

28th February 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Pakistan's government has decided to raise the policy rate

- Amid the severe economic crisis, Pakistan's government has decided to raise the policy rate to 19 per cent or 200 basis points, which will be an increase of 2 per cent. Currently, it stands at 17 per cent.

2) Britain and the European Union

- The Britain and the European Union agreed on a new trading arrangement for Northern Ireland, a move aimed at ending years of friction caused by Brexit and allowing greater cooperation between both sides at a time of mounting geopolitical risk to Europe from Russia's war in Ukraine.

3) Hotel Management International Company Limited

- Japan's eminent hospitality group Hotel Management International Company Limited (HMI) will be opening 30 new properties across Uttar Pradesh.
- The company has signed an MoU with the UP government to invest Rs 7200 crore at the UP Global Investors Summit.



NATIONAL

1) Export-Import Bank of India

- RBL Bank, the private lender said that it has reached an agreement with Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) under the Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) in order to facilitate cross-border commercial operations.

2) India has joined a global initiative started by the US and the UAE

- India has joined a global initiative started by the US and the UAE to boost funding and assistance for the development of climate-smart agriculture and food systems.













 The two countries together launched the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) in November 2021.

3) PIL requesting menstruation leave

- The Supreme Court of India declined to consider a PIL requesting menstruation leave for workers and students nationwide, citing the issue as one of policy.
- It was emphasised that menstrual pain leave had various "dimensions" and that, despite the fact that menstruation was a biological event, such leave could discourage businesses from hiring female staff.
- Only a few nations, mostly in Asia, allow women who experience painful periods to take time off work to heal.

STATE NEWS

1) Domora Pathar in Sonapur under the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony for the first-ever compressed biogas plant project in northeast India took place at Domora Pathar in Sonapur under the Kamrup (Metropolitan) district, and the chief guest was chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The plant, which is being built by businessmen Pankaj Gogoi and Rakesh Doley under the name Redlemon Technologies, is expected to begin operating in November 2023 and will have a 5 tonne-per-day production capacity for compressed biogas from raw materials like municipal solid wastes and cattle manure.



2) 'Nadaviruthal'

- The Irinjadappilly Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala's Thrissur district has become the first in the country to use a mechanical, lifelike elephant for temple rituals.
- The temple priests performed 'Nadayiruthal' or ceremonial offering to the deity, of Irinjadappilly Raman, a magnificent, lifelike mechanical or "robotic" elephant.























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APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Shailesh Pathak

- Former bureaucrat Shailesh Pathak has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- He will take over the charge on March 1. In a career spanning 37 years, Pathak has worked with the government as an IAS officer as well as helmed large companies in the private sector.
- He has an MBA degree from IIM Calcutta in 1986 after graduation. He has completed an LLB and a Diploma in Ornithology.
- He has scaled a 6831 metre peak in the Himalayas and has trekked extensively. Ficci also announced that Arun Chawla, Director General, will superannuate on June 30, 2023, and transition to an advisory role.



2) Ranveer Singh

- PepsiCo India has roped in actor Ranveer Singh to endorse its leading soft drink brand Pepsi. Singh joins Pepsi's growing league of celebrity endorsers.
- In 2019, the brand roped in actor Salman Khan. In January, Pepsi had announced that it has roped in Kannada actor Yash as its brand ambassador.
- A leading female actor could soon join the brand's summer campaign that Pepsi is running under the "Rise up Baby" theme.

SPORTS

1) Lionel Messi has scored his 700th career club goal

- The all-time great Lionel Messi has scored his 700th career club goal in Paris St. Germain's 3-0 win over Marseille.
- With the goal, Messi became just the second player in history to score 700 career club goals, according to IFFHS (International Federation of Football History and Statistics).















- The other player to do so is Messi's longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo. Meanwhile Messi's rival Ronaldo has scored 709 goals in club level across competitions, including his hat-trick for Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League match against Damac.

2) Argentina's Lionel Messi has bagged the Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022

- Argentina's Lionel Messi has bagged the Best FIFA men's player prize for 2022. Messi outclassed his Paris Saint Germain (PSG) teammate Kylian Mbappe and Real Madrid captain Karim Benzema to lift the famous trophy at Salle Pleyel in Paris.
- In the FIFA Awards vote, Messi had 52 points, Mbappé 44, and Benzema 34. It is the second time that Messi has won the honour inaugurated by FIFA in 2016.
- Messi was named the winner of the Best FIFA Men's Player award for his outstanding performances in men's football from the period of 8 August 2021 to 18 December 2022. Equalling Cristiano Ronaldo and Robert Lewandowski's massive feat at the FIFA awards.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award

- The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for best adventure tourism award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- The award has been given to the J&K Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' as an adventure destination of international order.
- The award was received by Deputy Director, Tourism, Alyas Ahmad on behalf of the Department.





















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IMPORTANT DAYS

1) National Science Day

- On February 28 each year, National Science Day honours Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman as C.V. Raman, an Indian scientist and physician, for discovering the "Raman Effect."
- Every year, it is celebrated to honour the value of science and to serve as a reminder of the influence it has had on humankind's way of life. In honour of India's G20 leadership, the event this year has the theme "Global Science for Global Wellness."
- In 1986, the Government of India, under then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, designated February 28 as National Science Day to commemorate the announcement of the discovery of the "Raman Effect".















