

Weekly Current Affairs 18th December to 23rd December 2023 - English

National News

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. This newly constructed meditation center stands tall at seven floors, accommodating an impressive 20,000 devotees at a time for meditation. The inauguration ceremony showcased the Prime Minister's commitment to fostering spiritual well-being and cultural heritage in the holy city.

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.

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

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 extravaganza aimed at fostering the cultural ties between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu. During the event, PM Modi also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express, symbolizing the unity of the diverse cultures within India. In his address, PM Modi emphasized the significance of Kashi Tamil Sangamam in reinforcing the sentiment of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' - the idea of a united and diverse India. The inauguration ceremony, held at Namoo Ghat, witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other prominent leaders.

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.

Kakrapar Unit-4 Power Project Attains Initial Criticality

The Unit 4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP 4 - 700 MW) marked a historic moment in India's nuclear power landscape by achieving criticality, signifying the initiation of controlled fission chain reactions. This significant milestone, attained on December 17, 2023, is a testament to the stringent safety standards set by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). KAPP-4 is part of the ambitious project to deploy sixteen indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) of 700 MW each across the country.

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.

Central Railways To Add Panic Switches At 117 Stations

Central Railway general manager Ram Karan Yadav has recently announced a significant step towards enhancing passenger safety. In his first news conference after assuming office, Yadav disclosed plans to install panic switches at 117 railway stations under the Central Railway network. This move aims to provide passengers with a quick and efficient means of alerting the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in case of emergencies. The installation of panic switches at railway stations is a proactive measure to ensure the safety and well-being of passengers.

BILINGUAL

WBPSO

WBPSO 2023-24
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10 TOTAL TESTS

International News

Israel Appoints Reuven Azar as New Ambassador to India with Expanded Diplomatic Role

The Israeli government recently greenlit the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India, underscoring his expansive role as the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan as well. Azar's nomination is part of a larger cohort of 21 Heads of Missions cleared by Israel to assume their responsibilities soon. Reuven Azar currently serves as the Ambassador of Israel to Romania. His diplomatic journey is marked by diverse roles, including heading the Israel-US-China internal task force at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India's Uma Sekhar Elected to Governing Council of UNIDROIT

In a momentous occasion for India, Ms. Uma Sekhar achieved a remarkable victory by securing 45 out of 59 votes in the initial round of elections for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy. This historic win not only represents Ms. Sekhar's individual achievement but also elevates India to a prominent position on the Governing Council for the term spanning 2024-28. The electorate triumph for Ms. Uma Sekhar was no small feat, as a minimum of 21 votes was required to secure a position on the Governing Council. With an overwhelming support of 45 votes, her victory underscores the confidence and trust vested in her capabilities.

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. 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.

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. The aftermath has left hundreds injured, and the fatalities might rise as rescue operations are underway in the icy conditions. 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.

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.

Afghan NGO Receives International Gender Equality Honor by Finland

Finland, a global champion of gender equality, recently conferred the International Gender Equality Prize for 2023 to the Afghan Women Skills Development Center, recognizing their unwavering commitment to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women in Afghanistan. The prestigious award, accompanied by a EUR 300,000 prize, was presented by Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo during a ceremony in Tampere. The Afghan Women Skills Development Center stands out as an organization undertaking crucial humanitarian efforts to ensure the safety of Afghan women.

EU Expresses Disappointment as India Rejects Interim Arbitration in WTO Dispute

The European Union (EU) has conveyed disappointment 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.

State News

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. The initiative aims to publicize the commendable work of the district police and provide timely information about actions taken in criminal and law and order incidents. Under the visionary guidance of the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, Vijay Kumar, the WhatsApp Channels were initiated. The decision aligns with the state government's directives to widely publicize the praiseworthy efforts of the police force. This forward-thinking approach reflects the commitment of the Uttar Pradesh Police to embrace modern communication tools for better public engagement.

Economy News

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. This shift can be attributed to the rapid growth experienced by the industrial and service sectors during this period. Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda, in a written reply to Lok Sabha, shed light on the factors contributing to this decline. He 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.

Robust Fiscal Management: Centre and States Maintain Sub-7% GDP Fiscal Deficit

In the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24 (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). A recent study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sheds light on the fiscal landscape, highlighting the role of enhanced revenue mobilization and prudent financial management.

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. The Reserve Bank of India's data revealed a notable increase from \$1.54 billion in September 2023 and \$1.16 billion in October 2022. However, the cumulative net FDI for April-October 2023 plummeted by half, reaching \$10.43 billion compared to \$20.76 billion in the same period of 2022. This downturn is attributed to the worldwide economic slowdown affecting both inbound and outbound investment flows.

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. In the September quarter, the central government's debt soared to USD 1.34 trillion (Rs 161.1 lakh crore), up from USD 1.06 trillion (Rs 150.4 lakh crore) in the preceding March quarter.

SEBI Proposes Two-Phase Transition to Instant Settlement in Indian Stock Market

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to revolutionize the Indian stock market with a proposed two-phase implementation of same-day settlement (T+0) and instant settlement. In a consultation paper, SEBI invites public comments, emphasizing that the shorter settlement cycles will be supplementary to the existing T+1 cycle.

Innovative All-in-One Insurance Product, Bima Vistaar, to Debut in Q1 FY25

Bima Vistaar, a groundbreaking all-in-one insurance product encompassing life, health, and property coverage, is poised for launch in the first quarter of the upcoming financial year. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reports that the product design and crucial rollout aspects are nearing completion, with a keen focus on leveraging technology for a seamless launch. Bima Vistaar holds strategic importance as part of the "Insurance Trinity," a trio featuring Bima Sugam (a digital platform), Bima Vistaar, and Bima Vahak (a women-led field distribution force). Aligned with IRDAI's vision to achieve universal insurance coverage by 2047, these components aim to address existing gaps in product design, pricing, and distribution.

Rankings & Reports News

Bhupender Yadav Unveils NITI Aayog's Report On Global Green Growth

In a momentous occasion, Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Hon'ble Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Ministry of Labour & Employment, launched a G20 report titled 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy' today in New Delhi. The event witnessed the presence of key figures such as Shri Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20 India, Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, Shri Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Shri Kapil Kapoor, Regional Director for Asia, International Development Research Centre.

Bengaluru Airport's T2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'

In a recent announcement from UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) has achieved global acclaim, being recognized as one of the 'world's most beautiful airports.' The world

judges panel, chaired by renowned fashion designer Elie Saab, bestowed this honor, making it the sole Indian airport to receive such esteemed recognition. This accomplishment firmly establishes Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport among the leading airports globally, setting a high standard for design, sustainability, and passenger experience on the world stage.

Business News

Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability

In a significant step towards addressing the pressing issues of global warming and promoting sustainability education, research and outreach, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability. The collaboration aims to provide leadership solutions for sustainability and prepare future generations to champion the cause of sustainable development. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, graced the launch event as the chief guest.

LIC Granted Extension till 2032 to Achieve 25% Public Shareholdin

Shares of the leading state-run insurer LIC surged to a new 52-week high on December 22 following a significant development. The Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the 25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule. The decision allows LIC to achieve the mandated 25% MPS within 10 years of its listing, extending the deadline to May 2032.

Agreement News

IIT Kanpur Collaborated with Indian Navy to Promote Technology Development

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) and the Indian Navy have joined hands in a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the Naval Headquarters. This collaborative initiative aims to propel technology development, foster innovative solutions and engage in joint Research and Development (R&D) endeavors. Rear Admiral K Srinivas, Asst. Chief of Material (Dockyard & Refits) and Prof. S. Ganesh, Director of IIT Kanpur, formalized this partnership, marking a significant step towards bolstering defense capabilities through academic and technological prowess.

Suzlon and REC Ltd Collaborate On Non-Fund Based Working Capital

Suzlon Group, India's largest renewable energy solutions provider, has recently inked a definitive agreement with REC

Limited, a state-run entity, for crucial working capital facilities. This strategic partnership is geared towards bolstering Suzlon's capacity to meet its working capital needs, pivotal for executing its extensive current order book and prospective future projects. Suzlon Group, a global player in the renewable energy sector, boasts an impressive 20.3 gigawatts (GW) of wind energy capacity across 17 countries. With operations spanning across 14 manufacturing facilities in India, the company is on a mission to expand its reach and efficiency in the renewable energy landscape.

ArSRLM Signs MoU With SBI For SHG Banking Services

In a significant move towards empowering self-help groups (SHGs) in Arunachal Pradesh, the Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM) has forged a strategic alliance with the State Bank of India (SBI). The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two entities aims to provide comprehensive banking services to the SHGs operating in the state. The MoU signing ceremony, held on Tuesday, saw the participation of key representatives from both ArSRLM and SBI. Amarnath Talwade, the secretary of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, represented ArSRLM, while Aftab Ahmad Mallick, deputy general manager of SBI Dibrugarh, represented the banking giant.

Ministry of Rural Development Collaborates with JioMart to Expand Reach of Self-Help Groups' Products

In a significant move, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JioMart, a venture of Reliance Retail. This partnership aims to amplify the reach of products crafted by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), empowering rural artisans.

Appointment News

Reuven Azar Appointed as Israel's New Ambassador to India

In a significant diplomatic development, the Israeli government, on December 17, gave its nod to the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India. Mr. Azar, currently serving as the Ambassador of Israel to Romania, will also take on the role of the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan. His appointment is part of a broader initiative by the Israeli government to designate 21 new Heads of Missions. The seasoned diplomat brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served in various key positions over nearly three decades.

Senior IPS Officer Maheshwar Dayal Takes Over as Director General of Prisons

Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal officially assumed the role of Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18. With a distinguished career marked by various leadership roles across multiple districts and specialized units, Dayal brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Let's delve into his illustrious journey through the ranks of law enforcement. Maheshwar Dayal's journey in law enforcement began as a Superintendent of Police (SP) in Virudhunagar, where he quickly demonstrated his dedication and leadership skills. His proficiency led to subsequent appointments as SP in The Nilgiris and Nagapattinam districts, showcasing his ability to adapt to diverse operational environments.

Sanjay Singh Becomes New Chief Of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)

In the recently concluded Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, Sanjay Singh, a prominent figure within the former WFI chief Brij Bhushan's faction and currently the UP Wrestling Association vice president, clinched victory with an overwhelming 40 votes against Anita Sheoran's meager seven. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the governing body for wrestling in the country, is based in New Delhi. Sanjay Singh, affiliated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and a native of Varanasi, previously held a position on the WFI's executive council. Since 2019, he has served as the joint secretary of the national federation. Additionally, he holds the position of Vice President in the Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association.

Banking News

IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry

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.

India And ADB Ink \$250M Loan For Industrial Corridor Development

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently solidified their collaboration with the signing of a \$250 million policy-based loan on December 15, 2023. This financial support, part of the Industrial Corridor Development Programme (Subprogramme 2), aims to

enhance manufacturing competitiveness, fortify national supply chains, and integrate with global value chains. Ms. Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, represented the Government of India, while Mr. Hoe Yun Jeong, Deputy Country Director, and Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, signed on behalf of ADB.

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 absence of an active secondary market in India for AIF units poses a significant challenge for entities looking to sell their investments. Parul Jain, Head of Fund Formation Practice at Nishith Desai Associates, highlights the difficulty, stating, "It is not easy to sell the AIF units as these are not listed and there is no readily available market to offload these."

Aditya Birla Sun Life and IDFC First Bank Collaborate On Financial Solutions

In a strategic move to broaden their service offerings and strengthen their market presence, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance and IDFC First Bank have joined forces through a bancassurance partnership. This collaboration aims to provide comprehensive insurance solutions to the bank's extensive customer base by leveraging the robust distribution network of IDFC First Bank.

RBI Proposes Draft Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) in Banking and NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a preliminary framework for self-regulatory organizations (SROs) aimed at overseeing banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and other entities under its regulatory purview. Seeking public input until January 25, 2024, the draft outlines eligibility criteria and operational guidelines for potential SROs. To qualify for an SRO license, applicants must establish a not-for-profit company possessing sufficient net worth and infrastructure capabilities for ongoing responsibilities. Applicants must represent their respective sectors and demonstrate specified membership or provide a roadmap for achieving it within a reasonable timeframe. Clean legal records, both for the applicant and its directors, are imperative, with adherence to fit and proper criteria in all aspects.

RBI Boosts Liquidity Support in 7-Day VRR Auction on Dec 22

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to increase its liquidity infusion into the banking system through the 7-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction on December 22. The central bank, responding to a liquidity deficit near an 8-year high of ₹2.27-lakh crore as of December 20, has raised the offered amount to ₹1.75-lakh crore, up from ₹1-lakh crore in the previous week. This move aims to assist banks in overcoming liquidity challenges.

ICICI Bank Secures RBI Nod for Sandeep Batra's Re-Appointment as Executive Director

In a significant development, ICICI Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the re-appointment of Sandeep Batra as the Executive Director (ED). The approval, conveyed through an official letter, is effective from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025. The shareholders had previously granted their approval on May 29 for Batra's appointment as ED, endorsing a five-year term starting from the RBI's approval date. The current tenure of Batra, which received RBI approval for three years, concludes on December 22, 2023.

Science & Technology News

Bhashini AI Translates PM Modi's Speech In Indian languages

In a groundbreaking move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized an AI-powered Indian language translation tool, 'Bhashini', during a recent speech in Uttar Pradesh. The tool, developed by the government, aims to facilitate real-time translation, fostering communication across diverse linguistic communities within the country.

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. The prestigious event, organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi from December 12-14, witnessed Genrobotics securing its place in the spotlight.

MediaTek, Nvidia Unite To Power Artificial Intelligence In Cars

Semiconductor powerhouses MediaTek and Nvidia have recently forged a strategic partnership aimed at bringing

artificial intelligence (AI) to the forefront of the automotive industry. This collaboration signifies a bold step towards revolutionizing in-car experiences, shaping the evolution of autonomous driving systems, and establishing a new standard for smart vehicles. MediaTek, a global leader in semiconductor technology, and Nvidia, renowned for its graphics processing units (GPUs) and AI solutions, have joined forces with a shared vision of creating intelligent, connected vehicles. The partnership prioritizes safety, efficiency, and an enhanced driving experience as core pillars of their collaboration.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission Earns Leif Erikson Lunar Prize

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has once again soared to new heights by clinching the prestigious Leif Erikson Lunar Prize. This esteemed accolade, bestowed by the Husavik Museum, stands as a testament to ISRO's unwavering commitment and substantial contributions to lunar exploration. The focal point of this recognition is ISRO's groundbreaking Chandrayaan-3 mission, a venture that has significantly deepened our understanding of celestial mysteries.

Textiles Ministry Unveils 'Paat-Mitro' App For Jute Farmers

The Ministry of Textiles, in its continuous efforts to support and empower jute farmers, has introduced the "Paat-Mitro" mobile application. Developed by The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI), this application is a significant step towards providing essential information about Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and agronomy to jute farmers. The launch took place during the 'Jute Symposium,' with Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, inaugurating the application, which is available in six languages.

Bengali

সংকল্প

WBPSB Clerkship 3.0

লাইভ ক্লাস + কনটেন্ট + মক টেস্ট
+ টাইপিং গাইডেন্স

Start Date: 22 Dec 2023

Schemes and Committees News

MSME Ministry Unveils 3 RAMP Sub-Schemes, Makes ZED Scheme Free For Women

In a significant move towards fostering sustainable practices and addressing critical issues faced by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane unveiled three pioneering sub-schemes under the existing RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity) programme. These initiatives aim to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology, promote circular economy projects, and tackle the persistent challenge of delayed payments.

Awards & Honors News

Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 'Against All Odds', 'Winning Middle India' Declared Joint Winners

The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize, a prestigious annual recognition, has crowned two exceptional narratives in its 2023 edition. Against All Odds: The IT Story of India and Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs emerged as joint winners, capturing the essence of India's dynamic business landscape. This article delves into the winning books and the insights they offer into the insights they offer into the realms of technology, entrepreneurship and the evolving consumer sphere. Authorized by Kris Gopalkrishnan, N Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan, Against All Odds meticulously weaves together the firsthand accounts of over fly distinguished individuals who have played pivotal role in shaping IT industry.

Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit

In a notable recognition of her outstanding contributions to public healthcare services in Bhutan, Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia, has been honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit (NOM) Gold Medal. The prestigious award was presented by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Druk Gyalpo (dragon king) of Bhutan, during the celebration of Bhutan's 116th National Day on December 17, 2023, in Thimphu, Bhutan.

President Droupadi Murmu Awards Crompton for Energy Conservation 2023

Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL), a leading player in India's consumer electrical industry, has been honored with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023. The recognition was bestowed by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, and the Ministry of Power, represented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day. This

accolade reinforces Crompton's commitment to energy-efficient innovations, marking a significant achievement in the Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year 2023 category for its storage water heater.

Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'

The renowned Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has named poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar as its sixth recipient for her book, "Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems". This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights. At the award ceremony, Kumar received a cash prize of USD 5,000, a Tagore statue, and a certificate acknowledging her significant contribution to literature. In recognition of his exceptional contributions to social welfare, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement. This further signifies the award's dedication to highlighting both artistic and societal impacts.

Important Dates News

International Migrants Day 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance

International Migrants Day 2023, observed annually on December 18, serves as a global platform to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of migrants while shedding light on the challenges they face. This day serves as a reminder to reflect on and celebrate the invaluable contributions of millions of migrants worldwide, recognizing their role as dynamic agents for the development in both their countries of origin and destination. The theme for International Migrants Day 2023 is "Promoting Safe Migration." Through this theme, the United Nations calls for nations to affirm their dedication to upholding the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of their legal standing.

National Farmers Day 2023: Date, History and Significance

National Farmer's Day 2023, also known as Kisan Diwas, is celebrated on December 23 in India to honor and recognize the invaluable contribution of farmers to the country's socio-economic fabric. This day marks the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a former prime minister of India and a dedicated advocate for the welfare of farmers. The significance of National Farmer's Day lies in acknowledging the pivotal role farmers play in sustaining the nation's prosperity. Chaudhary Charan Singh, born in 1902 in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut, emerged from a humble peasant family. Serving as the prime minister from 1979 to 1980, he dedicated his life to championing the cause of farmers. In 2001, recognizing his substantial contributions, the Indian government declared his birth anniversary as National Farmer's Day.

Sports News**Djokovic and Sabalenka Clinch 2023 ITF World Champion Titles with Stellar Performances**

In a fitting recognition of their outstanding achievements on the tennis court, Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka have been named the 2023 ITF World Champions by the International Tennis Federation. Both players showcased remarkable consistency and skill throughout the year, earning this prestigious honor. Djokovic, in particular, set a new record with his eighth ITF World Champion award.

Haryana Dominates Medal Tally With 40 Gold, 39 Silver and 26 Bronze in Inaugural Khelo India Para Games

The Khelo India Para Games 2023 concluded on December 17 in New Delhi, showcasing the remarkable talents of para athletes from across the country. The inaugural edition of the event saw Haryana clinched the top spot, securing a total of 105 medals, including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze. The competition, which began on December 10, featured around 1,450 para athletes representing 32 states and Union Territories. In a spectacular display of skill and determination, Haryana emerged as the overall winner of Khelo India Para Games 2023. The state's athletes secured an impressive medal haul, with 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze medals.

U-19 Asia Cup, Bangladesh Beat UAE To Lift Trophy

In a fantastic cricket match, Ashiqur Rahman Shibli helped Bangladesh's Under-19 team win a big tournament called Under-19 Asia. Shibli did amazingly well with his bat, scoring a second century in five matches, leading Bangladesh to an impressive win over UAE. Let's break down the exciting game! Ashiqur Rahman Shibli's outstanding performance didn't go unnoticed. He was named the Player of the Match and Series. Shibli scored a total of 378 runs in five innings during the tournament, showing he was a key player for Bangladesh.

Amitabh Bachchan Becomes Owner of Mumbai Team in Indian Street Premier League

In a groundbreaking announcement on Monday, legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming Indian Street Premier League (ISPL). The ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai. The ISPL introduces a unique and exciting cricketing format, bringing together the thrill of T20 matches and the grassroots essence of tennis ball cricket. The tournament aims to provide a platform for street cricketers to showcase their talent on a professional stage.

Maharashtra Bags Women's and AAI Wins Men's Title Events in Guwahati

In a stunning display of skill and determination, Maharashtra emerged victorious in the women's team event at the 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship held in Guwahati. The championship, organized by the Badminton Association of India, witnessed Maharashtra's women's team clinching the title with a commanding 3-0 victory. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) showcased exceptional prowess in the men's team event, securing the championship title by overpowering Karnataka with a resounding 3-0 win. The dominant performance by the AAI team demonstrated their skill and strategic play on the badminton court. The clash for the women's team event title unfolded in a thrilling encounter between AAI and Maharashtra. The Maharashtra team exhibited outstanding performances, securing a 3-0 triumph. Shruti Mundada, Alisha Naik and the formidable doubles pair of Simran Singhi and Ritika. Thaker played pivotal roles in Maharashtra's decisive victory.

Most Expensive Player in IPL 2024

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 Auction was nothing short of a cricketing carnival, witnessing 333 players, including 214 Indians and 119 overseas players, go under the hammer. The extravaganza featured a mix of seasoned cricketers and rising talents, creating a buzz in the cricketing fraternity. Let's delve into the top 10 buys that shaped headlines and left fans eagerly anticipating the upcoming IPL season. World Cup-winning Australian captain Pat Cummins became the costliest player in IPL history when he was picked up by the Sunrisers, only for his record to be beaten by teammate Mitchell Starc's Rs. 24.75 crore move to the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Sakshi Malik Quits After Election Of New Wrestling Federation Chief

Acclaimed Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik, a bronze medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, declared her retirement in protest of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) recent leadership change. The move follows allegations of sexual abuse against the ousted president, Brij Bhushan Singh, and the controversial election of his close ally, Sanjay Singh. Sakshi Malik, a vocal advocate against harassment in Indian sports, led protests earlier in the year, demanding accountability for Singh's alleged sexual misconduct towards female wrestlers. Charges filed in June accused Singh of harassing six athletes, including a minor, during his tenure as WFI chief.

Obituaries News

Dr. V Mohini Giri: A Champion for Women's Rights Passes Away at 86

Dr. V Mohini Giri, a well-known advocate for women's rights, passed away at the age of 86 after a brief illness. She made significant contributions to empowering women and was recognized for her efforts. Dr. Giri served as the Chair of the National Commission for Women (NCW) from 1995 to 1998 and led the Central Social Welfare Board. She was also the head of the Guild of Service, an organization in New Delhi that supports women's and children's rights, focusing on education, employment, and financial security. Beyond her role as a women's rights activist, Dr. Mohini Giri was the daughter-in-law of former President Dr. V V Giri. She leaves behind a son and daughter. Dr. Giri was involved in various organizations, including being the founder and trustee of Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia.

Defence News

India's Akash Missile Achieves Global First: Engages Four Targets Simultaneously at 25km

In a groundbreaking display of technological prowess, 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 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) proudly announced this historic achievement, highlighting India's unique position as the first country to possess such a capability within a single firing unit. The remarkable feat took place during the 'Astrashakti' military exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force on December 12.

Indian Armed Forces officers awarded 'Golden Owl' at DSCSC Sri Lanka

In a remarkable display of excellence, three officers from the Indian Armed Forces, undergoing the prestigious Command and Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sri Lanka, have been honored with the coveted 'Golden Owl' award for their outstanding performance. The award, presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recognizes their exceptional achievements in analytical skills, strategic thinking, and their potential for future leadership. Wing Commander Sumeet Mahajan, Major Rohit, and Lieutenant Commander Sunny Sharma, representing the Air Force, Army, and Navy wings respectively, demonstrated unparalleled excellence by securing the top positions among foreign student officers.

Lt. Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury Posthumously Honored With 'Vir Chakra'

In a poignant ceremony held at INS Shivaji, the esteemed Training establishment of the Indian Navy, the original 'Vir Chakra' was posthumously awarded to Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury. The ceremony, marked by solemnity and reverence, took place on 18th December 2023. The 'Vir Chakra' stands as a testament to acts of gallantry on the battlefield, whether on land, in the air, or at sea. It is a prestigious Indian wartime military bravery award, and Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury's name now graces the list of recipients, adding to the honor and legacy of INS Shivaji. Vice Admiral Dinesh Prabhakar, AVSM, NM, VSM (Retd), currently holding the position of Distinguished Chair Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji, received the 'Vir Chakra' on behalf of the Indian Navy.

Miscellaneous News

India Sees 112 Deaths In 2022 Due To Tiger Attacks

Tiger attacks on humans have been a concerning issue in India, with the Centre recently providing information on the extent of this problem. In 2022 alone, a total of 112 deaths occurred in the country due to tiger attacks. The Union Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, Bhupinder Yadav, shared these statistics in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, shedding light on the gravity of the situation. The data revealed that Maharashtra witnessed the highest number of deaths, with 85 reported cases in 2022. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for addressing the human-tiger conflict in the state.

WBCS MAHAPACK PRO

***Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে**

A BANGLA

- 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

