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7th April 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) World Trade Organization

- Despite ongoing concerns over the war in Ukraine, high inflation, and financial uncertainty, the World Trade Organization has raised its projection for global trade growth in 2023 from 1% to 1.7%.
- This updated outlook indicates that the global economy is expected to recover faster than previously anticipated.
- However, the risks associated with these persistent issues remain, and could still impact the growth trajectory of the global trade landscape.

2) Parisians have voted to ban rental electric scooters from the streets of the city

- Parisians have voted to ban rental electric scooters from the streets of the city, with 89% of voters in favor of the proposed ban.
- The referendum was held on Sunday, but only 7% of eligible voters turned out. The ban will come into effect on September 1, 2023, when the contract allowing three companies to operate around 15,000 escooters in Paris comes to an end.



NATIONAL

1) United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs

- India has recently been elected as a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Program, signaling the country's increasing presence in the international arena.
- The decision was made during a vote held at the United Nations Economic and Social Council on April 6, 2023. India, along with South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and China, were vying for two seats from the Asia Pacific States category.
- In the first round of voting, South Korea received 23 votes, while China and the UAE received 19 and 15 votes, respectively.

























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2) Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- India has strongly criticized the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "anti-India" agenda, accusing the organization of meddling in India's internal affairs and promoting extremism.
- In a statement issued on April 4, 2023, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its "strong protest" against the OIC's statement, which it called "unwarranted and factually incorrect."
- India has slammed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "anti-India" agenda after the group issued a statement expressing concern about violence and vandalism targeting the Muslim community in several Indian states during Ram Navami processions.



3) 54-feet-tall statue of Lord Hanuman at a temple

- Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 54-feet-tall statue of Lord Hanuman at a temple in Guiarat. India.
- The statue, made of bronze, was installed at the Hanuman temple in Shah's hometown, Naranpura, in Ahmedabad.
- The statue, which stands on a 48-feet-tall pedestal, has been built at a cost of around Rs 30 crore (\$4 million USD) by the Hanuman Seva Samiti, a trust associated with the temple. It is said to be one of the tallest statues of Lord Hanuman in the world.

4) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it has imposed penalties on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd, Indian Bank, and Muthoot Money Limited for non-compliance with regulatory norms.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd has been fined Rs 6.77 crore for failing to comply with norms related to the disclosure of interest rates to borrowers at the time of loan sanction.

5) 'KAVACH'

- On April 5, 2023, the Andaman & Nicobar command, which is India's sole tri-services unit, held a collaborative military drill named Exercise 'KAVACH.'























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- The soldiers performed multiple exercises such as amphibious landing, air landing operations, heliborne operations, and swift insertion of special forces commandos.
- The weaponry and equipment of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard were utilized by the soldiers participating in 'EX-KAVACH.' The primary objective of this joint service exercise was to enhance the coordination and joint warfighting capabilities of the various services.

6) Airports Council International

- According to the Airports Council International (ACI) World, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has been ranked as the ninth busiest airport in the world in 2022, handling approximately 59.5 million passengers every year.
- This is a noteworthy achievement for the IGI Airport as it had secured the 13th position in 2021 and the 17th position in 2019, before the pandemic.
- In a separate release, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said it is the only airport to figure in the top 10 list from South and South East Asia.



7) 'Pathaan'

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who is basking in the glory of the success of the blockbuster 'Pathaan', has proved he is the ultimate king.
- The actor won the 2023 TIME100 Reader Poll, beating the likes of royal-couple Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Argentinian player Lionel Messi, and Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg. It is the readers of the magazine who voted for the world-renowned personalities they believe deserve a spot on TIME's annual list of the most influential people.
- Securing the lead position in Time Magazine's poll for its annual TIME100 list, SRK bagged over 1.2 million votes. The American publication said that the actor bagged 4 per cent of votes in the poll.

STATE NEWS

1) Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj

- Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj, an aromatic rice variety, has been granted a geographical indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry.























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- This will provide the brand with a unique identity and open up a wide market for it. Efforts have been made by authorities in Chhattisgarh for a long time to obtain the GI tag for Nagri Dubrai.
- The Indira Gandhi Agricultural University played a vital role in obtaining the rights, as it maintained regular communication with the relevant authorities. Additionally, the rice is produced by a self-help group of women.

2) Mircha rice variety from West Champaran district of Bihar

- The Mircha rice variety from West Champaran district of Bihar has recently been granted the GI tag. The grains of this rice are similar in size and shape to black pepper, which is why it is called Mircha or Marcha rice.
- The rice has a distinct aroma, and its grains and flakes are known for their palatability. The rice is also famous for its ability to produce aromatic chura (rice flakes).
- When cooked, the rice is fluffy, non-sticky, and sweet with a pleasant aroma resembling that of popcorn. The application for the GI tag was submitted by the Marcha Dhan Utpadak Pragatisheel Samuh, a registered organization of paddy cultivators.





3) National Pension System

- The Indian government has formed a committee to explore ways of enhancing the pension benefits of government employees under the National Pension System.
- The committee will be headed by the finance secretary and consists of three other members: the secretaries of the Department of Personnel and Training, the special secretary in the Department of Expenditure, and the Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority.
- The committee will examine whether any changes are necessary to NPS for government employees and suggest measures to enhance the pension benefits of NPS-covered government employees while maintaining fiscal prudence.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo

- Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, who held the position of Senior Vice-President, took over as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

























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- This change occurred as the previous president, Raninder Singh, went on a long leave after the Sports Ministry issued a directive stating that the heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years, as per the National Sports Code.
- Raninder Singh, who was re-elected as the NRAI president in September 2021, went on leave following this directive.

SPORTS

1) Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament

- According to the latest FIFA rankings, the Indian men's football team has climbed up five spots and is now ranked at 101.
- The team's upward movement in the rankings can be attributed to their recent wins against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan during the Tri-nation tournament, which helped them secure 8.57 rating points.
- The victories were achieved in matches held last month in Imphal, with scores of 1-0 and 2-0 against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, respectively.
- The current ranking chart is the first of the year, with the previous one being published on December 22.





AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Pandit Ravi Shankar

- Pandit Ravi Shankar, a world-famous sitar player and composer, is widely recognized as one of the most important figures in promoting Indian music around the world.
- On April 7, his 103rd birth anniversary is being celebrated. He gained immense popularity among Western audiences for Indian classical music by collaborating with musicians from various parts of the world.
- His contribution to music was acknowledged by the Indian government, which awarded him the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, in 1999.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Health Day

- Every year on April 7th, the World Health Day is celebrated to bring global attention to a specific health issue that impacts people worldwide.

























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- This day is also significant as it coincides with the founding day of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948. This year marks the 75th anniversary of WHO.
- Each year, the WHO chooses a theme for the World Health Day, and various activities and events are organized to promote awareness of the issue.
- The aim is to encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to take action to improve global health and well-being. The World Health Day 2023 has adopted the theme "Health For All" with the objective of reflecting on the accomplishments of public health in enhancing people's quality of life over the past seven decades

OBITUARY

- 1) Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto has passed away
- Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto has passed away. Mr Mahto, the minister for school education and literacy, was airlifted to Chennai last month due to health complications.
- He had undergone a lung transplant in November 2020 after suffering from COVID-19. Mr Mahto, the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in Giridih district, was taken to Chennai in October 2020, where he had undergone the transplant as his lungs were damaged due to the COVID-19 infection.













