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SUCCESS AND NOTHING LESS

Manohar Pandey

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Current Affairs

Union Interim Budget 2024-25

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Interim Budget 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on February 1, 2024. It is her **sixth budget presentation** as Finance Minister, and the last Budget of the current Lok Sabha. Like the previous three full Union Budgets, Interim Budget 2024 is also delivered in paperless form. The full Union Budget will be presented once the new government is elected following General Elections 2024.

Major Features

- The **capital expenditure outlay** for the next year is being **increased by 11.1% to ₹ 11,11,111 crore**, which would be 3.4% of the GDP.
- The **fiscal deficit in 2024-25** is estimated to be **5.1% of GDP**.
- A corpus of 1 lakh crore will be set-up with a **50-year interest-free loan** for the youth for the **upliftment of the 'Garib'** (Poor), **'Mahilayen'** (Women), **'Yuva'** (Youth) and **'Annadata'** (Farmer).
- Proposal to create a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore to boost **private investment in sunrise technologies**.
- **No change** was made in the **tax slab**. Tax rates for Direct and Indirect taxes to be retained.
- **Corporate tax** was reduced to **22%**; Tax exemption extended for sovereign funds; **Tax exemption on sovereign funds extended** till March 2025; Scope of **tax exemption extended for startups**.
- The scope of **Ayushman Bharat scheme** will be **further expanded**; Now its benefits will also be given to **Asha and Anganwadi workers**.
- Government to launch a scheme to help deserving sections of the middle class "**living in rented houses, or slums, or chawls and unauthorized colonies**" to buy or build their own houses.
- Laid down the **strategy for 'Amrit Kaal'**. In line with **'Panchamrit' goals**, government to facilitate high and more resource-efficient economic growth; also work towards energy security.
- Promised for **stepping-up value addition in agricultural sector** and boosting farmers' income.
- Strategy to be formulated to achieve **'Atmanirbharta' for oilseeds**.
- Application of **Nano DAP on various crops** to be expanded in all agro-climatic zones.
- Government to build **two crore more houses in next five years** under PM Awas Yojana (Grameen).
- **Rooftop solarisation** to enable one crore households to obtain upto 300 units of free electricity every month.
- A **framework for rating iconic tourist centres** based on quality of facilities and services to be established.

- Government to lay **White Paper on Economy – Then and Now**.
- Target for **Lakhpati Didi** to be enhanced from **2 crore to 3 crore**.
- **Five Integrated Aquaparks** to be set-up.
- **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana** being stepped-up to enhance aquaculture productivity, double exports to ₹ 1 lakh crore and generate 55 lakh employment opportunities.
- New **Climate Resilient Scheme for Blue Economy 2.0** to be launched.
- **Comprehensive Programme for Supporting Dairy Farmers** to be formulated.
- **More Medical Colleges** to be set-up. The new medical colleges will utilise the existing hospital infrastructure under various departments.
- **Three major economic railway corridor programmes** will be implemented which include Energy, mineral and cement corridors.
- **40000 normal rail bogies** will be converted to the **Vande Bharat standards**.
- Announced **vaccination to prevent cervical cancer**. The vaccination programme will be **for girls in the age group of 9 to 14 years** for prevention of cervical cancer.
- Anganwadi Centres to be upgraded under **Saksham Anganwadi** and **Poshan 2.0** will be expedited.
- Newly designed **U-Win platform** to further strengthen **Digital India** initiative.
- The scheme of a fifty-year interest-free loan for **capital expenditure to states** will be continued this year with total outlay of **₹ 1.3 lakh crore**.
- **Coal gasification and liquefaction capacity** of 100 MT to be set-up by 2030.

'Indian Economy : A Review – January 2024' Report

The Finance Ministry on January 29, 2024 released 'The Indian Economy : A Review – January 2024' instead of 'Economic Survey 2023-24'.

Here are some key highlights of the report :

- **Economic Growth Projection :** The Indian economy is expected to achieve a growth rate of 7% or higher for FY24, and there are predictions of sustaining this growth in FY25. This would mark four consecutive years of robust growth post-pandemic.
- **Global Challenges and Trends :** The global economy is facing challenges such as supply chain disruptions, a slowdown in trade, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence. India is seen as resilient, having overcome past shocks and is navigating these challenges effectively.
- **Shift in Global Manufacturing :** The era of hyper-globalisation in global manufacturing is ending. Governments are focusing on onshoring and friend-shoring, impacting transportation, logistics costs, and final product prices.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Energy Transition :** The emergence of Artificial Intelligence poses challenges to services trade and employment. Additionally, there is a significant focus on the energy transition, with international pressure on developing nations to reduce carbon emissions.
- **Domestic Economic Strength :** Over the last decade, India has invested significantly in infrastructure, leading to a 3.3X increase in public sector capital investment. The financial sector is healthy, with strong non-food credit growth.

NATIONAL

75th Republic Day Celebrated

The 75th Republic Day function was organised at the Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26, 2024. President Droupadi Murmu with Vice- President Jagdeep Dhankhar and PM Narendra Modi were present at the function.

The celebration was graced by French President Emmanuel Macron as the Chief Guest. The twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra Ki Matruka' reflected throughout in this year's parade which witnessed the participation of 13000 special guests.

All India Survey on Higher Education 2021-22 Released

The Ministry of Education of Government of India released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 on January 25, 2024.

Following are the key highlights of the survey :

- Enrolment in higher education increases to 4.33 crore in 2021-22 from 4.14 crore in 2020-21 and 3.42 crore in 2014-15.
- Female enrolment in Higher Education increases to 2.07 crore in 2021-22 from 1.57 crore in 2014-15.
- Significant 44% increase in enrolment of SC students since 2014-15.
- Female faculty/teachers have increased to 6.94 lakh in 2021-22 from 5.69 lakh in 2014-15.

'Exercise Desert Knight' Conducted

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Desert Knight along with French Air and Space Force (FASF) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force over the Arabian Sea on January 23, 2024.

The IAF contingent comprised of Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J and Air to Air Refueller aircraft.

The French participation included the Rafale fighter aircraft and a Multi Role Tanker Transport while the UAE Air Force fielded the F-16. The main focus of Exercise Desert Knight was on enhancing synergy and interoperability between the three Air Forces.

Grand Pran Pratistha Ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya

The Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ramlalla was held on January 22, 2023 in Ayodhya with PM Narendra Modi leading the rituals in the newly constructed magnificent temple.

The PM also unveiled the Ramlalla idol in the sanctum sanctorum at the temple designed by Arun Yogiraj. UP Governor Ananadiben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat also offered prayers to Ramlalla during the ceremony. People from all walks of life including industrialists Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Mittal and Anil Ambani, movie actors Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Ranbir Kapoor, Chiranjeevi, Madhuri Dixit, Katrina Kaif, Alia Bhatt and Kangana Ranaut as well as sports personalities Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble and Saina Nehwal were present at the Ram Janmabhoomi.

PM Suryodaya Yojana Announced

PM Narendra Modi on January 22, 2024 announced 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' under which one crore households will get rooftop solar system. PM Modi said that the people of the country should have their own solar roof top system. This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but also make India self-reliant in energy sector.

Wings India 2024 Organised

The largest event in the Civil Aviation sector in Asia 'Wings India 2024' was held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad between January 18-21, 2024. It was organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India and FICCI.

The theme for the show was 'Connecting India to the World in Amrit Kaal : Setting the Stage for India Civil Aviation @2047'.

Several deliberations, panel discussion, B2B meetings, exhibitions, static display of flights and air shows marked the event.

India International Science Festival 2023 Organised

The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 was held in Faridabad (Haryana) from January 17-20, 2024. The theme of the IISF 2023 was 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'.

The IISF 2023 aimed to inspire a wide range of people and provide a platform for individuals with diverse levels of interests such as students, teachers, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs and science communicators.

Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new 'Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center' and launched the 'Boeing Sukanya' programme in Bengaluru on January 19, 2024.

The PM pointed out that the Boeing facility in Bengaluru strengthens the 'Make in India-Make for the World' resolution and reinforces the World's trust in India's talent.

Boeing Sukanya programme will create STEM Labs at 150 locations. The programme will also provide scholarships to women who are training to be pilots.

India, Cuba Signed MoU on Digital Public Infrastructure

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology signed an MoU with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation in New Delhi on January 19, 2024. The MoU intends to promote digital transformation through capacity-building programs, exchange of best practices, and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

Installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi released the first installment to one lakh beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana - Gramin under the PM-JANMAN via video conferencing on January 15, 2024. The PM-JANMAN, with a budget of around ₹24000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries. The initiative aims to enhance socio-economic conditions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing essential facilities like housing, education, healthcare etc.

India's First Dark Sky Park Announced

Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has made history on January 14, 2024 by securing recognition as India's inaugural Dark Sky Park, marking its position as the fifth in Asia. The reserve is located in the Southern reaches of the Satpura

hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh. The hills continue in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate sanctuary.

Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) on January 12, 2024, also known as Atal Setu, marking the opening of India's longest sea bridge to date. The 21.8 km link built at a cost of over ₹17840 crore aims to reduce travel time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from 120 minutes to just 20 minutes.

'Engendering Land Ports in India' Report Released

The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) released a report titled 'Engendering Land Ports in India' in New Delhi on January 11, 2024. The primary goal of the report is to create a framework for promoting gender-inclusive cross-border trade and tourism through land ports in the country. The report aims to foster a gender-positive environment.

India will be a $ 30 Trillion Economy by 2047

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced on January 11, 2024 that India will become a $ 30 trillion economy by 2047. She said the country will become a $ 5 trillion economy by 2028. India has received $ 919 billion in foreign direct investment in 23 years till 2023. Total 65% of the investments came in the last 9 years.

Vibrant Gujarat Trade Show Organised

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show at Gandhinagar on January 9, 2024. A total of 100 countries were participated in the five-day trade show as visiting countries, while 33 countries were joined as partners. Trade show focused on emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, green hydrogen, renewable energy, semiconductors and cyber-security.

Indian Railways Construction Manual, 2023 Launched

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled the Indian Railways Construction Manual, 2023 in New Delhi on January 9, 2024. The construction manual will help in many activities including Land acquisition, forest clearance, bridge design, contract management, construction of tunnels and under bridges. This manual will also help in achieving the world's fastest growing rail network.

Country's First Smart Lab Started

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi has started the country's first smart lab in its OPD block to provide test facilities under one roof on January 5, 2024. This facility is seamlessly integrated, offering a wide range of laboratory testing services including hematology, biochemistry, serology, endocrinology and various immunoassays. The smart lab of AIIMS gets the report of 90% on the same day the sample is received.

Ayodhya Airport Renamed

The Centre approved Ayodhya airport of Uttar Pradesh will be named 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham' on January 5, 2024. It reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.

The decision aligns with the government's vision to position Ayodhya as a key economic hub and a prominent pilgrimage destination.

Country s First All-Girl Sainik School in Mathura

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first all-girl Sainik School in Vrindavan (Mathura), Uttar Pradesh on January 2, 2024. Its name is 'Sanvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School' and capacity of nearly 870 students of this school. Affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the school will provide education and training under the guidance of ex-servicemen. The session of this school will start from April 2024 and 100 such schools will be opened in the country.

ISRO Launched Maiden X-ray Polarimeter Satellite

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C58 on January 1, 2024. The satellite was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Ten other scientific payloads were also launched along with XPoSat. Now, India has become the second country in the world after the United States to send a specialised astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.

1 th Finance Commission Constituted

The Centre constituted 16th Finance Commission with Dr Arvind Panagariya as its Chairman on December 31, 2023. IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary of the Commission.

The Commission may review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives and make appropriate recommendations thereon. The Finance Commission has been requested to make its report available by October 31, 2025 covering a period of five years commencing on the April 1, 2026.

Historic Tripartite Peace Accord Signed

A Tripartite Peace Accord has been signed between the Centre, the Assam Government, and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) in New Delhi on December 30, 2023. The deal is intended to bring lasting peace to the North-East region.

According to Home Minister Amit Shah that after the formation of the NDA Government in 2014, violent incidents in Assam have declined by 87%, deaths by 90% and kidnappings by 84%.

First Oral Leukemia Drug for Children Introduced

Doctors from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, introduced the first and only oral suspension of 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) in India on December 29, 2023. This Hospital and the Advanced Centre for Training, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Navi Mumbai, collaborated with IDRS Labs, Bangalore, to develop this drug. 6-MP is a chemotherapy drug used in the treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), the most common type of blood cancer afflicting children.

India-Australia 2 Plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue Held

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 2nd India-Australia 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue with Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles in New Delhi on November 20, 2023. External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms Penny Wong were also present in the meeting. During the meet, the two countries discussed wide-ranging issues of mutual interest.

Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 Approved

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved a path-breaking Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 on November 10, 2023.

It aims to enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) which is the advertising wing of the GoI to undertake campaigns in the Digital Media Space.

The Policy will enable CBC to empanel agencies and organisations in the OTT and Video on Demand Space.

Gwalior and Kozhikode Joined UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Indian cities of Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities which have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) on November 9, 2023.

Kozhikode is the first city in India to receive the prestigious title of 'City of Literature' by UNESCO. Gwalior is the second city in India to be designated as the 'City of Music' by UNESCO, after Varanasi in 2015.

Mahadev App Banned

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on November 5, 2023 blocked 22 illegal betting apps and websites including Mahadev Book and Reddyannaprestopro.

The Ministry took the step on the recommendation of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The ED recommended to the Centre for restricting illegal betting app after investigation and subsequent raids on Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh.

World Food India 2023 Organised

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurated the 2nd edition of 'World Food India 2023' in New Delhi on November 3, 2023.

The event aims to showcase India as the 'Food Hub of the World' and celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

The PM distributed seed capital assistance to over one lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) members in this event. This support will help the SHGs to get better value in the market through better packaging and quality manufacturing.

Indian Donors Report Released

Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023 was released on November 1, 2023. HCL Technologies founder and chairman Shiv Nadar is India's largest philanthropist and he donates ₹ 5.6 (₹ 2042 crore) crore every day.

Shiv Nadar is followed by Wipro chief Azim Premji (donated ₹1774 crore), Mukesh Ambani and Kumar Mangalam Birla.

'Mera Yuva Bharat' Platform Launched

PM Narendra Modi launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' platform for youth of the country on October 31, 2023 at Kartavya Path on the National Unity Day.

This momentous initiative aims is to empower and uplift the country's youth. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) serves as a 'Phygital Platform,' seamlessly blending physical and digital elements.

It includes physical activities complemented by digital connectivity, creating an engaging and comprehensive experience.

India's First Home-produced Reference Fuel Launched

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched India's first home-produced Reference Fuel in New Delhi on October 26, 2023.

Reference Fuel is used for developing engines and assessing their performance. Earlier, India used to exclusively import it from other nations.

Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana Launched

PM Narendra Modi launched the 'Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana' at Shirdi in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra on October 26, 2023.

It will benefit over 86 lakh people registered under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in Maharashtra. This scheme will provide an additional amount of ₹6000 per year to the beneficiaries.

Two Whole-Time Directors Mandated for Indian Banks

The RBI on October 25, 2023 introduced a crucial requirement for Indian banks, stating that they must now have a minimum of 2 whole-time directors (WTDs) on their boards.

This move aims to help banks navigate the growing complexity within the banking sector and effectively tackle emerging challenges.

Replace 'India' with 'Bharat' in Upcoming NCERT Books

The NCERT on October 24,2023 has given its approval to replace the term 'India' with 'Bharat' in all textbooks across the country.

The idea behind this recommendation is to emphasise the historical and cultural significance of the name 'Bharat' while acknowledging the nation's rich heritage.

This change aims to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of India's historical evolution.

Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission Launched

The Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1), designed for the ISRO's Gaganyaan programme, successfully took flight from Sriharikota Island in Andhra Pradesh on October 21, 2023.

The TV-D1 launch aimed to achieve several critical mission objectives, bringing India closer to realizing its dream of sending humans into space.

This Test Vehicle uses existing liquid propulsion technology and features innovations, including a throttleable and restartable L110 Vikas engine.

India's First RRTS Launched

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor at Sahibabad RapidX Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on October 20,2023.

He also flagged off the Namo Bharat RapidX train connecting Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, marking the launch of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India.

With a remarkable design speed of 180 km/h, the RRTS aims to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes.

Compensation Mandatory for Sewer Deaths and Disabilities

The Supreme Court of India on October 20, 2023 has taken a strong stance on the issue of sewer deaths in the country.

The compensation amount has been set at ₹ 30 lakh for the kin of the deceased and ₹ 20 lakh for those who suffer permanent disabilities due to sewer cleaning.

Additionally, if a cleaner sustains other disabilities, they will be entitled to receive up to ₹ 10 lakh in compensation.

'Apna Chandrayaan' Web Portal Launched

The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled a web portal named 'Apna Chandrayaan' on October 17, 2023.

This web portal, developed by the NCERT under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. It aims to provide activity-based support materials (quizzes, puzzles, coloring books, jigsaw puzzles) related to Mission Chandrayaan-3.

Tradable Green Credit Programme Launched

The government on October 16, 2023 launched a national Green Credit programme, incentivising eco-friendly actions through market-based mechanisms.

This programme aims to encourage positive environmental contributions through market-based incentives.

The programme promotes a competitive market-based approach for green credits to incentivize environmental actions.

'Navratna' Status to 'RITES Ltd.'

RITES Ltd, a prominent Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious 'Navratna' status on October 13, 2023.

RITES Ltd. ecame the 16th CPSE in India to be granted this distinction. The achievement of Navratna status acknowledges its contribution to the nation's growth and development.

2023 Forbes List of India's 100 Richest

Mukesh Ambani reclaimed the No. 1 position on the 2023 Forbes list of India's 100 Richest on October 11, 2023.

The collective wealth of India's 100 Richest was flat at $799 billion this year (2023).

Ambani is followed by Gautam Adani ($68 billion), Shiv Nadar ($29.3b), Savitri Jindal ($24b), Radhakishan Damani ($23b), Cyrus Poonawalla ($20.7b) and Hinduja Family ($20b).

India Re-elected as President of AIBD

India has been elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the 3rd successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation on October 6, 2023.

India had already served two terms as President, AIBD GC from 2018-21 and 2021-23.

AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional intergovernmental organisation, currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries.

Constitution of the 'National Turmeric Board'

The Government of India on October 4, 2023 notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board.

The National Turmeric Board will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

The National Turmeric Board will provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel to Allow Humanitarian Access

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in a landmark decision on January 26, 2024, ordered Israel to allow humanitarian access.

The top UN court also ruled that Israel must take all measures to ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts which could fall foul of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention.

The court's 17-judge panel issued such measures, ordering Israel to take steps to limit the death and destruction caused by its military campaign, as well as to prevent and punish incitement to genocide.

19th NAM Summit Organised

The 19th Summit of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) was held in Kampala (Uganda) from January 15-20, 2024. The theme of the Summit was "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence".

The summit adopted the Kampala Declaration, slamming Israeli military aggression and calling for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution to allow humanitarian aid into the besieged Gaza Strip. The External Affairs Minister of India led the Indian delegation at the Summit.

Japan's First Moon Lander

Japan's robotic SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) spacecraft touched down on the lunar surface on January 19, 2024.

Now, Japan joined the elite group with Russia (then the Soviet Union), the US, China and India in reaching the lunar surface.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA's) President confirmed that SLIM successfully established signals after landing, though its solar capabilities malfunctioned.

54th WEF Summit in Davos

The 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum was held at Davos, Switzerland from January 15-19, 2024.

The theme was 'Rebuilding Trust', emphasising the focus on exploring the opportunities enabled by the new technologies and their implications on decision-making and global partnership.

Issues related to climate change, threats from artificial intelligence, cooperation amid geopolitical fragmentation and other problems across the globe were discussed.

Ongoing conflicts like the Ukraine War, Israel-Hamas war were also be part of the agenda.

Crown Prince Frederik X became King of Denmark

Crown Prince Frederik X became the King of Denmark on January 15, 2024, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch. 83-year-old Margrethe is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily relinquish the throne in nearly 900 years. She stunned the nation when she announced her plans to step down on television on New Year's Eve. Australian-born wife of King, Mary is the first commoner to become Queen of Denmark.

'William Lai Ching-te'Elected as Taiwanese President

Taiwanese voters have chosen William Lai Ching-te as their President on January 14, 2024, marking a significant departure from China.