



INTERNATIONAL

1) 'Trade and Technology Council'

- India and the European Union (EU) announced the formation of three working groups under the 'Trade and Technology Council' that was set up to deepen strategic ties with the trade bloc.

- India and EU had in April last year agreed to establish a 'Trade and Technology Council', to tackle the challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security.

- Such a council is the first for India with any of its partners and second for the EU, following the first one it has set up with the United States (US).

2) North Korea stole more bitcoin assets in 2022

- According to a current United Nations report, North Korea stole more bitcoin assets in 2022 than any other year and targeted the networks of multinational aerospace and defence industries.

- Independent sanctions monitors reported to a U.N. Security Council committee that (North Korea) used increasingly sophisticated cyber techniques to access digital networks used in cyber finance and to steal information with potential value, including to its weapons programmes.



3) Apsara Iyer has been elected president

- Indian-American student at Harvard Law School, Apsara Iyer has been elected president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review, becoming the first woman from the community to be named to the position in the prestigious publication's 136-year history.

- She was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is among the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.

4) An earthquake with a magnitude 7.8 hit Turkey and Syria

- An earthquake with a magnitude 7.8 hit Turkey and Syria. More than 4,000 people died in Turkey and Syria as a result of an earthquake.



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- As rescuers search the debris of collapsed buildings for trapped victims in the bitter cold and snow, the death toll is anticipated to grow.

- Around four in the morning, one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the area in a century jolted many out of their beds.

- According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the 7.8-magnitude earthquake's epicentre was 24.1 kilometres (14.9 miles) beneath the surface, 23 kilometres (14.2 miles) east of Nurdagi in Turkey's Gaziantep region.



5) India delivered fifty buses to Sri Lanka

- India delivered fifty buses to Sri Lanka at the Presidential Secretariat premises as Sri Lanka celebrated its 75th Independence Day.

- High Commissioner of India Gopal Baglay handed over the buses to Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

- Ashok Leyland, the commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland had bagged the contract for supplying 500 buses to the Sri Lank Transport Board.

- The order is a part of a Line of Credit extended by the Export-Import Bank of India, under the Economic Assistance Scheme of the Indian government.

6) 6th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Supreme Audit Institutions Leaders'

- The 6th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Supreme Audit Institutions Leaders' Meeting is being hosted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in Lucknow on 6 February.

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu led the discussions on the theme 'Integrating Emerging Technologies in Audit'.

NATIONAL

1) India Energy Week

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Energy Week 2023 event that aimed to showcase India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse.

- The IEW is being held in Bengaluru from 6th to 8th February 2023.



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- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, and CM Basavaraj Bommai also felicitated the event.

2) HAL Helicopter Factory

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the HAL Helicopter Factory to the nation in Tumakuru.

- He also laid the foundation stone of the Tumakuru Industrial Township and two Jal Jeevan Mission projects at Tiptur and Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru.

- The Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the Helicopter Facility and Structure Hangar and unveiled the Light Utility Helicopter.



3) 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Faridabad

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Faridabad, Haryana. On the inaugural occasion, he urged everyone to consider locally produced handicraft items when looking for gifts for their friends and relatives.

- He underscored that such an approach would not only help in the conservation of many unique art forms but also enhance the economic condition of the talented artisans & craftsmen.

4) Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site

- Yaya Tso, known as birds' paradise for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, has been proposed as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site.

- The Biodiversity Management Committee, the panchayat of Chumathang village, along with SECURE Himalaya Project recently resolved to declare Yaya Tso as Ladakh's first BHS under the Biological Diversity Act.

5) Youth20 Inception Meeting 2023

- The first Youth20 Inception Meeting 2023 under G20 began in Guwahati. Briefing the media ahead of the meeting Meeta Rajivlochan, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs informed that Youth20 deliberations hope to reach out to youth and consult with them for their ideas for a better future.



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- Meeta Rajivlochan highlighted the Five themes of Y20 that is to be discussed in the three-day event, which are, Future of Work, Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st century; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability as a Way of Life; Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War; Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance; Health, Wellbeing & Sports: Agenda for Youth.

6) Google has unveiled an experimental conversation AI service called "Bard"

- Google has unveiled an experimental conversation AI service called "Bard", as it races to catch up with the wildly popular chatbot ChatGPT from the Microsoft-backed firm OpenAI.

- According to Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, the service will be initially opened up to "trusted testers" before making it more widely available to the public in the coming weeks.

- This announcement comes as the tech giant's flagship search business faces renewed competition from its Big Tech peer Microsoft which recently made a reported \$10 billion investment in the upstart artificial intelligence research lab OpenAI and plans to add artificial intelligence capabilities across its range of software products including Google rival Bing.

7) India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution

- Reliance Industries Limited and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.

- The Hydrogen tech solution will emit near zero emissions, deliver performance on par with conventional diesel trucks and reduce noise and with projected reductions in operating costs thus redefining the future of green mobility.

- RIL and Ashok Leyland, along with and other technical partners were engaged in developing this technology since the last year with first engines running in early 2022. The company is also simultaneously pursuing the opportunity to create an end-to-end Hydrogen eco system for mobility

STATE NEWS

1) Indore Municipal Corporation

- Indore Municipal Corporation has ranked top in cleanliness survey for six consecutive years, has become the country's first civic body to launch green bonds, seeking to raise Rs 244 crore for a 60-mw solar plant at its water pumping station.

- The public issues of the green bonds will be open for subscription from February 10-14. The issue will be listed on the National Stock Exchange.

2) NASA's "all-electric" plane X-57

- NASA's "all-electric" plane X-57 is soon set to take off, the US space agency. The plane has 14 propellers along its wings and is powered entirely by electricity.



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- Recently, NASA's X-57 Maxwell performed successful thermal testing of its cruise motor controllers. Thermal testing is important because it validates the design, operability, and workmanship quality of aircraft controllers.

- The controllers have temperature-sensitive parts and must be able to withstand extreme conditions during flight.

3) PM-KUSUM scheme

- The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026 as its implementation was significantly affected due to the pandemic.

- Launched in 2019, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) aimed at adding solar capacity of 30,800 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore, including service charges to the implementing agencies.



4) "Bal Mitra,"

- The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) unveiled "Bal Mitra," a WhatsApp chatbot designed to improve communication between kids and parents in Delhi.

- "The chatbot 'Bal Mitra' will serve as a source of reliable information regarding children and their rights," claims Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi.

5) 'Save Wetlands Campaign'

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched the 'Save Wetlands Campaign' in the presence of the Chief Minister of Goa.

This campaign is structured on a "whole of society" approach to wetlands conservation, enabling affirmative actions for wetlands conservation at all levels of society and involving all strata of society.
This campaign over the next year will include sensitizing people to the value of wetlands, increasing the coverage of wetland mitras, and building citizen partnerships for wetlands conservation.





6) Green hydrogen hubs at Trivandrum and Kochi

- The Kerala government announced a scheme of Rs 200 crore for developing green hydrogen hubs at Trivandrum and Kochi.

- Kerala aims to become a 100 percent renewable energy-dependent state by 2040 and a net carbonneutral state by 2050. The state has a favorable atmosphere for the production of green hydrogen.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Indian cricketer Monty Desai

- The Nepal Cricket Association has appointed former Indian cricketer Monty Desai as the head coach of the Nepal national cricket team.

- He will replace another former Indian cricketer Manoj Prabhakar, who resigned from his post in December 2022.

- Nepal Cricket Association has signed a two-year deal with Monty Desai. Monty has been the head coach of teams like West Indies, Canada, UAE.

- Monty has also served as the head coach of the Rajasthan Royals team in the Indian Premier League (IPL). A total of 24 people had applied following a call for application by the CAN for the post of the national coach of Nepali national cricket team.



SPORTS

1) Aaron Finch

- Australia's longest-serving captain in the shortest format of the game, veteran batter Aaron Finch called time on his international career.

- Finch, who retired as the One Day International captain of the Australian team last year, has confirmed his retirement from T20Is. Finch guided Australia to its maiden ICC World T20 title in 2021.

2) France defender Raphael Varane

- France defender Raphael Varane is retiring from international football, ending a 10-year career with Les Bleus in which he won the World Cup in 2018 and was a runner-up four years later.

- The 29-year-old, who has 93 caps after making his debut in 2013, also helped Didier Deschamps's side win the UEFA Nations League in the 2020-21 season.





AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

- The Five athletes were nominated for the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award, including wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, who recently protested WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and accused him of sexual abuse and intimidation.

2) VP Nandakumar has bagged the Hurun India's award

- The Managing Director & CEO, Manappuram Finance Ltd, VP Nandakumar has bagged the Hurun India's award for his remarkable achievements in the world of business.

- He received The Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022 from top Hurun India officials at a function held in Mumbai. Adi Godrej, chairman, Godrej Group, Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Managing Director, Serum Institute of India Ltd, Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder, Infosys Ltd and Sanjiv Goenka of RPG Group were the earlier recipients of this award.



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