of the Year, 'Michaung,' Anticipated to Impact Bay of Bengal

- Bay of Bengal seems to be heading for another storm soon, following cyclonic storm Midhili that struck several northeastern states. According to latest meteorological conditions another cyclonic storm is set to take place in Bay of Bengal basin.
- This would be the fourth storm this year and appears likely to hit India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, reported Skymetweather. Cyclonic storm 'Michaung' originated in the Gulf of Thailand, contributing to its development.

### 6.Uttar Pradesh Government To Transform Bundelkhand Expressway Into Solar Expressway & Targeting 550 MW Of Solar Power Generation

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government is planning to install solar plants spanning 1700 hectares along the Bundelkhand Expressway. The solar plants are expected to collectively generate 550 MW of solar power, contributing significantly to the state's renewable energy capacity.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will be responsible for executing this ambitious solar power project. The Due Diligence Study for the project has been successfully completed, and the Expression of Interest (EOI) phase concluded in August 2023.

### 7. Ministry of Education asks States to encourage use of online coaching platform SATHEE

- SATHEE is an open learning platform available to students at no cost. It has launched a 45-day crash course for aspirants to test their level of preparation. The platform hosts live and recorded lectures, expertly designed curriculum and doubt-clearing sessions for students to brush up their knowledge.
- Pan India mock tests are conducted every weekend on SATHEE, with the same look and feel adopted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for conducting the JEE. The time taken by an aspiring student to solve a question will be compared with that taken by an IIT-Kanpur student, and similar mappings will be done.

### 8.Centre renames Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres as Ayushman Arogya Mandir

- The Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres now will be known as "Ayushman Arogya Mandir", the Union health ministry has decided. It has sent a letter to the states and Union Territories to implement the rebranding exercise.
- The states have also been asked to upload photographs of rebranded primary health facilitieson the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) portal. It was decided the Centre would provide 60% of the funding and, in turn, states would follow its design manual.

### 9.NSE, West Bengal government sign an MoU to facilitate fundraising for SMEs

- Under the MoU, signed on the sidelines of the Bengal Global Business Summit, NSE with state government support will conduct awareness drive through seminars, MSME camps, knowledge sessions, road shows, and workshops to guide enterprises across the state for fundraising on the NSE Emerge platform and handhold companies in the listing process.
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of West Bengal to spread awareness among MSMEs in the state regarding fundraising via the IPO mechanism using NSE Emerge, the SME platform of NSE.



### 10.Standard and Poors Global predicts India's economic growth at 6.4 per cent for fiscal year 2024-25

- India's economic growth is likely to rise at 6.4 percent for fiscal year 2024-25, according to Standard & Poors (S&P) Global. However, the agency cautioned that high food inflation and weak exports can cast a shadow on growth in the years ahead.
- In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, it growth this year and the next is on track to be the strongest in emerging market economies with higher domestic demand. This projection is in line with many agencies, though lower than the government and RBI projection of 6.5 percent.

#### 11. World's first 3D printed temple comes up in Telangana's Siddipet

- The world's first 3D-printed temple has been unveiled by Telangana. The world's first 3D-printed temple is a ground-breaking structure located at Burugupally in Siddipet district.
- The innovative construction, achieved through a three-month 3D printing process, is a significant technological milestone. Spread over 4,000 square feet and situated at a height of 35.5 feet, this temple has three different parts.

#### **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### 1.Gaza truce holds as more Israeli hostages, Palestinian prisoners set for release

- Hamas was expected to release a second group of Israelis as a planned four-day truce to allow an exchange of 50 hostages for Palestinian prisoners continued to hold in the besieged Gaza Strip.
- Egyptian security sources they had received the names of 14 Israeli women and children from Hamas and were waiting for more details on when the hostages would be handed over to Egyptian authorities.

# 2.Putin's former PM Kasyanov added to Russia's 'foreign agent' list for opposing Ukraine war

- Russia's Justice Ministry added Mikhail Kasyanov, who was President Vladimir Putin's first prime minister but then became one of his opponents, to its register of "foreign agents."
- Russian law allows for figures and organisations receiving money or support from outside the country to be designated as foreign agents, a term whose pejorative connotations could undermine the designee's credibility.

#### 3. Survey of India, Genesys tie up for 3D digital twin-mapping programme in India

- In a landmark collaboration, national mapping agency Survey of India (SoI) and Genesys International, a leading Indian mapping company, announced a strategic tie-up for a three-dimensional (3D) digital twinmapping programme in India.
- Genesys thus becomes the first company to have a first public-private agreement with SoI for digital twin-mapping. The strategic partnershipaims to create digital twins of major cities and towns, leveraging Genesys' all-India highly-accurate navigable maps.

# 4.Eight Indians, PIOs, including World Bank's Ajay Banga and Ola's Bhavish Aggarwal, in Time 100 Climate list

- Eight individuals of Indian origin, including World Bank President Ajay Banga and Ola Electric co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal, have been recognized in Time magazine's inaugural 'Time 100 Climate' list. This list highlights influential leaders driving real climate action in various fields.
- The Time 100 Climate list features global CEOs, founders, philanthropists, musicians, policymakers, and government officials, coinciding with the upcoming 2023 UN Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates.

#### 5. The 42nd India International Trade Fair concluded in New Delhi

- 10 lakh domestic and foreign visitors and business persons participated in this 14-day fair. The theme of the fair this year was based on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- Bihar and Kerala were the partner states of the fair and Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh were the focus states. At the closing ceremony, many awards were conferred to several pavilions and states in different categories.

#### **NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS**

#### 1.Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu elected as Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been elected vice-chair of the UN Panel of External Auditors. In a statement, the C&AG said Murmu participated in the sixty-third session of the Panel of External Auditors, held at the UN headquarters in New York from 20-21 November 2023.
- Murmu actively participated in the 63rd session of the Panel of External Auditors, which took place in New York, the United States of America (USA) on 20-21 November 2023.

#### **BANKING**

# 1.RBI Imposes Cumulative Penalties of ₹10.34 Crore on Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Overseas Bank for Non-Compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on November 24 imposed monetary penalties on Citibank, Bank of Baroda, and Indian Overseas Bank for rule violations. The central bank imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Citibank, Rs 4.34 crore on Bank of Baroda, and Rs 1 crore on Indian Overseas Bank.
- Citibank received the penalty for contravention of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the BR Act) and non-compliance with RBI Directions on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks.

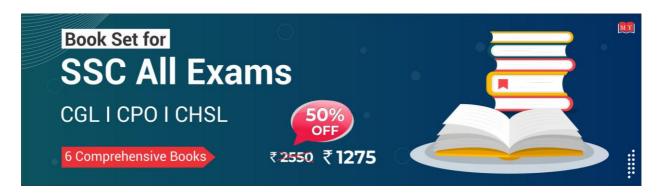
### 2.Blue Dart, India Post enters into strategic partnership, introduces automated digital parcel lockers

- Blue Dart Express Limited announced that it has entered into a partnership with India Post.
- With this collaboration, Blue Dart is introducing automated digital parcel lockers at selected post offices, offering customers an additional delivery method.

• This innovation allows consignees to conveniently retrieve their shipments from digital parcel lockers, doing away with the need for personal receipts or signing for a package.

### 3.Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Takes Control of Mumbai's Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank, Disbands Board for a period of 12 Months

- The Reserve Bank of India has superseded the board of directors of Mumbai head quartered Abhyudaya Co-Op Bank for lapses in governance standards and appointed SP Pathak, former State Bank of India executive to run the bank for 12 months.
- But unlike in the case of PMC Bank, there are no restrictions on the bank and customers can transact normally. This action was necessitated due to "certain material concerns emanating from poor governance standards observed in the bank".



#### 4.State Bank of India's Stake in Jio Payments Bank Drops to 23% in FY23

- State Bank of India's (SBI) shareholding in Jio Payments Bank fell to 23% in FY23 from the 30% that it has maintained since inception, indicating its disinterest in the payments bank business model. The fall below 25% also means SBI will no longer be able to block special resolutions at its seven-year-old joint venture (JV).
- India's largest bank stayed away from two Jio Payments Bank rights issues, while its JV partner Reliance Industries (RIL) picked up 10 million shares on 29 November, and 70 million on 23 January, according to a directors' note in the payment bank's regulatory filing seen by Mint.

# **5.**Axis Bank Concentrates on Establishing a Completely Digital Bank Through Mobile App 'Axis Open' with Minimal Human Assistance

- Axis Bank is actively working towards establishing a fully digital bank, emphasizing the role of its mobile application "Axis Open."
- The bank aims to eliminate the need for human assistance in its digital banking operations, emphasizing a seamless and automated customer experience. The decision to focus on building a digital bank is driven by the prospect of higher yields and improved fee income.

### **6.Razorpay Introduces 'Returnship' Program to Facilitate Women Rejoining the Workforce After Career Break**

- Fintech unicorn Razorpay has rolled out a 'returnship' programme for female professionals on a break who are looking to return to the workforce. The programme is being offered to women who have taken a break of two or more years. According to the company, more over 1,300 have applied for it so far.
- Last month, the Bengaluru-based company launched 'Resume with Razorpay', under which it provides a six-month internship to female professionals to facilitate their return to work.

#### **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

#### 1.IAF flies PM Modi on a Tejas aircraft over Bengaluru for 30 minutes

- Attired in a G-suit, PM Modi was aboard an aircraft flown by an Indian Air Force pilot that took off from the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. airport in Bengaluru. Mr. Modi became the first Prime Minister to fly in fighter aircraft as he went on sortie which lasted for 30 minutes.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a first-hand feel of the indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas as he took a sortie trainer version of the aircraft on November 25.

#### 2.UAE Unveils World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant in Anticipation of COP28

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant ahead of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28).
- The 2-gigawatt Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) is located 35 kilometres from Abu Dhabi city and will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes.

### **3.India and Nepal Kick Off the 17th Iteration of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN**

- The Nepal Army contingent comprising of 334 personnel arrived in India to participate in 17th edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN. The exercise will be conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 24th November to 07th December 2023. It is an annual event and conducted alternatively in the two countries.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising of 354 personnel is being led by a Battalion from the KUMAON Regiment. The Nepal Army contingent is represented by Tara Dal Battalion. Aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter terrorism operations in

mountainous terrain and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under United Nations Charter on peace keeping operations.

#### 4.India, Australia discuss defence ties at 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong as part of the second India Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- The 2 + 2 is a unique ministerial dialogue that brings senior ministers together in a bilateral setting. India maintains Ministerial Dialogue format only with a few key partners like Australia, the United States, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom.

# **5.Lenovo Introduces PCs with PMA-Compliant Specifications Featuring Locally Manufactured Motherboards in India, Expands Manufacturing Operations**

- Lenovo, India's second-largest PC manufacturer, launched PMA- compliant (Government of India's Preferential Market Access Policy) PCs with its Made-in-India motherboard. This marks a significant milestone in strengthening and expanding Lenovo's manufacturing footprint in India Saurabh Agrawal, Chief Operating Officer, Lenovo India.
- Lenovo's announcement comes close on the heels of the unveiling of Lenovo's Shared Support Center in Bengaluru in August this year, with a planned investment to advance local R&D and job creation in India.

#### **AWARDS**

#### 1.Pankaj Advani won the IBSF Billiards Championship 2023

- India's Pankaj Advani has lifted his 26th world title as he won the World IBSF Billiards Championship 2023 in Doha, Qatar today. Pankaj defeated opponent Sourav Kothari with 1000-416 margin in the final.
- He defeated opponent Sourav Kothari with a 1000-416 margin in the final.Kothari took the initial lead and was going strong but faltered on a couple of easy chances.

# 2.NHPC conferred with 'The Economic Times HR World Exceptional Employee Experience Award 2023'

 NHPC has won the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Exceptional Employee Experience Award 2023 (ET HR WORLD EX Awards) in 'Large Scale Enterprise' category. The award was presented in a glittering ceremony organized by ET HR World at Bengaluru on 22nd November 2023. • The Award has been conferred to NHPC in recognition to its wide range of Employees Centric HR initiatives which are not limited to employees only but also extended to their families.

### 3.Geographical Indications Registry Awards GI Tag to Saffron from Kishtwar District, Jammu and Kashmir

- Saffron grown in Kishtwar area of Jammu and Kashmir saffron has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav broke the news on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) with picture of the certificate.
- Saffron from the mountainous Kishtwar district has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.



# 4.Anish Bhanwala wins bronze medal in men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at ISSF World Cup Final 2023

- In Shooting, Indian shooter Anish Bhanwala won the bronze medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2023 in Doha. Competing at the Lusail Shooting Range, Anish Bhanwala scored 27 out of 35 for third place in the final.
- It was also the first medal for India in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event in the ISSF World Cup Final history. The ISSF World Cup Final 2023 is being held for rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooters. It will conclude with team events.

### 5.NHPC conferred 2nd prize under 'Annual Report' category of 'PRSI National Awards 2023'

- NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, has won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize under the 'Annual Report' category of 'PRSI National Awards 2023'. The award recognizes the overall high-quality, layout and design of NHPC Annual Report 2022-23.
- The award was presented during the International Public Relations Festival organized by Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) during 25th to 27th

November 2023 in New Delhi. The award recognizes the overall high-quality, layout and design of NHPC Annual Report 2022-23.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### 1. Shelna Nishad, former LDF candidate from Aluva in Kerala, passes away

- Shelna Nishad, who had contested the 2021 Assembly elections as an independent candidate of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the Aluva constituency in Kerala, passed away in Kochi on November 19, 2023 .She was 36.
- She was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kochi following bone marrow transplant. Her condition had worsened over the last few days. She was undergoing cancer treatment for some time.

# 2.Veteran Bollywood filmmaker Rajkumar Kohli, father of actor Armaan Kohli, passed away

- Rajkumar Kohli has died. The veteran filmmaker's funeral will take place evening. He had made films such as Akshay Kumar-starrer Jaani Dushman (2002).
- Bollywood's veteran filmmaker and director Rajkumar Kohli, father of actor Armaan Kohli, passed away at the age of 93. His films frequently featured actors such as Sunil Dutt, Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, and actresses Reena Roy and Anita Raj.

#### 3.Former Mr India Nongthombam Maipak passed away

- Nongthombam Maipak, former Mr India title holder and veteran body builder of Manipur popularly known as Mister Maipak passed away at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal after battling with an illness on Monday evening. He was 88.
- Maipak was born on June 12, 1935 at Uripok Sorbon Thingel Sinam Leikai in Imphal West district as the second son of late N Komol Singh and Tampaklei Devi.



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