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19th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook"

- World Bank forecast Pakistan's economic growth to slow further to two percent during the current year. This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimates, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report.
- The report said that Pakistan's economic output was not only declining itself but also bringing down the regional growth rate as well.
- Forecasting Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2 per cent in 2024, the report said, "Policy uncertainty further complicates the economic outlook" of Pakistan.

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VACANCIES

ELIGIBILITY: Any Degree
AGE: 21-30yrs
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EXAM DATE: Feb/Mar'23

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2) Global Firepower Index

- The Global Firepower Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength. India is ranked fourth in the index. The Global Firepower Index ranked 145 countries.
- The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns.

3) Billionaire Jeff Bezos's e-commerce company Amazon

- Billionaire Jeff Bezos's e-commerce company Amazon has become the most valued brand, overtaking Apple, last year's topper.
- Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand despite its brand value falling 15 per cent this year from \$350.3 billion to \$299.3 billion.
- According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, "Global 500 2023", while Amazon is back at No 1, its brand value has fallen by over \$50 billion this year, with its rating slipping from AAA+ to AAA. This is as consumers evaluate it more harshly in the post-pandemic world.



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4) 'Soundpod by Google Pay'

- Google is actively working on a Soundbox for the India market, similar to the Paytm or PhonePe ones that you see at your neighbourhood shop which gives a sound alert on the digital payment that has been made.
- The search giant is piloting a soundbox of its own in the country to alert sellers of confirmations for Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments.
- The company has branded them as 'Soundpod by Google Pay' and is currently distributing it as a pilot with some shopkeepers in north India, including Delhi. The Soundpods are being built by Amazon-backed ToneTag, the report mentioned.

5) 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage'

- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the Central Electricity Authority of India for the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage', India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh. This will be 11 gigawatt (GW) project.
- India may spend ₹1.13 trillion to build the Upper Siang multi-purpose storage project at Yingkiong in Arunachal Pradesh.

SSC MTS

11409 VACANCIES

ELIGIBILITY : 10th/Matriculation
AGE : 18-25/27
LAST DATE : 17-02-2023
EXAM DATE : APRIL 2023

6) New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, a global figurehead of progressive politics, shocked the country.
- She was re-elected for a second term in 2020, the victory buoyed by her government's "go hard and go early" approach to the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw New Zealand impose some of the world's strictest border rules, separating families and shutting out almost all foreigners for almost two years.
- Ardern won international acclaim for her empathetic handling of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre, in which 51 Muslim worshippers were killed and another 40 wounded.

NATIONAL



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1) Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second phase of Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 via video conferencing.
- Saansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 has been organized in Basti district, Uttar Pradesh by Harish Dwivedi, Member of Parliament from Basti since 2021.
- The Khel Mahakumbh includes various competitions in both indoor and outdoor sports like wrestling, kabaddi, kho kho, basketball, football, hockey, volleyball, handball, chess, carrom, badminton, table tennis, etc.
- There are several other competitions including essay writing, painting, rangoli making, etc are also organized during the Khel Mahakumbh.

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2) Tata Consultancy Services

- Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy Brand Finance for the year 2023.

3) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

- Mastercard announced the expansion of its signature Girls4Tech, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education program in India.
- The Girls4Tech is supported by Mastercard Impact Fund and in partnership with the American India Foundation (AIF).

The expansion of the program aims to reach up to 1 lakh female students across the country by 2024 to encourage them to take up STEM Education.

- The program includes 14,400 students in Delhi and 40 additional government schools where STEM courses will be offered to girls aged 8 to 14.

4) MSN Group launched the 'world's first' generic Palbociclib tablets

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- MSN Group launched the 'world's first' generic Palbociclib tablets indicated for advanced breast cancer therapy under the brand Palborest.

- Palbociclib is approved by the USFDA, EMA and CDSCO in combination with hormonal therapies for patients with hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer.

5) "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0"

- The Indian Army has organized the second edition of the Hackathon named "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" from October 2022 to January 2023 under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC).

- The "SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0" aims to seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and jump-start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of Cyber Security.

- The prize winners of the event were felicitated by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff during a virtual function on 17 January 2023.

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15TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXCELLENCE 2007-2023
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6) NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft

- After 30 years in orbit mission, NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft have signed off, after the failure of the spacecraft's remaining data recorder.

- Since its launch on July 24, 1992, Geotail orbited Earth, gathering an immense dataset on the structure and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble.

- The spacecraft was originally slated for a four-year run, but the mission was extended several times due to its high-quality data return, which contributed to over a thousand scientific publications.

STATE NEWS

1) Jammu & Kashmir

- Jammu & Kashmir becomes the first union territory in India to completely switch to a digital method of administration, leading the way in the digital transformation of governance. All governmental and administrative services in Jammu & Kashmir are currently only offered digitally.

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The declaration was made during the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries.

- Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta instructed the commissioner of IT during the meeting to make sure that all government services would only be accessible online.

2) Bharti Airtel Group

- Bharti Airtel Group announced that it will be investing Rs 2,000 crore for setting up a large hyperscale data centre in Hyderabad.

- The announcement was made at the Telangana Lounge at Davos, Switzerland in the presence of Telangana Minister for IT and Industries K T Rama Rao.

- The release added that the Bharti Airtel Group, through its data centre arm, Nextra Data Centers, will invest the amount as capital investment for the infrastructure which will further attract investments from their customers.

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SPORTS

1) Hashim Amla

- Hashim Amla ended his 22-year playing career, with his legacy secure as one of South Africa's all-time cricketing greats.

- Amla was a key member of one of South Africa's most powerful teams when they clinched the Test championship mace with a series win in England in 2012.

- Amla made a South African record 311 not out in the first Test at The Oval in London. He made his first-class debut for a Kwa-Zulu-Natal team, against the touring England team, as a 16-year-old in December 1999 and made his Test debut against India in Kolkata five years later.

2) Rwanda fast bowler, Geovanis Uwase

- The Rwanda fast bowler, Geovanis Uwase has been suspended by ICC from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after her action was found illegal at Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup.

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- The decision was taken by the Event Panel, which comprises members of the ICC Panel of Human Movement Specialists.
- Uwase was reported by the match officials during Rwanda's match against Pakistan on January 15, with footage captured during their match against Zimbabwe on January 17 shared with the Event Panel for review.

3) Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023

- The first edition of Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 has been launched by International Cricket Council (ICC) and it is scheduled from 14th January to 29th January 2023.
- The first match of the Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 was played between Australia Women U19 and Bangladesh Women U19 at Willowmoore Park, Benoni. A total of 16 teams are participating in the Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023.
- The warm-up matches have been played between the 9th to 11th of January 2023 in Johannesburg and Tshwane. The Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 will take place in South Africa. There will be 41 matches between 16 teams.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited

- Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB) has bagged the Best Small Bank award in the Best Banks survey for the year 2022. The Best Banks survey was conducted by Business Today- KPMG (BT-KPMG Best Banks Survey).
- The bank has won the Best Small Bank Award under the category of banks with a book size of less than Rs 1 Lakh crore.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) 18th National Disaster Response Force day

- 18th National Disaster Response Force day is celebrated on January 19, 2023 by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- The day has been celebrated on this day since 2006 when the rescue force was officially formed. The specialised, multi-skilled rescue force is made up of battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles.
- The NDRF is the primary agency responsible for conducting rescue operations during disasters like drowning, building collapses, landslides, devastating floods, earthquakes and cyclones



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OBITUARY

1) French nun Lucile Randon passes away

- The world's oldest person, French nun Lucile Randon, has died aged 118. Randon, also known as Sister Andre, was born in southern France on February 11, 1904, a decade before World War I.
- She was long regarded as the oldest European, but the death of Japan's Kane Tanaka at the age of 119 last year made her the world's oldest person.
- The record for oldest confirmed age reached by a human belongs to Jeanne Calment, also of southern France, who died in 1997 at the age of 122.
- Guinness World Records had officially recognised her status in April 2022.

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