



CURRENT AFFAIRS 16th Feb 2024

National News

India's First Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) To Start From Uttarakhand



India is set to launch its first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) from Uttarakhand, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare and aviation sectors.

The HEMS will be based at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh, strategically located to cover a radius of 150 kilometers.

This positioning enables the swift airlifting of individuals who have encountered accidents or medical emergencies, ensuring prompt access to critical healthcare facilities.

DoT Launches 'Sangam: Digital Twin' Initiative For Transformative Infrastructure Planning



DoT introduces the 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative, calling upon industry leaders to join hands in reshaping infrastructure planning and design through cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts.

(Department of Telecommunications) DoT's venture invites Expressions of Interest from diverse stakeholders. Digital Twin technology facilitates virtual replication of physical assets for real-time monitoring and analysis.

Its objective is two-stage implementation in a major Indian city for creative exploration and practical demonstration and generating a future blueprint for scalable infrastructure strategies through collaboration.

International News

Germany Overtakes Japan As Third-Largest Economy



Official data reveals that Germany has surpassed Japan as the world's third-largest economy, primarily due to a significant depreciation in the yen compared to the stability of the euro.

Japan's economy, despite growing 1.9% last year, contracted in the fourth quarter, leading to its relegation to the fourth position.

The yen depreciated by over 18% against the dollar in 2022 and 2023, facilitating Germany's ascendancy due to the stability of the euro against the dollar.

Prabowo Subianto Wins Indonesian Presidency: A Decisive Victory



Prabowo Subianto emerges victorious in Indonesia's Presidential race, securing nearly 60% of the votes in the first round.

His military background and alignment with President Joko Widodo's policies propel him to a clear-cut victory, sparking positive reactions in Indonesian markets.

Prabowo's running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the eldest son of President Joko Widodo, is set to become the youngest vice-president in Indonesian history.

Banking News

PayU Partners With NPCI To Introduce Credit Lines On UPI For Merchants



Fintech giant PayU has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a groundbreaking feature called 'Credit Lines on UPI' for merchants. This integration, available within the PayU application, facilitates digital payments through pre-sanctioned credit lines, enhancing financial flexibility for both merchants and consumers.

The feature empowers merchants with valuable insights into consumers' credit types, such as pay-later and personal loans, aiding in the creation of tailored products for improved customer experience.

Business News

Tata Group And Uber Forge Strategic Alliance For Digital Business Growth



Tata Group and Uber are in talks to form a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing traffic volumes and engagement on Tata's digital platform, Tata Neu.

Tata Neu has encountered challenges such as stagnant user growth and low engagement. To address this, Tata Digital aims to cater to 50% of an average customer's daily needs, spanning various sectors.

A potential collaboration with Uber, known for its mobility solutions and diversification into areas like grocery delivery, could bolster daily user engagement on Tata Neu.

Important Days News

World Anthropology Day 2024



World Anthropology Day, celebrated on the third Thursday of February each year, marks a significant occasion dedicated to the field of anthropology.

This day, falling on February 15 2024, aims to shed light on the comprehensive study of human behavior, biology, and the intricate dynamics of human societies.

The inception of World Anthropology Day was driven by the objective to foster widespread awareness about anthropology meaning 'human behavior.'

Appointments News

Nikhil Joshi Appointed As Managing Director Of Boeing Defence India



Boeing, the American aerospace giant, has made a significant move to enhance its operations and propel its growth strategy in India by appointing Nikhil Joshi as the managing director of Boeing Defense India (BDI). Prior to his engagement with Boeing, Joshi served as the country manager for Eaton Aerospace in India, where he significantly contributed to expanding the company's business footprint. His extensive experience includes commanding frontline ships and air squadrons, coupled with over 4,000 hours of flying time on various maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

Agreements News

RBI And Nepal Rastra Bank Sign Pact For UPI-NPI Linkage



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant collaboration with Nepal Rastra Bank, aiming to integrate the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and the National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal.

The RBI and Nepal Rastra Bank have formalized an agreement to integrate their fast payment systems, UPI and NPI respectively, to enable seamless cross-border transactions.

The collaboration is designed to establish the necessary infrastructure for interlinking UPI and NPI, paving the way for efficient cross-border remittances.

Awards News

South Indian Bank Wins Best Technology Bank Of The Year Award



South Indian Bank has clinched the esteemed title of Best Technology Bank of the Year Award at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations. The bank's remarkable achievements were acknowledged with a total of six prestigious awards, including three wins, one runner-up position, and two special mentions. T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, presented the award to PR Seshadri, MD & CEO of South Indian Bank, at the Mumbai venue organized by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Sports News

100-Year-Old Diver Performs At The 2024 World Championships In Doha



Taghi Askar, a 100-year-old diver from the Islamic Republic of Iran, made waves at the Diving World Championships in Doha as he took the plunge from the 1m platform. Having claimed silver and bronze medals at the inaugural Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951, it has been an astonishing 73 years since Askar first tasted success in the world of diving.

His career, spanning nearly six decades, came to an end 59 years ago, leaving the sport on a triumphant note with a gold medal at the national level.

Indian Football Hits A Seven-Year Low, Slides To 117th In FIFA Rankings



Indian football, the national team has fallen 15 places to the 117th position in the latest FIFA rankings, registering its lowest position in the past seven years.

This decline follows the team's underwhelming performance at the AFC Asian Cup, where it failed to secure a single point, losing all three of its group matches.

This current ranking is a stark contrast to the 102nd position India held in the rankings issued on December 21, 2023, and it marks a concerning trend for the team and its management.