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8th and 9th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Taiwanese lawmakers

- Taiwanese lawmakers have passed new rules that let local chip firms turn 25% of their annual research and development expenses into tax credits, part of efforts to keep cutting-edge semiconductor technologies at home and maintain the island's technology leadership.
- Officials there have repeatedly said they will ensure the latest chip technologies remain in Taiwan, a point that has been reaffirmed by executives at Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and other local chip giants.
- While Taiwan's assisted local chipmakers in the past with infrastructure construction and other measures, the island is now stepping up its efforts.

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2) Kevin McCarthy of the Republican Party

- The United States Parliament has elected Kevin McCarthy of the Republican Party as the speaker of the House of Representatives after 15 rounds of voting.
- He is the 55th speaker of the US House of Representatives. He was serving as the House Minority Leader in the House.
- He has replaced Nancy Pelosi, the leader of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives.

3) Manpreet Monica Singh

- Indian-origin Sikh woman, Manpreet Monica Singh became the first ever female Sikh judge in the US after she was sworn in as a Harris county judge.

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- Born and brought up in Houston, after her father immigrated to the US early in the 1970s, Singh currently lives in Bellaire with her husband and two children.
- In her career expanding over two decades, the newly appointed judge has been involved in numerous civil rights organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

4) Hawaii's Kilauea volcano

- After a brief pause, Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted again, spewing lava fountains and discharges of volcanic ash into the air.
- The eruption started January 5, 2022 afternoon at the volcano's crater, according to a notice issued by the United States Geological Service.
- Lava from the volcano is contained in Kilauea's crater, a closed section of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The USGS warned locals that the high quantities of volcanic fumes may still be dangerous as they travelled downstream.
- Elements like sulphur dioxide can combine with the environment to form volcanic smog, which is dangerous to human health. Other dangers include Pele's hair, which are tiny strands of drifting lava, and other delicate volcanic particles that can irritate the skin and eyes.
- The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory noticed a light in photographs and later concluded that Kilauea had started erupting, according to USGS.

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NATIONAL

1) SJVN's 1,000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project

- President Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm SJVN's 1,000 MV Bikaner Solar Power Project.
- The event was done virtually by the President of India in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The project is being implemented by SJVN Limited through its owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL).

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- The solar power project is being developed on 500 acres near the village of Banderwala, district Bikaner of Rajasthan. It is one of the highest solar yield areas in India.

2) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

- Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India's first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024.

- Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the site on the second day and noted that the work in the plant in Talcher is in progress.

3) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has been ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Closes.

- The results were published in the Public Enterprises Survey 2021-2022 by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

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STATE NEWS

1) Kerala as the first state in the country

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared Kerala as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service and said this recognition would boost the state economy.

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- Vijayan said this achievement was possible due to social interventions through local self-government institutions along with infrastructure development and technological advances in the banking sector.

2) International Kite Festival 2023

- The International Kite Festival 2023 has began on 8 January in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The festival, which is being organised after a gap of two years, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.
- The previous edition was held in 2020 with 153 participants from 43 countries. The festival is being organised by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- Apart from Ahmedabad, the International Kite Festival will also be organised in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Somnath, Dhordo and Kevadia.

3) Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

- The Kerala Cabinet approved a scheme to ensure those employed under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the poll-bound state get benefits like pension and medical assistance. It has recommended that governor Arif Mohammad Khan issue an ordinance in this regard.
- With this, Kerala became the first state to have a welfare board for the beneficiaries of employment guarantee programmes in the country.
- At least 26.71 lakh labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme and 2.5 lakh workers of the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme will receive the benefits of the newly formed welfare board.

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APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Suryakumar Yadav

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has announced the launch of its '360° Financial Protection with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance' digital-first campaign featuring cricketer Suryakumar Yadav.

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- According to the company, Yadav has emerged as a consistent and dependable batter in the white ball format since his international debut.
- The campaign's central message is how ICICI Prudential Life Insurance offers a comprehensive suite of protection products providing all-around life cover that offers 360-degree financial protection in any critical situation

2) Chetan Sharma

- Chetan Sharma was reappointed as the chairman of the senior selection committee, exactly two months after his entire panel was disbanded by the BCCI for the Indian team's semifinal exit in the T20 World Cup.
- Salil Ankola, Shiv Sunar Das, Subroto Banerjee and Sridharan Sharath are new members of the selection committee.
- The new committee has been picked by the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape and Sulakshana Naik.
- The committee further recommended Chetan Sharma for the role of Chairman of the senior men's selection committee.

3) Surinder Chawla

- Paytm Payments Bank has received banking regulator RBI's nod to appoint Surinder Chawla as its Managing Director and CEO.
- The RBI, however, continues to bar Paytm Payments Bank from on-boarding new customers. Before joining PPBL, Chawla was working with RBL Bank, where he served as Head – Branch Banking and focused on expanding the CASA base, fee revenue, and cross-selling across channels.
- The company in its regulatory filing said that the latest appointment comes as part of PPBL's ongoing efforts to strengthen its leadership team, enhance its technology capabilities and drive financial inclusion in the country.

SPORTS

1) 'smart torch'

- The anthem, mascot and a 'smart torch' for the fifth edition of the youth games were unveiled by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union MoS sports Nisith Pramanik and state sports minister at a glittering event in Bhopal on Saturday evening.
- The highlight was a drone show that created magic in Bhopal's night sky with hundreds of drones forming a sprinting cheetah, maps of India and Madhya Pradesh and 'Khelo India Youth Games 2022' The Games will be organised in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh from January 30, with Malkhamb and water sports making their debut.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



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1) "Award for Global Leadership"

- The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession has announced Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud as the 2022 recipient of its "Award for Global Leadership" in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and across the world.
- The award will be presented to him in a virtual event on 11th January 2023.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is formally observed on 9 January to celebrate the day when Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India.
- The day is celebrated to acknowledge the contribution of the non-resident Indian community in helping in the development of the country.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 has conducted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 8–10 January, 2023. It is important to note that this is the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or NRI Day

OBITUARY

1) Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88

- Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88.
- Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
- He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

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