December 26, 2023

#### 'MedTech Mitra':

#### (Importance level-4/5)

→ Health Minister launched 'MedTech Mitra' to advance health solution.

→ The platform aims to assist young innovators in advancing their research and navigating regulatory approval. Part of a broader drive to holistically transform India's healthcare sector by 2047.



#### Namma Cargo:

#### (Importance level-4/5)

- → KSRTC launched "Namma Cargo" logistics services across Karnataka. Karnataka's transport Minister flags off 20 cargo trucks with GPS for reliable goods transportation within the state.
- → Transport Corporation flags MoUs with KMS coach builders and S.M.Kannappa Automobiles for truck services.



#### **Uttarakhand:**

- → Uttarakhand is launching India's first Himalayan Air Safari providing a unique tourist experience with Gyrocopter rides across various destinations.
- → The initiative aims to boost tourism by offering a novel aerial view of the Himalayan peaks.



### **India Skills Report 2024:**

- → Two cities, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala have emerged as the most preferred places to work among the youth in India, according to the India Skills Report 2024.
- → The report indicated that employability in India has improved as 51.25% of the youth surveyed are employable with the required skills. Kochi is the 1<sup>st</sup> among the top 10 cities where most women prefer to work.



#### 'Veer Bal Diwas':

- → Since 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Hon. Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji.
- → Veer Bal Diwas is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the immense sacrifices made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.
- → These young sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji played a crucial role in shaping the legacy of courage and resilience in the face of adversity.
- → On this fateful day, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh, aged 6, and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, aged 9, were tragically martyred by the Mughal forces in Sirhind, Punjab.



#### **BSE:**

- → The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its nod to the appointment of Pramod Agrawal, the former Chief of Coal India, as the Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- → This regulatory approval paves the way for Agrawal to assume his role on the Governing Board of BSE, effective from January 17, 2024. The move comes as the term of the current Chairman, SS Mundra, concludes on January 16, 2024.



#### Al:

- → In a groundbreaking move, Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, is set to establish the country's first AI city in Lucknow.
- → This initiative aims to create a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers, and educational institutions to foster innovation and nurture the workforce of the future.
- → According to a report by Grand View Research, the global AI market size reached \$137 billion in 2022 and is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 37.3% from 2023 to 2030. Uttar Pradesh's move to build an AI city aligns with the escalating global significance of artificial intelligence.



#### Lithium:

- → In a significant development, India is poised to secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with Australia in 2022.
- → The deal is on the verge of finalization between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) and Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN), an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company.
- → The Indian government plans to invest around Rs 200 crore over the next five years for exploration, signaling a strategic commitment to securing a domestic supply of critical minerals. The proposal is awaiting approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.



### **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route:**

- → Bangladesh has agreed to form a joint committee to implement a common Automatic Identification System in the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route.
- → It has been decided to declare Safardighi in West Bengal as the new port of call under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade.



#### Iran:

- → Iran summons Russian envoy over statement on Persian Gulf disputed islands. Iran took control of the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb after British forces withdrew in 1971.
- → It considers them an 'inseparable' part of its territory. The UAE also claims the three islands.



#### **Khelo India Youth Games:**

- → The Khelo India Youth Games, a pinnacle in India's sporting landscape, is set to kick off its 2023 edition on January 19, 2024, in Tamil Nadu.
- → The southern state has proudly been chosen as the host, and the Games will unfold across four vibrant cities: Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore.
- → Organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India and various National Sports Federations (NSF), this event is a crucial platform for nurturing the nation's young sports talent.



#### **Indian Women Test Cricket:**

- → India Women concluded their first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years with a historic maiden victory over Australia in a one-off Test match in Mumbai on December 24.
- → The win marked a significant achievement for the Indian team, capping off a season characterized by exemplary performances with both bat and ball.
- → Playing more than one Test at home for the first time since 1995, India Women displayed a flawless performance, hardly putting a foot wrong.
- → The team adhered to the promise of playing 'positive cricket,' weathering challenges and dictating terms against fancied opponents like Australia and England.



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