

National

1. Ramlala Darshan Scheme launched by Chhattisgarh government

The Cabinet of Chhattisgarh government recently launched the "Shri Ramlala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Scheme that aims to provide the people of the state a visit to Ayodhya and have Darshan of Shri Ramlala. The Department of Tourism will provide the budget required for the scheme.

2. India's longest Sea Bridge Atal Setu inaugurated

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest Sea Bridge "Atal Setu" also known as Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MHTL). Atal Setu or MHTL is a 21.8km long six lane bridge with 16.5km length on Sea.



3. Katee Yakshagana Mela resumed

The Karnataka High Court recently allowed the century old Yakshagana Mela in Dakshina Kannada to resume its all night performances. Kateel Yakshagana Mela is a traditional form of theatre performance known as Yakshagana in the state of Karnataka.

4. Mobile app Report Fish Disease launched

National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project in a bid to boost India's aquaculture sector has launched a mobile app "Report Fish Disease". The app will track and monitor Fish diseases across the country.

5. REC Ltd to increase infrastructure budget to 1 lakh

6. crore

The Chairman of REC Ltd Vivek Kumar Dewangan announced to sanction 1 lakh crore for development in the infrastructure sector including roads and highways in Financial Year 2024. It is an increase of 18% from the previous sanctioning of 85000 crore in 2023.

6. Health and Hygienic Food Street PRASADAM

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched India's first Health and Hygienic Food Street called "Prasadam" at Mahakal Lok in Ujjain. The Street covering an area of 949 square metres offers culturally rich dine in options to Devotees visiting Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain.

7. 55th Convocation of IIMC

The 55th Convocation Ceremony of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) was held on January 10, 2024. The Convocation ceremony took place at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and the ceremony was addressed by former President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind as the Chief Guest.

8. Massive Radar Blimp Sky Dew launched by Israel

The Israeli Defence forces amidst rising tensions with Hezbollah launched Massive Radar Blimp known as "Sky Dew" along Lebanese borders. The Sky Dew Blimp is a collaborative project between the USA and Israel designed to detect Unmanned aircraft and Cruise Missiles.

9. Chandubi Festival celebrated across Assam

The Chandubi Festival was organised by the people of Rajapara village near the Chandubi Lake in Assam's Kamrup district. The Festival is organised annually from January 1st to 5th by the people of Rajapara Village under the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC). The Festival has been organised annually for the last 14 years.

10. International Purple Fest 2024

The State Commissioner's Office for Persons with Disabilities along with the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa launched the International Purple Fest 2024 in Goa. The main aim of the Fest is to showcase Talents of Persons with Disabilities. The Purple Anthem "Dhumal" will be rendered at the opening ceremony.

11. Kala Utsav 2023

Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan attended the inaugural ceremony of Kala Utsav on January 9, 2024 as the Guest of Honour along with Minister of State for Education Sri Annupurna Devi. The event is being organised by NCERT along with the Department of School Education and Literacy.

12. Indus Food 2024

The 7th edition of Indus Food 2024 exhibition was inaugurated by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida. The exhibition showcases India's vibrant and diverse Food Ecosystem. The Food Exports have witnessed 150% growth over the last nine years.

13. National Conclave on PACS as PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya addressed the National Mega Conclave on "Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra". The motto of the conclave was "Sahakar Se Samridhhi".

14. Hog deer spotted at Rajaji Tiger Reserve

The Endangered Hog Deer in a significant discovery has been spotted at the Rajaji Tiger Reserve for the first time in history. The images of the Hog deer have been captured by Camera traps placed throughout the National Park. The Hog Deer is placed in the

Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.



15. Paradip Fishing Harbour

Union ministers Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Purshottam Rupala will lay the foundation for the project on Modernisation of Paradip Fishing Harbour at Paradip, Odisha. The project has been funded with 100% Central Financial Assistance under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana. The Paradip Fishing Harbour is located on the banks of River Mahanadi in Odisha.

16. IDEX-DIO to participate in Vibrant Gujarat Summit

The 10th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 will see participation of Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (IDEX-DIO) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Pavillion of IDEX will be set up on the theme of summit "Gateway to the Future". IDEX received the prestigious PM award for Innovation in the Defence Sector.

17. 58th AIC of DG/IG of Police

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi attended the 58th All India Conference of Director General/Inspector General of Police. The Conference was held at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur in

hybrid mode.

18. First Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to chair the first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting taking place in Kolkata. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is hosting the first ever meeting along with Waterways states, Central Government officials and experts aboard MV Ganga Queen.

19. Naya Ayodhya Project

The "Paying Guest" Scheme launched by Uttar Pradesh Government is helping "Naya Ayodhya Project" gain momentum by boosting tourism and employment. The Scheme introduces the rich culinary heritage of Awadh to saints and visitors from India and Abroad.

20. Four Stars of Destiny

Short extracts from the book "Four Stars of Destiny" written by Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane have been published recently. The Book provides information about unknown aspects of high level decision making during the 2020 China Border crisis along with other National Security developments.

21. KYC norms for Politically Exposed Persons

The Reserve Bank of India updates Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for Politically Exposed Persons (PEP), to meet Financial Action Task Force Terms. Politically Exposed Persons are defined as individuals entrusted with public functions by a foreign country including the head of states and governments.

22. Project Veer Gatha 3.0

The Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Ministry of Education launched Project Veer Gatha 3.0 as part of the Republic Day Celebrations 2024. The Project was instituted under Gallantry Awards Portal in

2021 and the main aim of the project is to disseminate acts and life stories of brave hearts among students.

23. Uttar Purvi Mahotsav 2024

The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is organising Uttar Purvi Mahotsav -2024. The five day cultural festival will be organised at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



24. PRERANA program launched

The Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education recently launched "PRERANA: An Experiential Learning Program". The program fulfils the aspirations of the National Education Policy 2020. The aim of the program is to offer students an experiential and inspirational learning program and empower them with leadership qualities.

25. 10th century Kadamba Inscription discovered

Recently a team of Archaeologists have discovered a 10th century AD Kadamba inscription from the Mahadeva Temple in Southern Goa. The inscription found is written in both Sanskrit and Kannada language and sheds light on the Kadambas of Goa.

26. PRITHVI Vigyan (PRITHVI) scheme

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved 4797 crore PRITHVI Scheme for 2021-26. The Scheme has been launched to boost Earth Science research and enhance research, modelling and services in weather, climate and oceans. The

Scheme includes 5 sub schemes namely ACROSS, O-SMART, PACER, SAGE and REACHOUT.

International

1. Global Risk Report 2024

The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Risks Report 2024 ahead of its annual meeting at Davos. The report has warned about Artificial Intelligence driven misinformation and Risks associated with it in 2023-2024. The two major issues highlighted in the Report are Climate Issues and Conflicts between Countries.

2. Henley Passport Index 2024

The Henley Passport Index 2024 released by Henley and Partners states that the average number of visa free destinations has nearly doubled since 2006. The Index was started in 2006 and is the authoritative ranking of all the World's Passports. Indian Passport ranked 80th out of 199 passports allowing Indian citizens to travel 62 countries without Visa.

3. World Economic and Social Outlook Report

The International Labour Organization (ILO) released the report titled "World Employment and Social Outlook:Trend 2024" Report. The ILO in its report projected a global unemployment rate of 5.2% in 2024 higher than 2023.

4. India to chair UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the first time In a historic milestone achievement, India is to chair the 46th session of the UNESCOs World Heritage Committee for the first time. The capital city New Delhi is the place where the 46th session is being held. The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives from 21 of the state parties.

5. Historic Visit to Madinah in Saudi Arabia

Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani along with Shri

Muraleedharan lead a delegation of senior officials on a historic visit to Madinah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The major aim of the visit is to look into arrangements required to be made for a comfortable Haj 2024 for Indian Pilgrims.

6. 1500 year old Gold Buckles discovered

Archaeologists in Kazakhstan have discovered 1500 year old gold buckles that feature earliest known depictions of the Great Khan or "Khagan" of the Gokturks. The buckles depict the ruler majestically sitting on a throne. The Gokturk "Khagan" are a nomadic confederation of Turkic-speaking people who lived in the sixth century AD.

7. Uganda to host 19th NAM Summit

The 19th Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit is being organised in Kampala in Uganda from January 17th to 20, 2024. The African country will also host Third South Summits and G77 meetings. Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the 19th NAM summit.

8. Gabriel Attal becomes France's new Prime Minister

The French President Emmanuel Macron recently announced Gabriel Attal as the New Prime Minister of France. He was earlier holding the portfolio of Education. Gabriel becomes the youngest head of the Government in France's modern history.



Sports

1. Shortest Test Match in Cricket History

India wraps up the Test Series versus South Africa 1-1 after winning the penultimate test by 7 wickets. The 2nd test match between India and South Africa at Cape Town was recorded as the shortest test match in the cricketing history as the match lasted for only 642 balls and finished in just 2 days.

2. Germany beats Poland to win United Cup

Zverev led Germany had beaten top seed Poland to win its first United Cup Title in Sydney. Alexander Zverev saved two match points to win over Hubert Hurkacz in the Men's singles finals keeping the hopes alive to win the maiden United Cup.

3. Football legend Mario Zagallo passes away

The first ever footballer to win the FIFA World Cup trophy both as the Coach and player, Mario Zagallo passed away in Brazil. He made his debut in 1958 and won two world cup titles as a player in 1958 and 1962.



4. Dorval Junior appointed new head coach of Brazil

Dorval Junior has been named as the Brazil Head Coach by the Brazilian Football Confederation(BFC). Previous coach Fernando Diniz was sacked by the BFC after Brazil exited the 2022 World Cup following a penalty shootout loss to Croatia.

5. Sumit Nagal qualifies for Australian Open main draw

India's Ace tennis star Sumit Nagal has confirmed a spot in the main draw of the upcoming Australian Open 2023. He registered a comprehensive win in the tournament's qualifying final, beating Slovakia's Alex Molcan in straight sets 6-4, 6-4.



6. Wisden picks 2023 Men's ODI team of the year

The Wisden Cricket Almanac also called as the Bible Of Cricket picks 2023 Mens ODI team of the year. The List includes 7 Indian cricketers, 2 Australian Cricketers, 1 New Zealand and 1 South African player.

Person In News

1. Classical Singer Ustad Rashid Khan dies

Hindustani Classical Singer Ustad Rashid Khan recently died aged 55 battling cancer in Kolkata. He belonged to the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana closely related to Gwalior Gharana.

2. Seema Kumar takes charge as Member of Railway Board

Seema Kumar who joined Indian Railways Traffic Service(IRTS) in 1988 takes charge as the Member(Operations and Business Development), Railway Board. She previously held the post of Additional Member (Tourism and Catering) in the Railway Board.



3. Sheikh Hasina wins fourth term as PM of Bangladesh

The Awami League of Sheikh Hasina won 75% of the seats in the recently held General elections, leading to consecutive fourth term of Sheikh Hasina as Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The elections were boycotted by the Opposition Party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), alleging misuse of election machinery by the government in power.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. Exercise Sea Dragon 2024

The elite Multinational Maritime Exercise "Sea Dragon-24" is taking place at Guam, US Island territory. The Indian Navy's P81 Aircraft is participating in the Exercise. The Exercise aims to enhance synergy and cooperation between Navies of Participation Navies.

2. INS Kabra docks in Colombo

As a part of Maritime Cooperation with Sri Lankan Navy, the Indian Warship INS Kabra docked at the Colombo Port. It is an indigenous fast attack Craft named after Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago. The move is aimed at fostering bilateral ties between the

two countries.

3. Assault rifle Ugram

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) launched an indigenously made assault Rifle namely "Ugram". The Assault Rifle is to meet operational requirements of Armed Forces, Paramilitary and State Police Entities.

4. DRISHTI 10 Starliner

The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar launched the first indigenously manufactured DRISHTI 10 'Starliner' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. The UAV is developed by Adani Defence and Aerospace and marks a significant step towards indigenized advanced Aerial systems.

5. C-130 J of IAF achieves milestone Night Landing

In a significant development, the Indian Air Force's C-130J Aircraft performed a successful Night landing for the first time. The landing took place at Kargil airstrip strategically located in Ladakh. The C-130 J aircraft also called Super Hercules Jets are manufactured in the US.

Miscellaneous

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Day observed on January 9

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi extended greetings of the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to Indians in the country and abroad. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first observed in 2003 and is celebrated annually on 9 January since then.



Health/Agriculture/Environment

1. 100 Active Permafrost structures identified in Jhelum Basin

Study conducted by Researchers from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala revealed that more than 100 Permafrost structures identified in Jhelum Basin can cause disasters in future. The study mapped Permafrost structures called Rock Glaciers with significant ice volumes from the Kashmir Himalayas.

2. World's Hottest Year was 2023

The Scientists from European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service(CCCS) confirmed 2023 as the World's Hottest Year. The main reasons for the rise in temperatures are attributed to Climate Change and El Nino. The CCCS confirmed 2023 as the Hottest year in Global temperature records going back to 1850.

3. Green Tax

Vehicles entering Biligiri Rangaswamy Hills through BRT Tiger Reserve are made to pay Green Tax of Rs 10 to the Karnataka Forest Department. Residents of BRT

Tiger Forests, State run buses, Ambulances have been exempted to pay the taxes. The BRT Tiger Reserve is located in Chamaraajanagar district of Karnataka State.

4. ICD 11 Traditional Medicine Module 2 launched

The World Health Organisation launched the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11 Module 2 event at New Delhi. The Traditional Medicine Morbidity codes of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani chapter will now be included in WHO'S ICD11 classification.

5. Natural Pathogenic Fungi discovered to help save Eucalyptus Forests

In a recent discovery, Scientists in Colombia have identified a pathogenic fungus and characterised it to turn into a biopesticide for controlling beetle populations. This eco friendly bio pesticide will help in Protection of Eucalyptus plantations from various pests. Eucalyptus Snout Beetle causes great damage to Eucalyptus plantations.

6. African Raptor Population declines

The study published in Journal Nature Ecology and Evolution states that the African Raptor population declined by 88% in the last 4 decades. 37 species out of 42 examined have seen a decline in the population out of which 29 species have seen a drop of over three generational lengths in population. IUCN uses the Generational length criteria to identify species that are at risk of extinction.



7. Bird species start shifting to higher elevations at

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary

The team of researchers at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru presented a report stating that many bird species at the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh have started shifting to higher elevations due to rising temperatures. The study was published in Global Ecology and Conservation.



8. Cyclone Alvaro hits Madagascar

The first tropical Cyclone of 2024 Cyclone Alvaro hits the coast of Southwest Madagascar. The cyclone has displaced more than 16000 people and the death of 5 people as per reports. The cyclone Alvaro caused major flooding in the province of South western Madagascar namely Astimo-Andrefena.

9. Counting the Cost 2023 report

A non profit Christian aid organisation recently released a report titled "Counting the Cost 2023: A year of Climate breakdown" report. The report stated that Flood and Storms accounted for 85% of World's top 20 most expensive disasters linked to climate change in 2023. Among the 20 most expensive global disasters in 2023, the recovery Cost of Cyclone Freddy in Malawi was highest.

10. New plant specie Polygonum Chaturbhanjanum discovered

During a Floral survey at Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, a new plant species named Polygonum Chaturbhanjanum has been discovered. A total of 863 plant species from 554 genera and 117 families have been documented in the survey. The species has

been discovered at Gol Pahadi Island of Pench Tiger Reserve.