

Weekly Current Affairs PDF December 17 to December 23, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- December 23, 2023

NATIONAL

Textiles Ministry Unveils 'Paat-Mitro' App for Jute Farmers

- The Ministry of Textiles has launched the "Paat-Mitro" mobile app to assist jute farmers.
- Developed by the Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI), the app is available in six languages.
- JCI was established in 1971 as an official agency by the Government of India.

Bhupender Yadav Unveils NITI Aayog's Report on Global Green Growth

- Shri Bhupender Yadav unveiled the G20 report, 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy,' in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog partnered with IDRC and GDN, presenting insights from a G20 international conference with 40 experts from 14 countries.

French President Emmanuel Macron to Grace India's Republic Day

- President Macron's presence at Republic Day celebrations signifies the enduring friendship between India and France.
- President Macron's attendance marks the sixth instance of a French leader gracing Republic Day celebrations.
- The 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership is being commemorated during this year's Republic Day celebrations.

SPORTS

Sakshi Malik Quits After Election of New Wrestling Federation Chief

- Acclaimed Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik, a bronze medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, declared her retirement in protest of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) recent leadership change.

OBITUARY

Dr. V Mohini Giri: A Champion for Women's Rights Passes Away at 86

- Dr. Giri served as the Chair of the National Commission for Women (NCW) from 1995 to 1998 and led the Central Social Welfare Board.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Sanjay Singh Becomes New Chief of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)

- Sanjay Singh, affiliated with Brij Bhushan's faction, secured victory in the WFI elections with 40 votes against Anita Sheoran's seven.
- The Wrestling Federation of India, governing wrestling nationally, is headquartered in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Farmers Day 2023: 23rd December

- National Farmer's Day, or Kisan Diwas, is celebrated in India December 23.

- Former Prime Minister of India, known for championing farmers' causes; his birth anniversary is celebrated on this day.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Bengaluru Airport's T2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'

- UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023 recognizes Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 as one of the world's most beautiful airports.
- The airport was honored with the prestigious 'Special Prize for an Interior' in recognition of its outstanding design.
- Hari Marar is the MD & CEO of Bengaluru International Airport Ltd.

Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'

- Renowned Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has named poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar as its sixth recipient for her book, "Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems".
- Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement.
- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was founded in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SEBI Proposes Two-Phase Transition to Instant Settlement in Indian Stock Market

- SEBI is proposing a two-phase implementation of same-day settlement (T+0) and instant settlement, revolutionizing stock market transactions.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1988

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder: Government of India

Agency executive: Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson

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NATIONAL

Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh Lead in Solar Park Scheme Capacities

- Two prominent Indian states, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, have taken significant strides in deploying higher capacities under the "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects" scheme.
- This initiative, launched in December 2014 with an initial capacity of 20,000 MW.

About Rajasthan:

Founded: 30 March 1949

Chief Minister: Bhajanlal Sharma

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

SPORTS

Most Expensive Player in IPL 2024

- The Australian speedster Mitchell Starc emerged as the costliest player in IPL history with a staggering bid of Rs 24.75 crore.
- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) secured Starc's services, banking on his stellar performance in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023.
- The World Cup-winning Australian captain, Pat Cummins, fetched a whopping Rs 20.50 crore, making him the second-most expensive player in IPL history.

About IPL:

Founded: 2008, India

Format: Twenty20

Headquarters: Cricket Centre, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra

India's Hardik Singh Clinched Men's FIH Player of the Year 2023

- Indian hockey team midfielder, Hardik Singh, clinched the prestigious title of Men's FIH Player of the Year at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023.
- Dutch player Xan de Waard emerged victorious as the Women's FIH Player of the Year.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

ICICI Bank Secures RBI Nod for Sandeep Batra's Re-Appointment as Executive Director

- ICICI Bank received RBI approval to reappoint Sandeep Batra as Executive Director, effective from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025.

About ICICI Bank:

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Headquarters: Mumbai

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Mathematics Day 2023: 22nd December

- National Mathematics Day is observed on December 22 each year to honor the birth anniversary of the renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

President Droupadi Murmu Awards Crompton for Energy Conservation 2023

- Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL) has been honored with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023.
- The award ceremony unfolded at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, where Promeet Ghosh, Managing Director and CEO, and Sachin Phartiyal, Business Head, Home Electricals, represented CGCEL in accepting the award.

About Crompton:

CEO: Mathew Job (Sept 2015)

Founded: 1937

Headquarters: Mumbai

IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD of the Year' for the second Straight year

- Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), has been honored with the esteemed "CMD of the Year" award. under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards.
- The event was hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi.

About IREDA:

Headquarters: India

Founded: 1987

RANKING

Bhupender Yadav Unveils NITI Aayog's Report on Global Green Growth

- Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Hon'ble Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Ministry of Labour & Employment, launched a G20 report titled 'A Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy' today in New Delhi.

About NITI Aayog:

Founded: 1 January 2015

Founder: National Democratic Alliance

BANKING AND ECONOMY

LIC Granted Extension till 2032 to Achieve 25% Public Shareholding

- The Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the 25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule.
- LIC announced a reduction in its stake in Tata Motors to 3.09%.
- In Dixon, LIC diluted its stake and currently holds 3% equity.

About LIC:

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai

RBI Proposes Draft Framework for Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) in Banking and NBFCs

- The move aligns with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das's September suggestion for fintech firms to establish an industry SRO.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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NATIONAL

ICAI Reveals New Logo for Chartered Accountants of India

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, recognized as the world's largest professional body of Chartered Accountants, recently revealed a new logo.

- ICAI is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz. The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949) for regulating the profession of Chartered Accountancy in the country.

SPORTS

Maharashtra Bags Women's and AAI Wins Men's Title Events in Guwahati

- Maharashtra emerged victorious in the women's team event at the 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship held in Guwahati.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Noma Added to WHO List of Neglected Tropical Diseases

- Noma, also known as cancrum oris or gangrenous stomatitis, has recently been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- NTDs encompass a group of over 20 conditions that disproportionately affect marginalized populations in tropical and subtropical regions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Basketball Day 2023: 21st December

- World Basketball Day is an annual celebration held on December 21, commemorating the invention of basketball by Dr. James Naismith in 1891.
- The United Nations declared August 25, 2023, as World Basketball Day through resolution A/RES/77/324.
- The term "basketball" was first used by Naismith in 1891.
- 1898: National Basketball League, the first professional league, is founded.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Aditya Birla Sun Life and IDFC First Bank Collaborate On Financial Solutions

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance and IDFC First Bank form a bancassurance partnership.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life will leverage the extensive distribution network of IDFC First Bank.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Poonam Khetrpal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit

- Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia, has been honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit (NOM) Gold Medal.
- The prestigious award was presented by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Druk Gyalpo (dragon king) of Bhutan, during the celebration of Bhutan's 116th National Day on December 17, 2023, in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- The National Order of Merit, instituted in 2008 by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission Earns Leif Erikson Lunar Prize

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has once again soared to new heights by clinching the prestigious Leif Erikson Lunar Prize.
- Central to the mission's triumph was the lander, Vikram, equipped with the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE).

NTPC Kanti Receives FICCI Water Award 2023 for Industrial Water Use Efficiency

- NTPC Kanti has been bestowed with the 11th Edition of FICCI Water Award 2023 under the “Industrial Water Use Efficiency” category.
- The Director General of National Museum for Clean Ganga, Government of India, G Ashok Kumar, and the Chairperson of FICCI Water Mission, Naina Lal Kidwai, jointly presented the award to NTPC Kanti.

Lt. Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury Posthumously Honored With ‘Vir Chakra’

- INS Shivaji, the esteemed Training establishment of the Indian Navy, the original ‘Vir Chakra’ was posthumously awarded to Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury.
- Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury’s valor and contributions to the Indian Navy’s legacy are deeply rooted in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- Admiral SM Nanda, the Chief of Naval Staff at the time, recognized Vice Admiral Chowdhury’s exceptional contributions by bestowing upon him the title of ‘An Engineer Par Excellence.’

RANKING

Tamil Nadu Retains ‘Achiever’ Status in Logistics Infra Rankings of States

- Tamil Nadu has once again secured the coveted ‘Achiever’ status among coastal states in the Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings.
- LEADS, initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries in 2018.

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INTERNATIONAL

EU Expresses Disappointment as India Rejects Interim Arbitration in WTO Dispute

- The European Union (EU) has conveyed disappointment at India’s refusal to engage in interim arbitration for resolving the ongoing dispute concerning import duties on specific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products.

About WTO:

Founded: 1 January 1995

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

President: Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

NATIONAL

IndiGo Becomes First Indian Airline to Carry 100 Million Passengers a Year

- Hindustan Times reported the achievement, signifying IndiGo’s entry into an elite global club of carriers with massive passenger traffic.

About IndiGo:

CEO: Pieter Elbers (2022)

Founders: Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal

India Sees 112 Deaths in 2022 Due To Tiger Attacks

- In 2022 alone, a total of 112 deaths occurred in the country due to tiger attacks.

- The Union Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, Bhupinder Yadav, shared in Lok Sabha.

SPORTS

Amitabh Bachchan Becomes Owner of Mumbai Team in Indian Street Premier League

- Amitabh Bachchan revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).
- ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google Announces India-First AI-Powered Experience for Maps

- Google Maps, a ubiquitous navigation tool, is set to undergo a transformative upgrade in India with a host of new features leveraging artificial intelligence (AI). Miriam Karthika Daniel, Vice President of Google Maps Experiences, unveiled these innovations.

About Google:

CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015–)

CMO: Lorraine Twohill

Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin

Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Senior IPS Officer Maheshwar Dayal Takes Over as Director General of Prisons

- Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal officially assumed the role of Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Human Solidarity Day 2023: 20th December

- International Human Solidarity Day 2023 is a significant observance held annually on December 20th. Recognized by the UN General Assembly.

About UN:

Founders: United States, India, United Kingdom, France, Brazil, MORE

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Awards: Nobel Peace Prize, MORE

Secretary General: António Guterres

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 'Against All Odds', 'Winning Middle India' Declared Joint Winners

- Gaja Capital Business Book Prize, a prestigious annual recognition, has crowned two exceptional narratives in its 2023 edition.
- Against All Odds: The IT Story of India and Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs emerged as joint winners.
- Gaja Capital is founded in 2004.

Israeli Film 'Children of Nobody' Wins Golden Bengal Tiger Award

- Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' wins Golden Bengal Tiger Award.
- Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film, includes a record cash prize of Rs 51 lakh.
- Venezuelan director Carlos Daniel Malave honored as Best Director.
- Special Jury Award goes to Anjan Dutt for 'Chalchitra Ekhon'.
- NETPAC Award for Best Film in the Asian Select section to 'Broken Dreams.'
- The movie, written and directed by Erez-Tadmor from Tel-Aviv.

About Israel:

President: Isaac Herzog

Capital: Jerusalem

BANKING AND ECONOMY

13 States Raise Rs 19,692 Crore in State Government Securities Auction

- According to data RBI, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh emerged as the leading states, each successfully raising Rs 4,000 crore.

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INTERNATIONAL

NSDC and Saudi Arabia govt Join Hands to Safeguard Indian Laborers' Rights

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Saudi Arabia.
- According to NSDC CEO Ved Mani Tiwari, skilled labourers in India can register themselves at NSDC free of cost.
- Ahmed Al Yamani, Vice Chairman of the Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC), revealed that a wage protection system has been implemented in Saudi Arabia.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), founded on July 31, 2008.

Bhutan Plans 1,000-sq. km. Green City on Assam Border, Linking South To Southeast Asia

- King Jigme Wangchuck positioned the Gelephu project as an "economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India's northeastern States."
- Gelephu Smartcity Project is a massive international city planned by Bhutan on its border with Assam, spanning over 1,000 sq. km.

NATIONAL

NHAI Launched ERS Mobile App for Swift Emergency Response

- The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, shape traffic norms in India, evolving through amendments to enhance road safety.
- Computer Aided Dispatch System, NHAI has unveiled the NHAI ERS (Emergency Response System) Mobile Application.

Parliament Passes Post Office Bill, 2023, Replacing 125-Year-Old Indian Post Office Act, 1898

- The Post Office Bill, 2023, replaces the outdated Indian Post Office Act, 1898, marking a crucial modernization of regulations governing postal services in India.

SPORTS

Djokovic and Sabalenka Clinch 2023 ITF World Champion Titles with Stellar Performances

- Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka have been named the 2023 ITF World Champions by the International Tennis Federation.
- Djokovic, in particular, set a new record with his eighth ITF World Champion award.
- Aryna Sabalenka, in her breakthrough season, earned her first ITF World Champion honor.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Reuven Azar Appointed as Israel's New Ambassador to India

- The Israeli government, on December 17, gave its nod to the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India.
- Mr. Azar, currently serving as the Ambassador of Israel to Romania, will also take on the role of the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

About Israel:

President: Isaac Herzog

Capital: Jerusalem

India's Uma Sekhar Elected to Governing Council of UNIDROIT

- Ms. Uma Sekhar achieved a remarkable victory by securing 45 out of 59 votes in the initial round of elections for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy.
- UNIDROIT, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, operates as an independent intergovernmental organization headquartered in Rome, Italy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Goa Liberation Day 2023: 19th December

- Goa Liberated Day 2023 is celebrated on December 19, 2023.
- It marks the liberation of Goa from Portuguese colonial rule after 451 years.
- The 2023 edition of Goa Liberation Day commemorates the 62nd anniversary.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

IIT Kanpur Collaborated with Indian Navy to Promote Technology Development

- Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) and the Indian Navy have joined hands in a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the Naval Headquarters.
- Rear Admiral K Srinivas, Asst. Chief of Material (Dockyard & Refits) and Prof. S. Ganesh, Director of IIT Kanpur, formalized this partnership.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India and ADB Ink \$250M Loan for Industrial Corridor Development

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently solidified their collaboration with the signing of a \$250 million policy-based loan on December 15, 2023.
- Ms. Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, represented the Government of India, while Mr. Hoe Yun Jeong, Deputy Country Director, and Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission, signed on behalf of ADB.
- The NICDP, initiated in 2016 and updated in 2020, focuses on effective industrial corridor development.

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INTERNATIONAL

Israel Appoints Reuven Azar as New Ambassador to India with Expanded Diplomatic Role

- The Israeli government recently greenlit the appointment of Reuven Azar as the new Ambassador to India.
- Reuven Azar currently serves as the Ambassador of Israel to Romania.

NATIONAL

PM Modi to Inaugurate of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a crucial 402 km stretch linking New Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction to New Bhaupur Junction.

PM Modi Unveils Varanasi's Swarved Mahamandir, World's Largest Meditation Center

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment on Monday as he inaugurated the Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi.
- Prime Minister Modi, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, toured the meditation center.

SPORTS

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023

- In a historic turn of events at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, Haryana emerged victorious in the 2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy, securing their first-ever title with a 30-run triumph over Rajasthan in the summit clash.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's Akash Missile Achieves Global First: Engages Four Targets Simultaneously at 25km

- India has achieved a global first by demonstrating the capability of its indigenous Akash missile system to engage four aerial targets simultaneously at a range of 25 kilometers.
- The remarkable feat took place during the 'Astrashakti' military exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force on December 12.

Kerala-Based Startup, Genrobotics Ranks Top 3 in Global AI Summit For Indian Startups

- The prestigious event, organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi from December 12-14, witnessed Genrobotics securing its place in the spotlight.
- The General Hospital in Kerala became the first government hospital to deploy G Gaiter.

Bhashini AI Translates PM Modi's Speech in Indian languages

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized an AI-powered Indian language translation tool, 'Bhashini', during a recent speech in Uttar Pradesh.
- 'Bhashini' operates as an AI-driven language translation system, facilitating conversations between speakers of different Indian languages.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Migrants Day 2023: 18th December

- International Migrants Day 2023, observed annually on December 18.
- The theme for International Migrants Day 2023 is "Promoting Safe Migration."

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability

- The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, graced the launch event as the chief guest.

IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry

- IndusInd Bank has recently launched the 'Indus Solitaire Program,' an innovative community banking initiative.
- Primarily through IndusInd Bank's flagship branches, with a focus on Mumbai and Surat.

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INTERNATIONAL

TIWB Launched Saint Lucia Program, With India as the Administration Partner

- Tax Inspectors without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched a significant program in Saint Lucia on 14th December 2023.

About UNDP:

Founded: 22 November 1965, United States

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

NATIONAL

PM Narendra Modi Launches Second Edition of Kashi Time Sangamam in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, a cultural extravaganza aimed at fostering the cultural ties between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.

- During the event, PM Modi also flagged off the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Founded: 24 January 1950

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Surat Diamond Bourse Inaugurated by PM Modi

- The Surat Diamond Exchange, marking a historic moment as it surpassed the Pentagon to become the world's largest office complex.

About Gujarat:

Founded: 1 May 1960

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Capital: Gandhinagar

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IAF Successfully Testfires 'SAMAR' Air Defense Missile System in Andhra Pradesh

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has proudly announced the successful test firing of its Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR) air defence missile system.
- The IAF conducted the successful firing trials of the SAMAR air defence missile system during the AstraShakti-2023 exercise at Air Force Station Suryalanka.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Founded: 1 November 1956

Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer

Capital: Amaravati

OBITURY

Sheikh Nawab Al-Ahmad Al-Sahab, Kuwait Emir, Passed Away at the Age of 86

- Sheikh Nawab Al-Jaber Saheb passed away on December 16, 2023, at the age of 86.

RANKING

Aster Medcity Claims the No.1 Spot as India's Leading Emerging Hospital

- Aster Medcity, located in Kochi, Kerala, and a unit of Aster DM Healthcare, has emerged as a frontrunner in the healthcare industry.
- The hospital has recently achieved the remarkable feat of being ranked No.1 in the 'Best Multi-specialty Hospital Emerging' category by The Week-Hansa Research 2023, as published in December 2023.
- Dr. Nitish Shetty is the CEO of Aster DM Healthcare.
- Aster Medcity is founded on 6th May 2015.

Logistics Performance Index 2023: States and UTs Recognized for achievements and Challenges

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry recently released the fifth LEADS (Logistics Ease across Different States) 2023 report.
- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and Gujarat are among the 13 states and Union Territories recognized as “achievers” in the logistics index chart for 2023.

Hyderabad Leads In Food Adulteration Cases: NCRB

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently revealed alarming data that sheds light on the severity of the issue, especially in the city of Hyderabad and its surrounding areas.
- The NCRB data pointed out that Hyderabad topped the nation in food adulteration cases in 2022. In close second place was Andhra Pradesh, trailing after Telangana.

About Telangana:

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Founded: 2 June 2014

Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy

Capital: Hyderabad

BANKING AND ECONOMY

NPS Assets Surge to ₹10.7 Lakh Crore with Impressive 16.94% Equity Returns

- India's National Pension System (NPS) has witnessed a substantial growth in assets, reaching a new milestone of ₹10.7 lakh crore as of December 9, 25.95% higher than the previous year.

S&P Global Ratings: Positive Outlook for Asia-Pacific Economies despite Global Challenges

- Out of the 21 countries assessed by S&P in the APAC region, 19 are bestowed with a stable outlook.
- S&P acknowledges that economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region in 2024 may not match the strength seen in 2023.