

Weekly Current Affairs PDF January 01 to January 07, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

World's first vaccine for honeybees gets conditional nod in US

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted a conditional license for a vaccine for honeybees to curb American foulbrood (AFB), a fatal bacterial disease for the insect.
- It is not a stress-related disease and can infect the strongest to the weakest colony in an apiary. Heavy infections can affect most of the brood, severely weakening the colony and eventually killing it.
- The disease cannot be cured, meaning that the destruction of infected colonies and hives or irradiation of infected material is the only way to manage AFB.

NATIONAL

Centre constitutes High Powered Committee to discuss measures to protect Ladakh's unique culture, language & employment

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in India has established a High Powered Committee (HPC) to address issues related to the protection of Ladakh's culture, language, land, and employment opportunities. A 17-member committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.
- In addition to Rai, the committee will include the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Member of Parliament for Ladakh, the Chairmen/Chief Executive Councilors of the LAHDCs of Leh and Kargil, and several other officials from the MHA and the Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs.
- The establishment of the HPC reflects the Indian government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the people of Ladakh and ensuring that the region's unique culture and way of life are preserved. With its strategic location and importance, Ladakh plays a vital role in the security and stability of the region, and the HPC will work to ensure that the needs of the people of Ladakh are met and that the region is able to contribute to the overall development of the country.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefs media about '2023 Science Vision' at New Delhi

- In a media interaction on the first day of the New Year, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, 2023 Science Vision will define India at 2047.
- Dr Jitendra Singh added that the year 2023 also happens to be the first of the last 25 years or the last quarter of the calendar before independent India turns 100 at 2047 and realizes its century dreams.
- This is also the year, the Minister said, when India under PM Narendra Modi reiterates its stature in the international fora as the host of G20 as well as the Nation on whose proposal the world is observing International Year of Millets.

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurates 29 Mobile Veterinary Units & centralised call center in Thiruvananthapuram

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala on Thursday inaugurated 29 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) and centralised call center in Thiruvananthapuram in a major step for the benefit of the livestock farmers in Kerala.
- The Minister highlighted that this intervention will boost the confidence of dairy farmers to rear high productive dairy animals as most of the breeders are reluctant to take their livestock to Veterinary Hospital for treatment and usually end calling quacks for doorstep delivery of services. Each MVU will be manned by a qualified Veterinarian and a Paravet for providing specialized services to livestock farmers, he added.
- The Minister underlined that the scheme is promising and will transform the dairy sector from a subsistence-based farm livelihood to a commercially viable enterprise by giving gainful employment to the youth of the Kerala.

SPORTS

India's first-ever Formula E World Championship to take place on feb 11

- The countdown of the first-ever ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India is to be held in Hyderabad. The Formula E World Championship will be held from 11th February.
- The first ticket for the Formula E World Championship was booked by Telangana Special Chief Secretary (Municipal Administration) Arvind Kumar. During the event, Akbar Ebrahim, President Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India, and other dignitaries were also present.
- The government aims to make Hyderabad one of the top cities in the world by hosting Formula E World Championship.
- Hyderabad race on 11th February will be the fourth race of the season, season 9 of Formula E, the first three include Mexico City and Riyadh.
- A total of 11 teams with 23 cars with 22 cars would be racing here and they include some of the top racing companies.

Chess: Tamil Nadu's Pranesh M becomes India's 79th Grandmaster after winning Rilton Cup

- Pranesh M became India's 79th Grandmaster, having completed his three norms prior to this event. IM Pranesh M emerged as the winner of the Rilton Cup, the first tournament of the FIDE Circuit. The 16-year-old from India, seeded 22nd, made a clean sweep of the field in Stockholm, winning eight games and finishing a full point ahead of IM Kaan Kukuksari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).
- The 2022/2023 Rilton Cup, the strongest open tournament in Sweden, ran from December 27 to January 5 and brought together 136 players representing 29 national federations. Pranesh M is now the early leader of the FIDE Circuit with 6.8 circuit points that he gets for this victory. The one who accumulates the most points by the end of the year qualifies for the 2024 FIDE Candidates.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

JSW Group named as global partner for FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in India

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has signed a partnership with the JSW Group for the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, which will kick-off later this month. The group supports and promotes Olympics in India and has created an Olympic Training Institute in the Inspire Institute of Sport as well as has Olympic training centres across the country. The 15th edition of FIH's flagship event for men will be played from 13 January to 29 January in Odisha, India.
- JSW Group is ranked among India's leading business houses, active in various sectors including Steel, Energy, Infrastructure, Cement, Paints, Venture Capital and Sports. JSW is committed to using sports as a means of nation-building and has a long history of supporting and promoting Olympic sport in India.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Equitas Small Finance Bank surges 7% to hit 52-week high after RBI's nod to stake acquisition

- The Reserve Bank of India gave its approval to SBI Funds Management Ltd to acquire up to 9.99% stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank through the schemes of SBI Mutual Fund, the bank said in an exchange filing. Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund and DSP Mutual Fund have also received RBI's approval to buy 9.99% stake each in the bank.
- Shares of Equitas Small Finance Bank witnessed a surge in buying activity, with the stock price rising as much as 7% to hit a fresh record high, in an otherwise weak broader market. The share price of the private lender got a boost after the Reserve Bank India (RBI) gave nod to SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) to acquire shares in the bank.
- The aforesaid approval by RBI is subject to compliance with the relevant provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Master Direction on Prior Approval for Acquisition of shares or voting rights in Private Sector Banks dated November 19, 2015 and Master Direction on Ownership in Private sector Banks dated May 12, 2016, issued by RBI.

Zerodha-backed fintech receives debt broker license from Sebi

- Zerodha-backed GoldenPi Technologies has become the first online bond platform provider to receive a debt brokerage license from market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The Bengaluru-based fintech firm expects this development to spur greater trust in online bonds and debentures investment space.
- 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 under the SEBI Regulations, 2021.
- The awarding of the license by Sebi to GoldenPi is expected to work as a catalyst for greater investor trust in the online bonds and debentures investment space, the company said in a release.
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Axis Bank and fintech company, OPEN join hands to launch a digital current account for businesses

- Axis Bank has partnered with OPEN to provide a fully native digital current account journey for its customers including SMEs (small and medium enterprises), freelancers, homepreneurs, influencers and more. This has been the bank's first-ever partnership with a fintech player to launch a fully digital current account. Using this account, customers can avail 250+ banking services and claim up to 50 per cent cashback through grab-deals. With this partnership, all existing Axis bank account holders also get access to OPEN's all-in-one digital banking platform that is used by over 30 lakh businesses currently.
- The partnership is aiming to offer access to Axis Bank's holistic banking services coupled with OPEN's end-to-end financial automation tools for business management like payments, accounting, payroll, compliance, expense management and several other services to a larger business community.

Indian GDP pegged to grow at 7% in FY23: NSOs advance estimates

- 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). New Delhi had pegged India's growth at 8.7% in the last fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022.
- Earlier last month, the Reserve Bank of India had lowered the country's GDP (gross domestic product) growth forecast to 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal from 7 per cent earlier, on account of continued geopolitical tensions and tightening of global financial conditions.
- The RBI had projected the real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 6.8 per cent, with the third quarter at 4.4 per cent and the fourth at 4.2 per cent. It had pared the growth projection for 2022-23 for the third time in December 2022.

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INTERNATIONAL

India identifies copper and lithium mines in Argentina

- The Indian government has proclaimed that they have identified two lithium mines and one copper mine in Argentina and they are moving forward to acquiring it or taking long term lease. The government of India said that they had sent a team of geologists to Argentina to assess and find potential lithium deposits in the month of November 2022. They have been able to identify a possible source of lithium and copper deposits in the south American country.
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (Kabil) will have ownership or leasing rights to the mines. A joint venture between the National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL), and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. It was established in 2019 to ensure the market in India had access to strategic minerals.

Europe's melted snow due to 'winter heatwave' seen from space

- New satellite imagery reveals the effect of Europe's 'winter heatwave' in the thick of the continent's winter skiing season. An image posted by the European Union's Copernicus Programme shows a distinct lack of snow surrounding the Swiss town of Altdorf, which is close to skiing resorts. In Altdorf, the temperature reached 66.5°F (19.2°C) on New Year's Day and did

not fall below 60.9°F (16.1°C) during the night, breaking a previous record set in 1864. Warsaw in Poland also hit 66°F (18.9°C), smashing its own January record by over 9°F (5°C).

- The new satellite image was captured by Sentinel 2, one of the Earth observation satellites that makes up the Copernicus Programme. According to the programme, 2023 has started with 'a historic heatwave' affecting Europe, with many countries observing the warmest temperature on record for January 1, potentially due to human-caused climate change.

NATIONAL

Experiencing History!: World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala

- Kerala Chief Minister(CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Museum, promoted as "World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.
- The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century. It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.

Ghaziabad-Pt becomes longest fully ABS section of Indian Railways says Indian Railways

- Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section (762 KM) becomes the longest fully automatic block signalling section of Indian Railways. In order to increase line capacity to run more trains on existing High Density Routes of Indian Railways, Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) is a cost effective solution. Indian Railways has been rolling out Automatic Block signalling on a mission mode. ABS has been commissioned on 268 Rkm during 2022-23. As on 31.12.2022, ABS has been provided on 3706 Route km over IR. With implementation of Automatic Signalling, increase in capacity will accrue resulting in more train services becoming possible.
- Electronic Interlocking are being adopted on a large scale to derive benefits of digital technologies in train operation and to enhance safety. Electronic Interlocking systems have been provided at 347 stations during 2022-23. So far 2888 stations have been provided with Electronic Interlocking up to 31.12.2022 covering 45.5% of IR. Recently, with the commissioning of Automatic signalling system in Sath Naraini- Rundhi- Faizullapur Station section of Prayagraj Division, 762 KM long Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section has been fully automated and has also become the longest automatic block signalling section of Indian Railways.

SPORTS

Jaydev Unadkat's historic first-over Ranji Trophy hat-trick wrecks Delhi

- Saurashtra's Jaydev Unadkat made a slice of Ranji Trophy history, becoming the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over. The left-arm pacer destroyed Delhi by adding two more in the next over in a career-best eight-wicket haul in the Elite Group B match in Rajkot. Unadkat's hat-trick victims included opener Dhruv Shorey, Vaibhav Rawal and young Delhi captain Yash Dhull, all of whom departed for duck. Unadkat's finishing with career-best figures of 8/39 in his 12 overs. Delhi, who lost 7 wickets for just 10 runs, didn't face ignominy of lowest first-class score of 6 by a team called 'The B's' against England in an official match held in 1810.

- No one had managed a first-over hat-trick in the 89-year history of the premier domestic competition. The previous record of the fastest Ranji hat-trick belonged to Karnataka pacer Vinay Kumar, who achieved the feat in the 2017-18 quarter-final against Mumbai. Kumar's effort was spread across the first and third overs of the match. Unadkat, playing in his 98th first-class match was playing in his first Ranji game of the season, having recently made his Test return in Bangladesh following a 12-year wait.

Belinda Clark becomes first women cricketer to have a statue cast, sculpture unveiled at Sydney Cricket Ground

- Australia's Belinda Clark has become the first female cricketer to have a statue cast in her honour, a bronze sculpture of the trailblazing former captain unveiled outside Sydney Cricket Ground. Clark played 15 tests and over 100 limited overs matches between 1991-2005, and became the first cricketer to score a double-hundred in one-day internationals when she made an unbeaten 229 against Denmark in 1997.
- The 52-year-old's statue stands alongside Richie Benaud, Fred Spofforth, Stan McCabe and Steve Waugh as cricketers honoured with sculptures in the SCG precinct. at the ground. Her bronze cast now stands alongside former captain Richard Benaud and Steve Waugh. The 52-year-old Clark who has held several roles in Australian Cricket board was excited on this honour. Known for scoring the first double century in ODI cricket, Clark played 15 Tests and over 100 limited-over matches between 1991-2005. His historic double hundred came against Denmark in 1997 with an unbeaten knock of 229.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NABI, Mohali, gets genome editing and training centre

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali, Punjab. The Minister also, at the same time, inaugurated a 4-day International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023.
- "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" (NGETC) is a one-roof state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a national platform to cater to the regional needs to adapt different genome editing methods, including CRISPR-Cas9 mediated genome modification. It will also empower young researchers by providing them with training and guidance about its know-how and application in crops. In the current climatic scenario, improving crops for better nutrition and tolerance to the changing environmental condition is a significant challenge. Genome editing could be a promising technology that Indian research could adapt to offer the desired tailor-made traits in crops. NABI has shown ability and can expand the genome editing tools to vast arrays of crops, including Banana, Rice, Wheat, Tomato, Maize and Millets.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day of War Orphans 2023: 6th January

- The World Day of War Orphans is observed on January 6 every year with an aim to raise awareness about children orphaned in wars. These children are subjected to hardships that are more than just physical neglect after losing their caregivers. It is an important event to note that the aftermaths of war are not just harsh on a single part of the society.

- Most significant reason the day is marked is to highlight the debilitating aftereffects of war. The focus is especially shifted to orphans and their plight. Children who have no direct part in the war, often end up suffering the most. The day is marked to understand the full impact of how destructive wars can be and the weight of loss it brings along. The day is also commemorated to give a platform to the war orphans and let them know their voices are heard.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

First G-20 meeting to take place in Puducherry on Jan 31, says LG Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

- Puducherry Lieutenant governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said that the first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on 31st January. The G20 logo for the meeting was released by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan at a function held at Beach Road Gandhi Tidal. Dr. Tamisai thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving all the states the opportunity to host the G-20 meetings. He released stickers, posters and badges and also inaugurated a selfie booth in the presence of Chief Minister Rengasamy.
- These programs will be organised in different parts of the country in different segments. Kolkata will host the first meeting on the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.
- Since India is holding the presidency of the group, it is also setting an agenda for the wellbeing of the world at large. Needless to say whilst G20 priorities are in the process of being firmed up and a lot of them would come up as the talks go on, India is showing a path with focus on inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth.

Cabinet Committee approves over Rs 2,500-cr scheme for upgrading infra of DD, AIR

- In a bid to upgrade Prasar Bharati's broadcast infrastructure and network, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a scheme worth more than Rs 2,500 crore for Doordarshan and All India Radio. Under the scheme, eight lakh DD Free Dish DTH set top boxes (STBs) will also be distributed to people living in remote, tribal, LWE, border areas and 'aspirational' districts.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced the Central Sector 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)' scheme with an outlay of Rs 2,539.61 crore up to 2025-26, which was approved by the CCEA.
- The BIND scheme is the vehicle for providing financial support to Prasar Bharati for expenses related to expansion and upgradation of its broadcasting infrastructure, content development and civil work related to the organization.
- The BIND scheme will enable the public broadcaster to undertake a major upgradation of its facilities with better infrastructure which will widen its reach, including in the LWE (Left Wing Extremism), border and strategic areas and provide high quality content to the viewers.

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INTERNATIONAL

China becomes the first country in Asia and second in the world to launch Hydrogen powered Train

- China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a hydrogen urban train, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world. Germany introduced green trains a few months back. The

hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km.

- The trains launched by Germany have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the 'World's Greenest Train' soon.
- India will get its first-ever Indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that Indian Railways is working on new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing them.

NATIONAL

Manipur: Gaan Ngai festival of Zeliangrong community to be celebrated on 4th January

- The Gaan Ngai of the Zeliangrong Community celebrated in Manipur. The Gaan Ngai festival is one of the major festivals of Manipur which is celebrated every year after harvesting. The festival also marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrains in their granaries. During the festival, the Zeliangrong Community shows their gratitude by offering the Almighty a good harvest and praying for a better and prosperous life in the coming year.
- It is a custom to produce new fire by rubbing dry wood and split bamboo pieces and distributing them to every household on the day of the festival to mark the beginning of the new year.
- The Gaan Ngai is a post-harvest festival. It is mainly performed by the followers and devotees of the Zeliangrong Indigenous religion of 'Poupei Chapriak' and 'Heraka'.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Bank of Singapore hires CEO from Julius Baer

- Bank of Singapore (BoS), the private banking arm of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), announced that it has appointed Jason Moo as its new CEO. BoS's announcement comes after Bloomberg's article on Dec 26, 2022. Moo will succeed Bahren Shaari officially from March 6 onwards.
- Moo comes with over 25 years of experience in private banking, wealth management and capital markets. This includes 22 years in Goldman Sachs, as well as time spent in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore. From 2017 to 2019, Moo was the CEO for Goldman Sachs (Singapore). Moo joins BoS from Julius Baer where he was head of private banking, Southeast Asia and branch manager Singapore.
- Aside from Singapore, he has also worked in New York and Hong Kong. Shaari was appointed CEO in 2015. Under his leadership, the bank successfully integrated Barclays Asia after the acquisition, and grew its assets under management from US\$55 billion to US\$109 billion as at September 30 2022.

EC names folk singer Maithili Thakur its Bihar icon

- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission. The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process. This recognition will give her (Maithili) more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process.

- Maithili, born in Bihar's Madhubani district, along with her two brothers, were trained by their grandfather and father in folk, Hindustani classical music, harmonium and tabla. She has rendered traditional folk songs of Bihar in Maithili, Bhojpuri and Hindi.
- Thakur, trained in Indian classical and folk music, was recently selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar for 2021.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Odisha Wins World Habitat Awards 2023 For Slum Upgradation Program

- 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.
- Jaga mission is the world's largest land titling and slum upgrading program which aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers. Under the inspiring leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Government of Odisha has set itself the ambitious target of becoming the first slum-free state in India and is leading the Jaga Mission programme to upgrade all of the state's 2,919 slums.
- In the last 05 years of the initiative, 1,75,000 families have been granted land tenure security. 100% households in 2,724 slums have been provided with pipe water connections, 707 slums transformed fully into Liveable Habitats, 100% households in 666 slums have individual toilets, and 8 cities have become slum-free.

Central Government Declared Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023

- 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award: 27 Indians living overseas have been chosen by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA), for outstanding achievements both in India and abroad. The award is the highest honour conferred upon Indians living abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) or organisations/institutions established and run by them.
- The jury that selected the recipients comprised Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar as its chairman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as its Vice-Chair, among other distinguished dignitaries from different fields. The awards will be conferred upon the recipients by President Droupadi Murmu during the 17th edition of the PBSA, which is scheduled to be held from 8-10 January in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

In the January 2023 round, RBI Survey for Price Movements, Inflation Assessment Launched

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) which will provide useful inputs for monetary policy. In the January 2023 round, the survey will be conducted across 19 cities. It aims to capture subjective assessments of price movements and inflation, based on individual consumption baskets.
- The survey will be conducted in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.

- The agency — Hansa Research Group, Mumbai — has been engaged to conduct the survey of this round on behalf of the ventral bank.
- The selected households will be approached by the agency and they will be requested to provide their response. Other individuals, who are not approached by the agency, can also participate in this survey by providing their responses using the linked survey schedule.

India aims for \$17 bln cut in food, fertiliser subsidies in 2023/24

- India aims to cut spending on food and fertiliser subsidies to 3.7 trillion rupees (\$44.6 billion) in the fiscal year from April, down 26% from this, to rein in a fiscal deficit that ballooned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Spending on fertiliser subsidies will likely fall to about Rs 1.4 lakh crore. That compares with nearly Rs 2.3 lakh crore this year.
- Food and fertiliser subsidies alone account for about one-eighth of India's total budgetary spending of ₹39.45 trillion this fiscal year, but reducing these subsidies could be politically sensitive given the impending elections.
- The government anticipates allocating roughly 2.3 trillion for food subsidies in the upcoming fiscal year as opposed to 2.7 trillion for the year that has just ended on March 31.
- The amount spent on fertiliser subsidies will probably decrease to roughly 1.4 trillion in contrasts to 2.3 trillion this year.

Cabinet approves 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 promote the manufacturing of electrolyzers — a key constituent for making green hydrogen.
- The initial outlay for the mission will include Rs 17,490 crore for strategic interventions for green hydrogen transition (SIGHT) programme, Rs 1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs 400 crore for research and development (R&D), and Rs 388 crore towards other mission components.
- The initial target is to produce 5 million tonnes (mt) of green hydrogen annually. It will include two financial incentive mechanisms for the domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and the production of green hydrogen.
- The mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and the production pathways. Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilisation of hydrogen will be identified and developed as green hydrogen hubs.
- Microsoft Cloud. HDFC Bank as a part of its Future Ready strategy is developing in house IPs as well as partnering with several companies including FinTechs' to co -create technology IPs. HDFC Bank as a part of its Future Ready strategy is developing in house IPs as well as partnering with several companies including FinTechs' to co -create technology IPs.
- The bank will leverage Microsoft Azure to consolidate and modernize its enterprise data landscape through a Federated Data Lake to scale its information management capabilities across enterprise reporting, and advanced analytics using artificial intelligence.

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NATIONAL

Second Phase of Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India begins

- The second phase of the Sari Festival "VIRAASAT"-Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India will begin from 3rd to 17th January 2023 at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. The Sari Festival VIRAASAT is organized by the Ministry of Textile. In the second stage phase, there are 90 participants from different parts of the country.
- There are several Handcrafted varieties of Saris to be displayed in the festival including Tie and Dye, Chikan embroidered Saris, Hand Block Saris, Kalamkari printed Saris, Ajrakh, Kantha, and Phulkari. There is an addition to the exclusive handloom Saris of Jamdani, Ikat, Pochampally, Banaras Brocade, Tussar Silk (Champa), Baluchari, Bhagalpuri Sik, Tangail, Chanderi, Lalitpur, Patola, Paithani, etc.

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

- Prime Minister 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 with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- 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, and long-term courses which are not just related to engineering but also cover aspects of management, health, accounting, law, and public policies.
- The conference was chaired by the Union Minister for Kal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- The Union Minister reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of cooperative federalism and states that under Swachh Bharat Mission, Namami Gange, and Jal Jeevan Mission, the combined efforts are being recognized around the globe.

Capt Shiva Chouhan becomes first woman officer to be deployed at Siachen, world's highest battlefield

- Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in first such operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the world's highest battlefield. The officer was posted at the Kumar post, located at an altitude of around 15,600 feet in Siachen, on Monday for a three-month stint after she underwent rigorous training. The training included endurance training, ice wall climbing, avalanche and crevasse rescue and survival drills.
- Capt Shiva Chouhan, who hails from Rajasthan, is a Bengal Sapper Officer. Chouhan lost her father at the age of 11 and her mother, a housewife, took care of her studies. She did her schooling from Udaipur and graduated from NJR Institute of Technology, Udaipur, in civil engineering. Covering a distance of 508 kms, Capt Chouhan successfully led the Sura Soi Cycling Expedition from Siachen War Memorial to Kargil War Memorial conducted on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas in July 2022. She then took up the challenge of leading the men of Sura Soi

Engineer Regiment at Siachen and, based on her performance, was selected to undergo training at the Siachen Battle School.

Government starts process to buy 100 more K9-Vajras self-propelled howitzers

- The Defence Ministry has started the process for the procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers which are built in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) using technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence. At the height of tensions in eastern Ladakh in 2020, the Army deployed one regiment of K-9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers there to augment its long-range fire power in the backdrop of a massive build-up of forces by China across the Line of Actual Control. Buoyed by their performance, the Army is looking at eventually procuring 200 additional guns. The induction of Dhanush, K-9 Vajra and M777 Ultra Light Howitzers has enhanced the reach of artillery firepower on the northern borders.
- The K9 Vajra is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer built by L&T with technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense based on its K9 Thunder.
- The K9 Vajra was mainly bought for use in deserts, but the standoff prompted them to be deployed in the mountains as well, officials had stated earlier.

Himachal Pradesh: CM donates first salary to Chief Minister Sukhashraya 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.
- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that there are 6,000 destitute children in Himachal Pradesh.
- The CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh with an expenditure of Rs 101 crore would provide the facility of higher education to needy children.
- Through the CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh other than bearing the educational expenses, the government would also provide Rs 4000 monthly pocket money to the destitute children and women pursuing higher education.

Uttarakhand govt abolishes system of revenue police

- The Uttarakhand government has decided to abolish the revenue policing system in the state. The Pushkar Singh Dhami government has also announced that revenue villages will be brought under the regular policing system. Law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police, according to a statement by the Chief Minister's Office.
- The demand to replace the revenue police system in Uttarakhand gained traction during the investigation into the Ankita Bhandari murder case in September 2022. Ankita, a 19-year-old who worked as a receptionist at a resort run by Pulkit Arya, the son of expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya, was found dead in the Chilla canal in Rishikesh on September 24 after going missing for six

days. The area was under the jurisdiction of the revenue police. Allegations were raised against the revenue police for not registering a complaint on time and even siding with the accused.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Braille Day 2023: 4th January

- World Braille Day, marked on January 4, emphasises the significance of Braille as a form of communication for the partially sighted and blind. The United Nations has been commemorating the day since 2019. World Braille Day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who was born on January 4, 1809. After losing his sight during childhood, the French educator devised the Braille technique.
- The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the braille language, which attempts to bridge the gap among normal and differently-abled individuals. Coupvray, France, gave birth to the creator of an extensively adopted touch device enabling blind persons to read and write. Braille created a system of writing that employed, paradoxically, an awl-like instrument to punch symbols on a sheet that can be sensed and read by blind people after himself being irreparably blinded at the age of three in his father's saddle-making factory.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Election Commission's '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 per cent voter turnout in the assembly elections due early this year. These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls. The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful.
- According to the ECI, these booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 percent in the 2018 assembly polls. Except for these booths almost all the booths in the state recorded a voter turnout of 91 % or more .The voter turnout was 89.5% in the 2018 Tripura assembly election.
- The Election commission plans to launch an awareness campaign, poll officials will visit senior citizens and persons with disability, and appeal to them to cast their votes.
- The ECI will make requisite arrangements such as ramps, wheelchairs and separate queues will be arranged at every polling station to felicitate senior citizens and persons with disability. This will also ensure that voters can cast their votes peacefully in the assembly election to be held in 2023.

India's unemployment rate rises to 8.30% in December, highest in 16 months: Report

- Unemployment rate in India rose to 8.30 per cent in December 2022, the highest in 16 months, according to data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). It was 8 per cent in the month of November. While urban unemployment rose to 10.09 per cent in December, from 8.96 per cent in November, rural unemployment moved to 7.44% from 7.55%, the data revealed.
- 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 rise was "not as bad as it may seem," as there was a simultaneous increase in the labour participation rate, which rose to 40.48 per cent in December, the highest in 12 months.

- Most importantly, the employment rate has increased in December to 37.1%, which again is the highest since January 2022.
- The unemployment rate had declined to 7.2% in the July-September quarter compared to 7.6% in the previous quarter, according to separate quarterly data compiled by state run National Statistical Office (NSO) and released in November.

Overseas financial assets of Indian residents declined by USD 43.9 bn during Jul-Sep 2022: RBI

- India's international financial assets declined by \$56.5 billion during July-September 2022 with valuation losses accounting for a major part. Reserve assets remained the dominant component (62.9% share) of India's international financial assets. The net claims of non-residents on India increased by \$34.3 billion during Q2 of FY23 and stood at \$389.6 billion in September.
- The fall in India's foreign liabilities during Q2 was attributed primarily to direct investment (net) outflows.
- Portfolio and other investments also recorded marginal decline on a net basis, barring trade credit which increased by \$5.1 billion.
- Variation in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis other currencies also impacted the change in liabilities, when valued in U.S. dollar terms.
- Debt and non-debt liabilities continued to have equal share in total external liabilities. The ratio of international assets to international liabilities moderated to 68.5% in September from 71.5% a quarter ago.

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INTERNATIONAL

Qin Gang is named China's new foreign minister

- China has appointed Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of President Xi Jinping, to be its new foreign minister, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations. This decision was made by the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. Qin, 56, replaces Wang Yi, who has been foreign minister for the past decade. Wang, 69, was promoted to the politburo of the Chinese Communist Party and is expected to play a bigger role in Chinese foreign policy.
- Qin rose quickly through various positions in China's foreign ministry, including two stints as ministry spokesman between 2006 and 2014, and as chief protocol officer between 2014 and 2018, overseeing many of Xi's interactions with foreign leaders. As spokesman, he stood out among his peers for being one of the earliest Chinese diplomats to make sharp comments in defence of China's increasingly assertive foreign policy, what later became known as "wolf warrior" diplomacy.

NATIONAL

CM to open Indian Library Congress in Kannur

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Indian Library Congress in Kannur, Kerala. The inauguration event of the Indian Library Congress was organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council.

- The event was hosted by Kannur University, Kerala from 1st January to 3rd January 2023. Higher Education Minister Dr. R. Bindu will inaugurate 100 new libraries in the district as part of the event.
- Ramachandran Gadnapally MLA, Kannur District Panchayat President PP Divya, Kasaragod District Panchayat President Baby Balakrishnan, MV Jayaranjan, Prabir Purkayastha, TK Govindan, PK Vijayan, Dr. KV Kunhikrishnan, Pramod Vellachal, and others were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

Chandrayaan-3 to Gaganyaan: 2023 is going to be about bigger, bolder, braver missions from India

- In 2022, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) reached new heights as it experimented with new tests to confirm its human spaceflight mission, built new facilities to train its astronauts, and created a new connection with the private sector by putting India's first privately made rocket to the test. The year 2023 won't be any different. Instead, since the roster is set, it might be a year of bigger, bolder, and braver expeditions from India to space.
- The first test of the Gaganyaan mission, the nation's first astronaut mission that sends Indians outside the planet in an indigenously manufactured technology, is the most audacious venture the Indian space agency has ever undertaken.

'SMART' programme launched for Ayurveda professionals to boost R&D in Ayurveda

- The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals). The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.
- The proposed initiative is conceptualised with an objective to identify, support and promote innovative research ideas in healthcare research areas including Osteoarthritis, Iron Deficiency Anaemia, Chronic Bronchitis, Dyslipidemia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus, Psoriasis, Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)".

J&K: CRPF celebrates 'Jashn-e-Chillai-Kalan'

- On the occasion of Chillai Kalan in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan" on 26/12/2022 at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar. During this competition, 54 participants (including 12 Female participants) from Schools/colleges & other educational institutions were present along with their guardians & teachers. Commandant 44 Bn, CRPF inaugurated the event.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is a federal police organisation in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. It is one among the Central Armed Police Forces. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DRDO celebrates its 65th Foundation Day; Floral tributes paid to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year. DRDO Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion. He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.
- On the occasion of the day, a DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released by the Chairman DRDO. DRDO calendar 2023 was also released. In addition, Secretary DD R&D and Chairman DRDO felicitated all the employees who have completed 25 years of their service in DRDO.
- It is a premier defence research and development agency under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- It is working on several cutting-edge military technology areas, including aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation, engineering systems, missiles, materials, naval systems, advanced computing, simulation, cyber, hypersonic technology, quantum computing and communications.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India & Austria ink pact on migration and mobility

- Last year witnessed "exploding number of Indians" who arrived at the borders of Austria as illegal immigrants, said the Foreign Minister of Austria Alexander Schallenberg on January 2, 2023.
- The Minister made the comment soon after the Indian and the Austrian teams signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement that Mr Schallenberg described as "most important". He called for dialogue to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and described India as a voice of "peace" and "reason".

BREAKING BARRIERS: THE STORY OF A DALIT CHIEF SECRETARY

- Former IAS officer Kaki Madhava Rao has authored a new book titled "Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary" which addresses the details about the dynamics of civil services at the ground level and also fills the gap in the knowledge about micro policies and governance. The book is published by Emesco Books Private Limited. K Madhava Rao is a 1962 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who retired as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP). He was born in Pedamaddali village of Krishna district, AP in 1939. He also served in the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) as a Director and as a member of a sub-committee, the Board for Financial Supervision.
- Chapters 2,3,4, and 5 are full of details on his exposure to the national stage, a different world from rural Andhra Pradesh. The account here is of how a provincial young man matures into an adult in the world at large.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

UPI Transactions Rise Over 7.82 Billion in December 2022. Here's How UPI Has Grown Over The Years

- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed a record 7.82 billion transactions in December, worth a total of INR 12.82tn (\$174.6bn). This represents an increase of 7.12% in volume and 7.73% in value compared to November. On a year-on-year basis, volume and value increased by 71% and 55% respectively.
- In 2022, UPI processed over 74 billion transactions worth INR 125.94tn. In 2021, it processed 38 billion transactions worth INR 71.54tn.
- This represents a YoY increase of 90% in volume and 76% in value.
- UPI reached 1 billion transactions in October 2019, 2 billion in October 2020, and 3 billion in January 2021.

SBI, ICICI, HDFC Bank remain systemically important banks: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs). 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.
- The additional CET1 required for D-SIBs was phased-in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. The additional CET1 requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer.
- The Reserve Bank had issued the framework for dealing with D-SIBs on July 22, 2014. The D-SIB framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). Based on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement has to be applied to it.

Coffee exports up nearly 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. 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.
- According to the Board's latest data, shipment of Robusta coffee declined marginally to 2,20,974 tonne in 2022 from 2,20,997 tonne in the previous year.
- Similarly, export of Arabica fell 11.43 per cent to 44,542 tonne from 50,292 tonne. However, export of instant coffee increased 16.73 per cent to 35,810 tonne in 2022 from 29,819 tonne in the previous year. About 99,513 tonne of coffee was re-exported in 2022, higher than 92,235 tonne in the previous year.

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INTERNATIONAL

Elon Musk becomes first ever person to lose \$200 billion after Twitter takeover

- Tesla and Twitter CEO Elon Musk became the first person to lose \$200 billion from his net worth. Elon Musk has seen a drop of up to \$137 billion in his wealth after a recent drop in Tesla Shares. The shares of his electric car company are down nearly 65 percent. Elon Musk became the richest person in the world for the first time in January 2021 with a net worth of more than \$185 billion.
- However, he was replaced by Bernard Arnault, the chief executive of luxury brand Louis Vuitton's parent company LVMH as the world's richest man.
- Elon Musk has applied a move-fast-and-break-things approach such as firing staff then asking them to come back and applying content policies haphazardly to justify banning the accounts of some prominent journalists who cover him.
- Commenting on Croatia's Schengen accession and the adoption of the euro, the President of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, expressed her warm welcome for the citizens of Croatia in the borderless zone, pointing out that border controls between Croatia and the rest of the Schengen Area will now become part of the past.

Croatia's big day: Balkan nation adopts euro and joins Schengen zone

- Starting from this Sunday, January 1, 2023, Croatia will officially become a Schengen Area Member Country and will also adopt the euro as its currency after years of intensive preparations and work.
- In honour of Croatia meeting these two milestones, the European Union Commission has released a statement congratulating the country and highlighting the importance of this date for both Croatia and Europe.
- It further points out that with Croatia joining the Schengen Area, now the zone consists of 27 Member States, 23 of which are also EU countries. The Eurozone, in the meantime, now consists of 19 EU Member States and 347 million EU citizens that will share it as their common currency.

Dhaka Lit Fest to feature speakers from five continents

- The 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), the largest international literary festival in Bangladesh, which was postponed three years in a row owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is scheduled for January 5-8, 2023. The Bangla Academy in Dhaka's historic grounds will serve as the venue for the event.
- In a press release on Friday, Sadaf Saaz, Ahsan Akbar, and Kazi Anis Ahmed—the festival's three directors—confirmed the information.
- The Dhaka Lit Fest has long been a well-liked annual occasion on Bangladesh's winter calendar. The eighth Dhaka Lit Fest, which was most recently held in 2019, attracted almost 30,000 attendees.
- Over the course of the four days, there will be a variety of discussions and dialogues as well as film screenings, art displays, musical performances, and cultural performances.
- Out of the more than 200 speakers scheduled to attend the 2023 edition, the DLF directors have released their initial roster of 25 speakers.

NATIONAL

Ministry of Rural Development launches Prajwala Challenge

- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the Prajwala Challenge. The Prajwala Challenge has been launched to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development.
- It will provide a platform where ideas are invited from individuals, social enterprises, start-ups, the private sector, civil society, community-based organizations, academic institutions, incubation centers, investors, etc having the potential to transform the rural economy.
- The Prajwala Challenge was launched by the Secretary of, the Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi.
- The mission aims to look forward to ideas and solutions around Innovation technology solutions, inclusive growth, value chain interventions, enhanced women entrepreneurship, and cost-effective solutions.

Kolkata: India's first underwater metro worth over Rs 8000 crores to be operational by 2023

- India's first underwater metro service, The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by December 2023. With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country. Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts. The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.
- Kolkata Metro Railway Corporation has taken up the difficult task of making the tunnel with the help of German machines and the best experts. Work inside the tunnel is still in progress.
- As far as the cost of construction of the underground metro is concerned, it costs about Rs 120 crore per kilometre to build the tunnel but the manufacturing cost of the tunnel underwater, which is deep in the Hooghly river costs increased to around 157 crores by per kilometre.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Mega Dairy in Karnataka

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya in Karnataka. The mega dairy inaugurated at a cost of Rs 260 crore would process 10 lakh liters of milk per day and the will have the capacity to increase it upto 14 lakh liters per day. 10 lakh liters of milk is processed, prosperity reaches the homes of lakhs of farmers. There are 15,210 village level cooperative dairies in Karnataka, in which about 26.22 lakh farmers deliver their milk daily and through 16 district level dairies, Rs 28 crore is deposited into the accounts of 26 lakh farmers every day.
- Around 66,000 kg milk used to be processed daily in Karnataka in 1975 while today over 82 lakh kg milk is processed daily and 80% of the total turnover goes to the farmer.

SPORTS

Bengal gets 10th GM, India 78th in Koustav Chatterjee

- Nineteen-year-old Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal. Koustav earned his first GM norm in

October 2021 at a Grandmasters' chess tournament in Bangladesh. He got his second GM norm at the Asian championship in the first week of November 2022. He crossed FIDE rating 2500 in August. Koustav is in the joint-lead with GM Abhijeet Gupta at the National Senior Chess Championship with a score of 8/10 after 10 rounds.

- GrandMaster is the highest title apart from World Champion awarded to Chess players International Chess Federation FIDE. India's 1st Chess GrandMaster was won by Viswanathan Anand at the age of 14 in 1988.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI launches Utkarsh 2.0 for the Period 2023-2025

- The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023-2025 – 'Utkarsh 2.0' – was launched by Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI. 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 realisation of the identified milestones. Utkarsh 2.0 would allow the central bank to both react and act proactively to confront socio-economic challenges.
- Utkarsh 2.0 harnesses the strengths of Utkarsh 2022 by retaining the six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statement. Collectively, they create a strategic guiding path.
- The desired outputs are proposed to be realised in terms of strategies calibrated through milestones. The Reserve Bank of India attaches high importance to its medium-term strategy and monitors its implementation and progress through a Sub-committee of its Central Board.

Gross GST collection in Dec up 15% to Rs 1.49L cr

- According to a government announcement, India's goods and services tax receipts increased 15% year over year in December to Rs 1.49 lakh crore (\$18.07 billion), suggesting robust economic activity throughout the holiday season. In November, revenue from goods and services taxes totaled Rs. 1.46 lakh crore.
- The total amount of GST revenue collected in December 2022 was Rs 1,49,507 crore, of which the CGST portion was Rs 26,711 crore, the SGST portion was Rs 33,357 crore, the IGST portion was Rs 78,434 crore (including Rs 40,263 crore from the collection of GST on goods imported), and the Cess portion was Rs 11,005 crore (including Rs 850 crore collected on import of goods).
- The government made a regular settlement of Rs 36,669 crore to CGST and Rs 31,094 crore to SGST from IGST.
- After monthly payments in the month of December 2022, the combined income for the Centre and the States is Rs 63,380 crore for the CGST and Rs 64,451 crore for the SGST.

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

- Public sector bank Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) has partnered with SBI Card to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers. PSB has also entered the credit card market as a new product segment in its portfolio as a result of this collaboration. Three card variants—the PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card—have been launched by both partners. This collaboration also marks the entry of PSB into 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.

- The joining price for the PSB SBI Card ELITE is Rs 4,999 plus taxes, the PSB SBI Card PRIME is Rs 2,999 plus taxes, and the PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card is Rs 499 plus taxes. The PSB SBI Cards ELITE and PRIME will be offered on the VISA platform, while the PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card will be offered on the RuPay network.

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INTERNATIONAL

Lula sworn in for third term as Brazil's president

- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office for a third term as Brazil's president, vowing to fight for the poor and the environment and "rebuild the country" after far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro's divisive administration. The 77-year-old veteran leftist, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, took the oath of office before Congress, capping a remarkable political comeback for the metalworker-turned-president less than five years after he was jailed on controversial, since-quashed corruption charges.
- It is the first time since the end of Brazil's 1965-1985 military dictatorship that an incoming leader has not received the yellow-and-green presidential sash from his predecessor. Foreign dignitaries including 19 heads of state were in attendance as Lula, who previously led Brazil through a watershed boom, took the oath of office for a new four-year term.

NATIONAL

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

- Indian Space and Research Organization (ISRO), National Centre for Earth Sciences (NCES), and the Andhra University (AU) have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified Rushikonda beach and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors.
- Between 2012 to 2022, over 200 people drowned in the sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam and 60 percent of deaths occurred in RK Beach.
- ISRO, NCES, and Andhra University have conducted research and set up equipment to identify Rip currents to warn marines and local police.

SPORTS

Chess: India's Koneru Humpy wins silver medal at World Blitz Championships

- Former World rapid champion K. Humpy produced a superlative performance to claim India's first-ever silver medal from the World blitz chess championship that concluded 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 Anand.
- The International Chess governing body FIDE organises World Rapid and Blitz chess championship at the end of the year. This year it was held in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty from 26-30 December 2022.

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. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

Hockey Madhya Pradesh clinch KIYG 2022 (Men's Under 18) Qualifiers title

- In Hockey, Madhya Pradesh defeated Odisha 6-5 to clinch Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar. In a thrilling final, Jamir Mohammad was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan and captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand, Anmol Ekka, Paulus Lakra, Deepak Minz and Akash Soreng scored one goal each for Odisha. Haryana defeated Jharkhand 2-0 to secure the third position in the competition. Amandeep and Roshan scored the goals for Haryana. With this, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

OBITURY

Former Pope Benedict XVI dies in Vatican monastery aged 95

- Statement released by the Vatican, the former Pope Benedict XVI has passed away in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old. The head of the Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the present pope Francis. Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years. He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013. He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.
- Pope is a title which is given to the Bishop of Rome who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He is also the head of the sovereign country of Vatican City. Roman Catholics are the largest of the three major branches of Christianity.

Tata Group veteran RK Krishnakumar, 84, passes away in Mumbai

- R Krishnakumar, a close confidante of Ratan Tata and a group veteran, passed away. Kerala-born Krishnakumar, who had served at multiple positions in the group, including heading its hospitality arm Indian Hotels, was 84. In 2009, Krishnakumar was awarded Padma Shri.
- Krishna Kumar, well known as KK, was instrumental in the 271 million pounds buy-out of Tetley in 2000, which not only catapulted Tata Global Beverages to the No. 2 spot among the world's tea makers but also brought the group and India Inc to the international stage.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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.

- After the successful completion of about 27 years in Allahabad Bank he was elevated as Executive Director of IOB in October 2017.
- He made strategies for each of the key areas and successfully implemented them at the ground level with the support of the Board.

International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 kick starts

- The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM. PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'.
- Recognising the enormous potential of Millets, which also aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of India (GoI) has prioritized Millets. In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "Nutri Cereals", followed by the year 2018 being declared as the National Year of Millets, aiming at larger promotion and demand generation. The global millets market is projected to register a CAGR of 4.5% during the forecast period between 2021-2026.

RANKING & REPORTS

1,668 journalists killed from 2003-2022 in connection with their work

- A total of 1,668 Journalists have been killed worldwide with murders, contract killings, ambushes, war zone deaths, and fatal injuries. These journalists have been killed in connection with their work in the last two decades from 2003 to 2022. The reports gave an average of more than 80 journalists being killed every year.
- Christopher Deloire, RSF Secretary General said that behind the figures, there are the faces, personalities, talent, and commitment of those who have paid with their lives for their information gathering their search for the truth, and their passion for journalism.