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24th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Children dying of malnutrition and other diseases caused by illegal gold mining

- Brazil's ministry of health has declared a medical emergency in the Yanomami territory, the country's largest indigenous reservation bordering Venezuela, following reports of children dying of malnutrition and other diseases caused by illegal gold mining.
- A decree published by the incoming government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the aim of the declaration was to restore health services to the Yanomami people that had been dismantled by his farright predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.
- Lula visited a Yanomami health centre in Boa Vista in Roraima state following the publication of photos showing children and elderly men and women so thin their ribs were visible.
- Lula said the new government will put an end to illegal gold mining as it moves to crack down on illegal deforestation in the Amazon, which surged to a 15-year high under Bolsonaro.



2) COVID policy coordinator Jeff Zients

- US President Joe Biden will appoint former COVID policy coordinator Jeff Zients as his new chief of staff, reviving a crucial position as Biden gets ready for a possible re-election campaign and deals with an investigation into his handling of classified documents.
- 3) World's longest calligraphic mural Makkah





















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- The Grand Mosque Road in Makkah now features the longest calligraphic painting in the world, the most recent addition to the holy city's aesthetic appeal.
- The 75-metre mural, created by the artist Amal Felemban, is one of a number of sculptures and installations that already beautify Makkah as part of a programme conducted by the local government to improve its aesthetic appeal and show off Saudi heritage and culture to pilgrims

NATIONAL

1) Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd

- The Indian government bought back bonds maturing in 2024 from the Reserve Bank of India, while also issuing bonds maturing in 2032 worth a similar quantum, the central bank said.
- The transaction involved buying back a security maturing in FY2024/25 from the Reserve Bank and issuing fresh security for equivalent market value, to make the transaction cash neutral.
- The transaction was carried out using Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd. prices.



2) Indian government will not have any restrictions on foreign investment

- The sovereign green bonds issued by the Indian government will not have any restrictions on foreign investment, the Reserve Bank of India said.
- Such securities will be counted as specified securities under the fully accessible route, the central bank said in a notification.
- The RBI had earlier this month announced an auction of 160 billion rupees (\$1.93 billion) of sovereign green bonds in two tranches.

3) National Asset Reconstruction Company

- Lenders have transferred the entire Rs 9,234-crore Jaypee Infratech loan to newly constituted National Asset Reconstruction Company.

























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- This is the maiden acquisition by the government-promoted bad loan bank that was set a year ago. Under the arrangement, the NARCL will only acquire Jaypee Infratech loans that are currently held by 9 public sector banks.
- In a Swiss challenge auction held on October 27, 2022, in response to NARCL's Rs 3,570-crore offer for the Rs 9,234 crore of debt, lenders failed to draw counterbids.

4) Markets regulator SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India)

- Markets regulator SEBI has launched an information database on municipal bonds. As part of efforts to develop the bond markets, an outreach programme on municipal bonds and municipal finance was organised by SEBI in the national capital.
- Representatives from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, municipal corporations, stock exchanges, credit rating agencies, merchant bankers and debenture trustees, participated in the programme.

5) PRALAY

- The Indian Air Force is set to conduct Exercise PRALAY in the northeastern sector of India amid the unresolved contention with China about differing perceptions regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two nations.
- The exercise will involve major air bases of the IAF in the northeast in addition to the recently deployed drone squadron.



STATE NEWS

1) Aska Police Station of Ganjam, district of Odisha

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah awarded the Aska Police Station of Ganjam, district of Odisha as the number one police station in the country.
- Aska Police station was awarded in the annual ranking of Police station for 2022.
- Aska Police station received the prestigious award along with the certificate of appreciation from Union Minister Amit Shah.























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2) SARAS Fair 2023 from 4th February to 14th February 2023

- The Jammu and Kashmir Government is set to host their first SARAS Fair 2023 from 4th February to 14th February 2023.
- In the SARAS Fair 2023, artisans and women's self-help groups from across the country will showcase their crafts, Handicrafts, handloom, and food. The fair would be organized at Bagh-e-Bahu, in Jammu.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Shamalbhai B Patel

- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation that markets milk and dairy products under the Amul brand has announced the appointment of Shamalbhai B Patel as its chairman and Valamjibhai Humbal as vice chairman.
- The announcement was made after an election was carried out by the deputy collector, Anand, in presence of 17 out of 18 members who're chairmen representing their district milk unions within the state. GCMMF is made up of 18 member unions overlaying 33 districts.



2) Bharat Bhasker as IIM-A director

- Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad has announced the appointment of IIM-Lucknow professor Bharat Bhasker as IIM-A director for five years with effect from March 1. Incumbent director Errol D'souza's term will end on January 31.
- In the interim, the board of governors appointed professor Arindam Banerjee as the director in-charge from February 1 to 28.
- The announcement for the new director was made by chairman of the IIM-A board of governors Pankaj Patel after a meeting.

SPORTS

1) Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023





















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- The first edition of Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 has been launched by International Cricket Council (ICC) and it is scheduled from 14th January to 29th January 2023.
- The first match of the Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 was played between Australia Women U19 and Bangladesh Women U19 at Willowmoore Park, Benoni. A total of 16 teams are participating in the Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023.
- The warm-up matches have been played between the 9th to 11th of January 2023 in Johannesburg and Tshwane. The Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 will take place in South Africa. There will be 41 matches between 16 teams.

2) International Cricket Council Team of the Year recognises 11 outstanding individuals

- The International Cricket Council Team of the Year recognises 11 outstanding individuals who have impressed one and all be it with the bat, the ball or their all-round exploits in a calendar year.
- Here, we take a look at 11 players who make the cut in the shortest format of the game for men's cricket. Among them were India's star players including the likes of Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav and Smriti Mandhana, among others.



3) India Open Badminton Championship 2023

- Shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand won the India Open Badminton Championship 2023 by defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles by 22-20, 10-21 and 21-12.
- In the Women's Singles category, An Seyoung of South Korea won the title by defeating Japanese Akane Yamaguchi by 15-21, 21-16, and 21-12.



















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4) ICC Awards 2022

- The International Cricket Council has completed announcements of the ICC Teams of the Year, a feature of the ICC Awards 2022 which captures the best combined XIs across the different formats of men's and women's international cricket after an action-packed year of competition.
- The announcements have seen five lineups revealed; the ICC Men's and Women's T20I Teams of the Year, the ICC Men's and Women's ODI Teams of the Year and the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year.
- Teams were identified from selections submitted by the specialist panel of media representatives that make up the ICC Voting Academy.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) R Vishnu Prasad

- -R Vishnu Prassad was awarded "The most distinguished scientist of the year 2022" at Vigyan bhawan, Delhi. Prassad, a scientist with 69 patents has been honored with the Indian Achievers Award as the most distinguished scientist of the year.
- The award, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation. He contributed to smart cities, solid waste management, largescale water treatment, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, was selected by a jury headed by Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra.



2) 21st Dhaka International Film Festival

- Two Indian films bagged awards for the best script writer and best actress in the Asian Film Competition section at the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh concluded.
- Anik Dutta directed film Aparajito (The Undefeated) got the best scriptwriting award while Ketaki Narayan was judged the best actress for her role in Krishnendu Kalesh directed film Prappeda (Hawk's Muffin.



















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IMPORTANT DAYS

1) 24 January as International Day of Education

- The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.
- Education plays a key role in building sustainable and resilient societies.
- Providing quality education for all is of utmost importance for the creation of a peaceful and prosperous world. Moreover, education gives people the knowledge and skills they need to grow as human beings.

2) National Girl Child Day

- On January 24, the nation celebrates National Girl Child Day. This day was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The goal of National Female Child Day is to highlight the prejudice and injustice that girl children face. To raise awareness of the injustices girls face in Indian society, the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Indian government started it in 2008.
- The day is celebrated with planned activities, such as awareness campaigns for Save the Girl Child, child sex ratios, and the development of a safe and healthy environment for girls.

OBITUARY

1) Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away

- Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away at the age of 61. Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora PVSM, AVSM, ADC (25 June 1961 21 January 2023) was an officer of the Indian Air Force and served as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2021.
- He was succeeded by Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Arora was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force in December 1981. He had flying experience of over 2600 hours on Mig-21, Mig-29, and also helicopters.











