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“Guru Gyan”

Dear Students,

I want to talk to you about two superpowers that can change your life: perseverance and hard work. These aren't just fancy words you hear in speeches; they're the secret to achieving all your dreams.

Perseverance is all about pushing through even when things get tough. It's not giving up when you face obstacles, failures, or disappointments. It's having the courage to keep moving forward, knowing that every setback is an opportunity to learn and grow. As Nelson Mandela once said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

And let's not forget hard work! It's like the fuel that powers your dreams. It's putting in the effort, day in and day out, to make progress towards your goals. As Thomas Edison famously put it, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." So, roll up your sleeves, get ready, and go after what you want with all your heart.

Sure, the road to success might have bumps, potholes, and unexpected challenges, but that's what makes the journey so incredible. Each step you take, each challenge you conquer, makes you stronger and more resilient.

So, my friends, don't be afraid to dream big and work even bigger! Embrace perseverance and hard work as your best buddies on this exciting adventure called life.

Now, go out there and show the world what you're made of! You've got this!

Vishishta Nayak

(Faculty)

Yes Academy for CS | Law (Pune)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

UDHAMPUR ACHIEVED 100% SATURATION IN 'VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA'

Jitendra Singh commends Udhampur's success, nearing full implementation in key schemes and flagship projects. PMGSY and RDD departments were lauded for excellence in road connectivity and efficient completion of Area Development Plan.

All the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" schemes as well as all the flagship schemes of Govt. of India are nearing 100% saturation in Udhampur district.

J&K BECOMES FIRST UT TO IMPLEMENT PM VISHWAKARMA YOJANA

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY). It is an initiative that aims to empower and enhance the skills of the craftsman community.

The inauguration of the training programme for the first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) in 'darzi craft' was virtually conducted by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, and Secretary of the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari, at ITI Shopian.

FLIPKART CO-FOUNDER LAUNCHED E-COMMERCE START-UP 'OPPDOOR'

Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal has launched a new e-commerce start-up 'OppDoor', business-to-business (B2B) platform. The software services platform will help emerging e-commerce brands expand globally.

OppDoor is a 'managed services platform for global expansion'. It will help e-commerce brands by offering them end-to-end services on global markets, customer behaviour, taxation and compliance, partnerships, and third-party vendors.

IREDA DECLARED 2024 AS 'YEAR OF HR DEVELOPMENT AND DISCIPLINE'

CMD of IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline'.

The CMD praised the efforts of the employees that have propelled IREDA to new heights. The year 2024 will be christened as 'Year of Human Resource Development and Discipline' to mark IREDA's future roadmap into new strategic sectors and geographies.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

Motto- "ENERGY FOR EVER"

Chairman & MD- Pradip Kumar Das

CFO- Bijay Kumar Mohanty

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES FIRST IN INDIA TO RECEIVE ISCC-PLUS CERTIFICATION

Reliance Industries has become the first Indian company to chemically recycle plastic waste-based pyrolysis oil into International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)-Plus certified circular polymers.

This innovation is a testimony to Reliance's commitment to reducing plastic waste and supporting the circular economy in India.

Reliance shipped its first batch of ISCC-Plus-certified circular polymers, named CircuRepol (Polypropylene) and CircuRelene (Polyethylene).

CircuRepol and CircuRelene have been designed to lead the way in circular economy practices. Reliance's Jamnagar refinery became the first refinery to get the important ISCC-Plus certification, proving that it can produce circular polymers through chemical recycling.

HYDERABAD, BENGALURU AIRPORTS SCORE HIGH IN GLOBAL ON-TIME RANKING

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport bagged third position in the world for its annual On-Time Performance (OTP) in the year 2023. According to a report released by aviation analytics firm Circum, Hyderabad airport is ranked as the second most punctual airport in the world and Bengaluru airport stands next.

The Circum report stated that a flight is considered punctual if it departs or arrives with a difference of 15 minutes from the scheduled time.

MAHARASHTRA AIMS TO BECOME GLOBAL DRONE HUB

The Maharashtra government has approved the Maharashtra Drone Mission (MDM) to harness drone technology. Functions include security surveillance, disaster rescue, delivery of emergency medicines, vaccines to remote areas, infrastructure project monitoring, and traffic management.

A five-year implementation plan has been prepared based on a report by a team of experts from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay which would be monitored by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

The Drone Mission will be headquartered at IIT-B. The Drone Mission will help Maharashtra become a Global Drone hub, the notification said. The IIT-B report, which led the government to approve the Mission, was submitted in October last year.

About Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai

Chief Minister – Eknath Sindhe

Deputy Chief Minister – Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar

Governor – Ramesh Bais

ARCELORMITTAL PARTNERS WITH IIT MADRAS TO CREATE HYPERLOOP FACILITY

Steel giant ArcelorMittal has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to build “Asia’s first” Hyperloop test track facility in Tamil Nadu. The companies, ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS), are providing foundational steel materials as well as engineering, design, and project management expertise to support the construction of Asia’s first Hyperloop test track at the 163-acre Discovery campus of IIT Madras, located at Thaiyur on the outskirts of Chennai.

U.P. TOPS IN ENTRY RATE ON ICJS PLATFORM

Uttar Pradesh has been ranked first for the third consecutive year in recording the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform, conceptualized by the Supreme Court’s e-committee and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Notably, the ICJS platform facilitates the seamless transfer of data and information among various pillars of the criminal justice system nationwide. It enables the exchange of data related to crimes and criminals between courts, police, jails, and forensic science laboratories through a single-window system.

KERALA LAUNCHES K-SMART TECH SOLUTION

The Kerala Government has launched K-SMART (Kerala Solutions for Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation), which will bring all services of the three-tier local self-government institutions on a unified digital platform. This is the first such initiative in the country that the entire bouquet of services of a department is being made available to the public on a digital platform.

Kerala is showing the way in using modern technology. Kerala is the first state in the country to declare Internet access a fundamental right. K-SMART would provide a major relief to expatriates who want to avail various services of the local bodies without visiting the offices.

About Kerala

Capital – Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister – Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

CZECH PM TO BE CHIEF GUEST AT VIBRANT GUJARAT SUMMIT

The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Fiala is to be the Guest of Honour at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit to be held from January 10-12 in Gandhinagar.

Besides PM Fiala, Timor-Leste's President José Ramos-Horta, President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi will also be attending.

The Prime Minister will open the event on January 10th in Gandhinagar. The biennial event has become a crucial platform for policymakers, diplomats, business leaders, investors, and corporates to foster collaborations, and partnerships and explore investment opportunities.

The theme for the 10th edition of the VGGS is 'Gateway to the Future'. It will be held in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12.

CABINET APPROVES INDIA-USAID MOU FOR RAILWAYS' NET-ZERO EMISSION GOAL

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by 2030. The MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector.

COV

AYODHYA AIRPORT RENAMED AS 'MAHARISHI VALMIKI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'

The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to declare Ayodhya Airport as an international airport.

The airport will be named "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham," reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region. The airport is paramount for realizing Ayodhya's economic potential and its significance as a global pilgrimage site, opening doors to foreign pilgrims and tourists.

About Uttar Pradesh

Capital – Lucknow

Chief Minister – Yogi Adityanath

Governor – Anandiben Patel

SUCHETHA SATISH SETS NEW WORLD RECORD FOR SINGING IN MOST LANGUAGES DURING SINGLE CONCERT IN DUBAI

In a historic and awe-inspiring event, Suchetha Satish (from Kerala) has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE. The Guinness Book of World Records officially attested to this feat earlier this week.

Suchetha's groundbreaking performance was part of a Concert for Climate, a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of climate change. The talented artist delivered an astounding rendition of songs in an unprecedented 140 languages, captivating the audience with her musical prowess and a powerful message.

RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS SET TO RETIRE IN 2024

68 Rajya Sabha members, including nine Union ministers, are completing their tenures this year, triggering a race of sorts among leaders across political parties to eye a six-year term in the Upper House of Parliament. Of the 68 vacancies, elections have already been called for three seats in Delhi where AAP leaders Sanjay Singh, Narain Dass Gupta, and Sushil Kumar Gupta will complete their tenures on January 27.

As many as 57 leaders, including Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya, and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, will complete their tenures in April.

NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES AND LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF 12 NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN KERALA

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects with a total length of 105 km worth over Rs 1464 Crore in Kerala.

The proposed projects aim to enhance seamless connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ensuring swift and trouble-free transportation.

CHHATTISGARH GOVT LAUNCHES 'RAMLALA DARSHAN' SCHEME

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai has launched the "Ram Lala Darshan" (Ayodhya Dham) Yojana.

Under the scheme, 20,000 eligible residents of the State would be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year. The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board will implement the scheme and the budget for it will be provided by the Tourism Department.

It added that those between the age of 18 and 75 years and found fit in the health examination by District Medical Board will be considered eligible for the trip under this scheme. In the first phase, however, this facility will be made available for people of age above 55 years.

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHED SPECIAL VEHICLE TO RESTORE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Tamil Nadu government has launched the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems.

This part of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Mission was announced in the 2023-24 state budget, with a Rs 2000 crore cost backed by World Bank funding. A special-purpose vehicle called the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency has been set up for preservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, corals, seagrass, and salt marshes.



HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2024; INDIA RANKS 80TH

The Henley Passport Index 2024 has been released to highlight the “power” of passports of 199 countries.

The index, which ranks countries based on the number of destinations that allow visa-free entry to their passport was topped by France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain.

Passports of all these countries have visa-free access to 194 destinations, three more than last year.

Japan and Singapore have continued to top the list for five years now. India and Uzbekistan stand at the 80th rank in the list of most powerful passports with 62 destinations. Its passport has visa-free access to 62 nations, including Angola, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Qatar and Zimbabwe.

The least powerful passport in the world is Afghanistan. It ranked at 104th spot with access to 28 countries. It is followed by Syria (103), Iraq (102), Pakistan (101) and Yemen (100).

VARANASI WINS ‘CLEANEST GANGA TOWNS’ AWARD

The spiritual city of Varanasi has secured the top spot in the Cleanest Ganga Town category of Swachh Survekshan 2023, surpassing Prayagraj.

Despite this achievement, Varanasi faced a setback, slipping to the 41st position from the 21st spot in the national ranking for cities with a population exceeding 10 lakh. Howrah, West Bengal, is ranked as the dirtiest city in India according to the annual cleanliness survey. The bottom spots were occupied by Shillong, Khagaria, and Sitamarhi.

KARNATAKA GOVT. LAUNCHED ‘YUVA NIDHI’ SCHEME FOR JOBLESS YOUTH

Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar have launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme in Shivamogga, Karnataka. The scheme offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders who are yet to get a job, but only for a maximum of two years.

Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the Skill Connect portal of the State Government.

SOUTH KOREAN FIRM SIMMTECH SIGNS MOU FOR CREATING SEMICONDUCTOR ECOSYSTEM IN GUJARAT

After US chipmaker Micron and Tata group, South Korean firm Simmtech has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up its plant in Sanand at a cost of Rs1,250 crore as part of creating a semiconductor ecosystem in the state.

South Korean firm has been allotted 30 acres of land and the work will start in the next two-three months. The company will need 6-7 months to set up the plants.

Simmtech is the world's biggest manufacturer of semiconductor substrates.

MAHARASHTRA'S PENCH TIGER RESERVE BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST DARK SKY PARK

The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia. This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the reserve's unwavering commitment to protecting the sanctity of the night sky and creating an optimal setting for astronomy enthusiasts.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasizes on the recognition of the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource.

The IUCN also highlights the need to preserve natural darkness for the sake of nature conservation, ecological integrity in protected areas, and the well-being of communities in healthy cities.

PM MODI RELEASES FIRST INSTALMENT OF PM-JANMAN SCHEME FOR PUCCA HOMES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released ₹540 crore — the first installment of funding — for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to one lakh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiary families as part of the recently-launched PM-JANMAN package for the overall development of PVTG habitations.

Simultaneously, in 100 districts, officials of both the Centre and the respective State governments will distribute benefits under the package to Gram Panchayats and village chiefs.

About Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

PM-JANMAN was launched for the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) on November 15, 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

PM-JANMAN, with a budget of approximately ₹24,000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through nine ministries.

It is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of PVTGs by saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, electricity, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

MP GOVT DECLARES JANUARY 22 AS DRY DAY TO MARK CONSECRATION OF RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

Madhya Pradesh government has declared January 22 as a dry day, when liquor shops will remain closed to mark the consecration of Lord Ram's temple in Ayodhya. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that keeping in view the public sentiments, the state government has decided that all types of shops including liquor and Bhang outlets will remain closed on the 22nd of this month.

Meanwhile, states including Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Assam have already declared January 22 a 'dry day' given the Pran Pratishtha ceremony.

L&T WINS RS 10,000 CRORE ELECTRIFICATION ORDER FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured a mega contract from an authorized Japanese agency to construct an electrification system for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed rail project in India.

Valued in the range of Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore, the project, according to company executives, is the largest single rail-electrification order in India. This would be the first of its kind railway project in India involving the implementation of Japanese Shinkansen High-Speed Electrification Technology.

This electrification system will enable trains to travel at speeds of up to 320 kmph.

PARSHOTHAM RUPALA LAUNCHES PROJECT FOR ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN VIZHINJAM

Union Minister of Fisheries, Parshotham Rupala has launched the project of depositing artificial reefs in the seabed in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram.

The project, a joint initiative of the Central and State governments, is aimed at increasing the income of fishermen by enhancing the fish population in the region. The project is being implemented under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana with a total outlay of 13.02 crore. Out of this, 7.812 crore is being provided by the Central Government and 5.208 crore is the State government's share.

pm msy

FARSI AS INDIA'S NEW CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy. Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004.

Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.

In addition to these classical languages Pali, Persian, and Prakrit; and their works of literature too must be preserved for their richness and for the pleasure and enrichment of posterity," according to India's National Education Policy-2020.

8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the official languages of the Republic of India, including 22 languages. This schedule is pivotal for representation on the Official Languages Commission and enriches Hindi and English, the official languages of the Union.

PM MODI RELEASED COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS, BOOK ON RAM TEMPLE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a series of commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and a book featuring stamps from around the world honouring the revered deity.

The intricate design of the stamps captures the essence of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, with six distinct components. These include the Ram Mandir itself, the timeless Choupai 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari', a radiant depiction of the sun, the sacred Saryu River, and sculptures found in and around the temple.

The six stamps within the collection represent key figures and elements from the Ramayana. These include the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.

Handwritten notes: *2023 → El Sisi*, *2024 → Atal*, *PM - Gabriel*

EGYPT PRESIDENT ABDEL FATTAH EL SISI TO BE CHIEF GUEST AT REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Egypt President Abdel Fattah El Sisi will be the chief guest at Republic Day celebrations. This is for the first time that the president of Egypt has been invited as chief guest on our Republic Day 2023.

A 180-member strong military contingent from the Egyptian army will also participate in the Republic Day parade. President el-Sisi is scheduled to visit India from 24 January to 26 January, during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attend the Republic Day celebrations and interact with the business community.

The Egyptian president previously visited India in October 2015 to participate in the third India-Africa Forum Summit, which was followed by a state visit in September 2016.

A commemorative stamp marking 75 years of diplomatic ties between India and Egypt will be released during his visit.

PM MODI INAUGURATED THE AYODHYA RAM MANDIR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a momentous occasion in India's history. The inauguration involved the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol, a pivotal event that symbolizes the infusion of life into the idol.

The event, attended by over 7,000 dignitaries, was not just a religious ceremony but also a cultural milestone for India.

The Ram Lalla idol, crafted by renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj from Karnataka, is a 51-inch black-coloured depiction of Lord Ram as a five-year-old child.

Ayodhya Dham Architecture

The temple is 76 metres (250 ft) wide, 120 metres (380 ft) long and 49 metres (161 ft) high.

The temple complex will be the world's third largest Hindu temple. It is designed in the Gurjara-Chaulukya style of Nagara style architecture, a type of Hindu temple architecture

Main Deity – Ram Lalla Virajman, the infant form of Rama, an avatar of Vishnu, is the presiding deity of the temple.

Ram Lalla's dress was stitched by tailors Bhagwat Prasad and Shankar Lal.

Architect of the Temple – Sompura Family Ram Mandir. Sompura comes from a long line of temple architects and is the 15th generation of the family, hailing from Ahmedabad.

Construction Company – Larsen & Toubro

The main temple complex covers 2.7 acres (Total 70 acres)

OTHERS

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the inaugural all-girls Sainik School in Vrindavan Uttar Pradesh, hailing it as a guiding light for young women aspiring to serve in the armed forces and safeguard the nation.
- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized 'the 12th edition of Divya Kala Mela' in Surat, Gujarat.
- India's KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) will invest ₹211 crore (\$ 25.712 million) over a five-year period for exploration stage activities of five lithium blocks in Fiambala area of Argentina.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands submarine optical fiber connection (KLI-SOFC) project. The KLI-SOFC project will lead to an increase in internet speed unlocking new possibilities & opportunities. For the first time since independence, Lakshadweep will be connected through Submarine Optic Fibre Cable.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated Mega Expo under the theme "Emerging StartUp Trends in North India" at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Jharkhand Government has reduced the qualifying age for old-age pension for tribals and Dalits to 50 years from the previous 60 years.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has inked a MoU with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to develop and report a 'Green Cover Index' for the extensive network of the Indian National Highways.

- The Yogi government has distributed loans totaling Rs 6,55,684 crore in the last six and a half years to boost the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana, on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its nod to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).
- Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023. The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by 2030.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched a comprehensive social welfare scheme named "Yogyasree."
- The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations.
- Last year was the planet's hottest on record by a substantial margin and likely the world's warmest in the last 100,000 years, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). C3S confirmed 2023 as the hottest year in global temperature records going back to 1850.
- Denmark has launched the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance their joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.
- Sri Lanka's Education minister Dr. Susil Premajayantha has said that a new campus of IIT Madras would be started in Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- The three-day International Camel Festival has organized with great fervor in the culturally rich district of Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to provide insurance cover to casual workers employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to build infrastructure in remote areas.
- Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India, located in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M Scindia has inaugurated Wings India 2024, Asia's largest aviation expo, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been rated as the second most valuable IT services brand in the world in the 2024 Global 500 IT Services Ranking by Brand Finance.

- The Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MahaMetro) has announced that the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) will inspect a stretch of the Pune Metro in February, and clearances are expected in March.

बूझो तो जानें

Done with National Affairs? Isn't our own country more interesting than you thought it to be? Here's a little reward for you! Solve this riddle and send us your answers to our Instagram page [yesdaily_official](#) and the best answers will be selected for our special prize. (Answer to the previous riddle: Hyderabad)

In lands where echoes whisper old,
Where stories weave and legends mold.
Amidst the verdant, ancient plains,
A city's tale forever reigns.
Once ruled by kings of noble might,
In golden days, their rule took flight.
A land where faith and honor meet,
Where tales of valor and defeat.
Upon the banks of rivers wide,
Where sacred waters ebb and glide.
In temples grand, the gods hold sway,
Blessings sought both night and day.
Though time may pass, and empires fall,
Within my heart, I stand tall.
A symbol of enduring grace,
In every tale, I find my place.
What place am I, in history's fold,
Where epics sing and legends bold?
In puzzles vast, my name holds sway,
Now tell me, traveler, what do you say?



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FRANCOISE BETTENCOURT MEYERS BECOMES FIRST WOMAN WITH A \$100 BILLION

Françoise Bettencourt Meyers, heiress to the L'Oréal beauty empire, has made history as the world's first woman to surpass a net worth of \$100 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

This milestone was achieved through the surge in L'Oréal S.A. stock. As of that day, her net worth stood at \$100.1 billion, shows Bloomberg's data.

Established in 1909 by Bettencourt Meyers' chemist grandfather, Eugene Schueller to sale a hair dye, the company has been led by non-family executives for many decades.

RUSSIA TAKES OVER THE BRICS CHAIRMANSHIP

Russia has taken over the BRICS chairmanship as of January 1, following the decision made during the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.

About Russia

Capital – Moscow

Currency – Rubel

President – Vladimir Putin

*S ⇒
Every Elephant in
Saudi Arabia
understands.*

FRANCE BECOMES FIRST EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO ISSUE DIGITAL SCHENGEN VISAS

France will become the first European country to issue digital Schengen visas to visitors for the upcoming Paris Olympics. France has announced plans to shift entirely to online procedures for 70,000 French Schengen Visas, in a move that aligns with the EU's digitalization plans.

France began operations of the "Olympic Consulate" system from January 1, 2024 – dedicated to processing visa applications for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. 2028 - USA

The "Olympic Consulate" is expected to handle applications from 15,000 international athletes, 9,000 journalists, and delegations from foreign countries participating in the upcoming sporting events.

The Schengen area includes 23 of the 27 EU member countries, along with associated neighbors Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

European Union

About France

Capital- Paris

President- Emmanuel Macron

Prime Minister- Elisabeth Borne

Calvinet Attal.

Official language- French

GOOGLE DEEPMIND INTRODUCES MOBILE ALOHA HUMANOID TECHNOLOGY

Researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University has introduced Mobile ALOHA, a low-cost open-source hardware system for bimanual teleoperation. It is a humanoid robot that can be remote operated by a user and perform autonomously by imitation learning.

ALOHA can autonomously cook and serve shrimps, call and take the elevator, and store a 3lbs pot in a cabinet – tasks it learned through imitation of 50 demos. Further, through user-controlled teleoperations, it can do laundry, self-charge, use a vacuum cleaner, water plants, load and unload a dishwasher, use a coffee machine and much more.

ALOHA is a lightweight robot walking at a human speed of 1.42 metre a second and can carry up to 100-kilogramme weight.

Geneva, Switzerland

GLOBAL UNEMPLOYMENT SEEN INCHING UP TO 5.2% IN 2024: ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency, has projected a modest rise in the global unemployment rate to 5.2% in 2024, citing an increase in joblessness across advanced economies. According to the ILO's 2024 World Employment and Social Outlook report, the anticipated rise would result in the global unemployment rate inching up from 5.1% recorded in 2023.

GREECE DRAFTS BILL TO LEGALIZE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Greece will publish a bill shortly that will legalize same-sex marriage in a bid to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said. Greece has implemented a series of reforms over the past decade to improve LGBT+ rights in the country where the Orthodox Church has long opposed equal rights for same-sex couples.

Mitsotakis, who is trying to break away from the traditional image of a conservative leader, has drafted a national strategy on LGBT+ rights that may win support from the left but create opposition in more conservative quarters.

About Greece

Capital – Athens

Currency – Euro (€)

Official languages – Greek, Modern Greek

Prime Minister – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

UAE UNVEILS GROUNDBREAKING 'ECOMARK' GREEN ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

UAE has introduced the world's first sustainability accreditation framework for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). 'EcoMark' Global Accreditation, based on ISO standards, aims to enhance MSMEs' global competitiveness in the green economy.

Digitally enabled certification includes resources for document requirements, sustainability roadmap, and standardized application process.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Capital – Abu Dhabi

Currency – Dirham

President – Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime Minister – Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Official language -Arabic

GLOBAL FIRE POWER INDEX 2023: INDIA RANKED 4TH; TOPPED BY US

Global Firepower Index is a rating of the military forces of all countries on the planet. The Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. India is ranked fourth in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked 145 countries. The most powerful country in the world is the United States of America, followed by Russia, China, and India.

Turkey has once again emerged as the most powerful country in the Middle East and North African region. Turkey has been placed at the 11th position in the global ranking.

Egypt is ranked 14th and Iran is ranked 17th in the global ranking. Egypt is ranked as the most powerful Arab country in terms of its military power.

PAKISTAN IS SOUTH ASIA'S WEAKEST ECONOMY: WORLD BANK REPORT

World Bank forecast Pakistan's economic growth to slow further to two percent during 2023.

This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report. The reason behind this is unprecedented floods, depleting forex reserves, food shortages, and poverty.

It forecast Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2% in 2024, which would be lower than earlier estimate of 4.2%.

OTHERS

- India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will represent India at the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Uganda's capital Kampala January 2024.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INDIA TO HOST UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN JULY 2024

India is set to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024, marking a historic milestone for our nation.

Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, announced this decision. During its 19th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023), the World Heritage Committee resolved to hold its 46th session in India.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Formation – 16 November 1945

Headquarters – Paris, France

Director General – Audrey Azoulay (France)

Member countries – 193

UJJAIN UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST HYGIENIC FOOD STREET 'PRASADAM'

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated 'Prasadam,' the nation's first healthy and hygienic food street, in a grand ceremony at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

The 'PRASADAM' initiative aims to connect common citizens across the nation with pure and safe local and traditional food. This effort will align people, both residents and tourists, to adopt safe and healthy eating habits.

PM MODI INAUGURATES 27TH NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL IN NASHIK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra.

The festival, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrated youthful talent and skills across the nation.

He also witnessed a march past by the state's team and a cultural program on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047 – Yuva ke liye, Yuva ke dwara' which included Rhythmic gymnastics, Mallakhamb, Yogasana and National Youth Festival song.

SWITZERLAND TO HOST UKRAINE PEACE SUMMIT

Switzerland has agreed to host a global peace summit on Ukraine at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Neutral Switzerland has previously acted as a broker to resolve conflicts and could now help find a resolution for the war that began when Russia sent troops into Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022.

The summit, aimed at resolving the conflict sparked by Russia's incursion into Ukraine in 2022, highlights Switzerland's role as a neutral mediator.

BANKING & FINANCIAL

LIC OVERTAKES SBI TO BECOME THE MOST VALUABLE PSU

Life Insurance Corporation of India, a government-owned insurance giant, has regained its status as the most valued public sector undertaking, surpassing the market capitalization of State Bank of India.

While SBI holds a market value of Rs 5.63 lakh crore, LIC has surpassed it with a market capitalization (MCap) of Rs 5.64 lakh crore.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

- Denmark's popular Queen Margrethe II, Europe's longest-serving monarch, would abdicate on January 14 and pass the baton to her son Crown Prince Frederik.

About Denmark

Capital- Copenhagen

Currency- Danish krone

Prime Minister – Mette Frederiksen

- China named former Navy chief Dong Jun as its new defence minister to replace the last minister, Li Shangfu, who disappeared from public view four months ago.
- Kia India has appointed Gwanggu Lee as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect.
- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has nominated Justice BR Gavai as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.
- Nadia Calviño took over as president of the European Investment Bank, replacing Werner Hoyer.
- Randhir Jaiswal, a Senior Indian Foreign Service officer, assumed the position of Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs.

- Chief General Manager of Canara Bank, P Santhosh has been appointed as the Managing Director of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- Shashi Singh has been elected as the president of the All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), the apex body for rubber industries in India.
- Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took over as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS).
- Government-backed National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited has appointed Sanjiv Aggarwal as its chief executive officer and managing director.
- The Indian Olympic Association has appointed Raghuram Iyer as the Chief Executive Officer.
- Senior bureaucrat Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka.

About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Founded – 6 June 1997

Headquarters – Dhaka, Bangladesh

Membership – 7 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Thailand)

Secretary General – Indra Mani Pandey (India)

- Ashwani Gupta has been appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone.
- Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for a fifth term, marking a significant milestone in the country's political landscape.
- The Maharashtra government has appointed 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla as the Director General of Police.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed G Ram Mohan Rao as Executive Director (ED) for a period of three years.
- Nivea India has appointed Geetika Mehta as new Managing Director (MD). With this, she joins the growing list of women heading fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies.
- Aruna Nayar has been appointed as Railway Board Secretary. She is an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) Officer of 1987 Batch and Level-16 empanelled IRMS officer.
- French President Emmanuel Macron has named Gabriel Attal as the country's new prime minister.
- Walmart-owned fintech firm PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as chief executive officer of its international payments business.

- The Central government has appointed former Central Industrial Security Force Director General Sheel Vardhan Singh as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- President Joe Biden has reappointed Indian American Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to serve as Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.
- Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become Prime Minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats.
- Denmark's King Frederik X took the throne after the abdication of his mother Queen Margrethe II.
- William Lai, also known as Lai Ching-te, from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won Taiwan's presidential election.
- Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra, who is in charge of monetary policy and is a member of the monetary policy committee, has been given a one-year extension ahead of the end of his tenure.
- Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty took over as Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy.
- Jagrut Kotecha has been appointed as the CEO of Snacks and beverage major 'PepsiCo India'.

AWARDS

[PROF B R KAMBOJ HONOURED WITH M S SWAMINATHAN AWARD](#)

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor P B.R. Kamboj has been honoured with the prestigious MS Swaminathan Award in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy. Prof Kamboj has published about 300 research papers and articles in national and international journals, books, and technical magazines.

[SWACHH SURVEKSHAN AWARDS 2023: INDORE, SURAT 'CLEANEST CITIES' IN INDIA](#)

Indore and Surat were declared the joint cleanest cities of India as part of the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 presented by President Draupadi Murmu in the category of more than one lakh population. This was the seventh time that Indore won the accolade of the cleanest city in India

Saswad in Maharashtra got the cleanest city award for urban centres with less than 1 lakh population while Patan in Chattisgarh and Lonavla in Maharashtra were the second and third cleanest cities.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra got the first prize for cleanliness in the state category, Madhya Pradesh got second and Chhattisgarh got the award of third cleanest state. Varanasi and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh clinched the top spots as the Cleanest Ganga Towns.

[SHEETAL DEVI, THE WORLD'S FIRST ARMLESS WOMAN ARCHER WON ARJUNA AWARD](#)

Sheetal Devi, the teenaged armless archer who has widely earned recognition for India through her performance in para-archery, was conferred with the Arjuna Award, one of the country's top civilian honours by President Droupadi Murmu. Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi is a para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir.

She emerged as the first armless woman to clinch a Para World Archery Championships medal in 2023. She defeated Singapore's Alim Nur Syahidah 144-142 in the gold medal-deciding fixture.

[FORMER CJI RANJAN GOGOI TO HONOURED WITH 'ASSAM BAIBHAV' AWARD](#)

Former Chief Justice of India and current Rajya Sabha MP, Ranjan Gogoi is to be honored with the prestigious 'Assam Baibhav' award, the highest civilian award in Assam. This announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, who highlighted Gogoi's significant contributions to the field of justice and jurisprudence.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 10. This is the third year on which the awards will be given. "In the first year, we gave the Assam Baibhav award to Ratan Tata and last year we gave the award to Tapan Saikia.

[SOUTH AFRICA HOST ICC U-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP 2024](#)

South Africa is hosting the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024. The World Cup started on 19 January and will conclude on 11 February. This 50-over tournament will feature 16 teams, with a total of 41 matches scheduled to be played.

SPORTS

DIVYAKRITI SINGH BECOMES 1ST INDIAN WOMAN ARJUNA AWARDEE FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

23-year-old Divyakriti Singh Rathore of Rajasthan received the prestigious Arjuna Award from President Droupadi Murmu for her remarkably outstanding stint in Equestrian sports.

Singh, the first Indian female to receive the Arjuna in the Equestrian sport, has mastered the tricks of the sport after rigorous practice over the years. It was a proud moment not only for Divyakriti Singh but also for her home state of Rajasthan, as she stands as the sole representative to receive an Arjuna Award not only this year, but for the past five years.

FIH AND VIACOM18 INK FOUR-YEAR MEDIA RIGHTS DEAL

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a major media rights agreement with Viacom18.

This agreement runs for a four-year cycle (2023-2027) and includes all FIH events, except the FIH Nations Cup. As part of the partnership, Viacom18 will broadcast and stream the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, the first ever FIH Hockey5s World Cup, the FIH Hockey Pro League, and the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup on Sports18 and JioCinema, respectively.

MP EMERGES OVERALL CHAMPION OF FIRST EVER BEACH GAMES HELD IN DIU

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural Beach Games 2024, held at the pristine blue flag-certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu. The landlocked state secured a staggering total of 18 medals, including an impressive haul of 7 golds, highlighting the depth of talent within its contingent.

The competition witnessed 1404 young athletes from 28 states and Union Territories participating in a diverse array of disciplines.

ROHIT SHARMA BECOME FIRST MEN'S PLAYER TO PLAY 150 T20IS

India captain Rohit Sharma has become the first men's player to play 150 T20Is. Rohit achieved this feat during the second T20I match against Afghanistan at the Holkar Cricket Stadium.

Rohit returned to India's T20I setup for the first time since the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. He led his side to a 6-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the first T20I in Mohali. Rohit also secured another milestone by becoming the first player to win 100 T20Is.

YOGESH SINGH WINS GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S 25M CENTRE FIRE PISTOL

Yogesh Singh won the gold medal in the men's 25m centre fire pistol competition in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Yogesh claimed the individual gold medal after shooting 573, finishing ahead of silver winner Muad Al Balushi of Oman (570) and Indonesia's Anang Yulianto (567). The other two Indian participants in the event, Pankaj Yadav (567) and Akshay Jain (564), ended fourth and sixth.

PRAGGNANANDHAA SURPASSES VISWANATHAN ANAND TO BECOME INDIA'S NO.1 CHESS PLAYER

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, achieved a historic milestone in his career by defeating World Champion Ding Liren from China.

This significant victory occurred during the fourth round of the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament held in Wijk aan Zee.

Praggnanandhaa also leapfrogged over five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand as the country's top-ranked chess player in the FIDE's live ratings with a rating of 2748.3, while Anand is at 2748. (FIDE discloses the published ratings at the start of each month).

OTHERS

- Kenya's Beatrice Chebet smashed the women's world 5km record in Barcelona. The 23-year-old's time of 14min 13sec improved on the previous women-only world record of 14:29 set by Ethiopia's Senbere Teferi in September 2021.

- Tata Group will pay Rs 2,500 crore, the highest-ever sponsorship amount in the history of the Indian Premier League, as it won the title sponsorship rights of IPL, which has become a decacorn and is the richest cricket league in the world.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MICROSOFT LAUNCHES AI ODYSSEY TO SKILL 1 LAKH DEVELOPERS IN INDIA

Microsoft has launched an initiative that aims to skill one lakh developers in India in the latest AI technologies and tools.

The program offers a comprehensive learning experience that helps developers acquire and demonstrate relevant skills needed to execute critical projects using AI technologies that align with business goals and outcomes.

Through programs like AI Odyssey, Microsoft is offering opportunities for developers to build solutions for India's growth and showcase their talent to solve real-world problems, said the company.

The month-long program is open to all AI enthusiasts in India, regardless of experience level or background. The program has two levels that participants need to complete by January 31, 2024.

DEFENCE

DRDO LAUNCHES 'UGRAM' ASSAULT RIFLE FOR ARMED FORCES

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched Ugram, a state-of-the-art assault rifle of the 7.62 x 51 mm calibre.

It has been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured in collaboration with a private industry partner. The assault rifle has been designed for the operational requirements of armed forces, paramilitary and state police entities. The rifle has an effective range of 500 metres and weighs less than four kilograms and has been developed by DRDO's Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE) in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Dvipa Armour India Private Limited.

Founded – 1 January 1958

Headquarters – New Delhi

Motto – “Strength’s Origin is in Knowledge”

Chairman – Samir V Kamat

ADANI GROUP UNVEILS INDIA’S FIRST MEDIUM ALTITUDE, LONG ENDURANCE DRONE

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar has flagged off the first indigenously manufactured “Drishti 10 Starliner” Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy.

Drishti 10 ‘Starliner’ is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance, 450 kgs payload capacity, the only all-weather military platform with STANAG 4671 certification, and clear to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.

2024 IS ‘YEAR OF TECHNOLOGY ABSORPTION’ FOR ARMY

The year 2024 will be observed as the “Year of Technology Absorption” by the Indian Army.

This theme underscores our commitment to leverage technology as a catalyst for transformative change, as well as to utilize in-house expertise to innovate solutions to our operational and logistic requirements and give shape to these projects in collaboration with the domestic defence industry.

The Indian Army personnel are being trained to leverage technology and exploit the cyber domain effectively through institutionalized, procedural and technological measures.

INDIA, THAILAND ORGANIZED FIRST BILATERAL EXERCISE “EX-AYUTTHAYA”

The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, named ‘Ex-Ayutthaya’, which symbolizes the significance of ‘Ayodhya’ in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, which holds historic legacies and has rich cultural ties. The Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise.

The Royal Thai Navy side was represented by His Thai Majesty’s Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR RELEASED BOOK TITLED 'FERTILISING THE FUTURE

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book 'Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency'. It is written by Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

The Hindi version of the book is titled 'Urvarak-Atmanirbharta ki Raah.'

WEST BENGAL CM INAUGURATES 47TH INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the 47th edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair.

The United Kingdom is the theme country for this year's fair, which has about 1,000 stalls and is scheduled to run from January 18 to January 31 at Salt Lake's Central Park here.

Nearly 20 countries were participating in this year's book fair, which has become a big festival for Kolkata.

This year marks the U.K. as the theme country for the fourth time at the International Kolkata Book Fair. The U.K. pavilion is designed to immerse visitors in the essence of British culture, highlighting its modern contributions to education, the English language, and the arts.

MISCELLANEOUS

KYRGYZSTAN DECLARES SNOW LEOPARD AS NATIONAL SYMBOL

Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, underscoring its commitment to conservation and ecological balance. The snow leopard is not only a symbol of natural wealth and cultural prosperity, but also an indicator of the stability and health of the mountain ecosystem, which occupies 1/3 of the global territory.

The loss of snow leopards in the wild will lead to the risk of disturbing the fragile ecological balance, which will have a detrimental impact on various animal species and on humans."

In ancient Kyrgyz culture, Panthera uncia, or the snow leopard, held significance as a totem animal linked to the legendary hero of the Kyrgyz people, Manas. Within Kyrgyz culture, the snow leopard symbolizes greatness, nobility, courage, bravery, and resilience.

About Kyrgyzstan

Capital- Bishkek

Currency- Kyrgystani Som

Official languages- Kyrgyz, Russian

Continent- Asia

President- Sadyr Japarov

[LG UNVEILS WORLD'S 1ST WIRELESS TRANSPARENT OLED TV](#)

LG Electronics has unveiled the world's first wireless transparent TV.

Called LG Signature OLED T, the TV has a glass for a display that looks as if it disappears when turned off. The TV combines transparent OLED technology with wireless AV transmission and reception for viewers to "see beyond the screen and eliminating the need for visible wires around the screen"

LG Electronics Inc. is a South Korean multinational electronics company headquartered in Yeouido-dong, Seoul, South Korea.

[HALDIA PETROCHEMICALS BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST BSI CERTIFIED ISO 27001:2022 PETROCHEMICAL FIRM](#)

Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL), a leading petrochemicals company in India, has become the first ISO 27001:2022 certified petrochemical organization in the industry by BSI (British Standards Institution), a

renowned certification body. This milestone showcases HPL's commitment to maintaining a robust and secure information security governance structure throughout its digital transformation journey.

The Certification demonstrates HPL's commitment towards a secure and reliable digital environment for a seamless exchange of information across internal and external stakeholders.

By achieving this certification, HPL has demonstrated its ability to protect sensitive information and ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of valuable data and systems. ISO 27001:2022 is the standard of ISMS (Information Security Management System) program to protect the information assets of the organization.

OBITUARY

FORMER INDIA DEFENDER PRABIR MAJUMDAR PASSES AWAY

Former Indian defender Prabir Majumdar passed away at the age of 77. A stylish wing-back of the 1960s and 1970s, Majumdar was a member of the Indian team in the 1974 Asian Games. He also featured for the national side during the 1974 Asian Games held in Tehran, where the team failed to create an impact and finished at the bottom of the group table.

MUSIC MAESTRO USTAD RASHID KHAN DIES

Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata at the age of 55. Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, Rashid Khan received his initial training from his maternal grand-uncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan (1909–1993). He gave his first concert at age eleven. The vocalist won several awards including Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006. In 2022, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award of the country.

The West Bengal government also honoured Ustad Rashid Khan with Banga Bibhushan and Sangeet Mahasamman.

URDU POET MUNAWWAR RANA PASSES AWAY

Renowned poet Munawwar Rana passed away at the age of 71. Born in 1952 in Rae Bareilly, Munawwar Rana was awarded the Gyanpeeth Award in 2014 for 'Shahdaba'.

His use of simple words in the poems made his works popular among the common people.

RENOWNED CLASSICAL SINGER PRABHA ATRE PASSES AWAY

Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre passed away at the age of 92. She was considered the doyenne of the Kirana Gharana.

The much-feted Atre, who played a significant role in popularising classical music across the globe, won the Padma Shri in 1990, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2022, during a rich career spanning seven decades.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 4 January – World Braille Day
- Chhattisgarh government has decided to declare January 22 as a “dry day” as the consecration of Ram temple will take place in Ayodhya on that day.
- 6 January – World Day of War Orphans
- 8 January – Earth’s Rotation Day
- 9 January – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- 10 January – World Hindi Day. Theme 2024 – Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence
- 12 January – National Youth Day
- 11 to 17 January – National Road Safety Week
- 14 January 2024 – 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day
- 14 January – International Kite Day
- 15 January – Indian Army Day. Theme 2024 – In Service of the Nation

- 16 January – National Startup Day. In 2024, Startup India recognized 10-18 January as Innovation Week 2024 with the theme, “Celebrating 8 Years of Innovation.”
- 21 January – Foundation Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura
- 23 January – Parakram Diwas
Parakram Diwas is observed every year on 23 January to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a prominent figure in India’s freedom struggle.
- 24 January – National Girl Child Day
- 24 January – International Day of Education. Theme 2024 – Learning for lasting peace
- 25 January – National Voters Day. Theme 2024 – Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure

NOTES:

