



DAILY PT POINTERS

9th December, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS3-Economy (Page 1)

RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5%, raises growth forecast

The MPC also decided by a majority of 5:1 to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation aligns to the target, while supporting growth

December 08, 2023 10:26 am | Updated 08:48 pm IST - Mumbai



VIKAS DHOOT

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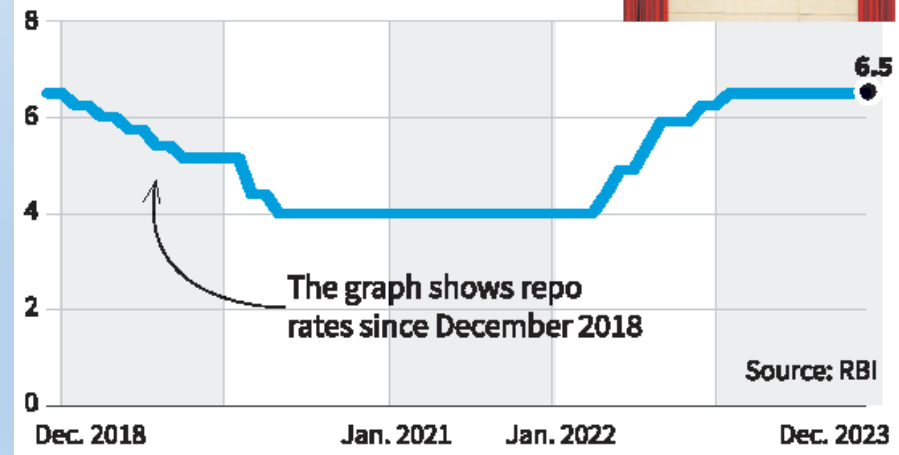
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- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unanimously decided to keep key interest rates unchanged, raised its GDP growth projection for 2023-24 to 7% from 6.5%, and retained its average inflation forecast at 5.4%, while warning that inflation could spike through November and December.

Holding steady

The repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — has been kept unchanged at 6.5%



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS3-Economy (Page 4)

Delhi's unemployment rate higher than national average, finds govt. report

Population in Capital estimated to reach 2.65 crore by 2036; improvement noted in city's sex ratio, which remains below national average; women now switching from part-time work to regular jobs

December 09, 2023 01:12 am | Updated 01:12 am IST - NEW DELHI:

THE HINDU BUREAU

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More male workers were found to be engaged in casual work than female workers. | Photo Credit: File Photo

- The report, 'Women & Men in Delhi-2023', showed that the national capital's UR was 5.1% for men and 6% for women, higher than the national average of 4.4% for men and 3.3% for women.
- The unemployment rate (UR) in Delhi was higher than the national average for 2021-22
- The report defines an unemployed person as one who wants to work but is not doing so even though they are available for employment and actively seeking work, "thus reflecting the inability of an economy to generate suitable employment".
- It stated that the city's population is likely to reach 2.65 crore by 2036 while noting an improvement in its sex ratio, which remains below the national average.

Do you know ?

Delhi's sex ratio was 868 as per the 2011 Census, while the national average was 943. By 2036, the city's sex ratio is projected to be 899 against the national average of 952.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GS2-Health (Page 13)

U.S. FDA approves pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease

Reuters

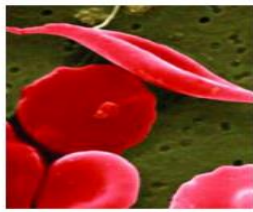
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday approved a pair of gene therapies for sickle cell disease, including the first treatment based on the breakthrough CRISPR gene editing technology.

The agency approved Lyfgenia from bluebird bio, and a separate treatment called Casgevy by partners Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics for the illness.

Both the therapies were approved for people aged 12 years and older.

The Vertex/CRISPR gene therapy uses the breakthrough gene editing technology that won its inventors the Nobel Prize in 2020.

Sickle cell disease is a painful, inherited blood disorder that can be debili-



In sickle cell disease, the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen is affected. AP

tating and lead to premature death. It affects an estimated 1,00,000 people in the U.S., most of whom are Black.

In sickle cell disease, the body makes flawed, sickle-shaped hemoglobin, impairing the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen to the body's tissues.

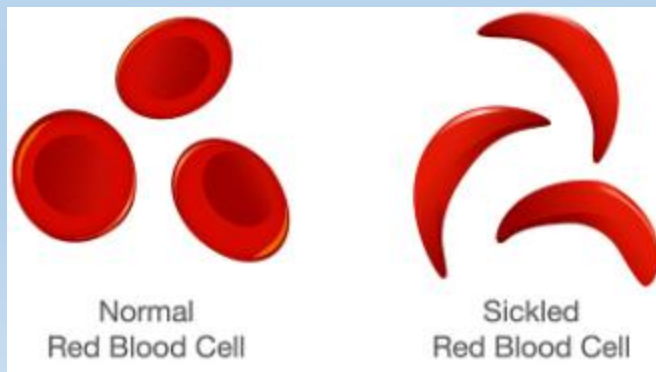
The sickle cells tend to

stick together and can block small blood vessels, causing intense pain. It also can lead to strokes and organ failure.

Makers of both the therapies have pitched them as one-time treatments, but data on how long their effect lasts is limited. The only longer-term treatment for sickle cell disease is a bone marrow transplant.

Sceptical results

"I actually am very reticent to call them a cure. I prefer to call them a transformative therapy because patients will still have sickle cell disease on the other side of gene therapy," said Dr. Sharl Azar, medical director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.



- The FDA approved Lyfgenia from Bluebird Bio, and a separate treatment called Casgevy by partners Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Crispr Therapeutics for the illness.
 - The Vertex/Crispr gene therapy uses the breakthrough gene-editing technology that won its inventors the Nobel prize in 2020.
 - The therapy can be directed to cut DNA in targeted areas, enabling the ability to accurately remove, add or replace DNA where it was cut.

Do you know ?

- Sickle cell disease is a painful, inherited blood disorder that can be debilitating and lead to premature death.
- In sickle cell disease, the body makes flawed, sickle-shaped hemoglobin, impairing the ability of red blood cells to properly carry oxygen to the body's tissues.
- The sickle cells tend to stick together and can block small blood vessels, causing intense pain. It also can lead to strokes and organ failure.

The Hindu: GS3-Economy (Page 14)

RBI enhances UPI payment limits, to set rules for online loan aggregators

The central bank raises the UPI payment limit for healthcare and education from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh; RBI also flags concerns over firms that aggregate loan offers from different lenders, saying the aggregators could be harming consumers' interests

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Along with steps to protect borrowers availing loans online, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday enhanced the UPI payment limits for healthcare and

New framework

RBI eases regulations on payments through UPI and bank mandates but tightens the screws on fintechs



- The central bank raises the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card, insurance and mutual fund payments to ₹1 lakh from ₹15,000 currently

- RBI proposes the creation of a Fintech Regulatory Framework

choose from.

"It has, therefore, been decided to lay down a regulatory framework for web-aggregation of loan products. This is expected to result in enhanced customer centricity and transparency in digital lending," he said.

tion voluntarily to this repository, he said.

The kind of details that may be compiled from fintechs were not yet clear. "While we wait for further guidelines, providing important information to the repository voluntarily can help in designing appro-

- Along with steps to protect borrowers availing loans online, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enhanced the UPI payment limits for healthcare and education from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh, and
- the limit on recurring e-payment mandates for credit card and insurance premia payments as well as mutual fund investments to ₹1 lakh from the current limit of ₹15,000.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: GSII-Polity and Governance (Page 5)

SC has deployed AI to promote regional languages, RS told

Drawing parallels with the SC's earlier efforts to translate its judgements from Independence till date, he said, "20,000 judgements have been uploaded on the e-SCR portal on the court's website."

- Supreme Court has deployed SUVAS, a machine-assisted translation tool trained by Artificial Intelligence, in order to promote regional languages in judicial procedure.
- SUVAS has been developed with technical support from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- This tool is specially designed for the judicial domain and currently has the capacity of translating English judicial documents, orders or judgments into eleven vernacular languages

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: GSII-Polity and Governance (Page 5)

Pvt member Bill to repeal Waqf Act introduced in Rajya Sabha

The Waqf Repeal Bill, 2022 was moved for introduction by BJP member Harnath Singh Yadav.

- A private member Bill seeking to repeal the Waqf Act, 1995, was introduced in Rajya Sabha after a division of votes amid strong protests by Opposition parties.
- A Private Members' Bill is a legislative proposal that is initiated by an individual Member of the Parliament, who is not a Minister
- It is only introduced and discussed on Fridays.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: GS 2-IR (Page 6)

Clean Ganga mission signs pact with Mississippi river initiative

The NMCG has signed the MoCP on behalf of the River Cities Alliance (RCA). The signing ceremony took place at the Rotary Hall as part of the COP28, currently underway in Dubai, the statement said.



- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which implements Centre's flagship Namami Gange scheme, has signed a Memorandum of Common Purpose (MoCP) with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI), which represents 124 cities/towns situated along the banks of the Mississippi River, the United States.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Economy-GSIII

Cabinet approves Additional allocation of Rs 2500 crore for continuation of Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit till 30.06.2024

Posted On: 08 DEC 2023 8:33PM by PIB Delhi



- Government of India had announced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit to eligible exporters.
- The Scheme started on April 1, 2015
- Currently the Scheme provides an interest equalisation benefit at the rate of 2% on pre and post shipment Rupee export credit to merchant and manufacturer exporters of 410 identified tariff lines at 4 digit level and 3% to all MSME manufacturer exporters.
- The Scheme has now been made fund limited, and benefit to individual exporters has been capped at Rs 10 Cr per annum per IEC (Import Export Code).

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Defence-GSIII

Ministry of Defence



INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS TABLE-TOP EXERCISE (TTX) FOR ASEAN WOMEN PEACEKEEPERS

Posted On: 08 DEC 2023 4:48PM by PIB Delhi

- TTX is a follow up exercise of ongoing joint military training between India and ASEAN member states.
- The Exercise is part of ongoing efforts of Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) to strengthen international cooperation and capacity-building in peacekeeping missions, with specific focus on empowering women in the field. CUNPK is a premier institution of the Indian Army to impart training in peacekeeping operations.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Defence -GSIII

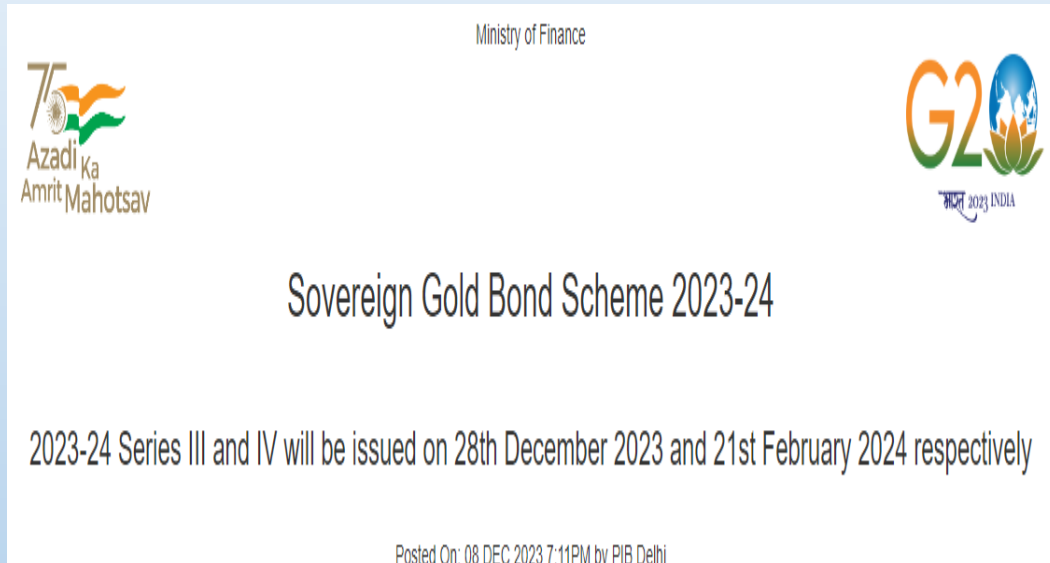


- The Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme is a flagship programme of Ministry of Defence executed by DRDO under 'Make in India' initiative. The main objectives of the scheme are enumerated below:
- To provide Grant in Aid to Indian industries, including MSMEs and Start-ups, as well as academic and scientific institutions for the development of Defence and dual use technologies that are currently not available with the Indian defence Industry.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB: Economy -GSIII



- SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold.
- They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.