

Weekly Current Affairs 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - English

## National News

**Ayodhya Ram Mandir Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

On January 22, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a momentous occasion in India's history. The inauguration involved the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol, a pivotal event that symbolizes the infusion of life into the idol. The event, attended by over 7,000 dignitaries, was not just a religious ceremony but also a cultural milestone for India. Prime Minister Modi's involvement was central to the ceremony. He participated in the 'Pran Pratishtha' of the Ram Lalla idol from 12:29:03 pm to 12:30:35 pm, a brief but highly auspicious 84-second window during the 'Abhijit muhurta'. The temple itself, an architectural marvel, stands at a length of 380 feet, a width of 250 feet, and a height of 161 feet, embodying the traditional Nagara style of architecture.

**India's All-Women Tri-Services Contingent at Republic Day 2024 Parade**

In a historic first, the 2024 Republic Day Parade in India will witness the participation of two all-women contingents from the defence forces, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey towards gender equality and empowerment in the military. These contingents will include members from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, showcasing the seamless integration and valour of Indian armed forces. Captain Sandhya, a 26-year-old officer who previously participated in the 2017 Republic Day parade as an NCC cadet, expressed her pride and fortune at being allowed to lead this historic contingent.

**Petroleum Ministry Approves ONGC's Green Energy Unit**

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has granted approval for the formation of a subsidiary company by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), dedicated to the green energy and gas sector. This significant move was announced during ONGC's board meeting on January 23, 2024, reflecting the company's commitment to diversify its portfolio and contribute to sustainable energy solutions. The newly approved subsidiary, tentatively named "ONGC Green Limited," is slated to be a wholly-owned entity of ONGC. However, the proposed name is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

**Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2nd FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is on the brink of etching her name in history books as she gears up to present her sixth

consecutive Budget (Five consecutive annual Budgets and one interim Budget), an unparalleled feat in Indian parliamentary annals. Building upon her legacy of fiscal stewardship, Sitharaman's tenure resonates with the tenure of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who previously held the finance portfolio during 1959-1964. Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who holds the distinction of presenting 10 Budgets—the highest by any Finance Minister—had consecutively presented six of them, including one interim Budget, in a row.

## International News

**Saudi Arabia to Open First Alcohol Store for Diplomats**

In a groundbreaking move, Saudi Arabia is preparing to open its first alcohol store, exclusively for diplomats. This significant development represents a notable shift in the Kingdom's approach to alcohol, which has traditionally been banned under its strict interpretation of Islamic law.

## State News

**Telangana To Unveil Gruha Jyothi Scheme In February**

The Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, has taken significant strides to expedite the implementation of various welfare schemes, including the much-anticipated Gruha Jyothi Scheme. The state government aims to roll out this scheme from the first week of February, bringing relief to numerous households. The announcement of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, which promises 200 units of free electricity, sparked confusion among citizens. To address this, the Telangana government clarified that only individuals who have settled their electricity bills for December 2023 and January 2024 are eligible for the scheme. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that the Gruha Jyothi Scheme's free electricity component will be set in motion from the beginning of February.

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মক টেস্ট সম্পূর্ণ বাংলায় সমাধান  
20 Total Tests  
Test Series

**Visakhapatnam Hosts 14th All India Police Commando Contest**

The 14th edition of the Annual All India Police Commando Competition (AIPCC) began on January 22, 2024 at the Greyhounds Training Centre in Kapuluppada, Visakhapatnam. Elite commando forces from 16 states are participating in this week-long competition. Commissioner A. Ravi Shankar inaugurated the event, emphasizing its significance in fostering inter-state cooperation and showcasing the prowess of India's top commando units. The Additional Director General of Greyhounds, R.K. Meena, added prestige to the occasion with his presence.

**World's First 'Black Tiger Safari': Odisha's CM Naveen Patnaik Announces**

In a groundbreaking move, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled plans for the establishment of the world's first 'black tiger safari' near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj. This visionary project aims to provide tourists and visitors with a rare glimpse of the melanistic tigers, commonly known as black tigers, recently spotted at the Similipal National Park.

**Economy News**

**Air India Fined Rs 1.1 Crore by Regulator For Safety Rule Violation**

Air India, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, incurred a hefty fine of Rs 1.1 crore from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the country's aviation regulator, for safety breaches. This penalty was imposed following a pilot's report concerning insufficient emergency oxygen supply on Air India's B777 aircraft, which are crucially utilized for long-range flights. In October last year, a pilot filed a complaint with the DGCA, alleging that Air India, a Tata Group-run airline, failed to provide sufficient emergency oxygen on its B777 aircraft. Subsequent investigations by the DGCA confirmed the validity of the pilot's concerns, leading to the imposition of the fine.

**Rankings & Reports News**

**Four DISCOMs Secured A+ Rating In The Latest CSRD Report For Exceptional Consumer Service**

In a significant development, four electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have achieved the prestigious A+ rating in the latest Consumer Service Rating of Discoms (CSRD) report. The report, unveiled by Power Minister RK Singh, is a comprehensive evaluation of DISCOMs across the country, aimed at enhancing their accountability towards consumers. Out of the 62 DISCOMs evaluated, Delhi emerged as the frontrunner, with three companies securing the top A+ rating. The notable achievers include BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), and

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL). This recognition reflects their commitment to delivering exceptional customer service and operational efficiency.

**Indian Equity Market Surpasses Hong Kong, Ranks 4th Globally with \$4.33 Trillion Market Cap**

India's equity market has outpaced Hong Kong's Hang Seng, securing the fourth position globally with a market capitalization of \$4.33 trillion. This milestone, marking India's ascendancy, underscores the nation's robust economic standing. The US remains the largest stock market with a staggering \$50.86 trillion market cap, followed by China at \$8.44 trillion and Japan at \$6.36 trillion.

**Bhopal Ranks 5th In Swachh Survekshan 2023 Cleanliness**

Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, has made significant strides in cleanliness, emerging as the 5th cleanest city in India among those with a population exceeding 1 lakh. The Bhopal Municipal Corporation's persistent efforts have not only elevated its ranking from 6th in 2022 but also earned it a coveted 5-star Garbage Free City (GFC) rating, making it the cleanest State capital in the nation. Bhopal's ascent can be attributed to a combination of best practices, innovation, and distinctiveness. The city produces 850 tons of waste daily, and what sets it apart is its commitment to processing the entire waste stream every day. The focus on scientific waste disposal, waste-to-wealth projects, recycling initiatives, and the mantra of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3Rs) are pivotal in Bhopal's success.

**Business News**

**Sony Terminates \$10 Billion Merger Deal with Zee Entertainment**

On January 22, Sony issued a notice terminating the merger agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) and Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME), formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited. The \$10-billion deal, signed on December 22, 2021, faced challenges in meeting closing conditions within the specified timeframe. Despite engaging in good faith discussions to extend the merger cooperation agreement's end date, Sony and Zee failed to reach an agreement by the January 21 deadline.

**Competition Commission of India Greenlights JSW Group's 38% stake buy in MG Motor India**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given the nod to significant business transactions, signaling a shifting landscape in the corporate sector. Among the approved deals is the JSW Group's strategic move to acquire a substantial 38% stake in MG Motor India. Facilitated through JSW Ventures Singapore, a newly established subsidiary of JSW International Tradecorp Pte Ltd, the acquisition is poised to reshape the dynamics of the automotive industry.

**Krutrim, Ola Founder's AI Start-Up Emerges As India's First AI Unicorn**

In a groundbreaking move for the Indian tech landscape, Bhavish Aggarwal, the visionary behind Ola, has successfully raised \$50 million for his latest venture, Krutrim. This AI start-up, positioned at the forefront of cutting-edge technology, is set to revolutionize the industry. The recent funding round, led by Matrix Partners India and other key investors, has propelled Krutrim to unicorn status. With a valuation of \$1 billion, Krutrim is set to make significant strides in reshaping the landscape of artificial intelligence.

**Agreement News****Serum Institute Partners With CEPI For Affordable Outbreak Vaccines**

In a significant development for global health preparedness, the Serum Institute of India (SII) has joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) network of vaccine producers in the Global South. This collaborative effort aims to strengthen the response to future public health disease outbreaks through rapid, agile, and equitable means. CEPI, a global partnership dedicated to preventing epidemics, is investing up to \$30 million to expand SII's manufacturing capacity. The objective is to enable swift production and supply of investigational vaccines in the face of epidemic and pandemic threats. The collaboration between CEPI and SII aligns with the ambitious 100 Days Mission, a goal embraced by the G7, G20, and industry leaders.

**India's ACME and IHI Sign Historic Green Ammonia Supply Pact**

India's ACME Group and Japan's IHI Corporation have inked a groundbreaking deal for the supply of 0.4 million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of green ammonia from Odisha, India, to Japan. The agreement, signed by Manoj Upadhyay, ACME Group's Founder and Chairman, and Hiroshi Ide, President and CEO of IHI Corporation, establishes a long-term partnership covering production, logistics, and supply of green ammonia for diverse industrial uses in Japan, ultimately aimed at reducing emissions.

**Banking News****RBI Approves Praveen Achuthan Kutty as DCB Bank MD & CEO**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval for the appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DCB Bank. The official confirmation came on January 16, signaling a tenure of three years starting from April 29, 2024, as outlined in the regulatory filing.

**RBI Announces Revised Eligibility Norms for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) Inclusion in Second Schedule**

In a recent press release, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disclosed the revision of eligibility norms for the inclusion of urban co-operative banks in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The objective is to bring these banks under an updated regulatory framework. After the release of the Revised Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) on July 19, 2022, with revised categorization norms for UCBs, the criteria for classifying a UCB as Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) were notified.

**ICRA Upgrades FY24 Bank Credit Growth Forecast to 15%: Record Incremental Growth Anticipated**

In a positive turn, ICRA has revised its bank credit growth estimates for FY24 upwards to 14.9-15.3%, surpassing the previous projection of 12.8-13.0%. The surge is attributed to robust performance in the retail segment and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), according to Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President at ICRA.

**Zomato Payments Secures RBI Approval as Online Payment Aggregator**

In a significant development, Zomato Payments Private Limited, the subsidiary of popular food delivery platform Zomato, has obtained the much-coveted payment aggregator (PA) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The approval, dated January 24, 2024, empowers Zomato Payments to facilitate ecommerce transactions through its platform. Last year, Zomato collaborated with ICICI Bank to introduce its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) offering, Zomato Pay, with the goal of minimizing dependency on platforms like Google Pay, PhonePe, and Paytm. With the RBI nod, Zomato joins the league of esteemed players such as Tata Pay, Razorpay, and Cashfree, who have also secured the coveted payments license.

বন্দেভারত এক্সপ্রেস ব্যাচ  
Railway ALP, Technician,  
Group D, NTPC  
Starts: 29 Jan, 2024

**Science & Technology News**

**SpaceX Launches Ax-3 Mission to ISS with First Turkish Astronaut Onboard**

In a historic event, SpaceX successfully launched the Ax-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center on January 18. The Crew Dragon capsule, named "Freedom," was propelled into space atop a Falcon 9 rocket, marking the third mission organized by Houston-based Axiom Space. The launch, initially scheduled for January 17, was delayed by a day for additional prelaunch checks. Alongside mission pilot Walter Villadei and European Space Agency astronaut Marcus Wandt, it includes Alper Gezeravci, Turkey's inaugural astronaut. Axiom highlights this mission as "the first all-European commercial astronaut mission" to the ISS.

**Japan Becomes Fifth Country To Land On The Moon Successfully**

Japan has marked a significant achievement in space exploration by becoming the fifth country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon. The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down near the Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator, utilizing precision technology that allowed it to land closer to its target site than any previous mission. Hitoshi Kuninaka, vice president of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), stated that SLIM had been communicating with the ground station and responding to commands accurately. Only China, India, and Japan have successfully landed spacecraft on the Moon in the past decade, with India achieving its success just last August.

**CoRover.ai Introduces BharatGPT, India's First Large Language Model**

CoRover.ai, a leading player in the Conversational AI space, has recently introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM). This groundbreaking development aims to revolutionize AI conversations across 22 Indian languages, addressing the language diversity challenges prevalent in the country. Positioned as an Indigenous Generative AI platform, BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with both voice and text modalities, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity. One of the notable achievements of BharatGPT is its extensive language integration. The model proudly supports voice modality in over 12 Indian languages and text modality in a whopping 22 languages. This impressive feat has been made possible through a strategic collaboration with the National Hub of Language Technology (NHLT) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).

**Awards & Honors News**

**UP Govt to Honour Dr. Ritu and Naveen with 'UP Gaurav Samman'**

Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh has announced the prestigious 'UP Gaurav Samman' award for two distinguished personalities – eminent scientist Dr. Ritu and renowned entrepreneur Naveen. This award highlights the government's commitment to acknowledging excellence and inspiring future generations.

**Ravi Shastri, Farokh Engineer Receive Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Awards**

Former India captain and head coach Ravi Shastri expressed his gratitude on January 21, 2024 for being awarded the prestigious Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award at a glittering ceremony organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The ceremony also saw other cricketing stalwarts, such as Farokh Engineer, being honored for their contributions to the sport. In an emotional acceptance speech, Shastri shared his sentiments on receiving the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award. He acknowledged the BCCI as his guardian throughout his four-decade-long cricketing journey, highlighting the board's role in shaping his career from a young age. Jasprit Bumrah, one of the key players in India's recent cricket success, was awarded the Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer – Men. Shubman Gill received the Polly Umrigar Best Men's International Cricketer of the Year award for his outstanding performance in the 2022-23 season. The awards ceremony also recognized Mohammed Shami for his excellence in international cricket.

**Important Dates News**

**National Girl Child Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance**

National Girl Child Day 2024, observed annually on January 24th in India, plays a pivotal role in highlighting the importance of empowering girls and addressing the challenges they face in society. Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this day marks a commitment to promote gender equality, empower girls, and protect their rights. The inception of National Girl Child Day (NGCD) in 2008 was a crucial step in India's journey towards gender equality. The first NGCD was celebrated with the theme "Saving our Girls: Educating our Girls."

**Foundation Day: Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya – Jan 21, 2024**

January 21st, 2024, marks a momentous occasion for the northeastern region of India – the 52nd anniversary of statehood for Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya. Each state, with its own vibrant culture, unique history, and breathtaking landscapes,

contributes to a rich tapestry that enhances the nation's identity. Statehood Day is celebrated with great fervor across all three states. Cultural programs, parades, musical performances, and traditional dances showcase the rich heritage of each region. People take pride in their shared history and the unique character that each state brings to the Indian union. Nagaland achieved statehood on December 1, 1963. Meghalaya became an autonomous state through the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act 1969. Finally, in 1972, Tripura and Meghalaya were granted full statehood by the North East Reorganisation Act. Covering around 10,491 km<sup>2</sup>, Tripura is bordered by Bangladesh to the north, south, and west, and Assam and Mizoram to the east. Imphal, also known as Kangleipak or Sanaleibak, serves as the capital of Manipur. Meaning "the abode of clouds" in Sanskrit, Meghalaya covers 22,430 square kilometers.

### International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 2024

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is an annual observance to remember and honour the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during World War II. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and the enduring need to fight against hatred, bigotry, and racism in all its forms. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in November 2005, with resolution 60/7.

### International Day of Clean Energy 2024, Date, History and Objectives

International Day of Clean Energy, observed on January 26, is a significant day dedicated to promoting the importance of renewable energy for a sustainable and environmentally friendly future. This day serves as a reminder of the critical role clean energy plays in combating climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.

## Sports News

### Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya Claims Bronze At France's Grand Prix

Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who faced a setback in the form of injuries, made a triumphant return to the wrestling arena by securing a bronze medal at the prestigious Grand Prix De France Henri Deglane wrestling tournament held in Nice, France. Dahiya's absence from the international scene during the entire 2023 season was attributed to injuries he sustained during practice. The setback, which included Anterior

Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and Medial Collateral Ligament (MCL) injuries to his right knee in February, forced him out of the Asian Championships in April 2023. Despite attempts to compete in the national trials for the Asian Games in July, the aggravated injury sidelined him for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, this meant missing the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade, a crucial qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

### Madrid to host Spanish F1 GP from 2026

Madrid is set to become the new host city for the Spanish Formula 1 Grand Prix starting from 2026. This marks a significant shift in the Spanish Grand Prix's location, as Barcelona has been the event's home since 1991. The transition will see Madrid hosting the Grand Prix for 10 years, from 2026 to 2035, introducing a brand-new circuit to the world of Formula 1.

### Tai Tzu Ying Clinches Victory In India Open 2024 Women's Singles

In the Olympic year, badminton enthusiasts witnessed an extraordinary performance by Chinese Taipei's legendary player, Tai Tzu Ying. After facing a Malaysian Open final loss, Tai Tzu Ying bounced back with determination, securing victory in the India Open 2024 women's singles title. Her opponent in the final was none other than the reigning Olympic champion, Chen Yu Fei of China. The Taiwanese star displayed remarkable skill and resilience, winning in straight sets with scores of 21-16, 21-12 on January 21.

### Raiza Dhillon, Gurjoat Khangura Clinch Skeet Mixed Team Bronze Medal

In a spectacular display of skill and determination, the Indian shooting duo Raiza Dhillon and Gurjoat Singh Khangura clinched the bronze medal in the mixed skeet team event at the Asian Shotgun Championships 2024 in Kuwait City. The event marked a triumphant conclusion for India, securing a total of one gold, three silvers, and four bronze medals on the closing day. Facing off against Kuwait's Abdullah Al-Rashidi and Eman Al-Shamaa, the Indian pair emerged victorious with a scoreline of 41-39 in the intense bronze medal match. In the qualification round, India finished in the seventh position with a score of 138, earning a spot in the final.

### Man Singh Clinches Gold at the Asian Marathon Championships 2024 in Hong Kong

The Asian Marathon Championships 2024 marked a historic moment for Indian athletics as Man Singh, a 34-year-old marathon runner from India, clinched the gold medal. This achievement is significant for Man Singh and Indian sports, showcasing the country's growing prowess in long-distance running.

**Sreeja Akula Secures First Global Table Tennis Title At WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024**

Indian table tennis player Sreeja Akula achieved a significant milestone in her career by securing her maiden international title at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas, USA. The 25-year-old athlete displayed exceptional skill and determination in the women's singles event, culminating in a remarkable victory. Sreeja Akula faced a formidable opponent in the final, going up against world No. 46 Lily Zhang of the USA, a three-time Olympian.

**Rohan Bopanna: A New Milestone at 43 as the Oldest World No. 1 in Men's Doubles**

Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna has etched his name in the history books by becoming the oldest player to claim the No. 1 spot in the men's doubles rankings at the age of 43. This remarkable achievement was secured following his quarter-final victory at the 2024 Australian Open, alongside Australia's Matthew Ebden.

**Obituaries News****Norman Jewison, director of 'In the Heat of the Night', passes away aged 97**

Norman Jewison, the acclaimed Canadian director best known for his work on the classic film 'In the Heat of the Night', has passed away at the age of 97. His death marks the end of a remarkable era in cinema history, where Jewison's contributions played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of modern filmmaking.

**Defence News****Indian Army Launches Operation Sarvashakti To Eliminate Terrorists**

In response to escalating terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army is launching Operation Sarvashakti, a strategic initiative aimed at curbing the influence of Pakistani proxy terrorist groups. Focused on the Pir Panjal mountain ranges in the Union Territory, this operation seeks to eliminate terrorists operating in the sensitive Rajouri Poonch sector. Operation Sarvashakti aims to conduct combined counter-terrorist operations on both sides of the Pir Panjal ranges.

**India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR Begins In Himachal Pradesh**

The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has kicked off at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Scheduled to take place from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024, this annual event has become a crucial platform for fostering collaboration and enhancing the capabilities of both nations' special forces. The

Indian Army contingent, consisting of 20 personnel, is proudly represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces). On the other side, the Kyrgyzstan contingent, also comprising 20 personnel, is represented by the Scorpion Brigade.

**India And Egypt Armies Unite For Exercise Cyclone's Special Operations**

The Indian Army contingent, comprised of 25 highly skilled personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), has arrived in Egypt to participate in the eagerly awaited 2nd edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. Scheduled to take place at Anshas, Egypt, from January 22nd to February 1st, 2024, this collaborative military endeavor aims to strengthen the ties between the two nations and foster a deeper understanding of each other's operational procedures. The Indian contingent will be joined by counterparts from the Egyptian Commando Squadron and the Egyptian Airborne Platoon, totaling another 25 personnel.

**Iran's Military Receives Advanced Homegrown Drones**

The Iranian army marked a significant milestone in its defense capabilities as it formally received a substantial number of domestically developed reconnaissance and combat drones in a ceremony held on January 23, 2024. The event, attended by the Iranian Army's Chief Commander Abdolrahim Mousavi and Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani, showcased the latest advancements in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology. The delivered UAVs encompass a diverse range of capabilities, including the multipurpose Ababil-4 and Ababil-5, Arash, Bavar, and Karrar jet-powered target drones. Each drone is tailored to specific mission profiles, highlighting the versatility of Iran's indigenous drone technology.

**India, France, UAE Conduct Joint Air Exercise Over Arabian Sea**

In a significant move towards strengthening military cooperation and addressing regional security concerns, India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea. This joint exercise, held on January 23, 2024, comes against the backdrop of rising global concerns over Houthi militants targeting commercial vessels in strategic waterways.

**Indian Navy to Establish Second VLF Communication Station in Telangana**

The Indian Navy has strategically chosen Telangana as the location for its second Very Low Frequency (VLF) communication transmission station in the country. This significant development is set to take place in the Vikarabad district, with the new VLF center scheduled for completion by 2027. VLF communication is crucial for the Navy to maintain effective communication with ships and submarines, emphasizing the strategic role of the new transmission station.

## Books &amp; Authors News

**Amit Shah Launches Book 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan'**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently launched a book titled 'Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan' in Guwahati, Assam. The event, graced by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other dignitaries, took place at the Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati's Panjabari. To make the heroic story accessible to a wider audience, the book has been translated into 23 Indian languages. This initiative was suggested by Amit Shah during the 400th birth anniversary celebration of Lachit Barphukan in New Delhi.

## Miscellaneous News

**Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Inaugurates Five New Galleries at Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad**

In a momentous event, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy, inaugurated five new galleries at the renowned Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad. Recognized as one of India's premier cultural institutions, the Salar Jung Museum has undertaken significant initiatives under the leadership of Kishan Reddy to revitalize its exhibitions.

These Five New Galleries are

1. Indian Sculpture Gallery
2. Bidriware Gallery
3. Lamp and Chandelier Gallery
4. European Bronze Gallery
5. European Marble Gallery

**Ayodhya Ram Temple's Solar-Powered "Surya Tilak" for Ram Lalla**

The Ayodhya Ram Temple, a site of immense religious significance in India, is set to introduce a groundbreaking feature – a solar-powered "Surya Tilak" for the deity Ram Lalla. This

initiative, blending spirituality with scientific innovation, highlights India's commitment to sustainable practices in cultural and religious celebrations.

**IICF To Build 'Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah' Mosque In Ayodhya**

In a significant development, the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) has announced the commencement of the construction of a grand mosque in Ayodhya, starting this May. The mosque, named "Masjid Muhammed bin Abdullah" after Prophet Muhammad, aims to foster unity and goodwill among people, transcending religious differences. The initiative comes on the same day as Prime Minister Narendra Modi presides over the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple. The senior official of the IICF, Haji Arfat Shaikh, revealed that the construction is expected to span three to four years.

**Kachchhi Kharek Gem from Kutch Receives GI Tag**

Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous date variety from the arid region of Kutch in Gujarat, has recently been awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This accolade recognizes Kachchhi Kharek as the second fruit from Gujarat, after the Gir Kesar mango, to be distinguished with such an honour.

**Maersk Reveals World's Largest Ship Fueled by Methanol**

In a monumental stride towards sustainability, maritime titan Maersk unveils its latest marvel: the Ane Maersk, a revolutionary container vessel powered by green methanol derived from green hydrogen. The Ane Maersk represents a bold leap into a greener future, boasting the title of the world's largest container vessel fueled by green methanol, a derivative of green hydrogen. This innovative propulsion system heralds a new era of eco-friendly maritime transportation. With an unprecedented capacity to carry 16,000 20ft shipping containers (TEU), the Ane Maersk eclipses its predecessor, the Laura Maersk, by nearly eightfold.

**RRB ALP  
STAGE-I CBT**

মক টেস্ট সম্পূর্ণ বাংলায় সমাধান  
20 Total Tests

Test Series

**বন্দেভারত এক্সপ্রেস ব্যাচ**

Railway ALP, Technician,  
Group D, NTPC

Starts: 29 Jan, 2024