

National

1. AISHE 2021-22 released

The Ministry of Education released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 on January 25th, 2024. The AISHE survey covers all Higher Educational Institutions registered with AISHE since 2011. The Report stated that there was an increase of 26.5% since 2014-15 in the enrolment of students in Higher Education compared to 2021-22.

2. India becomes World's 4th largest Stock Market

The Indian Stock Market has become World's 4th largest Stock Market by Market Capitalisation overtaking Hong Kong. The combined value of shares listed on Indian Exchange reached USD 4.33 Trillion. The data was compiled by the global leader in Business and Financial Information Bloomberg.

3. CBRI identifies 14 High risk Zones in Joshimath

The Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) under CSIR has identified 14 High risk zones in Joshimath region of Uttarakhand. The affected residents are recommended to get relocation or take compensation as the danger of land subsidence is higher in these 14 regions. A total of 1000 commercial and residential structures are present in the high risk zones.

4. 8500 crore VGF Scheme for Coal Gasification

The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme of 8500 crore has been approved by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for Promotion of Coal Gasification Projects across the country. The major objective behind approval of the scheme was to promote usage and adoption of cleaner coal technologies for power generation and production of chemicals.

5. 1132 Gallantry and Service Medals awarded

The Ministry of Home Affairs announced awarding of 1132 personnels of Police, Fire Service, Home Guard and Civil Defence and Correctional Service with Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of Republic Day. President's Medal for Gallantry (PMG) was awarded to BSFs two head constables Sanwala Ram Vishnoi and Shishu Pal Singh posthumously.

6. Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood System in India launched

The NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of India has launched an "Investment Forum for Advancing Climate Resilient Agrifood System in India". The Major objective is to develop partnerships among private sectors, government, Farmers organisations and Financial institutions to advance climate Resilient Agrifood systems in the country.



7. Justice PB Varale appointed Supreme Court Judge

The Central Government recently approved the appointment of Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Justice PB Varale as the Supreme Court Judge. With the appointment, the Supreme Court of India is to have a full sanctioned strength of 34 Judges including Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court for the first time in history will have 3 judges from the Scheduled Caste category.

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8. NFRA to audit Big 4 Audit firms

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) established as a statutory body under Companies Act, 2013 is going to inspect the Big 4 Audit Firms along with top auditors of large listed entities in 2024. The Big 4 Companies include Deloitte Haskins and Sells, SRBC, KPMG and Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants.

9. Grantham Inscriptions discovered

A team of Archaeologists from Virarajendra Archaeological and Historical Research Centre have discovered stones with 11th century "Grantham" and 16th century Tamil Inscriptions from Kangayam in Tamil Nadu. Grantham is one of the important historical scripts that was used across South East Asia and Greater TamilNadu to write Sanskrit.

10. PM Suryodaya Yojana

The Prime Minister of India recently launched the "Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana" with the aim to boost India's renewable energy goals and reduce electricity bills for households. The newly launched government scheme promotes rooftop solar power systems on one crore houses.

11. Karpooi Thakur awarded Bharat Ratna Posthumously

The Former Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Karpooi Thakur has been awarded with the highest civilian award of the country "Bharat Ratna" award posthumously. He was a Gandhian Socialist Leader and served two terms as 11th Chief Minister of Bihar from 1970-1971 and 1977 to 1979.



12. Election Seizure Management System (ESMS)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently conducted a training programme for the officers from Andhra Pradesh for the recently introduced Election Seizure Management System (ESMS). The ESMS is a digital technology platform to digitise data for intercepted/seized items direct from the field through a mobile application.

13. New Plant Species Andrographis Theniensis discovered

Research student P Bharath Simha Yadav discovered New plant species namely "Andrographis Theniensis" from the Theni district of Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats. The Plant species has been named after the location it is found i.e. "Theni". The tropical Asian Genus "Andrographis" is native to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and West Himalayas.

14. Madhika Language on brink of Extinction

The Unique language "Madhika" of the Chakaliya community in the remote colony of Kookanam, Kerala is on the brink of extinction with only the last two speakers alive. The Language is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada and Malayalam and has no written script.

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15. Bull Semen imported from Brazil to raise Milk Production

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) under Government of India imports 40,000 doses of bull semen from Brazil to increase milk production of Indian Native Breeds namely Gir and Kankrej. The NDDB will use artificial insemination techniques to boost milk output for the first time.

16. Khadi Samvad and Sri Ram Mahotsav organised in Jhumpa, Haryana

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) organised "Sri Ram Mahotsav" and "Khadi Samvad" in village Jhumpa, Haryana to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Sri Ram Lalla's Pran Pratishtha ceremony. Machinery and toolkits were distributed under the Khadi Samvad and Village Industries Development Scheme.



17. Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman campaign

The Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankar inaugurated the "Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman campaign" at Dr Ambedkar International Centre. The Campaign is being launched to commemorate the 75th year of India as a Republic. The Campaign is being undertaken by the Department of Justice in collaboration with Bhashini and IGNOU.

18. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2024

The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2024, instituted by Government India to be

given to 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh in the Institutional category. The Institution has showcased excellent work in Disaster Management. The Award is given annually to recognize and honour contributions of Institutions and Individuals in the field of Disaster Management.

19. "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan" book released

The Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah released the book titled "Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan" in Guwahati, Assam. The Book is authored by Arup Kumar Dutta. The book showcases chronicles of historical events of Assam and heroic sacrifices of Freedom Fighter of Assam Lachit Barphukan.

20. Anand Sutra- The Endless Thread textile Installation

The Ministry of Culture will showcase "Anand Sutra- The Endless Thread" textile Installation at Kartavya Path on Republic Day celebration. The event will showcase nearly 1900 sarees and drapes from every corner of the country. Anand Sutra is a stunning initiative of the Ministry of Culture to showcase Saree, weaves and drapes.

21. Representatives from 50 nations invited at Pran Pratishtha ceremony by RMT

The Ram Mandir Trust (RMT) of Ayodhya has invited representatives from over 50 nations to attend the Pran Pratishtha Ceremony at Ayodhya that took place on January 22, 2024. The invitation honoured the symbolic ancient connection between India and Korea by inviting Kim Chil su, descendent of royal lineage of Queen Heo also known as Suriratna who was an Ayodhya Princess.

22. State of Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education Report 2023

A report titled "Right Teacher for Every Child: State of Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education Report

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2023” was released by the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE) at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The report stated that 41% of Maths teachers in both Government and Private schools lack expertise in the subject. The data of the report draws from research conducted in eight states across India.

23. Ayush Diksha Centre at Bhubaneswar

Union Minister for AYUSH Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for AYUSH DIKSHA centre at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is a state of the art centre for development of human resources for AYUSH Professionals of the Future. The centre has been developed within Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Bhubanwshwar.

24. Udyan Utsav-1

The famous Amrit Udyan of the Rashtrapati Bhawan previously known as Mughal Garden will open for public viewing from February 2 to March 31, 2023 under the Udyan Utsav-1. The people can visit the Udyan six days a week under the Udyan Utsav initiative .

25. Mobile Hospital BHISHM deployed in Ayodhya

Indigenous revolutionary Mobile Hospitals under Project BHISHM have been deployed in Ayodhya for medical emergency readiness during the Pran Pratishtha Ceremony at Ram Lalla Temple. Two Arogya Maitro Disaster Management Cube with cutting edge technology have been deployed tailored to treat upto 200 casualties.

26. FCRA licence cancelled of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR)

The Government of India recently cancelled the foreign funding licence of leading Indian public think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR). The Centre for Policy Research think tank is led by Yamini Aiyar, daughter of Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar. The IT department conducted a Survey Operation against

CPR and two other Organisations Oxfam India and IPSMF as a part of Probe to look into foreign funding.

27. Progress review meeting of Atal Bhujal Yojana held at Khajuraho

Under the Chairpersonship of Ms Debashree Mukharjee, Secretary (DOWR, RD & GR), the Progress review meeting of Atal Bhujal Yojana was held at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. The Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central sector scheme, launched by 2019 and implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.



28. ASER SURVEY 2023 by NGO PRATHAM

The Annual Status for Education Report (ASER) 2023 survey conducted by NGO Pratham revealed that more girls aspire to continue studying after class 12 as compared to boys. The Survey focused on 14-18 year old children in rural areas and captured their access to digital technology and whether they possess skills to use it.

29. e-Platform on Trade Connect for Indian Exporters

The Government of India is set to launch an Trade Connect ePlatform for Indian exporters to help connect with various stakeholders in International Trade. The platform will serve as a major facilitator in achieving the \$2 Trillion export target by 2030. The launch of the portal was announced at the second meeting of the Board of Trade held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

30. Ram Temple Ayodhya to be inaugurated on January 22

The Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be inaugurated by

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2024. The Temple is built in Nagara Style of Temple Architecture by Chandrakant Sompura and his son Ashish. The Nagara Style of Temple Architecture emerged in North India around the fifth century CE.

International

1. French Foreign Legion to March at R Day Parade

The 95 member French Military contingent along with 33 member band contingent from France will March down the Kartavya Path at 75th Republic Day Parade on 26th January 2024. French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the 75th Republic Day Parade. The contingent will also include 6 Indians.

2. Shallow Soda Lake discovered

Study published in Communications Earth and Environment by University of Washington reports discovery of Shallow "Soda Lake" in Western Canada. The Lake fulfils Darwin's theory which stated that life could have emerged in a "Warm Little Pond" with the right cocktail of chemicals and energy. The lake has a PH value between 9 and 11.

3. Malathion Pesticide dispatched to Afghanistan

The Government of India in a recent humanitarian gesture dispatched 40,000 litres of Malathion Pesticide to Afghanistan. The Cargo has been dispatched via Iran's Chabahar Port. Malathion is an environment friendly Insecticide that will help Afghanistan fight Locust attack and increase Agricultural Production.

4. World's First Malaria Vaccine Program for Children

The African Nation Cameroon becomes first Nation in the World to launch a Malaria Vaccine Program for Children covering 2.5 lakh Children over 2 years. The program will be a gamechanger in the continent that accounts for 95% of the Malaria cases worldwide.

Cameroon will use the recently approved Malaria vaccine Mosquirix.

5. Indian elected as Vice Chair of COFI

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Subcommittee on Fisheries Management has elected India as the first Vice Chair of the Committee. COFI is a Subsidiary body under FAO and established by the FAO Conference in 1965. The Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialised agency of the UN headquartered at Rome(Italy).



6. 19th NAM meeting held at Uganda

The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S Jaishankar attended the 19th Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit at Kampala, Capital city of Uganda. The NAM was established in 1961 with the notion of not aligning with any major super power during the Cold War. India emphasised on its "Vishwa Mitra" initiative for global solidarity and cooperation.

7. Global Firepower Rankings 2024

The Global Firepower recently released the 2024 Military Strength Rankings 2024. The Report states that the United States continues to hold the most powerful military in the world followed by Russia, China and India. India holds the fourth rank in the list of 145 counties with a Power Index score of 0.1023.

8. Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality launched

The Government of India in collaboration with World Economic Forum(WEF) launched the "Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality" at WEF annual meeting Davos. The World Economic

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annual meeting is being held at Davos, Switzerland with the theme "Rebuilding Trust". The "Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality" is a Women led Development Agenda supported by WEF and 10,000 businesses worldwide.

9. WHO releases AI Ethics and Governance Guidelines

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released guidelines on ethical Governance of emerging large multi-modal AI models (LMM). These LMMs are used in Healthcare like symptom analysis chatbots. The guidelines outline over 40 recommendations for consideration by governments, technology companies and Healthcare providers to ensure appropriate use of LMMs.

Sports

1. Su-wei and Zielinski won Australian Open Mixed Doubles Title

The Mixed Doubles pair of Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan and Jan Zielinski of Poland have beaten the duo of Desirae Krawczyk of US and Neal Skupski of Britain to win the Australian Open Mixed Doubles Title. The scoreline of the finals was 6-7(5), 6-4 and 11-9.



2. Virat Kohli becomes ICC Men's ODI cricketer of the year 2023

The Veteran Indian Batter, Virat Kohli has been named as the ICC Men's ODI cricketer of the year 2023 for his performance at ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Australia's World Cup and World Test Championship winning captain Pat Cummins received the

prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy.

3. BCCI Awards 2024

The BCCI awards ceremony took place at Hyderabad on January 23, 2024. The major objective of the ceremony is to honour exceptional cricketers across the domestic and International circuit. Ravi Shastri and Farokh Engineer were conferred with Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.

4. Rohan Bopanna set to become oldest World No. 1 in Men's Double

The India Tennis Ace Rohan Bopanna is set to become the oldest World No. 1 in Men's Double ranking after reaching the Australian Open Semifinals. The duo of Bopanna and Ebden defeated sixth seeded Argentine duo of Maximo and Molteni by 6-4, 7-6(5) in the quarterfinals.



5. Suryakumar named captain of ICC Men's T20I team of the year

India's star T20I player from Mumbai Suryakumar Yadav has been named as the captain of ICC Men's T20I team of the year. The ICC T20I team of the year included three more Indians namely Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh.

6. Man Singh won gold at Asian Marathon Championships

The 34 year old Man Singh became only the Second Indian Man to win a gold medal at the Asian Marathon Championships held at Hong Kong. Man Singh won

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the Marathon Championship with a personal best time of 2 hours 14 minutes and 19 seconds.



7. 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 in Tamil Nadu which are to be held from 19th to 31st January 2024. The sixth edition of Khelo India Youth Games is being organised in Tamil Nadu which becomes the first state in South India to hold Khelo India Youth Games.

Days

1. Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi greets people of Himachal Pradesh on 54th Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh observed on 25th January 2024. The Parliament of India passed the State of Himachal Pradesh Act on December 18th, 1970 and Himachal Pradesh came into being on 25th January 1971.

2. Parakram Day 2024 to be observed on January 23

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is to inaugurate the Parakram Diwas 2024 event on January 23 at the Red Fort, New Delhi. The Event is organised annually by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with ASI, National School of Drama, Sahitya Akademi and National Archives of India since 2022 honouring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



3. 52nd Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya

The 52nd Statehood Day was observed by three Northeastern states of India namely Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur on January 21, 2024. The Three states attained Statehood on January 21, 1973 with the introduction of North-East Area (Re-organisation) Act 1971.

Science and tech/Defence/space

1. ICG to get 14 AI equipped Fast Patrol Vessels

The Defence Ministry of India recently signed a deal worth 1070 crore with Mazagon Dock for procurement of 14 AI Equipped Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard. The move is aimed to boost and enhance National Maritime Security. The Fast Patrol Vessels will be delivered in a span of 63 months to the ICG.

2. Mega Ammunition deal signed between NATO and Ukraine

In a measure to aid Ukraine, NATO has signed a 1.1 billion euro contract for 155mm artillery Ammunition. The deal was brokered by NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) along with Belgium, Lithuania and Spain. The deal is signed to address the shortage of Ammunition to Ukraine during the war with Russia.

3. 11th edition of Exercise KHANJAR

The Special Forces of India and Kyrgyzstan are

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participating in the 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR. The Exercise is taking place at Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The Exercise is an annual event conducted alternatively between both the countries.

4. 2nd edition of Exercise Cyclone

The 2nd edition India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise "CYCLONE" is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt. An Indian Army contingent of 25 personnels have reached Egypt to take part in the Exercise. The major aim of the exercise is to share operating procedures in the backdrop of Special Operations in Desert and Semi Desert terrain under Chapter VII of United States Charter. The First edition of the Exercise was held in India.

5. Procurement of Tomahawk Missiles by Japan

The Japanese Defence Ministry recently inked a deal with the US to buy 400 long range Tomahawk Missiles to counter regional security threats. Tomahawk Missiles are long range cruise missiles used for deep land attack Warfare and can be launched from a ship or Submarine. The Japanese government plans to double its defence spending to the NATO standard of two percent of GDP by 2027 to counter growing regional security threats.

Miscellaneous

1. National Voters Day observed on 25th January 2024

The Election Commission of India (ECI) observed the 14th National Voters Day on January 25th 2024. The day is celebrated on January 25th to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission of India which is a Permanent Constitutional Body was established on January 25th, 1950.

Health/Agriculture/Environment

1. Three drug treatment regimen approved for Leprosy

A new Three Drug treatment regimen has been given approval by the Central Government of India to treat Leprosy in the country. The move to transition from two drug regimen to a three drug regimen for PauciBacillary (PB) Leprosy cases was endorsed by the World Health Organisation and is based on Global Scientific research.

2. Melanistic Tiger Safari at Odisha

The Government of Odisha recently announced the World's First exclusive melanistic Tiger Safari at the Simlipal Tiger Reserve. The objective of the launch of the initiative is to boost tourism and public viewing access of these rare Tiger species. According to All India Tiger Estimation 2022, the Simlipal Tiger Reserve consists of 16 Tigers of which 10 are Melanistic.



3. Pandemic Treaty against Disease X

The World Health Organisation Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged Global leaders to finalise on a Pandemic Treaty which can help the world brace for Disease X. Disease X is a Hypothetical Pathogen that can cause major Pandemic in future just like the first Disease X 'COVID-19'.

4. Agulhas Long Billed Lark

The University of Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology recently published its first study on

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nesting practices of the Agulhas Long Billed Lark native to South Africa. Due to its presence in a small area, the Lark presents eco tourism value and forms South Africa's Unique Biodiversity. It is scientifically named as *Certhilauda Bevirrostris* and its IUCN status is Near Threatened.

5. Largest Male Funnel Web Spider HERCULES

The largest Male Funnel Web Spider named "HERCULES" has been recently discovered on the Central Coast, 80 km north of Sydney. It has been renowned as the World's Most Poisonous Arachnid residing at the Australian Reptile Park after its discovery. It measures 7.9 cm and has earned the name Megaspider at the Park.



6. New Species of Binturong and Small Clawed Otter received at Kaziranga NP

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve located in Assam has received two new mammalian species namely Binturong and small clawed Otter (*Aonyx Cinereus*). The Binturong scientifically called as *Arctictis Binturong* is the largest civet in India. Both the mammalian species are designated Schedule 1 species under the WPA 1972 and their IUCN status is Vulnerable.

7. New Species recorded at Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

Recent survey conducted by Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department in collaboration with Travancore Natural History Society records 11 new species in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. The Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is located in Western Ghats Mountains in Palakkad district of Kerala. The 11 New species includes

three birds, four Butterflies and four odonates.

8. 5 new reptile species discovered

A Team of Researchers from the Thackeray Wildlife Foundation (TWF) have discovered 5 new species of reptile and named the Genus as *Dravidoseps* which is a combination of Sanskrit words "Dravid" and "Seps". The first ever viviparous Skink Genus have been found in the Forests of Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra.

9. Indigenously made Hepatitis A Vaccine HAVISURE

India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine "HAVISURE" was recently launched in Hyderabad. The Vaccine has been developed by the Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) which is a wholly owned Subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). It is a two dose Vaccine and is given in a gap of 6 months to children above 12 months of age.

10. 7 new species sighted at Wular Lake

The Wular Conservation and Management Authority announced that more than four lakh migratory birds have arrived at Wular Lake this winter. Seven rare species namely Falcated Duck, Long tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Western Reef Heron, Smew Duck, Pacific Golden Plover and Broad billed Sandpiper were sighted at Wular Lake. It is the largest freshwater Lake in India and designated as a Ramsar Site in 1990.

11. Gangetic Dolphin rescued in Odisha

Forest Officials in Odisha have rescued a rare and endangered Gangetic Dolphin from the Jalaka River in Balasore district of Odisha. The Common name of the Gangetic Dolphin is Susu and its IUCN status is Endangered. The Government of India also launched a project named "Project Gangetic Dolphin" on August 15, 2023 for the conservation of Gangetic Dolphins.

12. Species of Caddisfly discovered in Jammu and Kashmir

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University have discovered a novel species of Caddisfly named *Rhyacophila Masudi* sp.nov. in Jammu and Kashmir. The Caddisfly Insects play a vital role in the food chain and are essential components of Aquatic ecosystems.

