

US to provide its key Patriot missile defence system to Ukraine



The United States has announced that it would provide its key Patriot missile defence system to Ukraine. The Patriot missile system can be used as a shield against short-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and incoming jets. This will be the first-ever handover of such a defence system to Ukraine and strengthen the Ukrainian defence. The White House stated that the Patriot missile system would be part of another 1.85 billion dollars in aid to Ukraine.

The package also includes military vehicles, mortars, ammunition for HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems), and small arms.

Peru orders Mexico's ambassador to leave country within 72 hours



Peru has ordered the Mexican ambassador to leave within 72 hours after Mexico granted asylum to the family of ousted Peruvian President Pedro Castillo. Mr Castillo was removed from office earlier this month after he tried to dissolve Congress. He is being investigated in Peru on charges of rebellion and conspiracy. But Mexico has been supportive of the ousted President and said early on that it was considering granting him asylum. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has called the removal of Mr Castillo undemocratic.

Israeli Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu secures a deal to form new government



Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said that he has secured a deal to form a new government after weeks of tough negotiations with far-right coalition partners. Mr. Netanyahu informed President Isaac Herzog that he has managed to form a government. Netanyahu's conservative Likud and like-minded religious-nationalist parties won a comfortable majority in a November 1 election, promising him 64 of Parliament's 120 seats. But agreement to form a government was held up by disputes over issues ranging from planning authority in the West Bank to ministerial control over the police.

Shah Rukh Khan is the only Indian in Empire Magazine's list of '50 Greatest Actors of All Time'



Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has become the only Indian to be named in an international list of 50 greatest actors of all time by a prominent British magazine. He was included in Empire magazine's list which also recognises Hollywood giants like Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Anthony Marlon Brando, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson and many others.

Gujarat's Sun Temple, Vadnagar Town Among 3 In UNESCO Heritage Sites List



Three new cultural sites in India, including iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, historic Vadnagar town in Gujarat and rock-cut relief sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. The Sun Temple, Modhera dedicated to Surya Dev, is the earliest of such temples which set trends in architectural and decorative details, representing the Solanki style at its best. Vadnagar is a municipality under Mehsana district of Gujarat. A multi-layered historic town, the history of Vadnagar stretches back to nearly 8th century BCE. Unakoti, located in the northeastern region of Tripura, is known as an ancient holy place associated with Shaiva worship. With this, India now has 52 sites on UNESCO Tentative List. The list indicates rich cultural and natural wealth of India and shows huge diversity of our heritage.

Indian Navy launches INS Arnala; first ship of ASW SWC Project



Arnala, the first ship of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, ASW SWC Project, being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, GRSE for the Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai. The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala located about 13 Km north of Vasai, Maharashtra by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low Intensity Maritime Operations including subsurface surveillance in littoral waters. The ASW SWC ships will have over 80 per cent indigenous content, ensuring that large-scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units.

Parliament passes Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill 2022 with Rajya Sabha's approval



Parliament has passed the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill has already been passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas. It applies to the sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone, which is beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline. The Bill defines piracy as any illegal act of violence, detention, or destruction against a ship, aircraft, person, for private purposes, by the crew or passengers of a private ship or aircraft.

Between 2008 and 2011, 27 incidents of maritime piracy took place in which 288 Indian nationals were involved. While in 2014 to 2022, 19 incidents of piracy happened in which 155 Indian crew members were involved.

Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa best performers in social progress index



Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Goa have emerged as best-performing among all states and Union Territories in the Social Progress Index (SPI), while Jharkhand and Bihar as worst, according to a report mandated by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The report titled 'Social Progress Index: States and Districts of India' released by EAC-PM Chairman Bibek Debroy further said that Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) have emerged as the top three best-performing districts.

The report has been prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and the Social Progress Imperative and was mandated by the EAC-PM. The report ranks 36 states/Union Territories and 707 districts of India based on their performance across various social progress indicators in terms of access to education, healthcare, water and sanitation, exercising personal freedom and choice, ensuring shelter, personal safety and quality environment for people.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar becomes only University in India to get A grade by NAAC



The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar has got A grade by scoring 3.85 points in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading, thereby becoming the only University in India to get this score. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has congratulated the university on the accomplishment, saying it is the result of persistent efforts made by everyone. He expressed hope that all the universities in the state will replicate Guru Nanak Dev University to bring laurels for the state.

MoHUA kickstarts ground survey of Pey Jal Survekshan from 15th December 2022



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has kickstarted the ground survey of Pey Jal Survekshan from the 15th of this month. The Survey is to assess the service level compliance of the city with respect to quality, quantity, and coverage of water supply, sewerage and septage management, the extent of reuse and recycling of used water, and conservation of water bodies in 500 Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) cities.

The Survey will serve as a monitoring tool and an accelerator for the AMRUT Mission while also fostering healthy competition among cities. The Pey Jal Survekshan under AMRUT 2.0 was launched by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri in September this year.

NHA facilitates faster OPD under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission



Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

The National Health Authority under its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is facilitating faster OPD registration service for patients in hospitals through Scan and Share service. More than one lakh patients have availed the benefit of using this service. The service, which was piloted from a single hospital in New Delhi in October 2022, has now been adopted in over two hundred health facilities across 18 states in the country. It said, the states of Karnataka, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh are among the leading states which are using this facility for providing better service delivery to patients.

Fifth Scorpène-class submarine Vagir delivered



The Indian Navy has received the fifth scorpene-class submarine 'Vagir' ahead of its planned commissioning next month. The induction of the submarine, built under Project-75, is all set to bolster the India's naval combat capability. India has been focusing on shoring up its maritime capability with a focus on the Indian Ocean in the backdrop of concerns over China's growing forays into the region, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. The submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.

Elon Musk to step down as Twitter CEO



Elon Musk will step down as the Twitter CEO. In a tweet, Musk said he will quit after finding a replacement. Musk's Twitter post came as a reply to his earlier poll, where he asked people if he should resign as the head of Twitter. He also promised that he would abide by the results of the poll. The result of the poll showed that 57.5 percent of respondents were in favour of Musk stepping down.

Mobile phone exports double up as compared to previous year: garners revenue worth Rs 40 thousand crores



NITI Aayog has informed that during the current year up to November 2022, mobile phone exports have already crossed 40,000 crore rupees, which is more than double the exports made during the same period last year, 2021. The production of mobile phones has risen from about six crores in 2014-15 to approximately 31 crores in 2021-22. Providing a boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, has helped India make rapid advances in the past five years in the field of electronics manufacturing.

India said to plan stabilisation fund to bolster carbon market



India is planning a stabilisation fund to keep prices of credits in its planned carbon market above a certain threshold, ensuring that they remain attractive for investors and that the market succeeds in cutting emissions. Money in the fund would be used by a market regulator to buy carbon credits if prices fell too low. Consistent investor interest in credits and a floor under the price would be needed as sharp falls in the market could discourage industries from reducing carbon dioxide emissions. In creating a carbon market, a country sets limit on emissions and then allocates a corresponding quantity of tradable permits, or credits, to the emitters. The quantity reduces over time.

Torrent is highest bidder for Reliance Capital at ₹8,640 cr.



Torrent Group emerged as the highest bidder for debt-ridden Reliance Capital in the auction conducted as part of its resolution process. Ahmedabad-based Torrent Group submitted a bid of ₹8,640 crore for acquiring the NBFC firm set up by the Anil Ambani Group. Hinduja Group was the second highest bidder.

ADNOC arm, AG&P sign deal for India LNG terminal



The maritime logistics arm of state oil firm Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Singapore-based Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific (AG&P) have signed a charter agreement to use a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier as a floating storage unit in India. The LNG carrier is owned by ADNOC Logistics & Services. The pact is valid for 11 years with the option of a four-year extension, and is the third agreement signed between the two companies for a floating storage unit lease in India and the Philippines.

Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 to take place between March 28 to April 2nd in New Delhi:
United World Wrestling



The Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 will take place between March 28 to April 2nd in New Delhi, announced United World Wrestling. The Championship will feature men's freestyle, women's freestyle, and men's Greco-Roman divisions. The first and second events will take place in Zagreb and Cairo in February while the third and fourth events will take place in Bishkek and Budapest in June and July.