



DAILY PT POINTERS

10th January, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Art and Culture (Page 3)

Kateel Yakshagana mela in Karnataka to revert to all-night shows from January 14



- The over-a-century old Yakshagana mela, the Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali, in Dakshina Kannada will revert to all-night shows from January 14, after the High Court of Karnataka gave the go-ahead for the same last month subject to adherence to noise pollution rules.
 - The mela, started in the mid-19th century, with six performing troupes now had switched to performing short shows from the 2022-23 touring season (from November 2023) after the State government issued a circular in May 2022, which did not allow loudspeakers, an integral part of Yakshagana performances, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. except in closed premises
- Yakshagana is a traditional folk dance form popular in **Coastal Karnataka** districts.
- Each performance typically focuses on a small sub-story (known as 'Prasanga') from ancient Hindu epics of Ramayana or Mahabharata. The show consists of both stage performances by talented artists and commentary (performed by the lead singer or Bhagavatha) accompanied by traditional music.

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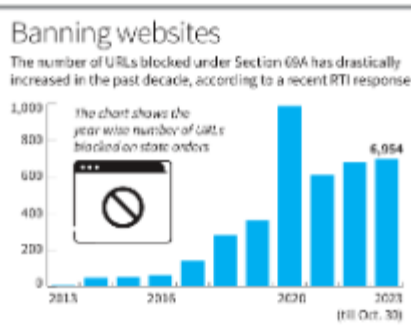
Rapid rise in Web blocking orders, shows RTI reply

The increase has coincided with a massive uptick in Internet use; Telecom Department seeks easier portal blocking; the Ministry has not given breakdown of statistics, citing confidentiality

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Website blocking orders have grown over a 100-fold from 2013 to October 2023, shows a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the Bihar-based activist Kanhaiya Kumar.

Mr. Kumar obtained statistics on website and online post blocking orders issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Union government issued 62 such orders in 2013, and in 2023, 6,954 till October. This comes even as the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in December, directed internet service providers (ISPs) to compile Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of servers in India, to facilitate blocking them quickly.



However, the IT Ministry refused to provide a breakdown of these statistics, citing the confidentiality clause in the rules.

Most of the webpages blocked are likely to be individual posts, videos or profiles. In 2022, the Union government said in response to a parliamentary query that 228 websites were blocked. When other

of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence".

List of IP addresses

"Location of web/application servers need to be traced on immediate basis and when required or in

this task is enormous," said Deepak Maheshwari, former secretary at the ISP Association of India. IP addresses are often purchased in bulk by data centre providers and Web hosting firms, and these entities may have corporate security concerns on having these IP addresses declared to ISPs, he said.

Another industry expert with over a decade of experience in internet networking technologies, who did not want to be named, said website blocking had become much harder due to evolutions in the encryption technologies used by Web browsers and firms, increasingly blurring the level of visibility that internet providers have on their users' activity. "A single IP address can be linked to thousands of websites," the expert said. "Telecom operators are just 'dumb pipes'" he added.

- Website blocking orders have grown over a 100-fold from 2013 to October 2023, shows a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the Bihar-based activist

- statistics on website and online post blocking orders issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Do you know?

Section 69A of the IT Act allows the Union government to block content online in the "interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognisable offence".

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Economy (GSIII)-Page 11

Momentum investing: when investors buy assets which are steadily rising in price

Traditionally, experts have advised investors to buy assets when they are selling at low prices, such as during times of a financial crisis, as assets could be found selling at prices well below their intrinsic value. Momentum investing is in stark contrast to this traditional logic

- Momentum investing refers to a style of investing wherein investors purchase assets such as stocks or bonds that are consistently rising in price while selling assets whose prices are falling.
- Momentum investors buy assets with rising prices in the hope that the upward price momentum of these assets would continue, thus allowing them to sell these assets at higher prices in the future to make profits. Similarly, they sell assets that are falling in price expecting the fall in prices to continue for some time.



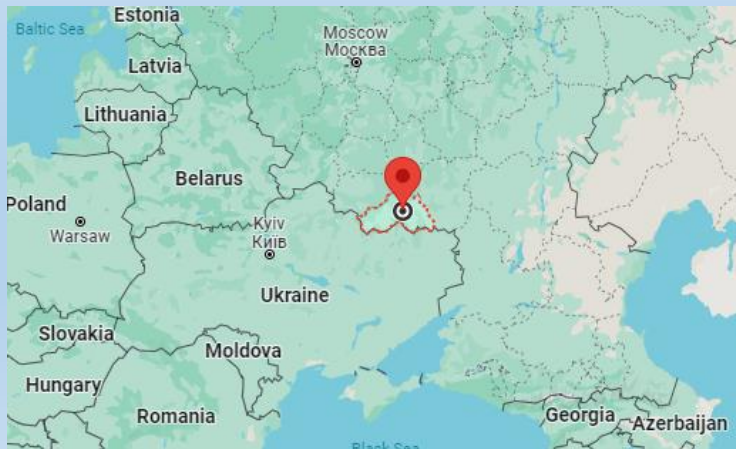
HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : IR (GSII)-Page 12

Russia to focus on salvaging Belgorod

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOSCOW



- The Belgorod Region is part of the Central Black Earth Economic Region.
- It borders on the Kursk and Voronezh regions, the Lugansk People’s Republic. It also shares a state border with Ukraine.
- The Belgorod Region is one of the few regions of the Central Federal District with a growing population, not counting the capital.
- The Belgorod Region is situated in the centre of the European part of Russia, on the southern and southeastern slopes of the Central Russian Upland.
- The Belgorod Region is one of Russia’s successfully developing industrial and agricultural regions.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : Places in news (GSI)-Page 13

Taiwan island haunted by memories of China war prepares for key vote



- Kinmen, which lies 200 kilometres from Taiwan but only seven kilometre from China, was a battlefield front line for the nationalists who fled to Taiwan in 1949, and the target of frequent bombardments up until 1979.
- China's bombardments of Kinmen only stopped in 1979 when the U.S. switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Space (GSIII)-Page 12

Satellite shaped like a 'lotus in bloom'

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, JANUARY 9

CHINA TUESDAY sent a new astronomical satellite shaped like a lotus into space to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe that flicker like fireworks.

The satellite named Einstein Probe (EP), which uses new X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye, was launched by a Long March-2C carrier rocket at 3:03 p.m. (Beijing time) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in south-



Einstein Probe. ep.bao.ac.cn

west China's Sichuan Province.

Weighing about 1.45 tonnes and as large as a full-size SUV, the satellite is shaped like a lotus in full bloom and features 12 petals and

two stamens, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The 12 "petals" are 12 modules consisting of wide-field X-ray telescopes, while the two "stamens" consist of two modules of follow-up X-ray telescopes. These telescopes form a space observatory which is aimed at helping scientists capture the first light stemming from supernova explosions, search for and pinpoint X-ray signals accompanying gravitational wave events, and discover dormant black holes and other celestial objects at the far reaches of the universe.

PTI



- China launched the Einstein Probe (EP), a new astronomical satellite, to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe.
- The satellite, shaped like a lotus in full bloom, consists of wide-field X-ray telescopes (WXT) and follow-up X-ray telescopes (FXT).
- It aims to capture the first light from supernova explosions, search for X-ray signals accompanying gravitational wave events, and discover dormant black holes and other celestial objects.
- The satellite's X-ray detection technology is inspired by lobster-eye telescopes.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express: Space (GSIII)-Page 13

What is the Square Kilometer Array project, significance of India joining it

India is set to get full member status to the Square Kilometer Array. What is this project, and how will joining it help India's scientific community?



- India had decided to formally join the **Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project**, an international scientific collaboration working to build the world's largest radio telescope.
- The Square Kilometer Array will not be a single large telescope, but a collection of thousands of dish antennas operating as a single unit. The name, Square Kilometer Array, comes from the original intention to create one square kilometre (one million square metre) of effective area for collecting radio waves.
- **Do you know ?** India has already decided to build a gravitational wave detector to join the international LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) network, and is a full member of the ITER project, which is working to harness energy from nuclear fusion reactions.
- India also has a strong participation in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator that is running some of the most exciting experiments in particle physics.

Indian Express: Economy (GSIII)-Page 17

World Bank retains India growth forecasts for FY24, FY25

WORLD ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE WORLD Bank on Tuesday retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.3 per cent for the current financial year, and 6.4 per cent for the next, citing slow post-pandemic recovery. "India is anticipated to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies, but its post-pandemic recovery is expected to slow, with estimated growth of

6.3 per cent in FY2023/24," the Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report.

The multilateral agency has stuck to the growth estimate for India made in June, despite the National Statistical Office in its first advance estimates recently pegging the country's real GDP expansion in the current fiscal year, at 7.3 per cent.

"Growth is then expected to recover gradually, edging up to 6.4 per cent in FY2024/25 and 6.5 per cent in FY2025/26," the World

Bank said of India. The report noted that the slowdown in India growth to 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 from 9.1 per cent in 2021-22, was primarily due to a weakening post-pandemic rebound, particularly in private investment and consumption. However, a strong performance in 2023 was underpinned by robust public investment growth and vibrant services activity.

The World Bank, however, warned that global growth in 2024 is set to slow for a third year

in a row, in what could delay poverty reduction and exacerbate debt levels in many developing countries. Global GDP is likely to grow 2.4 per cent in 2024, it said. That compares to 2.6 per cent in 2023, 3 per cent in 2022 and 6.2 per cent in 2021 when there was a rebound as the pandemic ended.

Speaking about India, the World Bank report said, merchandise exports slowed, reflecting weak external demand. Headline consumer price inflation remained within monetary author-

ities' target band of 2-6 per cent throughout most of 2023, with policy rates being kept unchanged since February 2023, it said.

"Investment is envisaged to decelerate marginally but remain robust, supported by higher public investment and improved corporate balance sheets. Private consumption growth is likely to taper off, as the post-pandemic pent-up demand diminishes and persistent high food price inflation is likely to constrain spending," the World Bank said. FE

- The World Bank kept its FY25 economic growth projection for India unchanged at 6.4 per cent, mainly on account of strong domestic demand, rising public infrastructure spending and strong private-sector credit growth. However, it projected that the private consumption growth might taper off due to high food inflation and diminishing pent-up demand.
- In its biannual 'Global Economic Prospects' report, the World Bank said India was likely to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies, but its post-pandemic recovery was expected to slow, with estimated growth of 6.3 per cent in FY24, before recovering gradually to 6.5 per cent in FY26.
- Global growth is projected to slow for the third year in a row—from 2.6% last year to 2.4% in 2024,