

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

A “nativised” Hindi associated with Assam’s only hill station is trying to hold its own amid a row over the Centre’s move to make Hindi compulsory in high schools across Northeast India. Hindi reached Dima Hasao, a district formerly called North Cachar Hills, in the late 1800s primarily through merchants and construction workers who worked on a mountain railway system. By the time the railway line was completed in 1899, the nontribal settlers and diverse indigenous communities across the hills had developed a pidgin to communicate among themselves. It came to be known as Haflong Hindi, named after the headquarters of the district where the Dimasa people are the dominant community. The other tribes are Hmar, Kuki, Zeme (Naga), Biata, Vaiphei, Hrangkhoh, Khelma, Rongmei, Karbi and Jaintia.

Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report. “Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969). Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.

193 million people in 53 countries who suffered acute food insecurity in 2021, according to the UN. The organisation attributed the food crisis to a “toxic triple combination” of conflict, weather extremes and the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The UN said the total number of people without adequate food every day increased by 40 million last year, confirming a “worrying trend” of annual increases over several years. The figures appeared in the Global Report on Food Crisis.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a sudden move, raised the repo rate by 40 basis points (bps) to 4.4% citing inflation that was globally “rising alarmingly and spreading fast”. The repo rate increase was the first since August 2018. As part of the withdrawal of accommodation, the RBI also raised the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.5% with effect from May 21 so as to drain surplus liquidity of about ₹87,000 crore.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

1. From two Tokyo Olympians being banned to Noida Police seizing fake drugs and supplements worth Rs 2 crore, anabolic steroids have often been in news. Anabolic steroids are essentially synthetic or lab-made versions of the male hormone testosterone and have a similar effect of increasing muscle mass as the natural hormone does.

2. It also increases male characteristics in a person, such as facial hair and a deeper voice. Unlike corticosteroids (cortisol-based steroids prescribed by doctors), the anabolic steroids have limited medical use. [These corticosteroids are lab-made molecules that mimic the action of the hormone called cortisol that controls the body’s stress response, metabolism, and inflammation.]

3. Uses - Years ago, Anabolic steroids was used by bodybuilders. Nowadays, it is mainly misused by athletes and sportspersons. Anabolic steroids are mainly used by doctors to help patients gain weight after a severe illness or injury. It could also be prescribed in small doses to the elderly to build muscle mass and in some cases also helps to treat anaemia. Doctors may also prescribe the medicine to men who have low levels of natural testosterone.

5. **Health impacts - The anabolic steroids are misused mainly by those who want to bulk up as it helps increase one’s muscle mass. Use of anabolic steroids in the short-term can cause acne and hairfall.** Extended misuse of the substance can also lead to gynaecomastia (growth of breasts in men) and erectile dysfunction.

6. In women, it can lead to growth of facial hair. It may also cause extreme anger, paranoia, and impaired judgement. Long-term use can lead to kidney disease and even failure, liver damage and tumours, enlarged heart, and high blood pressure. It can also lead to stunted growth in teenagers.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID

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3. The NATGRID is an IT platform for accessing information dispersed from data collection agencies in the country. Envisaged as a robust mechanism to track suspects, the NATGRID prevent terrorist attacks with real-time data and access to classified information like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, etc. The NATGRID will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all states and Union territories.

ORGANIC AADHAR

1. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) may roll out “Organic Aadhaar” for the farmers engaged in organic farming under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

2. **Organic Aadhaar is an identity for the farmer for the organic certification process based on Personal Aadhar number and Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN).** [Under the ULPIN scheme, every plot of land in the country has been assigned a 14-digit identification number by the government.] Linking with the ULPIN could also become a useful tool for identifying organic land.

3. Organic Aadhaar combined with Tracenet will create a robust system for effectively planning and monitoring policy measures. [Tracenet system, which was launched in 2009, provides information on products exported from the country. Details about the farmer, his land, and the inputs used in the production of the product are made available through the system for products exported from India.]

The Supreme Court disagreed with the Central government's suggestion that the court should wait till the President took a call on Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan's mercy plea referred to him by the Tamil Nadu Governor for a decision. The pertinent question was whether the Governor had, in the first place, the authority to refer the mercy plea to the President. Under Article 161 of the Constitution, the Governor was bound by the aid and advice given by the Tamil Nadu Council of Ministers in September 2018 to the Governor to release Perarivalan, who has already served over 30 years of his life sentence.

Global cybersecurity services provider NortonLifeLock on Wednesday said it had blocked more than 18,013,055 threats the equivalent of about 195,794 per day during the first three months of 2022 in India.

The European Union proposed its toughest sanctions yet against Russia on Wednesday, including a phased oil embargo, as Ukraine came under further heavy Russian bombardment and nervously monitored largescale Army drills in neighbouring Belarus, a close Moscow ally. Piling pressure on Russia's already battered \$1.8 trillion economy, the European Commission proposed phasing out supplies of Russian crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of 2022.

The nutrition labelling system for food packets recommended by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will not only fail to enable consumers to make healthy choices but also mislead them about their nutritional value, warn experts who have called for the need to "insulate" policymaking from the influence of the food industry.

The Supreme Court judgments which govern the use of loudspeakers were intended to protect citizens from becoming "forced audience" to noise. Recent days have seen tensions rise over the use of loudspeakers in temples and mosques. However, the court, while interpreting the law on the use of loudspeakers in 2005, had made it clear that it was not concerned with "any religion or religious practices".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland. Mr. Modi, who arrived at Copenhagen on Tuesday from Berlin on the second

4.Organic Aadhaar is similar to a voter ID card in that it will provide the farmer in a growers group with exclusive protection of organic status and income.

5.This will protect his rights to sell the produce at a higher price while maintaining his organic status. If implemented, its impact will be felt in the coming years, as it will elevate NPOP to a higher organic standard on the global map.

ANCHOR INVESTOR

1.The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed norms for anchor investors by keeping the 30 days lock-in period till June 30 for issues exceeding ₹10,000 crore. Anchor investors are high-profile institutional investors that are allotted shares before the subscription opens for retail and other investors, and have to commit to holding their shares for a certain period after listing.

2.An anchor investor in an IPO is a qualified institutional buyer (QIB) like a foreign portfolio investor or mutual fund or insurance company which invests before the IPO is made available to public as per SEBI regulations.

3.As initial investors, they make the IPO process more attractive for investors, and instil confidence in them. Anchor investors also aid in price discovery of the IPO. Anchor investors who get guaranteed allotment a day before the IPO opens to the public are normally allocated 60% of the QIB quota.

4.Companies with a profitable track record can allocate 50% of the IPO to QIBs. Demand in the anchor category is an indication of the success of the IPO.

MICRO INSURANCE

1.A panel on Micro Insurance (MI) constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has suggested introduction of a Combi MI product. Micro-insurance products offer coverage to low-income households or to individuals who have little savings.

2.It is tailored specifically for lower valued assets and compensation for illness, injury, or death. The IRDA Micro-insurance Regulations, 2005 defines and enables micro-insurance policy as a general or life insurance policy with a sum assured of Rs 50,000 or less.

3.A general micro-insurance product is any: Health insurance contract. Any contract covering belongings such as hut, livestock, tools or instruments or any personal accident contract. They can be on an individual or group basis.

4.A life micro-insurance product is: A term insurance contract with or without return of premium. Any endowment insurance contract or a health insurance contract. They can be with or without an accident benefit rider and. Either on an individual or group basis.

5.There is flexibility in the regulations for insurers to offer composite covers or package products that include life and general insurance covers together Intermediaries - Micro-insurance business is done through the NGOs, Self-Help Groups, Micro-Finance Institutions, etc.

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE(MPC)

1.The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved nomination of Rajiv Ranjan as ex-officio member of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). **About MPC: The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC. It is tasked with framing monetary policy using tools like the repo rate, reverse repo rate, bank rate, cash reserve ratio (CRR). It has been instituted by the Central Government of India under Section 452B of the RBI Act that was amended in 1934.**

2.Functions: The MPC is entrusted with the responsibility of deciding the different policy rates including MSF, Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, and Liquidity Adjustment Facility. Composition of MPC: The committee will have six members. Of the six members, the government will nominate three. No government official will be nominated to the MPC. The other three members would be from the RBI with the governor being the ex-officio chairperson. Deputy governor of RBI in charge of the monetary policy will be a member, as also an executive director of the central bank.

3.Monetary Policy intends to achieve-As per the suggestions made by Chakravarty Committee, aspects such as price stability, economic growth, equity, social justice, and encouraging the growth of new financial enterprises are some crucial roles

leg of his visit to three European nations, met the four Nordic leaders on the sidelines of the second IndiaNordic Summit in the Danish capital.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron here on Wednesday and discussed issues of bilateral and mutual interest as well as regional and global developments, amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

After sending missions to the moon and Mars, ISRO is now readying a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies below the surface of the hottest planet in the solar system and also unravel the mysteries under the sulphuric acid clouds enveloping it.

105 million tonnes (MT), the official estimate of wheat production revised by the Indian government as against the earlier projection of 111.32 MT, according to Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey. The downward revision of the wheat production by 5.7% is a result of the decrease in the crop productivity, due to the early onset of summer.

connected to the monetary policy of India. While the Government of India tries to accelerate the GDP growth rate of India, the RBI keeps trying to bring down the rate of inflation within a sustainable limit. In order to achieve its main objectives, the Monetary Policy Committee determines the ideal policy interest rate that will help achieve the inflation target in front of the country.

4. Monetary Policy Instruments and how they are managed- Monetary policy instruments are of two types namely qualitative instruments and quantitative instruments. The list of quantitative instruments include Open Market Operations, Bank Rate, Repo Rate, Reverse Repo Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio, Statutory Liquidity Ratio, Marginal standing facility and Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF). Qualitative Instruments refer to direct action, change in the margin money and moral suasion.