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Widow Remarriage Incentive Scheme was launched by the Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren

- Under the scheme, the government will give an amount of Rs 2 lakh to the widow who remarries.
- The scheme aims to empower widows by providing financial assistance and encouraging remarriage within a year.
- This scheme has been started so that widows can be brought into the mainstream and they can live with dignity.
- To get approval, widows have to apply with their marriage registration certificate, and the amount will then be credited to their account.
- For this scheme, the beneficiary must be of marriageable age.
- Along with this, income taxpayers, pensioners, and government employees cannot avail the benefits of this scheme.
- The beneficiary woman will have to submit her husband's death certificate.
- To avail of the benefits of the scheme, an application will have to be made within one year from the date of



International Women's Day 2024: 8 March

- On 8 March every year, International Women's Day is celebrated.
- The day is celebrated to help create a gender-equal world and to celebrate the achievements of women and their growing visibility in every walk of life.
- The day celebrates the economic, social, political, and cultural achievements of women worldwide.
- The United Nations celebrated International Women's Day 2024 under the theme **“Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.”**
- The campaign theme is : **Inspire Inclusion**
- In 1909, Women's Day first came into existence and was known as National Women's Day.
- On 28 February 1909, the day was initially celebrated.
- In 1975, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women's Day.



Operation Kamdhenu has been launched by J&K police

- To curb the issue of cattle smuggling, J&K police launched "Operation Kamdhenu".
- A comprehensive strategy will be devised to scrutinize the activities of cattle smugglers.
- Its main aim is to tackle not only the smuggling activities but to also catch the masterminds behind these illicit operations.
- Additionally, the assets of the accused will be assessed as part of the investigation process.
- Under this operation, engine and chassis numbers, mobile numbers, and Aadhar card details of vehicles involved in smuggling will be documented.
- SP Rural Jammu, DSP Headquarters Samba and DSP (Dar) Kathua will oversee the implementation of Operation Kamdhenu.



Karnataka and the World Economic Forum joined hands to set up a centre for Artificial Intelligence

- It will be the only World Economic Forum's centre dedicated to AI in India.
- It will be part of the WEF Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR).
- This centre will play a key role in establishing industry-academia networks and facilitating the exchange of technological trends.
- It will also help in fostering research collaboration, and actively responding to global issues.
- Its main goal is to contribute to the global dialogue on the ethical and practical dimensions of AI.
- It will foster collaboration and networking opportunities for startups within the AI domain.
- Bengaluru is considered one of the top five cities globally for Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Karnataka and World Economic Forum Join Forces to Establish AI Centre

RBI, Bank Indonesia agree to use local currencies for bilateral trade

- The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote use of local currencies for bilateral transactions.
- The MoU was signed for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the **Indian Rupee (INR)** and the **Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)** for cross-border transactions.
- This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market.
- The MoU was signed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** and **Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo**.



Nagpur launches 'Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan'

- Nagpur has initiated India's first city-specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP), aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from buildings by 2050.
- The plan covers public buildings, affordable housing, commercial buildings, and homes, focusing on decarbonization and sustainable development.
- Developed by Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Nagpur Smart and Sustainable City Development Corporation Limited (NSSCDCL), with support from international partners, the ZCBAP aligns with India's climate goals and global commitments.
- The city's plan will boost building sector decarbonization, thus contributing to India's '**net zero by 2070**' target.
- It addresses GHG emissions reduction through building materials, design, construction, management, and deconstruction, targeting a significant portion of Nagpur's energy consumption and emissions.





Yatin Bhaskar Duggal Wins First Prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

Yatin Bhaskar Duggal won first prize in National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

- **Yatin Bhaskar Duggal** from Haryana has won the first prize in the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2024**.
- The awards were announced during the conclusive session held in New Delhi, where Duggal was recognized for his exceptional performance.
- The second prize went to **Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu**, and the third prize was awarded to **Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan**.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasized the crucial role of youth in realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047, known as **‘Viksit Bharat.’**
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur commended the resolute voice of the youth, highlighting India's progress and socio-economic transformations.
- Thakur stressed the positive utilization of technology and the preservation of India’s rich cultural heritage amidst modernization.
- He urged the youth to leverage platforms like YouTube to disseminate government policies effectively, especially in vernacular languages, ensuring inclusive development.
- The Minister emphasized the importance of team-led leadership approaches and networking in personal and professional growth.

Spain wins First UEFA Women's Nations League

- **Spain's women's team** secured a historic victory over **France**, winning the **first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League** with a convincing 2-0 triumph in Seville.
- The win represents a significant achievement for Spain in the realm of women's football, further solidifying their position as a dominant force in the sport.
- This historic triumph serves as a testament to Spain's progress and development as a footballing nation, further cementing their place among the elite teams in the world.
- **Aitana Bonmati's** exceptional display throughout the tournament earned her the title of **MVP (Most Valuable Player)** of the Finals tournament, further solidifying her impact on the pitch.





Kotak Life Introduces Non-Linked Par Product Kotak G.A.I.N

- **Kotak Life Insurance** has launched a new non-linked participating product called **Kotak G.A.I.N**, designed to provide long-term savings or a steady income stream.
- The product sets a minimum annual premium requirement of Rs 50,000, ensuring accessibility for a wide range of investors.
- Policyholders must be a minimum of 90 days old at the time of issuance, and the policy matures between the ages of **40 to 85 years**.

- Kotak G.A.I.N offers three distinct options for policyholders to customize their investment strategy based on their preferences and financial goals.
- **Option 1:** Policyholders can receive regular income either from the first month (for monthly payout mode) or from the first year onwards (for annual payout mode).
- **Option 2:** Policyholders can use income benefits to purchase additional sum assured throughout the policy term, which can be received as a lump sum or withdrawn as needed.
- **Option 3:** Policyholders are entitled to receive cash bonuses at the end of the premium payment term, along with guaranteed loyalty additions (GLAs) payable within the policy.
- Kotak G.A.I.N aims to provide customers with a comprehensive solution for long-term income and family protection, offering flexibility and financial security.
- This launch follows Kotak Life Insurance's introduction of **TULIP**, a hybrid product combining term insurance with ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan), in December 2023. TULIP provides both protection and investment opportunities to policyholders.

Panama becomes the 97th member to ratify International Solar Alliance

- Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member nation. The information was divulged by Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Panama's commitment to sustainable energy was underscored as Ambassador Yasiel Burillo presented the Instrument of Ratification to Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) Abhishek during a meeting in New Delhi.
- This formal act solidifies Panama's pledge to collaborate within the framework of the ISA, joining other nations in the pursuit of harnessing solar energy for a greener future.
- On March 5, **Malta became the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.**
- ISA was conceived as a joint effort by **India and France in 2015.** Currently, 116 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement.



SPaceX launches MethaneSAT into orbit to track down leaks of potent greenhouse gas



- **SpaceX** has successfully launched the **MethaneSAT satellite** into orbit, a collaborative initiative led by the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**.
- MethaneSAT is designed to monitor and track methane emissions globally, with the ability to orbit the Earth 15 times daily and oversee 300 targets.
- Positioned 360 miles above Earth, MethaneSAT utilizes advanced technology to accurately detect methane leaks, revealing previously unnoticed emissions.
- The satellite, supported by Google's cloud computing services, aims to provide comprehensive methane emission data to empower stakeholders for targeted interventions and policy reforms to combat pollution.
- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and leaks contribute to global warming. MethaneSAT's mission is to shed light on hidden methane emissions from industries, farms, and mines.
- The collaborative effort involves key contributors such as the Environmental Defense Fund, New Zealand Space Agency, Harvard University, BAE Systems, and Google, highlighting the urgency and significance of addressing methane emissions.
- MethaneSAT's development signifies a step toward a greener future by providing valuable insights into methane emissions and fostering informed decisions and climate action.

CM Yogi Rolls Out 'MYUVA Scheme' For Young Entrepreneurs in UP

- In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched an initiative to support young entrepreneurs called **“Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA).”**
- This program offers interest-free loans to help young people kickstart their business ventures with projects valued up to **Rs 5 lakh.**
- The government aims to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs every year through this initiative.
- MYUVA targets educated and skilled youth across the state, providing them with opportunities for self-employment.
- Successful repayment of the initial loan qualifies participants for second-stage financing, enabling them to expand their businesses further.
- Financial support is provided in collaboration with banks and other financial institutions, facilitating widespread access to funding opportunities.





**Ashwini Vaishnaw
To Unveil NITI
Aayog's Latest
Initiative**

Ashwini Vaishnaw to unveil NITI Aayog's 'NITI For States' platform

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is set to inaugurate the '**NITI For States**' platform by NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- The platform, serving as a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, is designed to strengthen policy formulation and promote good governance across states.
- It offers access to a comprehensive repository including 7,500 best practices, 5,000 policy documents, 900+ datasets, 1,400 data profiles, and 350 NITI publications, covering various sectors and cross-cutting themes.
- The multi-sectoral knowledge products cover 10 sectors, including agriculture, education, energy, health, livelihoods and skilling, manufacturing, MSME, tourism, urban, water resources & WASH, alongside themes of gender and climate change.
- The platform is accessible through multiple devices, including mobile phones, with an intuitive and user-friendly interface.
- The '**NITI For States**' platform aims to enhance decision-making by providing government officials with contextually relevant insights and actionable knowledge.
- It supports frontline functionaries such as district collectors and block-level officials by granting access to innovative best practices from various states and union territories.

India's Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.1% in 2023



- In 2023, India witnessed a significant decline in its unemployment rate, reaching 3.1%, the lowest in the past three years.
- This notable drop is attributed to factors such as the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and increased economic activity following the relaxation of lockdown measures.
- The overall unemployment rate decreased from **3.6% in 2022 to 3.1% in 2023**, and it was **4.2% in 2021**.
- Among females, the unemployment rate declined to 3%, while for males, it dropped to 3.2%.
- **The urban unemployment rate decreased to 5.2%, and the rural rate dropped to 2.4%.**
- The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** in urban areas increased to 56.2%, indicating greater engagement in economic activities.
- The decline in unemployment coincided with an economic growth rate of 8.4% in the third quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal year, driven by robust performances in manufacturing, mining & quarrying, and construction sectors.
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** estimates pegged the country's growth at 7.6% for the entire fiscal year 2023-24, reflecting a positive trajectory from earlier projections.