

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru which is intended to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional setup. The RBI has set up hub as a wholly owned subsidiary with an initial capital contribution of ₹100 crore. The new unit has an independent board with S. Gopalakrishnan as Chairman. "RBIH aims to create an ecosystem that focusses on promoting access to financial services and products for the low income population in the country," the Reserve Bank said.

One lakh Class 3 students across the country are participating in a foundational learning study this week, meant to set a baseline for the Centre's mission to improve literacy and numeracy in the early school years. The study, being conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aims to set the benchmarks for reading with comprehension in 22 Indian languages, the Education Ministry said.

India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution by Ukraine and its allies on the humanitarian crisis in the war torn eastern European country, saying the focus should be on cessation of hostilities and on urgent humanitarian assistance. The 193member UN General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, with 140 nations voting in favour, five against and 38 abstentions. On Wednesday, India, along with 12 other UN Security Council members, abstained on a resolution by Russia on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Airbus on Thursday estimated that airlines in India will require 2,210 new aircraft over the next 20 years, with small aircraft accounting for 80% of the new deliveries. Sounding upbeat on growth potential, the aviation major in its latest India Market Forecast said the demand would come on the back of passenger traffic in the country growing at 6.2% per annum by 2040, making it the fastest among major economies and way ahead of the global average of 3.9%.

The government has convened a multi Ministerial group to look into how to overcome challenges in trade

MARIUPOL

1.An official from Ukraine has said that the Russian offensive against Mariupol has turned the city into "ashes of a dead land". Geographically, Mariupol forms a land bridge between Crimea (Annexed by Russia in 2014) and Dobass (the separatist-held regions of Ukraine).

2.Mariupol has been a key fighting ground as Russia looks to overturn its 2014 loss when the Russia-backed separatists failed to capture the city in the Donetsk oblast region. As of now, the Sea of Azov falls between the Donetsk-Luhansk region and Crimea. In 2014, the then Ukrainian President had declared Mariupol the regional capital of the oblast after Donetsk fell to rebel forces.

3.In 2016, it also became a 'city of solidarity' - as termed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees - welcoming internally displaced people from the contested territories. Advantage - Not just land, capturing Mariupol also gives Russia a maritime advantage, and also economic advantage.

3.Novorossiya-In 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin invoked 'Novorossiya' (New Russia) while talking to reportes. Novorossiya is a historical term for territories considered to be part of Russia under tsarist rule. Tsarist Rule included large parts of southern and eastern Ukraine, such as Odessa, Kharkiv, Kherson, Donetsk and Luhansk. The region's history as part of Russia created an obligation on Moscow to protect its present-day inhabitant. Effectively, controlling Mariupol will put Putin closer to the imagined Novorossiya.

LAPUS\$ ATTACK

1.Microsoft has confirmed that its systems were breached by the hacker group Lapsus\$. Other prominent companies such as NVIDIA, Samsung, Ubisoft, Okta, etc have been targeted by the same group. The Okta hack is particularly worrisome because the San Francisco-based company provides online authentication services to prominent players such as FedEx Corp, Coinbase Global, T-Mobile, Cloudflare, etc.

2.Lapsus\$ is a South America-based group. It is known for publicly posting details about their hacks and sharing screenshots of stolen data on platforms such as Telegram and Twitter. Targets - The group started by targeting organisations in the United Kingdom and South America but has expanded globally.

3.Their targets are across a range of sectors: government, technology telecom, media, retail and healthcare. It is also attacking cryptocurrency exchanges to steal cryptocurrency holdings. Methods - The hackers of Lapsus\$ relied on large-scale social engineering and extortion campaigns against multiple organizations. The group relies on a pure extortion and destruction model without deploying ransomware payloads.

4.The group is also relying on some tactics that are less frequently used by other threat actors. These include methods such as SIM-swapping to take over accounts, accessing personal email accounts of employees at target organisations. Social Engineering Attacks In social engineering attacks, cybercriminals try to lure individuals into revealing critical personal information via phishing attacks. All of this information might be used to either guess passwords or even answers to security questions for an account.

5.Safety Measures For now, Microsoft has recommended that businesses rely on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to protect themselves from such attacks. It also recommends against weak MFA factors such as text messages, since these are susceptible to SIM swapping.

6.It has also cautioned against simple voice approvals, push notifications, or even "secondary email" based MFA methods. It also recommends increasing awareness among employees and IT help desks around social engineering attacks.

SARTHAQ

1.'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality

with Russia, including managing payments for exporters and importers, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Parliament on Thursday, in comments that indicate a possible revival of “rupee rouble trade” in the wake of economic sanctions against Russian banks and entities by more than 40 U.S. and European allies.

Fuel retailers IOC, BPCL and HPCL together lost about \$2.25 billion in revenue for keeping petrol and diesel prices on hold during elections in five States, including Uttar Pradesh, Moody's Investors Services said on Thursday. State fuel retailers did not revise petrol and diesel rates for a record 137 days despite prices of crude oil rising to \$120 per barrel compared with about \$82 in early November when the hiatus began.

Ethiopia's government on Thursday declared “an indefinite humanitarian truce effective immediately”, saying it hoped to help hasten emergency aid into the Tigray region, where hundreds of thousands face starvation.

North Korea fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday, Tokyo and Seoul said as they voiced outrage at Pyongyang's most powerful launch since 2017.

The Solomon Islands has signed a policing deal with China and will send a proposal for a broader security agreement covering the military to its Cabinet for consideration, an official of the Pacific island nation's government said on Thursday. The arrangements are likely to concern the U.S., which said in February it would open an Embassy in the Solomon Islands.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday made a surprise visit to Kabul, travelling to the Afghan capital for meetings before landing in Delhi on Thursday night. Both visits had been kept completely secret, and neither Delhi nor Beijing have formally issued any statement on Mr. Wang's travels to India yet.

Western leaders agreed on Thursday to strengthen their forces in Eastern Europe and increase military aid to Ukraine as the Russian assault on its neighbour Ukraine entered its second month.

A 19% increase was witnessed in 2021 from the previous year in TB patients' notifications. The number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) notified during 2021 was 19,33,381 against the 16,28,161 in 2020, noted India TB Report 2022 released on Thursday. On World Tuberculosis Day on Thursday,

Education (SARTHAQ)' is an indicative and suggestive National Education Policy (NEP) Implementation Plan for School Education. This is an implementation plan developed in pursuance of the goals and objectives of the NEP 2020 issued in 2020 and to assist States and UTs in this task.

2.SARTHAQ was developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. It has been developed as an evolving and working document through wide and intensive consultative process with States and UTs, Autonomous bodies and suggestions received from all stakeholders.

3.The major focus of SARTHAQ is to define activities in such a manner which it links recommendation with 297 Tasks along with responsible agencies, timelines and 304 outputs of these Tasks. The plan keeps in mind the concurrent nature of education and adheres to the spirit of federalism.

4.States and UTs are given the flexibility to adapt this plan with local contextualization and also modify as per their needs and requirements. This plan delineates the roadmap and way forward for implementation of NEP, 2020 for the next 10 years.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATION

1.The Karnataka High Court has rejected an argument in support of permitting Muslim girls wearing head-scarves that was based on the principle of 'reasonable accommodation'. 'Reasonable accommodation' is a principle that promotes equality, enables the grant of positive rights and prevents discrimination based on disability, health condition or personal belief. Its use is primarily in the disability rights sector.

2.The general principle is that reasonable accommodation should be provided, unless some undue hardship is caused by such accommodation. Legality in India - In India, the Rights of People with Disabilities Act, 2016, defines 'reasonable accommodation'. It is necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments, without imposing a disproportionate or undue burden in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise of rights equally with others.

3.The definition of 'discrimination' in Section 2(h) includes 'denial of reasonable accommodation'. In Section 3, which deals with equality and non-discrimination, sub-section (5) says: "The appropriate Government shall take necessary steps to ensure reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities." In Jeeja Ghosh and Another v. Union of India and Others (2016), the Supreme Court talks about embracing the notion of positive rights, affirmative action and reasonable accommodation.

4.The Supreme Court elaborated on the concept in Vikash Kumar v. UPSC (2021). In this case, the court allowed the use of a scribe in the UPSC exam for a candidate with dysgraphia, or writer's cramp.

EXOMARS

1.There will be a delay in the ExoMars 2022 Mission that was to be launched in September 2022 as the European Space Agency (ESA) suspended all its cooperation with Russian space agency Roscosmos. Once a joint space venture between ESA and Roscosmos, ExoMars is now ESA's mission to Mars.

2.It aims to look for whether life has ever existed in Mars. The ExoMars programme comprises 2 missions. The first mission was launched in 2016 and consists of the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) and Schiaparelli, an entry, descent and landing demonstrator module. The second mission is planned to be launched in 2022 and comprises a rover and surface science platform. **3.**The rover that will carry a drill and a suite of instruments dedicated to search for possible existence of life beyond earth and geochemistry research. It is likely to land on Mars' equator called Oxia Planum, which had housed a massive pool of water in the prehistoric era.

KUKI TRIBE

1.The Kuki people are an ethnic group native to the Mizo Hills (formerly Lushai) in Mizoram. In northeast India, they are present in all states except Arunachal Pradesh.

2.The Kuki Rising, 1917-1919' — also seen as the anti-colonial freedom struggle of the Kukis — was fought against the British to preserve their land. During WWII, the Kukis joined the Indian Army to fight the British again.

3.Demand for a separate State: The community today feels that despite never bowing to the British, their contribution in overthrowing the colonialists has never been acknowledged,

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reaffirmed the government's commitment to making India tuberculosis-free by 2025 and said this will be achieved by ensuring access to quality healthcare and advanced treatment.

rather it has left them vulnerable even after India gained Independence.