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December 7, 2023

175 million dollar loan:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **The Government of India and Asian Development Bank have signed a 175 million dollar loan agreement to improve connectivity and resilience of roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh.**
- ➔ The project will upgrade about 500 km of state highways and major district roads to a standard two-lane feature. These roads will incorporate climate and disaster resilient design and innovative road safety elements.



Delegation:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **A delegation of the UP government will travel to Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum.**
- ➔ It will brief delegates about efforts being made to make Uttar Pradesh a trillion dollar economy and develop metropolitan towns as hubs of different sectors include efforts to develop Lucknow as India's first AI city.

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Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal:

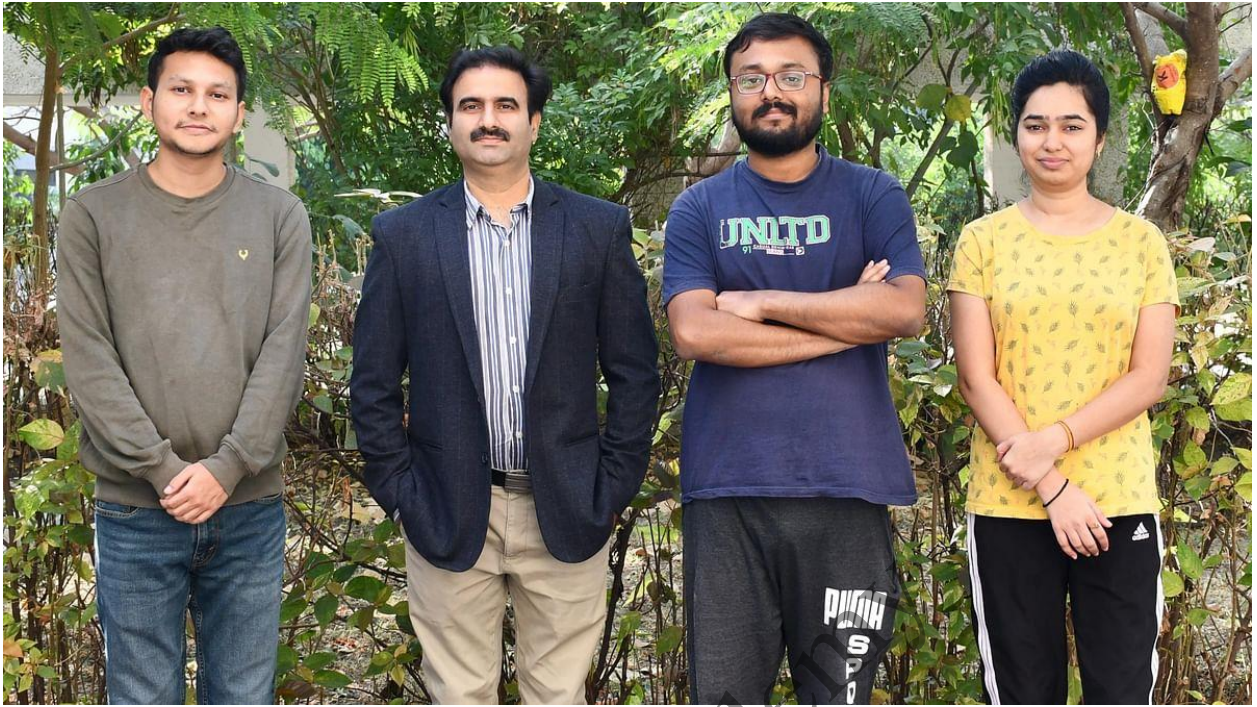
(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal have conducted the first ever genome sequencing of the jamun tree(*Syzygium cumini*).**
- ➔ Jamun has various genes that make the plant rugged and improve its stress tolerance to factors like weeds and insects that induce damage, heat stress, salinity and draught.

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LIC:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ In a recent report by S&P Global Market Intelligence, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has secured its position as the world's fourth-largest insurer. Allianz SE (Germany): Securing the top spot with reserves amounting to \$750.20 billion.
- ➔ China Life Insurance Company (China): Claiming the second position with reserves totaling \$616.90 billion. Nippon Life Insurance Company (Japan): Grasping the third position with reserves reaching \$536.80 billion.

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GI:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **In a significant development, Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric, known for its exceptional quality, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- Agriculture Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh made the announcement, highlighting the positive impact on local farmers and authentic product access for consumers.
- Considered one of the finest turmeric varieties globally, Lakadong turmeric boasts an impressive curcumin content ranging from 6.8 to 7.5 percent.

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Lalduhoma:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant political development, Lalduhoma, the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader and legislature party leader, is poised to be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram on December 8.**
- ➔ A Raj Bhavan official confirmed that Lalduhoma, along with other members of his council of ministers, will take the oath of office at 11 am in a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan.
- ➔ The ZPM emerged victorious in the Mizoram Assembly elections held on November 7, securing a total of 27 out of 40 seats. The electoral success resulted in the defeat of the incumbent Mizo National Front (MNF) led by Zoramthanga.

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Garba dance:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a momentous announcement, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel declared that the vibrant and culturally significant Garba dance has been officially recognized by UNESCO, earning a coveted spot on the “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.”**
- ➔ The announcement was met with enthusiasm from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who commended the global acknowledgment of this traditional Indian dance form.

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CII:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **India's economy is poised for a strong rebound, with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) projecting a growth of 6.8% in the current fiscal year (FY24) and an acceleration to 7% in the subsequent fiscal year (FY25).**
- ➔ CII attributes this optimistic outlook to the government's unwavering commitment to infrastructure development and the facilitation of ease of doing business.

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Tata Motors:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Homegrown auto major Tata Motors has taken a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability with the inauguration of its fourth Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in Chandigarh.**
- ➔ This cutting-edge facility, developed and operated by Tata Motors' partner, Dada Trading Company, underscores the company's commitment to responsible manufacturing and eco-friendly practices.

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ACKO General Insurance and PhonePe:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **ACKO General Insurance and PhonePe have joined forces to revolutionize the landscape of insurance accessibility in India.**
- ➔ This strategic collaboration aims to provide users with a comprehensive range of car and bike insurance products directly through the PhonePe platform.
- ➔ Beyond just convenience, the partnership reflects the shared commitment of both companies to democratize insurance, making it a readily available financial option for millions of PhonePe users.

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PhonePe

Armed Forces Flag Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **Armed Forces Flag Day, celebrated on December 7 each year, holds a special place in our hearts as we pay tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stand guard at our borders.**
- ➔ This day serves as a reminder of the unwavering dedication of our armed forces and provides an opportunity for citizens to contribute towards their welfare.
- ➔ Established on August 28, 1949, by the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces Flag Day was designated to honor the brave men and women in uniform.
- ➔ December 7 was chosen as the annual day for this tribute, a day to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of our armed forces personnel. Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country.

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Rs.561.29 crore:

(Importance level-3/5)

- ➔ **Prime Minister Modi approves India's first project to tackle urban floods. He has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs.561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund.**
- ➔ The 'Integrated Urban Flood Management activities for Chennai Basin Project' represents a proactive measure to address the challenges posed by urban flooding.

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Impatiens Karuppusamyi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **Impatiens Karuppusamyi, a new species discovered from the Southern Western Ghats. The researchers of Botanical survey of India have discovered a new species of plant from Kalakad Mundathurai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.**
- The species is named after Dr. S Karuppusamy (Madhura College, Tamil Nadu) for his contributions to the taxonomy of south Indian angiosperms.



Kala-azar:

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(Importance level-4/5)

- Bangladesh recently achieved a major public health goal when it eradicated visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as Kala-azar, raising the question of when India would wipe out the debilitating often fatal, parasitic disease.
- Challenges in sustaining the momentum of the fight persist particularly in tackling post-disease symptoms and HIV co-infections.



Mount Merapi:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupted on Sumatra Island resulting in the tragic death of at least 11 hikers out of a group of 26 with three successfully rescued.
- Mount Merapi is an active stratovolcano located on the border between the province of Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.

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Gemini:

(Importance level-4/5)

- Google has unveiled its latest AI project, “Gemini”, designed to exhibit human-like behavior. The rollout will occur in phases, introducing less sophisticated versions names “Nano” and “Pro” into Google’s AI powered chatbot bard and the Pixel 8 Pro.
- Notable advancements are expected early next year with the introduction of the “Ultra” model, powering an advanced version f Bard.



IBM:

(Importance level-4/5)

- IBM has introduced Condor, its latest quantum computing chip featuring 1,121 superconducting qubits, surpassing the 1,000 qubit milestone.

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- A qubit, short for a quantum bit is the basic unit of quantum information in quantum computing. Unlike, classical bits, which can exist in a state of 0 or 1, qubits can exist in a superposition of both 0 and 1 simultaneously.



International Civil Aviation Day:

(Importance level-4/5)

- **International Civil Aviation Day, observed on December 7, holds special significance as it marks the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944.**
- This year's theme, "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development," emphasizes the crucial role of innovation in shaping the future of civil aviation worldwide.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared December 7 as International Civil Aviation Day in 1996.
- This date commemorates the 50th anniversary of the establishment of ICAO, a pivotal organization working to foster global cooperation and uniformity in civil aviation.

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Meta and IBM:

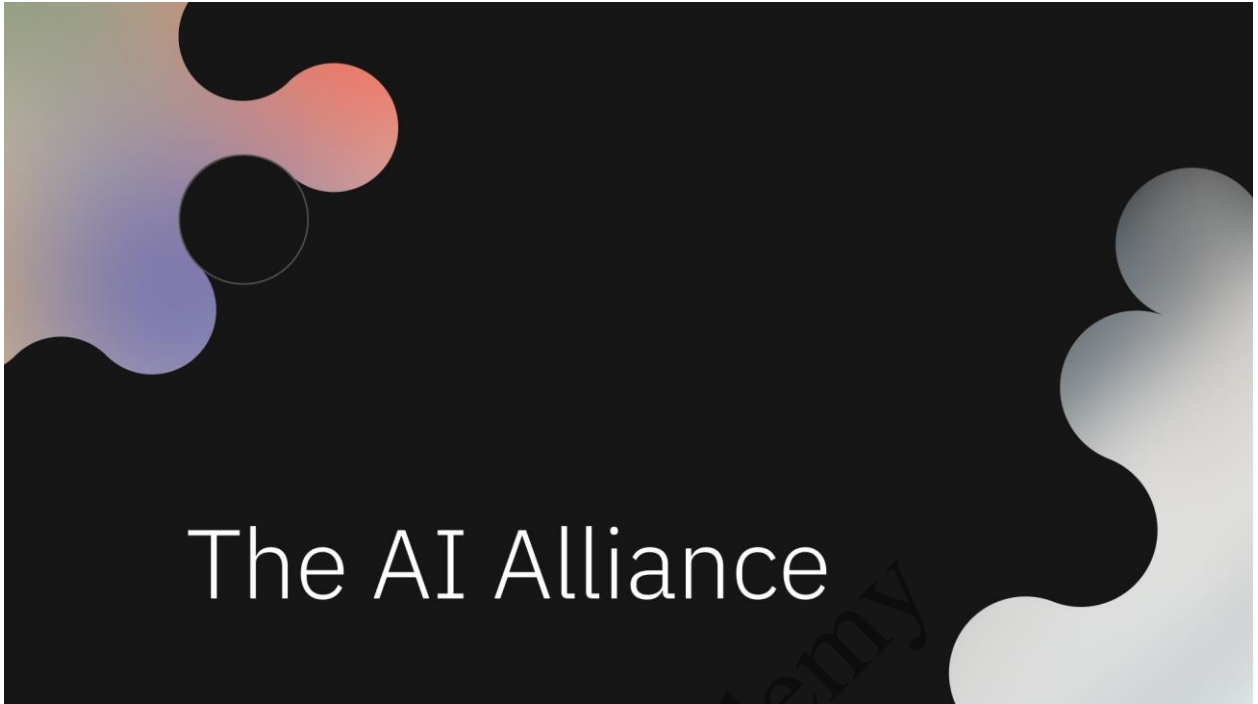
(Importance level-4/5)

- ➔ **In a significant development within the artificial intelligence (AI) community, Meta and IBM have joined forces to establish the AI Alliance.**
- ➔ This aims to promote an “open-science” approach to AI development, setting them apart from competitors such as Google, Microsoft and Open AI.
- ➔ The crux of the debate revolves around whether AI technology should be developed in a manner that is widely accessible for kept proprietary, raising questions about safety, profit distribution and regulatory influence.

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