

PLUTUS Academy

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2023

for BANK/SSC/RAILWAY Examination

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

- Pm modi unveils varanasi's swarved mahamandir, world's largest meditation center
- Gujarat's garba dance enters unesco's 'intangible cultural heritage' list
- India's concerns lead to non-signing of cop28 health & climate declaration
- Ayodhya airport to be renamed maharishi valmiki airport

OUR ACHIEVERS



FOREWORD

Dear Aspirants,

As we all know, the Civil Services Exam (CSE) is becoming more and more challenging due to the day by day increase in unpredictability. We at PLUTUS Academy developed this magazine keeping in mind the unpredictable nature of the Civil Services Exam. The development of the magazine is in such a chronological order that it gives conceptual clarity to aspirants at first glance. Each and every topic contains relevant sources and articles, an aspirant should first go through the original article and try to get conceptual grasp and make notes from them. After that they should read the topics from magazines. An aspirant should also try to make note of the keywords relevant for mains preparation. In this way an aspirant will move towards the unending ocean of civil services preparation with clarity and confidence.

Our PLUTUS Academy team wishes you All the Best for your career. Do hard work and be consistent in your journey, it will definitely give results. May you all crack the Civil Services Examination with flying colours.

> Team PLUTUS Academy

COPYRIGHT 2021

© All Rights Reserved. No part of this Book will be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, Electronics, Mechanical, Photocopying, etc., or utilized in any form without written permission from PLUTUS Academy. PLUTUS Academy has taken due care in collecting the Data before publishing this Book. If any inaccuracy or printing Error occurs, PLUTUS Academy owns no Responsibility.



INSIDE THE PAGES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS 1 - 7

PLUTUS Academy

- 1. US REPORTS 'WHITE LUNG SYNDROME' OUTBREAK
- 2. INDIA RESUMES VENEZUELAN CRUDE OIL IMPORTS, EXPLORES DIRECT DEALS
- 3. WORLD BANK'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SCALING CLIMATE FINANCE THROUGH SECURITIZATION
- 4. INDIA RE-ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION WITH HIGHEST VOTE TALLY
- 5. INDONESIA'S MERAPI VOLCANO ERUPTION
- 6. ITALY WITHDRAWS FROM CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD PROJECT
- 7. LAHORE LEADS IN GLOBAL POLLUTION RANKING
- 8. UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN MALI OFFICIALLY ENDS AFTER 10 YEARS
- 9. CHINA UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST 4TH-GENERATION NUCLEAR REACTOR
- 10. POLAND'S PARLIAMENT ELECTS DONALD TUSK AS PRIME MINISTER
- 11. TIWB LAUNCHED SAINT LUCIA PROGRAM, WITH INDIA AS THE ADMINISTRATION PARTNER
- 12. CHINA HIT BY THE DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKE IN 13 YEARS
- 13. BHUTAN PLANS 1,000-SQ. KM. GREEN CITY ON ASSAM BORDER, LINKING SOUTH TO SOUTHEAST ASIA
- 14. PRESIDENT SISI SECURES THIRD TERM AMID ECONOMIC CHALLENGES
- 15. EU EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT AS INDIA REJECTS INTERIM ARBITRATION IN WTO DISPUTE

- 16. JN.1 VARIANT OF COVID-19 VIRUS, ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT
- 17. DONALD TRUMP DECLARED INELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN COLORADO BY STATE'S SUPREME COURT
- 18. PAKISTAN SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ADVANCED ROCKET SYSTEM FATAH-II

NATIONAL NEWS 7 - 15

- 19. MOT LAUNCHES NATIONAL BEST TOURISM VILLAGE AND NATIONAL BEST RURAL HOMESTAY COMPETITION 2024
- 20. INDIA'S CONCERNS LEAD TO NON-SIGNING OF COP28 HEALTH & CLIMATE DECLARATION
- 21. INDIA ACHIEVES REMARKABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MILESTONE: EMISSION INTENSITY FALLS 33% AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
- 22. GAJRAJ SYSTEM: AI-BASED ELEPHANT PROTECTION ON INDIAN RAILWAYS
- 23. PM MODI ANNOUNCES RENAMING OF RANKS IN INDIAN NAVY
- 24. WORLD'S FIRST PORTABLE HOSPITAL, 'AAROGYA MAITRI CUBE', UNVEILED IN GURUGRAM
- 25. PM MODI UNVEILS VARANASI'S SWARVED MAHAMANDIR, WORLD'S LARGEST MEDITATION CENTER
- 26. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE OF EASTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR
- 27. SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE INAUGURATED BY PM MODI
- 28. PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHES SECOND EDITION OF KASHI TIME SANGAMAM IN VARANASI
- 29. IMPLEMENTATION OF ANAND MARRIAGE

ACT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- 30. PARLIAMENT PASSES POST OFFICE BILL, 2023, REPLACING 125-YEAR-OLD INDIAN POST OFFICE ACT, 1898
- 31. NHAI LAUNCHED ERS MOBILE APP FOR SWIFT EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- 32. INDIGO BECOMES FIRST INDIAN AIRLINE TO CARRY 100 MILLION PASSENGERS
- 33. GOVT SUGGESTS 'DECRIMINALIZING MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE' IN NEW CRIMINAL LAW BILL
- 34. PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU GIVES ASSENT TO THREE CRIMINAL CODE BILLS
- 35. GWALIOR ACHIEVES GUINNESS RECORD WITH 'LARGEST TABLA ENSEMBLE' AT TANSEN FESTIVAL
- 36. HEALTH MINISTER LAUNCHED 'MEDTECH MITRA' TO ADVANCE HEALTH SOLUTION
- 37. UNION MINISTER ANURAG SINGH THAKUR INITIATED 'MY BHARAT' CAMPAIGN
- 38. PM MODI TO SOON FLAG OFF AMRIT BHARAT TRAIN WITH PUSH-PULL TECHNOLOGY
- 39. INDIAN PM CROSSES 2 CRORE SUBSCRIBERS, LEAVING WORLD LEADERS IN THE DUST
- 40. IOA FORMS AD HOC COMMITTEE TO GOVERN SUSPENDED WFI
- 41. MHA DECLARES MUSLIM LEAGUE JAMMU KASHMIR (MASARAT ALAM FACTION) UNLAWFUL UNDER UAPA
- 42. AYODHYA RAILWAY STATION TO BE RENAMED AS AYODHYA DHAM

STATE NEWS 15 - 23

- 43. MP CM PAID TRIBUTE TO BHOPAL GAS LEAK VICTIMS ON 39TH ANNIVERSARY
- 44. SHRI AMIT SHAH AT MATI KALA MAHOTSAV, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT
- 45. PM MODI UNVEILS SHIVAJI MAHARAJ STATUE AT RAJKOT FORT IN MAHARASHTRA
- 46. 'HUMP WWII' MUSEUM OPENS IN

ARUNACHAL WITH US AIRCRAFT

- 47. BIHAR GARNERS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AT COP-28 FOR AFFORESTATION EFFORTS
- 48. LALDUHOMA SET TO ASSUME OFFICE AS MIZORAM'S CHIEF MINISTER
- 49. MEGHALAYA'S LAKADONG TURMERIC AND OTHER PRODUCTS AWARDED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG
- 50. GUJARAT'S GARBA DANCE ENTERS UNESCO'S 'INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE' LIST
- 51. TATA MOTORS OPENS ITS 4TH SCRAPPING FACILITY IN PUNJAB
- 52. DAMODAR RAJANARASIMHA APPOINTED AS TELANGANA'S HEALTH MINISTER
- 53. BHAJAN LAL SHARMA NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF MINISTER OF RAJASTHAN
- 54. MOHAN YADAV IS THE NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF MINISTER OF MADHYA PRADESH
- 55. KERALA-BASED STARTUP, GENROBOTICS RANKS TOP 3 IN GLOBAL AI SUMMIT FOR INDIAN STARTUPS
- 56. U.P. POLICE LAUNCHES WHATSAPP CHANNELS FOR DISTRICTS
- 57. INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV COMMENCES IN KURUKSHETRA, HARYANA
- 58. MANIPUR INITIATES SAANS CAMPAIGN 2023-24 FOR PNEUMONIA PREVENTION
- 59. BIHAR POLICE TO LAUNCH 'MISSION INVESTIGATION@75 DAYS' FROM JANUARY 1, 2024
- 60. VASUDEV DEVNANI ELECTED AS THE SPEAKER OF RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY
- 61. KSRTC UNVEILS 'NAMMA CARGO' LOGISTICS IN KARNATAKA
- 62. AMIT SHAH REVEALS CHANDIGARH PROJECTS WORTH 368 CRORE RUPEES
- 63. INCIDENT OF AMMONIA GAS LEAKAGE REPORTED IN ENNORE REGION, CHENNAI
- 64. AYODHYA AIRPORT TO BE RENAMED MAHARISHI VALMIKI AIRPORT

DEFENCE NEWS 23 - 25

65. GRSE DELIVERS INDIA'S LARGEST SURVEY

VESSEL TO NAVY

- 66. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INKS ₹588 CRORE PACT WITH TCIL FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF INDIAN COAST GUARD
- 67. INDIA, VIETNAM ARMIES START 11-DAY HANOI EXERCISE
- 68. INDIA'S AKASH MISSILE ACHIEVES GLOBAL FIRST: ENGAGES FOUR TARGETS SIMULTANEOUSLY AT 25KM
- 69. IAF SUCCESSFULLY TESTFIRES 'SAMAR' AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM IN ANDHRA PRADESH
- 70. INDIA LAUNCHES 'BARRACUDA,' NATION'S FASTEST SOLAR ELECTRIC BOAT

ECONOMY NEWS 26 - 32

- 71. CRUDE OIL DIPS BELOW \$78 A BARREL ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY DATA
- 72. GLOBAL GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK FOR 2024: DECLINE EXPECTED, RICE A STANDOUT EXCEPTION
- 73. CII PREDICTS ROBUST GROWTH FOR INDIA'S ECONOMY IN FY24 AND FY25
- 74. BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA PHASE I EXPENDITURE REACHES RS 4.10 TRILLION: UPDATE BY NITIN GADKARI
- 75. INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SURPASS \$600 BILLION MARK AFTER FOUR-MONTH INTERVAL
- 76. UNION CABINET ALLOCATES RS 2,500 CRORE FOR EXTENDED INTEREST EQUALISATION SCHEME
- 77. INDIA IMPLEMENTS DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF YELLOW PEAS TO REGULATE PULSE PRICES
- 78. S&P GLOBAL RATINGS: POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIES DESPITE GLOBAL CHALLENGES
- 79. ICRA UPGRADES FY24 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5%
- 80. 13 STATES RAISE RS 19,692 CRORE IN STATE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AUCTION
- 81. IMF RECLASSIFIES INDIA'S EXCHANGE RATE REGIME: STABILISED ARRANGEMENT AMID DIVERGENT VIEWS

- 82. GOVT REPORTS A DECLINE IN AGRICULTURE'S GDP SHARE TO 15% IN FY23
- 83. INDIA'S NET FDI HITS 21-MONTH HIGH AT \$5.9 BILLION IN OCTOBER 2023
- 84. ROBUST FISCAL MANAGEMENT: CENTRE AND STATES MAINTAIN SUB-7% GDP FISCAL DEFICIT
- 85. INDIA'S TOTAL DEBT SURGES TO RS 205 TRILLION IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER: REPORT
- 86. RBI FORECASTS ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY: 7.1% FY24 GDP GROWTH AND 6% IN FY25
- 87. DISINVESTMENT SET TO MISS FY24 TARGET, RAISES OVER RS 4 TRILLION IN A DECADE
- 88. CEBR FORECASTS INDIA AS THIRD-LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2032, GLOBAL ECONOMIC LEADER BY CENTURY'S END

BANKING NEWS 32 - 34

- 89. BANK OF INDIA LAUNCHES NARI SHAKTI SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR WOMEN
- 90. INDUSIND BANK INTRODUCES 'INDUS SOLITAIRE PROGRAM' FOR THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY
- 91. RBI CENTRAL BOARD HOLDS 605TH MEETING TO DELIBERATE ON ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE
- 92. SBI'S MARKET CAPITALIZATION SOARS TO RS 6 TRILLION: A 17% SURGE IN 1 MONTH
- 93. CHALLENGES FOR BANKS EXITING AIF UNITS: LIMITED OPTIONS IN ABSENCE OF SECONDARY MARKET
- 94. RBI FACILITATES CARD-ON-FILE TOKENISATION DIRECTLY AT ISSUER BANK LEVEL
- 95. INDIAN BANKS ACHIEVE 12.2% GROWTH IN FY23: RBI REPORT

BUSINESS NEWS 34 - 35

- 96. FUEL PRICE CUT ANTICIPATION GROWS AS GLOBAL CRUDE OIL SLIPS BELOW \$80/BBL
- 97. NPS ASSETS SURGE TO ₹10.7 LAKH CRORE WITH IMPRESSIVE 16.94% EQUITY RETURNS
- 98. COCA-COLA SCORES A VICTORY LAP: SECURES 8-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH ICC AS GLOBAL CRICKET PARTNER

APPOINTMENTS NEWS 35 - 36

99. SEBI GIVES NOD TO APPOINT PRAMOD AGRAWAL AS BSE CHAIRMAN

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS. 36 - 37

- 100. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY 2023
- 101. GOA LIBERATION DAY 2023
- 102. GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY 2023
- 103. NATIONAL CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US REPORTS 'WHITE LUNG SYNDROME' Outbreak



Recent reports highlight Ohio as the first U.S. state to experience a surge in cases of a pneumonia-like illness dubbed 'white lung syndrome.' The outbreak, primarily affecting children, has led to a significant number of hospitalizations, causing concern among health officials.

White Lung Syndrome is identified by distinct white patches observed on chest X-rays in affected children. The term encompasses a range of respiratory disorders, including acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis, and conditions related to silica exposure.

INDIA RESUMES VENEZUELAN CRUDE OIL Imports, Explores Direct Deals



Indian refiners, including Reliance Industries, have reinitiated the import of Venezuelan crude oil through intermediaries. The move comes in the wake of the temporary lifting of U.S. sanctions on Venezuela, opening avenues for direct deals between Indian companies and Venezuela's state-owned oil firm, PDVSA.

Reliance (RELI.NS), one of India's major conglomerates, is set to engage in discussions with PDVSA executives next week regarding direct crude oil sales.

The easing of U.S. sanctions in October prompted a resurgence in Venezuelan oil exports, mainly facilitated by middlemen and traders, particularly to China.

Notable transactions involve trading house Vitol selling 1.5 million barrels to Indian Oil Corp (IOC. NS) and 500,000 barrels to HPCL-Mittal Energy (HMEL), a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL.NS) and Mittal Energy Investmen

WORLD BANK'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SCALING CLIMATE FINANCE THROUGH SECURITIZATION



The President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga, has outlined a strategic initiative aimed at scaling up climate financing through securitization.

This innovative approach, led by the Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL), focuses on creating a model of "originate-to-distribute" to attract substantial investments from deep-pocketed investors for climate-related projects.

PSIL, launched under the World Bank's umbrella, collaborates with a group of 15 finance leaders, including Larry Fink of BlackRock, Thomas Buberl of AXA SA, and Noel Quinn of HSBC Plc. The



collective effort aims to reduce investment risks in climate projects in emerging economies and encourage private capital to contribute to emission reduction initiatives.

INDIA RE-ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION WITH HIGHEST VOTE TALLY



India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2024-25 biennium with the highest tally. The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, expressed gratitude for the international support.

India's re-election places it among the ten states with the "largest interest in international seaborne trade," alongside influential nations such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The IMO Council, serving as the executive organ of the International Maritime Organization, holds a pivotal role in supervising the organization's work.

Responsible for overseeing maritime industry regulations, the council supports and shapes global trade, transportation and all marine operations.

INDONESIA'S MERAPI VOLCANO ERUPTION



Indonesia's Mount Marapi, located in West Sumatra, recently erupted, leading to a tragic incident resulting in the loss of lives and the disappearance of several climbers. The eruption occurred on December 3, 2023, catching many by surprise as authorities scrambled to evacuate those in the vicinity.

As Mount Marapi unleashed its fury, a massive cloud of volcanic ash blanketed the sky and debris covered roads and vehicles. The eruption took place with 75 people in the area and while efforts were made to evacuate, 26 individuals were left behind.

Indonesia is situated on the "Ring of Fire," a volatile tectonic region known for its seismic and volcanic activity. The country boasts 127 active volcanoes and Mount Marapi, standing at 2,891 meters (approximately 9,500 feet), is among the most active on Sumatra.



ITALY WITHDRAWS FROM CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD PROJECT

Italy has officially withdrawn from China's ambi-

tious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) marking a significant departure from its previous stance as the only G7 nation to participate. This move comes more than four years after Italy initially joined the initiative in 2019 under the government of then Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

The Belt and Road Initiative, spearheaded by Chinese President Xi Jinping, aims to enhance China's influence globally by investing in infrastructure projects across participating countries. With over 150 nations reportedly joining the initiative, it has become a cornerstone of China's efforts to expand its economic and political clout internationally.

LAHORE LEADS IN GLOBAL POLLUTION RANKING



Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan, recently earned the dubious distinction of having the worst air quality in the world, with a hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) of 400 in the morning.

The AQI is calculated based on five categories of pollutants: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. Each of these pollutants has distinct sources, ranging from industrial emissions to vehicular exhaust and agricultural activities.

The consequences of Lahore's air quality crisis extend beyond mere discomfort. Prolonged exposure to high levels of air pollution can lead to severe health issues, including respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases, and other respiratory illnesses.

UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN MALI Officially Ends After 10 Years



The United Nations has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali after 10 years, responding to the government's claim that the force was inadequate in addressing the escalating threat of violent extremism.

This move marks the conclusion of the deadliest peacekeeping mission globally, with over 300 personnel casualties. The withdrawal comes as Mali grapples with persistent challenges from Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012.

The UN mission in Mali has incurred a heavy toll, with more than 300 personnel losing their lives during the peacekeeping operation. The challenging terrain and persistent threat of violent extremism have contributed to the mission's high casualty rate, making it the deadliest peacekeeping mission in the world.

CHINA UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST 4TH-GENERATION NUCLEAR REACTOR



China has achieved a significant milestone in its



quest to shift away from traditional coal-fired power plants and decrease its reliance on foreign technologies.

Recently, the Shidao Bay nuclear power plant in eastern Shandong province commenced commercial operations, heralding the era of next-generation gas-cooled nuclear reactors.

The Shidao Bay plant distinguishes itself by utilizing two high-temperature reactors cooled by gas, a departure from conventional pressurized water cooling systems.

A noteworthy aspect of the Shidao Bay project is its emphasis on domestically developed technology. More than 90 percent of the plant's equipment is of Chinese design, showcasing the nation's capability to innovate and implement advanced nuclear solutions independently.

POLAND'S PARLIAMENT ELECTS DONALD TUSK AS PRIME MINISTER



In a historic vote on December 11, former EU leader Donald Tusk returned as Poland's Prime Minister after nearly a decade, marking a significant shift from eight years of stormy national conservative rule.

Tusk's leadership is expected to usher in a new-pro-European era, with promises to restore democratic standards and improve ties with European allies.

The parliamentary vote in support of Tusk was 248-201 in the 460-seat lower house of parliament. Tusk's leadership is anticipated to usher

in a new era, with a focus on restoring democratic values and improving Poland's relations with the EU.

TIWB LAUNCHED SAINT LUCIA PROGRAM, WITH INDIA AS THE ADMINISTRATION PARTNER



Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched a significant program in Saint Lucia on 14th December 2023.

India, known for its expertise in tax matters, has been chosen as the Partner Administration, demonstrating its commitment to fostering international cooperation in tax administration.

The TIWB program in Saint Lucia is set to span 12-18 months, during which India, in collaboration with the TIWB Secretariat and the support of the UNDP Country Office, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, aims to empower Saint Lucia in enhancing its tax administration.

CHINA HIT BY THE DEADLIEST Earthquake In 13 Years



China Hit By The Deadliest Earthquake In 13 Years



At least 118 people in north-west China have lost their lives in the country's deadliest earthquake in 13 years. The 6.2 magnitude quake struck the mountainous Gansu province around midnight on Monday, also affecting the neighboring Qinghai province.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has taken swift action, ordering thousands of rescue crews to the region. Gansu province, among the poorest and most diverse in China, faces a daunting challenge in dealing with the aftermath of this natural disaster. A sum of 200 million yuan has been earmarked for assistance, with Jinping directing officials to exert all possible efforts in delivering aid and relief.

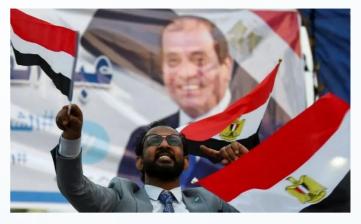
BHUTAN PLANS 1,000-SQ. KM. GREEN City On Assam Border, Linking South To Southeast Asia



Bhutan, a picturesque Himalayan kingdom, is set to embark on a transformative journey with the announcement of its ambitious "Gelephu Smartcity Project." The Bhutanese King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, revealed the plans for a massive "international city" spanning over 1,000 sq. km. on the border with Assam.

King Jigme Wangchuck positioned the Gelephu project as an "economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India's northeastern States." This railway line is expected to enhance connectivity with roadways, border trading points into Assam and West Bengal, and eventually extend Bhutan's reach to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

PRESIDENT SISI SECURES THIRD TERM AMID ECONOMIC CHALLENGES



Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has clinched a third term, garnering 89.6% of the vote in the nation's latest election, held from December 10-12. Despite economic hardships and regional tensions, Sisi's victory was anticipated, given the limited opposition.

Egypt faces a severe economic crisis marked by a 36.4% annual inflation rate, impacting household budgets. Even before the crisis, about two-thirds of the population lived on or below the poverty line. The victory comes amid heightened regional tensions stemming from the Israel-Hamas war in neighboring Gaza, adding to the challenges faced by Sisi's administration.

EU EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT AS India Rejects Interim Arbitration In WTO Dispute



The European Union (EU) has conveyed disap-

www.plutusacademy.com

pointment at India's refusal to engage in interim arbitration for resolving the ongoing dispute concerning import duties on specific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products, such as smartphones and components.

India defends its stance, asserting that interim agreements undermine the right to appeal to a permanent standing body and emphasizes the need to restore the functioning of the WTO appellate body. India defends its decision at the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement body meeting.

Background: In April 2019, the EU lodged a complaint against India's import tariffs on certain ICT products, alleging a breach of India's WTO commitments. Disputed products include mobile phones, components, base stations, integrated circuits, and optical instruments.

JN.1 VARIANT OF COVID-19 VIRUS, ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT



The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a warning on Sunday, December 17, expressing concerns over the evolving nature of the JN.1 COVID subvariant and the surge in respiratory diseases globally.

The organization urged member states to prioritize sequence sharing and enhance surveillance efforts to better understand and combat the changing landscape of the virus

JN.1 has distinct characteristics, spreading faster and demonstrating the ability to evade immunity. This alarming combination makes it capable of infecting individuals with prior COVID infections and those who have been vaccinated.

In India, JN.1 was detected in Kerala on December 8, with a reported case in 79-year-old woman who experienced mild symptoms of Influenza like Illness (ILI). The country is urged to stay vigilant and implement necessary measures to contain the variant's spread.

DONALD TRUMP DECLARED INELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN COLORADO BY STATE'S SUPREME COURT



In a landmark decision, the Colorado Supreme Court, consisting entirely of justices appointed by Democratic governors, declared former U.S. President Donald Trump ineligible for the presidency under the U.S. Constitution's insurrection clause.

The court's 4-3 decision sets the stage for a legal battle, as Trump's attorneys vowed to appeal the disqualification immediately to the U.S. Supreme Court, which holds the final authority on constitutional matters. The legal challenge revolves around whether the frontrunner for the GOP nomination can remain in the race.

The court ruled that Trump is disqualified from holding the presidency under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which bars individuals who engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the Constitution from holding office. This decision stems from Trump's alleged role in inciting the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

www.plutusacademy.com

PAKISTAN SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ADVANCED Rocket System Fatah-II



Pakistan's military successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed guided multilaunch rocket system Fatah-II, showcasing a significant advancement in its missile capabilities.

With a 400-kilometer range, Fatah-II significantly

expands Pakistan's strike capabilities compared to the previous Fatah-1 system (250 kilometers). This enhances strategic deterrence and provides greater operational flexibility.

The system features "state-of-the-art avionics, sophisticated navigation system, and unique flight trajectory," according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), ensuring high accuracy in hitting designated targets.

The successful test underlines Pakistan's growing self-reliance in defense technology.

Fatah-II represents the culmination of years of research and development by Pakistani scientists and engineers.

NATIONAL NEWS

MOT LAUNCHES NATIONAL BEST TOURISM VILLAGE AND NATIONAL BEST RURAL HOMESTAY COMPETITION 2024



In a bid to boost Rural Tourism and enhance sustainable development, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has announced the National Best Tourism Village Competition 2024 and the National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024.

Building on the success of the previous edition in 2023, where 25 villages were recognized for their excellence, these competitions aim to strengthen rural economies and foster community involvement. This initiative is part of the comprehensive

National Strategy and Roadmap for the Development of Rural Tourism in India.

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, has undertaken strategic initiatives outlined in the National Strategy and Roadmap. The goal is to create a conducive environment for Rural Tourism growth by actively engaging governments, industry stakeholders, NGOs and local communities.

INDIA'S CONCERNS LEAD TO NON-SIGNING OF COP28 HEALTH & CLIMATE DECLARATION



India, a notable absentee from the list of signatories at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), refrained from endorsing the COP28



Declaration on Climate and Health.

The primary point of contention arises from India's apprehensions about the practicality and achievability of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cooling within its healthcare infrastructure.

India, facing significant healthcare challenges, expressed reservations about committing to the reduction of greenhouse gases for cooling applications within its healthcare facilities.

A central objective of the declaration is a commitment to combating inequalities within and among countries. It stresses policies that accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG3, focusing on good health and well-being.

INDIA ACHIEVES REMARKABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MILESTONE: EMISSION INTENSITY FALLS 33% AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



India has successfully slashed its GDP emission intensity by 33% between 2005 and 2019, exceeding its target 11 years ahead of schedule.

A government report, 'The Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,' outlines the nation's substantial progress in decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite a cumulative annual GDP growth rate of 7%, India's emissions increased by only 4% per year during 2005-2019. This remarkable feat

showcases India's ability to achieve sustainable economic growth while curbing emissions.

GAJRAJ SYSTEM: AI-BASED ELEPHANT PROTECTION ON INDIAN RAILWAYS



The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks.

This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants' presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.

The system send Alerts to the train controller, station master, train drivers, and other stakeholders, when an elephant steps onto the track, the system detects the presence. The system proved notably effective in its initial deployment, with improvements based on field experience.

PM MODI ANNOUNCES RENAMING OF Ranks In Indian Navy



In a significant move, Prime Minister Narendra



Modi declared the Indian government's decision to revamp the ranks within the Indian Navy, aiming to eliminate colonial influences and infuse a distinct Indian cultural identity.

The Prime Minister made this historic announcement during the Navy Day function held at the iconic Sindhudurg Fort in Maharashtra. The choice of venue itself underscores the commitment to embracing India's cultural roots, as Sindhudurg Fort holds historical significance tied to the Maratha empire.

PM Modi emphasized that the restructuring of naval ranks is part of a broader initiative to shed colonial military legacies. The renaming process is intended to reflect India's rich cultural heritage, aligning the naval hierarchy more closely with indigenous traditions.

World's First Portable Hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Cube', Unveiled In Gurugram



India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, Aarogya Maitri Cube, a groundbreaking facility in Gurugram that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022.

The heart of this innovative disaster hospital lies in its 72 cubes, each containing an array of essential equipment and supplies. Among these are an operation theatre, a mini-ICU, ventilators, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a cooking station, food, water, shelter, a power generator, and more.

One of the most remarkable features of the Aarogya Maitri Cube is its ability to handle a wide range of severe injuries. This include 40 bullet injuries, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries, and spinal fractures.

PM MODI UNVEILS VARANASI'S SWARVED MAHAMANDIR, WORLD'S LARGEST MEDITATION CENTER



Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment on Monday as he inaugurated the Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi. The temple derives its name from the Swarved, a spiritual text authored by Sadguru Shri Sadafal Deoji Maharaj, the eternal yogi, and founder of Vihangam Yoga.

This newly constructed meditation center stands tall at seven floors, accommodating an impressive 20,000 devotees at a time for meditation. The Swarved Mahamandir is a mesmerizing architectural marvel, seamlessly blending traditional and modern design elements.

Intricate marble carvings adorn its structure, and towering lotus-shaped domes reflect the rich cultural heritage of Varanasi. The seven-floor superstructure stands as a testament to the city's spiritual legacy while embracing contemporary aesthetics.

www.plutusacademy.com

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE OF EASTERN Dedicated Freight Corridor



In alignment with the government's commitment to fortify the logistics sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 402 km-long segment of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on 18 December.

The project, executed at a cost of Rs 10,903 crores, boasts 12 stations, comprising six junction stations and six crossing stations.

The dedicated section spans from New Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction to New Bhaupur Junction, situated on the Delhi-Howrah rail route, covering districts like Chandauli, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Kanpur Nagar, and Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh.

SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE INAUGURATED BY PM MODI



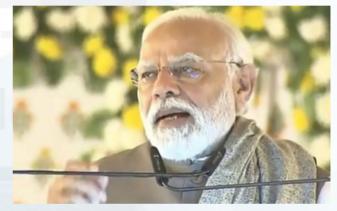
Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Surat Diamond Exchange, marking a historic moment as it surpassed the Pentagon to become the world's largest office complex.

This sprawling complex spans an impressive 6.7

million square feet and was completed at a cost of ₹32 billion. The iconic Pentagon, a symbol of American power, has an area of 6.5 million square feet.

The Surat Diamond Bourse is a crucial component of the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City. With an astounding 67 lakh square feet of floor space, the SDB is now recognized as the world's largest office building, housing nearly 4,500 diamond trading offices.

PM NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHES SECOND Edition Of Kashi Time Sangamam In Varanasi



On a vibrant Sunday in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, a cultural extravagance aimed at fostering the cultural ties between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.

The second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, scheduled from December 17 to 30, 2023, is part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Yuva Sangam' program.

With a focus on people-to-people connect, the event aims to revive the historical ties between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, both renowned centers of learning and culture in ancient India.

As a symbolic gesture of cultural integration, PM Modi flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express, a train service connecting Varanasi and Kanyakumari. This initiative not only enhances connectivity but also signifies the unity in diversity but defines India.



IMPLEMENTATION OF ANAND MARRIAGE ACT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR



The Jammu and Kashmir administration has taken a significant step towards fulfilling a long-standing demand of the Sikh community by implementing the Anand Marriage Act.

This act provides statutory recognition to Sikh marriage rituals, allowing Sikh couples to register their marriages under specific regulations instead of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The set of regulations, titled 'Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023,' outlines the procedures for registering "Anand marriages."

According to a government notification issued on November 30, tehsildars within their respective territorial jurisdictions will serve as registrars for such marriages.

PARLIAMENT PASSES POST OFFICE BILL, 2023, Replacing 125-Year-Old Indian Post Office Act, 1898



The Indian Parliament recently approved the Post

Office Bill, 2023, marking a significant overhaul of the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The new legislation aims to modernize and consolidate the legal framework governing post offices in India.

The Bill grants post office employees the authority to open, detain, or intercept any item during transmission in the interest of national security or public safety. However, this power is subject to specific conditions.

While providing immunity for post office employees from liability in delivering services, the Bill includes conditions. Officers are exempt unless they act fraudulently or willfully cause loss, delay, or misdelivery of services.

NHAI LAUNCHED ERS MOBILE APP FOR Swift Emergency Response



In tandem with the Computer Aided Dispatch System, NHAI has unveiled the NHAI ERS (Emergency Response System) Mobile Application. Functioning as a cohesive platform, this application facilitates the smooth relay of dispatch-related information to on-road units.

Leveraging mobile technology, NHAI aims to enhance communication and coordination during emergency situations, ultimately bolstering the efficiency of emergency response teams. This mobile application represents a progressive step towards a more connected and responsive emergency infrastructure.



TO CARRY 100 MILLION PASSENGERS



A Year IndiGo, India's leading carrier, has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian airline to transport 100 million passengers in a single calendar year.

This accomplishment places IndiGo in an elite global club of carriers operating such a massive scale, solidifying its position among the world's top-10 airlines by passenger traffic.

IndiGo's success is further underscored by its substantial backlog of close to 1,000 planes, set to be delivered over the next decade. The airline's aggressive approach to fleet expansion positions it for sustained growth and increased market share in the highly competitive aviation industry.

GOVT SUGGESTS **'DECRIMINALIZING MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE' IN NEW CRIMINAL** LAW BILL



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced a significant amendment to the criminal law bill that will exempt doctors from criminal prosecution in cases of death due to medical negligence.

As per the existing legal framework, the death of

INDIGO BECOMES FIRST INDIAN AIRLINE patients under a doctor's care is categorized as criminal negligence under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code

> This section stipulates that anyone causing the death of a person through a rash or negligent act may face imprisonment for up to two years, a fine, or both.

> The proposed amendment aims to protect doctors from unwarranted criminal prosecution, fostering a more supportive environment for medical practitioners.

PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU GIVES **ASSENT TO THREE CRIMINAL CODE BILLS**



On December 25, President Draupadi Murmu granted her assent to three groundbreaking criminal code bills, marking a significant shift in India's legal landscape.

These bills, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, received parliamentary approval and are poised to replace the age-old Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

The trio of bills aims to redefine various offenses and their corresponding punishments.

Notably, the legislation provides a clear definition of terrorism and introduces a novel section titled "Offences Against the State." Strikingly, it abolishes sedition as a crime, replacing it with a more contemporary framework.



GWALIOR ACHIEVES GUINNESS RECORD WITH 'LARGEST TABLA ENSEMBLE' AT TANSEN FESTIVAL



Gwalior, often hailed as the City of Music, recently witnessed an extraordinary spectacle as 1500 tabla performers converged at the historic Karna Mahal of Gwalior Fort.

The event, known as 'Tabla Darbar,' unfolded as part of the annual 'Tansen Samaroh' music festival at the iconic Karna Mahal of Gwalior Fort on the evening of December 25th, drawing attention and acclaim from distinguished guests, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav.

A team of three from the Guinness Book of World Records was present to personally supervise and document this unprecedented 'Tabla Darbar' performance. The meticulous recording process added an official seal to the city's musical achievement.

HEALTH MINISTER LAUNCHED 'MEDTECH MITRA' TO ADVANCE HEALTH SOLUTION



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, introduced 'MedTech Mitra,' a strategic initiative aimed at nurturing the talents of young innovators in the country.

The platform seeks to shape their research, knowledge, and logic while providing essential support for obtaining regulatory approval.

The strategic initiative is designed to provide comprehensive support to MedTech innovators, aiding them in refining their research, knowledge, and logic, while also facilitating regulatory approvals for their healthcare solutions.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Initiated 'MY Bharat' Campaign



Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur, recently addressed the youth after the launch of the MY Bharat campaign, expressing confidence in India's remarkable progress on the global stage.

He emphasized the significant strides made across various sectors, attributing the success to the government's initiatives.

The minister commended the growth of India's startup ecosystem, emphasizing that the country has surged to become the third-largest in the world, surpassing the United Kingdom.

The minister also lauded the Make in India program for transforming India into the seventh-largest manufacturer of mobile phones globally.

13

PM MODI TO SOON FLAG OFF AMRIT Bharat Train With Push-Pull Technology



India's rail network continues to evolve, with the recent unveiling of the Amrit Bharat train, set to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the advanced features of the train, emphasizing the incorporation of push-pull technology for enhanced speed and passenger comfort.

An essential feature of the Amrit Bharat train is its use of semi-permanent couplers, which eliminate the possibility of shocks within the train.

The Amrit Bharat train prioritizes passenger comfort through thoughtful amenities. Each seat is equipped with charging points, catering to the increasing reliance on electronic devices during travel.

INDIAN PM CROSSES 2 CRORE SUBSCRIBERS, LEAVING WORLD LEADERS IN THE DUST



Indian PM Crosses 2 Crore Subscribers, Leaving World Leaders in the Dust

dominance in the digital realm, becoming the first world leader to surpass the 2 crore subscriber mark on YouTube.

With over 4.5 billion views on his channel, Modi has left his global peers trailing far behind, highlighting his adeptness at utilizing social media for public engagement.

Modi enjoys a commanding lead in both subscribers and views, with Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro a distant second at 64 lakh subscribers, less than a third of Modi's total.

IOA FORMS AD HOC COMMITTEE TO GOVERN SUSPENDED WFI



In response to the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) by the Sports Ministry, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has established a three-member ad hoc committee to oversee the day-to-day operations of the WFI.

The Sports Ministry took action three days after the WFI elected new office bearers, including Sanjay Singh as president. The ministry accused the WFI of violating its own constitution and instructed the IOA to form an ad-hoc panel.

The committee is tasked with overseeing various aspects of WFI's operations, including athlete selection, international event participation, organizing sports activities, managing finances, handling the website, and other related responsibilities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cemented his



MHA DECLARES MUSLIM LEAGUE JAMMU KASHMIR (MASARAT ALAM FACTION) UNLAWFUL UNDER UAPA



The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) as an "unlawful association" for a five-year period under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The Ministry revealed that the outfit had been actively raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organizations, to perpetrate unlawful activities.

The organization's objectives included seeking the freedom of Jammu and Kashmir from India, aspiring to merge the region with Pakistan, and establish Islamic rule.

AYODHYA RAILWAY STATION TO BE Renamed As Ayodhya Dham



The holy city of Ayodhya is gearing up for a major transformation, with the renaming of its iconic railway junction and the inauguration of a brand new airport.

The Ayodhya Dham railway station is now a stateof-the-art facility that seamlessly blends ancient Indian architecture with modern amenities. The station building resembles a majestic temple, adorned with domes, pillars, arches, and murals depicting the life and glory of Lord Rama.

Located about 25 kilometers from the city, the new airport is poised to become a game-changer for Ayodhya's connectivity and accessibility. The airport will cater to both domestic and international flights, making it easier for pilgrims and tourists from all over the world to reach the holy city.

STATE NEWS

MP CM PAID TRIBUTE TO BHOPAL GAS Leak Victims On 39th Anniversary



To mark the 39th anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minis-

ter Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy that occurred on December 2 and 3, 1984.

This tragic incident unfolded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, when methyl isocyanate (MIC) leaked from the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) factory, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives and leaving a lasting impact on survivors.

In remembrance of the tragedy, the people of Bhopal organized a candle march, with women carrying placards seeking compensation, healthcare, and justice.

The march, starting from Sidhi Colony and con-



cluding at the memorial near the factory, served as a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by survivors.

Shri Amit Shah At Mati Kala Mahotsav, Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, recently addressed the Khadi Mati Kala Mahotsav in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, emphasizing the multidimensional and multi-purpose aspects of the Khadi movement.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah highlighted the historical significance of Khadi, tracing its origins back to Mahatma Gandhi. He emphasized how Gandhi Ji linked Khadi with the freedom movement, using it as a means to connect impoverished individuals with employment.

The Khadi Mati Kala Mahotsav witnessed the distribution of essential tools and equipment, including electric potter wheels, agro-based food processing industry tool kits, incense stick making machines, plumbing kits, and traditional charkhas.

PM Modi Unveils Shivaji Maharaj Statue At Rajkot Fort In Maharashtra



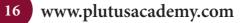
On December 4, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment by unveiling the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the visionary leader of the Maratha empire, was renowned for his strategic prowess in constructing coastal and sea forts. The unveiling ceremony highlighted his significant contribution to India's maritime history, with a special focus on the iconic Sindhudurg Fort.

Prime Minister Modi shed light on how the Maratha empire founder's seal served as inspiration for the new naval ensign. This ensign was officially adopted last year during the commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

'Hump WWII' Museum Opens In Arunachal With US Aircraft





In a poignant ceremony held in Pasighat, the East was highlighted. Siang district headquarters of Arunachal Pradesh. a museum dedicated to the fallen airmen of the Allied forces during World War II was inaugurated on November 29.

The Hump WWII Museum stands as a tribute to the aviators who navigated the perilous air route between north-eastern Assam and Yunnan in China, nicknamed 'The Hump.'

The air route earned its moniker due to the formidable challenges faced by Allied pilots flying from airfields in Assam to those in Yunnan. Navigating through deep gorges and mountains rising beyond 10,000 feet, these pilots played a crucial role in the war effort, underlying perilous journeys to transport supplies such as fuel, food and ammunition.

BIHAR GARNERS **INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION** Ат **COP-28** FOR **AFFORESTATION EFFORTS**



The actions undertaken by the Bihar government in the field of afforestation, particularly through the Jal-Jeevan-Harivali Abhivan (Rural Development Department), received praise from the international community at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-28) in Dubai.

During a dedicated session on "Building Climate Resilience" at the Indian Pavilion, a detailed presentation titled "Afforestation Activities in Bihar to Combat Climate Change" was delivered. The larger policy framework and inter-departmental coordination under Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan

Bihar is among the first States in the country to introduce a green budget, aiming to allocate budgetary provisions to address climate change, conserve the ecosystem, and protect biodiversity." This initiative showcases the state's commitment to incorporating environmental considerations into its financial planning.

LALDUHOMA SET TO ASSUME OFFICE AS **MIZORAM'S CHIEF MINISTER**



In a significant political development, Lalduhoma, the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader and legislature party leader, is poised to be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 8.

A Raj Bhavan official confirmed that Lalduhoma, along with other members of his council of ministers, will take the oath of office at 11 am in a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan.

The ZPM emerged victorious in the Mizoram Assembly elections held on November 7, securing a total of 27 out of 40 seats. The electoral success resulted in the defeat of the incumbent Mizo National Front (MNF) led by Zoramthanga.



MEGHALAYA'S LAKADONG TURMERIC AND OTHER PRODUCTS AWARDED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG



In a significant development, Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Considered one of the finest turmeric varieties globally, Lakadong turmeric boasts an impressive curcumin content ranging from 6.8 to 7.5 percent.

Grown organically in the Lakadong area of Jaintia Hills, this turmeric is renowned for its dark color, and cultivation is carried out without the use of fertilizers.

Alongside Lakadong turmeric, three more products from Meghalaya were honored with the GI tag: Garo Dakmanda (traditional dress), Larnai pottery, and Garo Chubitchi (alcoholic beverage).

GUJARAT'S GARBA DANCE ENTERS UNESCO'S 'INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE' LIST



TURMERIC AWARDED J) TAG Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel declared that the vibrant and culturally significant Garba dance has been officially recognized by UNESCO, earning a coveted spot on the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity."

> The Garba dance, deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of Gujarat, has long been a symbol of devotion to Goddess Mother during the auspicious Navratri festival.

> Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also commended the global acknowledgment of this traditional Indian dance form.

> With this inclusion, Garba joins a distinguished list of Indian cultural phenomena on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Notable mentions include Ramlila, Vedic Chants, Kumbh Mela, and Durga Puja, collectively enriching the world's appreciation of India's diverse and vibrant cultural heritage.

TATA MOTORS OPENS ITS 4TH SCRAPPING Facility In Punjab



Homegrown auto major Tata Motors has taken a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability with the inauguration of its fourth Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in Chandigarh.

This cutting-edge facility, developed and operated by Tata Motors' partner, Dada Trading Company, underscores the company's commitment to responsible manufacturing and eco-friendly practices.

18 www.plutusacademy.com

The Chandigarh RVSF is equipped with state-ofthe-art technology, employing environmentally-friendly processes to safely and sustainably disassemble up to 12,000 end-of-life vehicles annually.

Tata Motors already boasts three RVSFs in Jaipur, Bhubaneshwar, and Surat, reflecting the company's strategic vision to establish a comprehensive network of scrapping facilities across the country.

DAMODAR RAJANARASIMHA APPOINTED As Telangana's Health Minister



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appointed Damodar Rajanarasimha Cilarapu, an engineering graduate, as the Health Minister of the state. Rajanarasimha secured a significant victory in the Andole constituency. He garnered 1,14,147 votes (53.65%), winning by a substantial margin of 28,193 votes. This electoral success solidified his position and paved the way for his appointment as the Health Minister.

Despite lacking a medical background, Rajanarasimha brings a wealth of experience and political acumen to his new role. Holding a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Osmania University's College of Engineering, earned in 1982, he is wellversed in navigating complex issues and policy matters.

The Chandigarh RVSF is equipped with state-of- **BHAJAN LAL SHARMA NEWLY ELECTED** the-art technology, employing environmental- **CHIEF MINISTER OF RAJASTHAN**



Bhajan Lal Sharma, a prominent figure in Rajasthan's political landscape, is set to become the state's next Chief Minister. At 56 years old, he brings a wealth of political experience and accomplishments to the position. Sharma's electoral triumph, coupled with his extensive political background, reflects the BJP's strategic choice for leadership. As he takes on the responsibilities of the state's top office, all eyes will be on the new leadership to address the challenges and contribute to the development of Rajasthan.

In addition to Bhajan Lal Sharma's appointment, Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa have been named as his two deputies. The role of Speaker will be held by MLA Vasudev Devnani, who comes with prior experience as the state Education Minister.

MOHAN YADAV IS THE NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF MINISTER OF MADHYA PRADESH



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has officially an-

nounced Mohan Yadav as the chief minister-elect for Madhya Pradesh, solidifying its victory in the November 17 polls.

The BJP appointed Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda as deputy chief ministers for Madhya Pradesh. Rajendra Shukla, hailing from the Rewa constituency, and Jagdish Devda, representing Mandsaur, bring diverse perspectives and experiences to support Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in his leadership.

Adding another significant development, Narendra Tomar has been elected as the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker. His role as Speaker will be instrumental in maintaining parliamentary decorum and facilitating smooth legislative proceedings.

KERALA-BASED STARTUP, GENROBOTICS Ranks Top 3 In Global AI Summit For Indian Startups



Genrobotics, a Kerala-based startup, has emerged as a frontrunner in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social change. The company achieved significant recognition by being adjudged among the top three AI startups in India at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023.

Genrobotics clinched the 'AI Game Changers' award at the summit for its groundbreaking G-gaiter Robotic Technology. Genrobotics earned recognition for its healthcare innovation, specifically the development of G Gaiter—an advanced AI-powered robotic gait trainer. G Gaiter is tailored for individuals contending with mobility challenges stemming from conditions like stroke, spinal injury, accidents, Parkinson's disease, etc. This revolutionary technology facilitates quicker recovery, minimizing the need for external assistance in the rehabilitation process.

U.P. POLICE LAUNCHES WHATSAPP Channels For Districts



The Uttar Pradesh Police has taken a significant step towards enhancing public outreach and transparency by becoming one of the first in the country to launch WhatsApp Channels for its headquarters and all district units.

One of the primary objectives of launching WhatsApp Channels is to enhance transparency in the functioning of the police force. By providing real-time updates on actions taken and sharing authentic information, the Uttar Pradesh Police aims to build trust and confidence among the public.

With the ability to add an unlimited number of members to a channel, this feature provides an effective platform for disseminating information to the masses. The Uttar Pradesh Police is set to leverage this functionality to its full potential.

20 www.plutusacademy.com

INTERNATIONAL GITA MAHOTSAV Commences In Kurukshetra, Haryana



Kurukshetra, a sacred town resonating with cultural heritage and spiritual significance, witnessed a grand spectacle as it hosted the inauguration of the International Gita Mahotsav – 2023.

The auspicious event kicked off with the enchanting Gita Aarti and worship of the holy scripture at Brahma Sarovar.

The International Gita Mahotsav promises a holistic experience with global Gita recitations involving 18,000 students. The event also features an International Gita Seminar, a saints' conference, aarti at the Brahma Sarovar, Deepotsav, and cultural programs at 164 locations within a 48km radius.

MANIPUR INITIATES SAANS CAMPAIGN 2023-24 For Pneumonia Prevention



In a significant move aimed at addressing childhood pneumonia, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister of Ma-

nipur, recently inaugurated the SAANS Campaign 2023-24 in Imphal.

SAANS, which stands for Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia, is an annual campaign implemented in states and Union Territories. The primary objective of

SAANS is to accelerate action against childhood pneumonia, a leading cause of child mortality.

SAANS will initiate a public awareness campaign to educate communities about effective pneumonia prevention strategies. This includes promoting practices such as breastfeeding, age-appropriate supplemental feeding, and vaccination.

BIHAR POLICE TO LAUNCH 'MISSION INVESTIGATION@75 DAYS' FROM JANUARY 1, 2024



Bihar Police to Launch 'Mission Investigation@75 days' from January 1, 2024

The Bihar Police has announced the implementation of 'Mission Investigation@75 Days,' aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state.

Starting from January 1 next year, investigators will be mandated to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs).

The initiative aims to ensure that investigations, including the filing of chargesheets, are concluded within 75 days of the registration of FIRs.



VASUDEV DEVNANI ELECTED AS THE SPEAKER OF RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY



The 16th Rajasthan Assembly witnessed a significant development as Vasudev Devnani, a seasoned BJP MLA with five terms under his belt, was unanimously elected as the Speaker.

The motion for his appointment was moved by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and seconded by Congress leader and Tonk MLA Sachin Pilot, reflecting a rare unity between the ruling party and the opposition.

Devnani's appointment brings caste diversity to the government, following the selection of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma (Brahmin) and two Deputy CMs (Rajput and Scheduled Caste).

KSRTC UNVEILS 'NAMMA CARGO' LOGISTICS IN KARNATAKA



Minister for Transport for Karnataka, Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the initiative under the brand name "Namma Cargo," introducing cargo services on KSRTC route buses. The launch event saw the deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state.

Minister Reddy announced ambitious plans for the 'Namma Cargo' services, with a goal to induct 100 trucks within the first month of operation. Looking ahead, KSRTC aims to escalate the number of cargo trucks to 500 within a year.

AMIT SHAH REVEALS CHANDIGARH Projects Worth 368 Crore Rupees



In a significant development for the city of Chandigarh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated nine projects with a total investment of 368 crore rupees.

Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for three ambitious projects valued at 32 crore rupees. This marks a substantial commitment to the infrastructural and developmental growth of Chandigarh.

Amit Shah also flagged off a fleet of Chandigarh Police cars, collectively valued at 3.75 crore rupees. Among them, a state-of-the-art police control vehicle named 'Eagle' was introduced. This move aims to enhance the operational capabilities and efficiency of law enforcement in the city.

22

INCIDENT OF AMMONIA GAS LEAKAGE Reported In Ennore Region, Chennai



Late on Tuesday night, a fertilizer plant in North Chennai's Ennore area experienced an ammonia gas leak, leading to the hospitalization of around 50 people.

The gas leak occurred from an underwater pipeline that runs from the sea to the fertilizer manufacturing facility of Coromandel International Limited.

The affected individuals experienced symptoms such as breathlessness, burning in their eyes, throat, nose, and chest. In the aftermath of the incident, local residents expressed anger and concern, demanding the immediate closure of the factory.

Ayodhya Airport To Be Renamed Maharishi Valmiki Airport



Ayodhya, the holy city in Uttar Pradesh, is all set to get its first international airport, marking a significant development in its pilgrimage and tourism potential.

The airport currently boasts the lengthy name "Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport."

The Yogi Adityanath government is reportedly considering renaming it "Maharishi Valmiki Airport," honoring the revered poet who authored the epic Ramayana.

The proposed name change aligns with the religious significance of the city and pays homage to Maharishi Valmiki, whose Ramayana immortalized the story of Lord Rama.

DEFENCE NEWS

GRSE DELIVERS INDIA'S LARGEST SURVEY VESSEL TO NAVY



The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

(GRSE) Ltd delivered the largest-ever survey vessel built in the country, INS Sandhayak, to the Indian Navy. The 110-meter-long vessel is the first in a series of four survey ships being constructed by GRSE for the navy, marking a crucial milestone in the indigenous shipbuilding industry.

The Sandhayak-class vessels boast comprehensive capabilities, making them invaluable assets to the Indian Navy. These survey ships can conduct fullscale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys, providing crucial data for port and harbor approaches, navigation channels, and routes.

In addition to their primary survey functions, these



vessels exhibit multi-role capabilities. Each ship can carry a helicopter, participate in low-intensity combat scenarios, and function as hospital ships.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INKS ₹588 CRORE PACT WITH TCIL FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF INDIAN COAST GUARD



The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has recently signed a significant contract worth ₹588.68 crore with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) for the implementation of the "Digital Coast Guard (DCG)" project. Under the "Buy (Indian)" category, the DCG project aims to establish a centralized monitoring and management system for the Indian Coast Guard's applications and assets. The project encompasses various key components to advance the technological landscape of the ICG.

The MoD highlights that the DCG project leverages secured MPLS/VSAT connectivity, positioning itself at the forefront of cutting-edge defence technology. The establishment of a Tier-III standard Data Centre equipped with the latest technological capabilities is a key aspect of the initiative.

INDIA, VIETNAM ARMIES START 11-DAY Hanoi Exercise



The Indian and Vietnamese Armies have initiated an 11-day military exercise in Vietnam, commencing on December 11. This collaborative endeavor, named "VINBAX-23," reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations and is a response to shared concerns over China's assertive actions in the South China Sea.

The joint military exercise is part of an expanding strategic engagement between India and Vietnam, emphasizing their commitment to counterbalance China's increasing aggression in the South China Sea. This collaboration aims to foster a collaborative partnership and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Vietnamese forces.

The military exercise, VINBAX-23, spans from December 11 to 21 and is hosted in Hanoi. The Indian contingent consists of 45 personnel, including 39 from the Bengal Engineer Group's engineer regiment and six from the Army Medical Corps. Correspondingly, Vietnam has deployed 45 personnel for the drill.

INDIA'S AKASH MISSILE ACHIEVES Global First: Engages Four Targets Simultaneously At 25km



India has achieved a global first by demonstrating the capability of its indigenous Akash missile system to engage four aerial targets simultaneously at a range of 25 kilometers.

The remarkable feat took place during the 'Astrashakti' military exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force on December 12. This exercise served as a platform to showcase the exceptional capabilities of the Akash missile system, illustrating its ability to engage multiple targets concurrently.

The Akash missile, with a commendable range of up to 25 kilometers, represents a short-range surface-to-air missile designed primarily for safeguarding vulnerable areas from potential air attacks. This demonstration not only underscores the effectiveness of the Akash system but also solidifies its significance in India's defense capabilities.

IAF SUCCESSFULLY TESTFIRES 'SAMAR' AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM IN ANDHRA PRADESH



The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proudly announced the successful test firing of its Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR) air defence missile system. This accomplishment marks a milestone for the IAF's strategic self-reliance efforts.

The IAF conducted the successful firing trials of the SAMAR air defence missile system during the AstraShakti-2023 exercise at Air Force Station Suryalanka. This exercise provided the platform

for the SAMAR missile system to showcase its capabilities in real-world scenarios.

SAMAR is a quick reaction surface-to-air missile system, ingeniously crafted by the IAF's 7 Base Repair Depot (BRD) and 11 BRD, in collaboration with Simran Flowtech Industries and Yamazuki Denki. Notably, the system repurposes old Russian-origin Vympel R-73 and R-27 air-to-air missiles, demonstrating an innovative approach to maximize existing resources.

INDIA LAUNCHES 'BARRACUDA,' NATION'S Fastest Solar Electric Boat



In a significant stride towards sustainable maritime technology, India has unveiled 'Barracuda,' the nation's fastest solar electric boat, at the Navgathi Yard in Panavally,

Alappuzha. This cutting-edge vessel, named 'Saur Shakthi,' is a collaborative effort between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Navalt, an eco-marine tech company.

The Barracuda stands as a symbol of efficient and clean energy usage, showcasing India's commitment to a greener maritime future. Designed by Navalt, the Barracuda is a 14-meter-long and 4.4-meter-wide vessel engineered for workboat purposes.

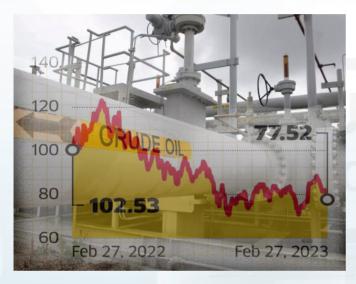
It boasts twin 50-kW electric motors, a marine-grade LFP battery, and 6-kW solar power, propelling it to a top speed of 12 knots (23 kmph). The vessel's capabilities include a range of seven hours on a single charge, making it a formidable addition to eco-friendly maritime transportation.

5 www.plutusacademy.com

ECONOMY NEWS

CRUDE OIL DIPS BELOW \$78 A BARREL According To Industry Data

Crude oil futures faced a downward trend on Wednesday morning, with February Brent oil futures reaching \$77.23, a marginal increase of 0.04 per cent. Simultaneously, January crude oil futures on WTI (West Texas Intermediate) experienced a dip, settling at \$72.31, down by 0.01 per cent.



A significant contributor to the fluctuations in crude oil prices is the unexpected surge in US crude oil inventories. According to the American Petroleum Institute (API), inventories increased by 594,000 barrels for the week ending December 1.

In the Indian market, December crude oil futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) were trading at ₹6046, down by 0.56 per cent from the previous close. January futures were also affected, trading at ₹6097, a 0.52 per cent decrease. These price movements reflect the interconnectedness of global events and their influence on local commodity markets.

GLOBAL GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK FOR 2024: DECLINE EXPECTED, RICE A STANDOUT EXCEPTION



The World Bank and research agency BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, have jointly forecasted a 6.5% decline in global grain prices in 2024. However, rice is expected to be an exception due to India's export restrictions and concerns related to El Nino.

The World Bank Commodity Outlook suggests that the overall decrease in grain prices will be driven by the anticipated improvement in global grain supplies.

Despite higher rice prices, the continued decline in maize and wheat prices is expected to balance the overall trend.

CII PREDICTS ROBUST GROWTH FOR INDIA'S ECONOMY IN FY24 AND FY25



India's economy is poised for a strong rebound, with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) projecting a growth of 6.8% in the current fiscal year (FY24) and an acceleration to 7% in the subsequent fiscal year (FY25).

CII attributes this optimistic outlook to the government's unwavering commitment to infrastructure development and the facilitation of ease of doing business.

The CII's initial estimate of 6.5-6.7% growth has been surpassed, with the current expectation set at 6.8% for the ongoing fiscal year.

BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA PHASE I Expenditure Reaches Rs 4.10 Trillion: Update By Nitin Gadkari



As of October 31, 2023, a total expenditure of Rs 4.10 lakh crore has been incurred under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I (BPP-I), according to Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) collected Rs 53,536.48 crore from 2020-21 until November 23, 2023, as user fees at toll plazas on national highways through FASTag.

NHAI has raised a significant amount of Rs 70,127 crore through the monetization of National Highways using Toll Operate and Transfer (TOT), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT), and project-based financing modes. INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SURPASS \$600 Billion Mark After Four-Month Interval



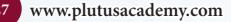
India's foreign exchange reserves have witnessed a notable upswing, reaching \$604 billion as of December 1, marking a significant milestone after a four-month hiatus. The last instance of the reserves crossing the \$600 billion threshold was recorded on August 11 earlier this year

As of November 24, the forex reserves stood at \$597.935 billion, reflecting a steady increase from the preceding week. Notably, in October 2021, India's foreign exchange reserves had reached an unprecedented all-time high of \$642 billion. However, the subsequent months witnessed a decline as the central bank strategically deployed reserves to defend the Indian rupee against pressures arising from global developments.

UNION CABINET ALLOCATES RS 2,500 CRORE FOR EXTENDED INTEREST EQUALISATION SCHEME



The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi, has sanctioned an additional Rs 2,500 crore for the Interest Equalisation Scheme. The scheme is extended until June 30, 2024, aiming to support exporters from specific sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters.

Objectives of the scheme are: To facilitate pre and post-shipment Rupee export credit at competitive rates. To continue benefiting manufacturer and merchant exporters in identified tariff lines. To foster growth in the MSME sector, crucial for employment generation.

The scheme has a positive impact on export growth, supported by a study conducted by IIM Kashipur. It focusses on labour-intensive sectors, particularly vital for MSMEs and promotes employment generation by boosting exports in targeted sectors.

INDIA IMPLEMENTS DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF YELLOW PEAS TO REGULATE PULSE PRICES



In a strategic move to stabilize pulse prices, the Indian government, through the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), has lifted restrictions on the import of yellow peas. The move allows duty-free shipments of yellow peas until March 31, 2024, aiming to enhance the supply of pulses in the market. Yellow peas, primarily imported from Canada and Russia, were initially subjected to a 50% duty in November 2017. The recent decision shifts their import status from "Restricted" to "Free" as part of New Delhi's efforts to manage the overall pulse basket prices. S&P GLOBAL RATINGS: POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIES DESPITE GLOBAL CHALLENGES



S&P Global Ratings has expressed confidence in the credit strength of Asian emerging and developing economies, citing their positive impact on the credit ratings of governments in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

The agency anticipates that these economies will contribute to maintaining stable credit ratings for most APAC nations in the coming one to two years.

S&P emphasizes that the growth of Asian emerging and developing economies will serve as a credit strength for many governments in the region.

ICRA UPGRADES FY24 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5%



Domestic rating agency ICRA has adjusted its GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2024, increasing it to 6.5% from the previous estimate of 6.2%. This update, however, remains below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) more optimistic 7% GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year.

The agency highlights the continued stability of

global commodity prices in the ongoing quarter, attributing it to concerns about growing demand from China, ample supplies for commodities like crude oil, and the normalization of supply chains.

13 STATES RAISE RS 19,692 CRORE IN STATE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AUCTION



Thirteen Indian states participated in a state government securities auction, collectively raising Rs 19,692 crore, slightly surpassing the notified amount of Rs 19,592 crore. This marked an increase from the previous week, where eight states had raised Rs 12,100 crore through a similar auction.

According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh emerged as the leading states, each successfully raising Rs 4,000 crore. Karnataka raised Rs 4,000 crore through two papers. Rs 2,000 crore was raised via a 15-year paper with a cut-off yield of 7.60%. Another Rs 2,000 crore was generated through a 16-year paper with a cut-off yield of 7.64%.

IMF RECLASSIFIES INDIA'S EXCHANGE RATEREGIME: STABILISED ARRANGEMENT AMID DIVERGENT VIEWS



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has re-

classified India's de facto exchange rate regime from "floating" to "stabilized arrangement" for the period December 2022 to October 2023.

This shift comes after an Article IV review, where the IMF staff diverged from Indian authorities' perspective on exchange rate stability.

Over the past two years, the rupee-dollar exchange rate exhibited significant movement, depreciating by approximately 15% between December 2019 and November 2022.

Improved domestic macroeconomic stability, bolstered by tightened monetary policy, attracted capital inflows over the past year.

GOVT REPORTS A DECLINE IN AGRICULTURE'S GDP SHARE TO 15% IN FY23



India's economic landscape has witnessed a significant transformation over the past few decades, marked by a notable decline in the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to recent government data, the share of agriculture in India's GDP dropped from 35% in the fiscal year 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23.

Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda, emphasized that the decrease in the share of agriculture in the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the economy is not a result of a reduction in agricultural GVA but rather stems from the remarkable expansion of the industrial and service sector GVAs.'

Despite the declining share in GDP, the agricultural and allied sector has demonstrated resilience, registering an average annual growth of 4% over



the last five years. This indicates that while agriculture's contribution to the overall economy may be diminishing proportionately, the sector is still experiencing positive growth.

INDIA'S NET FDI HITS 21-MONTH HIGH AT \$5.9 BILLION IN OCTOBER 2023



In October 2023, India experienced a surge in net foreign direct investment (FDI), reaching a 21-month high at \$5.9 billion. This upswing was attributed to robust gross inflows and a decrease in repatriation.

Mauritius, Singapore, Cyprus, and Japan emerged as major contributors, accounting for over four-fifths of the total FDI inflows in October 2023.

Approximately four-fifths of gross inward FDI equity flows were directed towards manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, electricity and other energy sectors, and the financial services sector.

ROBUST FISCAL MANAGEMENT: CENTRE AND STATES MAINTAIN SUB-7% GDP FISCAL DEFICIT



In the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24

30

(H1Fy24), the combined fiscal scenario of the Centre and the States in India has remained resilient, with the gross fiscal deficit (GFD) staying below 7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The study reveals that the Centre and States have effectively managed their finances, containing the GFD within seven percent of the GDP in both Q1 and Q2 of 2023-24.

This achievement is attributed to improved revenue mobilization, showcasing a sustained economic recovery, strengthened tax governance, and enhanced corporate profitability.

Looking ahead, the RBI anticipates buoyant tax collections in the second half of the fiscal year. However, a potential uptick in government expenditure might lead to a GFD of 8.2% and 11.9% of GDP in Q3 and Q4, respectively. The study emphasizes the need for a balance between revenue and expenditure.

INDIA'S TOTAL DEBT SURGES TO RS 205 TRILLION IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER: REPORT



According to a comprehensive report compiled from data sourced from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Clearing Corporation of India, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, India's total debt has witnessed a significant uptick in the September quarter.

The total outstanding bonds traded in the market surged to USD 2.47 trillion (Rs 205 lakh crore), marking an increase from the USD 2.34 trillion (Rs 200 lakh crore) reported in the March quarter of the previous fiscal year.

www.plutusacademy.com

The central government's debt holds the lion's share at 46.04%, underscoring its significant role in the country's debt landscape. State governments contribute 24.4% to the total debt, equivalent to USD 604 billion (Rs 50.18 lakh crore).

Treasury bills, worth USD 111 billion (Rs 9.25 lakh crore), constitute 4.51% of the total debt. Corporate bonds command a 21.52% share, totaling USD 531 billion (Rs 44.16 lakh crore) in the second quarter of the current fiscal year.

RBI FORECASTS ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY: 7.1% FY24 GDP GROWTH AND 6% IN FY25



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released projections for India's economic performance, utilizing its Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model.

The forecast indicates a real GDP growth of 7.1% for the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the previous estimate of 7%, and a subsequent slowdown to 6% in the following fiscal year, 2024-25.

The repo rate is anticipated to remain steady at 6.5% throughout most of FY25. This aligns with the RBI's dual focus on aligning inflation with the 4% target and supporting economic growth.

DISINVESTMENT SET TO MISS FY24 TARGET, RAISES OVER RS 4 TRILLION IN A DECADE



As the specter of impending general elections looms, the government's privatization endeavors have slowed, opting for caution in the face of potential accusations of selling off national assets.

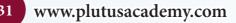
The ambitious disinvestment target for the current fiscal year is likely to be missed, with major plans, including Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), and CONCOR, pushed to the backburner. Analysts suggest that substantive privatization may only resume after the April/May elections.

CEBR FORECASTS INDIA AS THIRD-LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2032, GLOBAL ECONOMIC LEADER BY CENTURY'S END



The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) has recently released a

groundbreaking report projecting India's trajectory as the preeminent global economic superpower by the close of the century.



This trajectory positions India to become the world's third-largest economy by 2032, outpacing economic stalwarts like Japan and Germany.

ble by CEBR, India's GDP is poised to exceed that of China by a staggering 90% and surpass that of the United States by 30%. This monumental shift is anticipated to materialize post-2080,

According to the latest World Economic League Ta-

BANKING NEWS

BANK OF INDIA LAUNCHES NARI SHAKTI Savings Account For Women



In a significant move towards women's financial empowerment, Bank of India has recently introduced the Nari Shakti Savings Account. This exclusive savings bank product is designed to cater specifically to women aged 18 and above who possess an independent source of income, marking a progressive step in fostering economic independence for women.

The Nari Shakti Savings Account is conceptualized as a robust financial savings tool, aiming to support working women with an independent income source. The primary objective is to empower women, enabling them to become self-reliant and experience a higher degree of financial freedom.

In a commendable gesture, Bank of India has pledged to contribute Rs. 10/- to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund for every new Nari Shakti Account opened.

This fund will be dedicated to the socio-economic development of underprivileged women and the girl child, reflecting the bank's commitment to social responsibility. INDUSIND BANK INTRODUCES 'INDUS Solitaire Program' For The Diamond Industry

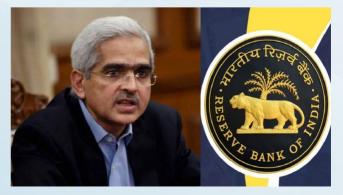
IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank has recently launched the 'Indus Solitaire Program,' an innovative community banking initiative specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of the diamond industry.

This comprehensive program is set to provide an array of exclusive benefits and features, reinforcing the bank's commitment to serving the diamond community.

Its Specialized Banking Features are: 24×7 locker access at select branches to ensure the security of valuable assets, Family account add-ons for a comprehensive banking experience, Zero cross-currency markup fee on foreign exchange transactions and facilitating international business for industry professionals.

RBI CENTRAL BOARD HOLDS 605TH MEETING TO DELIBERATE ON ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



32 www.plutusacademy.com

The 605th gathering of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, meticulously examined the prevailing economic and financial landscape.

The discussions, held against the backdrop of the challenging global geopolitical developments, aimed to dissect both domestic and international scenarios. The board scrutinized the economic and financial conditions globally and domestically. Special attention was given to the intricate challenges arising from ongoing geopolitical shifts.

A key highlight included the discussion on the draft report, shedding light on the trends and progress of banking in India for the fiscal year 2022-23. The thorough examination sought to provide insights into the trajectory and evolution of the banking sector.

SBI'S MARKET CAPITALIZATION SOARS TO RS 6 TRILLION: A 17% SURGE IN 1 MONTH



Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) have reached new heights, hitting a record Rs 659.50, marking a substantial 17% surge in the past month.

This surge has outpaced the market, with S&P BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 up by nearly 9%, and the Nifty PSU Bank index gaining 14% during the same period.

The surge in SBI's stock price reflects positive investor sentiment towards the bank.

Investors are showing renewed interest in SBI's growth potential and long-term prospects, driven by expectations of strong earnings, dividend

payouts, and future growth opportunities

CHALLENGES FOR BANKS EXITING AIF UNITS: LIMITED OPTIONS IN ABSENCE OF SECONDARY MARKET



Regulated entities like banks and NBFCs face a daunting task as they consider exiting their investments in alternative investment funds (AIFs). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated a 30-day window for these entities to evaluate and liquidate their AIF portfolios to address concerns about the disguised evergreening of loan exposures.

The RBI's circular aims to prevent the misuse of AIF structures, specifically addressing concerns about financial institutions engaging in evergreening disguised as AIF investments. Experts argue that the guidelines may discourage regulated entities from genuine diversification of risk through AIF investments.

RBI FACILITATES CARD-ON-FILE TOKENISATION DIRECTLY AT ISSUER BANK LEVEL



33 www.plutusacademy.com

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a re-December 20 a pivotal decision to enable Cardcard-issuing banks or institutions.

This marks a shift from the previous method where a Card-on-File (CoF) token could only be generated through a merchant's application or webpage.

The direct enablement of CoFT at the issuer bank level is poised to significantly enhance user experience, providing cardholders with a seamless and secure means of managing tokens across various e-commerce applications

INDIAN BANKS ACHIEVE 12.2% GROWTH IN FY23: RBI REPORT



BUSINESS NEWS

FUEL PRICE CUT ANTICIPATION GROWS AS **GLOBAL CRUDE OIL SLIPS BELOW \$80/** BBL



The call for a reduction in retail prices for petrol

port applauding the performance of Indian banks on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) directly through and non-bank lenders, emphasizing the need for stronger governance and risk-management practices to fortify their balance sheets

> Despite a remarkable 12.2% growth in the consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 2022-23, the RBI underscored the importance of continued improvement.

> The consolidated balance sheet of SCBs witnessed a remarkable 12.2% growth in 2022-23, marking the highest in nine years

> and diesel has intensified as international crude oil prices recently dropped below \$80 per barrel, stabilizing in the \$76-77 range.

This demand is backed by the robust performance of oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the first half of fiscal year 2023 and the maintenance of retail inflation within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) comfort zone in November 2023.

The present scenario of prices below \$80 is considered favorable for OMCs. It remains uncertain whether there will be a cut in excise duty, as observed in November 2021 and May 2022, or a resumption of the daily fuel price revision exercise, which has been on hold since April 6, 2022.



NPS Assets Surge To ₹10.7 Lakh Crore With Impressive 16.94% Equity Returns



India's National Pension System (NPS) has witnessed a substantial growth in assets, reaching a new milestone of ₹10.7 lakh crore as of December 9, 25.95% higher than the previous year.

Riding on the bullish wave in equities, pension funds have achieved an impressive average annual return of 16.94% in equities, as of December 8 this year.

This stellar performance in equities surpasses other investment avenues with returns of about 7% in Corporate Bonds, 7.10% in Government Securities, and approximately 8.2% in Central and State Government Schemes.

The total NPS assets, including Atal Pension Yojana, surged to ₹10.7 lakh crore, marking a significant increase of 25.95% YoY. Notably, NPS assets in equities amounted to \gtrless 1.9 lakh crore, contributing to the overall growth

COCA-COLA SCORES A VICTORY LAP: Secures 8-Year Partnership With ICC As Global Cricket Partner



The iconic brand Coca-Cola has cemented its long-standing relationship with the sport, signing an eight-year deal as the global partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC) until the end of 2031.

This partnership marks a significant extension from their initial five-year agreement in 2019, solidifying Coca-Cola's position as a major player in the cricketing world.

This extended partnership stands as one of the longest-ever collaborations between the ICC and a single brand, highlighting the mutual strength and value both parties find in this association.

APPOINTMENTS NEWS

SEBI GIVES NOD TO APPOINT PRAMOD Agrawal As BSE Chairman



SEBI Gives Nod to Appoint Pramod Agrawal as BSE Chairman

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its nod to the appointment of Pramod Agrawal, the former Chief of Coal India, as the Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

This regulatory approval paves the way for Agrawal to assume his role on the Governing Board of BSE, effective from January 17, 2024. The move comes as the term of the current Chairman, SS Mundra, concludes on January 16, 2024.

Agrawal is an alumnus of the prestigious Indian



Institute of Technology (IIT), with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from IIT Mumbai. He furthered his education with a Master's degree

in Design Engineering from IIT Delhi, showcasing a strong academic foundation in engineering.

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DAY 2023



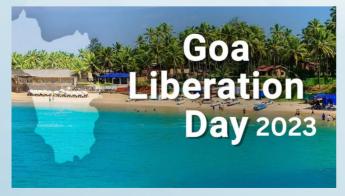
International CIVIL AVIATION DAY 07 December

International Civil Aviation Day, observed on December 7, holds special significance as it marks the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944.

This year's theme, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development," emphasizes the crucial role of innovation in shaping the future of civil aviation worldwide.

The United Nations General Assembly declared December 7 as International Civil Aviation Day in 1996. This date commemorates the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ICAO, a pivotal organization working to foster global cooperation and uniformity in civil aviation.

GOA LIBERATION DAY 2023



Goa Liberation Day 2023, celebrated annually on December 19, holds special significance as it commemorates the liberation of the state from Portuguese colonial rule. The year 2023 marks the 62nd anniversary of this momentous occasion, highlighting the resilience and determination of the people of Goa in their quest for freedom.

Goa, with a cultural and religious identity distinct from the rest of India, remained under Portuguese rule for about 451 years. Despite India gaining independence from British rule in 1947, the Portuguese refused to relinquish control over Goa. The Indian government engaged in diplomatic discussions, but when negotiations failed, it resorted to the military option to liberate the region

GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY 2023



December 25, 2023, is celebrated as Good Governance Day 2023 in honor of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

This day pays tribute to Vajpayee's leadership and contributions to society, marked by his three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

The genesis of Good Governance Day can be traced back to December 23, 2014, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded the Bharat Ratna, along with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously). In recognition of this prestigious honor, the Narendra Modi-led government declared December 25 as Good Governance Day, aiming to celebrate Vajpayee's enduring legacy.

NATIONAL CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY 2023



National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on December 24th to commemorate the passage of the Consumer Protection Act in 1986. This day highlights the significance of consumer rights and serves as a reminder of the need to protect consumers from various threats in the marketplace.

The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 outlines six fundamental rights for consumers:

Sno. Fundamental Right

- 1 Right to Safety
- 2 Right to Choose
- 3 Right to be Informed
- 4 Right to be Heard
- 5 Right to Seek Redressal
- 6 Right to Consumer Education

37

PLUTUS Academy

PLUTUS ACADEMY

Plutus Academy is determined to make the dreams of every government job aspirant a reality by providing quality education with clear concepts and high academic standards. At Plutus Academy aspirant not only become government officer but ethical government officer.

Current Affairs help us in gaining more knowledge and keep updated with Current events that are going on around the world. It also notifies us of several rules and regulations of India and other countries. Therefore it becomes easy for us to learn about different costumes and cultures, also the acceptance and non-acceptance of new policies/revolutions by different cultured groups.

Current Affairs is very important for candidates preparing for all the government exams since it is now mandatory by all the govt. based competitive exams to have a section on current affairs. This magazine is very useful for such aspirants.



17A/41, 1st Floor, WEA, (Near by Karol Bagh Metro Station) karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005 Phone:+91-8123002808
Email: info@plutusacademy.com
Web: www.plutusacademy.com