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INTERNATIONAL

1) World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET'

Dubai firm, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. 'THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.

NATIONAL

1) e – passports

The Government of India is to launch e – passports from 2022 – 23. This is to increase the convenience of the citizens. The e – passports have a small silicon chip. It is embedded within the jacket of the passport. The chip holds personal information of the holder.

2) KAVACH technology

Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the safety of the Indian trains is to be increased through the KAVACH technology. It is an anti – collision technology. It was indigenously developed. The technology will help India achieve its goal of zero accidents. The technology will stop the train as soon as it detects another train in the same track within a specific distance.

3) New Ramsar sites

The Government of India added two new Ramsar sites. Bakhira Wild life sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh and Khijadia Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat. These are the 48th and 49th Ramsar sites of India. Earlier, the 47th Ramsar site was Haiderpur Wetland in Uttar Pradesh.

4) Vibrant Villages Programme

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her budget speech that, government is set to work on improving connectivity across northern border under the Vibrant Villages Programme. The announcement to launch Vibrant Villages Programme is significant in light of increasing China's presence along the Himalayan frontier with India.

5) PM-DevINE scheme

Government announced PM-DevINE scheme, with an initial allotment of Rs 1,500 crore. It stands for "Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East". Bamboo Link Roads will be constructed in Mizoram, under the PM-DevINE scheme. These roads will help in transporting bamboo from forests.

6) Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy

The Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy was launched at IIT Dharwad. The center will enhance the research in affordable and clean energy. The centre

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will create, incubate technologies, physical infrastructure. Also, it will create clean energy solutions. The solutions will target on livelihoods of rural communities.

7) Torgya Festival

The three days long Torgya Festival of the Monpa tribal community of Arunachal Pradesh is celebrated at Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh. The main attraction of the festival is the 'Sha-na Cham', the ritual dance performed by monks to showcase the Choe-Gyal Yap & Yum Tsa-Munde deity.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Sony Group Corp. is purchasing Bungie Inc

Sony Group Corp. is purchasing Bungie Inc., the U.S. video game developer behind the popular Destiny and Halo franchises, for \$3.6 billion to bolster its stable of game-making studios. The deal announced by Sony Interactive Entertainment.

2) List of insurance brands globally

As per a brand valuation report released by Brand Finance, Life Insurance Corporation has been ranked at 10th in the list of insurance brands globally. LIC is the only Indian insurance company in the top 10 list. LIC has a valuation of USD 8.656 billion (around Rs 64,722 crore). Ping, a Chinese Insurance emerging as the world's most valuable insurance brand

OBITUARY

1) Amitabh Dayal

Actor and filmmaker Amitabh Dayal has passed away after suffering a heart attack at the age of 51. Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's Dhuaan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "The Class of 2006"

India's first-ever season style book titled 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', written by Akash Kansal a management professional. The book was virtually launched at one of the biggest book launch ceremonies at IIT Kanpur, & Delhi Technological University.