

# Weekly One Liners 25th to 31st of December 2023

## National Affairs

- **President Draupadi Murmu** granted her assent to three groundbreaking criminal code bills, marking a significant shift in India's legal landscape. These bills, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, received parliamentary approval and are poised to replace the age-old Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant development for the city of **Chandigarh**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated **nine projects with a total investment of 368 crore rupees**. Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for three ambitious projects valued at 32 crore rupees. This marks a substantial commitment to the infrastructural and developmental growth of Chandigarh. Amit Shah also flagged off a **fleet of Chandigarh Police cars**, collectively valued at 3.75 crore rupees. Among them, a state-of-the-art police control vehicle named **'Eagle'** was introduced. This move aims to enhance the operational capabilities and efficiency of law enforcement in the city. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- India's rail network continues to evolve, with the recent unveiling of the **Amrit Bharat train**, set to be flagged off by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** highlighted the advanced features of the train, emphasizing the incorporation of **push-pull technology for enhanced speed and passenger comfort**. This article delves into the key aspects of the Amrit Bharat train, showcasing its innovative technologies and the significant role played by India's Make in India initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has cemented his dominance in the digital realm, becoming the first world leader to surpass the **2 crore subscriber mark on YouTube**. With over **4.5 billion views on his channel**, Modi has left his global peers trailing far behind, highlighting his adeptness at utilizing social media for public engagement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a virtual launch ceremony, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers**, introduced **'MedTech Mitra'**, a strategic initiative aimed at nurturing the talents of young innovators in the country. The platform seeks to shape their research, knowledge, and logic while providing essential support for obtaining regulatory approval. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated the **Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction)** as an "unlawful association" for a five-year period under the anti-terror **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**. Masrat Alam, who has been in detention in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 20 years, with intermittent releases, is currently held in Delhi's Tihar jail since 2019. He assumed the leadership of the separatist group, Hurriyat Conference, following the demise of chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The government is actively engaged in discussions with both domestic and international stakeholders to formulate a policy aimed at enhancing **local manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs)**. A senior government official emphasized the ongoing talks with various countries, including Italy and Korea, and stressed the policy's inclusivity for both domestic and foreign car manufacturers. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a bid to address the soaring rice inflation, the Government of India is contemplating a strategic move—**selling rice under the 'Bharat' brand**, a proposal that is currently under consideration. While the discounted rate for this initiative is yet to be finalized, it marks a significant step in the government's efforts to stabilize retail rice prices. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- In the span of 10 years under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** leadership, both personal income and corporate tax collections in India are expected to surge to over Rs 19 trillion. This substantial growth provides the government with flexibility to introduce tax measures benefiting the public. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### States in the News

- The **16th Rajasthan Assembly** witnessed a significant development as **Vasudev Devnani**, a seasoned BJP MLA with five terms under his belt, was unanimously elected as the **Speaker**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** marked a significant milestone in its journey by venturing into the logistics business. Minister for Transport **Ramalinga Reddy** inaugurated the initiative under the brand name "**Namma Cargo**," introducing cargo services on KSRTC route buses. The launch event saw the **deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The holy city of **Ayodhya** is gearing up for a major transformation, with the renaming of its iconic railway junction and the inauguration of a brand new airport.
- The **Ayodhya Dham railway station** is now a state-of-the-art facility that seamlessly blends ancient Indian architecture with modern amenities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- A **fertilizer plant in North Chennai's Ennore area experienced an ammonia gas leak**, leading to the hospitalization of around 50 people. The incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols in place and the potential environmental impact of such leaks. The gas leak occurred from an underwater pipeline that runs from the sea to the fertilizer manufacturing facility of Coromandel International Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The airport currently boasts the lengthy name "Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport." The Yogi Adityanath government is reportedly considering renaming it "Maharishi Valmiki Airport," honoring the revered poet who authored the epic Ramayana. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh:** In a push towards clean energy and tackling climate change, **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has directed officials to implement the state's **Green Hydrogen Policy-2023**. This policy aims to incentivize and boost the production and utilization of green hydrogen, a promising alternative to fossil fuels. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh, **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **state's first intra-district helicopter service in Bateswar**, a historical village located 65 km from Agra city. This venture, operating on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, is expected to open new doors for tourism in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Telangana Deputy Chief Minister **Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu** recently inaugurated the **Government's Praja Palana programme** in Ibrahimpatnam, marking the initiation of an extensive initiative aimed at understanding and addressing the needs of the people at the grassroots level. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Gujarat** has emerged as the **nation's petrochemical powerhouse**, boasting the world's largest grassroots oil refinery and a state-of-the-art petrochemical complex. The dynamic growth of the petrochemical sector in Gujarat is exemplified by the monumental achievements of Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) Jamnagar refinery and the ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) petrochemical complex in Dahej. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, recently inaugurated the **Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board**, a pivotal step toward **enhancing transparency and efficiency in the recruitment processes of public sector units (PSUs)**. This establishment, located at Vellayambalam, is set to play a crucial role in identifying and appointing capable candidates within state-run entities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



- The **Gujarat government**, in collaboration with **Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL)**, is set to make waves in the tourism industry by introducing **India's first submarine tourism venture**. This ambitious project aims to explore the mesmerizing marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a sacred island off the coast of Dwarka city, steeped in mythological significance within Hinduism. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### International Affairs

- **Angola**, a significant oil-producing nation, has declared its decision to exit the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** with effect from January 1, 2024. This move follows the footsteps of **Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019**, reflecting a trend of nations with relatively small oil output distancing themselves from the influential oil-exporting organization. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Islamabad, Pakistan**: Pakistan's military successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system **Fatah-II**, showcasing a significant advancement in its missile capabilities. The system boasts a 400-kilometer range and advanced features, marking a major milestone for the country's defense program. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Israel's government has approved a substantial **\$3.2 billion** grant for Intel Corp.'s ambitious plan to construct a **\$25 billion chip plant in southern Israel**. This marks the largest investment ever made by a company in Israel, showcasing significant support amid the ongoing conflict with the Palestinian militant group Hamas. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Argentine **President Javier Milei** has officially declined the invitation to join the **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) grouping** of major emerging economies. The rejection was conveyed through letters sent to BRICS leaders, solidifying Argentina's decision to abstain from the bloc. The libertarian outsider, who assumed office recently after a significant electoral victory over traditional political parties, had pledged during his campaign not to align Argentina with BRICS. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- China has introduced its groundbreaking ocean drilling vessel, **Mengxiang**, signifying a pivotal moment in scientific exploration. Developed by the **China Geological Survey** in collaboration with 150 research institutes and companies, the vessel is named "dream" in Chinese, reflecting its ambitious mission. The Mengxiang aims to penetrate Earth's crust and delve into the mysteries of the mantle, marking humanity's inaugural foray into this uncharted territory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India and Russia**, crucial agreements were signed on Tuesday, marking a major stride in the construction of future power-generating units at the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** has taken a significant stride in strengthening economic ties with **major Asian partners** by signing its second free trade agreement (FTA) this year. The recent accord, inked with **South Korea**, underscores the bloc's commitment to fostering investment connections and diversifying its economic portfolio. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark development, the pro-talks faction of the **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)** inked a historic peace accord with the central and state governments, marking a significant stride towards ending decades of insurgency in Assam. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Books and Authors

- On December 25, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled the first series of 11 volumes comprising the collected works of **Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya**. This significant event took place on the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Pandit Malaviya, the visionary founder of Banaras Hindu University. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, **Raghuram Rajan**, in collaboration with economist **Rohit Lamba**, has released a groundbreaking book titled '**Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future**.' This latest addition to Rajan's literary contributions marks a significant exploration into the potential and challenges of India's economic trajectory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The ambitious disinvestment target for the current fiscal year is likely to be missed, with major plans, including **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**, **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)**, and **CONCOR**, pushed to the backburner. Analysts suggest that substantive privatization may only resume after the April/May elections. Over the past decade, disinvestments have raised around Rs 4.20 trillion, with Rs 3.15 trillion coming from minority stake sales and Rs 69,412 crore from strategic transactions in 10 CPSEs. The lack of progress in the current fiscal year underscores the challenges inherent in the strategic sale process. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently took decisive action against **four co-operative banks in Gujarat**, slapping monetary penalties on them for various non-compliances. The penalties range from **Rs 50,000 to Rs 7 lakh**, reflecting the severity of the regulatory infractions. The affected banks include Progressive Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., The Kutch Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Shree Morbi Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., and Bhabhar Vibhag Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Education loans** in India have witnessed a remarkable year-on-year growth of **20.6%**, reaching ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October. This substantial increase, as reported by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, marks the **highest growth in the last five years**. In comparison, the growth registered in the corresponding period was 12.3% in FY23 and a negative 3.1% in FY22, reflecting a significant positive shift. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Cricket fans, raise a glass of your favorite **Coca-Cola beverage!** The iconic brand has cemented its long-standing relationship with the sport, signing an eight-year deal as the **global partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC)** until the end of **2031**. This partnership marks a significant extension from their initial five-year agreement in 2019, solidifying Coca-Cola's position as a major player in the cricketing world. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently given its nod for the appointment of **C S Rajan** as the **part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank**, marking a significant development for the financial institution. Rajan's tenure is set to commence on the 1st of January 2024, lasting for a period of two years. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a report applauding the performance of Indian banks and non-bank lenders, emphasizing the need for stronger governance and risk-management practices to fortify their balance sheets. Despite a remarkable **12.2% growth** in the consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 2022-23, the RBI underscored the importance of continued improvement. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, the second-largest public sector bank (PSB) in India, witnessed a surge in its share price, reaching a fresh 52-week high of ₹233.75 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The boost came following the bank's announcement inviting potential buyers to sell stake in its New Zealand arm. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted approval for the reverse merger of **IDFC Ltd** with its banking subsidiary, **IDFC First Bank**. The respective boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC had previously greenlit the reverse merger in July. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic partnership, Reliance Jio Infocomm, under the leadership of Chairman Akash Ambani, is set to launch the **'Bharat GPT' program** in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. Ambani revealed the company's comprehensive plans, including the development of an **operating system (OS)** for smart TVs, signaling the evolution of Jio's vision into "Jio 2.0." ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a strategic move, the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**, often referred to as an insurance behemoth, has taken the decision to **open a branch office at GIFT City**, the sole operational International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in the country. This development comes as part of LIC's ongoing efforts to enhance its global footprint and diversify its offerings. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited** recently witnessed a significant surge in its shares, rising by 9.98 per cent, following the company's collaboration with the government of **Gujarat**. The strategic move was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by **DH Shah**, Managing Director of Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, and **Sheetal Bhalariao**, Chairperson and Managing Director of Wardwizard Foods and Beverages Limited. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reaffirmed **State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank** as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). Notably, SBI and HDFC Bank have been shifted to higher buckets, necessitating increased D-SIB buffer requirements effective April 1, 2025.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC)** for the acquisition of up to 9.95% stake in Federal Bank. The approval, issued on December 28, comes with certain conditions in accordance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **India, the world's third-largest energy consumer**, recently made a significant move by conducting its **first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil** purchased from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This move is seen as part of a broader strategy to diversify oil suppliers, reduce transaction costs, and position the Indian rupee as a viable trade settlement currency. The **Reserve Bank of India's decision in July 2022**, allowing importers to pay in rupees and exporters to receive payments in the local currency, has set the stage for this initiative. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- Tata Power has emerged victorious in the bid for the **Bikaner-III Neemrana-II Transmission project**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,544 crore, with a targeted commissioning period of 24 months from the date of the project SPV transfer. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is set to spearhead a fundraising round worth Rs 2,500 crore for the Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) supported by the Mahindra Group. In this initiative, various domestic institutional investors (DIIs) will also be actively participating, according to sources familiar with the matter. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In November, the production growth of **eight crucial infrastructure sectors** hit a six-month low at 7.8%, primarily attributed to declines in the crude oil and cement sectors. While this figure is higher than the 5.7% recorded a year ago, it reflects a slowdown from October's 12% growth. The last comparable dip occurred in May, with a growth rate of 5.2%. Despite the overall deceleration, coal and refinery product outputs demonstrated double-digit growth. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- 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**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Bengaluru-based fintech **Slice-backed North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)** has recently revealed the appointment of **Satish Kumar Kalra** as its interim managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO). ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Sony Sports Network (SSN)** has kicked off a new era of football enthusiasm in India by appointing Bollywood heartthrob and Gen Z icon **Kartik Aaryan** as their official brand ambassador for the beautiful game. This strategic partnership aims to bring football closer to a wider Indian audience and ignite passion for the sport across generations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking achievement, **Vita Dani**, a prominent sports entrepreneur, has etched her name in history by becoming the **first Indian** to be appointed as a governing board member of the **International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- India's diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka have taken a new turn with the appointment of **Santosh Jha** as the country's new High Commissioner. In a significant ceremony held in Colombo on Friday, Jha officially assumed charge and presented his credentials to President Ranil Wickremesinghe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Central government has appointed **Nina Singh** as the **first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**, marking a significant milestone in the traditionally male-dominated realm of security forces. **Rahul Rasgotra**, the **Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)**, has been named the **new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**. **Anish Dayal Singh**, the **outgoing chief of the ITBP**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. **Vivek Srivastava**, a **1989-batch IPS officer from the Gujarat cadre**, has been appointed as the **Director General of the Fire Service, Civil Defence, and Home Guards**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar**, has been appointed as the **ex-officio Chancellor of Pondicherry University**. This appointment comes as a result of a **modification in Statute 1(1) of the Pondicherry University Act of 1985**. The official communication from Rajneesh Bhutani, Registrar-in-charge of the University, highlights that this change is effective from December 5, as published in the official gazette by the Government of India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Defence News

- Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a **new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in Bengaluru, Karnataka on December 29, 2023. The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines including two strategic engines. The newly inaugurated facility, spanning **over 10,000 sq. meters**, is poised to be a hub of innovation in the field of aerospace engineering. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the unveiling of **new designs for Admirals' epaulettes** and a **renaming of ranks within the Indian Navy**. This announcement was made during **Navy Day celebrations at Sindhudurg on December 4**, emphasizing a shift towards embracing **Bharatiyata** and breaking free from what the Navy referred to as "**Ghulami ki Maansikta**" or the slave mentality. The redesigned Admirals' epaulettes mark a symbolic departure from the past, with the octagon taking center stage. Inspired by the naval ensign and drawing from the **rajmudra (royal seal) of Chhatrapati Shivaji**, the new design aims to encapsulate India's rich maritime heritage. The **octagon, golden navy button top, and symbols of an Indian sword and telescope crossed**, along with stars indicating ranks, contribute to a visual representation of the Navy's commitment to national pride and heritage. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- In a momentous ceremony held on **December 28, 2023**, **Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu**, the newly appointed **Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council**, was bestowed with the prestigious "**Man of the Year-2023**" award. The honor, presented by **Shri Amit Shah, the Home Minister of India**, serves as a recognition of Mr. Hemanth's outstanding contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are poised to commence negotiations in February aimed at modernizing their existing free trade agreement (FTA) and addressing the prevailing trade deficit, currently standing at \$43.57 billion. The initiative seeks to revamp the **ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) by 2025**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Sports News

- 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. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- 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. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Dean Elgar**, has decided to bid farewell to international cricket after the upcoming test series against India. Elgar, known for his resilient batting and leadership skills, will play his final test at Newlands in Cape Town, starting January 3. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Indian wrestler **Pooja Dhanda**, a decorated athlete with international accolades, has been suspended for one year by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) due to three whereabouts failures. This article examines the details of the case and its implications. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Former Indian cricketer **Ambati Rayudu** embarked on a new journey as he officially joined the **Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**. The significant political move was marked by an event in Vijayawada, attended by prominent dignitaries, signaling Rayudu's foray into active politics. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- In a significant move aimed at addressing **childhood pneumonia**, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister of Manipur, recently inaugurated the **SAANS Campaign 2023-24** in Imphal. Concurrently, the minister also dedicated the **Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS)** as the State Newborn Resource Centre, emphasizing the state's commitment to child healthcare. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move, the Bihar Police has announced the implementation of '**Mission Investigation@75 Days**,' aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state. Starting from January 1 next year, investigators will be mandated to complete the **investigation of cases within 75 days of the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs)**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his delight as the **issuance of one crore Ayushman cards** marked a significant achievement during the ongoing **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY)** across the country. Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (#PMJAY), these cards **offer free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh per annum per family** at empanelled hospitals nationwide. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

- **Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur**, recently addressed the youth after the **launch of the MY Bharat campaign**, expressing confidence in India's remarkable progress on the global stage. He emphasized the significant strides made across various sectors, attributing the success to the government's initiatives. This article delves into the key points highlighted by Minister Thakur, showcasing India's growth trajectory. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The **production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes** introduced by the Indian government have emerged as a key driver for attracting investments and boosting manufacturing across various sectors. As of September this year, these initiatives have garnered an impressive **Rs 95,000 crore in investment**, marking a significant stride towards enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri — Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** has emerged as a beacon of hope in India's healthcare landscape, particularly for women. Data released by the Health Ministry reveals a significant contribution by women to the scheme's success, with approximately **49% of the total Ayushman cards** created attributed to them. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a recent decision, the Union government announced adjustments in the returns on specific savings schemes, leaving the Public Provident Fund (PPF) rate untouched for the sixth consecutive quarter. The **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS)** will now yield 8.2%, up from the previous 8%, while the 3-year time deposit rate increases marginally to 7.1% from 7%. Despite expectations of a broader reset, the **PPF rate remains stagnant** at 7.1%. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman, S Somanath, recently announced a significant milestone in India's space exploration journey. The Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission, is set to reach the **Lagrangian point L1** on January 6. This point, **located 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth**, marks a critical stage in the mission's objectives. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** has been making significant strides in space exploration, and the year 2024 is set to begin with yet another groundbreaking mission. Following the successes of the Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, ISRO is gearing up for its latest venture – the **XPOsat mission**. Scheduled for launch on January 1, 2024, this mission marks **India's maiden foray into polarimetry**, a field crucial for studying black holes and other celestial sources emitting X-rays. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Important Days News

- **December 24th**, the day the act received the President's assent, became the annual celebration of **National Consumer Rights Day**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **December 25, 2023**, is celebrated as **Good Governance Day 2023** in honor of the **birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. This day pays tribute to Vajpayee's leadership and contributions to society, marked by his three terms as the Prime Minister of India. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- 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. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- Every year on **December 27th**, the world unites to observe the **International Day of Epidemic Preparedness**. This vital day serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present threat of infectious diseases and the critical need for proactive measures to combat them. In the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerabilities of our interconnected world, the importance of epidemic preparedness has never been greater. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

### Obituaries News

- Tamil Nadu mourns the passing of beloved actor and politician **Vijayakanth**, fondly called "Captain," who breathed his last today at the age of 71. His contributions to both cinema and the political landscape of the state leave an enduring legacy. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- South Korean actor **Lee Sun-kyun**, widely recognized for his role in the Oscar-winning film **Parasite**, has been found dead in an apparent suicide in central Seoul. The 48-year-old actor's tragic end comes amidst ongoing investigations related to alleged illegal drug use, adding a somber note to his celebrated career. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Wolfgang Schaeuble**, with over 50 years in the German parliament, has passed away at 81, concluding **one of Germany's lengthiest political careers**, during which he played a crucial role in anchoring his country at the center of Europe. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Jacques Delors**, the **former European Commission chief** and a key figure in the formation of the European Union (EU), has **died at the age of 98**. A prominent French socialist, Delors played a crucial role in shaping the EU during his **three-term presidency from January 1985 to the end of 1994**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- In a move highlighting the crucial role of camelids in the lives of people worldwide, the **United Nations** has declared **2024 as the International Year of Camelids**. This decision aims to spotlight the diverse contributions of camelids, including alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, in promoting food security, nutrition, and economic growth, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- **Gwalior**, often hailed as the **City of Music**, recently witnessed an extraordinary spectacle as **1500 tabla performers converged at the historic Karna Mahal of Gwalior Fort**. This monumental gathering not only set a Guinness World Record for the most persons performing tabla simultaneously but also marked a significant moment in the city's rich musical heritage. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- A team of researchers from **Visva-Bharati University's botany department** has made a groundbreaking discovery that has the potential to revolutionize agricultural practices. They have identified a new bacteria strain capable of boosting plant growth and named it '**Pantoea Tagorei**' in honor of **Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore**. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- The Administrative Council (AC), chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, recently approved crucial changes to the **Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989**. The amendments focus on incorporating a definition of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) within the Act to facilitate their reservation in grassroots democratic institutions. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a historic event, the **Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** unveiled the commemorative plaque, officially inaugurating the **Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Samba – Jammu**. This momentous occasion signifies a significant stride towards inclusivity and empowerment for individuals with disabilities in the region. ([Read the Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards enhancing infrastructure in **Ladakh**, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the government has sanctioned a whopping **Rs 1,170.16 crore for 29 road projects in the region**. This development aims to address the connectivity challenges faced by Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in the country. ([Read the Complete Article](#))



Adda247