

INTERNATIONAL

1) 'white lung syndrome.'

- Recent reports highlight Ohio as the first U.S. state to experience a surge in cases of a pneumonia-like illness dubbed 'white lung syndrome.'
- The outbreak, primarily affecting children, has led to a significant number of hospitalizations, causing concern among health officials.

2) Venezuelan crude oil through intermediaries

- Indian refiners, including Reliance Industries, have reinitiated the import of Venezuelan crude oil through intermediaries.
- The move comes in the wake of the temporary lifting of U.S. sanctions on Venezuela, opening avenues for direct deals between Indian companies and Venezuela's state-owned oil firm, PDVSA.

3) Private Sector Investment Lab

- The President of the World Bank, Ajay Banga, has outlined a strategic initiative aimed at scaling up climate financing through securitization.
- This innovative approach, led by the Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL), focuses on creating a model of "originate-to-distribute" to attract substantial investments from deep-pocketed investors for climate-related projects.

4) International Maritime Organization

- India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2024-25 biennium with the highest tally.
- The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, expressed gratitude for the international support, highlighting the government's commitment to bolstering India's role in global maritime operations.





NATIONAL NEWS

1) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India,

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has announced the National Best Tourism Village Competition 2024 and the National Best Rural Homestay Competition 2024.
- Building on the success of the previous edition in 2023, where 25 villages were recognized for their excellence, these competitions aim to strengthen rural economies and foster community involvement.

2) 28th UN Climate Change Conference

• India, a notable absentee from the list of signatories at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), refrained from endorsing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health.

3) "Gajraj system,"

- The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks.
- This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants' presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.

4) Bharatiya Janta Party

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• Assembly elections in four states have altered the political landscape in India, with the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) emerging victorious in Madhya Pradesh and successfully overturning Congress-led governments in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. As the dust settles on these elections, a comprehensive analysis reveals shifts, in political dynamics and strategies employed by various parties.







STATE NEWS

1) Bhopal Gas Tragedy

• To mark the 39th anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy that occurred on December 2 and 3, 1984.

2) FITEXPO INDIA 2023

• The FITEXPO INDIA 2023, one of Asia's premier sports, fitness, and wellness trade expos, commenced on December 1 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan in Kolkata.

• The mega expo, sprawling over 3 lac sq feet of indoor and outdoor space, is set to captivate over 5000 fitness, sports, and wellness enthusiasts. With an expected footfall of over 1.25 lac, FITEXPO INDIA 2023 is poised to be a colossal success.

3) Karnataka government

• The Karnataka government is embarking on a strategic journey to elevate the state's economic landscape, eyeing an impressive annual investment of Rs 1.4 trillion, a substantial 75% increase from the current levels.

• The overarching goal is to position Karnataka as a premier investment destination in Asia, particularly focusing on future technology and advanced manufacturing.

BANKING NEWS

1) iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud

• iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has officially partnered with ICICI Bank to enhance the distribution of cutting-edge e-surveillance services across the bank's branches.

• This strategic alliance leverages state-of-the-art AI/ML and IoT Technology to offer services such as real-time video monitoring, facial recognition, incident detection, reporting and data analytics.

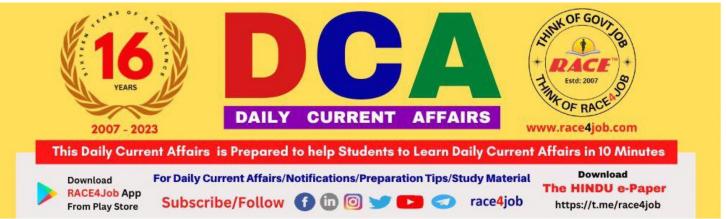
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APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Andry Rajoelina from the Young Malagasies

• Madagascar's Constitutional Court has recently confirmed the re-election of President Andry Rajoelina from the Young Malagasies Determined political party, marking his third term in office. The court declared Rajoelina the winner with 59% of the votes cast.

2) Kanchan Devi

• Kanchan Devi, 1991-batch Indian Forest Service Officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE).

SPORTS NEWS

1) Vaishali Rameshbabu

- Vaishali Rameshbabu, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain.
- This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the footsteps of Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) National Awards for the Empowerment of Divyangjan 2023

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities witnessed a grand ceremony in New Delhi as President Droupadi Murmu bestowed the National Awards for the Empowerment of Divyangjan 2023 upon 21 individuals and 9 institutions.
- Recognizing exemplary contributions across various fields, the awards underscored the government's commitment to prioritizing the empowerment of Divyangjan, constituting 15% of the global population.





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BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) India's manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index

- In November, India's manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) exhibited a positive trajectory, reaching 56, a slight uptick from October's 55.5.
- While still below the September figure of 57.5, this rise indicates a rebound from the slowest rate of expansion recorded in October since February.

2) Life Insurance Corporation of India

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), a leading insurance and investment corporation in India, has announced a significant update in its governance structure.
- As per the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Shareholders' Director) Regulations, 2023, notified in the Gazette of India on December 1, 2023, LIC has outlined a new framework for the addition of a shareholder's director to its board.

3) Indian IT services giant Infosys

- Indian IT services giant Infosys has recently announced a strategic partnership with energy company Shell to drive the adoption of immersion cooling services in data centers.
- This collaboration aims to harness the strengths of both organizations in digital and energy domains, supported by a network of partners, to create an integrated solution for environmentally friendly data centers.

4) Foreign Direct Investment

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India witnessed a substantial contraction from the Cayman Islands and Cyprus during April-September in the current fiscal year, contributing to an overall decline of 24% in FDI inflows.
- FDI from the Cayman Islands experienced a sharp decline of 75%, plummeting from USD 582 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year to USD 145 million in April-September of the current fiscal.



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IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Computer Literacy Day 2023

• World Computer Literacy Day 2023, observed annually on December 2, holds significant importance in promoting computer and technologically empowerment. Instituted by the National Institute of Information Technology (N.I.I.T.) in 2001.

2) National Pollution Control Day 2023

- National Pollution Control Day 2023, observed on December 2, commemorates the tragic Bhopal Gas incident in 1984.
- In 2023, the theme is "Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet,"

3) International Day of Persons with Disabilities

• The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) or World Day of the Handicapped 2023, observed annually on December 3, holds special significance in promoting understanding and support for individuals facing various disabilities. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, this day serves as a platform to advocate for the dignity, rights and overall well-being of persons with disabilities.

4) Indian Navy Day,

- Indian Navy Day, observed annually on December 4, is a significant day in India, honoring the bravery, dedication, and achievements of the Indian Naval forces.
- This day holds great importance as it commemorates the strategic and victorious Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971.
- The theme for Indian Navy Day 2023 is "Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain."

