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18th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) G20 Summit:

- The Group of Twenty, or G20, is an intergovernmental organization made up of the European Union and 19 other nations (EU).
- It strives to address important global economic concerns like international financial stability, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and sustainable development.
- G20 nations catered for 85 percent of world economy, 75 percent of world trade and 66 percent of world population.

SSC MTS

11409 VACANCIES

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

2) India will support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan

- India will support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan as the island nation looks to trim its huge public expenditure to win approval for a crucial bailout from the International Monetary Fund. India formally notified that it would support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring plan.
- Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948, and policymakers have been grappling with multiple challenges over the past year including a shortage of dollars, runaway inflation and a steep recession.
- Sri Lanka owes India around \$1 billion that will come under the debt restructuring plan. New Delhi also separately provided Sri Lanka with about \$4 billion in rapid assistance between January and July last year, including credit lines, a currency swap arrangement and deferred import payments.

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NATIONAL

1) National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that the James Webb Space Telescope has discovered its first new exoplanet.
- Researchers have labelled the planet as LHS 475 b, and it's roughly the same size as Earth. Located just 41 light-years away, the planet orbits very close to a red dwarf star and completes a full orbit in just two days. Researchers hope that in the coming years, owing to the Webb telescope's advanced capabilities, they will be able to detect more Earth-sized planets.

2) India has announced donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba

- India has announced donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi announced this during her official visit to Cuba.
- This was her first visit to Cuba. During her visit, Meenakashi Lekhi held a meeting with Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel and discussed matters of bilateral importance and political and economic cooperation, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib.

వేలాది మంది విద్యార్థులను ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగులుగా తయారు చేసిన RACE లో చేరండి
మీ ప్రభుత్వ ఉద్యోగ కలను నెరవేర్చుకోండి

TSPSC GROUP II/III/IV

New Batches
Starting on
18th JANUARY

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3) Paytm Payments Bank

- Paytm Payments Bank said it has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit.
- Under Bharat Bill Payment System, a BBPOU is allowed to facilitate bill payment services of electricity, phone, DTH, water, gas insurance, loan repayments, FASTag recharge, education fees, credit card bill and municipal taxes.

4) Padho Pardesh

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- The Ministry of Minority Affairs has discontinued the scheme of interest subsidy on education loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities (Padho Pardesh).
- All banks were notified by the Indian Banks' Association last month about the discontinuation of the Padho Pardesh Interest Subsidy Scheme from 2022-23.
- The scheme so far was being implemented through Canara Bank, the designated nodal bank.

5) PARAKH

- The National Council for Education Research and Training has released India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH, which will work on setting norms, standards, and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in the country.
- The PARAKH regulator aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove disparities in the scores of students enrolled with different state boards.
- PARAKH stands for The Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. It is established within the education survey division of the NCERT.

LIC **AAO**
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

ELIGIBILITY: Any Degree
AGE: 21-30yrs
LAST DATE: 31-01-2023
EXAM DATE: Feb/Mar'23

300
VACANCIES

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6) Adani Enterprises has an agreement with Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada

- Adani Enterprises has an agreement with Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada to launch a pilot project to develop a hydrogen fuel cell electric truck for mining logistics and transportation.
- The collaboration between Adani Enterprises and Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada marks Asia's first planned hydrogen-powered mining truck.
- The demonstration project will be led by AEL, which is a company focused on both mining operations and developing green hydrogen projects for sourcing, transporting, and building out hydrogen refueling infrastructure.



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STATE NEWS

1) Taiwan-headquartered electric vehicle and infrastructure company Gogoro

- Taiwan-headquartered electric vehicle and infrastructure company Gogoro is advancing its plans to deploy battery swapping network in India.
- The company along with Belrise Industries (formerly known as Badve Engineering) has inked a strategic energy partnership with the Maharashtra government to establish a battery swapping infrastructure. This follows up to Gogoro's earlier announced partnership with Hero MotoCorp and Zyp Electric among others

2) Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025

- The entire country will be covered by Doppler Weather Radar Network by 2025 to help predict extreme weather events more accurately, union minister Jitendra Singh said, speaking at the foundation day of India Meteorological Department.
- Four new radars were added recently taking the number from 33 to 37. They include two at Murari Devi and Jot in Himachal Pradesh, and one each at Banihal Top in Jammu and Kashmir and Surkandaji in Uttarakhand covering a radius of 100 km.

ESTD: 2007



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3) Kollam

- The Indian district of Kollam has become the country's first constitution literate district. The announcement was made by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration to educate citizens about the country's laws and their rights

4) "Free Area"

- Jammu and Kashmir's governments have declared the union territory as a "Free Area" for purposes of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009.



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- According to the notification issued by the government, the declaration has been made in the exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (5) of section 6 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009.

- The Notification has been issued after the Government on being satisfied that no cases of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) have been reported from any district of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Pankaj Kumar Singh

- Retired director general of the Border Security Force, Pankaj Kumar Singh was appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in National Security Council Secretariat for a period of two years.

- Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed on a re-employment contract. Singh had retired as the BSF chief on December 31, 2022.

- When Singh took charge of the BSF on August 31, 2021, he had created history of a son and a father holding the top post of a paramilitary force during their services.

- His father and retired IPS officer of the 1959-batch, Prakash Singh, had also headed the BSF from June, 1993 to January, 1994. Singh holds LLB and MPhil degrees, besides MBA from the IIM, Ahmedabad.

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SPORTS

1) India Vs New Zealand

- Indian batter Shubman Gill has smashed three sixes on the trot to reach his double century (208 off 149 balls with 4s-19 and 6s-9) and become only the eighth and the youngest player (23 years) in ODI Cricket history. Shubman Gill completed his First Double Century by hitting three long sixes against Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson.

- Opener Shubman Gill also broke the record for the highest score at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium set by Sachin Tendulkar (175) against Australia in 2009.



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- He also became the fastest Indian to complete 1000 runs in ODIs as he reached the mark in 19 innings, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'Come! Let's Run'

- The English version of the book titled 'Come! Let's Run' by Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Minister, Ma. Subramanian was released by Krishnamachari Srikanth, former Captain of the Indian Cricket team. The Tamil version of the same book titled 'Odalam Vanga' was released on March 8, 2021.
- The book was published by Emerald Publishers and the English translation was done by Geeta Padmanaban (a teacher) along with J. Joicy and Sharon.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Noted writer K Venu

- Noted writer K Venu was conferred with Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha.'
- Venu received the award from Balagopal Chandrasekhar, Chairman and Independent Director of Federal Bank, at a special event held as part of the Kerala Literature Festival.
- 'Oranweshananthinte Katha' was chosen by the judging panel comprising writer and literary critic KC Narayanan, Sunil P Ilayidom and PK Rajashekharan.
- Judging panel member P K Rajashekaran commented that the essence of the book brought back the memory of the most intense political timeline in the modern history of Kerala.

2) 'Golden Kailasha'

- Rajasthan film, Naanera, directed by Deepankar Prakash bagged the 'Golden Kailasha' award for the best movie at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival. Naanera (Grandfather's House) revolves around Manish (Main Character).
- After the death of his father, Manish's uncle starts taking his life's decisions. The character's journey leads him to a questionable point when he begins a secret love affair with a cousin and the family finds itself in the middle of another death.
- Naanera has also bagged awards for best director, best screenplay, and best editor.

OBITUARY

1) AD Damodaran passed away

- AD Damodaran, leading scientist and former director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), passed away in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 87.
- He also served as the Chairman of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment.



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