

Weekly Current Affairs 08th January to 13th January 2024 - English

National News

Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Indus Food 2024 in Greater Noida

In a momentous event, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated 'Indus Food 2024' at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida. Commending India's diverse food industry, Goyal emphasized its global potential and underscored the need for technological innovation in the culinary landscape.

New Republic Day Pact Allows States One Tableau Every Three Years

In recent years, the selection of tableaux for the Republic Day parade has been marred by controversies, with complaints from various States about the exclusion of their representations. The Defence Ministry has responded to these concerns by proposing a comprehensive rollover plan to address the issue. Official sources reveal that the Defence Ministry has proposed a rollover plan to give every State and Union Territory (UT) an opportunity to showcase their tableaux within a three-year cycle. Approximately 15 tableaux are selected for the Republic Day parade each year, making it challenging to accommodate every State annually. The proposed plan aims at ensuring equitable distribution and fair representation for all.

Street Vendors Get a Boost: PAiSA Dashboard & PM SVANidhi Portal Launched

Union Minister Hardeep S. Puri emphasized the importance of strong grievance redressal committees under the Street Vendors Act 2014, aiming to swiftly resolve disputes among vendors. He further unveiled two key initiatives to empower street vendors: PAiSA Dashboard: This online platform provides real-time updates on the progress of the PM SVANidhi Mission scheme. Vendors can track loan applications, disbursements, and repayments at their fingertips, fostering transparency and accountability.



PM SVANidhi Mission Monitoring Portal: This dedicated portal offers comprehensive data and insights on the scheme's nationwide implementation. Stakeholders, including government officials, lenders, and street vendor associations, can access valuable information to monitor progress, identify challenges, and ensure effective execution.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik

Nashik, Maharashtra, recently hosted the prestigious 27th National Youth Festival from January 12 to 16, 2024. This significant event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The festival, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrated youthful talent and skills across the nation. The festival witnessed the presence of notable dignitaries including Union Ministers Anurag Singh Thakur, Bharati Pawar, Nisith Pramanik, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar.

Mulya Pravah 2.0: UGC's New Directive for Ethical Education in India

In a significant move to promote ethical practices in higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India has introduced Mulya Pravah 2.0. This new guideline comes as a response to surveys that highlighted unethical practices such as favouritism, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination within various educational organizations. Mulya Pravah 2.0 is an updated version of the original Mulya Pravah guideline, which the UGC introduced in 2019. The main objective of this revised guideline is to instill human values and professional ethics in higher education institutions across India. It aims to create a culture of integrity, accountability, and transparency within these institutions.

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched a book titled 'Modi: Energising a Green Future'

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, heading the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), has recently unveiled an insightful book titled "Modi: Energising A Green Future". This book, a significant addition to environmental literature, is published by Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. The central theme of the book revolves around Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and actions for a sustainable and eco-friendly future. It delves deep into the strategies and policies under PM Modi's leadership that have placed India at the forefront of the global environmental movement.

IIT Madras to Establish New Campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), a leading engineering institute in India, is set to expand its horizons by establishing a new campus in Kandy, Sri Lanka. This move is a significant development in educational collaboration between India and Sri Lanka.

International News

EAM S. Jaishankar Boosts India-Nepal Relations in Two-Day Visit

In a diplomatic triumph, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar concluded his two-day visit to Nepal, solidifying ties through various initiatives and agreements. The pivotal event of the visit was the 7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting, culminating in a landmark accord for India to import 10,000 MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal over the next decade.

Scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh Join India's 43rd Antarctic Expedition

This December, India's 43rd Antarctic expedition, led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, welcomed scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh onboard, marking a significant step in international polar research collaboration. This initiative stems from the maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held in 2022, which laid the groundwork for scientific partnerships among member nations. This conference facilitated joint endeavors in oceanographic and hydrographic studies, paving the way for further cooperation.

Maldives And China Sign 20 Agreements For Diverse Cooperation

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu recently held significant talks, culminating in the signing of 20 key agreements that span various areas of cooperation. The leaders announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, demonstrating the mutual commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations between the two nations. Twenty key agreements were signed, encompassing various sectors such as tourism cooperation, disaster risk reduction, blue economy, and investments in the digital economy. The agreements also included a commitment from China to provide grant assistance to the Maldives, with specific details undisclosed.

Security Agreement Signed Between Ukraine And Britain In Kyiv

In a significant diplomatic move, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signed an unprecedented security agreement between their nations in Kyiv. The accord, as described by Zelenskiy, holds immense importance for Ukraine's security and signifies a robust alliance with the United Kingdom. The signed security accord is poised to remain in effect until Ukraine becomes a member of NATO, marking a strategic commitment between the two nations. Zelenskiy emphasized the historical significance of the agreement, underlining its potential impact on Ukraine's defense capabilities.

State News

Kerala Woman Sets Guinness Record, Sings In 100+ Languages

Kerala teenager Suchetha Satish achieved a remarkable feat by setting a Guinness World Record during her performance at the 'Concert for Climate' in Dubai on November 24, 2023. Singing in an astounding 140 languages, she captivated the audience and earned widespread acclaim for her musical prowess. The selection of 140 symbolizes the nations participating in the COP 28 summit held in Dubai. Suchetha Satish, a 16-year-old prodigy, mesmerized the audience at the Indian Consulate Auditorium in Dubai during the Concert for Climate. The event was part of the COP 28 summit, attended by representatives from over 140 nations, emphasizing the global significance of her achievement.

Ancient Tools Found In Telangana's Mulugu District

The Mulugu district of Telangana has become the stage for an unexpected archaeological revelation following the devastating floods in July 2023. Amidst the aftermath of the natural disaster, a team of amateur historians stumbled upon a collection of paleolithic quartzite tools that have not only captivated the local community but also pushed back the understanding of human habitations in Telangana and central India. Sriramoju Haragopal, the leader of the enthusiastic team, explained that the discovery occurred in the sand bed of a stream that had dried up after the flood. The exposed tools, identified as hand axes, were found between Gurrevula and Bhupatipuram villages in Mulugu district. The significant find was a stone axe measuring 15.5cm in length, 11cm in width, and 5.5cm in thickness. Eleswaram Janardanachari, a dedicated researcher, was the one who made this remarkable discovery.

Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates Malkangiri Airport In Odisha

On January 9, Odisha's Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Malkangiri airport in the southwestern region of the state. This strategic initiative is designed to enhance connectivity and foster development in the tribal-dominated areas, marking a crucial step forward in the region's progress. Situated over 233 acres in the Katelguda area of Goudaguda panchayat, Malkangiri airport was established at a cost of INR 70 crore.

West Bengal News

Mamata Banerjee launches 'Yogyasree' for SC/ST students in West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recently introduced a comprehensive social welfare scheme named "Yogyasree." The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations. This move comes ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, reflecting the government's commitment to educational empowerment.

First Meeting Of Inland Waterways Development Council Held In Kolkata

The Inland Waterways Authority of India, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW), created history by hosting the inaugural meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata. This significant event, spearheaded by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, brought together representatives from waterway states, central government officials, and experts aboard the MV Ganga Queen.

Rankings & Reports News

Chennai Tops As Best City For Indian Women

Chennai emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of inclusivity and conduciveness to working women, as per findings from diversity, equity, and inclusivity consultant Avtar Group's Top Cities for Women in India (TCWI) 2023. Tamil Nadu cities topped both categories that the study covered – 49 cities in the million-plus population category and 64 cities in the less than a million-population category. Chennai topped the million-plus category, and Tiruchirappalli came on top of the less than a million category. The southern state also had a total of seven cities featuring in the lists.

EU Scientists Confirm 2023 As Hottest Year Ever Recorded

On January 9, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) declared that the year gone by was the hottest on record, significantly surpassing previous temperatures and potentially marking the warmest period in the last 100,000 years. The announcement sheds light on the alarming trajectory of global warming, with each passing month breaking climate records and raising concerns about the consequences for the planet. Scientists had anticipated this milestone, considering the consistent shattering of climate records. From June onward, each month in 2023 has claimed the title of the hottest on record compared to its respective month in preceding years. C3S Director Carlo Buontempo described the year as "very exceptional" and noted its uniqueness even when compared to other notably warm years.

Six Nations Top Global Passport Ranking, With Access To 194 Destinations

In a significant development, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain share the top spot in the quarterly ranking of the world's most powerful passports. Enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to an impressive 194 destinations, this marks a historic high since the inception of the Henley Passport Index 19 years ago. Japan and Singapore, holding the top position for the past five years, now see a triumphant rise for Europe. Finland and Sweden, tied with South Korea, secure the second spot with easy access to 193 destinations. Following closely, Austria, Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands claim the third position, providing access to 192 destinations.

Business News

Gensol Engineering Allocates Rs 2,000 Crore For Gujarat EV Plant

Gensol Engineering, a prominent player in the sustainable energy sector, has embarked on a significant venture by entering into a strategic partnership with the Government of Gujarat. This collaboration is a pivotal step towards advancing the country's journey towards a sustainable future. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formalized as part of the investment promotion activities associated with the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, signifying a landmark agreement between the two entities. As a testament to its dedication to sustainable growth, Gensol Engineering has committed a substantial investment of Rs 2,000 crore for the establishment of an Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing plant in Gujarat.

LIC Approves Acquisition of 10% Stake in NHB-Promoted Company

In a recent regulatory filing, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced its board's approval to acquire up to 10% stake in a new company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB). The investment is targeted towards residential mortgage-backed securities and will be made through equity contribution in one or more tranches.

Agreement News

Cabinet Greenlights India-Guyana MoU For Hydrocarbon Sector Collaboration

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has granted approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Republic of Guyana. This MoU aims to foster collaboration in the hydrocarbon sector, covering various aspects of the value chain.

WBCS MAHAPACK PRO

Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে

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- 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



Rural Ministry Partners With SBI For SHG Loans

In a significant move towards fostering rural development and financial inclusion, the Rural Development Ministry and the State Bank of India (SBI) have joined hands through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The primary objective of this collaboration is to streamline and facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHGs), as announced in an official statement. The MoU, a pivotal step towards rural economic empowerment, was formally signed by Mr. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, Additional Secretary – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, and Mr. Shantanu Pendsey, Chief General Manager at the Corporate office of State Bank of India in Mumbai.

Appointment News**Ashwani Gupta Appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone**

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), India's premier ports and logistics company, has announced significant changes in its leadership structure, marking a new era in its corporate journey. In a strategic move, APSEZ has promoted its CEO Karan Adani to the role of Managing Director. This move signifies a shift in responsibilities, with Karan Adani stepping into a role previously held by Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group. Gautam Adani will now serve as the 'Executive Chairman' of APSEZ, reflecting a focus on strategic oversight and global growth.

PhonePe Appoints Ritesh Pai As CEO For International Payments Division

In a strategic move, Walmart-owned fintech firm PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its international payments business. This development aligns with India's ambition to globalize the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), attracting interest from countries like Japan, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, France, and the United Kingdom. Ritesh Pai brings a wealth of experience to his new role, with a proven track record in the digital payments sector. His expertise lies in launching innovative solutions and structuring strategic business partnerships on a global scale.

Samir Kumar Sinha Assumes Role As DG (Acquisition) In Defence Ministry

In a recent bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre has announced several key appointments, signifying a strategic realignment of responsibilities. Among the notable changes, Senior IAS officer Samir Kumar Sinha has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry. Samir Kumar Sinha, a 1994-batch IAS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been entrusted with the crucial position of Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry. His extensive experience and background make him an apt choice for this vital role.

Manish Jain's Appointment as Country Managing Director for Experian India

Experian, a global leader in information services, has appointed Manish Jain as the Country Managing Director for its operations in India. This appointment marks a significant step in the company's efforts to strengthen its leadership team and expand its market presence in India.

Science & Technology News**Swedish Scientists Create 'e-soil' That Accelerates Plant Growth**

A groundbreaking development in agricultural technology has emerged from the laboratories of Linköping University in Sweden. Scientists have unveiled an electrically conductive "soil" engineered to foster exceptional growth in crops, particularly barley seedlings, marking a potential 50 per cent surge in growth within a mere 15-day period. Linköping University's Prof. Stavrinidou highlights the crucial importance of their breakthrough amidst global challenges, stating, 'Growing world population and climate change show existing agricultural methods alone can't sustain our planet's food needs.'

Mitsubishi Heavy Launches H-IIA Rocket Carrying Japan's Spy Satellite

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has achieved a significant milestone in space exploration and national security with the successful launch of an H-IIA rocket carrying Japan's Information-Gathering Satellite "Optical-8". This event marks a key development in Japan's aerospace capabilities and strategic surveillance. The Optical-8 satellite is designed primarily for intelligence gathering. It is equipped with advanced optical devices to collect security information. This development is crucial for Japan's strategic surveillance and defence capabilities, especially considering regional geopolitical dynamics.

Schemes and Committees News**ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, 2024**

The ANUBHAV Awards Scheme, initiated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW), is an innovative platform for recognizing the contributions made by retired officials to nation-building during their tenure in government service. Launched in 2015 under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the scheme is a step towards documenting India's administrative history through written narratives by retired Central Government employees.

'Yuva Nidhi' Scheme Launched For Jobless Youth In Shivamogga, Karnataka

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently unveiled the fifth and final poll guarantee of the Congress party, named the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme. Launched at Freedom Park in Shivamogga, this initiative aims to provide unemployment assistance to graduates and diploma holders who completed their degrees during the academic year 2022-23.

Key Features of the 'Yuva Nidhi' Scheme are

1. Financial Support for Unemployed Graduates and Diploma Holders
2. Cheque Distribution Ceremony
3. Domicile Requirement

Summits & Conference News

International Purple Fest 2024: A Global Celebration of Inclusivity and Empowerment in Goa

In a groundbreaking initiative, the International Purple Fest – Goa 2024, India's inaugural inclusive festival for persons with disabilities, kicked off today and is set to captivate audiences until January 13. The festival, organized by the Office of the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, and supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, showcases unity and diversity in a spectacular display.

India to Chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and Host 46th Session in 2024

In a historic milestone for India, the nation is set to chair the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and host its 46th session in New Delhi from July 21 to 31, 2024. This significant announcement was made by Vishal V Sharma, India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, on January 9, underlining the nation's growing influence and commitment to global cultural and natural heritage conservation. The decision to hold the 46th session in India was confirmed during the 19th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in 2023. This decision, stemming from a proposal by Indian authorities in consultation with the UNESCO Director-General, reflects the collaborative efforts between India and UNESCO in fostering global cooperation in education, arts, science, and culture to promote world peace.

Awards & Honors News

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Announced the National Sports Awards 2023

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2023, honouring individuals and institutions that have excelled in their respective fields. The awards ceremony, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, witnessed the presentation of various awards to sportspersons, coaches, and entities for their outstanding contributions to sports in the country. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the Arjuna Awards to various sports personalities at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The second-highest athletic honour in India, the Arjuna Award, is given for demonstrating leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline along with good performance over the preceding four years.

Divyakriti Singh Becomes 1st Indian Woman Arjuna Awardee for Equestrian Sports

In a historic moment for Indian sports, the accomplished equestrian athlete, Divyakriti Singh, has been conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award, making her the first woman from

Rajasthan to achieve this honour. The award was presented in a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. Divyakriti Singh's remarkable journey in the equestrian world reached new heights with the Arjuna Award, recognizing her outstanding contribution to the sport. Her dedication and prowess were on full display when she played a pivotal role in securing the Gold Medal for the Indian Dressage team at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, last September.

Important Dates News

African National Congress Foundation Day 2024

The African National Congress (ANC), a pivotal force in South Africa's history, celebrates its Foundation Day on January 8, commemorating its establishment in 1912. This day marks the ANC's enduring commitment to uniting African people and defending their rights and freedoms. The ANC, initially founded as the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) in Bloemfontein, symbolizes a landmark event in Africa's struggle against centuries of exploitation and humiliation. Formed in a time of rapid change, with the discovery of diamonds and gold in South Africa, the SANNC aimed to counter oppressive laws and taxes designed to dispossess Africans of their land. The notorious 1913 Land Act, which severely restricted African land rights, catalyzed the SANNC's activism. In 1919, the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) emerged as a significant force, organizing both rural and urban areas.

Earth's Rotation Day 2024: Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement

Every year, Earth Rotation Day is celebrated on January 8, and this year, the special day falls on a Monday. It's a day dedicated to recognizing the pivotal discovery of Earth rotation on its axis. The theme to observe Earth Rotation Day in 2024 is 'Honoring the Discovery of Our Planet's Movement'. The concept of Earth rotation dates back to ancient Greece in 470 BC. However, it wasn't until 1851 that French physicist Léon Foucault provided concrete proof with his famous pendulum experiment. This experiment showcased at the Pantheon in Greece and the Paris Observatory, became a cornerstone in demonstrating Earth rotation, a fact that had long been theorized but never conclusively proven.

Bengali

কাঁজ

SSC GD 26000+ Vacancy

লাইভ+ রেকর্ড ভিডিও +
স্টাডি ম্যাট + মক টেস্ট

Start ডিসেম্বর 21, 2023

Sports News**FIH and Viacom18 Ink Four-Year Media Rights Deal**

In a groundbreaking move, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has sealed a significant media rights partnership with Viacom18, spanning the four-year period from 2023 to 2027. This exclusive agreement encompasses all FIH events, with the exception of the FIH Nations Cup. Indian hockey enthusiasts are in for a treat as Viacom18 channels are set to broadcast a plethora of thrilling events, including the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, the inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup, the highly-anticipated FIH Hockey Pro League, and the pinnacle event, the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

Unveiling the Essence of the 9th Asian Winter Games: Slogan, Emblem, and Mascots

The 9th Asian Winter Games, set to illuminate the winter sports landscape in 2025, have officially entered an exciting phase with the unveiling of its core symbols – the slogan, emblem, and mascots. This grand reveal, hosted in the capital city of Heilongjiang Province, China, marks a significant milestone as the Games draw closer. Embracing the spirit of unity and sportsmanship, the official slogan “Dream of Winter, Love among Asia” resonates deeply with the ethos of the Games.

Rhythm Sangwan Clinches 16th Olympic Quota For 2024 Paris Games

In a remarkable feat at the Asian Shooting Championships 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia, Rhythm Sangwan secured a bronze medal in the women’s 25m pistol event, obtaining a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India. This accomplishment marked India’s 16th shooting quota for the upcoming Olympics, surpassing the previous record tally of 15 set for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

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Tim Southee Achieves Historic Milestone in T20 Internationals

New Zealand’s veteran pace bowler Tim Southee has created history by becoming the first bowler to take 150 wickets in T20 Internationals. This milestone was achieved during a T20 match against Pakistan, where New Zealand secured a convincing victory.

Obituaries News**Franz Beckenbauer, World Cup-winning German and Bayern Munich great, dies aged 78**

Franz Beckenbauer, one of only three men to have won the FIFA World Cup as a player and as a manager, has died at the age of 78. Born in Giesling, Munich, in September 1945, Franz Beckenbauer grew up as a fan of 1860 Munich. His journey with football began in Bayern’s youth squad, making his debut as a left-winger in 1964. Despite Bayern’s earlier struggles, Beckenbauer’s versatility and leadership saw them rise, winning their first Bundesliga title in 1968-69.

Maestro Ustad Rashid Khan Passes Away at 55

The Indian classical music world mourns the passing of Ustad Rashid Khan, a towering figure who left an indelible mark on the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana and beyond. At just 55, this musical prodigy succumbed to complications arising from prostate cancer, leaving a legacy that resonates with profound beauty and innovative spirit.

Defence News**Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane’s Book “Four Stars of Destiny”**

In a remarkable literary venture, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled “Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.” Scheduled to be published in January 2024 by Penguin Veer, an imprint of Penguin Random House India, the book delves into the diverse experiences that have shaped Gen MM Naravane’s character, spanning from his childhood to his illustrious years in the armed services.

Indian Navy’s P-8I Aircraft Reaches Guam For Exercise Sea Dragon 24

The Indian Navy marked its presence in the Pacific, on January 9th, 2024, with the arrival of a P-8I aircraft at Guam, USA. This deployment signals the navy’s participation in the fourth edition of Ex Sea Dragon 24, an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise spearheaded by the US Navy. Ex Sea Dragon 24 fosters collaboration and interoperability among the navies of the US, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and India. The exercise aims to refine coordination and communication through professional interactions both on the ground and in the air, as per the Indian Navy’s official statement.

Indian Navy gets first India-made long endurance Drishti 10 Starliner drone

The Indian Navy has recently acquired its first indigenous medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, the Drishti 10 Starliner unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This marks a significant development in enhancing the navy’s intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. Manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace in collaboration with Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems, the drone offers versatility and advanced features. Adani Defence and Aerospace, in collaboration with Elbit Systems, has delivered the Drishti 10 Starliner drone, showcasing indigenous capabilities in the defence sector. This UAV, a variant of Elbit Systems’ Hermes 900 Starliner drones, is a crucial addition to India’s military assets.

Rear Admiral Upal Kundu Takes Charge As Chief Of Staff, Southern Naval Command

Rear Admiral Upal Kundu, an esteemed alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, has recently taken over as the Chief of Staff at the Southern Naval Command (SNC). This seasoned naval officer brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, particularly in anti-submarine warfare (ASW). Commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1991, Rear Admiral Upal Kundu embarked on a distinguished naval career. His early training at the prestigious Indian Naval Academy laid the foundation for his future accomplishments. Known for his dedication and commitment, Kundu quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing a natural aptitude for naval operations.

DRDO Achieves Success In Akash-NG Missile Flight Test

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile. The test, conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, showcased the system’s capability to intercept high-speed unmanned aerial targets at very low altitudes. The Ministry of Defence emphasized that the test validated the seamless functioning of the complete weapon system, marking a significant technological achievement for DRDO and India’s defense capabilities.

Miscellaneous News

Person of the Day: France’s Youngest Prime Minister Gabriel Attal

Gabriel Attal is a name that has risen rapidly in French politics. At just 34 years old, he currently holds the prestigious title of Prime Minister of France, making him the youngest person to ever hold the position in the Fifth Republic. His journey to the top has been remarkable, marked by both meteoric ascents and notable hurdles. Born in 1989, Attal’s journey began in Clamart, a suburb of Paris. His background instilled in him a strong sense of social justice and a desire to contribute to public service. He joined the Socialist Party at the young age of 17, already demonstrating his

political zeal. After graduating from Sciences Po and pursuing further studies in law, Attal began his career working for the Ministry of Health.

Red Ant Chutney of Odisha Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

In the heart of Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district, a unique culinary tradition has thrived for centuries. Locally known as ‘Kai Chutney,’ this savoury delight is crafted using red weaver ants, scientifically identified as *Oecophylla smaragdina*. These ants, infamous for their painful sting, are harvested from the lush forests of Mayurbhanj, including the renowned Similipal forests, Asia’s second-largest biosphere. On January 2, 2024, the red ant chutney of Mayurbhanj received a significant accolade—the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition highlights the uniqueness and regional identity of the culinary creation, adding to its cultural and economic significance.

Fresh Oil Discovery in Krishna-Godavari Basin by ONGC

The recent announcement by the Indian government regarding a fresh oil discovery in the Krishna-Godavari Basin signifies a major breakthrough in the country’s energy sector. The discovery, led by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), is located near Kakinada’s coastline in the Bay of Bengal.