

Weekly Current Affairs 26th December to 30th December 2023 - English

National News

PM Celebrates 1 Crore Ayushman Cards In Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his delight as the issuance of one crore Ayushman cards marked a significant achievement during the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) across the country. Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (#PMJAY), these cards offer free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh per annum per family at empanelled hospitals nationwide. Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya disclosed that India has achieved a commendable landmark, with 1,02,23,619 Ayushman cards created during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. Under the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the cumulative footfall has reached 1,31,66,365 in 79,487 Health camps conducted at 3,462 Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

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. This monumental gathering not only set a Guinness World Record for the most persons performing tabla simultaneously but also marked a significant moment in the city's rich musical heritage. 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, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar.

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. This article delves into the key points highlighted by Minister Thakur, showcasing India's growth trajectory. Minister Thakur underscored India's evolution into a global focal point, where the world is closely observing its advancements. He asserted that the government's achievements reflect a quantum jump in development across infrastructure, economy, and various other fields.

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. However, amidst preparations for the grand inauguration on December 30 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a potential name change for the airport has emerged. 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.

Government To Market FCI Rice As Bharat Brand

In a bid to address the soaring rice inflation, the Government of India is contemplating a strategic move—selling rice under the 'Bharat' brand, a proposal that is currently under consideration. While the discounted rate for this initiative is yet to be finalized, it marks a significant step in the government's efforts to stabilize retail rice prices. The Ministry's attempts to curb retail rice prices by enhancing domestic availability through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) have faced a lukewarm response. Under OMSS, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been offering quality rice at a reserve price of ₹29 per kg.

Government Allocates Rs 1,170 Crore For Ladakh Roads: Gadkari

In a significant move towards enhancing infrastructure in Ladakh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the government has sanctioned a whopping Rs 1,170.16 crore for 29 road projects in the region. This development aims to address the connectivity challenges faced by Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in the country. Gadkari shared the details of the allocation in a post on the social media platform X, highlighting that the sanctioned funds cover a range of projects, including state highways and other major roads.

BILINGUAL

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WBPSG

WBPSG 2023-24
LDC CLERK PRELIMS
সম্পূর্ণ বাংলায় সমাধান

10 TOTAL TESTS

Moreover, as part of the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme for the fiscal year 2023-24, an additional Rs 181.71 crore has been earmarked specifically for the construction of eight bridges in Ladakh.

International News

Angola Announces Departure from OPEC

Angola, a significant oil-producing nation, has declared its decision to exit the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with effect from January 1, 2024. This move follows the footsteps of Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019, reflecting a trend of nations with relatively small oil output distancing themselves from the influential oil-exporting organization. Angola became a member of OPEC in 2007, contributing approximately 1.1 million barrels per day to the global oil market. In comparison, the entire OPEC group, founded in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran, and Iraq, produces around 28 million barrels per day.

United Nations Declares 2024 as the International Year of Camelids

In a move highlighting the crucial role of camelids in the lives of people worldwide, the United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids. This decision aims to spotlight the diverse contributions of camelids, including alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, in promoting food security, nutrition, and economic growth, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

India, Russia Sign Deals For Kudankulam Nuclear Plant Units

In a significant development affirming the enduring partnership between India and Russia, crucial agreements were signed on Tuesday, marking a major stride in the construction of future power-generating units at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant. The Kudankulam nuclear power plant, India's largest, has been under construction in Tamil Nadu since March 2002 with technical assistance from Russia. The initial phase became operational in February 2016, operating at its designed capacity of 1,000 MW. Plans project the plant to reach full capacity by 2027.

Israel Grants Intel \$3.2 Billion for \$25 Billion Chip Plant Amid Ongoing Conflict

Israel's government has approved a substantial \$3.2 billion grant for Intel Corp.'s ambitious plan to construct a \$25 billion chip plant in southern Israel. This marks the largest investment ever made by a company in Israel, showcasing significant support amid the ongoing conflict with the Palestinian militant group Hamas. The chosen site for the expansion, Kiryat Gat, is located 42 km (26 miles) from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. Intel views this expansion as a crucial element in fostering a more resilient global supply chain, aligning with the company's broader strategy.

GCC Inks Free Trade Deal With South Korea

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has taken a significant stride in strengthening economic ties with major Asian partners by signing its second free trade agreement (FTA) this year. The recent accord, inked with South Korea, underscores the bloc's commitment to fostering investment connections and diversifying its economic portfolio. As part of the newly established FTA, South Korea has committed to removing tariffs on nearly 90% of all items, including critical energy resources such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other petroleum products.

China's Groundbreaking Voyage: Mengxiang Sets Sail for Earth's Mantle Exploration

China has introduced its groundbreaking ocean drilling vessel, Mengxiang, signifying a pivotal moment in scientific exploration. Developed by the China Geological Survey in collaboration with 150 research institutes and companies, the vessel is named "dream" in Chinese, reflecting its ambitious mission. The Mengxiang aims to penetrate Earth's crust and delve into the mysteries of the mantle, marking humanity's inaugural foray into this uncharted territory.

Argentina Rejects BRICS Membership under President Javier Milei

Argentine President Javier Milei has officially declined the invitation to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping of major emerging economies. The rejection was conveyed through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to abstain from the bloc. The libertarian outsider, who assumed office recently after a significant electoral victory over traditional political parties, had pledged during his campaign not to align Argentina with BRICS. President Milei's rejection was grounded in the assertion that Argentina's membership was "not considered appropriate at this time."

State News

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. Vasudev Devnani, representing Ajmer North, has been a prominent face of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the BJP governments led by Vasundhara Raje. His political journey includes two terms as the Education Minister, during which he made controversial decisions, such as the compulsory recitation of Saraswati Vandana and the mandatory practice of Surya Namaskar in schools.

KSRTC Unveils 'Namma Cargo' Logistics In Karnataka

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) marked a significant milestone in its journey by venturing into the logistics business. Minister for Transport 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. KSRTC has strategically partnered with KMS Coach Builders Private Limited, securing cargo trucks on a rental basis for an initial period of two months. This collaboration reflects the corporation's commitment to efficiently utilizing resources for the successful implementation of the logistics service.

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.

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 incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols in place and the potential environmental impact of such leaks. 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 incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols in place and the potential environmental impact of such leaks.

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). Masrat Alam, who has been in detention in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 20 years, with intermittent releases, is currently held in Delhi's Tihar jail since 2019. He assumed the leadership of the separatist group, Hurriyat Conference, following the demise of chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021.

Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act Amended to Incorporate OBC Reservation

The Administrative Council (AC), chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, recently approved crucial changes to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. The amendments focus on incorporating a definition of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) within the Act to facilitate their reservation in grassroots democratic institutions. The draft J&K Panchayati Raj Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 was initially submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India. Following this, observations raised by the MHA were carefully examined, leading to necessary amendments being incorporated into the revised draft.

Lt. Governor Inaugurated CRC Samba-Jammu for Person With Disabilities

In a historic event, the Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir unveiled the commemorative plaque, officially inaugurating the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Samba - Jammu. This momentous occasion signifies a significant stride towards inclusivity and empowerment for individuals with disabilities in the region. The inauguration ceremony, held at Second Extension, Gandhi Nagar, Green Belt Jammu-180004, witnessed the convergence of esteemed dignitaries, government officials, and representatives from the disability community.

Gujarat To Unveil India's First Submarine Tourism In Dwarka

The Gujarat government, in collaboration with Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL), is set to make waves in the tourism industry by introducing India's first submarine tourism venture. This ambitious project aims to explore the mesmerizing marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a sacred island off the coast of Dwarka city, steeped in mythological significance within Hinduism. According to ancient mythological texts, Bet Dwarka is believed to house a submerged city created by Lord Krishna himself. This mystical aspect adds an extra layer of intrigue to the submarine tourism project, as it promises to unveil the secrets hidden beneath the waves.

Kerala CM Unveils Board For Transparent PSU Hiring

Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, recently inaugurated the Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board, a pivotal step toward enhancing transparency and efficiency in the recruitment processes of public sector units (PSUs). This establishment, located at Vellayambalam, is set to play a crucial role in identifying and appointing capable candidates within state-run entities. The board is chaired by former Chief Secretary VP Joy, signifying a well-structured and experienced leadership to guide the recruitment processes.

Economy News

Education Loans Experience 20.6% Spike From April To October

Education loans in India have witnessed a remarkable year-on-year growth of 20.6%, reaching ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October. This substantial increase, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), marks the highest growth in the last five years. In comparison, the growth registered in the corresponding period was 12.3% in FY23 and a negative 3.1% in FY22, reflecting a significant positive shift.

India-ASEAN Trade Pact Undergoes Review for Modernization in February

India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are poised to commence negotiations in February aimed at modernizing their existing free trade agreement (FTA) and addressing the prevailing trade deficit, currently standing at \$43.57 billion. The initiative seeks to revamp the ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) by 2025. The negotiations will primarily concentrate on the introduction of product-specific rules and trade remedies, with the overarching goal of enhancing the efficiency of the FTA. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive overhaul, the discussions will delve into critical aspects such as the Rules of Origin (ROO) and the integration of a dedicated chapter on trade remedies to safeguard domestic industries.

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 bold projection places India on a course to surpass both China and the United States in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), underlining its sustained and robust economic growth. According to the latest World Economic League Table 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, aligning with demographic estimates and projections.

Government Initiatives to Boost Local EV Manufacturing

The government is actively engaged in discussions with both domestic and international stakeholders to formulate a policy aimed at enhancing local manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs). A senior government official emphasized the ongoing talks with various countries, including Italy and Korea, and stressed the policy's inclusivity for both domestic and foreign car manufacturers. Notably, the statement gains significance amid reports of discussions between the government and Tesla regarding policy support for establishing manufacturing

facilities in the country. While no specific timeline has been set for the proposed EV policy, the government is navigating diverse interests to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach.

India Makes First-Ever Rupee Payment for the Purchase of Crude Oil from UAE

India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, recently made a significant move by conducting its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This move is seen as part of a broader strategy to diversify oil suppliers, reduce transaction costs, and position the Indian rupee as a viable trade settlement currency. The Reserve Bank of India's decision in July 2022, allowing importers to pay in rupees and exporters to receive payments in the local currency, has set the stage for this initiative.

Projected Threefold Growth in Tax Collection Under Modi's 10-Year Governance

In the span of 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, both personal income and corporate tax collections in India are expected to surge to over Rs 19 trillion. This substantial growth provides the government with flexibility to introduce tax measures benefiting the public.

Core Sector Output Growth Hits Six-Month Low at 7.8% in November

In November, the production growth of eight crucial infrastructure sectors hit a six-month low at 7.8%, primarily attributed to declines in the crude oil and cement sectors. While this figure is higher than the 5.7% recorded a year ago, it reflects a slowdown from October's 12% growth. The last comparable dip occurred in May, with a growth rate of 5.2%. Despite the overall deceleration, coal and refinery product outputs demonstrated double-digit growth.

Business News

LIC To Open New Branch Office In GIFT City

In a strategic move, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), often referred to as an insurance behemoth, has taken the decision to open a branch office at GIFT City, the sole operational International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in the country. This development comes as part of LIC's ongoing efforts to enhance its global footprint and diversify its offerings. The decision to establish a presence at GIFT City was formally approved by the Board of LIC during its meeting on Tuesday. The life insurer shared this significant decision through a filing with the stock exchanges, underlining the importance of this move in the evolving landscape of international financial services.

AIIB Takes Lead in Rs 2.5k Crore Funding for Mahindra-OTPP's Green InvIT

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is set to spearhead a fundraising round worth Rs 2,500 crore for the Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) supported by the Mahindra Group. In this initiative, various domestic institutional investors (DIIs) will also be actively participating, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Tata Power Secures Rajasthan Transmission Project

Tata Power has emerged victorious in the bid for the Bikaner-III Neemrana-II Transmission project, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,544 crore, with a targeted commissioning period of 24 months from the date of the project SPV transfer. The transmission initiative will be executed on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis and is designed to facilitate the evacuation of 7.7 GW of renewable energy from the Bikaner Complex in Rajasthan. The project involves the creation of a 340 km transmission corridor, connecting the Bikaner-III pooling station to the Neemrana II substation.

Agreement News

India to acquire five lithium blocks in Argentina

In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022. The deal is on the verge of finalization between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company. The Indian government plans to invest around Rs 200 crore over the next five years for exploration, signaling a strategic commitment to securing a domestic supply of critical minerals. The proposal is awaiting approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Appointment News

Santosh Jha Assumes Role As India's New Envoy To Sri Lanka

India's diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka have taken a new turn with the appointment of Santosh Jha as the country's new High Commissioner. In a significant ceremony held in Colombo on Friday, Jha officially assumed charge and presented his credentials to President Ranil Wickremesinghe. This development comes as Jha takes over the role from Gopal Baglay, who has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia.

Banking News

RBI Unveils Forex Correspondent Scheme to Enhance Foreign Exchange Services

In a strategic move to enhance the accessibility of foreign exchange services, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to introduce a groundbreaking category of money changers known as Forex Correspondents (FxCs). This innovative approach is designed to streamline foreign exchange transactions and foster greater ease for users. The FxCs will operate under a principal-agency model, partnering with Category-I and Category-II Authorised Dealers (ADs) without the need for separate authorization from the RBI.

Science & Technology News

Visva-Bharati Researchers Discover Bacteria Named After Rabindranath Tagore

A team of researchers from Visva-Bharati University's botany department has made a groundbreaking discovery that has the potential to revolutionize agricultural practices. They have identified a new bacteria strain capable of boosting plant growth and named it '*Pantoea Tagorei*' in honor of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The lead researcher, Dr. Bomba Dam, an assistant professor at the university's botany department, believes that *Pantoea Tagorei* has the potential to significantly reduce the need for commercial fertilizers. This could lead to cost savings for farmers and boost crop yields. The Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI) has officially recognized the discovery, and the findings have been published in the Indian Journal of Microbiology.

Aditya-L1's Arrival Confirmed For January 6 By ISRO Chairman

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman, S Somanath, recently announced a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey. The Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission, is set to reach the Lagrangian point L1 on January 6. This point, located 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth, marks a critical stage in the mission's objectives. Launched from Sriharikota on September 2, Aditya-L1 is poised to execute a crucial manoeuvre upon reaching the Lagrangian point L1. This manoeuvre is designed to ensure a stable orbit, enabling continuous and in-depth studies of the Sun.

ISRO To Launch India's First X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite on Jan 1, 2024

ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) has been making significant strides in space exploration, and the year 2024 is set to begin with yet another groundbreaking mission. Following the successes of the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, ISRO is gearing up for its latest venture – the XPoSat mission. Scheduled for launch on January 1, 2024, this mission marks India's maiden foray into polarimetry, a field crucial for studying black holes and other celestial sources emitting X-rays.

Schemes and Committees News**PLI Schemes Drew Rs 95,000 Cr Investments By September 2023: Centre**

The production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes introduced by the Indian government have emerged as a key driver for attracting investments and boosting manufacturing across various sectors. As of September this year, these initiatives have garnered an impressive Rs 95,000 crore in investment, marking a significant stride towards enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. These schemes cover 14 sectors, including electronics, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, white goods (AC and LED light components), and textiles, with the overarching goal of fortifying India's position in global manufacturing and trade.

Health Minister Launched 'MedTech Mitra' to Advance Health Solution

In a virtual launch ceremony, 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. MedTech Mitra, a groundbreaking platform aimed at nurturing the talents of young innovators in the field of medical technology, was officially launched by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers.

Government Modifies Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes

In a recent decision, the Union government announced adjustments in the returns on specific savings schemes, leaving the Public Provident Fund (PPF) rate untouched for the sixth consecutive quarter. The Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) will now yield 8.2%, up from the previous 8%, while the 3-year time deposit rate increases marginally to 7.1% from 7%. Despite expectations of a broader reset, the PPF rate remains stagnant at 7.1%.

Important Dates News**Veer Bal Diwas 2023 Observed on 26th December**

Since 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh – Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. Veer Bal Diwas is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the immense sacrifices made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh. These young sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji played a crucial role in shaping the legacy of courage and resilience in the face of adversity.

ULFA Peace Accord Marks Historic Day for Assam: Amit Shah

In a landmark development, the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) inked a historic peace accord with the central and state governments, marking a significant stride towards ending decades of insurgency in Assam. Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded the signing of the accord as "a golden day" for Assam, expressing optimism about the region's future. The development is a result of over 12 years of unconditional negotiations with the Arabinda Rajkhowa-led faction. However, the hardline faction of ULFA, led by Paresh Baruah, remains outside the peace agreement. Baruah, reportedly residing along the China-Myanmar border, poses a continued challenge to achieving comprehensive peace in the region.

Sports News**Women's Cricket: India Achieve Historic Feat with Maiden Test Victory Over Australia**

India Women concluded their first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years with a historic maiden victory over Australia in a one-off Test match in Mumbai on December 24. The win marked a significant achievement for the Indian team, capping off a season characterized by exemplary performances with both bat and ball. Playing more than one Test at home for the first time since 1995, India Women displayed a flawless performance, hardly putting a foot wrong. The team adhered to the promise of playing 'positive cricket,' weathering challenges and dictating terms against fancied opponents like Australia and England.

Khelo India Youth Games 2023 Set To Be Held In Tamil Nadu

The Khelo India Youth Games, a pinnacle in India's sporting landscape, is set to kick off its 2023 edition on January 19, 2024, in Tamil Nadu. The southern state has proudly been chosen as the host, and the Games will unfold across four vibrant cities: Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore. Organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India and various National Sports Federations (NSF), this event is a crucial platform for nurturing the nation's young sports talent. This year's edition will feature 27 sports disciplines, including the demonstration of Tamil Nadu's traditional sport, Silambam.

Coca-Cola Scores a Victory Lap: Secures 8-Year Partnership with ICC as Global Cricket Partner

Cricket fans, raise a glass of your favorite Coca-Cola beverage! The iconic brand 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.

Obituaries News

Parasite Actor Lee Sun-kyun Passed Away At 48

South Korean actor Lee Sun-kyun, widely recognized for his role in the Oscar-winning film Parasite, has been found dead in an apparent suicide in central Seoul. The 48-year-old actor's tragic end comes amidst ongoing investigations related to alleged illegal drug use, adding a somber note to his celebrated career. Born in Seoul, South Korea, on March 2, 1975, Lee Sun-kyun left an indelible mark as an actor and manager, earning acclaim for his roles in films like Parasite (2019) and A Hard Day (2014). Affectionately dubbed "The Voice" by fans, he earned this nickname due to his distinctive deep voice. In Korea, he was widely acclaimed for his roles in the thriller Helpless (2012), the romantic comedy All About My Wife (2012), and the crime/black comedy A Hard Day (2014).

Tamil Superstar and Politician Vijayakanth Passes Away at 71

Tamil Nadu mourns the passing of beloved actor and politician Vijayakanth, fondly called "Captain," who breathed his last today at the age of 71. His contributions to both cinema and the political landscape of the state leave an enduring legacy. Vijayakanth's legacy transcends both cinema and politics. He was a man of the people, adored for his on-screen persona and respected for his political aspirations. His journey from humble beginnings to stardom and political relevance is an inspiration to many.

Founding Father of EU's Single Currency Project Jacques Delors Dies Aged 98

Jacques Delors, the former European Commission chief and a key figure in the formation of the European Union (EU), has died at the age of 98. A prominent French socialist, Delors played a crucial role in shaping the EU during his three-term presidency from January 1985 to the end of 1994. His contributions include the completion of the integrated single market, the introduction of the euro, and the development of a common foreign and security policy. This article pays tribute to his legacy and examines his impact on European integration.

Defence News

Pakistan Successfully Tests Advanced Rocket System Fatah-II

Islamabad, Pakistan: Pakistan's military successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system Fatah-II, showcasing a significant advancement in its missile capabilities. The system boasts a 400-kilometer range and advanced features, marking a major milestone for the country's defense program.

Miscellaneous News

'Word of the Year' (2023) by Different Dictionaries

As the curtain closes on 2023, prominent dictionaries around the world have unveiled their "Word of the Year" selections, offering unique insights into the linguistic trends and patterns that dominated the past year. These chosen words reflect not only the most searched-for or talked-about terms, but also the cultural zeitgeist and the issues that resonated most deeply with the global community.

Oxford Dictionary: Rising to the top spot for Oxford is "Rizz", a slang term referring to one's natural charm, charisma, and ability to attract romantic partners.

Merriam-Webster: In contrast, Merriam-Webster champions "Authentic" as its Word of the Year.

Collins Dictionary: For Collins Dictionary, the future reigns supreme. Their Word of the Year is "AI" (artificial intelligence), recognizing its transformative potential and its ever-growing influence on various aspects of our lives.

Cambridge Dictionary and Dictionary.com: Interestingly, both Cambridge Dictionary and Dictionary.com share the same Word of the Year: "Hallucinate".

WBCS MAHAPACK PRO

* Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে

A BANGLA

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BANGAL
WBPS

- লাইভ ক্লাস
- রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও
- অনলাইন মক টেস্ট
- ই-বুক স্টাডি ম্যাট
- হার্ড কপি মক টেস্ট বই
- একাধিক অপশনাল সাবজেক্ট
- পার্সোনালিটি টেস্ট এর গাইডেন্স ভিডিও
- অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন