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3rd January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Croatia has switched to the euro and entered Europe's

- Croatia has switched to the euro and entered Europe's passport-free zone – two important milestones for the country after joining the European Union (EU) nearly a decade ago.
- At midnight, the Balkan nation bid farewell to its kuna currency and became the 20th member of the eurozone.
- It is now the 27th nation in the Schengen zone, the world's largest passport-free travel area, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its members.

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2) Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States

- China has appointed Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of President Xi Jinping, to be its new foreign minister, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations.
- This decision was made by the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. Qin, 56, replaces Wang Yi, who has been foreign minister for the past decade.
- Wang, 69, was promoted to the politburo of the Chinese Communist Party and is expected to play a bigger role in Chinese foreign policy.

NATIONAL

1) Asia's third-largest producer and exporter

- Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, rose 1.66 per cent to 4 lakh tonne in 2022 on rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports.

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- Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021. In value terms, coffee export was higher at Rs 8,762.47 crore in 2022 as against Rs 6,984.67 crore in the previous year.
- India ships both Robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee.

2) Detective Training Institute

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute at Devanahalli in Karnataka and inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- The residential complexes of ITBP inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah include Residential Quarters, Joint Building, Barracks for 120 Jawans, Staff Officers' Mess and Officers' Mess.
- On this occasion, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Shri Prahlad Joshi and many other dignitaries were present.

3) 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals).

- The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals).
- The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

4) Supreme Court upheld the Modi government's 2016

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the Modi government's 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes, saying the decision was about executive policy and could not be reversed.

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- The court rejected the 58 petitions challenging demonetisation and said the decision-making process of the government was not flawed.

5) Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing.
- SPM-NIWAS has been set up with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) aims to bridge the knowledge and capacity-building gap in the field of public health engineering, sanitation & hygiene, through short, medium, and long-term courses which are not just related to engineering but also cover aspects of management, health, accounting, law, and public policies.

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6) New Delhi has marked the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation

- Defence Research and Development Organisation Headquarters in New Delhi has marked the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year.
- DRDO Chairman Dr S V Kamat addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion. He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.
- On the occasion of the day, a DRDO monograph 'Infrared Signatures, Sensors and Technologies' authored by Dr Kamal Nain Chopra, a former DRDO Scientist, was also released by the Chairman DRDO. DRDO calendar 2023 was also released.

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7) Election Commission

- The Election Commission is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of 92 per cent voter turnout in the assembly elections due early this year.
- These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls.
- The EC is also working on 'Mission Zero Poll Violence' to make the assembly elections peaceful.

STATE NEWS

1) "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan"

- On the occasion of Chillai Kalan in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan" on 26/12/2022 at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar.
- During this competition, 54 participants (including 12 Female participants) from Schools/colleges & other educational institutions were present along with their guardians & teachers.
- All the participants were awarded with appreciation certificates, prizes and the winners and runner ups of each event were awarded with the trophies.
- Further winners and runner ups from each event will be nominated for grand competition that is to be organized subsequently. Rishi Raj Sahay, Commandant 44 Bn, CRPF inaugurated the event.

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2) Indian Library Congress in Kannur

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Indian Library Congress in Kannur, Kerala.
- The inauguration event of the Indian Library Congress was organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council.

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SPORTS

1) Yo-Yo Test and Dexa

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced that Yo-Yo Test and Dexa will be a part of the selection criteria. BCCI has also discussed the player's availability, workload management, and fitness parameters in the team review meeting along with the roadmap of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.
- ICC Cricket World Cup is scheduled in October and November, and it is to be hosted by India.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary"

- Former IAS officer Kaki Madhava Rao has authored a new book titled "Breaking Barriers: the Story of a Dalit Chief Secretary" which addresses the details about the dynamics of civil services at the ground level and also fills the gap in the knowledge about micro policies and governance.
- The book is published by Emesco Books Private Limited. K Madhava Rao is a 1962 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, who retired as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP). He was born in Pedamaddali village of Krishna district, AP in 1939.
- He also served in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Director and as a member of a sub-committee, the Board for Financial Supervision.

2) "The World: A Family History of Humanity"

- Simon Sebag Montefiore, a British historian, discussed his recent book "The World: A Family History of Humanity" in an interview with an Indian historian Manu S. Pillai.
- In the book, Simon Sebag Montefiore explores how people and families have played a role in the convergences and divergences in world history.
- The two-part book was originally published on 27th October 2022, published by Hachette India. Montefiore, the internationally bestselling author of prize-winning books, has been published in 48 languages.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) Global Family Day

- Global Family Day is celebrated on January 1, each year. The day creates a sense of unity, community and brotherhood across nations and cultures through the idea of families.
- This day is celebrated to discourage unwarranted negative attitudes towards other cultures, nations, which may breed hatred, encourage social aloofness and lead to violence.
- The day highlights the need for all nations to exist in harmony, regardless of cultural or religious differences.
- The day highlights the importance of family and urges the extension of the idea to a universal scale.



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OBITUARY

1) Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent, Sumitra Sen has passed away

- Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent, Sumitra Sen has passed away at the age of 89. She will be remembered for her rendition of songs like Jokhon Porbe Na Mor, Sokhi Vabona Kahare Bole and Mone Ki Dwidha.
- Her rendition of Aaj Jyotsna Raate Shobai Gekhhe Bone in Ritwik Ghatak's classic movie Komal Gandhar has remained a steadfast interpretation of the song.
- She was honoured with the Sangeet Mahasamman award by West Bengal government in 2012

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