

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (DECEMBER 2023)

INTERNATIONAL

South Korea launches its first spy satellite

South Korea launched its first military spy satellite into space, a little over a week after North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time as tensions rise between the rivals.

Venezuela votes on claim to Guyana-controlled oil region

Venezuelans are voting in a referendum that has increased up the tension between the South American country and its neighbour, Guyana. The Venezuelan government has called the referendum to attain popular support for its historical claim to a contested oil-rich area of jungle currently administered by Guyana.

India gets re-elected once again to IMO Council

India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest tally at elections held at its Assembly in London for 2024-25.

Political mission in Sudan ended: U.N.

The United Nations Security Council has voted to end its political mission named "UNITAMS" (United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan) following a request from Sudanese government last month.

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace unveiled.

The COP28 Presidency has launched the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace. This declaration tends to redirect climate finance into highly vulnerable and fragile areas, offering comprehensive financial, programming, and partnership solutions. The declaration has received support from 70 governments and 39 organizations.

Myanmar seeks political solutions to armed conflicts.

Myanmar's Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing has called on armed ethnic groups involved in fight against Myanmar's ruling military to solve their problems "politically". The Myanmar's military is facing coordinated offensives near the borders with China, India and Thailand.

China accords diplomatic status to Taliban official.

China becomes the first nation to accord diplomatic status to a Taliban nominated official, Bilal Karimi, as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Beijing.

Australia & PNG signs bilateral security agreement

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his Papua New Guinea (PNG) counterpart James Marape have signed a bilateral security agreement in Canberra. This pact allows Australia to provide PNG with more assistance for its police and support for its legal system.

Sweden signs defence cooperation agreement with US

Sweden has signed a defence cooperation agreement with the United States in Washington which will allow the US to access all of the Sweden's military bases.

State of Emergency declared in Seychelles.

In Seychelles, a state of emergency was declared after a massive explosion at an industrial area on the main island, Mahé. A number of people have been injured.

Armenia & Azerbaijan enters into a deal to exchange POWs

Armenia & Azerbaijan have agreed to exchange prisoners of war and work toward signing a peace treaty. Azerbaijan is releasing 32 Armenian military servicemen and Armenia is releasing two military servicemen, as a gesture of goodwill.

Thailand and Myanmar to set up a task force.

Thailand and Myanmar have agreed to establish a task force to boost humanitarian assistance for people displaced by fighting between the Junta army and rebel groups.

US vetoed a UNSC resolution calling for ceasefire in Gaza.

The United States has vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The resolution was put forward by the United Arab Emirates.

Putin declares candidacy for Russia's presidential election.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared his candidacy for the country's Presidential election scheduled on March 17, 2024.

Bhupender Yadav revealed three pillars of the second phase of the India - Sweden LeadIT 2.0 at COP28

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, revealed the three pillars of the second phase of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT). LeadIT Summit 2023, held in collaboration with Sweden at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

US approves sale of nearly 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition to Israel.

The US government has approved the emergency sale of nearly 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition worth more than 106 million dollars to Israel as its Defence Forces increased their military operations in the southern Gaza Strip.

Russia launches two new nuclear-powered submarines.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has launched two new nuclear-powered submarines that would soon start patrolling the Pacific region. The vessels were named the Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander.

India votes in favour of a UNGA resolution that called on Israel for an immediate ceasefire.

India has voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that called on Israel for an immediate ceasefire. The draft resolution demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict as well as the unconditional release of all hostages.

Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif acquitted in corruption case

The Islamabad High Court has acquitted former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Al-Azizia Steel mill corruption case. The acquittal comes as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief eyes a record fourth term as premier in the next general elections.

To boost tourism Indonesia plans to issue free entry visas to travellers from 20 countries.

To push up tourism industry, the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism has proposed issuing free entry visas to travelers from 20 countries including India.

COP28 concludes with landmark UAE Consensus

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai has concluded. A landmark agreement, "The UAE Consensus," was reached by 198 participating Parties, outlining an ambitious climate agenda aimed at keeping the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach. The UAE Consensus is a comprehensive document that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050.

More than 1000 Bangladeshi opposition activists convicted since September.

Bangladeshi courts have convicted more than 1,100 opposition officials and activists since September. These arrests have raised questions about the state of political freedom and rule of law in the country.

United States to gain access to 15 military bases in Finland

Nordic nation Finland in future will sign a defence agreement giving the United States access to 15 military bases in NATO's newest member. The treaty must then be approved by the Finland's country's parliament.

Venezuela, Guyana agree not to 'use force' to settle land dispute

South American Nations Venezuela and Guyana have agreed not to resort to force to settle a territorial dispute over the oil-rich Essequibo region after a tense meeting between the two countries' leaders in the Caribbean.

Iran cancels visa requirement for 33 nations

Iran has decided to cancel visa requirements for visitors from 33 more countries including including Lebanon, Tunisia, India, Saudi Arabia, and several Central Asian, African, and Muslim countries.

India, Oman adopt vision document to expand ties in 10 key areas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik adopted a vision document to expand bilateral cooperation in 10 key areas. The two leaders also pushed to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) as soon as possible during their "productive" talks to inject new momentum in India-Oman strategic ties.

US Department of State approved a \$300 million Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Taiwan

The US Department of State approved a \$300 million Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Taiwan. The sale of equipment is to help maintain Taiwan's tactical information systems. The sale is the latest US assistance for Taiwan's defenses.

Bhutan to build 1,000-sq. km. green city, Gelephu Mindfulness City

Bhutan plans to build a massive "international city" named Gelephu Mindfulness City in an area of over 1,000 sq. km. on its border with Assam, Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck announced, pitching the project as an "economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India's northeastern States".

Chile voters reject conservative constitution

Once again the Chilean voters have rejected a proposed conservative constitution to replace its current text that dates back to the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship. With 96% of votes counted late December 17, about 55.8% had voted "no" to the new charter, with about 44.2% in favor.

Earthquake hits China's Gansu & Qinghai provinces

China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces were hit by a magnitude of 6.2 on Richter scale. The earthquake struck the mountainous region of northwestern China killing 127 people in the nation's deadliest quake in nine years.

Extradition of Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed sought from Pakistan.

India has asked for the extradition Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed from Pakistan. The request was made a few weeks ago. Saeed has been in jail since 2019. He was accused of masterminding the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks and allegedly involved in other acts of terrorism in India.

U.N. warns that Myanmar stands on humanitarian disaster

The United Nations warned that the humanitarian situation in the Southeast Asian country Myanmar has worsened since the army takeover nearly three years ago. It stated that one-third of the population of Myanmar, or more than 18 million people needs humanitarian aid.

To safeguard Red Sea from militant attacks, U.S. launches multinational operation

The United States has launched a multinational operation to safeguard ship transport business in the Red Sea as attacks by Yemeni militants forced major shipping companies to reroute, inciting fears of sustained disruptions to global trade.

Colorado's state Supreme Court declares Donald Trump ineligible to run for President.

Colorado Supreme Court has declared former U.S. President Donald Trump ineligible for the Premier post under the U.S. Constitution's insurrection clause and removed him from the State's presidential primary ballot.

Gaza war: Malaysia bans Israeli-flagged ships using its ports

In response to the war in Gaza, Muslim dominated Malaysia has banned all Israeli-flagged cargo ships from docking at its ports. It also accused Israel of violating international law through the "massacre and brutality against Palestinians".

European Union reaches agreement on asylum reforms

The EU countries and lawmakers have reached an agreement on an overhaul of the bloc's laws on handling asylum-seekers and migrants. The five EU laws agreed upon addressing issues including the screening of irregular migrants, procedures for handling asylum applications.

WHO declares JN.1 variant of Covid as Variant of Interest

The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified that a sub-variant of the Omicron strain of corona virus as a "variant of interest", owing to its rapidly increasing spread. JN.1 has been found in many countries, including China, UK, India and the United States.

India sends humanitarian assistance for volcanic erupted Papua New Guinea

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has stated that India sent humanitarian assistance for the people of volcanic erupted Papua new Guinea. A relief assistance of one million dollars was announced by India for the people of Papua New Guinea.

France legislative house passes Immigration law

The French Parliament has passed legislation hardening its Immigration policy. The new law makes it more difficult for migrants to bring family members to the country and delays their access to welfare benefits. It also bans detaining minors in detention centers.

African nation Angola leaves OPEC

African nation Angola has said that it is leaving Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC after disagreements over its production targets. This decision comes after the producer group lowered Angola's oil output target last month as part of a series of cuts led by Saudi Arabia to moderate prices.

Argentina's new government orders major deregulation of economy

Argentina's new government led by Javier Milei has launched a series of measures to deregulate the country's struggling economy, eliminating or changing more than 300 rules via presidential decree, including on rent and labor practices.

US President Biden signs \$886 billion US defense policy bill into law

U.S. President Joe Biden signed into law the U.S. defense policy bill that authorizes a record \$886 billion annual military spending and policies such as aid for Ukraine and push-back against China in the Indo-Pacific.

India, Bangladesh agree to extend Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route

India and Bangladesh agreed to extend the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route. The agreement also includes Safardighi in West Bengal as the new port of call under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade (PIWT&T).

India set to buy five lithium blocks for exploration and development in Argentina.

India is close to striking a deal to acquire five lithium blocks for exploration and development in Argentina. The agreement will be signed between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.

Armed groups kill 113 people in central Nigeria.

Armed groups in Nigeria have killed more than a hundred people in central Nigeria in a series of attacks on villages. More than 300 were also injured in those attacks. This region has been often troubled for several years by religious and ethnic tensions.

Ukraine to cancel free trade deal with Belarus.

War ravaged Ukrainian government has proposed to Parliament cancelling of its free trade agreement with Belarus, which supports the Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022.

Niger suspends all cooperation with IOF Nations

West African nation Niger has suspended all its cooperation with the International Organisation of Francophone Nations (OIF). The military seized power in Niger in a coup in July which was strongly condemned by France and other Western allies.

Sweden gets Turkey's parliamentary approval for NATO membership

Turkey Parliament's foreign affairs committee has approved Sweden's bid to join NATO after months of delays, clearing another hurdle in the Nordic country's accession process.

China to face extreme climatic conditions in 2024

China's Chief Climate expert has stated that China likely has to face for another round of scorching heat and an increase in extreme weather next year due to the El Nino weather phenomenon. China is now grappling with one of its coldest Decembers on record.

U.S. releases final round of military aid for Ukraine

The United States administration has announced another round of military aid for Ukraine worth around \$250 million, amid its ongoing war with Russia. The year's final package includes air-defense and artillery munitions.

GCC signs FTA deal with S.Korea

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has signed a free trade agreement with South Korea. Under the agreement, South Korea will remove tariffs on almost 90% of all items, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), and other petroleum products, while the Gulf states will remove tariffs on 76.4% of traded products and 4% of traded goods.

Death penalty for 8 Indians commuted in Qatar

The Ministry of External Affairs had confirmed that the Qatari Court of Appeals in Doha has commuted death sentence in the case against eight former Indian naval personnel charged in an espionage case.

China launches satellite for internet technologies.

China has successfully launched a test satellite for satellite internet technologies. The satellite was launched by a Long March-2C carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

North Korean leader vowed to launch three additional military spy satellites.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has pledged to launch three new military spy satellites in 2024. Kim also plans to build military drones and increase the country's nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's election body rejects Imran Khan's nomination to contest the 2024 elections.

Pakistan's election body rejected former Prime Minister Imran Khan's nomination to contest the 2024 national elections. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief filed his papers to contest from his hometown Mianwali and Lahore.

NATIONAL

BJP wins three of four state polls.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has won three out of four key state elections that were held last month. The BJP gained Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan assemblies from the Indian National Congress. In Madhya Pradesh the BJP has won for a record fifth term by winning 163 of 230 seats. The Indian National Congress has won Telangana state, which was ruled by the incumbent Bharat Rashtra Samithi party.

Indian Railways develop AI-based software 'Gajraj' to avoid collisions.

In a bid to prevent train-elephant collisions, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the development of 'Gajraj', an indigenous software utilising optical fibre cable (OFC) to alert the locomotive pilot of any suspicious activity on or near rail tracks. The AI-based 'Gajraj' software, successfully tested in Assam.

Zoram People's Movement bags 27 of 40 seats

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) has secured an absolute majority in the state Assembly elections by winning 27 seats in the 40-member house. At the end of the counting of votes, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) managed to win ten seats.

IMD says Cyclonic Storm MICHAUNG cross South Andhra Pradesh coast

Severe Cyclonic Storm "MICHAUNG", which formed over the Bay of Bengal crossed the South Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore & Machilipatnam near Bapatla with a maximum wind speed of 90 to 100 kilometer per hour. The name Michaung was given by Myanmar.

Tourism Ministry formulates Draft policy to enhance tourism's contribution to economy

In consultation with the relevant stakeholders, the Tourism Ministry has formulated a draft National Tourism Policy, 2023 which aims to enhance the contribution of tourism in the Indian economy by increasing visitation, stay and spend, and making India a year-round tourist destination.

71% rural households across India have tap water connection

According to a data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, tap water supply has reached around 13.69 Crore households under the Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal. This covers 71 percent of total rural households.

66 airports in country operating on 100% green energy.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation V. K. Singh has said that 66 airports in the country are operating on 100 per cent green energy. Airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru have achieved higher Airports International Council accreditation and have become carbon neutral.

India so far Installs 186 GW of Non-Fossil Fuel Energy Capacity

The Centre has said that over 186 GigaWatt (GW) of energy capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources has been installed across the country till October this year, New and Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh said.

Chandrayaan Orbiter moved from Moon to Earth: ISRO

ISRO has successfully moved the Chandrayaan orbiter from Moon to Earth. After over one month of operations in lunar orbit, the Propulsion module had fuel of over 100 kgs.

Union gov. blocks over 100 websites for facilitating organized illegal investments.

Under the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre initiative, the Home Affairs Ministry has identified and blocked over 100 websites involved in organized investment or task-based - part time job frauds. As these websites facilitated task-based or organized illegal investment-related economic crimes.

Centre releases 2nd instalment of SDR Fund to AP and TN for cyclone assistance

The Union government has released in advance the central share of the second instalment of SDRF of 493.60 crore rupees to Andhra Pradesh and 450 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu to help the state Governments with the management of relief necessitated by the cyclonic storm Michaung.

Nationwide campaign to train people to give life-saving CPR launched by Union Health Ministry

Union Health Ministry has officially inaugurated a nationwide CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training program. As part of this programme, more than 10 lakh participants will be given training in a single sitting across the country.

Resignation of Union Ministers accepted by President

President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignations of Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel, and Renuka Singh Saruta from the Union Council of Ministers. Mr. Tomar's portfolio of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare was assigned to Arjun Munda in addition to his existing portfolio of Tribal Affairs.

Apex court makes video on Kesavananda Bharati verdict available in 10 languages

The Supreme court of India has released a video on the historic Kesavananda Bharati verdict in 10 Indian languages on its website. This video was launched to mark 50 years of the judgement. The verdict had laid down the "basic structure doctrine" of the Indian Constitution.

Prime Minister inaugurated the first Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale at Red Fort

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first Indian Art, Architecture & Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 at Red Fort in New Delhi. Along with IAADB the Prime Minister also inaugurated Aatmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design.

India hosts four-day 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference

India hosted the four-day 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference in New Delhi from December 11. World Investment Conference was held in India for the first time.

'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' launched in Mumbai

The Union Minister of Textiles Piyush Goyal jointly flagged off 'One Bharat Sari Walkathon' in Mumbai. The event is organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

SC upholds validity of Centre's decision to repeal Article 370 of Constitution

Supreme Court has upheld the validity of Centre's decision to repeal Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Union government had in 2019 scrapped Article 370 and split the state into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Prime Minister launches 'Viksit Bharat@2047- Voice of Youth'

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Viksit Bharat@2047 - Voice of Youth'. Viksit Bharat @2047 is the vision to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of independence.

PM Narendra Modi kicks off AI summit, GPAI

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the annual Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit in New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam. Japan is the outgoing chair of GPAI. India became the Chair of the GPAI for 2024.

Centre withdraws three criminal codes, to replace them with new Bills

Three criminal codes that seek to replace the British-era laws will be withdrawn and replaced with three new Bills after including the changes recommended by a parliamentary committee. The three criminal codes — Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023, and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023.

Security Breach inside Lok Sabha

The Indian Parliament's Lower house, Lok Sabha witnessed a security breach as two unidentified persons jumped inside the chamber of the House from the visitors' gallery. The two persons took out a smoke gas canister and hurled inside the House that led to yellow smoke.

Centre provides optical fibre connection in over 2 lakh Gram Panchayats

Electronic and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has stated in the Parliament that under Bharat Net, the centre has provided optical fibre connection in over 2 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.

Parliament Security Breach: Home Ministry sets up committee to probe

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted an inquiry committee headed by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General Anish Dayal Singh to probe the security breach in the Lok Sabha.

Barracuda is 'India's fastest' solar-electric boat launched

Barracuda, India's fastest solar-electric boat, was launched at the yard of Navalt Solar and Electric Boats, located in Alappuzha. Barracuda was designed by Navalt. The 14-metre-long, 4.4-metre-wide vessel can attain a top speed of 12.5 knots (23 kmph) and has a range of seven hours on a single charge.

India, U.S. agree on need for speed on virtual assets' standard

In a bilateral dialogue on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, India along with the USA have agreed about the pressing need to accelerate global implementation of standards for virtual assets like crypto currencies to effectively address the issue of regulatory arbitrage.

Centre allows notified private exploration agencies to participate in critical mineral blocks auction.

The Mines Ministry has permitted notified private exploration agencies to participate in the auction of critical and deep-seated mineral blocks explored by them. This will attract bigger mining companies in the exploration arena.

Flight trial of 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator' tested

DRDO has successfully carried out a flight trial of 'Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator'. It is an indigenous high-speed flying-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

13 states, UTs have again been categorised as "achievers" in the logistics index chart 2023

Coastal states Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu; landlocked States Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh; North Eastern States Assam, Sikkim, Tripura and UTs Chandigarh, Delhi are among the 13 states and Union Territories that have again been categorised as "achievers" in the LEADS [Logistics Ease Across Different States] 2023 report.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra for five states. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra virtually launched from Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Mizoram, the five states where assembly elections were held recently.

Indian Akash air defence missile system destroys 4 targets simultaneously.

During the recently conducted Exercise Astrashakti 2023, the Indian Airforce has demonstrated the firepower of its Akash surface-to-air weapon system, where a single firing unit simultaneously engaged and destroyed four unmanned targets.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Diamond Bourse

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse in Surat, Gujarat. This Bourse will be the World's largest and most modern center for international diamond and jewelry business.

Cabinet approves bilateral MoUs on digital technology with different nations.

The Union Cabinet has approved four MoUs on digital technology with Saudi Arabia, the United States, Italy and Tanzania. The MoUs were signed at different points this year.

Second phase of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 launched in Varanasi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second phase of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 at Namo Ghat in Varanasi. This initiative is part of his vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,' emphasizing unity and cultural integration across the nation.

Army Hospital successfully conducts India's first Bone Marrow Transplant

The Army Hospital in Delhi Cantonment has successfully conducted for the first time in India, a life-saving Bone Marrow Transplant for a child diagnosed with a rare primary immunodeficiency disorder. The procedure aimed to replace the defective immune cells with healthy ones.

Gujarat's Kakrapar nuclear reactor attains criticality

Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) fourth unit, which is located in Gujarat has initiated the controlled fission chain reaction and thus became critical on December 17.

Centre asks States, advises them to maintain vigil amid uptick in COVID-19 cases.

In view of the recent increase in COVID-19 cases across the country and detection of the first case of JN.1 variant in India, the Centre has urged states to maintain a state of constant attention over the COVID situation.

49 Opposition MPs gets suspended from LS

Forty-nine MPs from the opposition parties were suspended from the Lok Sabha for unruly behaviour and disregarding the directions of the Chair. This happened a day after a record 78 Parliamentarians from both houses were suspended till at least the end of the winter session.

Indian Parliament sanctions additional spending of ₹58,378 crore in current fiscal.

The Indian Parliament has sanctioned its approval for a net additional spending of ₹58,378 crore in the current fiscal ending March 2024. The extra expenditure includes ₹13,351 crore towards fertilizer subsidies and about ₹7,000 crore towards spending by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

Centre says that People with blood disorders not eligible for reservation in jobs

The Social Justice Ministry has told the Parliament that people suffering from blood disorders like thalassemia, haemophilia and sickle cell disease were not eligible for reservation in government jobs under the Persons with Disabilities category.

Railway Minister says Indian Railways to become net-zero carbon emitter by 2030.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed the Lok Sabha that the Indian Railways has set a target of becoming a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030 and is committed to taking steps for energy conservation.

Telecom Bill 2023 gets passed in Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha passed the Telecom Bill 2023 which will replace existing laws, including the 138-year-old Indian Telegraph Act. The Bill seeks to reform and simplify the regulatory and licensing regime for telecommunications and remove hurdles in creating telecom infrastructure.

Parliament Passes Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023

The Indian Parliament has passed the Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023. The Bill seeks to provide for the immediate effect for a limited period of provisions in Bills relating to the imposition or increase of duties of customs or excise. The Bill seeks to repeal the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, 1931.

Ansuman Pattnaik to head investigation unit of CCI
Competition Commission of India, CCI has selected Ansuman Pattnaik as the new head of its investigation's unit. He will replace Atul Verma.

French President to be chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had announced that the French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations next January 26, 2024. Emmanuel Macron is the sixth French leader who will be the chief guest at the 2024 Republic Day parade.

Centre to set up 17,000 creches across the country.
The Union Women and Child Development Ministry is planning to establish 17,000 creches in Anganwadi centres across the country out of which 5,222 have been approved to date.

Gujarat to allow liquor consumption in GIFT City
The Gujarat government has decided to allow alcohol consumption in GIFT City to attract global financial institutions. The state government has announced that alcohol would be allowed at hotels/restaurants/clubs offering "Wine and Dine" in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City near the state capital Gandhinagar.

In 2023 Govt gives ₹5,228 crore subsidy to incentivize 11.53 lakh electric vehicles

The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries allocated 5,228 crore rupees subsidy to incentivize 11.53 lakh Electric Vehicles in the country in 2023. The Government has also sanctioned 800 crore rupees to PSU Oil marketing companies for setting up 7432 public fast charging stations across the country.

India is ranked the third-largest consumer of energy in the world.

The Coal Ministry stated that India is ranked the third-largest consumer of energy in the world, with an annual electricity demand increase of about 4.7 percent.

Kerala the most preferred State to work: India skills Report 2024

According to the 11th edition of the India skills Report Kerala is the most preferred state to work in India for both men and women. The report also found that Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are the most preferred cities for youth in India.

Droupadi Murmu gives nod to 3 criminal bills

Indian President Droupadi Murmu has given her nod to three new criminal justice bills were passed by the Parliament last week. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, which is the principal law on criminal offences in the country. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023 replaces the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC). The CrPC provides for the procedure for arrest, prosecution, and bail. The Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023 replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The Act governs the admissibility of evidence in Indian Courts.

Indian Naval Ship Imphal inducted into the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy had commissioned INS Imphal in Mumbai, which is its latest stealth guided missile destroyer. Imphal is the first warship to have been named after a city from the Northeast.

'MedTech Mitra' Initiative launched for Indian Healthcare Innovation

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya had virtually launched "MedTech Mitra". It is a strategic initiative to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.

President Draupadi Murmu gives nod to Telecom Act

Indian President Draupadi Murmu has signed the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which is considered the successor to the Telegraph Act of 1885. The new act formalises certain practices like reserving spectrum bands for different purposes and instituting dispute resolution measures for conflicts between licensed service providers and the government.

India, Russia sign pacts on Kudankulam nuclear plant

India and Russia have signed important agreements related to the construction of the future power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant. The Kudankulam nuclear power plant is being built in Tamil Nadu with the technical assistance of Russia.

Under PLI scheme: Centre approves 746 applications till Nov,2023

The Centre has approved as many as 746 applications till November 2023 under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for 14 sectors such as pharma, white goods, and electronics.

Centre tells digital platforms not to carry ads of fraudulent loan apps.

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar has stated that the Centre has directed the social media and online platforms to avoid hosting advertisements of fraudulent loan apps.

Cabinet sanctions 4.5 km-long six-lane bridge across the river Ganga in Bihar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a 4.5 km-long six-lane bridge across the Ganga river in Bihar. The estimated total cost of the project is ₹3,064 crore, which includes construction cost of ₹2,233 crore.

FCI rice to be sold under Bharat brand

In order to maintain inflation under control, the Union government is considering a proposal to sell FCI (Food Corporation of India) rice under the 'Bharat' brand but the discounted rate has not yet been decided.

UGC once again clarifies that M. Phil. degrees are not recognised

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has once again stated that Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degrees are no longer recognised.

SC Collegium recommends CJs to five HCs

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended the names of judges for appointment as Chief Justices of High Courts of Allahabad, Jharkhand, Gauhati, Punjab and Haryana and Rajasthan.

ULFA signs peace agreement with Centre, Assam

The pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has signed a memorandum of settlement with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Assam government. With this Memorandum of Settlement, the ULFA faction has formally agreed to leave violence and join the mainstream.

President signs the Bill for appointment of CEC, ECs

India's President Droupadi Murmu has given her nod to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023. The bill seeks to put in place a mechanism for the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

PM Modi inaugurates Maharishi Valmiki International Airport at Ayodhya

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly built Maharshi Valmiki International Airport at Ayodhya. Phase 1 of the state-of-the-art airport is developed at a cost of more than ₹1450 crore.

Stamp released commemorating 200 years of Indian origin Tamils in Sri Lanka

National President J.P. Nadda released a stamp commemorating 200 years of Indian origin Tamils in Sri Lanka, at BJP Headquarters in Delhi. Mr. Nadda said it is a matter of great happiness that one is remembering the year 1823 and commemorating it with the stamp of Indian-origin Tamils, who had gone to Sri Lanka 200 years ago.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Radhakishan Damani tops Hurun's list of 200 self-made entrepreneurs of millennia

Radhakishan Damani, veteran investor and founder of retail chain D-Mart, leads the list of the Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2023, with a market capitalisation of ₹2.38 lakh crore.

Argentina sharply devalues its currency

Argentina has announced a sharp devaluation of its currency and also reduced its energy and transportation subsidies as part of shock measures announced by new President Javier Milei. Argentine peso will be devalued by 50% to 800 to the U.S.dollar from 400 pesos to the dollar.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Partners with Water.org

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) has announced a partnership with Water.org, a global non-profit organisation that helps people get access to safe water and sanitation through affordable financing, such as small loans.

Federal Bank announces strategic collaboration with NeML

Federal Bank has announced a collaboration with NCDEX E-Markets Limited (NeML) to fortify the integration of e-procurement and e-auction systems.

Bank of England and RBI signs MoU

The Bank of England (the BoE) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning cooperation and exchange of information in relation to the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd.

November GST revenues reaches to ₹1.68 lakh crore

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues grew 15.1% in November to hit nearly ₹1.68 lakh crore. November's revenues included Central GST of ₹30,420 crore, State GST

of ₹38,226 crore and Integrated IGST of ₹87,009 crore, which included ₹39,198 crore collected on import of goods.

Jitesh John gets appointed as Executive Director IBBI

Jitesh John, a 2001 batch Indian Economic Service Officer was appointed as new Executive Director of the Insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Sharp decline in FDI into India from Cayman Islands, Cyprus during April-Sep

FDI into India from Cayman Islands and Cyprus have contracted significantly during April-September this fiscal. The FDI from Cayman Islands decreased to 75 per cent to \$145 million during April-September from \$582 million in the same period last fiscal.FDI from Cyprus contracted by over 95 per cent to \$35 million during the six-month period as against \$764 million in April-September 2022-23.

Over 1.06 lakh firms voluntarily exited in last five years

The Union government has told the Lok Sabha that more than 1 lakh firms have voluntarily exited under the companies law in almost five years. Besides, many companies have sought voluntary liquidation under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

ReNew & Asian Development Bank signs pact with for \$5.3 bn

ReNew Energy Global has signed a pact worth more than \$5.3 billion with Asian Development Bank to collaborate on projects related to tackling climate change.

Moody's forecasts China's credit outlook to negative.

Moody has cut its outlook on China's government credit ratings to negative from stable, citing lower medium-term economic growth & ongoing downsizing of the property sector.

Indian government banned the export of onions till March 31, 2024

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a notification to ban the export of onions until 31st March 2024. The ban is intended to ensure enough availability of onions in the domestic markets and keeping a check on prices.

100% food-grains and 20% of sugar packaging In jute bags

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved reservation norms for mandatory use of jute in packaging for the Jute Year 2023 -24. The Mandatory packaging norms approved for Jute Year 2023-24 will provide for 100 per cent reservation of the foodgrains and 20 per cent of sugar to be compulsorily packed in jute bags.

India to become world's third-largest economy by 2030: S&P

According to the S&P Global Ratings report, India will remain the fastest-growing major economy for at least the next three years, setting it on course to become the world's 3rd largest economy by 2030.

Banks write off ₹10.57 lakh crore in 5 years

As per the RBI data, banks have written off ₹10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years, of which ₹5.52 lakh crore was in respect of loans pertaining to large industries. SCBs have written off an aggregate loan amount of ₹10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years.

Union Bank of India partners Accenture to build data lake platform

Union Bank of India has collaborated with global professional services company Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform with advanced analytics and reporting capabilities.

Wipro acquires three FMCG brands

Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting has acquired personal care brands Jo, Doy, and Bacter Shield from VVF (India) Ltd., a contract manufacturer, marking Wipro's third acquisition in 12 months.

IppoPay partners with Visa to issue credit cards to small business owners

Payment infrastructure provider IppoPay has partnered with multinational payment card services company Visa to issue credit cards to small business owners in India.

ADB sanctions \$658 million package to cash crunched Pakistan

The Asian Development Bank has sanctioned \$658 million financing package to cash-crunched Pakistan, including an expensive \$300 million loan at market rates.

India Shelter Finance to launch ₹1,200-cr IPO on Dec 13

Shelter Finance, which is an affordable housing finance company India fixed a price band of ₹469-493 a share for its ₹1,200-crore initial public offering (IPO).

Licence of U.P.'s Urban Co-op Bank Ltd gets cancelled

RBI had cancelled the licence of Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh as the bank had no adequate capital and earning prospects as well as failed to comply with the provisions of the Banking Act.

IDFC First Bank unveils UPI-based digital RuPay credit card

IDFC First Bank has announced the introduction of IDFC First Bank digital RuPay Credit Card, powered for UPI for its customers. This digital card is an addition to customers' existing IDFC First Bank Credit Cards, and it combines the benefits of UPI transactions and core credit card offerings.

MPC of RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5 %

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its bimonthly monetary policy review meeting. The Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.

UPI limit for healthcare & education payments increased to 5 lakh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment limit from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh for hospitals and educational institutions.

Additional allocation of ₹2,500 crore for the Interest Equalisation Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved an additional allocation of ₹2,500 crore for the continuation of the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit till 30th of June 2024.

Anish Shah is the FICCI President for 2023-24

Anish Shah, who is currently Group CEO of Mahindra Group and the Managing Director of M&M is the new President of Industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, FICCI.

Tata Power EV Charging partners with IOCL to set up charging points.

Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd., (TPEVCSL) has signed a MoU with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to roll out fast and ultra-fast electric vehicle (EV) charging points across India.

Centre to collect two lakh tonnes of onion during Kharif season 2023

The Union Government has stated that it will collect two lakh tonnes of onion during this Kharif season to make available enough quantity of the crop in the market.

Retail inflation inches to 5.55% in Nov. 2023

India's Retail inflation has increased up to a three-month high of 5.55 per cent in November, 2023 driven by higher food prices.

IIP growth in India reaches to 11.7% in October, 2023

India's factory output grew at a 16-month high rate of 11.7% in October, recovering from a three-month low rate of 5.8% in September, thanks to base effects from last year when output had dropped 4.1%.

Shriram Group's AUM cross ₹2.55 lakh cr.

Indian conglomerate Shriram Group's Assets Under Management (AUM) for the September quarter crossed the ₹2.55-lakh crore mark against ₹2.5 lakh crore in the previous quarter.

US apex bank keeps key interest rate unchanged.

The US Federal Reserve has kept its key interest rate unchanged for a third straight time. It kept its benchmark rate at about 5.4 percent, its highest level in 22 years.

IMF sanctions second round of \$337 million for debt ridden Sri Lanka

The IMF has sanctioned the second round of about \$337 million of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Sri Lanka, based on the debt treatment plan drawn up by the crisis-battered island nation and its bilateral creditors.

Wholesale inflation increases by 0.26% in Nov. 2023

India's wholesale prices rose 0.26% in November compared to a -0.52% rate in October. WPI inflation had been negative for the last seven months, rose sharply in November due to higher food prices.

Net direct tax collection rises 23.4% in Apr-Nov to hit ₹10.64 lakh crore

The Finance Ministry said that India's net direct tax collections increased 23.4% to hit ₹10.64 lakh crore by November 30, 2023 attaining 58.34% of the Budget estimates for the year.

BSE-listed firms, Market capitalisation increases to record high of ₹354.41 lakh crore

The market capitalisation of (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) BSE-listed companies surged to an all-time high of ₹354.41 lakh crore in early trade on December 14, 2023.

Essar Global plans to ₹55,000-cr. investment in Gujarat

The Essar Global Fund has signed three MOUs with the Gujarat Government for a total investment of about ₹55,000 crore ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024.

IT firm Tech Mahindra launches Populii for gig workers

India's IT major Tech Mahindra has launched a crowdsourcing platform named "Populii" that enables gig workers to collaborate with leading organisations through micro jobs requiring "human-in-the-loop services".

India's Forex reserves increases \$2.816 billion to \$606.859 billion

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's forex reserves increased \$2.816 billion to \$606.859 billion in the week ended December 8, 2023.

Adani Group had acquired major stake in the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)

Adani Enterprises had acquired a 50.5% stake in the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) news agency. The Adani Group's AMG Media Networks Ltd (AMNL) acquired the majority stake.

Adani New Industries spends \$2.5 bn on green hydrogen value chain

Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), an arm of the Adani Group, has spent nearly \$2.5 billion so far in developing a backward integrated value chain for its green hydrogen project. The green hydrogen plant is coming up at Mundra in Gujarat.

Uttar Pradesh positions itself as India's second-largest economy: SOIC Finance

According to a report from the prominent online blogging platform SOIC Finance, Uttar Pradesh became India's second-largest economy with a substantial 9.2% share of the nation's GDP, elevating it from its previous third-place standing. Maharashtra tops the table.

Ambuja Cements plans to invest ₹6,000 cr. in renewable power projects

Ambuja Cements Ltd is planning to invest ₹6,000 crore in 1,000 MW renewable power projects by FY26. This kind of investment will be funded through internal accruals, constitutes a diverse portfolio of solar and wind power projects strategically positioned across Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Sugar production falls to 74.05 lakh tonnes

The Indian Sugar Mills' Association (ISMA) said that the production of Sugar between October 1 and December 15, 2023 was 74.05 lakh tonnes as against 82.95 lakh tonnes produced in the last sugar season in the same period.

Sembcorp partners with Japanese companies to export green ammonia from India

Singapore's Sembcorp Industries green hydrogen unit had partnered with two Japanese firms to supply green ammonia produced in India to Japan.

IMF praises India's economic growth & calls it as star performer

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its annual Article IV consultation report, has called India a 'star performer'. It credited India's robust growth rate is due to its wise macroeconomic policies and economic reforms in key sectors like digitisation and infrastructure.

Karur Vysya Bank ties up with HDFC Life

Karur Vysya Bank has entered in to a corporate agency agreement with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products to their respective customers.

Finance Ministry allows States to borrow an extra ₹2 lakh crore this year

The Union Finance Ministry has indicated that States may be able to borrow about ₹2.04 lakh crore as additional borrowings over and above their net borrowing limits for the year 2023-24.

RBI strengthen norms to prevent evergreening of loans via investments in AIFs

The RBI has tightened its norms for Regulated Entities (RE) like all banks, all India Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies) to prevent evergreening of loans via investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

WB forms task force to act on multilateral development banks reform plan

The World Bank group President Ajay Banga has said that the bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs) laid out by an independent experts' group formed during India's G20 presidency.

World Bank releases second instalment of \$250 million to Sri Lanka

The World Bank has announced the release of the second instalment of \$250 million to the cash-strapped island country Sri Lanka. It cited Sri Lanka's continued satisfactory progress in reform programmes and this second instalment will help stabilise the economy.

U.K.'s CPI falls in November to 3.9% from 4.6% in October

British annual consumer price inflation fell in November to 3.9% from 4.6% in October, the lowest rate since September 2021. Its core inflation also cooled by an unexpectedly large amount, falling to 5.1% from 5.7%.

Tata Boeing Aerospace delivers 250th fuselage for AH-64 Apache helicopter

Boeing's first equity joint venture in India, Tata Boeing Aerospace (TBAL) has delivered the 250th fuselage for the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter from its Hyderabad facility.

Zee, Sony to extend merger deadline

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) has agreed with Sony Pictures Networks India to discuss the extension of the merger deadline.

Draft omnibus framework released for Self-Regulatory Organisations by RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a 'Draft Omnibus Framework for recognising Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) for its Regulated Entities (REs)' to develop better industry standards for self-regulation and sought comments from stakeholders.

LIC gets more time to comply with minimum public holding norm

The Centre through a one-time exemption has decided to grant one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India to achieve 25% minimum public shareholding within 10 years from the date of listing i.e. till May 2032.

Japan eases arms export controls.

For the first time in nearly a decade, Japan has eased its arms exports restrictions to allow it to send domestically produced missiles and artillery to countries that include the United State.

Centre releases nearly ₹73,000 cr. to states as of tax devolution

The Centre had released an additional tranche of tax devolution dues of nearly ₹73,000 crore to State governments in a bid to improve States' liquidity position. The released amount can be utilised by states for financing various social welfare measures and infrastructure development schemes.

Ola Electric files Red Herring Prospectus with SEBI for IPO

Ola Electric, an Indian electric two-wheeler manufacturer, has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI to raise funds for its initial public offering (IPO). The issue is a fresh issue of equity shares up to ₹5,500 crore.

IT major Microsoft to end support for Windows 10: Canlys Research

According to Canlys Research, Global IT major Microsoft Corp's is planning to end support for Windows 10 operating system. This action from the company could result in about 240 million personal computers (PCs) being disposed, potentially adding to landfill waste.

Disinvestment fetches over ₹4.20 lakh cr in past decade

Over the past decade, disinvestments have raised around ₹4.20 trillion, with ₹3.15 lakh crore was realised from minority stake sales and ₹69,412 crore came from strategic transactions in 10 CPSEs -- HPCL, REC, DCIL, HSCC, NPCC, NEEPCO, THDC, Kamarajar Port, Air India and NINL.

NABARD and ADB signed a pact to address climate change challenges in India

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a pact to address climate change challenges in India's agriculture and rural sectors. The pact also involves the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

ADB sanctions \$100 million loan improve urban services and tourism facilities in Tripura

The Union Government of India signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to avail a USD 100 million loan to improve urban services and tourism facilities in the northeastern state of Tripura.

ONGC Videsh (OVL) to raise 5,000 crore rupees via debentures and commercial paper.

ONGC Videsh (OVL) plans to raise up to 5,000 crore rupees through debentures and commercial paper to meet its short-term financing needs.

World Bank approved \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to boost Urban water and Sewerage systems

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a \$300 million loan to the Government of India's Ministry of Finance. The loan is for the Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program (TNCRUDP).

HDFC Life, NKGSB Co-Operative Bank entered into a Corporate Agency tie-up

HDFC Life, one of India's leading insurers, and NKGSB Co-operative Bank Ltd have entered into a Corporate Agency tie-up, allowing NKGSB Co-operative Bank customers to access HDFC Life life insurance products.

India-ASEAN group to review trade pact

India and the ASEAN will start negotiations in February, 2024 to modernise their decade-and-a-half-old free trade agreement (FTA). The new areas such as labour, environment, SMEs and gender are likely to be kept out.

Adani Green enters solar power deal with SECI

Adani Green Energy has completed a power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India to deliver 1,799 MW of solar power.

Intel gets \$3.2 billion grant from Israel for a new \$25 billion chip plant

Israel's government has agreed to give chip manufacturer Intel Corp. a \$3.2 billion grant for a new \$25 billion chip plant it plans to build in southern Israel, in what is the largest investment ever by a company in Israel.

Reliance-Disney Star sign new deal, mega-merger to be finalised in February 2024

Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries and Walt Disney Co. have signed a non-binding agreement in London, thereby taking the two companies one step forward to their mega-merger. Both companies will be finalising the deal in India in February 2024.

Gautam Adani plans to invest ₹9,350 crore in green energy subsidiary.

Gautam Adani and his family plan to invest ₹9,350 crore at ₹1,480.75 per share into the Group's green energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd to equip it to achieve the 45 GW target by 2030.

LIC gets permission to set up branch in Gujarat's GIFT City

The LIC board members have approved its proposal for establishing a branch in the International Financial Services Centre, GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

IDFC-IDFC First Bank merger gets approval from the RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has given its nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank. The boards of both institutions have approved the reverse merger in July. As part of the merger, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd

RBI's report indicates Asset quality of Indian banks improved to decadal high

Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Indian scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) went on improving in the second quarter of this financial year, dropping to a fresh decadal low. The GNPA ratios of SCBs fell to a decadal low of 3.9% at end-March 2023 and further to 3.2% at end-September 2023.

Investments in Participatory notes increases in November

According to SEBI, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets stood at ₹1,31,664 crore at the end of November compared to ₹1,26,320 crore at the end of October due to robust performance of the domestic market.

India planning \$1 billion fresh banana exports in next 5 years

India is planning to increase exports of banana fruit to \$1 billion in the next five years. Recently India has successfully exported a trial shipment of fresh bananas to the Netherlands through sea route.

Private bank Axis Bank files insolvency proceedings against Zee Learn

India's private bank Axis Bank has filed a petition against education services provider firm Zee Learn before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking insolvency proceedings against the company.

December IPO generates ₹9,000 crore

In December month as many as 12 companies raised ₹8,931.69 crore through IPO sales this month, making it the best IPO month in two years.

Urad and Tur Dal gets duty-free imports till March 2025

The Central government has extended the duty-free imports facility for Urad and Tur Dal by a year till March 31, 2025. The free import policy for these pulses was valid until March 2024.

Govt. makes a push for e-commerce exports
Centre has decided to extend benefits under the Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme for shipments sent abroad via courier or e-commerce channels from sectors like gems and jewellery, pharma, leather, textiles and handicrafts.

China's Xiaomi launches first electric car

Chinese consumer electronics company Xiaomi Corp has launched its first four-wheeled electric vehicle (EV) SU7.

Financial Intelligence Unit slaps notices to crypto exchanges

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which comes under the Finance Ministry's Department of Revenue had sent a notice to cryptocurrency exchange Binance for operating illegally in India through an offshore entity.

Internet giant Google okays \$5 billion consumer privacy lawsuit

Online search engine Google has agreed to settle a consumer privacy lawsuit seeking at least \$5 billion in damages over allegations it tracked the data of users who thought they were browsing the internet privately.

Exports of Gem, jewellery down by 4.52% in November

The overall gem and jewellery exports witnessed an on-year decline of 4.52% in November to ₹19,018.180 crore (\$2,263.34 million). Exports stood at ₹19,917.73 crore (\$2437.53 million) during November 2022.

India's Core sectors' growth down to 6-month low in November

The total output from India's eight core sectors posted a growth of 7.8% in November, compared to 12% in October.

Small savings schemes, Interest rates up on two schemes: January-March 2024 quarter.

The Centre raised the returns on the Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme (SSAS) from 8% to 8.2%, and on 3-year time deposits from 7% to 7.1%, for the first quarter of 2024, while retaining the status quo on interest rates for all other small savings schemes.

States, UTs to borrow ₹4,13,452 crore in Q4

RBI in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), has declared that the quantum of total market borrowings by the State Governments/UTs for the quarter January – March 2024, would be to the tune of ₹4,13,452 crore.

RBI allows extra time for implementing penal charge norms.

As part of fair lending practice, the Reserve Bank of India has granted three more months up till April 1, 2024 to banks and NBFCs to implement the modified norms for levying penal charges in loan accounts.

Maharashtra has the highest number of registered investors in India

Maharashtra has the highest number of registered investors in India, with 14.6 million investors. Uttar Pradesh is second, with 8.7 million investors. Maharashtra also leads in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

Dharmendra Pradhan Presents National Awards for Educational Innovations

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has conferred the National Award for Innovations and Good Practices in Educational Administration (2020-21 and 2021-22) on 65 outstanding district and block education officers from across the country in New Delhi. The award aims to create a culture and ecosystem of innovations and good practices in educational administration at the field level of educational administration.

2023 Diwali "Power of One" Awards": Ban Ki-Moon honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award at The Power of One Award 2023 ceremony, organised by the Diwali Foundation USA.

British Indian Smital Dhake wins UK rail award

Smital Dhake, a British Indian data scientist from Maharashtra has been awarded the UK's RailStaff Awards 2023 in the Newcomer of the Year category.

2023 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Winners

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 has been jointly awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Sri Lanka awards Golden Owl Award to three Indian officers

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremasinghe has honored three Indian officers with the prestigious Golden Owl award at the graduation ceremony. The officers were undergoing Command and Staff course at Sri Lanka's Defence Services Command and Staff College at Colombo.

Kempegowda International Airport T2 claims prize at UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles

Terminal 2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru was recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and was honoured with the world special prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.

Hardik Singh of India named FIH player of the year, Savita Punia claims women's goalkeeper of the year award

The International Hockey Federation has announced that India's Hardik Singh and Savita won the 2023 FIH Players of the Year and FIH Goalkeeper of the year award.

FIH Player of the Year in the women's category: Xan de Waard, Netherlands

FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards among men: Pirmin Blaak, Netherlands

FIH Rising Stars award: Teresa Lima (ESP) and Gaspard Xavier (FRA).

FIH Coaches of the Year awards: China women's head coach Alyson Annan, Germany men's head coach, André Henning
FIH Umpires of the Year: Ayanna McClean (Trinidad-and-Tobago) and Ben Göntgen (Germany)

National Sports Awards 2023 announced

Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023: Chirag Chandrashekhhar Shetty and Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj. Around 26 Sports persons will receive Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2023.

The Ministry also approved five coaches for the Dronacharya award in the regular category and three in the lifetime category. The Dyan Chand award in the lifetime category will be presented to three individuals.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Javier Milei

Javier Milei has taken oath as Argentina's President after winning elections. Argentina is suffering its worst economic crisis in decades, with inflation heading towards 200 per cent.

Vishnu Deo Sai

Tribal leader and former Union Minister Vishnu Deo Sai sworn in as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. He was elected as leader of the BJP's legislature party at the meeting of the 54 newly-elected MLAs.

Dr Mohan Yadav

Senior BJP leader Dr Mohan Yadav will be the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh as he was unanimously elected to this post in the BJP Legislature Party meeting. Jagdish Deora, and Public Relations Minister Rajendra Shukla have also been nominated as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Donald Tusk

Polish Parliament Members have backed Donald Tusk to become Poland's Prime Minister after its incumbent Mateusz Morawiecki had lost a confidence vote in the country's Parliament. The vote was 248 in favour and 201 against.

Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has won a record third, six-year term as Egypt's president, winning 89.6% of votes in an election in which he faced no serious challengers.

Aleksandar Vucic

Serbian incumbent President Aleksandar Vucic has claimed victory in snap parliamentary elections. His Serbian Progressive Party, or SNS, won 47% of the vote & expected to hold around 130 seats in the 250-member Assembly.

Dave Sharma

Dave Sharma, who happens to be the first Indian-origin lawmaker in Australia's Parliament in 2019, was sworn in as a Senator. He will replace ex-foreign minister Marise Payne, who retired from the Senate.

Mohammed Al Ramsi

UAE's Mohammed Al Ramsi was chosen as Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23). The event is being held in Dubai, UAE, from November 20th to December 15th, 2023.

Lalduhoma

Zoram People's Movement leader Lalduhoma has taken oath as Mizoram Chief Minister, along with a council of 11 ministers. Lalduhoma is the first non-Congress, non-Mizo National Front Chief Minister of Mizoram since its formation in 1987.

Bhajan Lal Sharma

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has selected Bhajan Lal Sharma, the first-time MLA from the Sanganer assembly constituency, as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. It has also named Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa as the deputy chief ministers of Rajasthan.

Dr Samir Shah

Dr Samir Shah, an India-born media executive who worked in UK broadcasting has been announced as the UK government's preferred candidate to take over as the new BBC chairman. He will replace Richard Sharp.

Revanth Reddy

Revanth Reddy has taken oath as the 2nd Chief Minister of Telangana following the recently concluded assembly elections. Revanth Reddy became the first Congress chief minister of Telangana.

Nikhil Dey

Indian social activist Nikhil Dey has been named as the International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US State Department. Nikhil Dey was co-founder of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS).

Alberto Fujimori

Alberto Fujimori, a former Peruvian President has been released from Lima's Barbadillo prison jail after 16 years on humanitarian grounds. He was serving a 25-year jail term for human rights abuses during his decade-long rule from 1990 to 2000.

Mahua Moitra

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has been expelled from the Lok Sabha after the House adopted the report of its Ethics Committee report. She was found guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from businessman Darshan Hiranandani to further his interest.

Fadeyeveva

A Russian court had sentenced Ksenia Fadeyeveva, who led jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny's now-banned organisation in the Siberian city of Tomsk, to almost a decade in prison. She is the latest Russian opposition figure to be detained during the war in Ukraine.

Bose Krishnamachari

Artist and curator Bose Krishnamachari has been included in the list of the world's most influential personalities in the field of art, prepared by Art Review, an internationally-renowned art magazine.

Sandra Day O'Connor

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the nation's highest court, died.

Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died. He had been in power for the past three years. Sheikh Nawaf was named crown prince in 2006 by his half-brother Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and took over as emir when Sheikh Sabah died in September 2020.

Bo Larsson

Swedish football legend Bo Larsson has died. He was 79. He featured at the World Cups in 1970, 1974 and 1978. He is regarded as one of Malmo's greatest-ever players.

Robert Solow

Robert M. Solow, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, died. He won the 1987 Nobel Prize in economics for his work on the impact of technology on economic growth. Solow is also credited as the founder of the modern model of economic growth.

Vijayakant

Founder of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) political party and a noted Tamil actor Vijayakant passed away at the age of 71 after testing

positive for Covid-19. He had a successful film career spanning over 150 movies, earning the title "Captain" after his hundredth film, "Captain Prabhakaran."

Jacques Delors

Jacques Delors, a former head of the EU Commission and key figure in the creation of the Euro currency, has died. He served as President of the European Commission for three terms from January 1985 until the end of 1994.

SPORTS

Vaishali Rameshbabu becomes India's 84th grandmaster

Vaishali Rameshbabu has become India's 84th grandmaster after surpassing 2500 rating during the 2023 IV Elllobregat Open. Vaishali is now the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.

India defeats Australia in 5th & final T20I Cricket

India has defeated Australia by six runs in the fifth and final T20 International Cricket. With this win it recorded a comprehensive 4-1 series win at Bengaluru.

Indian pair lost women's doubles final in the Syed Modi Badminton tournament.

The Indian pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa have lost to Japan's Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanish in the women's doubles final at the 2023 Syed Modi India International Badminton tournament.

IBA Junior World Boxing Championship: India claims 3 gold, 5 silver and 1 bronze medals

India has bagged three gold, five silver and one bronze medals on the last day of IBA Junior World Boxing Championship 2023 at Yerevan, Armenia.

Tennis: India's Ramkumar Ramanathan claims Kalaburagi Open

Ramkumar Ramanathan of India has won his third ITF title after beating Austrian David Pichler in the final of the Kalaburagi Open at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium.

Chess: Scottie Scheffler clinches Hero World Challenge title

Scottie Scheffler has claimed the Hero World Challenge, title. Scheffler has scored a bogey free four-under 68 in the final round with a comfortable three shots ahead of nearest rival Sepp Straka.

Bengaluru hosted Men's Volleyball Club World Championship

Bengaluru hosted the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) Men's Volleyball Club World Championship 2023 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium. For the first time, this prestigious tournament was held in India.

India's Ravi Bishnoi is world's No.1 T20I bowler

India's leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi has taken to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart on the back of his recent player of the series-winning performance against Australia. Bishnoi is on 699 rating points.

Ashwini & Tanisha Crasto win women's doubles title at Guwahati Masters badminton tournament

The duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto have won the women's doubles title at the Guwahati Masters 2023 badminton tournament. They defeated the Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui to win their second title as a pair.

Sports Minister inaugurate first-ever Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the first-ever Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi. More than 1,400 participants from across 32 states and Union Territories including Services Sports Control Board are participating in the 8-day event.

ICC Under-19 World Cup: India's first match is with Bangladesh on January 20

In the Under-19 World Cup to be held in South Africa, India will start their first match against Bangladesh on January 20 in Bloemfontein, South Africa as per ICC's revised schedule.

Asad Shafiq announces retirement from all forms of the game

Pakistan's Asad Shafiq has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Asad scoring 4660 runs in 77 games at a healthy average of 38.19 including 12 hundreds and 27 fifties.

Leander and Vijay Amritraj inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame

India's Tennis legends Leander Paes & Vijay Amritraj has made it into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Paes was inducted in the players' category and Amritraj in the contributors category. They are the first two Indians to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

2023 FIH Junior men's hockey World Cup: India lose to Germany 1-4 in semifinal

India loses 1-4 to Germany in the semifinal of junior men's hockey World Cup. Six-time champions Germany earned just two penalty corners in the whole match but scored on both the occasions. In this match India wasted as many as 12 penalty corners.

United World Wrestling (UWW) Rising Star of the Year is Antim Panghal

Antim Panghal, a two-time World under-20 champion and senior Worlds bronze medallist (53kg) has been named United World Wrestling (UWW) Rising Star of the Year 2023 in women's section.

India becomes the 2nd-ever Women's team to post 400-plus runs in a single day of Test Match

In Women's Cricket, India scored a huge 410 runs for the loss of 7 wickets on first day of the one-off Test against England. India thus becomes only the second team in women's Tests to score 400 runs in a single day after England did this in 1935.

Indian women's cricket team register biggest 347-run win over England

India women's cricket team registered a historic 347-run win over England in the one-off Test match held in Mumbai. This is the largest victory margin by runs in the history of women's cricket.

Tamil Nadu will host Khelo India games in January 2024

Khelo India games will be held in Tamil Nadu in January, 2024. The Tamil Nadu State Government said that the games will be held in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, and Trichy from the 19th to the 31st of January.

First-ever Khelo India Para Games: Haryana tops medal tally

The first-ever Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) concluded in New Delhi. Haryana has secured the inaugural title by securing 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronze. Uttar Pradesh came second with 62 medals.

Bengaluru Mavericks wins the 2023 Tennis Premier League Title

Bengaluru SG Mavericks has been crowned the champions of the fifth season of the Tennis Premier League after beating Bengal Wizards in the final.

Haryana emerge winners in the finals of Vijay Hazare Trophy

Haryana emerged as champions in the 2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Rajasthan by 30 runs in the final at Rajkot. Chasing a victory target of 288, Rajasthan managed to score 257 in 48 overs.

Dubai Para Badminton International 2023: Manasi-Murugesan wins women's doubles gold

India's double's pair of Manasi and Murugesan have defeated the Indonesian pair of Leani Ratri Oktilla and Khalimatus Sadiyah to secure the gold in women's doubles SL3-SU5 category at the 5th Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International 2023.

Starc & Cummins are most expensive IPL players

Australia's Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins have become the most expensive players in the history of the IPL. During the recently concluded IPL 2024 auction in Dubai, Mitchell Starc was bought by KKR for a whopping 24.75 crore rupees and Cummins to Sunrisers Hyderabad for 20.50 crore rupees.

Gukesh wins Chennai Grand Masters 2023 title.

India's D. Gukesh has won the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 tournament title by holding P.Harikrishna for a draw.

India beat South Africa to claim the three match ODI series 2-1

India beat South Africa by 78 runs in the third and final ODI of their three-match cricket series, at Boland Park. This victory helped India claim the ODI series 2-1.

Man City wins 2023 FIFA Club World Cup Final

Manchester City won the Fifa Club World Cup for the first time by beating Brazilians Fluminense winning 4-0 in Saudi Arabia. Julian Alvarez scored twice for Manchester City.

South Africa's Dean Elgar announces retirement after Test series against India

South Africa's Test Opener Dean Elgar had announced that he will retire from the international cricket after the Test series against India. He played for South Africa in 84 Tests and eight One-Day Internationals during his 12-year long career.

Indian Women's Cricket team records maiden Test victory over Australia

The Indian women's team achieved a historic Test win against Australia, marking a major landmark in Indian cricket. This is India's first victory against Australia in 11 tests since the teams first clashed in the longest format in 1977.

Anmol Kharb crowned women's singles title at 85th National Badminton Championships

Anmol Kharb, 16, won the women's singles title at the 85th National Badminton Championships 2023. In the men's singles title clash unseeded Chirag Sen secured the national title.

English football club Manchester United gets a buyer

Jim Ratcliffe, a British billionaire has made a deal to buy a 25% stake in Manchester United. He further pledged to invest \$300 million in the club to try to revive its fortunes.

IOA constitutes Ad Hoc committee to run affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had constituted a three-member Ad Hoc committee comprising Bhupinder Singh Bajwa as Chairman, MM Somaya and Manjusha Kanwar as Members. The committee is given the responsibility to observe and supervise the operations of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

World Rapid Chess Championship 2023: Carlsen and Anastasia Bodnaruk wins

Norway's Magnus Carlsen won his fifth World Rapid and 16th World Championship crown at the 2023 World Rapid Chess Championships in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. In the women's section, Russia's Anastasia Bodnaruk has won the Women's event. She defeated India's Koneru Humpy in the Playoffs to clinch the Gold.

South Africa beats India to claim first Test.

South Africa beat India by an innings and 32 runs, and it takes a 1-0 lead in the two-match test series at Super Sport Park in Centurion.

MISCELLANEOUS

Top Russian court bans LGBT movement

Russia's Supreme Court ruled that LGBT activists should be designated as extremists, in a move that representatives of gay and transgender people say will lead to arrests and prosecutions.

Plane carrying Indian passengers to leave France after trafficking probe

French authorities have said that a plane carrying more than 300 Indian passengers which has been detained at an airport in France has been cleared to leave after a probe into human trafficking claims.

Venezuela holds military exercises.

Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has ordered its armed forces to conduct defensive exercises in the Eastern Caribbean after the UK sent a warship toward Guyana's territorial waters as the South American neighbours dispute a large border region.

Forbes' Most Powerful Women List: 4 Indians in the list

The Forbes Magazine has released its annual list of Most Powerful Women, and four Indians were figured in the 2023 edition of the list. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is the highest-ranking Indian woman on the list with 32. The other three Indians were - HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank 60), SAIL chairperson Soma Mondal (rank 70), and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (rank 76). Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission has topped the list.

Russian embassy reopens in Burkina Faso

The Russian embassy got reopened in African nation Burkina Faso after a gap of nearly 32 years. The embassy was closed in 1992.

Roscosmos, NASA agree to continue ISS until 2025

Russian space agency Roscosmos and U.S. space agency NASA have agreed to keep working together to deliver crews to the International Space Station (ISS) until at least 2025.

China launches experimental reusable robotic spacecraft into orbit.

China has successfully launched a reusable robotic spacecraft for the third time since 2020, aimed at developing reusable technologies to reduce space mission costs.

Road deaths drop globally: WHO report

According to the WHO's Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023, shows road traffic deaths fell by 5% to 1.19 million fatalities annually worldwide between 2010 and 2021, with 108 UN member nations reporting a drop. India, however, has registered a 15% increase in fatalities.

Myanmar occupies first place as world's biggest opium producer

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023, Myanmar occupied first place as the world's biggest opium producer. From 2022 to 2023.

ICG Ship SAJAG on a Strategic Port Visit to UAE

As part of its ongoing strategic overseas deployment to West Asia, the Indian Coast Guard Ship SAJAG is on a three-day visit to the UAE. SAJAG is an Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Coast Guard fleet based on the West Coast of India in Porbandar, Gujarat.

Oxford University Press word of the year is 'Rizz'

The Oxford University Press has selected "rizz" as its word of the year. The word describes someone's ability to attract or seduce another person.

Gujarat's Garba dance found place in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list

Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been figured in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Garba is celebrated for 9 days during the festival of Navaratri .

TIME magazine names Taylor Swift, 2023 Person of the Year

Pop singer and lyricist Taylor Swift as Person of the Year making her the first woman to appear twice on a Person of the Year cover since the franchise began in 1927. The OpenAI founder Sam Altman was chosen as CEO of the Year 2023. Football great Lionel Messi as chosen as Athlete of the Year 2023.

QS World University Rankings 2024 University of Delhi (DU) is the topmost sustainable institute in India.

The University of Delhi (DU) is the most sustainable Indian institute in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024. Globally, the university has been ranked at 220. The University of Toronto has topped the list.

India ranked 7th in the 2023 Climate Change Performance Index

India has ascended to the 7th position in 2023 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

India received a high ranking in the Green House Gasses (GHG) Emissions and Energy Use categories.

Gemini, Google's next generation AI system launched

Search engine company Google has launched its next generation AI system called Gemini AI. The AI will be available in three modes — Ultra, Pro and Nano. Gemini will be utilising the biggest LLM (large language model) to perform its AI tasks.

World's Largest Concentrated Solar Power Project gets launched in Dubai

Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has inaugurated the fourth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar

Park, thereby marking the launch of the world's largest concentrated solar power (CSP) project. The 950 MW phase was constructed at an investment of AED15.78 billion.

China launches a Long March-11 carrier rocket into space

China's Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center had witnessed the launch of the Long March 11 carrier rocket from waters off the coast of Yangjiang, sending three satellites into planned orbit.

China put curbs on export of rare earth processing technologies

China, which is the world's top processor of rare earths, has banned the export of technology to extract and separate the strategic metals. It also banned the export of production technology for rare earth metals and alloy materials as well as technology to prepare some rare earth magnets.

1 December is World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day 2023 is observed on 1 December each year and aims at raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by HIV infection. the theme of World AIDS Day 2023 is 'Let communities lead'.

International Day of Banks observed on December 4

International Day of Banks is celebrated on December 4 every year in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks & other international development banks in financing sustainable development.

Armed Forces Flag Day to honour martyrs & soldiers in Indian armed forces observed on Dec 7

India observes Armed Forces Flag Day on December 7 every year to honour the martyrs and the soldiers in the armed forces. It has been observed on this day annually since 1949.

International Anti-Corruption Day: 9th December

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed worldwide on December 9 every year. The theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2023 is "UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption"

The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide: 9th December

The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide is observed every year on December 9. The day marks the anniversary of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the first human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Vijay Diwas: 16th December

Vijay Diwas, is being commemorated across the country on December 16 every year, to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war and to pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.

National Consumer Rights Day: 24th December

National Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on December 24th every year. The day commemorates the passing of the Consumer Protection Act in 1986, which was approved by the President on December 24th.

Good Governance Day: 25th December

Good Governance Day is celebrated annually on December 25th to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.