

Current Affairs: 15.01.2022

18th edition of Kachai Lemon Festival held in Manipur

The **18th edition of the Kachai Lemon Festival** was held in **Manipur** on January 13 and 14, 2022 at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in **Ukhrul district**.

The theme of the two-day long festival was '**Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation**'.

The Kachai Lemon Festival is an annual festival organised in Manipur to promote its unique lemon fruit and encourage the lemon farmers.

Kachai Lemon of Manipur is accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag as it is a rich source of ascorbic acid and famous for its juice content. It is widely grown in the Kachai Village of Ukhrul district.

India grants loan of \$900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis

India has announced a financial assistance of **USD 900 million** loan to **Sri Lanka** to help the island nation in **building up its depleted foreign reserves** and for food imports.

It must be noted that Sri Lanka is currently facing a shortage of almost all essential commodities due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.

India is extending the support through the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

India's forex reserves declines by \$878 mn to \$632.7 bn: RBI data

As per the weekly **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, the **foreign exchange reserves of India declined by \$878 million to USD 632.736 billion in the week ended January 7, 2022**.

In the previous week ended December 31, India's reserves dropped by \$1.466 billion to \$633.614 billion.

The decline was mainly due to a fall in gold reserves and foreign currency assets (FCA).

In the reporting week, FCAs decreased by \$497 million to \$569.392 billion.

Gold reserves declined by \$360 million to \$39.044 billion.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by \$16 million to \$19.098 billion.

India's reserve position with the IMF dipped by \$5 million to \$5.202 billion.

HDFC Bank named Best Private Bank In India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021

HDFC Bank has bagged the '**Best Private Bank in India**' award at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, organised by **Professional Wealth Management (PWM)**.

The PWM is a magazine published by the Financial Times, the world's leading global business publication.

PWM specialises in analysing the growth strategies of private banks and the regional financial centres in which they operate.

LazyPay partners with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard

LazyPay, a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance, has partnered with **SBM Bank India** to launch **LazyCard**.

With this partnership, LazyPay aims to foray into the card business segment.

LazyCard will provide a credit limit of up to Rs. 5 lakh.

The card can be availed at zero joining fee and zero annual fee.

Indifi joins hand with GPay to offer instant digital credit to SMEs



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Small businesses-focused online lending platform **Indifi Technologies** has collaborated with **Google Pay** to provide instant loans to eligible medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) merchants through the Google Pay platform.

The Google Pay merchants will be given the option of availing a pre-approved loan from Indifi in the app itself, based largely on their payment receipts data.

The range of the loans will be between **Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh**.

Philippines to purchase BrahMos cruise missiles from India for its navy

Philippines has become the first foreign country to place order for the purchase of **BrahMos Shore-Based cruise Missile System for its navy**.

This agreement will give a big boost to India's defence manufacturing system.

The estimated deal cost is worth **\$374.9 million**.

The BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd will supply the missile, under the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile System Acquisition Project, for Philippine Navy.

India to host first World Deaf T20 Cricket championship in 2023

The **International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD)** has given its approval to the **All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD)** to organise the **World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in 2023**.

The first World Deaf T20 cricket championship will be held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from January 10 to January 20, 2023**.

India will be hosting this kind of international event with the approval of the ICSD for the first time.

A minimum eight countries are expected to take part in the championship.

Indian Army Day: 15 January

The Army Day in India is celebrated on **15 January** every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens.

2022 marks the **74th Indian Army Day**.

The day is marked to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa took over the command of Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.

Olympic Bronze Medallist Sprinter Deon Lendore Passes at 29

Olympic and world medallist **sprinter Deon Lendore**, who specialized in the 400 metres, has passed away in an unfortunate car crash in Texas, USA. He was just 29-years. The **Trinidad and Tobago** sprinter won a bronze medal in the 4 × 400 metres relay event at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

He claimed silver medal in the 4 × 400 metres relay event at the 2015 World Championships in Athletics in Beijing