

National

1. e-SAKSHI Mobile Application

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application for the revised fund flow procedure under MPLAD Scheme. The Mobile Application will help Members of Parliament manage developmental projects in their constituencies.

2. Japanese Yen dominated Green Bonds

Under the Global Medium Term Notes Programme the REC Limited, a CPSE under the Ministry of Power issued inaugural Japanese Yen 61.1 billion Green Bonds. The Time period for the Bonds is 5 years, 5.25 years and 10 years with a yield of 1.76%, 1.79% and 2.20% respectively. It is the first Yen Green Bonds issued by any Indian PSU.

3. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti on January 17

The Prakash Parv also known as Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti was observed across the Nation on January 17 to commemorate the 357th birth anniversary of the last personal Guru of Sikhism. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was the 10th Guru and son of Guru Teg Bahadur who was the 9th Guru of Sikhism.



4. Extended Basic Facilities to Kolam Tribes

Under the Jan Jati Adivasi Nyay Abhiyan, The Central Government extended basic facilities to the Endangered Kolam Tribe. The extended facilities will majorly focus on Health and Education. The Kolam

Tribes also known as Kolamboli, Kilmer and Kolmi are native to Madhya Pradesh.

5. 12th Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP)

The Indian Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankar recently inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi. It was formed as a voluntary movement of followers of Buddhism in 1970 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia comprising both Monks and Non Monks.

6. Textiles Ministry Greenlights 11 Projects Worth INR 103 Crores in Technical Textiles

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, at the 8th NTTM Meeting, stressed collaborative efforts for indigenous technical textiles. The Ministry approved 11 projects worth INR 103 crores, spanning Protech, Meditech, Mobiltech, Buildtech, Smart Textiles, and Sustainable Textiles. A key project focuses on high-strength carbon fiber for strategic applications, contributing to India's self-reliance.

7. Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates Young Scientist Conference at IISF 2023

Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates Young Scientist Conference at IISF 2023, Emphasizes Role of Young Scientists in India's Future. The Union Cabinet Minister highlighted the YSC's pivotal role in nurturing aspiring researchers, connecting science with society, and addressing global challenges like climate change.



8. Science Literature Festival 'Vigyanika 2023' held as part of IISF 2023

The Science Literature Festival 'Vigyanika 2023' is an integral part of the India International Science Festival

2023. The inaugural ceremony highlighted the festival's commitment to fostering scientific awareness, featuring distinguished guests like Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Dr. Dinakar M. Salunke, Dr. Subhra Chakraborty, and Shri. A Jayakumar.

9. National Multidimensional Poverty Index by NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog recently released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index stating that over 24.8 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty in India in 9 years. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh recorded the largest decline according to the Index.

10. Development of Global Hydrogen Price Index

In order to enhance Green Hydrogen Economy, the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT city Gujarat along with Indian Gas Exchange and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) is set to launch the Global Hydrogen Price Index. The Index is aimed at establishing Global Hydrogen Trading Mechanism making GIFT city a frontrunner in the Global Hydrogen Market.

11. NHAI launched 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under the MoRTH recently launched the "One Vehicle, One FASTag" initiative. The initiative is aimed to discourage the usage of single FASTag for multiple vehicles or linking multiple FASTags to a particular vehicle.

12. Windfall tax on Petroleum reduced to 1700 Rupees

The Windfall Tax which applied on Petroleum Crude Oil at 2300 rupees a tonne since the start of the year has been reduced to 1700 Rupees a tonne by the Government of India. Windfall tax is a type of tax levied against certain industries that experience above average profits due to extraordinary economic conditions. India applied Windfall Tax on Crude oil producers from July 2022.

13. Farsi to be included as Classical Language

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the inclusion of Farsi as one of the nine Classical Languages in India. Farsi will become a Classical language under the National Education Policy 2020. Farsi is also known as Persian and it is the Official language of Iran. Tamil was the first language to be accorded with Classical status in 2004.

14. 150 years of Indian Meteorological Department

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 150th Foundational Day on January 15th, 2024. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar and Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju graced the occasion as Chief guest at the event. Various initiatives like Panchayat Mausam Seva, Mausam Gram, National Framework of Climate Services were launched at the event.



15. Eight Crore Customers of Indian Post Payments Bank

The Indian Post Payment Bank (IPPB) under the Department of Posts achieved a new milestone of Eight crore customers. More than eight crore Customers are benefitting from innovative and inclusive financial services of IPPB. The IPPB was launched on September 1, 2018.

16. Kachchhi Kharek gets GI Tag

The Indigenous variety of Dates of Kutch namely "Kachchhi Kharek" received a Geographical Indication Tag from Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks (CGPDT) of India. Kachchhi Kharek becomes the second fruit of Gujarat to get a GI tag. The Dates in Kachchh are expected to be around 400-

500 years old.

17. PM visits Kalaram Mandir

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi recently visited the Kalaram Mandir located on the banks of River Godavari in the Panchvati area of Nashik in Maharashtra. The temple has historical significance as agitation for Temple entry rights for Dalits were led by Dr BR Ambedkar from Kalaram Temple.



18. Two Gas Reserves discovered in Mahanadi Basin block

The state owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has discovered two Natural gas reserves in Mahanadi Basin giving a major boost to India's Energy security. The reserves have been located in the 8th largest River Basin in the country, Mahanadi River Basin in Bay of Bengal. The first discovery is located at 714 metres of water depth and named as Utkal whereas the other one is located 1110 metres below.

19. 2400 MW Thermal Power Project in Odisha

The 2400 MW Thermal Power Project in Odisha is being awarded to BHEL by NLC India Ltd. It is a pit head Green Field Thermal Power Project at Jharsuguda District in Odisha and based on Ultra Super Critical Technology. It is an environmentally friendly project with the use of the latest technology.

20. 30 crore Ayushman Cards under AB PM-JAY

A new Milestone was achieved by Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) by crossing the milestone of issuing 30 crore Ayushman

Cards. The Scheme aims to provide secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation facilities to 12 crore beneficiaries by providing health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Uttar Pradesh issued the highest number of Ayushman Cards, approximately 4.8 crore.

21. 1st Instalment under PM-JANMAN

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi released the 1st Instalment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) under the PM-JANMAN scheme on January 15th, 2023. More than 1 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme received the 1st instalment. The PM JANMAN scheme was launched on 15th November, 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas for socio-economic welfare of PVTGs.

22. India to become World's largest producer of Lentil

The lentil production in India is to touch an all time high making India the World's largest producer of Lentils (Masoor) as per Government data. India is set to achieve the milestone in crop year 2023-24 on account of higher acreage. World's top Lentil growers in 2022 as per FAO were Canada, India, Australia and Turkey.

23. 1 lakh certification milestone achieved by ZED scheme

The Udupi Station has been recently included under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) of Railway Ministry for redevelopment. The Udupi Station is under the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL). The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) was launched by the Ministry of Railways in February 2023.

24. 1 lakh certification milestone achieved by ZED scheme

The Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED) scheme launched by the Ministry of MSME in October 2016 has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone. The major objective of the scheme is to provide certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing according

to 20 performance based parameters.

25. SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD) Scheme

The State Bank of India recently launched the SBI Green Rupee Term Deposit (SGRTD) scheme which is a special fixed deposit scheme. The Scheme has been launched to mobilise funds to support eco-friendly initiatives and projects leading to growth of Green finance Ecosystem in India.

26. Samavesha Project by I-STEM

The Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) is launching an initiative named "Samavesha Project" at Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) Bengaluru. The major aim of the project is to enhance research collaboration in India.

International

1. Indo-French Science Committee Strengthens Scientific Cooperation

The second Indo-French Joint Committee of Science and Technology (JCST) meeting focused on enhancing the Indo-French scientific partnership. Co-chaired by Prof Abhay Karandikar and Dr Claire Giry, the committee discussed leveraging the successful CEFIPRA model for collaborations in emerging technologies.

2. Global Cooperation Barometer 2024 report

The World Economic Forum in collaboration with McKinsey and Company released the Global Cooperation Barometer Report 2024. The Report highlights the challenges faced by the World in the last three years like Rise in Violent conflicts, setbacks in Global Health Cooperation. The Report was released on 8 January 2024 and indicated a decline of overall Global cooperation since 2020.

3. OXFAM report on Inequality and Global Corporate

Power

As per Oxfam's latest "Inequality Inc" report published in January 15, 2024, the Global Inequality between wealthy and Impoverished has worsened since two decades. According to the report, the World's five richest men have doubled their fortunes while the wealth of the poorest 60 percent has fallen.



4. Swachh Survekshan Awards

The Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 were declared by the Government of India on January 12, 2024. The Award for the title of "cleanest cities of 2023" was given to Indore and Surat by President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu.

5. 3300 year old city discovered

A huge city that dates back to 3300 years old has been discovered in the Amazon Rainforest in Ecuador. The city was hidden beneath luxuriant Vegetation of the Amazon Rainforest. The city was discovered by a LiDAR survey carried out in 2015 and the results of the survey were published recently.

6. God of Silence Statue discovered at Saqqara

A team of Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a childlike statue of God of silence at Saqqara located on the Westbank of Nile, Egypt. The Statue was discovered from a series of tombs dating from about 1800 to 4800 years ago, along with mummy masks. The site of Saqqara is a part of Necropolis (Burial

Place) of Ancient Egyptian city of Memphis.

7. Global Water Monitor Report 2023

The Global Water Monitor Report 2023 recorded the highest average temperature in 2023 since 5 decades in over 77 countries. The report stated that parts of Central America, South America, Southern Africa and Western Australia may face high risk of Droughts in the coming year.

Sports

1. Sumit Nagal knocked out of Australian Open

Indian Tennis Ace Sumit Nagal who became the first Indian since 1989 to beat a seeded player at a Grand Slam lost to China's Shang in the second round of Australian Open. He was defeated by the 18 year old Wild Card entry of China Juncheng Shang by 6-2, 3-6, 5-7 and 4-6 scoreline.

2. First ever international cricket match with double super over

India vs Afghanistan third T20I match played on 17th Jan 2024 created history to become the first international match that went to the second super over after the first super over tie. This happened due to the changes in ICC rules after the super over tie in the cricket world cup 2019 final between England and New Zealand. Before that, if the super over tied, the winner was decided by the boundary count.

3. Praggnanandhaa becomes India's Number 1

Chess grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa beats World Champion Ding Liren at Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2024 to become India's Number one Chess Player. He surpassed Viswanathan Anand to take Number one spot among Indian Chess players in live ratings.



4. 5th edition of Meghalaya Games

The President of India Shrimati Droupadi Murmu recently inaugurated the 5th edition of Meghalaya Games 2024 on January 15th, 2024 at Tura. The event is being organised by Meghalaya State Olympic Association (MSOA) and District Administration of West Garo Hills.

5. Djokovic named Balkan Athlete of the Year

The Tennis Superstar Novak Djokovic has been named Best Balkan Athlete of the Year for a record eight times surpassing NBA star Nikola Jokic. Both Djokovic and Jokic are from Serbia. Jokic was named the NBA Finals MVP after leading the Denver Nuggets to the title.



Days

1. Thiruvalluvar Day observed on January 15

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute to Saint Thiruvalluvar on January 15, 2024 which is observed as Thiruvalluvar Day in Tamil Nadu. Thiruvalluvar Day is a part of Pongal celebrations. Saint Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a great poet and

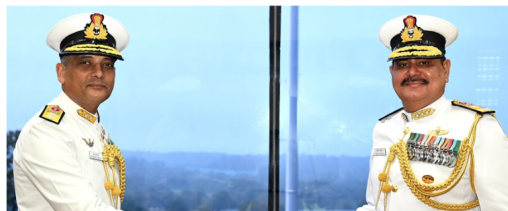
philosopher and a cultural icon by Tamilians.

2. Makar Sankranti observed on January 15

The celebrations of Makar Sankranti were held across many states of India on January 14. The festival is celebrated under many names across different states like Pongol in Tamil Nadu, Uttarayan in Gujarat, Lohri in Punjab, Khichdi Parwa in Bihar etc. The day marks the sun changing its direction and trajectory towards north thereby entering Makara or Capricorn Zodiac Sign.

3. 76th Indian Army Day observed on January 15

The Indian Army Day is observed annually on January 15 to commemorate the occasion when Field Marshal KM Cariappa became the First Commander in Chief of the Indian Army. It was on this day in 1949 when KM Cariappa took over Authority from British Commander in Chief General Francis Butcher.



4. 8th Armed Forces Veteran Day

The 8th Armed Forces Veterans day was celebrated in India on January 14, 2024. The day is celebrated every year since 2016 on 14th January to recognize services rendered by First Commander in Chief of Armed Forces Field Marshal KM Cariappa. Maiden SAGAR SAMVAD magazine was also released by the Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs of Indian Navy.

Person In News

1. Vineet McCarty takes over as Commandant of INA Ezhimala

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty commissioned into the Indian Navy on 1st July 1989 took over as

Commandant, Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala on 15th January 2024. He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in 2005 and National Defense College, New Delhi in 2017.



Summits/Agreement/MoUs/Conferences

1. IREDA and IOB collaborate for co-lending in Renewable Energy Projects

IREDA and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) have signed an MoU to collaborate on co-lending and loan syndication for a variety of Renewable Energy projects across India. The agreement encompasses co-lending and co-origination support for all Renewable Energy projects, streamlining loan syndication and underwriting processes, managing Trust and Retention Account (TRA) for IREDA borrowers, and working towards fixed interest rates over a 3-4-year period for IREDA borrowings.

Science and tech/Defence/Space

1. Bilateral Maritime Exercise Ayutthaya

The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise "Ayutthaya" was recently conducted between the Navies of India and Thailand. INS Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in Maritime exercise. The 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) also took place along the lines of Maritime Exercise.



2. Operation Sarvashakti of Indian Army

The Indian Army in a mission to flush out terrorists who ambushed Indian Troops in Rajouri and Poonch, launched a massive "Operation Sarvashakti" in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the Mission terrorists operating in both sides of Pir Panjal range will be neutralised by the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Army's four soldiers were killed on December 21 in the terrorist attack in Dera ki Gali Area.

3. ASTRA missile

The indigenously developed ASTRA Missile was supplied to the Indian Air Force at Bharat Dynamics in Hyderabad. The ASTRA missiles are air-to-air missiles developed by DRDO and manufactured by BDL. The ASTRA missile system is the best in its class weapon systems in the world.

4. INS Cheetah, Kumbhir and Guldar decommissioned

After rendering four decades of glorious service to the Nation the Indian Navy Ships Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhir were decommissioned on January 12, 2023. The decommissioning ceremony took place at Port Blair in a traditional way lowering the National Flag, the Naval Ensign and Decommissioning pennants of three ships at sunset.

5. The Smart Cities India Expo is taking place in New Delhi for a duration of three days

The 9th Smart Cities India Expo, held from January 17 to 19, 2024, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, showcases

the achievements of the Smart Cities Mission. The National Pavilion features impactful projects such as Indore Smart City's Chappan Dukaan, Surat Smart City's Connecting Past with Future, Udaipur Smart City's Area-Based Development, and Prayagraj Smart City's Digitization of Manuscripts.

Miscellaneous

1. Jajpur Road-Dhamra Railway line to pass through Bhitarkanika National Park

The Bhitarkanika National Park will soon be connected by Railways to boost tourism and Connectivity. The proposed Jajpur Road-Dhamra Railway line will pass through two Tourist places namely the Bhitarkanika National Park and Aradi in Bhadrak. The Railway line will connect important religious and tourist destinations under Prime Minister's "Purvoday" vision.

Health/Agriculture/Environment

1. Unique Isopod Crustacean discovered

Researchers from School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) have discovered a Unique isopod, a type of Crustacean. The Crustacean has been identified as a new species of Genus Booralana from the deep waters of Bahamas. Isopods belong to a greater group of animals and come under the category of Invertebrates.

2. Green Initiatives Implemented by Indian Railways

The Ministry of Railways aims to make Indian Railways environmentally friendly by 2030, implementing significant measures to address global warming and combat climate change. These measures include railway electrification, enhancing energy efficiency in locomotives, trains, and installations, obtaining green certification for stations, and transitioning to renewable energy sources. The strategy is geared towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions, and

Indian Railways has undertaken substantial initiatives to embrace environmentally sustainable practices.

3. Tibetan Brown Bear spotted in Sikkim

A Tibetan Brown bear has been spotted for the first time in Sikkim making it the first confirmed record of Animal being sighted in India. The Scientific name of the Tibetan Brown Bear is *Ursus Arctos Pruinus*. The Images of the Tibetan Brown Bear were caught by trap cameras in the upper reaches of Mangan district. The animal is placed in Schedule 2 of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

4. Telemedicine Mobile Clinic Aarogya Doctors on Wheels launched in Udhampur

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh recently launched the AI supported Telemedicine Mobile Clinic "Aarogya Doctors on Wheels" for the remote areas of Udhampur district. The Tele Clinic is Artificially driven to provide Healthcare facilities in the remotest areas of Udhampur district. The project will be launched in 4 phases connecting areas of Gandoh district, Zero Line Villages of International Border, Upper reaches of Bilawar and Dudh Basantgarh region.

5. India's first Dark Sky Park Pench Tiger Reserve

The International Dark Sky Association has recently designated Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra as India's first Dark Sky Reserve and fifth in Asia. The title has been awarded for protecting the Night sky and preventing light pollution making it conducive for collecting Astronomical data.



6. Himalayan Wolf categorised as Vulnerable

The First ever IUCN assessment of Himalayan Wolf places the animal in the category of Vulnerable. Himalayan Wolf scientifically known as *Canis Lupus Chanco* was assessed for the first time in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

7. Cabo Verde declared Malaria Free

The World Health Organization has recently certified the African country named Cabo Verde as a Malaria Free Country. Cabo Verde became the 3rd African Country after Mauritius in 1973 and Algeria in 2019 to acquire the status of Malaria Free Country.

8. New Butterfly species Conjoined Silverline Butterfly discovered

A new Butterfly species namely Conjoined Silverline Butterfly have been discovered by researchers from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS). The new Butterfly species were discovered in Karnataka's Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Kodagu.

9. Kerala launched Operation Amrith

Operation AMRITH that stands for Antimicrobial Resistance Interventions for Total Health was launched by the Kerala Drug Control Department in January 2024. The major aims of the operation is to prevent overuse of Antibiotics in the state.