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Sheikh Hasina's Awami League Wins 5th Term In Bangladesh Elections

- Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** won the re-election for a **fifth term** in the national elections that were conducted amidst the boycott by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by former PM Khaleda Zia, who is currently in jail.
- Sheikh Hasina's party **Awami League** has won a fourth consecutive term in the **12th parliamentary election**, marking the second lowest voter turnout since the reinstatement of democracy in 1991.
- India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma during his call on to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina conveyed, on behalf of the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, warm greetings and congratulations to her on her election victory. He expressed hope that during the new term of her government, there will be even stronger momentum and growth in the bilateral partnership in support of each other's national development.



Purple Fest 2024: Global Celebration Of Inclusivity Begins In Goa

- **The International Purple Festival 2024** started in **Goa on 8th** January. It will be organized in Goa from 8th to 13th January 2024. The festival showcases its vibrant celebration of inclusivity and empowerment.
- Mainly, three departments play a role in organizing this festival. These are as follows:
 - 1. Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa
 - 2. Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa
 - 3. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- The festival promises to be a celebration of diversity, inclusivity and empowerment on a global scale.
- The objective of this festival is to showcase the talents of persons with disabilities through attractive performances in music, dance and entertainment.
- An extraordinary moment of the inauguration ceremony was the presentation of Purple named 'Dhumal'. In this, performances will be given by disabled people from different areas of Goa as well as respected composers of the Indian music industry. Thus, events are primarily a symbol of inclusivity and unity.



➤ **About Goa:**

➤ **Capital:** Panaji

➤ **Governor:** P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

➤ **Chief Minister:** Pramod Sawant



ISRO Successfully Tests High Efficiency And Low-Cost Fuel Cell

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully tested 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) in its orbital platform, POEM3.
- It was launched on PSLV-C58. This fuel cell has been designed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC).
- The fuel cell successfully provided energy to a payload of POEM-3 as a battery. During the test, voltage, current and temperature in orbit were measured with the help of telemetry and were as expected.
- The energy system operated for 21 hours in 15 orbits during the flight.
- This experiment is aimed to assess the polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cell, to collect data to facilitate operations in space and design systems for future missions.



Kerala woman creates Guinness World Record, sings in over 100 languages

- Kerala women created a Guinness World Record after singing in over **100 languages**. **Suchetha Satish** performed in a total of 140 languages in a Dubai .
- The concert is titled **“Concert for Climate”**. The video of her performance was shared on Instagram. She could be seen singing melodious songs, and it was a complete treat to ears.
- The World Record was set by singing in 140 languages in 9 hours, during my concert by climate.
- According to the official Guinness World Records page, **Ms Satish broke** the record by performing **140 languages** raising awareness about climate change at the Indian Consulate Auditorium in Dubai. There are over 140 representing over 140 nations attending the **COP 28 summit in Dubai**.

- The stage was set for the 75th anniversary celebrations of India's independence and the 50th formation of the UAE.
- She attempted at 12 oms and with a rendition of a Sanskrit song called "Janki Jane" from Dhvani which is a Malayalam movie. She ended her streak with a Hindi song which is written by her mother, Sumitha Ayilliath, and composed by Bollywood composer Monty Sharma.

Assam launched India's 1st 100% Electric Bike Taxi service

- The Government of Assam marked a historic moment with the launch of “**Baayu (An app-based Electric Bike Taxi Service)**”, an innovative and forward-thinking sustainable mobility initiative of **ASTC launched** by Honorable Minister of Transport Parimal Suklabaidhya.
- The event witnessed the unveiling of India's first app-based 100% electric and decentralized bike taxi services.
- Baayu (An App based Electric Bike Taxi Service) by ASTC in collaboration with Bikozee Ecotech a startup from Assam is launching India's first 100% electric and decentralized bike taxi services, ushering in a new era of eco-friendly transportation solutions to be integrated with ONDC.
- Baayu aims to generate **5,000 livelihood opportunities** for driver-partners in Assam by supporting electric vehicles, technology platforms, Insurance, training, skill development and operating licenses in line with Assam Aggregator Rules 2022.
- This initiative will save an astounding **29,000 tons** of carbon emissions annually. Baayu is poised to save **Rs. 73 crores** annually on fuel costs.



Ex-Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's Autobiography

“Four Stars of Destiny”

- In a remarkable literary venture, “**General Manoj Mukund Naravane**”, the former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of the Indian Army, has penned his autobiography titled “**Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography.**”
- Scheduled to be published in **January 2024 by Penguin Veer**, an imprint of Penguin Random House India, the book delves into the diverse experiences that have shaped Gen MM Naravane's character, spanning from his childhood to his illustrious years in the armed services.
- **Gen MM Naravane** served as the **28th Chief of Army Staff**, leading the Indian Army with distinction from December 2019 to April 2022.
- Gen MM Naravane's contributions have been recognized both nationally and internationally. Notably, he was honored with the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) in 2019**, highlighting his exceptional service to the nation.
- The autobiography provides insights not only into the individual but also into the evolving landscape of the Indian Army during his leadership.





Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced ‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023’

- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced **‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar’ 2023**.
- ‘Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar’ is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- The six core awards which constitute India’s National Sports Awards are the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or simply the Khel Ratna, the Arjuna Award, the Dronacharya Award, the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, also called the MAKAT Trophy, and the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.
- Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, Government has decided to confer awards upon the following entities:



GIFT City is set to host 10th Gujarat global investment summit

- Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, conceptualized in 2003 under the visionary leadership of the then Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has evolved as one of the most reputed global forums for business collaboration, knowledge sharing and strategic partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- The **Tenth edition** of **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit** is being held from 10 to 12 January 2024 in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. Its theme is '**Gateway to the Future**'.

- This Tenth Edition of the Summit will celebrate “20 Years of Vibrant Gujarat as the Summit of Success”.
- There are 34 Partner countries and 16 Partner organisations for this year’s Summit. Further, the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region will utilise the Vibrant Gujarat platform to showcase investment opportunities in the North-Eastern regions.
- The Summit will host various events including seminars and conferences on globally relevant topics such as Industry 4.0, Technology and Innovation, Sustainable Manufacturing, Green Hydrogen, Electric Mobility and Renewable Energy and Transition towards Sustainability.
- In the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show, companies will display products made from world class state of the art technology. E-mobility, Start-ups, MSMEs, Blue Economy, Green Energy & Smart Infrastructure are some of the focus sectors of the Trade Show.



Automobile retail sales rose 11% annually in 2023 : FADA

- Retail auto sales in India jumped **21 per cent in December 2023** to 1,990,915 units, as compared to 1,643,514 units in December 2022, according to the data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).
- In the calendar year 2023, the retail sales were up 11 per cent to 23,867,990 units against 21,492,324 units in 2022.
- However, the sales in December 2023 were 30.25 per cent lower than 2,854,242 units in November.
- During the month, all categories reported positive growth. The sales of two-wheelers rose 28 per cent, three-wheelers by 36 per cent, passenger vehicles (PVs) by 3 per cent, Tractors by 0.2 per cent and commercial vehicles by 1.3 per cent.
- In 2023, too, all segments reported a positive growth. The two-wheeler sales grew by 9.5 per cent, three-wheelers by 58.5 per cent, PVs by 11 per cent, Tractors by 7 per cent and CVs by 8 per cent.



Der Kaiser Franz Beckenbauer passes away

- **German football federation** informed about the demise of **football legend Franz Beckenbauer**, who was one of only three players to win the FIFA World Cup as a player and as a coach.
- Franz Beckenbauer is widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time and is known for his elegant playing style and versatility on the field.
- The legend was well-known for his ability to read the game and contribute both defensively and offensively.
- Der Kaiser's influence extended beyond the field, making him one of the most respected figures in the history of football.

UP to set up Pharma Park

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government is setting up a **pharma park** in **Lalitpur, Bundelkhand**, covering 1,472-acre across five villages, according to the “**Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)**”.
- The plan will unfold in **two phases**, with an initial focus on immediate development efforts covering 300 acre of land. The villages identified for the survey include Saidpur (426 acre), Gadolikala (249 acre), Largan (239 acre), Karounda (116 acre), and Rampur (441 acre).
- The establishment of the Pharma park and the acceleration of associated projects mark a strategic move by the Uttar Pradesh government towards fostering industrial growth and economic development.
- The utilization of modern surveying techniques underscores a commitment to precision and efficiency in the planning and execution of these initiatives.
- As the survey progresses and development efforts gain momentum, the Pharma Park in Lalitpur is poised to become a key contributor to the pharmaceutical sector, offering economic opportunities and reinforcing Uttar Pradesh’s position on the industrial landscape.





Fino Payments Bank applied for SFB license

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that **“Fino Payments Bank applied for a licence to become a Small Finance Bank (SFB)”**.
- According to the guidelines, payments banks were allowed to apply for a conversion into **SFB post five years** of operations along with meeting other guidelines mandated by the RBI.
- The bank must also have a minimum paid-up voting equity capital or net worth of **Rs 200 crore**.
- In July 2023, the board of Fino Payments Bank, which started operations in 2017, gave approval to the transition into a small finance bank, subject to necessary approval.
- During the July-September quarter of FY24, the net profit of the bank had increased by **41.5 per cent** year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to **Rs 19.5 crore**. The revenue increased by **18.2 per cent to Rs 358.6 crore**



Aruna Nayar takes over as Secretary, Railway Board

- **Ms. Aruna Nayar**, Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) Officer of 1987 Batch and Level-16 empanelled IRMS officer has been appointed as **Secretary of Railway Board**.
- She was earlier functioning in Railway Board as Additional Member, Staff since May, 2023 and as Principal Executive Director/Staff, Railway Board from Feb, 2022 to May, 2023.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on 05.01.2024 appointed her as Secretary, Railway Board in IRMS Level-16.
- Ms. Nayar is also the first IRPS officer to be empanelled in IRMS in Level-16.

PM Modi launched 'Swachh Mandir' campaign ahead of Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**Swachh Mandir**' (Clean Temple) campaign across the country with an aim to make pilgrimage sites pristine.
- He urged the people nationwide, to kick off a cleanliness campaign at smaller pilgrimage sites starting from Makar Sankranti (January 14) and continue until January 22.
- He launched the campaign, ahead of the upcoming consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22.
- Emphasizing the inclusive nature of the initiative, PM Modi said Lord Ram belongs to everyone and when Lord Ram is coming, not a single temple or pilgrimage site should remain untidy.
- The campaign will involve all elected representatives, including MPs, MLAs, and panchayat representatives, who will collaborate to ensure the success of the cleanliness drive.





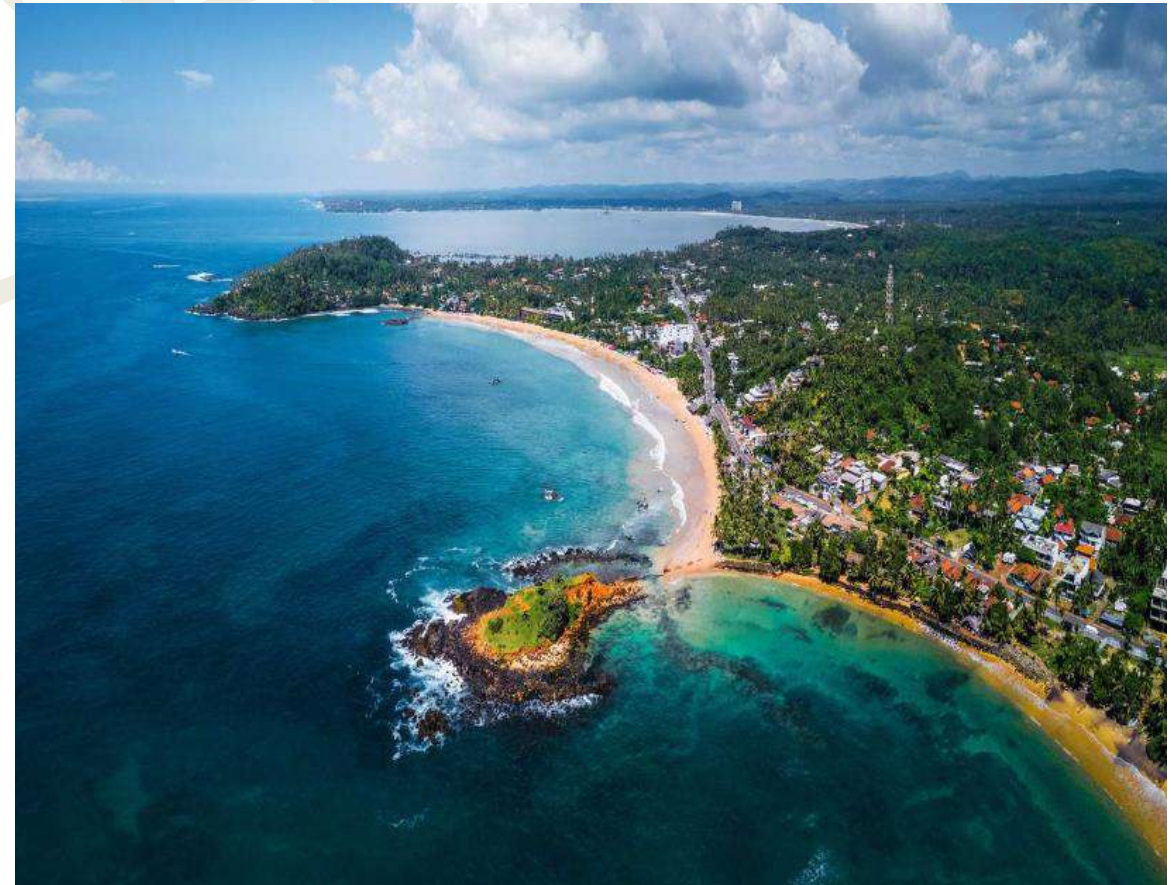
Home Minister Amit Shah to chair National Conclave of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**, has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Mega Conclave is being organised by the **Ministry of Cooperation** in collaboration with the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**.

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) provide quality generic medicines to the general public, which cost 50-90 percent less than the branded medicines available in the open market.
- This initiative will provide new opportunities to PACS for diversification and expansion of their economic activities, thus leading to an increase in the incomes of millions of small and marginal farmers associated with them. It will also help in creating new employment opportunities in rural areas.

India tops list of source markets for tourism into Sri Lanka in 2023

- **India has topped** the list of “**source markets for tourism**” into **Sri Lanka in 2023**. The island has welcomed 1.487 Million tourists during the last year with India contributing over 20% arrivals.
- In all over 3 lakh Indian tourists reached Sri Lanka in 2023 followed by Russia which contributed 1.97 lakh.
- Tourism holds a pivotal position in Sri Lanka’s economy as a top foreign revenue source.
- The connectivity between the two countries has improved over the last year as air travel resumed between Jaffna and Chennai in December 2022.
- In addition, Connectivity between Colombo and Mumbai has also been improved with daily flights operating on the sector.
- Apart from this, starting of Ferry services between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai has also boosted connectivity between the two countries.



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – Jan 9

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as **NRI Day (Non-Resident Indian)**, is celebrated every year on January 9. It holds great significance in recognising and honouring the Indian diaspora spread across the globe.
- The day also marks the **return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa** to India in 1915, symbolizing the leadership that fueled India's freedom struggle.
- NRI Day marks the contribution and achievements of overseas Indians in various fields, fostering a strong connection between the homeland and its diasporic communities.
- This flagship event is organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and is hosted in different cities, showcasing the diversity and progress of various regions of India.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards** are to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of NRIs and PIOs in various fields, including education, science and technology, arts and culture, social work, public service, trade and industry, and philanthropy.

