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HEADLINES

- ❖ Man Singh becomes second Indian to win Gold at Asian Marathon Championships
- ❖ Mamani festival was organized in Ladakh
- ❖ IREDA, Indian Overseas Bank partnered to co-finance renewable energy projects
- ❖ LIC launched new non-participating product, Jeevan Dhara –II
- ❖ Modi launches Boeing's new Rs. 1,600 crore tech center in Bengaluru
- ❖ India Launches Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality Alliance at WEF
- ❖ KIA Bengaluru Airport Clinches The 'Airport of The Year Award 2024'
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Launches Caste Census, Becomes Second State After Bihar
- ❖ Japan achieved a historic soft moon landing with SLIM mission
- ❖ Ministry of Tourism will host annual 'Bharat Parv'
- ❖ Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur celebrated its 52nd Statehood Day on 21st January
- ❖ HDFC Bank Aims for Singapore Expansion with Banking License Application

- ❖ Novak Djokovic Named Balkan Athlete of The Year for record 8th time
- ❖ Indian Immunologicals launches Indigenous Hepatitis-A Vaccine
- ❖ NATO's Largest Military Exercise Since the Cold War: "Steadfast Defender 2024"
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Launches 'My School-My Pride' for education Transformation
- ❖ Digital University Kerala introduces Kairali AI chip, the first of its kind

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Man Singh becomes second Indian to win Gold at Asian Marathon Championships

- **Man Singh** became only the **second Indian** man to clinch a **gold medal** at the **Asian Marathon Championships** as he won the race with a personal best time in **Hong Kong**.
- The 34-year-old Man Singh clocked two hours, 14 minutes and 19 seconds (2:14:19) to win the competition.
- His earlier best was 2:16:58, which he had clocked while finishing 11th in the Mumbai Marathon last year.
- Man Singh's time was below the Paris Olympics qualifying mark of 2:08:10.
- **Gopi Thonakal** was the **first Indian** man to win the Asian Marathon Championships title in 2017. He had clocked 2:15:48 to win the gold in **Dongguan, China**.



Mamani festival was organized in Ladakh

- In **Ladakh**, the annual **Ethnic Mamani** Festival was organized at Historical **Styangkung Village** and **Chiktan Shagaran**.
- The Steyangkung village is around 500 years old and still well-preserved till now and being developed as one of the well-maintained heritage villages in Ladakh.
- The history of the celebration of Mamani Festival in Ladakh goes back to the ancient tradition of giving food to departed family members.
- During Mamani, people would exchange food with their relatives and neighbours and worship a variety of spirits (Lha).
- These Festivals have helped in the revival of more than 35 Cuisines of Kargil Ladakh.
- The Mamani Festival is organised by **Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF)** and **Ladakh Tourism Department**.



IREDA, Indian Overseas Bank partnered to co-finance renewable energy projects

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** to bolster financial support for renewable energy projects across India.
- The MoU aimed at co-lending and loan syndication, was signed at IREDA's Business Centre in New Delhi, marking a key step towards enhancing India's renewable energy capacity.
- This strategic collaboration will provide a range of services, including co-lending, co-origination support for all renewable energy projects, and management of **Trust and Retention Account (TRA)** for IREDA borrowers.
- The partnership also aims to facilitate fixed interest rates over a 3–4-year period for IREDA borrowings, streamlining the loan syndication and underwriting process.

LIC launched new non-participating product, Jeevan Dhara –II

- State-owned **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** announced the launch of the non-participating product **Jeevan Dhara-II**.
- According to the exchange filing, the product, which will be available from 22 January 2023, is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings deferred annuity plan.
- The minimum age at entry is 20 years (last birthday) for annuitant/primary/secondary annuitant.
- The maximum age is 80, 70, and 65 years minus the deferment period, depending upon the annuity option chosen.
- This product, which **LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty** unveiled, provides life cover during the deferment period and offers a higher annuity rate at higher ages.
- In November last year, LIC rolled out a new non-linked, non-participating individual savings whole life insurance product - Jeevan Utsav.





Modi launches Boeing's new Rs. 1,600 crore tech center in Bengaluru

- Aerospace-giant **Boeing** inaugurated its **India Engineering & Technology Center** campus in **Bengaluru** with an investment of **₹1,600 crore** (\$200 million).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 43-acre campus, marking Boeing's largest investment outside the US.

- The facility will shape the global future of aviation by developing the next generation of aerospace solutions for the world in both civil and defense markets.
- In addition, it has also expanded its engineering and R&D talent to the largest number of employees in any country outside the United States, crossing 6,000 as of December 2023.
- The aerospace giant also launched its **Sukanya Program**, which aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector.
- The program will provide opportunities for girls and women from across India to learn critical skills in the **science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)** fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector.
- For young girls, the program will create STEM labs at 150 planned locations to help spark interest in STEM careers. In addition, it will also provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.

India Launches Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality Alliance **at WEF**



India Launches Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality Alliance at WEF

- **India** launched **Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality**, at the **World Economic Forum Summit** at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "**Women-led Development**" resonated strongly at the World Economic Forum 2024, with the global community expressing committed support.
- The WEF praised India's inclusive and remarkable growth story under Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership, commending the government's philosophy of "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.**"
- The newly launched Alliance aims to bring together global best practices, foster knowledge sharing, and attract investments in key areas such as women's health, education, and enterprise.
- The initiative builds on the commitments of the **G20 Leaders'** Declaration and India's dedication to women-led development.



KIA Bengaluru Airport

Clinches The

Airport Of The Year Award 2024

KIA Bengaluru Airport Clinches The 'Airport of The Year Award 2024'

- **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** Bengaluru was awarded the **Best Airport of the Year award at the Wings India Awards 2024**.
- The award was given jointly to KIA Bengaluru and Delhi International Airport Limited.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the awards. For this, the award ceremony was organized in Hyderabad.
- **Delhi International Airport (Indira Gandhi)** was also recognised as the best airport in the civil aviation sector in the **4th edition of "Wings India Awards"**.
- Mumbai and Delhi airports emerged as "Innovation" and "Sustainability Champions" respectively.
- Apart from airports, awards were also given to airlines, with **Vistara-Tata SIA Airlines Limited** receiving the coveted title of **Airline of the Year**.
- **'Air India'** topped for international connectivity, while **'IndiGo'** was given the award in the domestic category.
- 'Alliance Air' was awarded the top honor for regional connectivity. While the Innovation Champion Award was given to: 'Vistara'.
- Air India Express wins award for sustainability.
- **Uttar Pradesh** named State Champion at Wings India Awards 2024 for outstanding performance in Civil Aviation.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award for **'Distinguished Women in Aviation'** was given to **Tulsi N Mirchandaney**, former MD of Blue Dart.

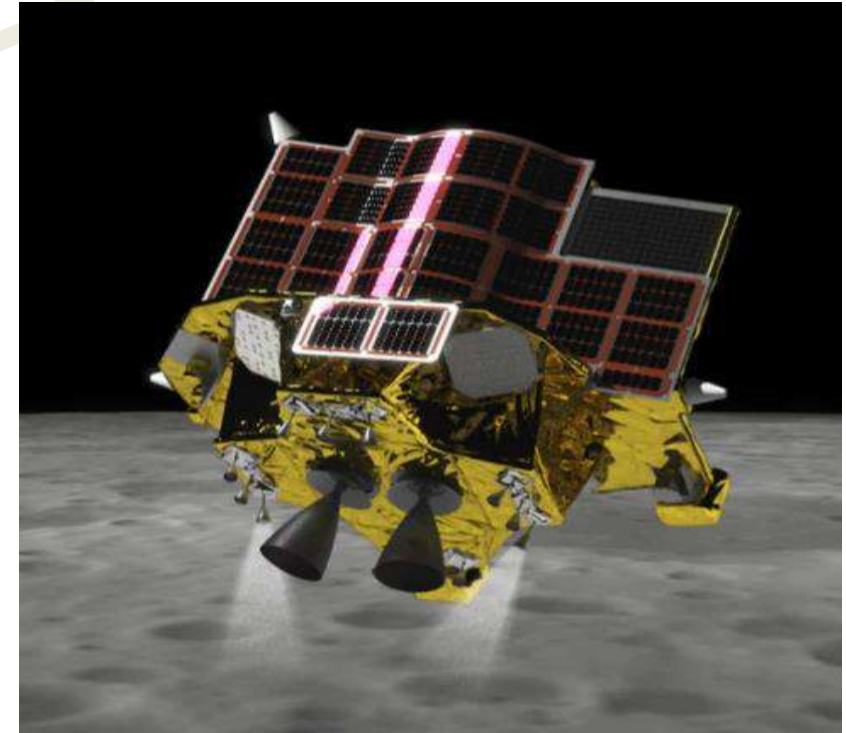


Andhra Pradesh Launches Caste Census, Becomes Second State After Bihar

- The **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** government in **Andhra Pradesh** launched a comprehensive **caste census** to enumerate all the castes in the state.
- A special phone app has been designed by the government to conduct the census, expected to be completed in another 20 days to one month.
- Andhra Pradesh has become the **second state in the country**, after **Bihar**, to launch such a caste census.
- Village and ward volunteers are being utilized to undertake the census with the help of ward and village secretariats. Special training was also provided to the volunteers and staff.
- More than 700 caste groups are available on the mobile application for the public to choose theirs.
- The '**No caste**' option has also been provided.

Japan achieved a historic soft moon landing with SLIM mission

- **Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)** has successfully soft-landed on the Moon, the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** has confirmed.
- Japan has become the **fifth country** to achieve a lunar soft landing. After the landing, JAXA established communication with the spacecraft.
- SLIM was launched towards space, along with a spectroscope called X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM), on September 7, 2023.
- XRISM was the primary passenger onboard the H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 47 (H-IIA F47). The mission, called **Moon Sniper**, is Japan's third Moon mission. The budget of the entire mission is \$100 million.





Ministry of Tourism Government of India

Ministry of Tourism will host annual 'Bharat Parv'

- **Ministry of Tourism** will organize the nine day annual event '**Bharat Parv**' at the Lawns and **Gyan Path** in front of **Red Fort, Delhi** as part of the Republic Day celebrations from 23rd to 31st January.
- The highlights of the mega event are the Republic Day Parade tableaux, dynamic cultural performances by the Zonal Cultural Centres and engaging presentations by cultural troupes from various States and Union Territories.
- The Parv has participation from **26 Central Ministries** and Departments showcasing citizen centric schemes and initiatives of the Government such as Mission Life, One District One Product, Viksit Bharat, Nari Shakti, and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- An experiential zone through latest technology has also been setup to promote Dekho Apna Desh.
- The event will feature a Food Court with stalls offering delicacies representing the diverse culinary traditions of different states and UTs in India.



Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur celebrated its 52nd Statehood Day on 21st January

- Three northeastern states viz **Tripura, Meghalaya** and **Manipur** celebrated their 52nd Statehood Day.
- With the introduction of **North-East Area (Re-organisation) Act 1971**, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya attained statehood on **January 21, 1972**.
- Speaking about development of the northeastern state, Tripura got Highways, I-way, Railways and Airways to emerge as the most benefited state among the northeastern states.



HDFC Bank Aims for Singapore Expansion with Banking License Application

- **HDFC Bank Ltd**, India's biggest private sector lender, is seeking to open its **first branch in Singapore**, signaling its overseas ambitions after sewing up a landmark merger with mortgage financier Housing Development Finance Corp.
- The bank has applied to the **Monetary Authority of Singapore** for a banking license and is awaiting approval.
- The banking giant is seeking a bigger presence abroad to tap the Indian diaspora for savings and term deposits, as well as to cross-sell more products, including mortgages.
- HDFC has been focusing on deepening its reach in the world's most populous country through loans to retail customers.
- **HDFC Bank:**
- **Founded:** August, 1994
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan
- **Tagline:** we understand your world

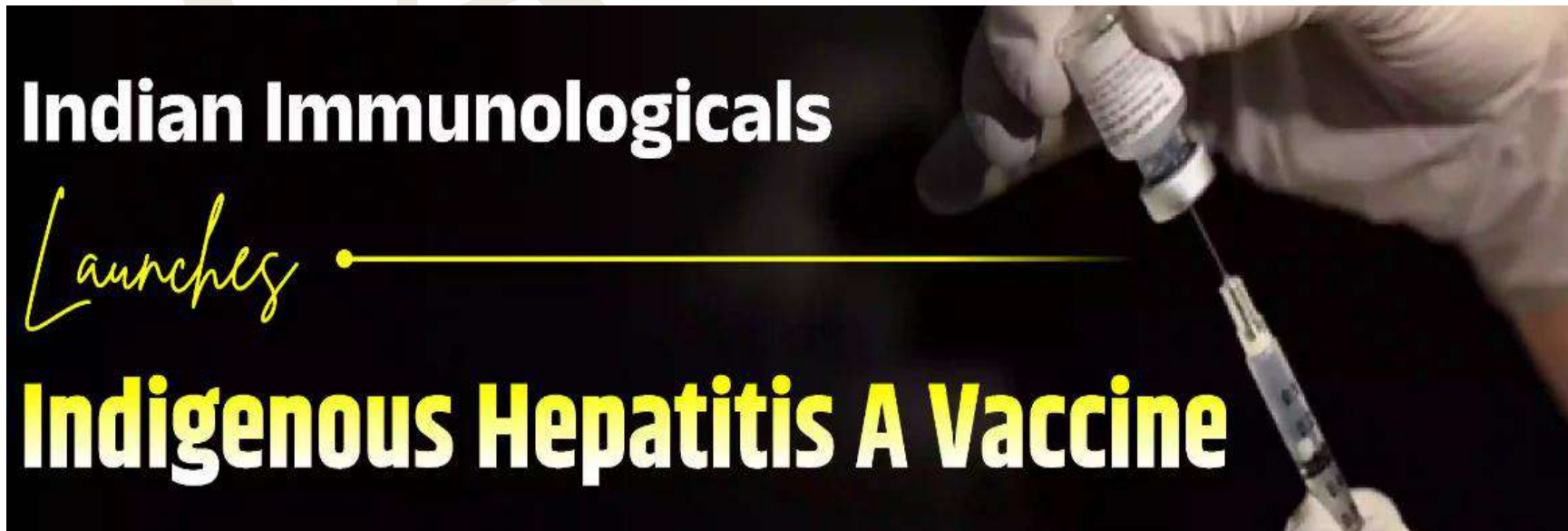
Novak Djokovic Named Balkan Athlete of The Year for record 8th time

- **Novak Djokovic** was named the **Best Balkan Athlete of the year** for a record **eighth time**.
- The 36-year-old Djokovic won three Grand Slam titles in 2023 to take his record tally to 24, while **Jokic** was **named the NBA Finals MVP** after leading the Denver Nuggets to the title. Both are from **Serbia**.
- The results of the annual poll were published by the Bulgarian News Agency. A total of 58 athletes received votes in the poll this year, with Bulgarian basketball player Alexandar Vezenkov coming third.



Indian Immunologicals launches Indigenous Hepatitis-A Vaccine

- **Indian Immunologicals** Ltd. has launched the **country's first** indigenously developed **Hepatitis A vaccine** named '**Havisure**'.
- Indian Immunologicals Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.
- Vaccine Havisure represents an important step in the country's fight against hepatitis A.
- The Havisure vaccine is at par with the world's leading vaccines sold by multinational companies.
- Havisure is a two-dose vaccine. The first dose is given at the age above 12 months. Whereas the second dose is given at least 6 months after the first dose.
- **Hepatitis A is a viral infection**. HAV is spread mainly through the fecal-oral route, which means it is spread through the consumption of contaminated food or water.
- Hepatitis A is a **liver inflammation** that can cause mild to severe symptoms.





NATO's Largest Military Exercise Since the Cold War: "Steadfast Defender 2024"

- **Steadfast Defender 2024** is a NATO maneuver that will take place from February to May 2024 in **Europe**.
- It will be used to practice the response to a hypothetical aggression by the Russian Federation against a member country, activating Article 5 (alliance case) of the **North Atlantic Treaty**.
- The exercise is part of the series of Steadfast Defender maneuvers. It is the largest NATO maneuver since the end of the Cold War.
- The total Troop strength is of over **90,000 soldiers**. The **United Kingdom** has announced that it will provide 20,000 personnel for maneuvers. 16,000 soldiers are announced by the British Army. Among them will be the 7th Light Mechanised Brigade Combat Team.
- The **Royal Navy** will provide 2000 sailors, 15,000 **Polish** and 10,000 **German soldiers**.

Himachal Pradesh Launches 'My School-My Pride' for education Transformation

- In a move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, **Himachal Pradesh** has unveiled the '**My School-My Pride**' campaign under the '**Apna Vidyalay**' programme, aimed at revolutionising the quality of education in government schools.
- This initiative will encourage active participation from individuals and organisations to adopt schools and contribute to various aspects of students' growth.
- Under the programme, stakeholders will be urged to provide career counselling, offer remedial teaching, coach students for examinations, and engage in community support services.
- The initiative also involves monetary contributions for infrastructure development, event sponsorship, scholarships, and support for the **Mid-Day Meal (MDM)** programme.
- Under the programme, '**Giving back to society**' initiative retired teachers or other employees, professionals, housewives or any other member of the society will be encouraged to come forward and become a member of the academic support team to teach the students without taking any payment or honorarium.
- This team will step in during teacher shortages or leaves, ensuring continuous academic support. Non-academic teams will contribute to sports, co-curricular activities, skill training, arts, and more.



Digital University Kerala introduces Kairali AI chip, the first of its kind

- **Kerala** has developed an **AI processor** which can bring about revolutionary changes in several AI-based applications.
- The processors named '**Kairali**' have been developed by the **Digital University Kerala**.
- It is the first time ever that a university in the country has achieved the feat.
- The processor was developed by a team led by **Dr Alex James**; he is the dean of academics at the Digital University. The processor is expected to be available in the market after going through a few more stages of development.
- The discovery is expected to be useful in the agriculture, mobile technology, airways, health and automobile sectors.
- Several security features have been incorporated in the processor which will help in preventing data leaks.

