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13th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Ambassador Beth Jones

- United States Charge d'Affaires, Ambassador Beth Jones announced a \$250,000 US government project to support the conservation and restoration of the historic Paigah Tombs in Hyderabad.
- The project will be held in the conservation and restoration of six tombs built during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- This is the fifth conservation project funded by the US Consulate in Hyderabad. The project will be implemented by Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

2) United Arab Emirates

- The United Arab Emirates has named a veteran technocrat who both leads Abu Dhabi's state-run oil company and oversees its renewable energy efforts to preside over the upcoming United Nations climate negotiations in Dubai.
- Emirati authorities nominated Sultan al-Jaber, a confidant of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who serves as CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.



NATIONAL

1) National Payments Corporation of India

- The National Payments Corporation of India has instructed members of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem to allow non-resident account types such as non-resident external (NRE)/ non-resident ordinary (NRO) accounts having international mobile numbers to get onboarded and transact through UPI.
- To begin with, NPCI will be enabling transactions from mobile numbers having country codes of Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the





















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United Kingdom, along with the current domestic country code. The government body has asked UPI participants, such as Paytm, Google Pay, and more to put in place a mechanism by April 30.

STATE NEWS

1) School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha, inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala.
- This new institution aims to provide world-class education and training to the region's talented individuals, allowing them to excel in the transportation and logistics industry.
- The school's mission is to tap into the economic potential of the Northeast by harnessing the human resources of the region's waterways and transportation sector, as outlined by Minister Sonowal.



2) 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

- Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with chapters of 8 countries of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention.
- The event was held at MP Tourism Pavilion at Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore. The MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPOI International, Malaysia, and Mauritius.

3) 'Sur Sarita'

- The Ministry of Culture has organized a grand curtain raiser cultural program 'Sur Sarita'-Symphony of Ganga' on the launch event of the world's longest river cruise at Varanasi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the cruise on 13th January 2023.























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- The grand concert named 'Sur Sarita'-Symphony of Ganga' was led by the renowned Indian singer Shankar Mahadevan at Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.

4) Vidisha District Administration and the Centre for Development of Telematics

- A joint initiative by the Vidisha District Administration and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the direction of Additional Secretary (Telecom) & Administrator USOF, made Vidisha, a district of Madhya Pradesh, the first district ever in India for onground implementation of groundbreaking 5G use cases proposed by startups.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari

- Senior IAS Officer A Santhi Kumari has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Telangana. Santhi Kumari took charge as the first women Chief Secretary of the State at the Secretariat in BRK Bhavan.
- Santhi Kumari will take charge over incumbent Somesh Kumar, who was relieved from the Telangana government by the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).



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2) Sônia Guajajara

- Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced Sônia Guajajara as the first minister of the new Ministry of Indigenous People with a mandate to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care.
- Sônia Guajajara is widely known as the leader of the main group of Brazil's indigenous tribes and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara. She was also featured in Time Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people.

3) Ravi Kumar

- IT giant Cognizant has announced Ravi Kumar as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Brian Humphries, effective immediately.























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- He was the president and COO of Infosys until October 2022, before leaving the company to join Cognizant the following week as President of Cognizant Americas.
- Mr. Humphries had resigned from the post that he held for four years, a move that has been linked to Cognizant's recent underperformance, including revenue decline in the third quarter of 2022.

SPORTS

1) Harry Brook received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award

- Harry Brook received the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after a blistering run of scores that helped England claim a historic World Test Championship (WTC) series victory in Pakistan.
- On the other hand, Australia's Ashleigh Gardner bagged the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for her contributions with bat and ball in the T20I series against India.

2) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

- Former India cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and drone market Garuda Aerospace have launched a a surveillance drone named 'Droni.'
- Dhoni is an ambassador-cum-investor in the low-cost drone manufacturer. Dhoni had unveiled the camera drone called Droni at The Global Drone Expo in Chennai last year. Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone.

3) Broadcaster Sony Sports Network

- Broadcaster Sony Sports Network, which will air the Australian Open this month across its channels and OTT app SonyLiv. It has roped in sponsors like Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Samsonite as co-presenting sponsors and Panasonic as an associate sponsor for the upcoming open.
- This will mark the return of the Sony Sports network's live tennis studio show, 'Extraaa Serve', hosted by Arpit Sharma and the Hindi commentary for the tournament will be provided by Natekar, Manish Batavia & Atish Thukral.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story"

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has officially launched the book titled "Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story" in New Delhi.
- The book is co-authored by Aashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir. The book launch comes ahead of India's second anniversary of starting its COVID-19 vaccination drive in January 2021.

2) "Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom"

- Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book titled "Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom" at a function in New Delhi.























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- The Author of the book is Economist Sanjeev Sanyal who is also a member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Formerly a best selling author, Sanjeev Sanyal has served in the financial sector for almost two decades.
- Sanjeev Sanyal has been the Global Strategic and Managing Director of Deutsche Bank till 2015.

3) "Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies"

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

OBITUARY

1) Ronald E. Asher has passed away

- A british linguist and educator specialised in Dravidian languages, Ronald E. Asher has passed away at the
- A fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, Asher won a gold medal from Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Trichur, in 1983 and was honoured by the Royal Society, Edinburgh in 1991. He was also a recipient of a medal from College de France, Paris in 1970.













