

pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

27 NOV – 3 DEC



MRP ₹ 50.00

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

1. Irish author Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize
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6. Angkor wat Temple in Cambodia becomes the eighth wonder of the world.



1. India's largest tiger reserve to be set up in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh.

The central government has issued a notification approving the proposal to merge the Noradehi Sanctuary with the R Durgavati Sanctuary of the Damoh district, creating a vast tiger reserve spanning 2,300 square kilometers.



The reserve, which will be located in the Damoh district's Jabera sector, is expected to increase tourism and development in the area.

MS Uikey, Damoh's Forest Divisional Officer, highlights the importance of the tiger reserve in protecting the existing tiger population of 16. The merger is expected to not only provide a safe refuge for these gorgeous beasts, but also to attract other tigers to the region, increasing its total conservation value.

The Forest Department is working hard to get the tiger reserve put up. This innovative project is highly anticipated, with intentions to open it to the public in the next two to three months.

PROMINENT TIGER RESERVES IN MADHYA PRADESH

- **Kanha Tiger Reserve:** Known for its dense forests and a safe haven for tigers and leopards.
- **Bandhavgarh National Park:** Famous for its high density of tigers and ancient fort ruins.
- **Pench Tiger Reserve:** Celebrated for its teak forests and straddles the border with Maharashtra.
- **Satpura Tiger Reserve:** Unique for its varied terrain, from deep valleys to high plateaus.
- **Panna Tiger Reserve:** A conservation success story, having revived its tiger population from near extinction.

2. Irish author Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize

At an event held in London Friday night, Irish novelist Paul Lynch, who is based in London, received the 2023 Booker Prize for his fifth book, "Prophet Song," surpassing the first book "Western Lane" by Indian-origin writer Chetna Maroo. This, Lynch's fifth book, aims to depict the turmoil within



Western democracies and their callous disregard for tragedies like Syria's collapse. The author was given his trophy and given a cheque for £50,000.

About the Novel

The novel's plot takes place in an imagined future Ireland when a repressive government takes hold. The narrative implies that families leave Ireland as a result of civil conflict. The plot pivots to an alternate Dublin in which the government's recently created secret police force moves closer to dictatorship.

Shortlist Category

- The Bee Sting
- Western Lane
- Prophet Song
- This Other Eden
- If I Survive You
- Study for Obedience

3. Indian Immunological (IIL) Has Launched Measles And Rubella Vaccine 'Mabelle'.

Vaccine maker Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) on Saturday launched its measles and rubella (MR) vaccine – Mabella – for children. The live attenuated MR vaccine has been developed by Indian Immunologicals Ltd through an exclusive partnership with Vietnam's Polyvac Institute.



Mabella is a two-dose injectable vaccine. While the first dose has to be administered at 9 months of age, the second shot has to be given at the age of 16-24 months.

The vaccine was rolled out after extensive human clinical trials that proved its safety and efficacy and is aimed at addressing the urgent need to control the deadly measles and rubella virus that claims the lives of over one lakh children globally every year.

4. **(CDSL) Has Become The First Indian Depository To Hold 10 Crore Active DMAT accounts.**

Central Depository Services (India) Ltd made an announcement on crossing another milestone as more than 10 crore (100 million) demat accounts were registered with the platform.

With the goal of offering all market participants convenient, trustworthy, and secure depository services at a reasonable price. CDSL is the only listed depository in India.



The platform was granted a certificate of initiation of operation by the market regulator in February 1999. It enables the holding, trading, and settlement of securities on stock exchanges in an electronic format.

CDSL along with its subsidiaries also provides a host of services to the financial intermediaries and markets. These include CDSL Ventures (CVL), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of CDSL and the first and largest KYC Registration Agency (KRA). CDSL Ventures conceptualized, designed and implemented the KRA system in association with AMFI for all mutual funds in 2008.

What is a Demat Account?

A Demat Account is a bit like a bank account for your share certificates and other securities that are held in an electronic format. Demat Account is short for dematerialisation account and makes the process of holding investments like shares, bonds, government securities, Mutual Funds, Insurance and ETFs easier, doing away with the hassles of physical handling and maintenance of paper shares and related documents.

5. Angkor wat Temple in Cambodia becomes the eighth wonder of the world.

The ancient temple complex known as Angkor Wat, which is situated in the center of Cambodia, has surpassed Pompeii of Italy to become the



eighth wonder of the world. Not only is this UNESCO World Heritage Site the biggest religious building on Earth, but it is also an example of brilliant architecture and significant cultural value. The construction of Angkor Wat involved a remarkable feat of engineering, requiring the coordinated efforts of thousands of skilled laborers. The temple's sheer scale and intricate details are a testament to the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the Khmer people.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Angkor Wat was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992 in recognition of its remarkable global importance. Every year, millions of people are drawn to the site by its beauty and cultural significance. Angkor Wat is a tribute to the Khmer Empire's magnificence and the enduring force of human creation. Its designation as the World's Eighth Wonder is a fair testament to its architectural magnificence, historical relevance, and cultural impact.

CONSTRUCTION

Constructed under the rule of King Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat stands as the largest religious structure in the world. The city of Angkor once thrived as one of the most sophisticated and prosperous kingdoms of Southeast Asia. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu, the temple has five major towers symbolizing the peaks of Mount Meru, believed to be the abode of the gods in Hindu mythology. The temple's sculptures vividly depict scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana, adding layers of cultural richness to this architectural marvel.

6. Extension of PMGKAY Scheme

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at an election rally in Chhattisgarh that he would extend PMGKAY scheme for another five years. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) — the scheme that provides free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore people — the Union Cabinet took a formal decision on Wednesday to continue the scheme from January 1, 2024. The scheme was to end on December 31.



In response to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Union government announced the **PMGKAY** in April 2020. Under the PMGKAY, each citizen received an additional 5 kg of free food grains on top of their NFSA allotment of subsidized foodgrains. The government supplies rice at Rs 3 per kg, wheat at Rs 2 per kg, and coarse grains at Rs 1 per kg under the NFSA.

The scheme is estimated to cost the government Rs 11.80 lakh in subsidies in five years, said an official statement.

In December last year, the government merged the PMGKAY with the NFSA and decided to provide free foodgrains to NFSA beneficiaries as per their entitlement for a year beginning January 2023. But it discontinued the additional quantity (5 kg) that was being provided under the PMGKAY.

7. CoP28- UAE

COP, or the Conference of the Parties, traces its origins to the United Nation's first major Conference on the Environment and Development. The parties are the national and intranational governments of the world.

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is known as COP28 (UNFCCC). It is a worldwide conference that brings together world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and activists to discuss and act on climate change. It promotes the exchange of best

practices and ideas across critical sectors critical to decarbonization initiatives, including energy, transportation, buildings, industry, finance, and nature.

The Rio Earth Summit, as it has come to be known, established the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the mission to raise global public awareness on related issues.

The first COP was held in 1995, hosted in the capital of a recently reunited Germany. Here, the Berlin Mandate was established, collecting a series of indefinite commitments and initiatives which countries could pick and choose from according to their needs and capabilities.

The main objectives of COP28 are:

- Limiting the increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Assisting the communities who are most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.
- Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. "Net-zero emissions by 2050" aims to balance the release of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere with their removal through human made or natural processes by 2050.



Despite the lack of legally enforced emission reduction objectives, India has been actively engaged in addressing climate change and implementing mitigation measures. At the 26th session of the COP 26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined "Panchamrit" on India's climate action. This includes a pledge to reach 500GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.

8. In the men's doubles final of the China Masters Badminton 2023

Indians Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were defeated by the World No. 1 Chinese combination of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 19-21, 21-18, and 19-21. The Indian pair improved



significantly in the second game to even the score. However, the Chinese duo won the third and final game to win the championship.

9. In a historic development, the Government of India and Government of Manipur signed a Peace Agreement with United National Liberation Front (UNLF)

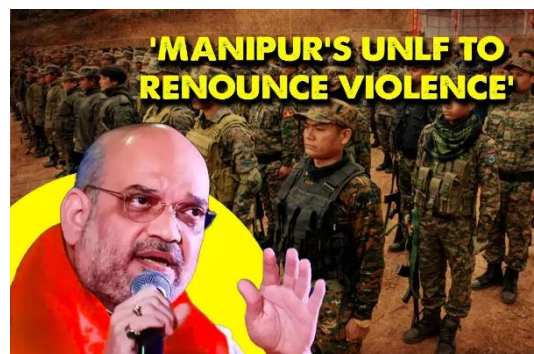
The oldest valley-based armed group of Manipur in New Delhi. The agreement is poised to give a fillip to usher in a new era of peace in the North East in general and Manipur in particular.

United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the oldest valley-based armed group of Manipur. The UNLF was formed in 1964 and has been operating both within and outside Indian Territory

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah says it is a landmark achievement in realizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of all-inclusive development and providing a better future to the youths in Northeast India. Home Minister welcomes UNLF to the democratic processes and wish them all the best in their journey on the path of peace and progress

As per the vision of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, the Government of India has signed agreements with several armed groups of the North East region since 2014 to end militancy and promote development

First time a valley-based Manipuri armed group has agreed to return to the mainstream by abjuring violence and agreeing to honor the Constitution of India and laws of the land. The agreement will not only bring an end to hostilities between UNLF and security forces which have claimed precious lives on both sides over the last more than half a century but also provide an opportunity to address the longstanding concerns of the community Return of UNLF to the



mainstream will also encourage other valley-based armed groups to participate in the peace process in due course.

10. Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir,

The Union Government has announced a crucial move to rebrand the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir,' with the motto 'Arogyam Parmam Dhanam.' This action, notified



by the Union Health Ministry in a letter to all States and Union Territories, intends to strengthen the identity and reach of these primary healthcare centers. The rebranding process is planned to be finished throughout the country by the end of 2023.

11. The National Water Mission

Under the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, hosted the 'Jal Itihas Utsav' on December 1, 2023, at Shamsi Talab, Jahaz Mahal in Mehrauli, Delhi, with the goal of raising public awareness about safeguarding water heritage sites, instilling a sense of ownership among the masses, promoting tourism, and contributing to the restoration of these historical structures. The 'Jal Itihas Utsav' was the finale of the "Water Heritage Fortnight," which was held at 75 'Natural Water Heritage Structures' around the country from November 15 to November 30, 2023. It also marked the end of the nationwide programme 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' in 2023.



The campaign, themed "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water," aimed to prepare communities for the rainy season, encourage rainwater harvesting, and

ensure the sustainability of drinking water sources. The focus was particularly on 150 Water Stressed Districts identified by the Jal Jeevan Mission.

A short video titled "Jal Itihas Journey" will be shown as part of the event, displaying the 75 recognised Water Heritage locations across the country. This visual journey attempts to educate the audience on the historical significance of these water structures and the importance of preserving them.

12. Joshimath, a town in Uttarakhand, was hit hard by landslides and ground subsidence.

The high-level central committee, led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, adopted a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction (R&R) plan worth 1,658.17 crore to deal with the fallout from these natural calamities.

1. Central Assistance: The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) will contribute ₹1079.96 crore through the Recovery and Reconstruction window.
2. Uttarakhand Government: The state will provide ₹126.41 crore from its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and an additional ₹451.80 crore from the state budget.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) intends to carry out the Joshimath rehabilitation plan over a three-year period, utilizing Build-Back-Better (BBB) principles, sustainability initiatives, and other practices. Under the direction of the



National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the MHA has selected technical agencies to help the state government in developing and implementing the recovery plan.

The rehabilitation plan will be implemented over a three-year period, with an emphasis on sustainable practices and the Build-Back-Better principles. The central and state governments' coordinated efforts, guided by technical authorities, aim to return Joshimath to a robust and safe state for its citizens.