

Weekly Current Affairs PDF December 10 to December 16, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

UK Government Considers Social Media Limits for Under-16s

- The UK government, led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, is contemplating additional measures to protect teenagers below the age of 16 from online dangers.

China Launches Deepest Lab on Earth, More than 2,000m below Ground

- China has achieved a significant milestone in the field of physics with the operationalization of the world's deepest and largest underground laboratory.

NATIONAL

Tamilisai Soundararajan: Telangana to Decentralise Development into Three Zones

- According to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, the first zone will encompass the city within the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the second will extend from the ORR to the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR), and the third will cover areas beyond the RRR.

Parliament Greenlights Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana

- The approval comes in the form of The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which successfully passed through the Rajya Sabha.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Successfully Flight Tests Indigenous High-Speed Flying-Wing UAV

- DRDO conducted a successful flight trial of the autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator in Karnataka's Chitradurga.
- UAV, designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, marks a significant step leap in India's aerospace capabilities. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Maiden flight of the aircraft took place in July 2022, followed by six subsequent flight trials.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Hardik Pandya Takes Over As Captain of Mumbai Indians

- Mumbai Indians (MI) have officially announced that Hardik Pandya as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Vijay Diwas 2023: 16th December

- The roots of the 1971 war lie in the oppressive actions of the Pakistani military regime led by General Yahya Khan.
- The conflict arose when the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won the 1970 elections.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) Launched for Swift Clearance of Imported Goods

- Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), inaugurated the India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) on December 6, 2023, in New Delhi.
- EODES aims to streamline the implementation of the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) through the electronic exchange.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Rijul Maini wins Miss India USA 2023

- The annual Miss India USA 2023 pageant held in New Jersey showcased the triumph of Rijul Maini, a 24-year-old medical student from Michigan.
- First Runner-up: Greeshma Bhat:
- Second Runner-up: Ishita Pai Raikar:
- The Miss India USA pageant, organized by Worldwide Pageants and founded by Indian-Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran.

Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath Receives Visionary Leader Icon 2023 Award

- Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd's Chairman, Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath, who has been honored with the Visionary Leader Icon Award of the Year 2023.
- The prestigious award was presented at the 5th National Summit held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi on 24th Nov 2023.
- AASRAA is a Non-Governmental Organization founded in 2010.

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NATIONAL

PM Modi Unveils 7th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

- Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, has officially announced the commencement of applications for the seventh edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha.
- In the previous edition held at New Delhi's Talkatora Stadium on January 27, 2023, over 38 lakh students registered.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation grants licence for Ayodhya Airport

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted an aerodrome license for the Ayodhya Airport.
- The Ayodhya Airport, named Maryada Purshottam Shri Ram International Airport, not only signifies a significant boost in connectivity but also serves as a testament to the cultural and religious heritage of the region.

Pune Surpasses China, Clinches Guinness World Record for Largest Reading Activity

- Pune has etched its name in the prestigious 'Guinness World Record' books by hosting the largest reading activity in collaboration, surpassing China's previous record.

- The Pune Book Festival, commencing from December 16 to 24 at the Fergusson College Grounds.

About Maharashtra:

Founded: 1 May 1960

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais

Capital: Mumbai

SPORTS

Antim Panghal named UWW Rising Star of the Year

- Indian wrestler Antim Panghal has been named the Rising Star of the Year among women by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body.
- Hailing from Antim Panghal embarked on her remarkable journey this season with a silver in the Asian Championships.
- In the men's freestyle category, Greece's Georgios Kougioumtsidis received the Rising Star of the Year award.

Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

- Legends Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes have etched their names into the annals of the sport as the first Asian men to be inducted into the esteemed International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- India to the 28th nation represented in this prestigious institution.
- Tennis journalist and historian Richard Evans will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Bihar Business Summit 2023: Massive Investment Inflows of Rs 50,530 Crore through MoUs

- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, a key participant in the summit, took a significant step towards bolstering Bihar's economic landscape.
- Summit resulted in MoUs worth Rs 50,530 crore with 300 companies across sectors, showcasing Bihar's growing appeal.
- Nitish Kumar unveiled the Bihar Logistics Policy 2023, with a vision to establish world-class infrastructure for both industrial and social advancement.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad

- The prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 has been jointly conferred upon renowned classical pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian peace activist Ali Abu Awwad.
- International Jury, chaired by former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur.

RANKING

Shah Rukh Khan Tops UKs List of World's Top 50 Asian Celebrities Post Success of Pathaan and Jawan

- The 58-years-old iconic actor, Shah Rukh Khan, has etched his name in the annals of box office history with two action-packed thrillers, "Pathaan" and "Jawaan."
- While Shah Rukh Khan claimed the top position, the talented and popular actress Alia Bhatt secured the second spot on the list.

- Priyanka Chopra Jonas, a global icon, clinched the third position on the 'Eastern Eye' annual list.

Zepto founders top Hurun India's list of 'Top 100 under 30'

- Kaivalya Vohra (21) and Aadit Palicha (22), the founders of the Quick Commerce app Zepto, have claimed the top spots.
- Second is Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash (24), founder of Bhanzu.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Tamil Nadu's FDI Landscape: With \$10 b in 4 years, ranks fourth

- Tamil Nadu has witnessed a cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of nearly \$10 billion in the past four years (October 2019 to September 2023).
- Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in FDI attraction during the specified period.

About Tamil Nadu:

Founded: 1773

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

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INTERNATIONAL

Statue of Tamil Icon 'Thiruvalluvar' Unveiled In France

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted that the inauguration of the Thiruvalluvar statue in Cergy is a fulfillment of an assurance made by Prime Minister Modi during his visit to Paris for Bastille Day in July.
- Thiruvalluvar, commonly referred to as Valluvar, stood as an eminent Indian poet and philosopher renowned for authoring the Tirukkural, a compilation of couplets addressing ethics, political and economic subjects, and love.

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NATIONAL

Uttar Pradesh to Witness Aviation Boom: Nine New Airports in Two Years, Reveals Aviation Minister

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently unveiled ambitious plans for Uttar Pradesh's aviation infrastructure.
- Uttar Pradesh currently has Kushinagar and Noida airports.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Founded: 24 January 1950

Governor: Anandiben Patel

UIDAI Imposes Rs.50000 Penalty for Overcharging Aadhaar Services, Suspends Operator: Govt.

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has implemented strict measures against operators found guilty of overcharging and also imposed penalty of Rs.50,000 against them.
- UIDAI imposes a Rs.50,000 penalty and suspends operators found overcharging to ensure fair and affordable access.

About UIDAI

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 28 January 2009, India

Founder: Government of India

Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Mann Initiate Scheme for Doorstep Services

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal recently launched the “Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar” scheme in Ludhiana.

SPORTS

Italy clinches Admiral's Cup 2023 at Indian Naval Academy

- 12th edition of the eagerly awaited Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta concluded at Ettikulam Beach, INA, Ezhimala.
- A total of 20 countries participated in the Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta 2023.

About Italy:

Capital: Rome

Prime minister: Giorgia Meloni

President: Sergio Mattarella

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Reliance Teams with DBS Bank For Biogas Initiative

- Reliance Industries has forged a strategic partnership with DBS Bank India to establish a financing program.
- The first biogas facility is in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, and is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tonnes annually.

COP28 Concludes with Historic Agreement on Fossil Fuels

- The 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded with a groundbreaking decision – the “UAE Consensus”.
- The appointment of Sultan Al Jaber, CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, as COP28 President raised concerns about potential industry influence.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Mohammed Shami nominated for Arjuna Award, Satwiksairaj-Chirag for Khel Ratna

- India's premier badminton men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty is in line to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sports prize.
- Mohammed Shami, who finished as the top wickettaker in the ODI World Cup with 24 scalps, is in the list for the Arjuna Award.

RANKING

Mercer's Survey: Pune 2nd In India for Quality of living after Hyderabad

- Pune has secured the second-best position in terms of 'quality of life' in India.
- Vienna (Austria), Zurich (Switzerland), and Vancouver (Canada) clinched the top three spots globally in that order, according to the 2023 index.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Food Processing Industry Thrives with ₹7,000 cr Investment under PLI Scheme

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme investing a staggering ₹7,126 crore.

About Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

Founded: 16 October 1945, Québec City, Canada

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INTERNATIONAL

Ban Ki-moon Honored With 2023 Diwali 'Power of One' Award at UN

- Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, along with three distinguished diplomats, was honored at the annual 'Diwali Power of One Awards.'
- Ban Ki-moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, received the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Also included Mirsada Colakovic, Ambassador Kim Sook, and Miroslav Lajcak.

Myanmar Surpasses Afghanistan as World's Leading Opium Source in 2023: UN Report

- Myanmar has emerged as the world's largest source of opium in 2023, surpassing Afghanistan.

About Myanmar:

Capital: Naypyidaw

Currency: Myanmar Kyat

Official language: Burmese

About Afghanistan:

Capital: Kabul

Currency: Afghan Afghani

Official languages: Pashto, Dari

NATIONAL

India Joins UN's 'Race to Resilience' at COP28

- India join the United Nations' 'Race to Resilience' global campaign. This decision, announced during the recently concluded COP28 event in Dubai.

India Launches Forest Certification Scheme for Sustainable Management

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has introduced the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.

SPORTS

Asad Shafiq Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

- Pakistani batter Asad Shafiq, the middle-order batter, announces his retirement from all forms of the game at the age of 37.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

PM Modi Launches AI Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

- The annual Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit commenced at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on December 12.
- Paytm's CEO, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, shed light on the challenges faced by Indian farmers.

Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI (YUVAi) at GPAI Summit 2023

- YUVAi-Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI," a collaborative initiative of the National e-Governance Division (NeGD).
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and Intel India.

India Postpones Quad Summit Meeting amidst Strained Relations and Scheduling Issues

- India has decided to defer the Quad summit meeting, originally scheduled for January 2024.
- India's Republic Day celebrations, US President Joe Biden is unlikely to attend the Quad Summit.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Javed Akhtar to Receive Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival

- The veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar is set to be honored with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the upcoming Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.
- The award ceremony will be held at the Rukmini Auditorium, MGM University campus, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Lok Sabha Approves Additional Spending of ₹58,378 Crore in Current Fiscal

- Lok Sabha has given its approval for a net additional spending of ₹58,378 crore in the ongoing fiscal year, set to conclude in March 2024.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's commitment to fiscal prudence.

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INTERNATIONAL

Poland's Parliament Elects Donald Tusk as Prime Minister

- On December 11, former EU leader Donald Tusk returned as Poland's Prime Minister.

SPORTS

Travis Head wins ICC Men's Player of Month award for November 2023

- Australian batter Travis Head and spin maestro Nahida Akter earning the prestigious ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards.

About Australia:

Capital: Canberra

Prime minister: Anthony Norman Albanese

OBITUARY

Dr. Gao Yaojie, Renowed AIDS Activist Dies At 95

- Dr. Gao Yaojie, a trailblazing Chinese doctor and activist, passed away at the age of 95.
- She was known for her fearless exposure of the AIDS virus epidemic in rural China during the 1990s.
- AIDS day is observed on 1st December.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Neutrality 2023: Upholding Peace and Sovereignty: 12th December

- A Central Asian country recognized as a permanent neutral state by the UN since December 1995.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved Turkmenistan's proposal on February 2, 2017.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Veteran actor Kabir Bedi awarded Italy's civilian honour 'Order of Merit'

- Kabir Bedi was awarded the "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" (Merito della Repubblica Italiana).
- Country's highest honour awarded to civilians, at a private ceremony held in Mumbai.
- Italian, is one of Italy's highest honors. Established on March 3, 1951

Golden Globe Awards Nominations 2024

- 81st annual Golden Globe Awards were revealed, setting the tone for the much- Edition: 81st
- Ceremony Date: 7th January 2024
- First Awarded: January 20, 1944
- Awarded For: Excellence in film and television
- Country: United States
- This year's Golden Globes feature notable changes, including six nominees per category instead of five.
- Two new prizes have been introduced to celebrate box office achievements and stand-up comedy performances.

Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman

- The 33rd Vyas Samman, 2023, is announced to honor the accomplished Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- This prestigious award is bestowed by the KK Birla Foundation, recognizing outstanding contributions to Hindi literature.
- Instituted in 1991, the Vyas Samman acknowledges exceptional Hindi literary works by Indian citizens published in the last 10 years.

Indian Scientist Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar Receives Karmaveer Chakra Medal-2023

- On Nov 27, 2023, in New Delhi, Dr. Hemachandran Ravikumar was honored with the Karmaveer Chakra Medal and Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship by ICONGO in collaboration with the United Nations.
- In recognition of his exceptional contributions to R&D in Physical & Bio-Science and Microbiological Studies.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Tata Power, Indian Oil Ink Deal for 500+ EV Charging Points at Pumps

- The electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in India, Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).
- The collaboration aims to set up more than 500 EV charging points.
- Shri Saumitra Shrivastava, Executive Director (Retail-N&E) at IOCL, envisions providing 10,000 EV charging stations by 2024.

Bank of India Launches Nari Shakti Savings Account for Women

- This exclusive savings bank product is designed to cater specifically to women aged 18 and above.

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NATIONAL

Indian Army Organizes 'Honour Run' in Delhi to Commemorate Kargil War Victory

- In a tribute to the historic military triumph during the Kargil War, the Indian Army orchestrated the 'Honour Run – Indian Army Veteran's Half Marathon' in Delhi on December 10, 2023.

Tiriyani Block Clinched Top Spot in NITI Aayog's Inaugural Delta Rankings

- The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), Tiriyani Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana, has secured the top position in the first delta rankings announced by NITI Aayog.
- Rayagada in Odisha and Jamui in Bihar secured the first and second ranks, respectively, in this initiative.
- The event, conducted under the theme 'Honour Run.'

Indian Navy Conducts Bi-annual 'Prasthan' Exercise off Mumbai Coast

- The Indian Navy, recently concluded a comprehensive two-phased exercise named 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area off the Mumbai coast.
- The first phase of the exercise focused on simulating security emergencies, including potential terrorist attacks and bomb threats involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Indian Army Organizes Table-top Exercise to Empower ASEAN Women Officers

- The Indian Army recently conducted a table-top exercise (TTX) for women officers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- This exercise, held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from December 4 to 8, is part of the ongoing joint military training initiatives between India and ASEAN member states.

OBITUARY

Veteran Kannada Actor Leelavathi Passes Away at 86

- The revered Kannada actor Leelavathi has passed away at the age of 86.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Vishnu Deo Sai Is New Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has selected Vishnu Deo Sai, a tribal leader and former Union Minister, as its candidate for the Chief Minister's position in Chhattisgarh.

Mohan Yadav Is New Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

- Mohan Yadav will be the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- He is an MLA from Ujjain South and has been the Higher Education Minister in the Shivraj Singh government.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mountain Day 2023: Restoring Mountain Ecosystems for a Better Tomorrow

- The journey of International Mountain Day began in 2001 when the United Nations decided to shine a spotlight on mountains.
- They launched the International Year of Mountains on December 11, 2001.
- This year, the theme is "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems."

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

REC Signs 200M Euro Loan with German Bank KfW For Distribution Sector Reforms

- REC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power.
- Achieved a significant milestone by signing a 200 million Euro loan agreement with the German bank KfW.
- This agreement, marking REC's sixth line of credit under the Indo-German Development Cooperation.
- Established in 1969, REC Limited stands as a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Ram Nath Kovind Launches Book 'Naye Bharat Ka Samveda' on PM Modi

- Former President Shri Ramnath Kovind graced the launch of 'Naye Bharat ka Samaveda,' a seminal collection spotlighting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's.
- 'Karmayoddha Granth': Released by Amit Shah, this book provides insights into the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 'Narendra Modi: A Political Biography' by Andy Marino: Offers a comprehensive view of Modi's political journey.

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NATIONAL

Uttar Pradesh Delegation Heads to Davos for World Economic Forum

- Uttar Pradesh government is set to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland, scheduled from January 15 to 19.
- Lucknow is India's pioneering AI city.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' in Vijayawada

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, inaugurated the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada.

Supreme Court Upholds Abrogation of Article 370

- The Supreme Court's landmark decision on December 11, 2023, upheld the Union Government's 2019 move to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution.
- The judgment, delivered by a Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.
- The Court addressed the modification of Article 367 through Constitutional Order 272.

Invest India to Host 27th World Investment Conference, New Delhi

- Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, is set to host the 27th World Investment Conference (WIC) from December 11-14, 2023.
- The event, under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- This year's conference will delve into the theme of "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth."

OBITUARY

Former West Indies batter Joe Solomon dies at 93

- Joe Solomon, the former West Indies and Guyana cricket player, has passed away at the age of 93.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Nikhil Dey Named '2023 International Anti-Corruption Champion' by the US Government

- Indian social activist Nikhil Dey has been honored as an International Anti-Corruption Champion by the US government for 2023.
- Dey is the co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), a Rajasthan-based organization.

RANKING

India's Remarkable Climb to 7th Place in Global Climate Performance Index

- India has clinched the 7th position in the latest edition of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

- Published annually since 2005, the CCPI serves as an independent monitoring tool, enhancing transparency in international climate politics. Developed by Germanwatch.

PM Modi Retains Title of World's Most Popular Leader with 76% Approval: Morning Consult Survey

- In a recent survey conducted by US-based consultancy firm 'Morning Consult,' Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has secured the top position as the world's most popular leader, boasting an impressive approval rating of 76%.

Startup funding: India slips to 4th spot in global ranking after dismal 2023

- Slipping to the fourth position in the global ranking among the highest-funded geographies in 2023.
- This decline comes after securing the third spot in both 2021 and 2022.
- In the third quarter of 2023, India further slipped to the fifth position among the highest-funded countries, lagging behind the US, the UK, China, and France.

ITC becomes world's 3rd most valuable tobacco company after London-based BAT sinks

- ITC Ltd has emerged as the third most valuable tobacco company globally, overtaking British American Tobacco (BAT).
- Becoming India Tobacco Company Limited in 1970 and later I.T.C. Limited in 1974.
- BAT Plc, formed in 1902 through a joint venture of American Tobacco Co Ltd and Imperial Tobacco Co Ltd, holds a substantial 29.04% stake in ITC, valued at \$19.9 billion.