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15th December

NATIONAL

1) Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt ceremoniously flagged in a team from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, which successfully completed 'Mission Antarctica.'
- The expedition, initiated in 2021, was led by Group Captain Jai Kishan and comprised three trekkers.

2) Pariksha Pe Charcha

- The Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, has officially announced the commencement of applications for the seventh edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha.
- This unique initiative aims to foster student engagement and provide a platform for dialogue on various aspects of education.

STATE NEWS

1) Guinness World Record⁶

- Pune has etched its name in the prestigious 'Guinness World Record' books by hosting the largest reading activity in collaboration, surpassing China's previous record.
- On December 14th, 2023, from 8-10 am at SP College, a remarkable total of 3,066 parents gathered to read aloud to their children, creating a magical atmosphere and leaving an indelible mark in history.

2) Memorandums of Understanding

- Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth an impressive Rs 50,530 crore have been successfully inked with approximately 300 companies, reflecting a resounding success for Bihar.
- These agreements span diverse sectors, underlining the state's appeal to investors.

















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SPORTS NEWS

1) Board of Control for Cricket

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to retire the iconic No.7 jersey worn by former captain MS Dhoni.
- This decision follows the precedent set by Sachin Tendulkar's No.10, retired in 2017. Going forward, no other Indian cricketer will sport the No.7 jersey.

2) Mumbai Indians

- Mumbai Indians (MI) have officially turned the page on a chapter and ushered in a new one with the announcement of Hardik Pandya as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season.
- This significant development marks the end of Rohit Sharma's illustrious reign as captain, a tenure that saw MI claim five IPL titles and establish itself as one of the tournament's most formidable forces.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development

- The prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 has been jointly conferred upon renowned classical pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian peace activist Ali Abu Awwad.
- The award recognizes their exceptional contributions in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

2) Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes

- Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes have etched their names into the annals of the sport as the first Asian men to be inducted into the esteemed International Tennis Hall of
- This achievement not only crowns their remarkable careers but also elevates India to the 28th nation represented in this prestigious institution.















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3) Indian wrestler Antim Panghal

- Indian wrestler Antim Panghal has been named the Rising Star of the Year among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body.
- The 19-year-old dynamo, competing in the 53 kg category, has had a remarkable season that has not only garnered accolades but has also overshadowed senior stalwart Vinesh Phogat in the same weight class.

4) Professor Savita Ladage

- Professor Savita Ladage from Mumbai's Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry's Nyholm Prize for Education.
- Her unwavering dedication to advancing chemistry education in India and mentoring fellow educators has placed her among the esteemed winners of this accolade.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Directorate General of Civil Aviation

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted an aerodrome license for the Ayodhya Airport, paving the way for its inaugural flight on December 30.
- Developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at a cost of ₹350 crore, the airport is strategically timed for inauguration ahead of the upcoming Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya.

2) Department of Atomic Energy

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Bengaluru-based IDRS Labs have united their expertise to develop Aktocyte tablets for the treatment of pelvic cancer.
- The tablets, designed as an adjuvant to cancer radiotherapy, regenerative nutraceutical, immunomodulator, and antioxidant, mark a significant advancement in cancer care, according to a statement from the DAE.















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3) Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has adjusted India's growth projection for the current financial year, FY24, from 6.3% to a more optimistic 6.7%, citing a robust second-quarter performance that exceeded expectations.

4) Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart

- The e-retail market in India is poised for substantial growth, with a report by Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart projecting a surge past the USD 160 billion mark by 2028.
- The report highlights key factors contributing to this growth, including affordable data, improved logistics, fintech infrastructure and a robust digital consumer ecosystem.

5) Asian Development Bank

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has taken a significant stride in fostering sustainable urban development by approving a USD 200 million loan to bolster the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0.
- This initiative, committed to making all cities garbage-free by 2026, aims to introduce international best practices, integrate new technologies, and adopt climate- and disaster-resilient approaches in municipal solid waste management.

6) Stellantis N.V. CEO Carlos Tavares

- Stellantis N.V. CEO Carlos Tavares highlighted the strategic importance of India in the company's global operations and outlined his vision for the country as part of the Dare Forward 2030 global strategic plan.
- The merged companies that formed Stellantis have invested over \$1 billion since 2015 to establish a sustainable footprint in India, aligning with the Government of India's "Make in India" initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.













