

Monthly G.K Capsule

January, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.Tamil Nadu Launched Project Nilgiri Tahr with Rs 25 Crore Budget

- The Nilgiri Tahr is Tamil Nadu's state animal, but there are just about 3,122 Nilgiri Tahr remain in the wild and its population is becoming locally extinct in around 14% of its traditional shola-grassland habitat.
- In a bid to boost its numbers, Tamil Nadu on Wednesday unveiled the Project Nilgiri Tahr, and allocated an initial funding of Rs 10 crore for the project. A total of Rs 25 crore will be allocated from 2022 to 2027. The project seeks to involve government and non-governmental agencies to implement the project.

2.Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launches ‘Stay Safe Online’ Campaign and G20 Digital Innovation Alliance

- As part of India's G20 presidency, the Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications, and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, introduced the “G20 Digital Innovation Alliance” (G20-DIA) and the “Stay Safe Online” campaign. The major goal of the ‘Stay Safe Online Campaign’ is to raise public awareness about staying safe online.
- The ‘Stay Safe Online Campaign’ attempts to improve citizen awareness about staying safe online. It would also make Indian citizens aware of cyber hazards and how to cope with them. To reach a larger audience, the campaign will be executed in English, Hindi, and local languages.

3.India's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge opens in Goa

- Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge. Right-hand side (4-lane corridor) across the Zuari River and approaches from Bambolim to Verna were thrown open for vehicular traffic.
- The 640-metre-long bridge and the 13.20 km roads on both sides have been built in 3 phases. Gadkari also launched the PWD Goa App for integrated operations management. Through the insurance scheme of the Government of Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has given Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the workers who died during the construction of the bridge.

4.Finance Minister inaugurates two-day long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of DRI in New Delhi

- Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the two-day-long 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue

Intelligence (DRI) in New Delhi. She will also launch the current edition of Smuggling in India Report 2021-22 on the occasion.

- As many as 22 Customs administrations covering the Asia-Pacific region along with international organizations are invited to the event this year. The 8th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM) will also be held at the event.

5. Tata Power Renewable Energy to set up 255 MW hybrid power project in Karnataka

- Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power, has received the “letter of the award” (LoA) from Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd, a joint venture of Tata Power and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, for setting up a 255 megawatt (MW) hybrid (wind and solar) power project in Karnataka.
- The project will be commissioned within 24 months from the PPA execution date. The letter was awarded through an e-reverse auction. The power generated from the project will be supplied to Tata Power- DDL, which supplies electricity to a populace of over 7 million in North Delhi.

6. Coffee exports up almost 2% to 4 lakh tonne in 2022

- Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, rose 1.66 per cent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022 on rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports, according to the Coffee Board. Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021.
- In value terms, coffee export was higher at Rs 8,762.47 crore in 2022 as against Rs 6,984.67 crore in the previous year. India ships both Robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee.

7. Home Minister Amit Shah says two lakh primary milk dairies will be opened at panchayat level across Karnataka

- Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah has said that in three years, two lakh primary milk dairies will be opened at the panchayat level across the country to benefit the milk producers and make India a leading milk producer and exporter.
- He was speaking at a public gathering in Mandya after inaugurating a mega-dairy in Karnataka. The Home Minister assured the cooperative milk producers of all the technical assistance from the Cooperative ministry.

8. Shri Amit Shah inaugurated mega-dairy, talks of cooperation between Nandini, Amul brands

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated a mega-dairy built at Rs 260 crore in the Mandya district of Karnataka. Addressing a public gathering

after the inauguration, he stated that if Amul and Nandini work together jointly, there will be primary dairies at every village level in three years.

- The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) will get all technical support and cooperation from Amul, adding that if Karnataka and Gujarat come together in this direction, it will benefit the farmers all over the country.

9.Prime Minister Virtually Inaugurates Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation in Kolkata

- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing. SPM – NIWAS has been set up at a cost of around Rs. 100 Crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Through this apex institute on Water and Sanitation, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) aims to bridge the knowledge and capacity building gap in the field of public health engineering, sanitation & hygiene, through short, medium & long-term courses which are not just related to engineering but also cover aspects of management, health, accounting, law and public policies.

10.President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Samvidhan Udyan At Raj Bhavan Jaipur, Rajasthan

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan, Mayur Stambh, National Flag Post, statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Maharana Pratap at Raj Bhavan, Jaipur. On the occasion, she virtually inaugurated the Transmission System for Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan and laid the foundation stone for 1000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project of SJVN Limited.
- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that our democracy is vibrant and the largest in the world. Our Constitution is the foundation of this great democracy.

11.Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh, along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the Border Roads Organisation. Built at a cost of 724 crore rupees, these projects will hugely augment India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal.
- The Siyom bridge on the Along-Yinkiong Road will facilitate faster induction of troops, heavy equipment like howitzers and mechanised vehicles to forward areas of the Upper Siang district, Tuting and Yinkiong regions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

12.PM Modi inaugurates 108th Indian Science Congress in Nagpur

- The 108th Indian Science Congress being inaugurated at Nagpur by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will focus on sustainable development with inclusive involvement of all sections of society including women.
- Stating this in a pre-conference briefing to the media, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the focal theme of this year's Science Congress has been very thoughtfully finalized as "Science & Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".

13.Himachal Pradesh Government Launched Chief Minister Sukhashray Sahayata Kosh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced to set up of Rs 101 crore CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh for the destitute in the state. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh informed that 40 Congress MLAs agreed to contribute Rs one lakh each from their first salary for the fund and also requested the MLAs from BJP and other parties to contribute.
- The collected fund will be spent on the higher education of destitute children to encourage them to pursue courses such as engineering, medicine, management, and other streams from reputed institutions like IIT, IIM, AIIMS, and NIT.

14.India's unemployment rate rises to 8.30% in December, highest in 16 months

- India's unemployment rate rose to 8.30% in December, the highest in 16 months, from 8.00% in the previous month, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed.
- The urban unemployment rate rose to 10.09% in December from 8.96% in the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate slipped to 7.44% from 7.55%, the data showed.

15.Goa's Mopa airport to be named after former CM Manohar Parrikar

- The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport, after former defence minister and Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar.
- To fulfil the cherished aspirations of the people of the State of Goa, Chief Minister of Goa conveyed unanimous decision of the Cabinet of State Government of Goa to name the Greenfield International Airport, Mopa, Goa as 'Manohar International Airport – Mopa, Goa.

16.2nd phase of the Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven

Sareess of India begins in New Delhi

- The second phase of the Sari Festival “VIRAASAT”- Celebrating 75 handwoven Sarees of India will begin in New Delhi. This phase being organized by the Ministry of Textiles will start at 11 AM and will close at 8 PM on daily basis.
- The second phase, having 90 participants from different parts of the country, will bring participation of famous handcrafted varieties of Sareess like Tie and Dye, Chikan embroidered Saris, Hand Block Saris, Kalamkari printed Saris, Ajrakh, Kantha, and Phulkari. The first phase of “VIRAASAT”- started on the 16th and concluded on the 30th of last month.

17.Uttar Pradesh Govt Signs MoUs Worth Rs 18,590 Crore with UAE Companies

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth Rs 18,590 crore with 6 United Arab Emirates (UAE) companies. The MoU was signed ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Global Investor Summit (UPGIS) 2023 in Lucknow, UP in February 2023.
- A delegation led by Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Rakesh Sachan, met with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi. The agreement will help create more than 20,000 new jobs.

18.Odisha becomes 1st state to have separate registration for ‘vintage vehicles

- Odisha became the first Indian state to have a separate registration process for vintage vehicles (both two and four-wheelers) that are more than 50 years old.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has made provision under CMV Rule, 1989 for the registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles intending to preserve and promote the heritage of vintage.

19.Odisha wins UN World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission

- Odisha won the UN-Habitat’s World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state. The awards recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world.
- The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

20.Election Commission launches ‘Mission-929’ to take voter turnout in Tripura to over 90%

- The Election Commission (EC) is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of 92% voter turnout in the assembly elections due early this year. These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89%, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls.
- The voter turnout was 89.5% in the 2018 Tripura assembly election. The ECI is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful. This will also ensure that voters can cast their votes peacefully in the assembly election to be held in 2023.

21. India surpasses Japan to become 3rd largest auto market globally

- India has managed to surpass Japan in auto sales in CY 2022, as per latest industry data, Nikkei Asia reported. India has now become third-largest auto market in the world for the first time in history.
- The overall new-vehicle sales for India peaked at least 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan last year.

22. India to host Voice of Global South Summit

- India will host a special virtual Summit on 12-13 Jan 2023 called 'Voice of Global South Summit'.
- The summit is India's attempt to provide a common platform to discuss concerns affecting developing countries. The initiative is inspired by PM Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- **Theme:** 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose'

23. Delhi, Bangalore one of Top-Performing Global Airports of 2022

- Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport both ranked second and seventh in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022. According to the data, while 84.08% of the 201,897 flights that departed on time from Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and 81.84% of the 411,205 flights that departed on time from Delhi's IGI Airport.

24. Nadu Governor Inaugurated Octave 2023 at Thanjavur

- Octave 2023, a festival celebrating the indigenous art and culture of Northeast India, was officially opened by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi under the sponsorship of the South Zone Culture Centre in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- Governor Ravi stated that the nation's perception of the Northeast has evolved over time and the region is now actively contributing to the development and progress of India. He also emphasized the abundant potential and aspirations of the Northeast.

25.17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be Held in Indore

- The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 will take place in January in Indore. Every year on the 9th of January, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas holiday is observed to honour the contribution of the Indian community living abroad who contributes to the growth of India. Additionally, it honours Gandhi's journey back to India from South Africa on the 9th of January, 1915.
- Since 2015, its structure has changed to recognize Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) once every 2 years and to organise Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Conferences with involvement from policymakers, stakeholders, and experts from the abroad community.

26.World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala capital

- Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, has opened a Palm leaf Manuscript Museum featuring modern audio-visual technology at the Central Archives in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The museum, which is being promoted as the "World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum," was created by the Archives Department in partnership with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at INR 3 crore (about \$420,000).

27.India to host virtual summit of 120 countries of 'global south'

- India will host 'The Voice of Global South' Summit on January 12-13.Ten to 20 countries will be part of one session and two lead sessions will be hosted by Prime Minister, the foreign secretary said.
- The virtual summit is significant as India currently holds the presidency of the G20 group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier indicated that priorities would be shaped in consultation with developing countries.

28.Chhattisgarh celebrates traditional 'Cherchera' festival

- Chhattisgarh CM, Bhupesh Baghel has celebrated the traditional Cherchera festival at Dudhadhari Math in Raipur.This traditional festival is celebrated on the full moon night of 'Paush' Hindu calendar month.
- It is celebrated in the happiness of taking the crops to their homes after cultivation.According to mythological belief, on this day Lord Shankar has begged from Mata Annapurna, so people used to donate green vegetables along with paddy on this day.

29.PM launches Aspirational Block Programme aimed at spurring development parameters

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.
- Chairing the second national conference on chief secretaries from states on its third and last day, PM Modi said the entire world is looking to India to bring stability to the global supply chain and asked them to take steps for making the MSME sector "global champions" and a part of the global value chain.

30.Delhi Was India's Most Polluted City In 2022

- Delhi was the most polluted city in India in 2022 with PM2.5 levels more than double the safe limit and the third highest average PM10 concentration, according to an analysis of Central Pollution Control Board data.
- PM2.5 pollution in the national capital has reduced by over 7 per cent in four years, from 108 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019 to 99.71 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022.



31.Uttarakhand governor approves Bill granting 30 per cent women's reservation in govt jobs

- Uttarakhand governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) gave his consent to the Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for Women) Bill, 2022, making it an Act, which will now provide 30% horizontal reservation to women of Uttarakhand in state government jobs.
- The Dhami government had tabled the bill in the assembly on November 29 last year, and the House passed it a day later.

32.Kerala kicked itself into Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4500 penalty kicks within a span of 12 hours

- Kerala kicked itself into the Guinness Book of World Records, by taking 4500 penalty kicks within a span of 12 hours at the Dream Goal Penalty Shootout organised at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram district.

- Former Indian football player U Sharaffali took the first kick at 7.38 am, while the last kick was taken by the State Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports V Abdurahiman at 7.38 in the evening.

33.Madhya Pradesh is set to host 4th edition of the Mandu Festival

- The 4th edition of the Mandu Festival will be held between January 07-January 11, 2023 in Madhya Pradesh (MP).
- It's aim to showcase the destination's historic heritage blended with a modern vibrancy. The first edition of the Mandu Festival began on 28 Dec 2019 at Mandu, MP. The 5-day festival organized by the Madhya Pradesh government and curated by E-Factor Entertainment is set to showcase the historical legacy of Mandu.

34. India's First Centre of Excellence In Online Gaming Will Come Up In Shillong By March 2023

- Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that India's first Center of Excellence for online gaming will be set up in Shillong.
- Digital India Startup Hub through Software Technology Parks of India will set up India's first Center of Excellence in Online Gaming in Shillong by March 2023. Center of Excellence in Meghalaya's Shillong to catalyze startups and entrepreneurs to build next generation online gaming ecosystem.

35. PM Modi announces 'Aarogya Maitri' project to provide essential medical supplies to developing nations

- PM Modi announced the "Aarogya Maitri" project whereby the country will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.
- India unveiled three initiatives to assist the Global South in areas ranging from technology to health, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying medical supplies will be provided to any developing country hit by natural disasters under the "Aarogya Maitri" project.

36. PM Modi virtually flags off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the Vande Bharat Express train connecting Secunderabad with Visakhapatnam.
- "The Vande Bharat Express between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam will boost tourism and cut down travel time." PM Modi said. The Vande Bharat Express is a symbol of New India's vision. India, which is moving rapidly on the path of progress.

37. Union Labour and Employment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav inaugurates Regional Office of EPFO at Alwar, Rajasthan

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the Regional Office of Employees' provident Fund Organization (EPFO) at Alwar, Rajasthan. Around 2 lakh workers, 12,000 establishments and 8500 pensioners from Alwar and neighboring districts of Bharatpur and Dholpur to benefit from the opening of Regional Office. The major industrial areas served by Regional Office are Bhiwadi, Khushkhera, Tapukara, Karoli, Neemrana, Behror, Gheelot, Khairthal.

38. BSE signs MoU with Goa govt to promote the development of SMEs

- Leading stock exchange Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has joined hands with the government of Goa for the development of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)
- With the association of the Goa government, the exchange will look at creating awareness amongst SMEs in the state on the benefits of listing on the exchange. BSE will also guide them on the efficient ways of raising capital through equity infusion.

39. Rajasthan becomes first State to implement blindness control policy

- In a first in the country, the Rajasthan government has implemented a policy for blindness control with the objective of 'Right to Sight'. The Department of Medical and Health, on the direction of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, released the policy document for the prevention of blindness.
- The policy has been introduced with the aim to bring light to the lives of more than three lakh people suffering from visual impairment in the state.

40. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal hands over 9th to 10th century Nataraja idol to Archaeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort

- Union Minister of state for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal handed over the 9th to 10th century Nataraja idol to the Archaeological Department official in Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan. He said that only 13 idols of ancient importance could be brought to India till the year 2013, but after 2014, Narendra Modi government has brought 229 idols to India.
- The idol was stolen in 1998 from Shiva temple at Badoli in Chittorgarh. The idol was brought to India in 2020 from a private museum in London after a long legal process. The Minister also assured to build a ropeway on Chittorgarh fort and connect Chittorgarh with Bharatmala Yojana.

41. 'Jallikattu' celebrations begin in Madurai's Palamedu

- The popular bull-taming sport 'Jallikattu' also known as 'EruThazhuvuthal' and 'Mancuvirattu' started in full swing in the Palamedu of Madurai district. The 'Jallikattu' began, a day after the event in Avaniyapuram in which around 60 people were hurt, with 20 suffering serious injuries.
- A bull tamer was also injured in Palamedu and is being given medical treatment at a primary health centre, informed officials. Only 300 bull tamers and 150 spectators are allowed in the Palamedu Jallikattu competition.

42. Flybig starts flight from Itanagar to Guwahati

- Regional carrier Flybig started service from Itanagar to Guwahati. The carrier has commenced flight from Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh to Guwahati in Assam.
- Itanagar is the 10th destination on Flybig network; while the third destination in Arunachal Pradesh alone. Flybig also flies six days a week to Tezu and seven days to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh from Guwahati," it said in a release. The direct morning flight from Itanagar to Guwahati will be operated on all days except Wednesday.

43. B-20 inception meeting to be organised in Gandhinagar from January 22

- As part of India's G-20 presidency, a Business-20 (B-20) inception meeting will be organised at Gandhinagar in Gujarat between the 22nd to 24th of January. The meeting will be held to formulate policy recommendations to be submitted to G-20 ahead of the leaders' Summit. This will be the first of 15 events that the State is set to organise as part of India's G-20 presidency.
- The inaugural ceremony of the B-20 inception meeting will be attended by Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Ashwini Vaishnaw, State Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, India's Sherpa to G-20 Amitabh Kant and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

44. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) has discontinued the Padho Pradesh scheme

- Students from minority communities can no longer avail interest subsidy on education loans for studying abroad. According to a report in The Hindu Businessline, the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) has discontinued the 'Padho Pradesh' scheme, under which students used to get this benefit.
- Last month, the Indian Banks' Association informed banks about discontinuing the scheme from 2022-23. However, according to the news report, no clear reason has been given for the change.

45. Gogoro, Belrise to set up battery swapping infra in Maharashtra

- Taiwan's Gogoro, in collaboration with Belrise Industries (earlier Badve Engineering), entered into a strategic partnership with the Maharashtra government to invest \$2.5 billion to develop smart energy infrastructure across the state, in what is likely to be one of the largest investments announced in the country's fast-evolving electric mobility segment.

46. Kollam is India's first Constitution literate district

- In a historic achievement, the Indian district of Kollam has become the country's first constitution literate district. The announcement was made by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights.

47. Govt declares J&K as 'Free Area' for purposes of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009

- Jammu and Kashmir Government has declared the whole Union Territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.
- The Notification has been issued after the Government on being satisfied that no cases of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) have been reported from any district of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

48. Two-day 'Think-20' meet under G20 begins in Bhopal

- A 'Think-20' meeting under the G20 will begin in Bhopal during which experts and foreign guests will discuss various topics, including 'Global Governance with LiFE, Values, and Wellbeing', officials said. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan evening reviewed preparations for the two-day meeting, which will be attended by 94 representatives from different countries, besides intellectuals and officials from India, an official release said.

49. India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline to start supplying diesel to Bangladesh from June 2023

- The India-Bangladesh Friendship pipeline (IBFPL) will start supplying diesel to Bangladesh on an experimental basis for June this year, said State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid.
- Replying to a written question in the national parliament, Jatiya Sangsad, in Dhaka, Nasrul Hamid said that about 131.5 kilometre long pipeline has been constructed for importing diesel from India. Out of this, 126.5 kilometre pipeline is in Bangladesh and 5 kilometre is in India. He said that the pre-

commissioning of diesel imports through this pipeline is underway, reports the news agency UNB.

50.Punjab government to launch ‘Schools of Eminence’ project

- The Punjab government will launch its first major education project, ‘Schools of Eminence’ on 21st January 2023 at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali. Under the project, the Punjab government will upgrade the existing government schools into the School of Eminence for the students of classes 9 to 12.
- Under phase 1, the government plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as ‘Schools of Eminence’. The Punjab govt had set aside a fund of Rs 200 crore for this project. This project is inspired by the Delhi model of the School of specialized excellence which conducts the admissions of Class 9 level.

51.Modi govt plans to bring 75% of all Indians under Ayushman Bharat

- The government is planning to integrate CGHS with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). This is aimed at creating digital health identification of CGHS beneficiaries and storing their digital health records, thus ensuring quick treatment to the needy. The PM-JAY or Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme currently covers the poorest 40%, but the Modi govt plans to merge all state & central schemes under it.
- Under this process, beneficiaries’ CGHS numbers will be mapped with ABHA numbers and digital linking of all health will be recorded.

52.PM Modi launches projects worth Rs 38,000 cr, inaugurates two Metro rail lines:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects in Mumbai. These projects, which are worth more than Rs. 38,000 crores, belong to different sectors and aim to develop infrastructure, ease urban travel, and strengthen healthcare in the state.
- During his visit, PM Modi launched two new Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7 which have been developed at a cost of around Rs. 12,600 crores. The Prime Minister not just did inaugurated the metro lines, but also rode the newly launched metro. The two newly-inaugurated metro lines comprise a 35 km-long elevated corridor stretching from Andheri to Dahisar in suburban Mumbai.

53.Centre approves ‘Apple Cluster’ for Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) approved an “Apple Cluster” for Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district under the Cluster Development Programme. This was announced during a daylong conference on the ‘India Cold Chain Conclave’. The Conclave was organized by the Ministry in conjunction with the D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) & National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Shopian apple cluster envisages the development of Shopian apple on 3 verticals including pre-production-production, post-harvest management, value addition and logistics, marketing, and branding to make it globally competitive.

54. Assam's Charaideo Maidam nominated for UNESCO world heritage tag

- Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that Charaideo Moidams (pyramids) is India's nomination for UNESCO's world heritage site status in the cultural category for 2023-24.
- Out of 52 sites Assam's site is selected by the government of India. Sarma on Saturday in Guwahati said, “The Prime minister on Saturday informed me that Assam’s site is India's entry for the UNESCO world heritage.”

55. Himachal targets to be first green energy state by 2025

- The Himachal Pradesh government intends to make the state as the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025 by harnessing hydro, hydrogen and solar energy and switching to green products.
- The state government would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24, out of this, 200 MW would be installed by HPPCL for which land has been identified for 70 MW capacity and the rest of the sites will be finalized soon.

56. J&K govt to host its maiden SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is going to host its maiden SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14 wherein artisans and women self help groups from across the country will showcase their crafts, handcrafts, handloom and foods.
- The fair is expected to witness the participation of women Self Help Groups from around 15 States and UTs across the country to sell their self made products. The fair will be the first of its kind in the UT. The eleven-day exhibition is going to witness several cultural events, aids and plays on several government schemes and campaigns.

57. Amit Shah awards Aska police station as number One in the country

- Union home minister Amit Shah awarded Aska police station in Odisha's Ganjam district as the number one police station in the country in the annual ranking of police stations for 2022.
- The award was given during the DGsP/IGsP Conference – 2022 which began in National Agriculture Science Complex, New Delhi on Friday. Prashanta Kumar Sahoo, the inspector in-charge of Aska police station received the prestigious award with the certificate of appreciation from Shah.

58. North India's largest floating solar power plant opens in Sector 39 in Chandigarh, Punjab

- North India's largest floating solar power plant of 2000kWp at waterworks, Sector 39, and a 500kWp floating solar project with fountains at Dhanas lake were inaugurated by UT administrator Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Sector 39 solar plant has been installed at Rs.11.70 crore, including 10 years operation and maintenance and the 500kWp solar plant with fountains at Dhanas lake at Rs 3.34 crore, including 10 years O&M. The projects have been designed and executed by Crest (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society), UT, and will generate a minimum of 35 lakh Units(kWh) of solar energy per year with 20% module efficiency.

59. Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day with full enthusiasm across state

- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 53rd Statehood Day with full enthusiasm across the state on Wednesday (January 25). It was on this day in 1971 that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.
- The state-level function of Full Statehood Day will be held at Hamirpur district, where Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will unfurl the national flag and take a salute from the march past presented by various contingents.

60. India among top 3 nations in expanding organic farming in 2020

- India is reported to have become one of the top countries in the world that have the largest area of land reserved for organic farming.
- Based on reports by IFOAM -Organics International data the total increase in lands reserved for organic farming in India has reached 3,59,000 hectares, which has made the nation one of the top countries in the world with the most amount of area reserved for organic farming.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sworn in as President, vows accountability and rebuilding

- Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was sworn in as president, and in his first address expressed optimism about plans to rebuild while pledging that members of outgoing Jair Bolsonaro's administration will be held to account.
- Lula is assuming office for the third time after thwarting far-right incumbent Bolsonaro's reelection bid. His return to power marks the culmination of a political comeback that is thrilling supporters and enraging opponents in a fiercely polarized nation.

2. Croatia Adopts Euro and Entered Europe's Borderless Zone

- Croatia has adopted the euro and joined the European Union's borderless Schengen zone, two steps that its prime minister said represented a historic moment.
- "Nothing is the same after this," said Andrej Plenković, promising that joining the euro would better protect Croatians from financial crises, and joining the Schengen zone would make travelling easier and boost tourism. Croatia became the 20th eurozone country, at a time when inflation is high across Europe after rising food and fuel prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

3. Japan retains top rank, in most powerful passports 2023 list, India moves up 2 spots to 85

- For the fifth straight year, the Japanese passport is the most powerful among all passports in the world, as it allows visa-free access to as many as 193 countries, according to Henley Passport Index 2023. India, on the other hand, improved its position by 2 spots from last year, and is currently ranked 85th on the index.

4. Students In Australia To Soon Learn Punjabi In Public Schools

- Now Punjabi will be taught in public schools in Western Australia. The language is all set to be introduced into the school curriculum. The Australian government is adopting Punjabi as the newest language after a 2021 census showed that it was the fastest-growing language in Australia with more than 239,000 people using it at home, an increase of over 80 per cent from 2016, reported SBS Punjabi.

- The syllabus for pre-primary to year 12 will be developed this year. The move to teach Punjabi in schools was considered after the syllabus included Tamil, Hindi, and Korean languages in 2021.

5.UN declares Pakistan based Abdul Rehman Makki a global terrorist

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has listed Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist. Makki is the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed.
- The development comes after India last year slammed China after it blocked the proposal to list Makki under the Sanctions Committee. Makki, who has been involved in raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing the youth to plan attacks in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, has already been listed as a terrorist by India and the United States. Makki has been in various leadership roles within the terrorist organisation.

6.India announces donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba

- India has announced donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi announced this during her official visit to Cuba from 12th to 14th of January. This was her first visit to Cuba.
- During her visit, Ms. Lekhi had a fruitful interaction with Speaker of Cuban Parliament, Esteban Lazo Hernandez. Both the leaders discussed various issues including, development of indigenous vaccines against Covid and woman empowerment. Ms. Lekhi apprised Mr. Hernandez about policies of the government of India and emphasized on the need to further strengthen cooperation between the two Parliaments.

7.Pakistan's economy South Asia's weakest, World Bank report

- World Bank forecast Pakistan's economic growth to slow further to two percent during the current year. This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report.
- The report said that Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well. Forecasting Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024, the report said, "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook" of Pakistan.

8.Vietnam President Nguyen Xuan Phuc announces his resignation following corruption scandals

- In Vietnam, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc has announced his resignation amid the ongoing anti-corruption drive. The anti-corruption drive has led to

several ministers being fired in Vietnam. Earlier, two deputy prime ministers who served under President Phuc had quit.

- Phuc, a former prime minister, held the post of president since 2021. The 69-year-old had served as prime minister of Vietnam from 2016 until April 2021, when he was elected president. The president's resignation requires approval from the National Assembly, which will hold an extraordinary vote today, but it is expected to be a mere formality.

9. International Tourism Fair FITUR 2023 kicks off in Madrid

- Today kicks off the annual International Tourism Trade Fair in Madrid, a city which has transformed itself especially in the last five years into a premier capital of world tourism, after recent editions were marked by the pandemic and the restrictions placed on travel. This year's Fitur motto is "Citizens of the World. We Are tourism", and its focus is on a healthy and sustainable future.

10. UNESCO dedicates this year's International Day of Education to Afghan girls and women

- UNESCO has decided to dedicate the International Day of Education on the 24th of January, 2024 to Afghan girls and women.
- Director general Audrey Azoulay said that no country in the world should bar women and girls from receiving an education and it is a universal human right that must be respected. According to UNESCO, currently, around 80 per cent of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule, as they denied them access to secondary schools and universities.

11. Brazil and Argentina to begin preparations for common currency

- Brazil and Argentina will announce that they are starting preparatory work on a common currency, the Financial Times .
- The plan, set to be discussed at a summit in Buenos Aires this week, will focus on how a new currency which Brazil suggests calling the "sur" (south) could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the US dollar, FT reported citing officials. Politicians from both countries have discussed the idea already in 2019, but met with pushback from Brazil's central bank at the time.

12. Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi To Be Chief Guest on Republic Day 2023

- President of Egypt Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2023. This is the first time

that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest on our Republic Day.

- Also, this is the 1st first time India has invited a foreign dignitary to the event after the gap of the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2020, Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who won the last elections to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in October, was the chief guest. The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.

13. Makkah got the world's longest calligraphic mural installed on road leading to Great mosque.

- The world's longest calligraphic mural has been installed on the road leading to Makkah's Grand Mosque, in the latest beautification of the holy city. The 75-meter mural, designed by artist Amal Felemban, joins a host of sculptures and installations already adorning Makkah in a project run by local authorities to boost its visual appeal and depict Saudi heritage and culture for pilgrims.
- The Municipality of Makkah organizes competitions for painting murals and drawing Arabic calligraphy, which it describes as one of the most significant written and visual arts which is associated with the Holy Quran.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1. Ajay Kumar Srivastava becomes new MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as executive director.
- He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country. He is an astute and hardcore banker with Vast field-level experience and has the distinction of having successfully led the largest and most critical areas of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Delhi while working at a senior level in Allahabad Bank.

2. Captain Shiva Chouhan becomes first women officer operationally deployed at Kumar Post in Siachen

- Captain Shiva Chouhan, an officer from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, became the first woman officer to be operationally deployed at Kumar Post in the Siachen Glacier, which is located at an altitude of 15,632 feet.
- The officer was deployed at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen, for a period of three months after she underwent rigorous training.

3.Bank of Singapore appoints Jason Moo as new CEO

- Jason Moo has been appointed as CEO of Bank of Singapore (BoS), bringing with him over 25 years of experience in private banking, wealth management, and capital markets. Prior to joining BoS, Moo served as CEO for Goldman Sachs in Singapore and was head of private banking for Southeast Asia and branch manager in Singapore at Julius Baer.
- He has also worked in New York and Hong Kong. Moo takes over from Bahren Shaari, who was appointed CEO in 2015 and led the successful integration of Barclays Asia and growth of assets under management from \$55 billion to \$109 billion as of September 30, 2022.

4.ECI appoints Maithili Thakur as Bihar's state icon

- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed as the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission (EC).She will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.
- Maithili Thakur was born in the Madhubani district of Bihar.She has rendered traditional folk songs of Bihar in Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Hindi.Recently, she was selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar.

5.Mr. Ajay Kumar Srivastava appointed as the new MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

- The Centre has appointed Mr. Ajay Kumar Srivastava as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive officer (CEO) of the public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for 3 years.He was appointed following the superannuation of Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta.

6.India's Vinaya Prakash Singh takes over as Secretary General of Asian Pacific Postal union

- The Ministry of Communications has announced that Vinaya Prakash Singh, a former Member (Personnel) of the Postal Services Board, has been elected as the Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU). Singh will serve a four-year term, beginning this month, following the 13th APPU Congress held in Bangkok in August and September 2022.
- The Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an international group made up of 32 nations in the Asia-Pacific region.APPU is a restricted union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a specialized organization of the United Nations.

7.Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA

- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris county judge, becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US. Ms Singh was born and raised in Houston and now lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children.
- She was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas. Ms Singh's father immigrated to the US in the early 1970s. A trial lawyer for 20 years, she has been involved in numerous civil rights organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

8. Republican Kevin McCarthy Elected New US House Speaker After 15 Rounds Of Chaotic Voting

- Republican Congressman Kevin McCarthy was elected as the new speaker of the US House of Representatives on Saturday, ending days of bitter Republican infighting that ground the lower chamber of US Congress to a standstill. McCarthy, 57, has replaced Nancy Pelosi, 82 of the Democratic Party, as US House Speaker. Notably, he was not able to muster a majority of the votes on the floor from the Congressmen-elect even after 14 rounds of votes.

9. Paytm Payments Bank receives RBI nod to appoint Surinder Chawla as Managing Director and CEO

- Paytm Payments Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval to appoint veteran banker Mr. Surinder Chawla as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years. Mr. Chawla brings with him an illustrious career in Retail Banking spanning over 28 years across marquee institutions such as HDFC Bank, RBL Bank, ABN Amro Bank and Standard Chartered Bank.

10. ECIL elects its new Chairman and Managing Director Anurag Kumar

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Kumar's appointment to the post till the date of his retirement i.e 31.01.2026. Accordingly, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appoints several top posts within the Government of India.
- Electronics Corporation of India Limited is a Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy. The aim of the establishment was to create a strong indigenous base in electronics. ECIL is a multi-product, multi disciplinary organisation with a focus on indigenous Nuclear energy, space and Defence sectors.

11. Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Dr Manik Saha, Chief Minister, Tripura inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication.
- The school will enable the rich pool of talent of the region to become world class experts in the transportation and logistics sector. In order to unlock the promised economic potential of the Northeast, the school will be enable the innate capacity of human resources along our opulent waterways, said Shri Sonowal.

12.Shanti Kumari became the first Women to takes charge as Chief Secretary of Telangana

- A. Shanti Kumari, the Senior IAS officer has been appointed Telangana's new Chief Secretary. Accoding to the Telangana High Court's verdict the state government has issued order of appointing her as the Chief Secretary.
- The order was given a day after the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) relieved Somesh Kumar from the post. anthi Kumari will take charge over incumbent Somesh Kumar, who was relieved from the Telangana government by the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

13.Cognizant names former Infosys president Ravi Kumar as CEO

- IT giant Cognizant has announced Ravi Kumar as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Brian Humphries, effective immediately. Mr. Kumar was the president and CEO of Infosys until October 2022, before leaving the company to join Cognizant the following week as President of Cognizant Americas.
- Mr. Humphries had resigned from the post that he held for four years, a move that has been linked to Cognizant's recent underperformance, including revenue decline in the third quarter of 2022.

14.OECD appoints Clare Lombardelli as Chief Economist

- Clare Lombardelli has been appointed as the next Chief Economist of the OECD, starting on 2 May 2023.Clare was selected after a highly competitive merit-based selection process.
- She is a highly regarded economic policy leader who joins the OECD with 20 years of experience in economic analysis and policy making in the United Kingdom, including as the Chief Economist at the UK Treasury and the Joint Head of the UK Government Economic Service over the past five years.

15.Captain Surbhi Jakhmola, 1st woman officer posted on foreign assignment at BRO

- Captain Surbhi Jakhmola of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), news agency ANI reported. The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project Dantak. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is an executive road construction force in India that supports the Indian armed forces.

16. Centre appoints Pankaj Kumar Singh as deputy national security advisor

- The 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Rajasthan cadre, who headed the BSF till December 31 last year before he retired, has been appointed as Dy NSA on a re-employment contract of two years, the order said.
- As the BSF chief, Singh oversaw the force coming up with low-cost anti-drone technology to tackle intruding drones at the Indo-Pakistan border. In the new role as Dy NSA, he will assist NSA Ajit Doval in creating and implementing the country's national security strategies, including assessing threats posed by terrorism, data security, cyber threats, readiness of concerned agencies and cooperation between different organisations dealing with security issues.



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17. Aruna Miller becomes Maryland's first Indian-American Lieutenant Governor

- An Indian-American politician has scripted history in the US once again. Aruna Miller, who was born in Hyderabad, has become the first Indian-American Lieutenant Governor of the state of Maryland. Miller was sworn in as the 10th LG of Maryland on 18 January 2023.
- The 58-year-old recounted the story of her family's migration from India to America. Her father, a mechanical engineer, came to the US in the 1960s, and then brought his family.

18. Praveen Sharma (IDSE) appointed as Director of National Health Authority

- Praveen Sharma (IDSE) has been selected for appointment as Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) under

the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. According to an order issued on January 19 from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Sharma has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever event takes place earlier.

19. Netflix founder Reed Hastings steps down as co-CEO

- Netflix founder and co-CEO Reed Hastings announced Thursday that he would step down after more than two decades at the company. While news of his departure comes as a shock, Hastings noted that Netflix has planned its next era of leadership “for many years” in the announcement, which was shared on the company’s blog.
- In 2020, Netflix named Ted Sarandos, who has long led content efforts at the company, as co-CEO alongside Hastings. At the time, Netflix characterized the change as formalizing the way that the company was already operating.

20. UNGA confirms Ms. Inger Andersen for a second term as UNEP Executive Director

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) confirmed Inger Andersen of Denmark for a second term as executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- She will serve as a UNEP executive director for a second four-year term from June 2023 to June 2027. Andersen is currently serving her initial four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

21. Mr. Nick Walker was appointed as the new CEO of Vedanta’s Cairn Oil & Gas

- Vedanta’s Cairn Oil & Gas, India’s largest private oil and gas exploration and production company, has appointed Nick Walker as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will be the 6th CEO of the company since mining billionaire Anil Agarwal-led group bought the company from Scottish explorer Cairn Energy plc, now known as Capricorn Energy plc, in 2011.
- Cairn Oil & Gas is committed to increasing India’s domestic crude oil and gas production with a vision to contribute 50% of India’s production and add reserves and resources.

22. Senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as new director general of DGCA

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt as the next director general of Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), a govt release said. Dutt's

appointment will be in the 'rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India,' and he will take the charge 'upon superannuation of Arun Kumar, IAS on 28.02.2023 by keeping the Recruitment Rules of the post in abeyance,' the release further said.

- Dutt is presently serving as the chairman and managing director of Air India Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL). He will take over as the head of the aviation regulator on February 28. Dutt was the last government-appointed chairman and managing director of Air India. Dutt was given the Air India CMD charge in January 2022.

23.Jeff Zients to be Biden's next chief of staff

- U.S. President Joe Biden will name former COVID policy coordinator Jeff Zients as his next chief of staff, a source familiar with the matter, refreshing a key role as Biden readies a likely re-election bid and faces a probe of his handling of classified documents.
- Ron Klain, Biden's current chief of staff, plans to leave his post in the coming weeks, sources familiar with the matter have told Reuters. He is expected to stay in the role after his successor starts to ease the transition.

24.Nykaa appoints Mr. P. Ganesh as chief financial officer

- Nykaa's parent firm, FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd., has appointed Mr. P Ganesh as the chief financial officer (CFO) from Feb. 3, 2023.
- To strengthen and boost the company's financial operations and key long-term business strategies. Ganesh is a successor of Mr. Arvind Agarwal who resigned from his post of CFO at Nykaa in November 2022.

25.Tata Trusts names Siddharth Sharma as CEO, ropes in Aparna Uppaluri as its first COO

- Tata Trusts, one of India's oldest public charitable foundations, has appointed Siddharth Sharma and Aparna Uppaluri as its CEO and COO, respectively.
- Sharma (54), the chief sustainability officer at Tata Sons, will succeed N Srinath, who stepped down from the CEO's post last year following his retirement. Tata Trusts will create the COO post for the first time to accommodate Uppaluri (48), who is currently the programme director for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka at the Ford Foundation.

26.RBI approves appointment of Mr. Prabdev Singh as India CEO of JP Morgan Chase

- JPMorgan Chase & Co. has received approval from India's central bank (Reserve Bank of India) to name Prabdev Singh as the lender's chief executive officer (CEO) in the country for a period of a three-year.

- Mr. Singh had been JPMorgan's interim CEO since November 2022 replacing Mr. Madhav Kalyan who in October 2022 was named head of payments for Asia Pacific. Before joining JPMorgan, he was a trained engineer and had worked for a decade at HSBC Holdings Plc.

BANKING

1.Spice Money Partnered with Axis Bank for Financial Inclusion in Rural India

- Fintech player Spice Money has partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank to facilitate the opening of instant, zero-balance savings or current accounts for rural citizens through its Adhikari network.
- To bridge the rural-urban divide and bring financial inclusivity by providing access to banking products at the doorstep, thereby financially empowering thousands of rural citizens living in the hinterlands of India.

2.RBI Releases Fifth Volume of Reserve Bank History from 1997-2008

- Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, released the fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's history at a function held in New Delhi. Jointly published by the Reserve Bank and the Academic Foundation, the volume covers the momentous 16-year period from 1981 to 1997. With this volume, the Reserve Bank of India has now updated its history up to 1997.
- The Reserve Bank had initiated the process of preparation of this volume in 2009 under the guidance of an Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Bimal Jalan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank.

3.RBI launches Utkarsh 2.0 for the period 2023-2025

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on December 30 launched Utkarsh 2.0, the second phase of the central bank's medium-term strategy for strengthening regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
- "Utkarsh 2.0 harnesses the strengths of Utkarsh 2022 by retaining the six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statement," the central bank said in a press release. The first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019. It became a medium-term strategy document guiding the Bank's progress towards realization of the identified milestones.

4.SBI Card collaborates with Punjab & Sind Bank to launch co-brand credit cards

- SBI Cards and Payment Services announced that it has partnered with Punjab & Sind Bank to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers.
- The company said that the collaboration also marks the introduction of 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio. Both the partners have rolled out three card variants - PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card.

5.RBI tags SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank as Systemically Important Banks

- State Bank of India (SBI) and privately owned ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) or institutions that are too big to fail.
- D-SIBs are those interconnected entities whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. In addition to the usual capital conservation buffer, D-SIBs will need to maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1). As per the RBI's latest press release, SBI will have to maintain an additional 0.6 per cent CET1 as a percentage of its risk-weighted assets. Similarly, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank need to maintain additional 0.2 per cent each.

6.December GST collections up 15 per cent at 1.49 lakh crore

- The new year started on a good note for the government on the revenue front as GST revenues in December clocked Rs 1,49,507 crore, registering a 15 per cent increase over the same period last year.
- This is the 10th straight month when the monthly GST collections have been over Rs 1.4 lakh crore. Of the Rs 1,49,507 crore, collections under Central GST (CGST) were Rs 26,711 crore, under State GST the collections were Rs 33,357 crore, and Rs 78,434 crore under Integrated GST

7.UPI processes record 7.82 bn transactions in December, ends 2022 on a high

- India's flagship payment platform, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), ended the 2022 calendar year on a high note as the volume of transactions touched a record 7.82 billion in December, amounting to Rs 12.82 trillion, again a record high.
- Data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella body for retail digital payments in the country, showed volume of transactions in December was up 7.12 per cent compared to November, while value of transactions was up 7.73 per cent during the same period.

8.Tripura signs Rs 2,275 crore agreement with ADB to improve power distribution network

- Tripura government has signed an agreement for an Asian Development Bank (ADB)-assisted project of Rs 2,275 crore (US \$275 million) for the Improvement of Tripura's Power Distribution Strengthening and Generation Efficiency.
- The Project agreement was signed between Brijesh Pandey, Secretary of the Power Department on behalf of the Government of Tripura, and Nilaya Mitash, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission. This was the highest investment package in the power sector of Tripura so far, and also the biggest single project in the history of Tripura in any infrastructure sector.

9. Yes Bank partners with Microsoft to transform the mobile banking experience

- YES BANK has partnered with Microsoft to introduce a next-generation mobile application (app) to provide customers with a personalized banking experience.
- Yes, Bank will leverage Microsoft's Azure platform to create the app which will offer customers a host of services such as online payments, shopping, rewards, and offers, as well as customized dashboards.

10. SBI Mutual gets RBI approval to buy 9.99% of Equitas SFB for various schemes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a proposal of SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) to acquire 9.99% equity shares in the Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) through various schemes of SBI Mutual Fund. The banking regulator's approval is subject to compliance with the relevant regulations issued by RBI and SEBI. It is valid for 1 year till 2 January 2024.

11. Bandhan Bank launched 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign

- Bandhan Bank has launched its 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign featuring cricketer Sourav Ganguly as its brand ambassador. According to the company, this is the first time that Bandhan Bank has appointed a pan-India brand ambassador. The campaign was conceptualised by Leo Burnett Orchard, which was brought in as the bank's creative agency in August 2022. The marketing campaign will be visible across TV, print, out-of-home (OOH), cinema and digital media, it claimed.

12. Canara Bank MD & CEO Mr. L V Prabhakar retires

- Lingam Venkata Prabhakar, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank Limited, retired from the services of the bank on attaining the age of superannuation.

- L V Prabhakar has over 34 years of rich experience in banking, spread across a spectrum of domains. He is the Chairman of Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. Ltd, Canara HSBC OBC Insurance Company Ltd & Canfin Homes Ltd. He is the Chairman of the IBA Standing Committee on Payment Systems & Banking Technology.

13. India's GDP may grow at 7.0% in FY23, First advance estimates by the National Statistical Office

- India's economy is expected to grow 7.0% in the current financial year, according to the first advance estimates by the National Statistical Office (NSO). With this the country is set to lose the fastest-growing major economy tag. New Delhi had pegged India's growth at 8.7% in the last fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022.
- The projections are much lower than government's earlier forecast of 8-8.5 per cent growth but above the Reserve Bank's projection of 6.8 per cent. If the forecast comes true, India's GDP growth will be lower than Saudi Arabia's expected 7.6 per cent expansion. In fact, India's GDP growth in the July-September quarter at 6.3 per cent was lower than the 8.7 per cent of Saudi Arabia.

14. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance signs Suryakumar Yadav for a new campaign

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance announced an association with the world's top T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav, to launch a new digital-first campaign - "360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance".
- The campaign's central message is how ICICI Prudential Life Insurance offers a comprehensive suite of protection products providing all-round life cover that offers 360 degree financial protection in any critical situation, together with trust, dependability and consistency.

15. RBI Lists 6 Rating Agencies for Banks' Capital Adequacy Purposes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the list of six credit rating agencies that banks can use for the purpose of risk weighting banks' claims for capital adequacy purposes.
- The six credit rating agencies are Acuite Ratings & Research Limited, Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE), CRISIL Ratings Limited, ICRA Limited, India Ratings and Research Private Limited (India Ratings) and INFOMERICS Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd. Banks have to get ratings from these agencies to comply with Basel-III capital regulations.

16. IISc Axis Bank ink pact Centre for maths & computing

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has signed an MoU with Axis Bank to establish a centre for mathematics and computing.
- Spread over 1.6-lakh-square feet, the Centre will have state-of-the-art labs and programmes that will benefit faculty and students from more than twenty departments of IISc. It will host the new IISc BTech programme in mathematics & computing and the ongoing interdisciplinary PhD programme in mathematical sciences.

17.India, Panama sign agreement on cooperation in training diplomats

- External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats during his bilateral meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister Janaina Tevane Mencomo in Indore.
- The agreement was signed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Panama to participate in the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference. The visit of the Panamanian Foreign Minister to India comes more than a month after the two sides held the 2nd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Panama City on November 23, 2022.

18.World Bank forecasts India's FY23 GDP at 6.9%

- The World Bank retained India's economic growth at 6.9% for financial year 2022-23. In its Global Economic Outlook report, World Bank maintained India's growth outlook has been maintained at the same level as that of its India Economic Update report that was released in December last year.

19.Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes Increased by up to 110bps from 1st January

- The Union government has hiked the interest rates of a few small savings schemes by between 20bps (basis points) and 110bps for the January-March 2023 quarter. The finance ministry announced this via a circular issued on 30 December 2022.
- The interest rates of schemes like the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, Monthly Income Savings Scheme, National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), and all post-office time deposits (TD) have been hiked.

20.India's WPI inflation eases to 22-month low of 4.95 per cent in December

- India's wholesale price index-based inflation eased to 4.95 per cent in December from 5.85 per cent in November on an annual basis, stated provisional data from the Commerce Ministry. The inflation rate has slipped below 5 per cent for the first time since Feb 2021.

- The month-on-month change in WPI index for December 2022 witnessed a contraction of 1.12 per cent per cent as against a contraction of 0.26 in the preceding month.

21. SEBI allows AIFs to participate in Credit Default Swap transactions

- Regulator Sebi allowed alternative investment funds (AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment. The new norms, which will come into force with immediate effect, allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market.

22. Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority signs pact with SBI to facilitate digital financing against e-NWRs

- Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with State Bank of India to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans.
- The MoU was signed with the intent of promoting awareness about the new loan product called 'Produce Marketing Loan' to exclusively fund against e-NWRs (electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt) with features such as nil processing fee, no additional collateral and attractive interest rates.

23. India's Fiscal Deficit for FY23 Estimated at Rs 17.5 lakh crore, FY24 Rs 17.95 lakh crore: SBI

- The upcoming Indian budget for 2023-24 will be a challenging one for the government to follow the roadmap for fiscal consolidation amidst a global environment of declining inflation, said a top economist of the State Bank of India in a report.
- For India, this could make things difficult to set a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) number significantly higher than 10 per cent, with a deflator of about 3.5 per cent. But this could also mean a higher GDP growth than anticipated at about 6.2 per cent, he said. He also said the fiscal deficit of the Indian government for FY23 will be about Rs.17.5 lakh crore.

24. Google pilots 'Soundpod by Google Pay' for UPI payments in India

- Google is actively working on a Soundbox for the India market, similar to the Paytm or PhonePe ones that you see at your neighbourhood shop which gives a sound alert on the digital payment that has been made, media reports said on Tuesday.
- The search giant is piloting a soundbox of its own in the country to alert sellers of confirmations for Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments, reports TechCrunch.

- The company has branded them as 'Soundpod by Google Pay' and is currently distributing it as a pilot with some shopkeepers in north India, including Delhi.

25.SBI Raises Rs 9718 Crore Via Infrastructure Bond Issue

- State Bank of India (SBI) has informed to the exchanges regarding fund raising of Rs9,718 crore through its second infrastructure bond issuance at coupon rate of 7.70 per cent.
- The bank informed that the issuance of bonds will be utilized in enhancing long term resources for funding infrastructure and affordable housing segment. The tenor of these bonds is 15 years. Further, the issue received healthy response from investors with bids of Rs14,805 crore and was oversubscribed by about 2.96 times against the base issue. The total number of bids received was 118 indicating wider participation. The investors were across mutual funds, provident & pension funds & insurance companies.

26.India to become a \$26 trillion economy by 2047: EY report

- India is expected to become the fastest-growing large economy with a gross domestic product (GDP) size of \$26 trillion by 2047, according to a forecast by EY.
- The 'Big Four' accounting firm also forecasts India witnessing a six-fold increase in its per capita GDP that would cross \$15,000 by 2047, putting the country among the ranks of developed economies. The report, India@100: Realizing the potential of a \$26 trillion economy, was launched by Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

27.RBI to get inflation within 4% by 2024

- A report published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that recent data indicates inflation is now within its tolerance band. The second milestone, of bringing it within 4%, would be achieved by 2024, the report said.
- The 'State of the Economy' report published in RBI's monthly bulletin is optimistic on the outlook for the economy. The report says that fiscal consolidation is under way and will nurture the recovery and the current account deficit will narrow through the rest of 2022 & 2023 and that early bird financial results of manufacturing companies are robust. Overall, it said the macroeconomic stability is getting further entrenched.

28.SBI General Insurance to promote road safety as part of its CSR

- SBI General Insurance, a leading general insurance company in India, has partnered with Doers NGO to support the Himachal Pradesh police in reducing the number of road accidents.
- As part of its CSR program, SBI General has provided a well-equipped ambulance for immediate medical care for road accident victims in the Mandi district within the crucial “Golden Hour”.

29.South Indian Bank Partners with SAIL for finance dealers

- South Indian Bank (SIB) and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide financial assistance to the dealers of SAIL across India. The MoU was exchanged between Praveen Joy (Head-Transaction Banking Group) of South Indian Bank and Surendra Kumar Sharma, (CGM- Finance & Accounts) of SAIL.
- The tie-up allows us to offer SAIL’s dealers financial assistance for working capital, especially steel procurement. With a network of 928 branches, the bank will be able to serve the Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) and corporate customers of SAIL located in different geographies.

30.LIC launches guaranteed return life insurance plan – Jeevan Azad

- The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has launched Jeevan Azad (Plan No. 868), aimed at individual savings and life insurance.
- LIC Jeevan Azad is a limited-period payment endowment plan that provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term. The plan addresses the liquidity needed through a loan facility. It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount to the surviving life assured on the date of maturity.

31.AU Bank launches another industry first innovative Credit Card offering – SwipeUp platform

- AU Small Finance Bank, India’s largest Small Finance Bank, announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind platform in the credit card industry – the SwipeUp platform. With this platform, AU Bank will provide an opportunity to other bank Credit Cardholders to upgrade their card to one of AU Credit Cards.
- The Bank has provided a platform to compare existing Credit Cards of customers within 2-3 seconds. Thereafter, within minutes they can upgrade credit limit, cashback, reward points with a quick end-to-end digital process so that the Card can match their current lifestyle.

32.World Economic Forum signs pact with Indonesia for Ocean conservation

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) signed a new partnership with the Indonesian government to support its ambitions to scale blue carbon restoration and ocean conservation efforts at the Annual Meeting 2023.
- The partnership is the first of a series being initiated by the Forum's Ocean Action Agenda to help meet the rapidly increasing demand for high-quality blue carbon credits and projects around the world and connect global blue carbon actors from various sectors.

33.Reserve Bank of India extends time for Bank Locker Renewal Agreements till Dec 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the time for banks to renew their customer agreements for locker facilities to December 31, 2023, due to compliance delays.The previous deadline was January 1, 2023, communicated through a circular on August 18, 2021.
- The deadline has been extended to December 31, 2023, for renewals in a phased manner, with 50% completed by June 30, 2023, and 75% by September 30, 2023.To facilitate the execution of the revised agreements, the banks have been advised to make arrangements, like ensuring the availability of stamp papers, etc.

34.Bombay High Court quashes write-off of YES Bank's additional AT1 bonds

- The Bombay High Court has declared the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) order to write off 8,300 crores of Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds of YES Bank to ineligible investors.The order was passed by justice SV Gangapurwala and justice SM Modakin a batch of petitions.The Bombay HC has given YES Bank 6 weeks for the implementation of this order.
- Bondholders, including financial institutions like 63 moons technologies ltd and Axis Trustee Services Ltd, Yes Bank AT-1 Bond Holders Association, and a few retail individual investors, have filed these petitions.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.Indigenous Payment Application BHIM Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

- BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money), a locally created payment application, recently celebrated its sixth birthday. On December 30, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the BHIM App. Bharat Interface for Money is referred to as BHIM.
- It is a biometric payment system app based on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) that allows for e-payments to be made directly through the bank using the Aadhar platform.

2.SpaceX launches 54 upgraded Starlink internet satellites and nails rocket

landing at sea in 60th flight of the year

- SpaceX launched the first batch of a new generation of Starlink satellites into orbit early Wednesday (Dec. 28) and nailed a rocket landing at sea to mark a record 60th flight of the year.
- A Falcon 9 rocket topped with 54 upgraded Starlink internet satellites — the first generation 2 (Gen2) versions of the SpaceX fleet — lit up the predawn sky with a smooth launch at 4:34 a.m. EST (0934 GMT) from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

3.Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop join hands to develop hyperloop technology

- Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop signed an agreement to jointly work on the development and deployment of hyperloop technology. The research will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection.
- The partnership seeks to design, develop, and scale up the technology for commercialization. Phase-I work will take place on the 50-meter test track at IIT Madras. The subsequent work to achieve a 10-km track will be completed in Phase-II and -III involving a consortium of other industry partners from the automotive, construction, and engineering sectors.

4.Indian Army inaugurates first 3D-printed dwelling unit for soldiers in Ahmedabad

- The Indian Army inaugurated its first 3-D Printed House Dwelling Unit (with Ground plus One configuration) for soldiers at Ahmedabad Cantonment, Gujarat, India. The dwelling unit has been constructed by the Military Engineering Services (MES) in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd incorporating the latest 3D Rapid Construction Technology.
- The Construction work of the dwelling unit measuring 71 sqm with garage space was completed in just 12 weeks by utilizing the 3D printed foundation. The disaster-resilient structures comply with Zone-3 earthquake specifications and green building norms.

5.ISRO, Andhra University set up equipment to predict rip currents, prevent drowning at sea

- Over 200 people have drowned in sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam between 2012 to 2022 and of these, RK beach in the city accounted for 60 per cent of deaths, according to official statistics.
- Research by the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO), National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and the Andhra University (AU) has revealed that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified Rushikonda beach and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors.

6.India and Pakistan exchange lists of nuclear assets and Prison inmates

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities on 31 December 2022 as per the 1988 agreement which prohibits both the countries from attacking each other's nuclear installations. They also exchanged the lists of prisoners held in each other's prisons, which include civilians, defence personnel and fishermen.
- India and Pakistan are both nuclear weapon countries and to reduce tension between the two countries an Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities was signed between the two on 31 December 1998. Under this agreement both countries have to inform each other of the nuclear facilities on the 1st January of every calendar year.

7.India's 1st Atmanirbhar human space flight Gaganyaan to be launched by 2024

- Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is ready to launch India's first Atmanirbhar human flight 'Gaganyaan' by the year
- 'Gaganyaan' would be India's first human flight and it will also be an excellent symbol of self-reliance as it will increase the confidence of the nation. In 2024, there will be two preliminary launchings.

8.Cabinet approves Rs 19,744 cr for National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The Union Cabinet approved an initial outlay of Rs 19,744 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Addressing the nation on its 75th Independence Day in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a national mission for green fuels in line with the Centre's stated target of making India energy-independent before completing 100 years of Independence.
- The mission will have four components that aim at enhancing domestic production of green hydrogen and promoting the manufacturing of electrolyzers — a key constituent for making green hydrogen.

9.BPCL launches low smoke superior kerosene oil for the Indian Army

- Bharat Petroleum announced the launch of low-smoke superior kerosene oil (SKO) for the Indian Army in Jammu. BPCL has emerged as the first OMC to begin supplying the Army with new LSLA-grade SKO supplies, which will go a long way toward improving the serving environment and alleviating issues related to smoke and odour in the use of SKO.

10.SEBI issues debt broker license to Zerodha-backed GoldenPi Technologies

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has issued a debt broker license to Bengaluru-based fintech firm GoldenPi Technologies. With the

development, GoldenPi became the first online bond platform provider to receive a debt brokerage license from Sebi.

- Last year, the regulator introduced regulations for online debt trading platforms which stated that no company or individual shall act as an online bond platform provider without the certificate of registration as a stock broker .

11.Prez Droupadi Murmu Laid foundation Stone of SJVN's 1000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project

- President Droupadi Murmu virtually laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm SJVN's 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- This project is being implemented by SJVN Limited through its wholly owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL). It is being developed on 5000 acres on outright purchased land near village Banderwala, district Bikaner of Rajasthan which is one of the highest solar yield areas of the country.

12.Indian Army inks pact with Assam govt for treatment of ex-servicemen at medical colleges

- The Indian Army signed an agreement with the Government of Assam to offer the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) at 8 medical colleges and hospitals in Assam. The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare has approved the empanelment of government medical colleges in Assam with the ECHS.
- The ECHS benefits will be offered at the medical college and hospitals in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Barpeta, Tezpur, Diphu, and North Lakhimpur. It will facilitate the cashless and capless treatment of almost 12 lakh beneficiaries.

13.Google Doodle honours India's 'Pocket Dynamo' Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav on his 97th birth anniversary

- Google celebrated the 97th birth anniversary of legendary Indian wrestler Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav, also known as Pocket Dynamo, with a doodle. The celebrated wrestler became independent India's first athlete to clinch an Olympic medal at the 1952 Summer Olympics held in Helsinki.
- The tribute on Google's home page shows two sketches of the legendary wrestler. In one, Jadhav can be seen in a tactical position, while the other shows him wearing the Indian jersey.

14.OneWeb launches 40 satellites from SpaceX's Florida space centre

- Bharti Group-backed OneWeb has launched another 40 satellites from Elon Musk-led SpaceX's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida to achieve over 80% deployment of its planned in-orbit low-earth orbit (LEO) constellation.
- OneWeb now has 542 LEO satellites in orbit. This was the company's 16th launch, with two more remaining to complete its first-generation constellation for enabling global connectivity in 2023.

15.ISRO 'Shukrayaan' mission to planet Venus reportedly shifted to 2031

- P. Sreekumar, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and advisor to its space science programme, stated in a talk on January 9 that the organisation has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that, as a result, the mission may be delayed until 2031.
- Shukrayaan I, the ISRO Venus mission, was scheduled to launch in December 2024. The concept was conceived in 2012; five years later, after the Department of Space got a 23% increase in the 2017–2018 budget, ISRO started preliminary investigations. In April 2017, the organisation requested payload proposals from research institutions.



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16.Doppler weather radar network to cover entire country by 2025

- Seeking to further strengthen its weather forecast system and expand its network of meteorological services, the country's national weather forecaster - India Meteorological Department (IMD) - announced to cover the entire country under sophisticated radar network by deploying 25 additional Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) to predict extreme weather events more accurately and establish 720 District Agro Meteorological Units (DAMUs) to provide more precise farm-related advisories and forecasts to farmers by 2025.

17.Amazon back as world's most valued brand, Apple down to No 2

- Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand despite its brand value falling 15 per cent this year from \$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion.
- According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over \$50 billion this year, with its rating slipping from AAA+ to AAA. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world.

18.TCS, Infosys consolidate their positions among top three global IT brands

- Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy Brand Finance for the year 2023. India's largest IT firm TCS' brand value was up 2% on year to \$17.2 billion while Infosys' valuation, too, was up 2% on year to \$13 billion.

19.NTPC REL signs MoU with the Government of Tripura for collaboration in Renewable Energy Development

- The NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tripura for the Development of Floating and Ground Mounted based Renewable Energy Projects in Tripura.
- The MoU was signed by Shri Rajiv Gupta, Chief General Manager, NTPC REL, and Shri Mahananda Debbarma, Director General and CEO, of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA) in New Delhi. This MoU embarks upon the journey towards the development of large-sized Renewable Energy Projects in the State of Tripura and shall help Govt of Tripura in meeting its Clean Energy Commitments and obligations.

20.PhonePe raises \$350 mn from General Atlantic, Now bigger than Swiggy, Paytm

- Payments and financial services unicorn PhonePe has raised \$350 million in funding from General Atlantic — a leading global growth equity firm — at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion, making the Walmart-owned start-up the most-valued financial technology (fintech) player in India.
- The investment is the first tranche of the company's latest fundraise that could see marquee global and Indian investors put in up to \$1 billion in the fintech firm.
- With this funding round, the home-grown digital payments start-up has more than doubled its valuation — from \$5.5 billion in 2020. With a \$12-billion valuation, it has joined the decacorn club. PhonePe has managed to raise late-stage funding amid a funding winter.

21.Indian Air Force to hold Exercise Pralay along Line of Actual Control in northeast amid standoff with China

- The Indian Air Force will carry out Exercise Pralay involving all its major air bases in the northeast including the recently moved drone squadrons in the northeast amid the ongoing standoff with China.
- The exercise planned to be held in the next few days also comes at a time when the Indian Air Force has deployed and activated the S-400 air defence squadron in the area which can take on any enemy aircraft or missile from a distance of up to 400 km.

22.India's 1st intranasal Covid vaccine to be launched on Republic Day 2023

- Homegrown vaccine maker Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) will launch its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC (also known as BBV154), the first of its kind in India, on Republic Day January 26, 2023.
- This was announced by the chairman and managing director of Bharat Biotech, Krishna Ella while participating in the 'Face-to-Face with New Frontiers in Science' segment of the IISF, organized at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT).Also, a homegrown vaccine for the lumpy skin disease in cattle, Lumpi-ProVacInd, is likely to be launched next month.

23.iPhone Maker Apple Becomes First Company To Export Phones Worth \$1 Billion In A Month

- iPhone maker Apple has become the first company from India to export smartphones worth \$1 billion (8,100 crores) in a single month, meeting the milestone in December 2022.December was also a record month for the industry with mobile phone exports of over 10,000 crore
- Last year, tech giant Apple became the world's first company to hit a \$3 trillion market capitalization.Apple and Samsung have been the leading players in exporting mobile phones from India.

24.Indian Navy conducts 6-day Mega exercise AMPHEX 2023 in Andhra Pradesh

- The Indian Navy conducted a six-day-long mega military exercise – AMPHEX 2023 along with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh (AP).It was the largest biennial tri-services amphibious exercise.AMPHEX-21 was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands from 21-25 January 2021.
- AMPHEX 2023 included complex activities in all domains that demonstrated and validated the high level of preparedness and excellent coordination between the three Services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations.

25.Indian Navy's flagship maritime exercise TROPEX 2023 held in the Indian Ocean

- A maritime exercise called TROPEX is being conducted by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean region. TROPEX-2023 is being organised over a period of three months from January to March. The TROPEX exercise is held once every two years.
- Apart from the Indian Navy the exercise will involve their participation with assets from the Indian Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. The aim of the exercise is to test the combat readiness of the Navy and safeguard national interests in the maritime domain and promote stability and peace in the Indian Ocean region.

26.Indian Army participates Monastic festival of Monpa tribe of Tawang at Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh

- The three-day Torgya festival, a Monastic festival of the Monpa tribe was celebrated at the Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district.
- The festival starts on the twenty-eighth day of the eleventh lunar month. Torgya festival is celebrated by the Monpa tribe of the Tawang Monastery to pay homage to Lama Tsongkhapa to chase away evil spirits that usher in diseases, misfortunes, and natural calamities. The Indian Army participated in the event at the gracious invitation of Gyalsi Rinpoche of Tawang Monastery.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

1.Riafy Technologies app won Google Play's Best of 2022 Award

- The outgoing year gifted Riafy Technologies with a milestone achievement, as users chose the company's novel app as their 'favorite', finding 'Dance Workout for Weight Loss' among Google Play's Best of 2022 Awards. The app provides original and customized ways to support people in maintaining their physical and mental fitness.
- Riafy is being incubated under Kerala Startup Mission, the nodal agency of the government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the State.

2.Assam announces recipients of state's highest civilian awards for 2022-23, 'Asom Baibhav' conferred to Dr Tapan Saikia

- Asom Baibhav is the highest civilian award given by the Assam government and this year's recipient is Dr. Tapan Saikia. A resident of Naharkatia, Dibrugarh in Assam, Dr. Saikia is a patron of the Deesikha Foundation and

has made significant contributions towards generating awareness and early detection of cancer in Assam and Northeast States.

- Dr. Saikia currently serves as the Head of Medical Oncology and Research Director at Prince Aly Khan Hospital and the Director of Oncology Sciences at the Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre in Mumbai. In addition, he has worked as an MD and external examiner at AIIMS Delhi and Allahabad University.

3.Tamil Nadu's Pranesh M becomes India's 79th Grandmaster after winning Rilton Cup

- India has got its 79th Grandmaster (GM) in a 16-year-old Pranesh M from Tamil Nadu. After beating GM Frode Olav Olsen Urkedal of Norway, Pranesh attained the required 2500 ELO ratings and won the Rilton Cup in the final round to claim the title.
- With this, he also becomes India's first Grandmaster of this year. In a competition that had 136 players representing 29 national federations, Pranesh stood first while his compatriot R Raja Rithvik – a Grandmaster himself, finished eighth with six points.

4.Shashi Tharoor's latest book 'Ambedkar: A Life' launched

- A Life was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event organized by Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) at the ITC Sonar presented by Shree Cement. The event was attended by young and old bibliophiles, members of Ehsaas Women and FICCI FLO. Suhel Seth, management consultant, author, columnist and public speaker, was in an hour-long conversation with the author.
- Kitab is a signature event of Prabha Khaitan Foundation conceptualised by Mr Sundeep Bhutoria which provides a forum for writers, poets, intellectuals and thinkers to launch their books and share their thoughts.

5.CJI DY Chandrachud to be conferred with 2022 CLP Award for Global Leadership by Harvard Law School

- The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession has decided to confer Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud with the 'Center on the Legal Profession Award for Global Leadership'.
- CLP's highest professional distinction will be presented to CJI Chandrachud on January 11. Justice Chandrachud, who became chief justice in November 2022, holds an LLM and an SJD from Harvard Law School.

6.Kerala University wins 'Overall Championship' at youth festival held in Tirupati

- University of Kerala bagged the 'Overall Championship' at Padma Tarang, the 36th Inter University South Zone Youth Festival that concluded on a colourful note at Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam (SPMVV) in Tirupati on Saturday. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, came the runners-up.
- Championships were awarded in each of the five categories viz., music, dance, fine arts, theatre and literary events, which were respectively won by MGU Kottayam, Sri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Yogi Vemana University, University of Kerala (last two categories).

7.A book on "Jadunama" written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar by Arvind Mandloi

- Jadunama, a book written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar by Arvind Mandloi, was released. Javed's wife, actor Shabana Azmi and children Zoya and Farhan Akhtar were present at the book launch.
- Farhan's wife, actor Shibani Dandekar also attended the event. Jadunama is about a writer, poet, lyricist, and political activist. It is also about this one man's struggle since childhood to become what he is today and to create a hallmark of success in everything he does.

8.'A Life in Movie': New book to offer compelling account of Irrfan Khan's iconic life

- A new book will offer a compelling account of iconic actor Irrfan Khan's life and achievements, starting from his days at the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) to his nearly a decade-long stint in television and his gradual ascent in the film industry.
- In the book, "Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies", film critic Shubhra Gupta engages key people, including director Mira Nair, Vishal Bharadwaj, and Anurag Basu in conversation on the actor's art, craft and legacy.

9.11-year-old Kashmiri girl bags gold medal at National Sqay Championship

- Sky is the limit in everything and Kashmiri girls are proving it by giving their best in various fields including sports. Falak Mumtaz, a 11-year-old, from a far flung area in Shopian of South Kashmir bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship. Falak Mumtaz achieved the gold medal in National Sqay Championship that was played last week in Jammu fighting against all odds.

10.Miss USA R'Bonney Gabriel Crowned Miss Universe 2022

- Miss USA R'Bonney Gabriel was officially named Miss Universe 2022 evening after a grueling competition at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center in Louisiana.

- Gabriel, 28, beat out runner-up Miss Venezuela Amanda Dudamel and second runner-up Miss Dominican Republic Andreína Martínez for the coveted prize. Miss India Harnaaz Sandhu presented Gabriel with her crown as she passed on the title of Miss Universe to her successor.

11. Writer K Venu received Federal Bank Literary Award 2023

- Writer K Venu has bagged the first-ever Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha'. The award was presented by the chairman and independent director of the Federal Bank, Balagopal Chandrasekhar. It was presented at an event held as part of the ongoing sixth edition Kerala Literature Festival, Kozhikode beach.

12. 'Naanera' bags 'Golden Kailasha' award in Ajanta-Ellora film festival

- Naanera, a Rajasthani film directed by Deepankar Prakash, bagged the Golden Kailasha award for the best movie at the Ajanta-Ellora film festival. Naanera (Grandfather's House) revolves around Manish. After the death of his father, Manish's uncle starts taking his life's decisions.
- The character's journey leads him to a questionable point when he begins a secret love affair with a cousin and the family finds itself in the middle of another death.

13. New Goa Manohar International Airport wins best sustainable greenfield airport award

- Goa International Airport (GGIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure, has won 'Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport' award under aviation sustainability and environment at ASSOCHAM's 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023.
- The award was presented for "excellent initiatives" taken by GGIAL in implementing sustainability as one of core concepts. During the conference held yesterday, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the award to the senior officials from GGIAL in the presence of industry dignitaries and participants.

14. Nepalese ophthalmologist Dr. Sanduk Ruit wins Bahrain's ISA Award for Service to Humanity

- Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder Dr. Sanduk Ruit has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award in Bahrain. The award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a certificate of merit, and a gold medal. Ruit is the pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Ruit has trained more than 650 doctors, teaching them to cure preventable blindness.

15.PM Modi to name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra awardees

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. The Prime Minister will also unveil the National Memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep. PM Modi will participate in the event via video conferencing at 11 am.
- The largest unnamed island will be named after the Param Vir Chakra awardee, the second after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee and so on. The renaming comes as the government aims to give an everlasting tribute to national heroes.

16.Hindustani singer Prabha Atre honored with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award

- Hindustani singer Padma Vibhushan Dr. Prabha Atre was on Sunday honored with the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- The Chief Minister honored Dr. Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan in Thane.Mr. Shinde presented a citation and 1 lakh to Dr. Atre at the event, during which a symphony of 90 flute players was performed to mark his 90th birthday.

SPORTS

1.Hockey Haryana Women's U-18 team wins Khelo India Youth Games 2022

- Hockey Haryana's women's team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh 2-0 in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour. Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter. Sanjna Horo scored for Jharkhand but Odisha came back with goals from Puja Sahoo and Sunelita Toppo to complete a thrilling comeback.

2.Koneru Humpy wins silver at World Blitz Championship

- Former world rapid champion Koneru Humpy has won India's first-ever Silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round. Fourth seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of

Kazakhstan. Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anan.

3.Koustav Chatterjee becomes 78th Grandmaster of India

- 19-year-old Koustav Chatterjee attained his final norm to become India's 78th GM. Chatterjee achieved his feat during the 59th National Chess Championships in Delhi when he held GM Mitrabha Guha to a draw. Having secured his first GM norm back in October 2021, Chatterjee has been on a constant rise over the past year.
- In fact, he crossed the mandatory rating mark of 2500 in August last year. Hailing from Kolkata, Koustav Chatterjee becomes the 10th GM from the state of West Bengal after Dibyendu Barua, Surya Sekhar Ganguly, Sandipan Chanda, Neelotpal Das, Deep Sengupta, Saptarshi Chowdhury, Diptayan Ghosh, Saptarshi Roy, and Mitrabha Guha.

4.SS Rajamouli wins Best Director Award for RRR at New York Film Critics Circle

- Filmmaker SS Rajamouli won the Best Director Award for RRR at the New York Film Critics Circle. The group is one of the first critics' groups to weigh in on the awards season. Rajamouli's win surprised many as his competitors included Steven Spielberg, Darron Aronofsky, Sarah Polley, and Gina Prince-Blythewood.
- At the New York Film Critics Circle, Todd Field's Tar has won the Best Picture of the year, also nabbing Best Actress for Cate Blanchett's leading performance. Colin Farrell won Best Actor for two of his performances this year — Kogonada's future-set sci-fi drama After Yang and Martin McDonagh's The Banshees of Inisherin.

5.Belinda Clark becomes first woman cricketer to get bronze statue at SCG

- Australia's legendary woman cricketer Belinda Clark became the first female cricketer to be immortalised with a sculpture in the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) precinct.
- Clark's bronze statue has been installed at the entrance to the SCG's Walk of Honour and was revealed for the first time ahead of day two of the third men's Test against South Africa. The sculpture was unveiled by The Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce and the New South Wales Premier the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP during a ceremony on the morning of Day 2 of the SCG Test.

6.Indian Tennis star Sania Mirza announced her retirement

- India's first women's tennis superstar, announced her retirement, saying that the 2022 season will be her last.

- The famed tennis player, who is an idol for many, made the announcement after her opening-round loss in women's doubles event at the ongoing Australian Open and said that she feels her recovery is taking longer as she is getting older.

7. Novak Djokovic saves match point to beat Sebastian Korda for Adelaide crown

- Novak Djokovic dug deep to save a match point on the way to a 6-7(8) 7-6(3) 6-4 victory over Sebastian Korda in the Adelaide International 1 final ahead of this month's Australian Open.
- A day after he overwhelmed Daniil Medvedev in the semi-final despite sustaining a hamstring injury, Djokovic moved freely on court but was pushed hard by Korda before the Serb made a late charge to deny his opponent a potentially career-defining win.

8. 'Hockey Wali Sarpanch' inks pact with NABARD to strengthen farmers in Rajasthan's village

- Neeru Yadav, fondly known as 'Hockey Wali Sarpanch' has taken a new initiative to strengthen farmers of Lambi Ahir Village. Yadav has inked a pact with NABARD to start the Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) with the assistance of SIIRD (Society of Indian Institute of Rural Development).
- FPO is a legal entity formed by primary producers. Producers such as farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen etc, can form a company basis equity share.

9. Surya Kumar Yadav becomes fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20

- Suryakumar Yadav has become the fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket in terms of balls faced. He took only 843 balls to reach this landmark. However, he is the third-fastest batter to reach the 1,500-run mark in terms of innings.
- The fastest batters to reach this landmark are Indian batter Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Australian veteran Aaron Finch and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who all took 39 innings to score 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket. Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Rizwan reached the milestone in 42 innings and Suryakumar did so in 43 innings.

10. Khelo India National Women Kho Kho leagues set to take place in Punjab

- The Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league is set to take place at Chandigarh University, Punjab. The league is being organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India and will be held over three phases with full financial support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- A total of 12 teams and close to 200 players are slated to participate. The Kho Kho women's league for junior and sub-junior age groups is scheduled from January 16 to 19 at the Alberta Ekka Kho Kho stadium in Hotwar, Ranchi.

11.Hockey India enters the metaverse through Hockeyverse

- Hockey India has become the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse by announcing the launch of 'Hockeyverse.'
- Hockeyverse will provide a novel virtual experience where global hockey fans can experience their favorite sport from the comfort of their home through their personal computer. Upon accessing the 'Hockeyverse' URL in a browser, users are welcomed to the hockeyverse virtual world page. Users are asked to enter their name and email address. After selecting their virtual Avatar's gender, users can click on the 'Enter Hockeyverse' button to enter.

12.Virat Kohli becomes fifth highest run scorer in ODI

- Star Indian batter Virat Kohli became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan legend Mahela Jayawardene to enter into top-five. Virat added another record to his pile of accomplishments during India's third and final ODI of the series against Sri Lanka in Kerala.
- In the 35th over of India's batting, Kohli smashed a leg-cutter bowled by Chamika Karunaratne between mid-off and covers for a four. With this, he was able to become the fifth-highest run scorer in ODIs.

13.Viacom18 bags Women's IPL media rights for Rs. 951 crore

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Viacom 18 has won the bid for the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping Rs 951 crore for five years. The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai.
- The Indian cricket board is expected to launch its ambitious franchise-based T20 league for women cricketers on the lines of the Indian Premier League in March 2023.

14.Barcelona wins Spanish Super Cup after beating Real Madrid 3-1 in final hosted by Saudi Arabia

- Barcelona produced an impressive performance to beat Real Madrid 3-1 and lift the Spanish Super Cup. It was Xavi's first trophy as Barca manager as his new generation of stars look to re-establish themselves in the post-Lionel Messi era at the club.
- Gavi, who was named the world's best young player at the Ballon d'Or awards last year, was the star of the show after scoring the opener and assisting both Robert Lewandowski and Pedri.

15.Netherlands breaks record of most goals in a men's Hockey World Cup match, beats Chile 14-0

- Netherlands went past Australia's record of most goals scored by a team in a single FIH Men's Hockey World Cup match. In its final Pool C match, three-time winner Netherlands scored its 13th goal in the 48th minute against Chile at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar to go past Australia's 12-0 win over South Africa during the 2010 edition. The Dutch side eventually won the match 14-0.
- Jip Janssen opening the account for the men in orange via a penalty corner in the sixth minute. Derck de Vilder (22nd minute), Thijs Van Dam (23rd minute), captain Thierry Brinkman (25th minute) added one goal each before Janssen scored his second in the 29th minute. Netherlands led the South American team 5-0 at half-time.

16.India Open Badminton: Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final

- In India Open Badminton Championship, Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final today at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. In finals, An Seyoung beat World No.1 Japanese Akane Yamaguchi.
- In men's singles final, world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark takes on Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn today in New Delhi. The match will begin at 0240 PM Indian time.

17.Adani bags Ahmedabad team for Rs 1,289 crore

- Jay Shah, the secretary of the BCCI, has stated that the winning bids were Rs. 4,669.99 crore (USD 572.78 million approx). The owners of men's IPL teams Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, as well as the Adani Group and Capri Global, have won bids to own the five women's IPL teams at the auction ahead of the inaugural edition to be played in March this year.
- The teams will be headquartered in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow, respectively, and the competition will be called as the Women's Premier League (WPL). The winners were identified after opening sealed bids.

OBITUARIES

1.Rabindra Sangeet artist Sumitra Sen passes away at 89

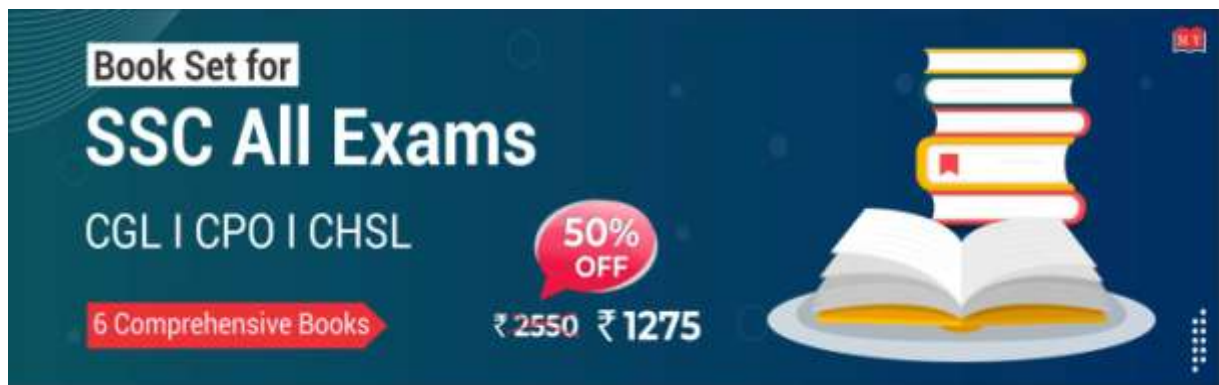
- Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sumitra Sen (89) passed away at her residence in Kolkata. The renowned singer was suffering from broncho-

pneumonia and was hospitalised on December 21 but discharged three days later, with her two daughters taking her back to her south Kolkata home.

- She was honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award by West Bengal government in 2012.

2. Gianluca Vialli, Former Italy and Chelsea striker passes away

- Gianluca Vialli, the former Italy and Chelsea striker, has died aged 58 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Gianluca Vialli was an Italian football player and manager who played as a striker. Vialli started his club career at Cremonese in 1980 in his native Italy where he made 105 league appearances scoring 23 goals .
- His performances impressed Sampdoria who signed him in 1984, and with whom he scored 85 league goals, won three Italian cups, Serie A and the European Cup Winners Cup.



3. Former Bengal and Bihar governor Keshari Nath Tripathi dies

- Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88. Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
- He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

4. Rehman Rahi, Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee, passed away

- Renowned poet and Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee Professor Rehman Rahi died in Srinagar on January 9, 2022. He was 98.
- Born on 6 May 1925, Rahi wrote several collections of poems and translated works of some of the celebrated poets in other languages to Kashmiri. While Rahi received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of poems 'Nawroz-i-Saba' in 1961, he received the highest literary award of the country — Jnanpith award — in 2007 for his

collection 'Siyah Rood Jaeren Manz' (In Black Drizzle). He was also conferred the Padma Shri award in 2000 for his works.

5.Senior BJP leader & former West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi passed away

- The three-time speaker of the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Legislative Assembly and former Governor of West Bengal Keshri Nath Tripathi passed away at the age of 88 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh(UP).
- Tripathi was born on 10 November 1934, in Allahabad, UP. He was governor of West Bengal from July 2014 to July 2019. A senior advocate of Allahabad high court, he served as a member of the UP Legislative Assembly 6 times.
- He also served as the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly thrice between 1991 and 2004.He was also the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar PradeshHe was a poet and an essayist and had penned many books.

6.The last Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah Bahadur passes away

- The last Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah Bahadur who passed away in Turkey will be laid to rest in the family's vault in the forecourt of Mecca Masjid.
- "The body will be brought to Chowmahalla Palace for people to offer their tributes. The funeral will take place," informed a family member. Officials of the Nizam Trust supervised the preparation of the vault where other members of the Nizam's family who ruled Hyderabad from 1724 are buried.

7.The world's oldest person, Sister Andre of France, dies at age 118

- Sister Andre, the world's oldest known person, died Tuesday at age 118 and 340 days. Less than a month away from her 119th birthday, she held the record for both oldest living person and oldest living nun, according to Guinness World Records.
- She was born in France on Feb. 11, 1904, as Lucile Randon and took the name Sister Andre in 1944. She spent most of her life in religious service as a Roman Catholic nun.

8.Jnanpith winning Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan passed away

- Renowned Assamese poet and Jnanpith winner Nilamani Phookan passed away at Guwahati, Assam at the age of 89.Phookan was born in Dergaon in the Golaghat district, of Assam.
- He started his career as a lecturer at Arya Vidyapeeth College in Guwahati in 1964, where he worked until his retirement in 1992. In 1981 he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in Assamese for his poetry collection,

Kavita (Kobita).He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1990 for Literature & Education.

9.Pioneer of modern architect known for designing IIM Banglore, passes away

- A Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan recipient, Doshi's illustrious career spanned over 70 years and the architect is renowned for completing over 100 projects including notable public buildings.
- The Pritzker prize winning architect had previously assisted Estonian-American Louis Kahn on the design of IIM Ahmedabad and then designed the renowned school of architecture at Ahmedabad (later renamed as CEPT). In 1973, he was commissioned to design the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in 1973 which was completed by 1983. He later delegated the IIM Bangalore and Udaipur projects.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.Dhaka Literary Festival 10th edition to be on 5-8 January

- The 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), the biggest international literary festival in Bangladesh, is set to take place on January 5-8, 2023.
- The event will be held on the historic grounds of the Bangla Academy in Dhaka.The three directors of Dhaka Lit Fest, Sadaf Saaz, Ahsan Akbar and Kazi Anis Ahmed, confirmed the matter.

2.World Braille Day 2023 is celebrated every year on 4th January

- World Braille Day 2023 is observed on the 4th of January 2023. On World Braille Day 2023, Create awareness about the word Braille because many have not aware of its importance of Braille. On World Braille Day 2023, Give a Braille-written gift to a person who is blind or partially sighted. This present might be a book, a toy, or educational materials.
- After its inventor, "Braille," the term was given. When Louis Braille was a young child, he inadvertently injured himself in the eye with his father's awl, which caused him to lose his vision.He spent time at the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in France starting at the age of 10 when he developed and improved the raised-dot technique that eventually became known as Braille.

3. World Hindi Day 2023 observed on 10th January

- World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is observed on January 10. The day is observed to promote the language. January 10 also marks the anniversary of the language being spoken for the first time in the United

Nations General Assembly. Vishwa Hindi Diwas is different from Hindi Diwas, which is observed on September 14.

4. DPIIT to organize Startup India Innovation Week from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is organizing Startup India Innovation Week from 10th January 2023 to 16th January 2023 to celebrate the Indian Startup Ecosystem as well as National Startup Day (16th January 2023).
- Startup India Innovation Week 2023 will include Knowledge Sharing Sessions for entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and other enablers, involving relevant stakeholders from the startup ecosystem such as Government officials, incubators, corporates and investors.

5. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2023 is observed every year on 11 January

- January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2023. On this day awareness is raised about the plight of victims of human trafficking.
- Human trafficking is the use of deception, force or coercion to obtain labour or commercial sex acts. Human trafficking involves deception a person and holding them in slave like conditions in several jobs. In 2011 President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation, designating each January to be National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The anniversary of this proclamation became known as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

6. National Youth Day 2023 is celebrated on 12th January

- National Youth Day 2023 is observed on the 12th of January 2023. On January 12, 1984, the Indian government declared Swami Vivekananda's birthday as National Youth Day for the first time. Since then, the day is celebrated nationwide as National Youth Day.
- The government's primary motivation for making the decision was to improve the quality of life for the people of the country by urging young people to draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's life and accomplishments to revive youngsters' enduring vitality and boost the economy of the country.
- Theme: 'Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat'

7. 18th National Disaster Response Force Day celebrates on 19th January 2023

- Every year on January 19, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day is observed. The NDRF's 12 battalions are made up of

specialised, multi-skilled personnel. Based on the vulnerability profile, these battalions are stationed in 16 different places to reduce the time required for their deployment in catastrophe locations.

- The NDRF is the major agency in charge of disaster rescue operations such as drowning, building collapses, landslides, severe floods, earthquakes, and cyclones.

8.Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti is celebrated on 23rd January

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti 2023 is observed on the 23rd of January 2023. In Cuttack, Orissa/Odisha, on January 23, 1897, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born. Janakinath Bose and Prabhavati Dutt were his parents.
- With the motto “Delhi Chalo,” Netaji organized and oversaw a 5,000-man army known as the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) in Southeast Asia during World War II in 1942. To win over the people in his native Bengal, he also started a new political party called “the Forward Bloc.”
- To honor Netaji’s sacrifice and enormous contribution to the Indian independence cause, this event was given the name Parakram Diwas (or Parakram Divas), which means “Day of Courage” or “Day of Valor.”

9.National Girl Child Day is celebrated on 24th January

- National Girl Child Day is celebrated on 24 January in India to spread awareness about the rights of girls and to highlight the inequalities that they face in their lives. Let us have a look at the history and significance of National Girl Child Day.
- The objective behind celebrating National Girl Child Day is to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India. As we know in India, gender inequality is one of the major issues that is needed to be focused on and it exists in several areas including legal rights, education, medical care, marriage, etc. Female foeticide is another major issue that further affects the demographic problems in India.
- **Theme:** "Digital Generation, Our Generation"

10.Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away

- Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away at the age of 61 in New Delhi, India.
- Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) in December 1981. He served as the former Vice Chief of the Air Staff from 1 October 2019 till 30 June 2021. In his career of over 38 years, he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2011 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2020.

11.13th National Voters' Day (NVD) to be celebrated on 25th January 2023

- Election Commission of India is celebrating 13th National Voters' Day on 25th January 2023. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the national function being organized in New Delhi by the Election Commission of India. Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju will grace the function as Guest of Honour.
- The theme for this year's NVD, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' is dedicated to voters which conveys individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through power of their vote. The logo is designed to showcase festivity and inclusivity of the electoral process. Ashoka Chakra in the background represents the largest democracy of the world, whereas the inked finger represents participation of each and every voter of the country. The tick mark in the logo stands for informed decision making by the voter.

12. International Customs Day 2023 observed on 26th January

- International Customs Day is celebrated every year globally on January 26 to acknowledge the role of customs officials in managing efficient flow and exchange of goods and services across countries. This year the theme of International Customs Day is 'Nurturing the next generation'.
- This year's theme focuses on fostering and promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in the field. Following the theme, World Customs Organisation(WCO) members will get to showcase their endeavours in this domain.



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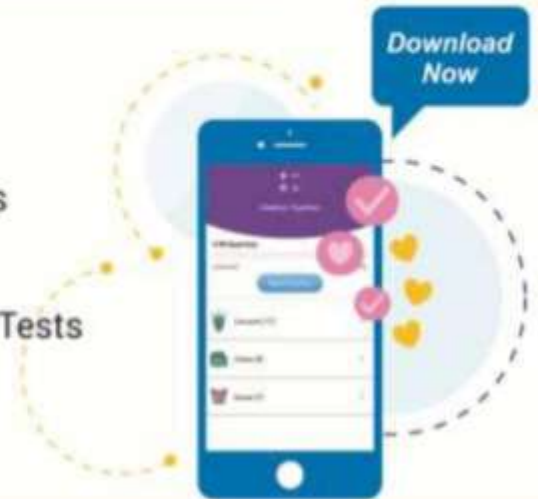
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