



INTERNATIONAL

1) Kosovo Serbs

Kosovo Serbs who have been blocking roads in northern Kosovo for 19 days have agreed to start removing barricades, bowing to calls by the United States and the European Union to defuse tensions.
Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, who met Serbs from northern Kosovo in the Serbian town of Raska, said the process of removing barricades will begin.

NATIONAL

1) Asia Pacific Postal Union

- India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union in January 2023. Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.

- This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022.



2) Silent Valley National Park

- Silent Valley National Park in the last month identified 141 species of birds of which 17 were new species of birds.

- A total of 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley. The bird survey was conducted at Silent Valley on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of December 2022 and marked the 30th Anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley.

- The bird survey was first conducted in the last week of December 1990, however, due to Covid-19, the anniversary could not be celebrated in December 2020.





3) Advanced Defence Technologies

- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras is operating a Research Centre dedicated to defence technologies jointly with the Defence Research and Development Organisation to develop advanced technologies for the national defence and security needs of the nation.

- It was established by DRDO but IIT Madras has now taken over and converted it into a centre of excellence.

4) National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The Union Cabinet approved an initial outlay of Rs 19,744 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Addressing the nation on its 75th Independence Day in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a national mission for green fuels in line with the Centre's stated target of making India energy-independent before completing 100 years of Independence.

- The mission will have four components that aim at enhancing domestic production of green hydrogen and promote the manufacturing of electrolysers — a key constituent for making green hydrogen.



5) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

- NTPC Green Energy Ltd signed an agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd for the development of renewable energy-based power projects.

- According to the agreement, NTPC informed that its renewable energy arm 'NGEL' will also supply 400MW round the clock to HPCL. The MoU has signed the development of renewable energy-based power to tap business opportunities in RE.





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- The MoU was signed in the presence of NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh and Shuvendu Gupta, Executive Director, Bio Fuels & Renewable, HPCL, and other senior members.

6) Indian Railways' Varanasi Cantt Railway Station

- Indian Railways' Varanasi Cantt Railway Station has been awarded a 5- star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.

- This certification is granted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.

- The 'Eat Right Station' certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.

- The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from 1 to 5. The 5-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.



7) Hindustan Copper

 Hindustan Copper has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad for a collaborative and sponsored research project.
 It is a momentous occasion for HCL as it is the first technical collaboration with IIT (IMS) Dhanbad.

- It is the only copper miner in India owning all the operating mining leases of copper ore in the nation.

STATE NEWS

1) Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana





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- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Madhya Pradesh Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana) to distribute free leases of residential land to selected beneficiaries.

- The scheme aims to provide free plots to the poor living in rural areas for building their houses. The land will be offered completely free of cost and along with the plot, the benefits of all other schemes will also be delivered.

2) State Food Security Scheme

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik directed the distribution of five kilograms of rice per month free of cost to beneficiaries of the State Food Security Scheme for the next one year.

- The state government has decided to provide 5 kilograms of rice under SFSS to the beneficiaries free of cost for a period of one year starting from January 2023 to December 2023.

-The total expenditure of the plan will be Rs 185 crore.

3) Bhattiyat Kuldeep Singh Pathania

- The Five-time MLA from Bhattiyat Kuldeep Singh Pathania is all set to be the next Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly.

- Pathania submitted his nomination papers to Vidhan Sabha secretary Yash Pal in the presence of senior leaders including HPCC president Pratibha Singh.

- Three sets of nomination papers were filed for him. His name was proposed by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and was seconded by the leader of the opposition in the house and BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur.

4) "Didi'r Surakha Kavach"

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a new campaign "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" for her party, Trinamool Congress.

- The campaign "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" ahead of the panchayat polls due in April. The "Didi'r Surakha Kavach" will begin on 10th January 2023.

- The campaign will continue for 60 days during which the workers of the party will reach out to the people across the state and ensure that everyone can avail of the welfare schemes of the state government.

5) Greenfield International Airport

- The Union Cabinet has approved the naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport after former Defence Minister and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.

The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022 at Mopa Goa.
 The airport will be named after the late Manohar Parrikar to honor his contribution to building modern Goa.





6) Imoinu Day is celebrated in Manipur

- Imoinu Day is celebrated in Manipur as a part of the Meitei Cultural ritual. The traditional festival of Imoinu Day is celebrated on the 12th day of the Meitei Lunar Month of Wakching.

- Every year on this day, people of the valley serve dishes in odd numbers as part of the Imoinu Eratpa ritual.

- They regard Imoinu Eratpa as a goddess of health, prosperity, abundance, and order of domesticity in Manipur.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Maithili Thakur

- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission. The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.

- This recognition will give her (Maithili) more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process.

2) Bank of Singapore (BoS),

- Bank of Singapore (BoS), the private banking arm of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), announced that it has appointed Jason Moo as its new CEO.

- BoS's announcement comes after Bloomberg's article on Dec 26, 2022.
- Moo will succeed Bahren Shaari officially from March 6 onwards.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- 27 Indians living overseas have been chosen by the Indian government for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, for outstanding achievements both in India and abroad.

- The award is the highest honour conferred upon Indians living abroad, including Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin or organisations/institutions established and run by them.





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2) UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023

- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state. The awards recognise and highlight innovative, outstanding and revolutionary housing ideas, projects and programmes from across the world.

- The Jaga mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.

3) Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad

- Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad has been selected for Odakuzhal Award 2022 for his collection of short stories titled Pranavayu. The award consists of Rs 30,000, citation, and plaque.

- Instituted by the Guruvayurappan Trust, the award is being given for the best collection of short stories in Malayalam.

- The award will be presented on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Mahakavi G. Sankara Kurup, who established the Guruvayurappan Trust, on February 2 at the Ernakulam Samastha Kerala Sahithya Parishad building here.

- Literary critic Dr. M. Leelavathi will present the award to Ambikasuthan Mangad.





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