



Weekly Current Affairs

(23rd – 29th February, 2024)

1. In a significant event that marks a deep connection between **India and Thailand**, four revered relics of **Lord Buddha and his disciples have arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, accompanied by a delegation from India.**
2. The Chief Justice of India, **Justice DY Chandrachud, inaugurated the 'Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre'** within the premises of the Supreme Court of India.
3. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is scheduled to inaugurate the foundation stone laying ceremony for **550 Amrit Bharat** stations on February 26. The initiative aims to improve railway station facilities by developing rooftop plazas and city centers, with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore.
4. In December 2023, **India's mineral output** witnessed a notable increase of **5.1% compared to the same period in 2022**, according to the Ministry of Mines. The mining and quarrying sector's index of mineral production for December reached 139.4, marking a significant rise from the previous year.
5. **The International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)**, a celebration deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural heritage of India, is set to embark on a new journey as it finds its foreign soil in Sri Lanka. Scheduled from March 1 to 3, the fifth edition of the IGM promises to be a grand affair, bringing together devotees and enthusiasts from around the world.
6. **Indian and Sri Lankan** coast guard ships joined the Dosti 16 exercise held in the Maldives from February 22-25. This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges.
7. **The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has approved the acquisition of over **200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER)** supersonic cruise missiles for deployment on Indian Navy warships. The deal, valued at ₹19,000 crore, signifies a significant step towards bolstering India's naval capabilities. The BrahMos ER variant boasts an extended range of 400 to 500 km, significantly augmenting the Navy's operational reach.
8. **India Ratings and Research** projects a moderation in **India's GDP growth to 6.5% for the financial year 2024-25**, slightly lower than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7%. Despite the base effect, the agency notes positive indicators for economic recovery including sustained government capital expenditure, healthy corporate

performance, and softness in global commodity prices.

9. **The Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** for India, compiled by HSBC, reached a seven-month high of 61.5 in February, indicating strong performance in both manufacturing and services sectors. Composite PMI rose to 61.5 in February from 61.2 in January, reflecting improved performance in manufacturing and services. Flash Manufacturing PMI increased to 60.4, up from 59.7 in January.
10. In 2023, **India surpassed China to become HSBC's** third-largest profit hub, showcasing a remarkable surge in profitability.
11. **Guru Ravidas Jayanti 2024**, marks the 647th anniversary of the birth of Guru Ravidas, observed on February 23rd. Guru Ravidas, also known as Raidas, stands as one of the eminent saints of the North Indian Bhakti movement.
12. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana** in Sambalpur, Odisha. The initiative, launched virtually across 9 cities, aims to empower beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme nationwide.
13. **The Swayam Scheme**, introduced by the Odisha government, is a strategic initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among the youth of the state. Known as Swatantra Yuva Udyami, the scheme provides an array of financial supports, including interest-free bank loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh, to encourage young individuals to embark on entrepreneurial ventures.
14. The Indian government has decided to extend its flagship scheme for women safety until 2025-26 with a budget approval of Rs 1,179.72 crore. This decision aims to combat the rising incidents of crimes against women across the country, as evidenced by recent statistics from the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.
15. **The Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** have unveiled a collaborative effort aimed at improving the public health of tribal students. This joint initiative focuses on implementing Ayurvedic interventions to address health issues among over 20,000 tribal students.
16. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 9th edition of **Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi**, marking a significant moment for global discourse on geopolitics and geo-economics. Joining him in the inaugural session was the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who graced the event as the Chief Guest.
17. **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a **USD 23 million** loan aimed at bolstering fintech education, research, and innovation within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India. GIFT, a state-owned enterprise, serves as a hub for nurturing fintech ecosystems and financial services in India, being the nation's premier international financial services centre.
18. **The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has partnered with Swiggy to facilitate the delivery of pre-ordered meals booked by passengers through IRCTC's e-catering

portal. This collaboration aims to enhance convenience and choice for railway travelers. Initially, Swiggy's services will be available at four major railway stations – Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam.

19. Renewable power solutions provider **CleanMax and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** have signed a 25-year long-term power purchase agreement aimed at fostering sustainable energy practices. The renewable energy initiative will draw power from a 45.9 MW Solar-wind Captive Power Project established under a special purpose vehicle named Clean Max BIAL Renewable Energy Private Limited.
20. In a significant move, **Salil Parekh, the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF). Salil Parekh, with a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades in the IT services industry, is recognized for his leadership in executing business turnarounds and managing successful acquisitions.
21. **The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has officially unveiled the logo for the highly anticipated **7th North East Youth Festival 2024**. The emblem beautifully encapsulates the vibrant essence of the eight northeastern states, marking a tribute to the rich cultural tapestry of the region.
22. In a remarkable display of endurance and determination, **Bhagwan Singh and Mahesh Khurana from Bhopal** have completed the Pangong Frozen Lake

Marathon 2024, held in Leh-Ladakh. Bhagwan Singh is also the first mountaineer from Madhya Pradesh to scale Mount Everest.

23. In a historic moment for space exploration, the Odysseus spacecraft, spearheaded by **Intuitive Machines (IM)**, has achieved what was once solely the domain of national space agencies: a successful soft landing on the lunar surface. This landmark event marks the first commercial venture to accomplish such a feat, signalling a significant leap forward in private sector involvement in space exploration.
24. The world of football is mourning the loss of one of its most celebrated figures, **Andreas Brehme, who passed away at the age of 63**.
25. Former Lok Sabha Speaker and ex-Maharashtra Chief Minister, **Manohar Joshi**, passed away at the age of 86, marking the end of an illustrious career that spanned several decades in Indian politics.
26. **Bangladesh observes Amar Ekushey on February 21st**, a day to remember the people who died fighting for Bangla to be an official language in 1952. This event led to significant changes in the country.
27. The Indian government has recently approved crucial amendments to the **Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020**, aimed at streamlining processes, ensuring faster new electricity connections, promoting transparency, and facilitating the installation of rooftop solar systems. These amendments mark a significant step towards consumer empowerment and the nation's commitment to reducing

carbon emissions. The revised norms reduce the time frame for obtaining new electricity connections, bringing it down to three days in metropolitan areas, seven days in municipal areas, and 15 days in rural areas.

28. Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched four portals aimed at fostering a more conducive business environment, enhancing transparency in government communication, and providing easy access to authentic government videos. The four portals launched are: **Press Sewa Portal, Transparent Empanelment Media Planning and eBilling System, NaViGate Bharat Portal and National Register for LCOs.**

29. Anurag Jain, Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), provided insights into the highway construction progress for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). Despite challenges such as extended monsoons and a stricter review process, significant strides have been made in capacity augmentation and widening existing highways.

30. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong to establish the first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' in India. This initiative aims to enhance academic research in multimodal logistics, particularly focusing on the North-East region.

31. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. inaugurates its inaugural solar project in Chhattargarh, Rajasthan, with a capacity of 70 MW, marking a significant milestone in India's renewable energy

sector. This project contributes to NTPC Group's total installed capacity, which now stands at 73,958 MW, further solidifying its position as a key player in the country's energy landscape.

32. The Philippines has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Asian country to ratify the **Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) as announced by the International Labor Organization (ILO).** The convention addresses workplace violence and harassment comprehensively, marking a crucial step towards ensuring safe and respectful work environments globally.

33. Every year, the **Mobile World Congress (MWC)** brings people from the mobile industry together and gives them a chance to connect as well as collaborate. The Mobile World Congress 2024 will be hosted by GSMA, the global association representing the interests of mobile network operators worldwide.

34. On February 23, 2024, **SJVN** announced the commencement of successful commercial operations of its **50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh.** Executed by SJVN through its renewable arm, SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), the Gujrai Solar Power Station was completed at a cost of Rs. 281 crores. The project is expected to generate an annual revenue of approximately Rs. 32 crores.

35. The Bank of Baroda has forecasted India's gross domestic product growth for fiscal years 2024-25, approximately **6.75-6.8%, with a growth rate of 6.8% estimated for the FY24,** alongside insights into sectoral performance and economic indicators. The World Bank

expects growth rates of 6.3% and 6.4% for FY24 and FY25, respectively, driven by robust domestic demand and infrastructure spending. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set a growth target of 7% for FY24.

36. Every year on February 24th, India observes Central Excise Day, a tribute to the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act in 1944.

37. World Peace and Understanding Day, observed globally on February 23, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of harmony, compassion, and cooperation among diverse cultures, religions, and regions. Also known as Special Day, this occasion traces its roots to the foundational meeting of Rotary International, a beacon of humanitarian service, peace, and goodwill.

38. In a groundbreaking partnership, **Nokia and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** have united to pioneer 6G technology research and its real-world applications, with a particular focus on India.

39. The government has appointed **A S Rajeev**, former **Managing Director and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra**, as the Vigilance Commissioner of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

40. Tristan Stubbs has etched his name in the annals of South African cricket history, becoming the **11th batter to achieve a first-class triple-century in the nation**, and notably the eighth since readmission.

41. In a groundbreaking move for Indian cricket, **Jacinta Kalyan** has etched her name in the annals of sports history as the country's first female pitch curator.

42. The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, in collaboration with

EduRade, has inaugurated India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO). Spanning across 18 acres, this initiative boasts the capability to simultaneously fly 9 medium-class drones, positioning itself as a frontrunner in drone technology training.

43. The Aegis South Zone tournament, a platform for cricket battles, turned into a scene of sorrow as Karnataka cricketer Hoysala K, aged 34, passed away due to a cardiac arrest. **Hoysala K**, known for his skills as a fast bowler, had previously showcased his skills while playing for teams like **Bellary Tuskers and Shivamogga Lion** in the Karnataka Premier League. His untimely departure has left a void in the hearts of the cricketing fraternity.

44. Norovirus, a highly contagious virus belonging to the **Caliciviridae family**, presents a significant public health concern worldwide. Characterized by its rapid transmission through various mediums, including close personal contact, contaminated surfaces, and consumption of infected food or water, this pathogen poses challenges for both healthcare systems and individuals alike.

45. In a groundbreaking expedition led by **National Geographic**, the scientific community and the world at large have been introduced to a previously unknown **giant lurking in the depths of the Amazon rainforest**. The newly discovered Northern Green Anaconda, scientifically named **Eunectes akayima**, challenges our perceptions of the natural world. It measures an astonishing 26 feet in length and weighs 200 kg. Its head, comparable in size to

that of a human, and a body as wide as a car tyre underscore the snake's immense size and strength.

46. In a significant stride towards bolstering India's healthcare infrastructure and services, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated **Five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** to the nation. The AIIMS facilities located in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh) mark a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards enhancing tertiary healthcare access and quality.
47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, in Gujarat's Dwarka**. This monumental infrastructure project, connecting Okha and Beyt Dwarka island, stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to progress and connectivity.
48. **The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is set to host a day-long celebration of inclusivity at Amrit Udyaan in the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 26th February, 2024. The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, will inaugurate the Purple Fest event, emphasizing the nation's commitment to inclusivity and empowerment.
49. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated two institutes of the **Union Ministry of Ayush**, marking a significant step forward in the promotion of healthcare across the nation. The inauguration ceremony, held virtually, saw the unveiling of the 'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' (CRIYN) in Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled 'NISARG GRAM' in Pune, Maharashtra.
50. **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2024 on 21-2-2024**, altering the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022. These amendments, effective immediately, address significant changes regarding the use of donor gametes and consent agreements in surrogacy arrangements.
51. **In the 110th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates the remarkable contributions of women across India. With Women's Day around the corner, he highlights the inspiring journey of women like Sunita Devi, affectionately known as "**Drone Didi**," who are breaking barriers and transforming lives.
52. **Vietnam has set forth an ambitious national hydrogen strategy**, aiming to become a significant player in the global hydrogen market. With targets ranging from 100,000 to 500,000 tons of clean hydrogen production annually by 2030, escalating to 10-20 million tons by 2050, the strategy seeks to leverage both green and blue hydrogen production methods.
53. **Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET)** has announced the introduction of a five-year multiple-entry visa aimed at enhancing travel between India and the UAE. This initiative comes in response to the significant increase in Indian visitors to Dubai, with India being the top source market for tourists in the region.

54. Less than two years after being demoted to the **Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "gray list,"** the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been swiftly removed, signaling significant progress in the country's efforts to combat illicit financial activities. The Paris-based watchdog acknowledged the UAE's strengthened anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures, leading to the country's exit from increased monitoring. Namibia and Kenya have been placed on the gray list following the latest FATF review.
55. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the **"Savera"** program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer in women. Developed in collaboration with the Medanta Foundation and the Health Department, Savera leverages the unique ability of visually impaired women to conduct breast cancer screenings.
56. Recently, the **Central University of Bihar (CUSB)** achieved a significant milestone as the University Grants Commission (UGC) granted it Category-1 status. This status streamlines administrative processes, exempts the university from routine inspections, and makes it eligible for research grants.
57. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur,** revealed plans for a new office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in Chandigarh. Shri Thakur highlighted that filmmakers in the region will now have access to screening their films and submitting necessary edits or changes without the need to travel to Delhi or Mumbai. This decision is expected to benefit the Punjabi film industry significantly.
58. **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2)** missile system. This innovative system leverages repurposed Russian R-27 air-to-air missiles, transforming them into a potent surface-to-air defense solution.
59. The 5th edition of the Joint Military Exercise **'Dharma Guardian'** commenced today at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India. The exercise, scheduled to run from February 25th to March 9th, 2024, brings together the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) for a focused training program aimed at enhancing interoperability and fostering closer military cooperation.
60. **HDFC Bank** has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the divestment of a **90% stake in HDFC Credila,** its education loan subsidiary. This decision follows RBI's directive to HDFC to reduce its stake in Credila to below 10% within two years post the HDFC Bank merger in April 2023.
61. Every year on **February 27th,** the world comes together to celebrate **World NGO Day,** a day dedicated to recognizing and honouring the invaluable contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The theme for World NGO Day 2024 is **"Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."**

- 62. The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** has released findings from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) conducted from August 2022 to July 2023. This survey aimed to assess the Household Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) across various demographics, spanning rural and urban sectors, states, union territories, and socio-economic groups.
- 63. Geeta Batra**, a distinguished Indian economist, has been appointed as the **Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. This appointment marks a significant milestone, as Batra becomes the first woman from a developing country to assume this prestigious role.
- 64. The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 concluded in Gulmarg**, with the Army emerging victorious after a thrilling final day of competition. Alpine skier Bobby Pandey's gold medal in the parallel slalom event proved decisive, propelling Army to the top of the medal table with 10 gold medals.
- 65. Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin** etched his name in cricketing history, surpassing legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble to become the leading wicket-taker in Test matches played on Indian soil.
- 66. The Vimarsh 2023 5G Hackathon** is a collaborative effort between **Telecom Centres of Excellence India under the Department of Telecommunications** and the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs. The Vimarsh 2023 5G Hackathon aimed to revolutionize Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) operations. This initiative sought to explore groundbreaking solutions and promote innovation within the law enforcement domain.
- 67. The Indian film industry** is mourning the loss of acclaimed director **Kumar Shahani**, who passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata on Saturday. Shahani, born in Larkana, Sindh (present-day Pakistan) in 1940, was a pioneering figure in Indian parallel cinema. He carved a distinct path with his thought-provoking and socially conscious films, earning him recognition as a leading voice in independent cinema.
- 68. The music world** mourns the passing of legendary **ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas**, who died at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness. Udhas was Born in Jetpur, Gujarat, in 1951.
- 69. Prime Minister Modi** led the inauguration and laying of foundation stones for **several vital infrastructure encompassing railway modernization, road overpasses, and underpasses**, aiming to enhance connectivity, safety, and efficiency. The objective of this initiative is to enhance station facilities by implementing modern infrastructure, thereby improving the overall passenger experience.
- 70. The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** has commissioned India's largest solar-battery energy storage system (BESS) in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. This large-scale integration of solar and battery storage represents a pioneering leap in renewable energy generation and utilization in India.
- 71. Algeria** celebrated the grand opening of what has been acclaimed as **"Africa's**

largest mosque” and the third-largest mosque in the world. Known as **Djamaa El-Djazair**, this monumental structure is more than just a mosque; it’s an architectural marvel and a modernist wonder.

- 72.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially laid the foundation stone for **Sikkim’s inaugural railway station in Rangpo**, marking a significant moment in the state’s history. The station’s design is deeply rooted in local culture, heritage, and architecture. The inauguration of the Rangpo railway station is part of a larger initiative to enhance rail infrastructure nationwide.
- 73. The Adani Group has inaugurated the Ammunition & Missiles Complex in Kanpur**, Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande, inaugurated the complex. This complex, owned by Adani Defence, marks the first phase of the state’s defense corridor and is dedicated to the brave warriors of the Balakot strike.
- 74. Shri Rajnath Singh** has demonstrated unwavering support for Armed Forces personnel who excelled in the **19th Asian Games and 4th Asian Para Games**, held in Hangzhou, China, during September-October 2023. The Ministry of Defence has announced a Financial Incentive Scheme to reward the Medal Winners, aiming to foster Recognition and Motivation among these athletes as they prepare for the Paris Olympics Games 2024.
- 75. NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam** highlights key findings from the latest NSSO consumer expenditure survey, revealing a significant reduction in

poverty levels to below 5% in India. He emphasizes the growing prosperity evident in both rural and urban areas, as indicated by the substantial increase in per capita monthly household expenditure.

- 76.** In a significant development, **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, the Founder and CEO of Paytm, has resigned from his role as part-time non-executive chairman and board member of Paytm Payments Bank. This move comes amidst a restructuring of the bank’s board in response to regulatory concerns and a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to wind down operations by March 15.
- 77.** In a collaborative effort between the **US Consulate and the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA)**, the first-ever US-India Cyber Security Initiative has been launched. The initiative aims to Unite top cybersecurity experts globally, Foster people-to-people ties in cyberspace and Create jobs and develop cutting-edge solutions.
- 78.** In a world propelled by technological advancements, **quantum computing emerges as a frontier of innovation**. At its forefront stands **Dr. Aditi Sen De**, a distinguished physicist from the Harish Chandra Research Institute in Prayagraj. Recently honored with the 2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence, Dr. De’s groundbreaking contributions to quantum technologies mark a significant milestone in scientific research.
- 79. Maryam Nawaz**, the daughter of Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party,

has become the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab province.

80. For the first time, an **international collaboration of researchers** has successfully demonstrated the laser cooling of **Positronium**, a short-lived hydrogen-like atom that provides an ideal testing ground for bound-state quantum electrodynamics.
81. **Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar announces a partnership between NVIDIA** and the Indian Government to develop Sovereign AI, enhancing Digital Public Infrastructure. Sovereign AI, as envisioned by Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA, goes beyond mere algorithmic capabilities; it signifies a significant shift in power dynamics, granting nations the ability to regain autonomy in generative AI.
82. **PM Modi** disclosed the identities of the four pilots currently undergoing training for India's first human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. The astronauts, Group Captain P Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander S Shukla, were also awarded '**astronaut wings**' by the Prime Minister.
83. **Raja Venkatappa Naik**, a revered figure in Surapur's political landscape in Karnataka and a dedicated Congress MLA, bid farewell on February 25, leaving behind a rich political legacy. Naik's tenure as a four-time MLA and recent appointment as Chairman of Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation underscored his enduring commitment to the people of Surapur.
84. **Shafiqur Rahman Barq**, a senior leader of the Samajwadi Party and MP representing Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, breathed his last at a private hospital in Moradabad at the age of 94. Shafiqur Rahman Barq was a significant presence in Indian politics, closely aligned with the Samajwadi Party. His political journey included multiple terms as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, representing constituencies like Moradabad and Sambhal.
85. **Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation** have launched a bold initiative, **Vantara (Star of the Forest)**, dedicated to the rescue, treatment, care, and rehabilitation of animals in need.
86. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, during his address at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in Thiruvananthapuram, declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
87. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Bharat Tex 2024**, the largest textile event in India, emphasizing its focus on sustainability, circularity, and economic growth.
88. The government has announced the initiation of the '**Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye**' campaign in higher educational institutions nationwide starting from February 27, 2024.
89. New Zealand, under **Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's** coalition government, is repealing the **law banning tobacco sales to future generations**, originally enacted during Jacinda Arden's tenure.
90. In a ceremony, the **Holy Relics of Lord Buddha and His Two Disciples** were

enshrined for public reverence. A procession, emanating from the national museum, showcased the cultural heritage of Thailand.

91. The **Uttarakhand government** will introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property. In the upcoming budget session, they intend to present the Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill, aiming to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes.
92. Chief Minister Prof **Dr Manik Saha** inaugurated the **2nd State Level Shehri Samridhi Utsav** organized by Tripura Urban Livelihood Mission at Children's Park, Agartala.
93. The Tripura Chief Minister, Dr. Manik Saha, marked a pivotal moment in the state's development with the inauguration of the **Jagannath Dighi Waterfront Development Project in Udaipur**.
94. In a significant move, the Telangana government has opted to discontinue the much-touted **Hyderabad Pharma City project**, citing legal complexities, farmer protests, and environmental concerns.
95. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) second spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam**, Tamil Nadu.
96. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, is set to unveil a groundbreaking innovation in timekeeping with the **world's first Vedic Clock**. This meticulously crafted timepiece, housed on an 85-foot tower at the city's Jantar Mantar, will be

officially inaugurated on March 1st, 2024, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a virtual ceremony.

97. **Gautam Adani's** conglomerate inaugurated two defense facilities in northern India, representing an investment of **30 billion rupees (\$362 million)**. These facilities, established by **Adani Defence & Aerospace**, signify India's drive towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing.
98. **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, **Steadfast Defender 2024**, in late January 2024. This large-scale operation, conducted against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, serves as a potent symbol of NATO's collective military might and unwavering commitment to the security of its member states.
99. After discussions within the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** regarding the need for uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, the government has taken action by establishing an expert committee. Headed by Finance Secretary T V Somanathan, this committee aims to streamline and finalize uniform KYC norms across various sectors.
100. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a master direction aimed at simplifying reporting norms for **regulated entities (REs)**. This initiative consolidates 20 existing instructions, streamlining processes for finance companies and others. The directive focuses on reducing compliance burden while enhancing clarity and efficiency in reporting.

101. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

is promoting financial literacy among young adults through their annual **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** campaign, held from February 26 to March 1, 2024. This year's theme, **"Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart,"** with emphasis on **"Saving and Power of Compounding," "Banking Essentials for Students" and "Digital and Cyber Hygiene"** which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.

102. National Science Day is celebrated annually on 28th February in India to commemorate the discovery of the **'Raman Effect'** by Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. The theme for National Science Day 2024 is **'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'**, emphasizing the importance of promoting scientific, technological, and innovation skills.

103. KPDCL (Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited) has extended its amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme allows consumers to clear outstanding electricity dues in easy installments without late payment surcharges. KPDCL emphasizes that this is likely the final extension of the amnesty scheme.

104. The US Chamber of Commerce recently unveiled the **12th edition of its International Intellectual Property (IP) Index**, offering a comprehensive evaluation of the IP landscape across the globe. This year's index ranked 55 economies, assessing their IP frameworks' effectiveness in fostering

innovation and creative industries. India secured the 42nd position out of the 55 countries evaluated, with an overall score of 38.64 percent.

105. The World Gold Council (WGC), representing global gold miners, has named Sachin Jain as its new CEO for India, effective from March. Jain joins WGC India from De Beers, where he served in various senior capacities over the past 13 years. Notably, as Managing Director of De Beers India, he spearheaded the De Beers Forevermark business in India and West Asia.

106. In a significant development, former **Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman of India. His appointment comes after a distinguished career in the judiciary, retiring from the apex court in July 2022.

107. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, has clinched the top position in three categories at the esteemed **14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards**. The categories are: 1) Innovation in AI: ASTR Project, 2) Innovation in Social Good: CEIR Solution and 3) Innovation in Telecom: Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Product.

108. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton, the dynamic Namibian batter, etched his name in cricketing history by scoring the fastest T20 International (T20I) century in a blistering innings against Nepal. Loftie-Eaton's extraordinary feat occurred during the first T20I of the Tri-Nation series on Tuesday, February 27,

leaving fans and pundits in awe of his remarkable display of power-hitting.

109. Veteran fast bowler **Neil Wagner** has called time on his international cricketing career, bringing an end to a distinguished 12-year Test match journey with the Black Caps.

110. **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah**, along with Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and other dignitaries, inaugurated the **'Swaminarayan Institute of Medical Science and Research'** at the Shri Swaminarayan Vishwamangal Gurukul in Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

111. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for key initiatives aimed at bolstering the cooperative sector in India. The pilot project for the **'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector'**, expansion of PACS, and digital transformation aim to enhance food security, economic development, and governance, benefiting millions of farmers.

112. In alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has announced the launch of the SWAYAM Plus platform, operated by IIT-Madras.

113. In 2023, South Korea experienced a further decline in its already **record-low fertility rate**, exacerbating concerns about population decline. Political promises aim to tackle the crisis, but similar trends in Japan and China underscore the complex challenges of reversing declining birth rates. **South Korea's fertility rate hits a**

record low of 0.72 in 2023, continuing a trend of decline.

114. **Peru has declared a health emergency** in response to the escalating cases of dengue fever across the nation. Health Minister Cesar Vasquez announced on Monday that over 31,000 cases of dengue have been reported within the first eight weeks of 2024, resulting in 32 fatalities. The emergency declaration will encompass 20 out of Peru's 25 regions.

115. **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** is set to confer the esteemed title of **'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'** upon Acharya Lokesh Muni. The ceremony, scheduled to take place in Karnataka, will be organized by the Jain pilgrim center, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra, in Hubli Varur. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center, is a multifaceted personality known for his profound impact in various domains.

116. The recipient of this year's **Romain Rolland Book Prize is Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee** for his remarkable translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's **"Le Divan de Staline" into Bengali, titled "Staliner Divan."**

117. **Amazon Pay**, the fintech arm of Amazon India, **has secured a payment aggregator license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, joining a select group of authorized organizations in the country.

118. **Dvara Money**, a leading fintech company, has announced a strategic partnership with Jana Small Finance Bank Limited (Jana SFB). This collaboration aims to harness the

technological capabilities of Jana SFB and the innovative Spark Money platform by Dvara Money to set new standards in digital banking services.

119. Reliance Industries (RIL) has unveiled a significant merger deal with **Viacom18 Media and The Walt Disney Company, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV)** that will integrate the operations of Viacom18 and Star India. This strategic move is poised to reshape the landscape of the Indian entertainment and sports industry.

120. In a notable event at the **Durbar Hall (Old) of Raj Bhavan**, Governor Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai unveiled his latest literary contribution, **“Basic Structure and Republic,”** marking his 212th publication. The ceremony was adorned by the gracious presence of His Gracious H. G. Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanacherry, Kerala, and Shri. Subhash Shirodkar, Minister for Water Resource Development, Co-Operation, and Provedoria, highlighting the significance of the occasion.

121. PayU Payments Private Ltd, a prominent fintech arm of the global consumer internet group **Prosus**, has announced the appointment of Renu Sud Karnad as the chairperson and independent director. The addition of Karnad, a distinguished director at HDFC Bank, underscores PayU’s commitment to leveraging experienced leadership to navigate the evolving fintech landscape.

122. Ravindra Kumar, the newly appointed **Director-Operations at NTPC Ltd**, brings over three decades of rich experience and expertise in the power sector. From his early days as a graduate engineer trainee to his recent leadership

roles, Kumar’s journey exemplifies a commitment to excellence and innovation.

123. India’s weightage in the MSCI Global Standard (Emerging Markets) index has reached a historic high of **18.2%** following MSCI’s February review. This surge, nearly doubling since November 2020, is attributed to various factors such as standardized foreign ownership limits, sustained domestic equity rally, and relative underperformance of other emerging markets, particularly China.

124. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Prof. Thillai Rajan A of IIT Madras inaugurated the **‘Investor Information and Analytics Platform,’ developed by CREST**. This platform serves as a centralized hub for startups to access investors, government schemes, and other crucial components of the startup ecosystem.

TUALCHHUNG :

1. Assembly session-ah **Health minister Lalrinpuii** chuan, SEDP sum cheng **vbc. 40** health care bill atana dah chu pek chhuah a la nih loh thu leh, sorkar kum kal mekah health care bill bat mekte pek chhuah kim hman tum a nih thu House a hrilh. Health Minister sawi danin, tun dinhmunah health care bill ba cheng vbc. 45.59 a awm mek a, SEDP sum cheng bc. 40 pek chhuah a nih hun chuan cheng vbc. 6 vel bill ba a la awm dawn. Heng damlote bill bat mek hi kumin sorkar kum ral hmain pek chhuak hman vek tum a ni.
2. Mizoram sorkar chuan sorkar sum hmanga project thawhte viltu tur

Mizoram State Project Monitoring Committee (MSPMC) member turte ruatna February 21, 2024 khan a tichhuak a; kum khat chhung atana MSPMC member turin political party leh pawl hrang hrang atangin mi 12 ruat an ni. MSPMC member mi 18 zinga paruk chu Planning additional secretary Dr Lalrinchhana, PWD chief architect George Lalzuia, PUC atangin Dr K Vanlaldinpuia leh MZU atangin H Laldintluanga, R Lalchhanhima leh Vanlalhruaia te ruat an ni. Political party/NGO atangin kum khat chhung atan mi 12 ruat an ni bawk.

3. Mizoram Food & Allied Industries Corporation (MIFCO) chairman **Lalthazuala Rawite** chuan Hortoki-a hatkora sawngbawlna hmun tur chu a hmunah tlawhin, an hmalak tum dante a enfiah. Hatkora atanga essential oil siam chhuaktu **Laldingngheti Bawitlung**, MZU chuan Mizoramah hatkora hi chi thum a awm a, chung zingah chuan Hortoki leh a chhehvela hatkora chu sawngbawl atana tha ber a nih thu leh hatkora chu a tui leh akâwrte manto zawka hralh theih tura buatsaih tum a nih thu a sawi.
4. **Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation (UDPA)** huaihawtin Siaha district-in **Mizoram Cleanliness Competition 2023-a pathumna** dinhmun a hauh chu MADC Golden Jubilee Hall-ah lawm a ni a, CADC CEM M Laikaw-in a hmanpui.
5. **Govt. Aizawl College-a History department leh Mizo History Association** te chuan GAC conference hall, Mualpuiah **R Vanlawma** chanchin zirhona '**Symposium on Contribution of R Vanlawma (1915-2006) to the people of Mizoram**' an buatsaih a, adviser to CM

Lalmuanpuia Punte, MLA-in a hmanpui. Adviser to CM sawi danin, R Vanlawma hian thil ropui leh hawk zawk chauh ni loin, thil eng pawh a tha leh dik chu a pawm a, a tha lo nia a hriat chu a hnawl mai thin.

6. PHE minister **Prof. Lalnilawma** chuan, **Greater Aizawl Water Supply Scheme (GAWSS)** Phase-III chu zawhfel a nih hma-a hawn a nih thu leh Tawi tlang atanga Aizawl khawpui chawmtu tur tui lak hna zawh tep a nih tawh thu nimin Assembly session-ah House a hrih. Load security hi February 9, 2024 khan P&E dept.-ah deposit fel a ni tawh. P&E dept. hian power pawhluh hna an thawk a, an zawhfelah SIPMIU-in thla khat chhung vel an endik ang a, engkim a that chuan thla khat hma pawhin tui pump theih beisei a ni. March, 2024-ah chuan zawhfel turah ngaih a ni.
7. Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC) chairman **Malsawmzuala Ralte** chuan February 23, Zirtawpni tlaiah khan MYC-in a enkawl UPSC exam tura Delhi-a inbuatsaiha awm mek Mizo thalai 10-te Delhi Mizoram House-ah zanriah a eipui a; Super IAS tih thin chu Mission UPSC tia thlak a nih thu a sawi.
8. Assembly session-ah **Taxation minister Dr Vanlalhlana** awm loh avanga a aiawha minister K Sapdanga put luh, '**The Mizoram GST (Amendment) Bill, 2024**' chu lungrual taka pawm a ni. He bill hi casino, horse racing leh online money gaming atanga GST lak a nih theih nana GST dan siamthatna a ni. Heng thil pathum atang hian 28% GST lak a ni. He amendment hi India ram pumpuiah October 1, 2023 atanga hman tura GST Council-in thutlukna a siam tawh avangin, Mizoramah chuan ordinance

hmanga hman a nia, tun session-ah hian act-a siam turin bill hi put luh a ni. The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 hmang hian India ram pumpuiah GST Act hi July 1, 2017 atangin hman tan a ni. Central government leh state government-ten dual authority system a kalpui a ni a, central GST Act, 2017 nena hmang kawp turin state tinte'n mahni GST Act theuh an nei. India ram pumah inang tanga hman tura siam a nih avangin GST Council remtihna-a central GST Act tihdanglam a nih hian, state hrang hrangten an state GST Act theuhte an tidanglam ve thin.

9. Prime minister Narendra Modi chuan India ram hmun hrang hranga **rel station 554** leh **flyover/under pass 1,500** a hawng a; Mizoramah pawh he hun hi Sairang rel station-ah Lok Sabha MP C Lalrosanga leh PWD minister Vanlalhlana hoin video conference kaltlanga chhim a ni.
10. Assembly Budget Session-ah Finance changtu, chief minister Lalduhoma chuan kum 2024-2025 Mizoram budget tur cheng **vbc. 14,412.12** a pharh a; sorkar kum kal mek (2023-2024) budget aiin cheng vbc. 202.17 (1.42%) in a tam zawk. Revenue surplus cheng vbc. 564.95 awm tura beisei a ni.
11. Chief Minister hian kum 2024-25 budget a pharh rual hian **Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-2024** cheng vbc. **3,287.93** a pharh nghal.
12. Assembly Annexe conference hall-a thuthar thehdarhtute a kawmnaah chief minister Lalduhoma chuan, kum 2024-2025 ah **open market borrowing (OMB) hmangin cheng vbc. 1,170** puk tum a nih thu a sawi.

13. Assembly session-ah Home minister K Sapdanga official resolution '**sorkar laipuiin free movement regime (FMR) tihtawp a tum leh ramri hung a tum duh lohna'** chu lungruual taka pawm a ni.

14. **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** Regional Office, North East Region, Guwahati chu Regional Office, small category zinga titha berah than a nia; ESIC dinchampha vawi 73-na lawmna (February 24, 2024) khan sorkar laipuia Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change minister Bhupender Yadav chuan North East Region regional director (i/c) RL Guite hnenah chawimawina a hlan.

