



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS JAN-FEB 2023 for BANK/SSC/RAILWAY Examination

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament
- PM Modi to inaugurate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Indore today
- China launches its first semi high-speed hydrogen train, gets 600 km range
- First G-20 meeting to take place in Puducherry on Jan 31, says LG Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

OUR
ACHIEVERS
2021-2022



ANIMESH
IBPS PO



ANJALI GRAG
IBPS PO



HIMANSHI
RRB PO



VEENA MANJUNATH
RRB PO



PRAMOD
SBI PO



PREETI
SSC GD



SAYED SHARZIL ALI
IBPS CLERK & SO



SACHIN PAL
CDS

Many more...

FOREWORD

Dear Aspirants,

As we all know, the Civil Services Exam (CSE) is becoming more and more challenging due to the day by day increase in unpredictability. We at PLUTUS Academy developed this magazine keeping in mind the unpredictable nature of the Civil Services Exam. The development of the magazine is in such a chronological order that it gives conceptual clarity to aspirants at first glance. Each and every topic contains relevant sources and articles, an aspirant should first go through the original article and try to get conceptual grasp and make notes from them. After that they should read the topics from magazines. An aspirant should also try to make note of the keywords relevant for mains preparation. In this way an aspirant will move towards the unending ocean of civil services preparation with clarity and confidence.

Our PLUTUS Academy team wishes you All the Best for your career. Do hard work and be consistent in your journey, it will definitely give results. May you all crack the Civil Services Examination with flying colours.

Team
PLUTUS Academy

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CURRENTS AFFAIRS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

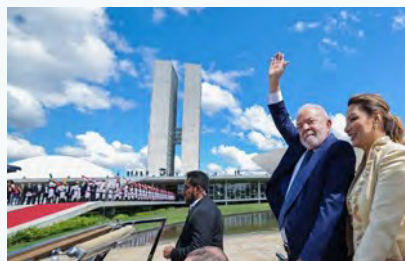
NATIONAL NEWS

Anil Kumar Lahoti takes over charge of new Chairman & CEO of Railway Board



- Anil Kumar Lahoti has taken over the charge of new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Anil Kumar Lahoti.
- Prior to this, Mr. Lahoti has worked as Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board.
- During his more than 36 years of career in railways, he has worked in various capacities over Central, Northern, North Central, Western and West Central Railways and in Railway Board.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva sworn in as 39th president of Brazil



- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been sworn in as the 39th president of Brazil following the 2022 Brazilian general election.
- 77-year-old Lula narrowly defeated Jair Bolsonaro in October to win an unprecedented third presidential term after a hiatus that saw him spend a year and a half behind bars on corruption convictions that were later overturned.

- In his previous years as Workers Party (PT) president from 2003 to 2010, the former union leader lifted millions of Brazilians from poverty during a commodity boom that boosted the economy.

Former Pope Benedict XVI passes away at his Vatican residence



- Pope Emeritus died at 9:34 this morning in his residence at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery according to the Holy See Press office reports.
- The health conditions of Pope Emeritus had worsened due to advancing age.
- Earlier Pope Francis himself publicly shared the news about his predecessor's worsening health at the end of the last General Audience of the year, on 28 December.
- During a briefing at the Holy See Press office at midday, the director, Matteo Bruni, told journalists that Pope Francis will preside over the funeral of the Pope Emeritus on 5 January at 9.30 CET in St. Peter's Square.
- He added that as of Monday, the body of Benedict XVI will be lying in state in the Basilica so that the faithful who wish to do so may pay their last respects with prayers and a final farewell.
- Pope Benedict XVI led the Catholic Church for less than eight years until, in 2013, he became the first Pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415.
- He resigned from the papacy due to his ailing health. He spent his final years at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery within the walls of the Vatican. His successor Pope Francis visited him there frequently.
- Condolences poured in from around the world as The head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, said Pope Benedict was "one of the great theologians of the 20th century".

Koneru Humpy wins India's first ever Silver medal at World Blitz Chess Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan



- Former world rapid champion Koneru Humpy has won India's first-ever Silver med-

al in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

- Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round.
- Fourth seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
- Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.
- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has congratulated Humpy for winning the Silver medal at the World Blitz Chess Championships. In a tweet, Mr. Thakur called this yet another feather in the grandmaster's illustrious cap.

Hockey Haryana Women's U-18 team wins Khelo India Youth Games 2022



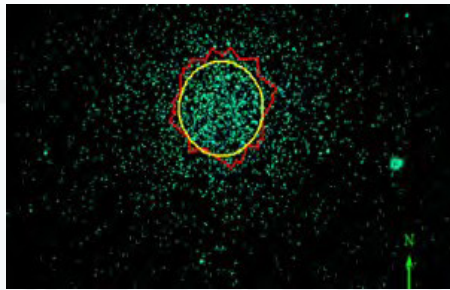
- Hockey Haryana's women's team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh (2-0) in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.
- Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.
- Best Goalkeeper: Kavita (Haryana)
- Best Defender: Yogita Verma (Madhya Pradesh)
- Best Midfielder: Manisha (Haryana)
- Best Striker: Bhushika Sahu (Madhya Pradesh)

Ajay Kumar Srivastava becomes new MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as executive director.
- He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country.
- He is an astute and hardcore banker with vast field-level experience and has the distinction of having successfully led the largest and most critical areas of Uttar

- Pradesh, Gujarat, and Delhi while working at a senior level in Allahabad Bank
- After the successful completion of about 27 years in Allahabad Bank he was elevated as Executive Director of IOB in October 2017.
 - He made strategies for each of the key areas and successfully implemented them at the ground level with the support of the Board.
 - He served the Bank as Executive Director for more than five years and handled all the departments and portfolios during the period.

Indian Institute of Astrophysics team surprised by their discovery on hot stars and white dwarfs



- A team of astronomers led by scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and their international collaborators decided to study the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, Omega Centauri.
- They have detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) image on AstroSat.
- They have found that these hot stars emitted much less ultraviolet radiation than expected from theoretical models and in comparison, with stars of another globular cluster, M13 has similar overall properties.
- A class of high-temperature stars was detected in the globular cluster Omega Centauri, the largest-known globular cluster in the Milky Way.
- Globular clusters are spherical aggregates of several thousand to millions of stars bound by gravity.
- These systems are thought to be formed early on in the Universe and can serve as perfect astrophysical laboratories for astronomers to understand how stars evolve through various phases.
- Omega Cen is believed to be the remnant of a small galaxy gravitationally disrupted long ago by the Milky Way

Prez Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Samvidhan Udyan at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur



- President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Jaipur today on a two-day visit to Rajasthan.
- She inaugurated Samvidhan Udyan at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur. President Murmu will also inaugurate the Transmission System for Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan and lay the foundation stone for one thousand Mega Watt Bikaner Solar Power Project virtually.
- She will also grace the launch of a National Campaign on 'RISE-Rising India through Spiritual Empowerment', organized by Brahma Kumaris.
- Tomorrow, the President will grace the inauguration of 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan.

Nation remembers first female teacher in Modern India, Savitri Bai Phule on her birth anniversary



- The nation is remembering the first female teacher in Modern India, Savitri Bai Phule on her birth anniversary today.
- She was born on 3rd January, 1831 in Naigaon, a small village in Maharashtra.
- Her life is heralded as a beacon of women's rights in India. She was married at the mere age of nine years to Jyotirao Phule in 1840.
- Impressed by her enthusiasm to learn, Jyotirao taught Savitribai to read and write. She undertook teachers' training and became a qualified teacher in 1847.
- Determined to change the condition of women in the country, Savitribai, along with Jyotirao, opened a school for girls in Pune in 1848.
- She became the first female teacher of India. Sympathizing with the plight of widows in the country, Savitribai also established a shelter for destitute women in 1864.
- Savitribai was instrumental in shaping Satyashodhak Samaj, established by Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.
- When the Bubonic plague spread across Maharashtra in the 1890s, Savitribai opened

a clinic for the plague victims in Hadapsar, Pune.

- And it was while carrying a 10-year-old plague victim to the clinic in her arms, she contracted the disease herself.

UPI processes record 7.82 bn transactions in December, ends 2022 on a high



- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed a record 7.82 billion transactions in December, worth a total of INR 12.82tn (\$174.6bn).
- This represents an increase of 7.12% in volume and 7.73% in value compared to November.
- On a year-on-year basis, volume and value increased by 71% and 55% respectively.
- In 2022, UPI processed over 74 billion transactions worth INR 125.94tn. In 2021, it processed 38 billion transactions worth INR 71.54tn.
- This represents a YoY increase of 90% in volume and 76% in value.
- UPI reached 1 billion transactions in October 2019, 2 billion in October 2020, and 3 billion in January 2021
- UPI was initially used mostly for P2P(Person-to-person) transactions, but has seen a significant shift towards P2M(Person-to-merchant) transactions in recent years.
- It is now the most popular payment method for P2M transactions in terms of volume.
- The adoption of the RuPay credit feature on UPI by larger credit issuers, including HDFC Bank and three public sector issuers, is expected to boost UPI transactions further

Srinagar: CRPF organizes Jashn-e-Chillai Kalan to engage with youth



- On the occasion of Chillai Kalan in the Kashmir Valley, 44 Bn CRPF organized a function "Jashn – e – Chillai Kalan" on 26/12/2022 at HMT Complex, Zainakote, Srinagar.
- During this competition, 54 participants (including 12 Female participants) from

Schools/colleges & other educational institutions were present along with their guardians & teachers.

- All the participants were awarded with appreciation certificates, prizes and the winners and runner ups of each event were awarded with the trophies.
- Further winners and runner ups from each event will be nominated for grand competition that is to be organized subsequently. Rishi Raj Sahay, Commandant 44 Bn, CRPF inaugurated the event
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is a federal police organization in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. It is one among the Central Armed Police Forces.
- The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.
- It is composed of Central Reserve Police Force (Regular) and Central Reserve Police Force (Auxiliary).
- It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939.
- After Indian independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.
- Besides law and order and counter-insurgency duties, the CRPF has played an increasingly large role in India's general elections.
- This is especially true for the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and in the North East, with the presence of unrest and often violent conflict.
- During the Parliamentary elections of September 1999, the CRPF played a major role in the security arrangements. Of late, CRPF contingents are also being deployed in UN missions

'SMART' programme launched to boost R&D in Ayurveda



- The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), the two prominent institutions under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched 'SMART' (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals).
- The program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

- The proposed initiative is conceptualised with an objective to identify, support and promote innovative research ideas in healthcare research areas including Osteoarthritis, Iron Deficiency Anaemia, Chronic Bronchitis, Dyslipidemia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus, Psoriasis, Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)”.
- The eligible Ayurveda academic institutions may apply by 10 January, 2023.
- All details regarding contact information, eligibility criteria and application process has been shared to all recognized academic institutions and hospitals through NCISM”.
- The large network of Ayurveda colleges and hospitals across the country is an asset for the country in terms of its healthcare needs.
- This network has not only been offering healthcare services in hardest times, but it also has contributed significantly in terms of healthcare research in the country

Croatia adopts euro, enters borderless Europe club



- Croatia has switched to the euro and entered Europe’s passport-free zone – two important milestones for the country after joining the European Union (EU) nearly a decade ago.
- At midnight, the Balkan nation bid farewell to its kuna currency and became the 20th member of the eurozone.
- It is now the 27th nation in the Schengen zone, the world’s largest passport-free travel area, which enables more than 400 million people to move freely around its members.
- Experts say the adoption of the euro will help shield Croatia’s economy at a time when inflation is soaring worldwide after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine sent food and fuel prices through the roof.
- But feelings among Croatians are mixed.
- While they welcome the end of border controls, some fear the euro switch will lead to an increase in the cost of living as businesses round up prices when they convert them.
- Experts say the adoption of the euro will lower borrowing conditions amid economic hardship.
- Croatia’s inflation rate reached 13.5 percent in November compared with 10 percent in the eurozone.
- Croatia’s entry into the Schengen borderless area is expected to provide a boost to the Adriatic nation’s key tourism industry, which accounts for 20 percent of its gross

domestic product (GDP)

Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute in Karnataka



- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka and inaugurated the residential and administrative complexes of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- The residential complexes of ITBP inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah include Residential Quarters, Joint Building, Barracks for 120 Jawans, Staff Officers' Mess and Officers' Mess.
- On this occasion, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Shri Prahlad Joshi and many other dignitaries were present
- CDTI would help in fulfilling all these objectives for the CAPFs as well as the police of neighboring States, which has been running since 1956.
- Shri Amit Shah said the centers built in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad and Rajasthan have made huge contributions and now the Government of India will work towards bringing equality among all these centers through coordination and support of BPR&D.
- The government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has made efforts to equip personnel of security forces, especially border guarding forces, with latest technology, increase their housing satisfaction ratio and fulfill requirements of personnel and their families.
- As a continuation of these efforts, today the Foundation Stone of CDTI is being laid and various residential buildings of ITBP are being inaugurated.

Last surviving NASA's Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham dies at 90



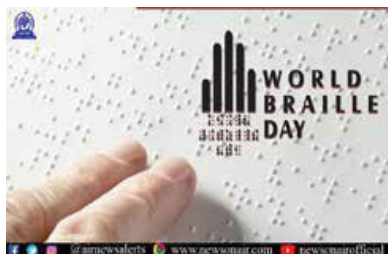
- The last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission in NASA's Apollo programme, Walter Cunningham has died at the age of 90.
- NASA has confirmed Cunningham's demise. However, the cause of the death has not been confirmed.
- NASA's Administrator, Bill Nelson said, Cunningham was an explorer whose work also laid the foundation for the agency's new Artemis moon programme.
- Cunningham was one of the three astronauts aboard the 1968 Apollo 7 mission, an 11-day spaceflight, that beamed live television broadcasts as they orbited Earth, paving the way for the moon landing less than a year later.

Two-year ban on foreigners buying homes in Canada comes into effect



- In Canada, a two-year ban on foreigners buying homes has come into effect.
- In a statement, the federal housing Minister Ahmed Hussen said, the ban is meant to discourage buyers from looking at homes as commodities instead of a place to live and grow a family.
- The ban prohibits people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents from buying residential properties and imposes a fine of 10,000 Canadian Dollar on those who breach it.
- According to media reports, the ban aims to help ease one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the world.
- It said, as of this summer, the average home price in Canada is 568,000 dollars, which is more than 11 times high comparatively the median household average income.
- Meanwhile, New Zealand also passed similar legislation banning foreign homebuyers in 2018 as the country grappled with its own housing affordability crisis.

World Braille Day is being observed today



- World Braille Day is being observed today. It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realisation of the human rights of the visually impaired and partially sighted people.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of French educator Louis Braille, who invented the Braille language in the year 1809.
- The National Federation of the Blind, today organised a programme in New Delhi to mark the day.
- Talking to AIR News, General Secretary of the Federation, S K Rungta highlighted the importance of the day in the life of the visually impaired.
- He said despite technological developments, Braille can not be substituted.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh



- Defense minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Siyom bridge in Arunachal Pradesh, along with 27 other infrastructure projects completed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Built at a cost of 724 crore rupees, these projects will hugely augment India's border infrastructure, mostly along the Chinese border, from Ladakh to Arunachal.
- 21 other bridges, three roads and three additional infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Punjab and Rajasthan, were virtually inaugurated by Rajnath Singh from the Siyom bridge site.
- Singh also virtually inaugurated the 27 other projects of the BRO.
- Out of these, eight have been constructed in Ladakh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, five in Arunachal Pradesh, three each in Sikkim, Punjab and Uttarakhand and two in Rajasthan.

Defence Ministry Starts Process To Buy 100 More K-9 Vajra Howitzers



- K9-Vajra: The Defence Ministry has started the process for the procurement of 100 more K9-Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers which are built in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) using technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defence.
- At the height of tensions in eastern Ladakh in 2020, the Army deployed one regiment of K-9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers there to augment its long-range fire power in the backdrop of a massive build-up of forces by China across the Line of Actual Control.
- Buoyed by their performance, the Army is looking at eventually procuring 200 additional guns.
- The induction of Dhanush, K-9 Vajra and M777 Ultra Light Howitzers has enhanced the reach of artillery firepower on the northern borders
- The K9 Vajra is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer built by L&T with technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense based on its K9 Thunder.
- The 100th gun was delivered to the Army in February 2021, the contract for which was signed in May 2017.
- The contract also involved maintenance transfer of technology to an Army base workshop to support the howitzers throughout their operational life cycle.
- The K9 Vajra was mainly bought for use in deserts, but the standoff prompted them to be deployed in the mountains as well, officials had stated earlier

50 Electric Buses launched in Delhi with support under FAME India Phase II scheme



- 50 electric buses were launched in Delhi with support under the FAME India Phase II scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- In 2019, the government approved Rs 10,000 crore for a period of three years.
- Out of total budgetary support, about 86 percent of the fund has been allocated for incentives so as to create demand for electric vehicles.
- Electric Vehicles are vehicles that are partially or fully powered on electric power.
- They have low running costs and are also very environmentally friendly as they use little or no fossil fuels (petrol or diesel).
- These vehicles can solve the problems of increasing pollution, global warming, de-

pleting natural resources etc

- Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said that the government has placed an order for 3,538 electric buses. Of these, a total of 1,716 buses have been deployed so far.
- The Union Territory of Delhi had sanctioned 400 electric buses – 300 to the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for intra-city operations and 100 to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for last-mile connectivity – in August 2019.
- A total of 250 buses have already been deployed by DTC and now the remaining 50 buses have been launched fulfilling MHI's commitment of providing 300 electric buses to DTC.

China launches its first semi high-speed hydrogen train, gets 600 km range



- China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a hydrogen urban train, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world.
- Germany introduced green trains a few months back. The hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km.
- The trains launched by Germany have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the 'World's Greenest Train' soon.
- India will get its first-ever Indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023.
- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that Indian Railways is working on new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing them
- The hydrogen train was developed on the basis of a high-speed platform and includes 4 cars with it.
- CRRC also introduced such a shunting locomotive in 2021 and hydrogen trams were produced earlier in the mid-2010s.
- The train will also get Digital solutions from the CRRC including GoA2 automation, component monitoring sensors, and 5G data transmission equipment.
- It is expected that the operation of the train will reduce CO2 emissions compared to diesel traction by 10 tons per year

All about the world's longest river cruise that PM Narendra Modi will flag off on January 13



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the world's longest river cruise, "Ganga Vilas" from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh, Assam on 13th January 2023.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has informed us that all preparations for the arrival of the Prime Minister and the launch ceremony in Varanasi should be finished
- The "Ganga Vilas" cruise will travel 3,200 kilometers from Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh.
- It will make stops at more than 50 significant architectural locations including World Heritage Sites, as it will travel through rivers of India and Bangladesh.
- The Sundarbans Delta and Kaziranga National Park are only two of the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- The Ganga Vilas cruise, which departed Kolkata on December 22 with 32 Swiss visitors abroad, will arrive in Varanasi on 6th January.
- According to the Director of Ganga Vilas Cruises, Raj Singh, Swiss visitors will travel to Varanasi and explore the city's spiritual and religious sites.

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IIT Madras & DRDO tie-up for Advanced Defence Technologies



- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is operating a Research Centre dedicated to defence technologies jointly with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop advanced technologies for the national defence and security needs of the nation.
- It was established by DRDO but IIT Madras has now taken over and converted it into a centre of excellence
- Called 'DRDO Industry Academia- Ramanujan Centre of Excellence' (DIA-RCoE), this centre has been established to conduct directed research in advanced technologies for defence and security and to create a world-class research centre developing cutting-edge technologies.
- It will also make a major contribution towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector.
- Established based on the 'Long Term Directed Research Policy' of the Defence Ministry, Government of India

Election Commission appoints Maithili Thakur as Bihar's state icon



- Folk singer Maithili Thakur was appointed the state icon for Bihar by the Election Commission.
- The singer will create awareness among the voters for their participation in the electoral process.
- This recognition will give her (Maithili) more impetus to spread Bihar's folk music across continents and generate awareness about the importance of participating in the electoral process
- Maithili, born in Bihar's Madhubani district, along with her two brothers, were trained by their grandfather and father in folk, Hindustani classical music, harmonium and tabla.
- She has rendered traditional folk songs of Bihar in Maithili, Bhojpuri and Hindi.
- Thakur, trained in Indian classical and folk music, was recently selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar of the Sangeet Natak Akademi for her contribution to the folk music of Bihar for 2021.

Bank of Singapore confirms Jason Moo as new CEO



- Bank of Singapore (BoS), the private banking arm of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), announced that it has appointed Jason Moo as its new CEO.
- BoS's announcement comes after Bloomberg's article on Dec 26, 2022. Moo will succeed Bahren Shaari officially from March 6 onwards.
- Moo comes with over 25 years of experience in private banking, wealth management and capital markets.
- This includes 22 years in Goldman Sachs, as well as time spent in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore. From 2017 to 2019, Moo was the CEO for Goldman Sachs (Singapore).

- Moo joins BoS from Julius Baer where he was head of private banking, Southeast Asia and branch manager Singapore. Aside from Singapore, he has also worked in New York and Hong Kong. Shaari was appointed CEO in 2015.
- Under his leadership, the bank successfully integrated Barclays Asia after the acquisition, and grew its assets under management from US\$55 billion to US\$109 billion as at September 30 2022.

India to take over leadership of Asian Pacific Postal Union



- India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023.
- Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.
- This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022
- There are 32 members in this international organisation from the Asia-Pacific. It is a specific department inside the UN.
- The sole Restricted Union of the Universal Postal in the area is this one. The Asia Pacific Postal Union's headquarters are in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It was formed by International treaty through an Asian-Pacific Postal Convention signed in Yogyakarta on 27 March 1981.
- The organisation has origins dating back to 1961.
- Secretary general leads the activities of the Union and is also the director of the Asian Pacific Postal College (APPC) which is the largest inter-governmental postal training institute in the region

Ministry of Railways reveals some of the cleanest Railway Stations in India



- India is home to the second-largest platform in the world. In addition, one of the main train stations in India are the New Delhi Railway Station and Mumbai Central Railway Station.
- Usually, the question is which are the cleanest railway stations in India, but here we will see the dirtiest railway stations in India.
- In addition to direct observation, QCI assessors gathered comments from 1.2 million passengers to determine which Indian railway stations were the cleanest and dirtiest.
- In accordance with revenue creation, the ranking has classified Indian railway stations into a number of categories for the third consecutive year.
- There are 75 railway stations in the A1 category that generate more than 75 crore in annual passenger income.
- There are 332 stations that are classified as A stations since they bring in between 6 and 50 crores in annual passenger income
- Cleanest railways stations: Bikaner, Patna, Bhopal, Mumbai CST, Jaisalmer, Guwahati
- Dirtiest Railway station: Perungalathur (Tamil Nadu),
- Guindy (Tamil Nadu),
- Delhi Sadar Bazar,
- Velacheri (Tamil Nadu),

All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water



- Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the “1st All India Annual State Minister Conference on Water” with the theme of “Water Vision@2027” in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 5th and 6th January 2023.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivaraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat felicitated the occasion
- The Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel was also present during the event.
- The primary objective of the 2-day conference was to gather inputs for India@2027 and the 5P vision from the different water stakeholders of the state, water being a state subject, and improve engagement and partnership with states
- The government is deliberating on the preparation of the Action Plan and Vision Document of India@2027 according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to

make India a developed Nation in 2027.

- The Prime minister has proclaimed the 5P mantras which include Political will, Public Financing, Partnerships, Public Participation, and Persuasion for sustainability.
- India's water sector will play a significant role in achieving the heights India strives to reach in the next few years.
- The first All India Annual State Ministers Conference on Water was held in Bhopal, Madhya from 5th January to 6th January 2023.

Bandhan Bank launched 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign



- Bandhan Bank launched the 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign along with the bank's brand ambassador Sourav Ganguly.
- 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' is an integrated marketing campaign in which the company has emphasized the 'trust' that the brand has been able to earn in a span of seven years as a bank
- The marketing campaign of the bank will have a 360-degree approach across TV, Print, OOH, Cinema, and Digital media.
- The campaign first went live on digital media and will go live in other media in a few days.
- The campaign shows parallels with Sourav Ganguly's career, who became its customer soon after the bank was launched seven years ago.
- The ad film shows Sourav Ganguly, reminiscing earlier days in his career when he wasn't a star and there were only a few spectators in the group.
- He worked hard and started scoring runs and established himself as a dependable member.
- He gained the trust of millions and brought more people to the stand. Similarly, Bandhan began as an NGO and started expanding and its work received recognition from stakeholders.

Centre declares The Resistance Front a terrorist organization



- The TRF came into existence in 2019 as a proxy outfit of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a proscribed terrorist organization.
- The Home Ministry said that TRF is recruiting youth through online mediums for the furtherance of terrorist activities.
- Centre has declared The Resistance Front (TRF) as a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, UAPA
- Officials said TRF is a new name given by Pakistan to LeT. "Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammad had religious connotations and Pakistan did not want that.
- They wanted to make Kashmir militancy appear indigenous. Hence, they opted for 'Resistance' — that has some currency in global politics — in its name," an official said.
- In a notification, the Ministry said that the organisation had been involved in carrying out propaganda on terror activities, recruitment of terrorists, infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Resistance Front is also involved in psychological operations on social media platforms for inciting people of Jammu and Kashmir to join terrorist outfits against Indian State

Homeopathic Physician & teacher Dr AK Dwivedi's book 'Human Anatomy' released by Governor of MP



- Dr AK Dwivedi is Homeopathic Doctor of Indore Professor & HOD Physiology SKRP Gujarati Homeopathic Medical College Indore and member of Scientific Advisory Board in the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH (Govt. of India)
- The Foreword (Preface) of this book has been written by Dr. Mohan Yadav, Minister of Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh Government and President of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Academy, Bhopal.
- Introduction of the book is written by Shri Ashok Kadel Director Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Academy, Bhopal.
- Other co-writers of the Book are Dr Vaibhav Chaturvedi & Dr Kanak Dwivedi (Chaturvedi).
- As per Writer Dr Ashvini Kumar Dwivedi There are 12 chapters such as Introduction to Human Body, Bone & Joints, Muscles & tissues, Nervous System, Endocrine System Circulatory System Lymphatic System Respiratory System Gastrointestinal Excretory & reproductive System are included in this book

Jaydev Unadkat's historic first-over Ranji Trophy hat-trick wrecks Delhi



- Saurashtra's Jaydev Unadkat made a slice of Ranji Trophy history, becoming the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the opening over.
- The left-arm pacer destroyed Delhi by adding two more in the next over in a career-best eight-wicket haul in the Elite Group B match in Rajkot.
- Unadkat's hat-trick victims included opener Dhruv Shorey, Vaibhav Rawal and young Delhi captain Yash Dhull, all of whom departed for duck.
- Unadkat's finishing with career-best figures of 8/39 in his 12 overs.
- Delhi, who lost 7 wickets for just 10 runs, didn't face ignominy of lowest first-class score of 6 by a team called 'The B's' against England in an official match held in 1810
- No one had managed a first-over hat-trick in the 89-year history of the premier domestic competition.
- The previous record of the fastest Ranji hat-trick belonged to Karnataka pacer Vinay Kumar, who achieved the feat in the 2017-18 quarter-final against Mumbai.
- Kumar's effort was spread across the first and third overs of the match

First G-20 meeting to take place in Puducherry on Jan 31, says LG Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan



- Puducherry Lieutenant governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said that the first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on 31st January.
- The G20 logo for the meeting was released by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan at a function held at Beach Road Gandhi Tidal.
- Dr. Tamisai thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving all the states the opportunity to host the G-20 meetings.
- He released stickers, posters and badges and also inaugurated a selfie booth in the presence of Chief Minister Rengasamy.
- These programs will be organised in different parts of the country in different segments.
- Kolkata will host the first meeting on the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.
- Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai will host a meeting on education, while Guwahati will host the first sustainable financial meeting and Chandigarh will host the first financial architecture meeting.

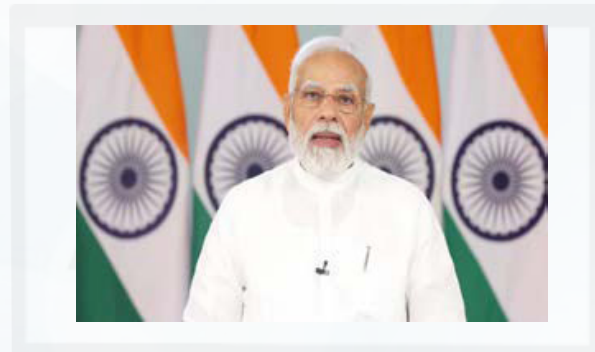
Odisha CM Patnaik inaugurates India's biggest hockey stadium in Rourkela



- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inaugurated one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.
- Built at an estimated cost of ₹261 crore, the stadium, located in Sundargarh district, has been christened as Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex.
- It has been built in 50 acres in a record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000.
- The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting.

- The State has also built a World Cup village, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months
- Also known as Dharti Aaba (Father of Earth)
- Having gained awareness of the British colonial ruler and the efforts of the missionaries to convert tribals to Christianity, Birsa started the faith of 'Birsait'.
- Munda Rebellion led by Birsa Munda in the south of Ranchi in 1899-1900.
- The 'Ulgulan' or the 'Great Tumult' as the movement came to be called, aimed at establishing Munda Raj by driving out the British.
- On 3rd March, 1900, Birsa Munda was arrested by the British police while he was sleeping with his tribal guerilla army at Jamkopai forest in Chakradharpur (Jharkhand). Birsa died of cholera in the jail and the movement faded out.

PM Modi to inaugurate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Indore today



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Indore in Madhya Pradesh today, January 9.
- In a message, Mr. Modi said he is looking forward to being in Indore to mark the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- Prime Minister said, this is a great opportunity to deepen the connection with the Indian diaspora, which has distinguished itself globally.
- The three-day Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention began in Indore yesterday, January 8.
- President of Guyana, Dr. Mohd. Irfan Ali will be the chief guest and the President of Suriname Chandrikaprasad Santokhi will be the special guest for the inaugural ceremony.
- The theme of the conference is "Pravasis: Reliable Partners in India's Progress in the Age of Amrit".
- AIR correspondent reports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will talk to various leaders.
- He will also release a special postage stamp "Go Safe, Go Trained", which will highlight the importance of safe, legal, orderly and efficient migration.

PM Modi congratulates people of Manipur on opening of Kangla Nongpok Thong in Manipur



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the people of Manipur on opening of Kangla Nongpok Thong in Manipur.
- The Eastern Gate of Kangla is considered to be the pathway to peace, prosperity and happiness for the people of Manipur.
- In response to a tweet by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, Mr. Modi hoped that the spirit of peace, prosperity and happiness will be enhanced across the state.
- The Chief Minister had said that the opening of Kangla Nongpok Thong has a very important cultural significance.

International Kite Festival 2023 to begin in Ahmedabad, Gujarat today



- The International Kite Festival 2023 will begin in Ahmedabad, Gujarat today. Governor Acharya Devvrat will inaugurate the festival at Sabarmati Riverfront this morning.
- The festival is being organized by Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- Apart from Ahmedabad, the International Kite festival will also be organized in Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Somnath, Dhordo, and Kevadia.
- AIR correspondent reports that after a gap of 2 years, skies over the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad will be adorned with colorful unique Kites.
- More than 800 kite flyers from across India and the world will participate and display their unique creations in this Festival.
- This year, kite enthusiasts from different countries will fly Kites at the same time attempting to create a Guinness World Record for the maximum number of kite flyers.

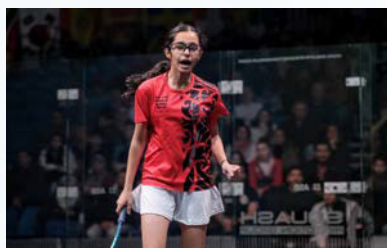
- Talking to AIR, Managing Director of Gujarat Tourism Alok Kumar Pandey, said that the festival will promote India's G-20 presidency.
- A special Parade by international and national kite flyers, a theme pavilion displaying the history of kites, and workshops on making and flying kites are among the major attractions of the festival this year.

Surya Kumar Yadav becomes fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20I



- Suryakumar Yadav has become the fastest player to reach 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket in terms of balls faced. He took only 843 balls to reach this landmark.
- However, he is the third-fastest batter to reach the 1,500-run mark in terms of innings.
- The fastest batters to reach this landmark are Indian batter Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Australian veteran Aaron Finch and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who all took 39 innings to score 1,500 runs in T20 International cricket.
- Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammed Rizwan reached the milestone in 42 innings and Suryakumar did so in 43 innings.
- In 45 matches and 43 innings, Suryakumar has scored 1,578 runs at an average of 46.41. He has three centuries and 13 half-centuries in the format, with the best individual score of 117.

Anahat Singh clinches Girls U-15 squash title at British Junior Open tournament in Birmingham



- Indian squash prodigy Anahat Singh clinched the girls Under-15 squash title at the most prestigious British Junior Open tournament in Birmingham.
- The 14-year-old defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt, 3-1 in the final. Despite the first set being closely contested, she took the lead and won the tournament.
- The British Junior Open is held in January every year in the UK where all the best players from all over the world compete to win the coveted title.
- This year it was held after a Covid-induced gap of two years from the 4th to the 8th of January.

Former Bengal governor Keshari Nath Tripathi passes away



- Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former West Bengal governor, Keshari Nath Tripathi passed away at 88.
- Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court.
- He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement
- A senior advocate of Allahabad high court, Tripathi served as a member of the UP Legislative Assembly six times.
- He represented the Jhansi seat between 1977-1980) and Allahabad South seat for five consecutive terms between 1989-2007).
- He also served as the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly thrice between 1991 and 2004.
- On July 14, 2014, Tripathi was appointed as the governor of West Bengal.
- He had additional charge of Bihar as governor twice and additional charge as governor of Meghalaya and Mizoram as well.
- An active leader who was admired across ranks in the BJP, Tripathi was elected MLA for the first time in 1977 from Jhansi assembly constituency in Prayagraj district.
- He went on to win six more Assembly elections and his last victory was in 2002 from Allahabad South seat.
- He contested the 2007 and 2012 Assembly polls too but faced defeat both the times

CJI Chandrachud to be conferred with 'Award for Global Leadership' by Harvard Law School Center



- The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession (HLS CLP) has announced Chief Justice

of India Dr. DY Chandrachud as the 2022 recipient of its “Award for Global Leadership” in recognition of his lifetime service to the legal profession in India and across the world.

- The award will be presented to him in a virtual event on 11th January 2023.
- Professor David Wilkins of Harvard Law School will have a conversation with Chief Justice Dr. DY Chandrachud at the event.
- The “Award for Global Leadership” is the Centre’s highest Professional Honor.
- The Centre brings together leading academics, legal practitioners, and thought leaders to honor and recognize individuals whose achievements have been impactful to the legal profession.
- Professor Wilkins has praised India and Justice Chandrachud’s contribution to issues such as the mental health and well-being of lawyers.
- The last recipients include Ambassador Samantha Power, Former US Permanent Representative to the United Nations and current Director of the Agency for International Development; Brad Smith, Vice Chair of Microsoft, and Kenneth Frazier, former Chair and CEO of Merck.

India surpasses Japan to become 3rd largest auto market globally



- In a major development, India has surpassed Japan in terms of auto sales last year to become the third-largest auto market globally for the first time.
- India’s total sales of new vehicles stood at around 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan.
- While new vehicles that got delivered in India totaled 4.13 million during the period of January – November 2022, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers’ data, December’s sales volume reported by Maruti Suzuki, India’s largest carmaker, led the total to hit the 4.25 million units mark.
- The figure for sales of new vehicles in India may witness even bigger rise as the country further expects inclusion of pending fourth-quarter sales data for commercial vehicles, along with year-end results yet to be released by Tata Motors and other automakers
- The figures are impressive after fluctuations that were witnessed in the Indian auto industry between 2018-2020.
- From In 2019, volume had fallen even below the 4 million unit mark from the about 4.4 million

figure of 2018.

- A lot of this downfall was a result of the credit crunch that had impacted the nonbank sector that year.
- This was followed by the obvious decline in the year 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak when vehicle sales fell even lower than the 3 million unit mark.
- In 2021, the auto sales bounced back to close to 4 million unit again. However, the sales figure was hampered because of shortage of automotive

Five Indian movies including The Kashmir Files shortlisted for Oscar Awards 2023 in 1st list



- Bollywood film 'Kashmir Files' has been shortlisted for Oscars 2023.
- The film director Vivek Agnihotri informed about the shortlisting of this film in the Oscar.
- The Kashmir Files revolves around the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the year 1990.
- Other films, Kantara, RRR, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Chhhello Show have been also shortlisted for Oscars 2023.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said that it is a matter of pride for everybody that Indian films have been shortlisted for Oscars.
- In an exclusive interview to AIR News, veteran actor Anupam Kher has expressed happiness over the shortlisting of The Kashmir Files for Oscars 2023.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur lays foundation stone of Indoor Stadium at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Rajasthan



- Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur laid the foundation stone of the Indoor Stadium at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Chittorgarh in Rajasthan today, January 9.

- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Thakur said, till the year 2014, the budget for sports used to be 800 crore rupees, which has now been increased to 3,000 crore rupees by the Modi government.
- The Minister said that the sports scenario in the country has been completely changed through the Khelo India campaign.
- Mr. Thakur said that the Central Government spends more than 6 lakh rupees on the training of each player in the Khelo India campaign.
- The Union Sports Minister said that former sportspersons are also being employed in the country through the Khelo India campaign.
- Mr. Thakur said the central government plans to open 1000 centers across the country under the Khelo India campaign.
- He said that out of this 750 centers have been opened and the remaining 250 centers would be opened by August this year.

India, Japan to hold joint exercise to promote air defence cooperation



- India and Japan are all set to hold the joint Air Exercise, 'Veer Guardian-2023' involving the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) at Hyakuri Air Base, Japan from 12th of January.
- The Joint Exercise which will continue till 26th January aims at promoting Air Defence cooperation between the countries.
- The Indian contingent participating in the air exercise will include four Su-30 MKI, two C-17 and one IL-78 aircraft, while the JASDF will be participating with four F-2 and four F-15 aircraft.
- The Ministry of Defence in a statement said that the inaugural exercise will include the conduct of various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces.
- They will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices.
- Experts from both sides will also hold discussions to share their expertise on varied operational aspects.
- Exercise 'Veer Guardian' will fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defence cooperation between the two Air Forces.

DRDO develops unmanned aerial vehicle for operations in Himalayan frontier



- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier.
- The DRDO-developed UAV is capable of flying in the Himalayan Environment with 5kg of payload and even dropping bombs in the areas required.
- The UAV was displayed at the 108th Indian Science Congress by DRDO.
- The organization has carried out successful trials of the multi-copter conducted at Sikkim at an altitude of 14,000 feet.
- The UAV will be ready for induction into the Armed forces after two remaining trials.
- The UAV developed by DRDO has been developed with a payload capacity of 5 kg to 25 kg and it is working on increasing the capacity up to 30 kg.
- The Multi-copter can carry out the autonomous mission with waypoint navigation within up to a 5 km radius.
- It can also travel to a designated location in auto mode and release payload and return to the home location.
- It can be used to drop a bomb at an enemy site without any risk of human loss.

Gareth Bale announces retirement from football



- Gareth Bale has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 33.
- It brings an end to a career that saw Bale excel for Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid and LAFC, while also establishing himself as one of the greatest players in Welsh football history.
- Bale, who made his Wales debut in May 2006 in a friendly against Trinidad and Tobago, broke the previous Wales record of 28 goals set by Ian Rush.
- He has won Wales' player of the year award six times.

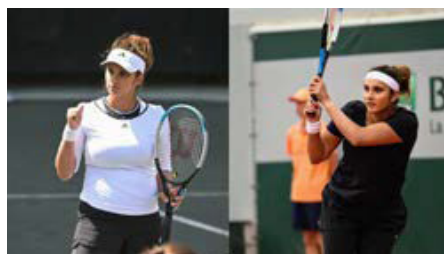
- Bale played a Wales record of 111 games for his country and was a five-time Champions League winner with Real Madrid.
- He helped the Welsh reach the 2016 and 2020 Euros before leading them in their first World Cup since 1958 at Qatar 2022.

Amit Shah inaugurates 120-foot-tall polo statue in Manipur



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a 120-foot-tall statue of a polo player riding a polo at Marjing Polo Complex in Imphal, Manipur.
- Manipur is known as the birthplace of the game polo.
- Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh was also present during the inauguration ceremony and gave a polo mallet and a painting of the game to Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The union Home minister will proceed to Churachandpur, where he will inaugurate the hill district's first medical college and hospital.
- He will proceed to Moirang in the Bishnupur district, where he will hoist the National Flag and address the public.
- He will also be laying the foundation stone for a project worth Rs 1,300 crore.
- He will lay the foundation stone for the construction of 40 police outposts, 34 of which will be along the India-Myanmar international border and six along National Highway 37.

Sania Mirza Announces Retirement



- Indian Tennis Player Sania Mirza (36-year-old), the former doubles World No. 1, has confirmed her retirement from professional Tennis.
- She announced that the Dubai Tennis Championships, a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 event in Dubai in February 2023 will be her last match.
- Prior to her last appearance, she is going to play in women's doubles at the Australian Open in 16

to 29 January 2023 alongside Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina

- She has won six Grand Slam doubles titles
- She won her first grand slam in 2009 by winning Australian Open Mixed doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi. The pair also won the French Open 2012.
- She won her 3rd mixed doubles title at the US Open in 2014 with Brazil's Bruno Soares.
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis of Switzerland won 3 women's doubles – Wimbledon 2015, the US Open 2015 and the Australian Open 2016
- Mirza became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005.
- In 2007, She was ranked among the 30 and also reached her career-high ranking of world number 27 (Singles).

Djokovic saves match point to beat Korda for Adelaide crown



- Novak Djokovic has defeated America's Sebastian Korda in a nerve-wracking final to win the Adelaide International men's singles title. Djokovic also equalled Rafael Nadal's tally of 92 ATP singles titles in the Open Era.
- Nadal and Djokovic are joint-fourth in the list after Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94).
- In the women's final at Adelaide International 1, Aryna Sabalenka won the women's singles by defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic. This was her 11th WTA Tour singles title.
- It is the 3rd edition for women and the 2nd edition for men.
- It was held at the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre from January 1-8, 2023.
- The prize money for the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) is \$672,735, and for WTA (Women's Tennis Association) is \$826,837.
- It is a tennis tournament on the 2023 ATP Tour and the 2023 WTA Tour. It is a combined ATP Tour 250 and WTA 500 tournament

DRDO carries out successful test launch of short-range ballistic missile Prithvi II off Odisha coast



- The Ministry of Defence said that Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO, successfully carried out a training launch of a Short-Range Ballistic Missile, Prithvi-II from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- It said that the Prithvi-II missile is a well-established system and has been an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence.
- The Ministry said that the missile struck its target with high accuracy.
- The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile.

RRR wins Golden Globe award for Best Original Song for Naatu Naatu



- Indian film RRR's super hit song Natu Natu has won the prestigious Golden Globe award for Best Original Song.
- The history creating track from the director SS Rajamouli's blockbuster movie is composed by MM Keeravani.
- The singers are Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj. "Naatu Naatu," which became an anthem of sorts for the Rajamouli fans, is a dance number featuring Jr NTR and Ram Charan.
- It created ripples for its elaborate choreography and musical storytelling.
- Natu Natu left behind Taylor Swift's "Carolina" from Where the Crawdads Sing, "Ciao Papa" from Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, Lady Gaga's "Hold My Hand" from Top Gun: Maverick, and "Lift Me Up" from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, performed by Rihanna.
- The historical epic, RRR has also been nominated in the Best Non-English Language Film category at the 80th Golden Globes. The awards are considered a precursor for the Oscars.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the entire RRR Movie team for winning the best original song award for Naatu Naatu at the Golden Globe Awards.

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates 'Jai Hind- The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort



- Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Jai Hind- The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort in New Delhi.
- The show will be showcased in Hindi and English languages. A total of 700 people can watch the show at one time.
- The light and sound show in Red Fort is being started after a gap of almost five years.
- According to the Ministry of Culture, this show is a new avatar of the light and sound show, in which a dramatic presentation of bravery and the history of India from the 17th century to the present day, will be shown.
- The one hour long show has been divided into three parts showcasing the important historical events related to the rise of the Marathas, the 1857 War of Independence, the rise of the Indian National Army, INA trial and the fight for Independence.
- The country's progress over the past 75 years will also be presented by showcasing various performance art forms like projection mapping, live action films, light and immersive sound, actors, dancers and puppets.

French government to increase retirement age from 62 to 64 by 2030



- The French government has announced that it would increase the retirement age from 62 to 64 by 2030.
- French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne announced the decision at a press conference in Paris yesterday and defended the reform as a way to fiscally balance the country's pension system.
- The French government has argued that people live longer than they used to, meaning citizens will need to work longer in order to keep the pension financially afloat.
- It's also said that its retirement rules are much more generous than most comparable developed

economies with aging populations.

- Ms. Borne said, the full French pension age will be raised by three months every year, beginning in 2023.
- The pension reform aims to deliver on an electoral promise made by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017.

Opening ceremony of FIH Hockey World Cup to be held in Cuttack, Odisha today



- The Opening ceremony of the FIH Hockey World Cup will be held in Cuttack in Odisha today.
- Many dignitaries including Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik and Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Minister and Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur will grace the occasion being organized in the historic Barabati Stadium in the heritage city of Cuttack in the afternoon today.
- The Hockey World Cup being hosted by Odisha for the second consecutive time will be played in the iconic Kalinga Stadium in the capital of Bhubaneswar and the newly built Birsa Munda Stadium in the steel city of Rourkela.
- A total of 16 teams are participating in the prestigious World Cup tournament that starts on Friday till the 29th of this month.

World's most powerful passports: Japan tops list



- According to the latest Henley Passport Index, Japan has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations. which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year.
- Singapore and South Korea came in a joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.
- The Indian passport was ranked 85th, giving visa-free entry to 59 destinations worldwide.

- In 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, the country ranked at 82nd spot, 84th, 85th and 83rd respectively.
- Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to 59 destinations like Bhutan, Indonesia, Macao, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Iran and Qatar. However, some countries require visa-on-arrival
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Anurag Kumar appointed as CMD of ECIL



- Anurag Kumar was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar's appointment to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e 31.01.2026.
- According to an order issued from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Kumar has been appointed to the post of CMD of ECIL for a period with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post till the date of his superannuation i.e January 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Earlier, PSU Watch had reported when Kumar was recommended for the post of CMD of ECIL by the PESB panel on September 1, 2022. Presently, ECIL's Director (Personnel) is holding additional charge of ECIL's CMD post.
- Kumar comes with several years of extensive experience in Project Management, Strategy Development & Implementation and Strategic Planning

Khelo India National Women Kho Kho leagues set to take place from Jan 10 in Punjab



- The Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league is to take place at Chandigarh Universi-

ty, Punjab.

- Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league will be held from 10th to 13th January 2023 and it will be held over three phases.
- The Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league is being organized by the Kho-Kho Federation of India, with complete full financial support from the Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs, and Sports
- The Union Ministry has sanctioned the tournament at a total cost of Rs 32.25 Lakh over the three phases.
- The ministry has agreed to a total sum of Rs 18 Lakh as Prize Money for the top 4 positions over the 3 phases.
- In the Khelo India Senior Women National Kho Kho league, a total of 12 teams will be part and 200 players will participate.
- The Kho-Kho women's league for junior and sub-junior age groups is scheduled from 16th January to 19th January 2023 at the Alberta Ekka Kho Kho Stadium, Hotwar, Ranchi.
- The Khelo India Women league is being organized since 2021 across multiple states of India.
- It is an initiative taken by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Seventh Armed Forces Veterans Day will be celebrated on 14th January



- The seventh Armed Forces Veterans Day will be celebrated on the 14th of this month.
- The 14th of January is commemorated as Armed Forces Veterans Day as a mark of respect and recognition for the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa.
- He was the first Indian Chief of the Indian Army. He retired from service on 14th January 1953.

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup commences in Cuttack; First match to be played on 13th January



- FIH Men's Hockey World Cup got off to a colorful start in the historic Barabati stadium in the millennium city of Cuttack in Odisha today.
- The magnificent opening ceremony of the tournament was graced by Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, Union minister of Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, FIH President Tayyab Ikram, Hockey India President Dillip Tirkey, and a host of national and international players and delegates.
- Addressing the huge audience in the stadium, the Odisha Chief Minister welcomed the participants while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Govt of India for all the support extended to Odisha in hosting the World Cup.
- The Union Minister Mr Thakur welcomed the players and delegates and said that hosting the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup is a great moment for India.
- AIR correspondent reports that India has been a seat of hockey since long, the Minister Mr. Thakur reflected on how the Indian hockey teams have gifted to the nation the prestigious Olympic gold cups in hockey, three times each, both before independence under the hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand and under another hockey legend Balbir Singh Senior after independence.
- He said, while the Indian govt has been doing its best to promote sports and games in the country including hockey, the states are also contributing immensely, to the true spirit of cooperative federalism.

Recently discovered comet to appear in night sky for the first time in 50,000 years



- A recently discovered comet named C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will soon make an appearance in the night sky for the first time in 50,000 years.
- According to NASA, the comet will make its closest approach to the sun on January 12 2023.
- It was discovered on March 2, 2022 by astronomers using the Zwicky Transient Facility's wide-field survey camera at the Palomar Observatory in San Diego County, California.
- The icy celestial object, which has steadily brightened as it approaches the sun, will subsequently make its closest pass of Earth between February 1 and February 2, around 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) away, according to EarthSky - as the comet nears Earth, observers will be able to spot it near the bright star Polaris, also called the North Star, and it should be visible earlier in the evening.
- The comet should be visible through binoculars in the morning sky for sky-watchers in the Northern Hemisphere during most of January and those in the Southern Hemisphere in early

February, according to NASA.

Who is AC Charania, NASA's Indian-American Chief Technologist



- An Indian-American aerospace industry expert has been appointed as NASA's new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor to Administrator Bill Nelson on technology policy and programmes at the space agency's headquarters. A.C. Charania joined the space agency in his new role on January 3.
- He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment.
- In his position, Charania will align NASA's agencywide technology investments with mission needs across six mission directorates and oversee technology collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and external stakeholders.
- Prior to joining NASA, he served as vice president of product strategy at Reliable Robotics, a firm that works to bring certified autonomous vehicles to commercial aviation.
- His previous experience also includes working at Blue Origin to mature its lunar permanence strategy, Blue Moon lunar lander program, and multiple technology initiatives with NASA

France captain Hugo Lloris announces retirement from international football



- Lloris announced his decision to retire from international football on Monday
- The 36-year-old played in four World Cups and three Euros
- Deschamps hailed Lloris as a great servant of the France team
- France team captain Hugo Lloris announced on Monday his decision to retire from international football at the age of 36.
- Lloris represented France in four World Cups and three Euros and captained Les Blues to the

World Cup trophy in 2018.

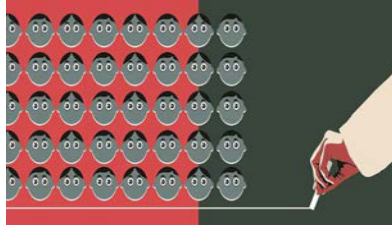
- The Tottenham Hotspur shot stopper led his team to the World Cup final in Qatar, where they were beaten by Argentina on penalties.
- The 36-year-old holds many records and is France's most capped player with 145 appearances to his name. Lloris made his debut for Les Blues back in November 2008.
- He was handed the armband two years after his international debut and would go on to captain France in 121 matches.
- Deschamps paid tribute to the 36-year-old and called him a great servant of the France national team.
- The France coach went on to say that it was a honour and pleasure to be Lloris' trainer and thanked him for his contributions to the team.

National Youth Day



- National Youth Day, also known as Vivekananda Jayanti, is celebrated on 12 January, being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.
- It was a decision of the Government of India taken in 1984 to celebrate the birthday of great Swami Vivekananda, i.e. 12 January, as National Youth Day every year.
- The Government of India quoted that 'the philosophy of Swami and the ideals for which he lived and worked could be a great source of inspiration for the Indian Youth Day.
- On 12 January 2013, Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told in his address at the inauguration of four-year-long celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary
- The National Youth Day is observed all over India at schools and colleges, with processions, speeches, music, youth conventions, seminars, Yoga Asanas, presentations, competitions in essay-writing, recitations and sports on 12 January every year.
- Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings, deriving their inspiration from Indian spiritual tradition and the broad outlook of his Master Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.
- These were the source of inspiration and have motivated numerous youth organizations, study circles and service projects involving the youth.

Uttarakhand Guv approves Bill granting 30% women's reservation in govt jobs



- Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) has given his consent to a Bill providing 30 per cent horizontal reservation to domiciled women of the state in government jobs.
- Uttarakhand Public Services (Horizontal Reservation for Women) Bill, 2022 was passed by the state assembly on November 29 last year.
- With the governor's consent to the Bill, it has become an Act, an official said here on Wednesday.
- Stating the objective of the Bill at the time of its introduction in the state assembly, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had said that women of the state live in adverse conditions and their standard of living is below the women of other states.

British guitar legend Jeff Beck passes away at age of 78



- British guitar legend Jeff Beck, the influential, genre-bending English guitarist who rose to fame with The Yardbirds before later embarking on a solo career, has died at the age of 78.
- Beck is a two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee - in 1992 for his work with The Yardbirds and as a solo performer in 2009.
- In 2015, Rolling Stone magazine ranked Beck as the fifth greatest guitarist of all time, one spot ahead of blues icon B.B. King.

Former Union Minister Sharad Yadav passes away, President and PM condole demise



- Former Union Minister and RJD leader Sharad Yadav passed away on Thursday. His daughter confirmed the news through a social media post.
- The 75-year-old veteran politician was ailing for sometime and breathed his last at a private hospital in Gurugram.
- President Droupadi Murmu expressed sadness at his passing away.
- In her message, the President said Sharad Yadav was a student leader of the seventies who fought for democratic values.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has expressed grief over the demise of veteran Parliamentarian Sharad Yadav.
- In his message, he said, Sharad Yadav was a popular leader, an astute administrator and set high benchmarks in public life.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences over the demise of the veteran leader.
- He said, he is pained by the passing away of Sharad Yadav. Mr. Modi said, in his long years in public life, he distinguished himself as MP and Minister and he was greatly inspired by Dr. Lohia's ideals.

PM Modi flags off World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas at Varanasi via video conferencing on Friday.
- He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than 1000 crore rupees.
- Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister said that India has great potential in waterways transport since the country has more than 125 rivers and it's also a cheap mode of transportation.
- He said that development works being done in waterways field by the government will increase Transport, trade and tourism. Mr Modi said, it will help in making eastern part as growth engine of the country.
- Mr Modi said that this is the decade of transformation of infrastructure in the country.
- Prime Minister highlighted that the Journey of MV Ganga Vilas is not a simple event as this journey is an example of the development of the inland waterways system of the country.
- Talking about the phenomenal growth in the sector in last years Prime Minister said that in 2014

there were only five waterways in the country now this number is 111 and around two dozen are functional and transportation of cargo has increased tripple times.

- Prime Minister said that Ganga is not just a river but an eyewitness to the journey of the country.

Center clears Rs 2,600 cr scheme to promote RuPay, BHIM-UPI



- The Union Cabinet has also approved the incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant) for a period of one year from April 2022.
- The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹ 2,600 crore, announced Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday.
- Under the scheme, acquiring banks will be provided financial incentive for promoting Point-of-sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech 2022-23, had announced government's intent to continue the financial support for digital payments announced in the previous Budget, with a focus on promoting use of payment platforms that are economical and user-friendly.
- In 2021-22, the government had approved an incentive scheme in compliance with the budget announcement to boost digital transactions.
- As a result, the government says, total digital payments transactions have registered a year-on-year growth of 59%, from Rs 5,554 crore in 2020-21 to 8,840 crore in 2021-22.
- BHIM-UPI transactions have registered a growth of 106%, rising from Rs 2,233 crore in Rs 4,597 crore.

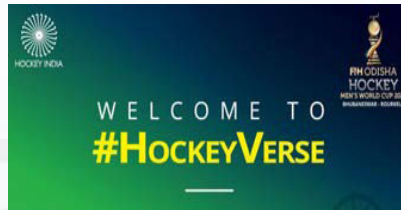
MS Dhoni, Garuda Aerospace launch surveillance drone named Droni



- Former India skipper MS Dhoni along with Garuda Aerospace has launched a surveillance drone named Droni.

- As per a report in The Economic Times, it is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone and will mostly be used in the agricultural sector.
- The veteran cricketer had unveiled the camera drone at The Global Drone Expo in Chennai last year and it has been launched now.
- At the launch event, the 41-year-old revealed that he got interested in drones during the COVID-19 lockdown and also learned how they can play an important role for everyone in the agricultural field.

Hockey India enters the world of Metaverse, launches 'Hockey Verse'



- Embracing the latest tech buzzword, Hockey India becomes the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse.
- On Monday, only days before the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, Hockey India launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms.
- 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home, on their personal computer.
- Upon entering the 'Hockeyverse' URL in a browser they are welcomed to the 'hockeyverse' virtual world page.
- Fans can then enter their name, email address and then select their virtual Avatar's gender between male avatar and female avatar.
- Then they should click on 'Enter Hockeyverse' button. Once they are in, the Hockeyverse can be explored by fans using their keyboard and mouse.

Prince Harry's Spare becomes UK's fastest selling non-fiction book



- Prince Harry's memoir, titled Spare, has become the UK's fastest selling non-fiction book ever.
- The Duke of Sussex's autobiography was officially released on January 10.
- Its publishers said on Tuesday that they had sold 400,000 copies so far across hardback, e-book

and audio formats.

- “We always knew this book would fly but it is exceeding even our most bullish expectations,” Transworld Penguin Random House Managing Director Larry Finlay said in a statement.
- “As far as we know, the only books to have sold more in their first day are those starring the other Harry (Potter),” he added.
- In his book, Prince Harry has made an array of bombshell revelations about his life and his royal family members.
- The Royal family, however, has not commented on Harry’s memoir.
- Several extracts from the book were leaked prior to the book’s release after its Spanish language edition mistakenly went on sale in some shops in Spain.
- Prince Harry, in his memoir, has narrated a heated row with his brother Prince William. He has also mentioned that he and William begged their father not to marry Camilla.
- The Duke of Sussex has also admitted to taking drugs and also opened up about Princess Diana’s death.

Nationalist Congress Party MP from Lakshadweep P P Mohammed Faizal disqualified from Lok Sabha



- NCP MP from Lakshadweep P P Mohammed Faizal has been disqualified from the Lok Sabha following his conviction in a case.
- The MP along with three others were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment by Kavaratti Sessions Court in connection with an attempt to murder case of 2009.
- The Lok Sabha Secretariat has issued a notification regarding his disqualification.

Nation observing Armed Forces Veterans Day today



- The country is observing 7th Armed Forces Veterans Day today. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan, three service chiefs paid tributes at National War Memorial in New Delhi.
- The Armed Forces Veterans Day is being celebrated at nine locations across the country including Juhunjhunu, Jalandhar, Panagarh, New Delhi, Dehradun, Chennai, Chandigarh, Bhubaneshwar and Mumbai.

Indian Railways to launch Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train on Feb 17



- Indian Railways will launch its Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train during a special tour between India and Nepal on 17th of next month from New Delhi.
- The tour Shri Ram-Janaki Yatra: Ayodhya to Janakpur will cover pilgrimage and heritage sites at Ayodhya and Janakpur Dham (Nepal) along with Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi and Prayagraj.
- The guests will be travelling around 25 hundred Kilometres during this tour.
- This will be a seven-day all inclusive tour package at a price range starting from 39 thousand 775 rupees.
- To make this tour affordable, IRCTC has kept the provision of EMI payment as well.

Festival of Makar Sankranti being celebrated today



- The Makar Sankranti festival is being observed across the country today.
- This day is dedicated to Lord Surya. It is the day when Sun travels from Sagittarius to Capricorn.
- Makar Sankranti is also known as Uttarayan which means that the Sun moves towards the north.
- With the onset of Uttarayan, the effect of cold also starts reducing gradually.
- The festival has different names in different parts of the country.
- It is celebrated as Pongal in Karnataka, Lohri in Punjab and Uttaryan, Maghi and Khichdi in some

other parts of the country.

India's first Centre of Excellence of online gaming in Meghalaya



- Digital India Startup Hub, through the Software Technology Parks of India, shall set up India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong by March 2023.
- This was announced by Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, at a function in Meghalaya's capital.
- The Minister announced another initiative of MeitY to set up a state-of-the-art facility under the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) to provide training on cutting edge Digital Skills at Shillong.
- A 10-acre campus shall soon be ready for this purpose which shall cater to the skilling requirement of youth in the North East Region.
- The Minister also informed that the Government is re-launching Skill India through PMKVY 4.0, which shall train around 50,000 youth in Meghalaya in future ready skills with industry-backed job opportunities.

Piyush Goyal to launch MAARG portal for startup mentorship



- The MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) platform will be launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.
- The Commerce Ministry said MAARG, a portal to facilitate mentorship for start-ups across diverse sectors, and geographies, will go live on January 16
- The minister will also award outstanding start-ups and enablers which have demonstrated exceptional capabilities not just in terms of financial gains, but also for the measurable impact on society.
- The winning start-ups will be given a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh each. One exceptional incubator and one accelerator each will get a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh

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- The winning start-ups will be given a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh each.
- One exceptional incubator and one accelerator each will get a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

This is EU's first mainland satellite launch port



- European officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex.
- The European Union wants to bolster its capacity to launch small satellites into space with a new launchpad in Arctic Sweden.
- The new facility at Esrange Space Centre near the city of Kiruna should complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana.
- European officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex during a visit to Sweden by members of the European Commission.
- European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen noted that small satellites are crucial to track natural disasters in real-time.
- In light of the Russia-Ukraine war, these will help to guarantee global security.
- The total number of satellites could reach 100,000 by 2040 compared to the current 5,000 operational satellites.
- Swedish Space Corporation Chief Executive Stefan Gardefjord informed that satellites are decisive for many functions of the daily lives of today's modern world and the need for them will be increased in the coming years with space playing an important role.

National Girl Child Day 2023



- National Girl Child Day is being observed today. This Day is celebrated on the 24th of January every year with the objective to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India.
- It aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girl education, health, and nutrition.

- Gender discrimination is a major problem that girls and women face throughout their life.
- National Girl Child Day was first initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Government has taken several steps over the years to improve the conditions of girls. These initiatives include Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana

Thai shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn wins India Open Badminton title



- Thai shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn won the India Open title.
- He defeated World No.1 Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final of the India Open Badminton Championship 22-20, 10-21 and 21-12 today at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- Earlier, Korean sensation An Seyoung won the Women's singles final.
- She beat World No.1 Japanese Akane Yamaguchi 15-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to inaugurate Book fair 'Amar Ekushey Boi Mela' on 1st February



- The largest and longest book fair of Bangladesh 'Amar Ekushey Boi Mela' will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 1st February.
- Member Secretary of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair Committee Dr KM Muzahidul Islam told the official news agency BSS that the Prime Minister will inaugurate the fair in-person.
- The historic 'Amar Ekushey Boi Mela' will be organised on the grounds of the Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital city, Dhaka.

- State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid visited the two venues today to see the progress of the preparations for the month-long book fair.
- ‘Paro Boi, Garo Desh: Bangabandhur Bangladesh’ meaning ‘Read Book, build country: Bangabandhu’s Bangladesh’ is the theme of the fair this year.
- The book fair started in 1972 to commemorate the sacrifices of people killed by Pakistani forces on 21st February, 1952, demanding Bangla as the mother language for the then East Pakistan.
- It has been organised every year by the Bangla Academy since 1978.

President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, to be Chief Guest at Republic Day Celebrations



- President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, will arrive in New Delhi today, January 24, on a three-day visit to India.
- President Sisi will be the Chief Guest on India’s 74th Republic Day.
- He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including five Ministers and senior officials.
- This is for the first time that the President of Egypt has been invited as Chief Guest on Republic Day.
- A military contingent from Egyptian Army will also participate in the Republic Day parade.
- The Egyptian President previously visited India in October 2015 to participate in the third India Africa Forum Summit and in September 2016 on a State Visit.
- India and Egypt are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year.
- Egypt has also been invited as a ‘Guest Country’ during India’s Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.
- President Sisi will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan tomorrow.
- President Droupadi Murmu will host a State Banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary in the evening.
- The visiting dignitary will have a bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest.

Commissioning of Vagir marks a milestone in Indian Navy's evolution as a combat-ready & credible force



- The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said, the commissioning of Vagir marks a milestone in the Indian Navy's evolution as a combat-ready and credible force.
- Addressing the commissioning of the INS Vagir into the Indian Navy this morning, Admiral Kumar said, INS Vagir will give a fillip to the Navy's operational might and serve as a potent deterrent for any adversary.
- Describing Vagir as a lethal platform with a formidable weapons package and state-of-the-art stealth technology, Admiral Kumar said its capabilities and firepower will not only enhance the Navy's combat potential but also "add teeth" to the country's deterrence.
- Congratulating the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for its diligence, hard work and commendable efforts in building Vagir, Admiral Kumar said MDL has been at the forefront of the Indian Navy's transition from a buyer's navy to a builder's navy.
- Stating that the commissioning of Vagir is no small achievement and underscores the coming of age of India's shipbuilding industry, the Navy Chief said it is also a testament to the Navy's steadfast resolve to be an AtmaNirbar force by 2047.

PM Modi names 21 islands of Andaman & Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra Awardees



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today named the 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- The Prime Minister attended the event, in Port Blair via videoconferencing.
- He also unveiled the model of the National Memorial dedicated to Netaji.
- The memorial will be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep in Port Blair.
- The memorial will consist of Netaji's Museum, Heritage trail, ropeway connected to Port Blair and

a children's park.

- Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that a new history is being written today, as the nation celebrates Parakram Diwas marking the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Mr. Modi said that the coming generations will remember this history and be inspired by it.
- The Prime Minister said that the government recognised the great valor and supreme sacrifices of India's brave soldiers, for whom nation first is the only motto.

SpaceX launches 51 Starlink internet satellites today after delays



- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried more than four dozen Starlink satellites into low-Earth orbit in a launch from the California coast.
- The rocket lifted off at 7:43 a.m. California time from Vandenberg Space Force Base, located northwest of Santa Barbara.
- Fifty-one Starlink satellites were on board.
- Onboard cameras showed the rocket burst through a cloud bank over the coast.
- After stage separation, Falcon 9's first stage returned to Earth and landed on the Of Course I Still Love You dronship stationed in the Pacific Ocean
- Starlink is a SpaceX project to build a broadband network with a cluster of orbiting spacecraft that could eventually number thousands.
- The Starlink satellites carry Hall thrusters, which use electricity and krypton gas to generate an impulse, to maneuver in orbit, maintain altitude and guide the spacecraft back into the atmosphere at the end of their mission.
- The Starlink network is one of several ongoing efforts to start beaming data signals from space

Odisha's Aska police station awarded best in country



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah awarded the Aska Police Station of Ganjam, district of Odisha as the number one police station in the country.
- Aska Police station was awarded in the annual ranking of Police stations for 2022.
- Aska Police station received the prestigious award along with the certificate of appreciation from Union Minister Amit Shah.
- The award was given during the DGsP/IGsP Conference 2022 which began in the National Agriculture Science Complex in New Delhi.
- The Inspector in charge of the Aska Police station received the award.
- The DSP S K Bansal who is attending the DGsP/IGsP Conference said that it was a moment of great pride and honor for the Odisha Police.
- The ranking of Police stations across the country is an annual exercise by the Ministry of Home Affairs

SCO Film Festival to be held in Mumbai from Jan 27 to 31



- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, SCO, Film Festival will be held in Mumbai from the 27th to 31st of January.
- The festival is being organised by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through the National Film Development Corporation to mark India's Presidency at SCO.
- The opening ceremony will be held at Jamshed Bhabha Theatre of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, NCPA, Mumbai on 27th January.
- Veteran director Priyadarshan's Tamil film 'Appatha', which also marks the 700th film of lead actor Urvashi, will be the opening film of the festival.
- Addressing a press conference in Mumbai today (January 24), Joint Secretary (Films), Mr. Prithul Kumar said that the festival aims to build cinematic partnerships and act as a bridge between the

cultures of various countries in the SCO.

- It may be noted that Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a multilateral organisation comprising eight countries, namely India, China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Australian Open: Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna advance final of mixed-doubles event



- India's Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna on Wednesday reached the final of the Australian Open mixed-doubles event.
- The Indian pair outclassed the third-seeded pair of Great Britain's Neal Skupski and USA's Desirae Krawczyk 7-6, 6-7 (10-6) in the semi-final.
- Earlier, the Indian pair reached the semi-finals after receiving a walkover in their quarter-final match against the Latvian and Spanish pair of Jelena Ostapenko and David Vega Hernandez.
- Earlier, they had defeated the Uruguayan and Japanese pair of Ariel Behar and Makoto Ninomiya 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) on Court 7 to make it into the last 8.
- Ahead of the start of the tournament, Sania had already announced that this would be her final Grand Slam.

Ruling Labour Party leader Chris Hipkins takes over as Prime Minister of New Zealand



- Chris Hipkins, was sworn in as the 41st Prime Minister of New Zealand today by country's governor-general, Cindy Kiro, during a ceremony in the capital, Wellington.
- After formally taking office Chris Hipkins said this was the biggest privilege and responsibility of his life and he was excited by the challenges ahead.

- Last week, Jacinda Ardern announced her resignation as the New Zealand PM. She announced that she no longer had “enough in the tank” after leading the nation during its worst natural disaster, terror attack and COVID 19 pandemic.
- During her tenure, Chris Hipkins had served as education and police minister.
- His crisis management during the Covid-19 pandemic brought him into limelight at national front.
- However, his work and other liberal leaders popularity remained to be dim in front of Jacinda Ardern who was praised globally for her leadership and decisions.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to inaugurate Book fair ‘Amar Ekushey Boi Mela’ on 1st February



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- The historic ‘Amar Ekushey Boi Mela’ will be organised on the grounds of the Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital city, Dhaka.
- State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid visited the two venues today to see the progress of the preparations for the month-long book fair.
- ‘Paro Boi, Garo Desh: Bangabandhur Bangladesh’ meaning ‘Read Book, build country: Bangabandhu’s Bangladesh’ is the theme of the fair this year.

Supreme Court simplifies procedure for passive euthanasia



- The Supreme Court on Tuesday modified its 2018 order on passive euthanasia to make the procedure of removal of life support from terminally ill patients less cumbersome for the patients, their families and the doctors.
- The Supreme court removed the condition that mandated a magistrate's approval for withdrawal or withholding of life support to a terminally ill.
- A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph said, the document will now be signed by the executor of the "living will" in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or Gazetted Officer.
- The bench also said, the witnesses and the notary shall record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion and with a full understanding of all the relevant information and consequences.
- A living will also known as an advance directive is a legal document that specifies the type of medical care that an individual does or does not want in the event they are unable to communicate their wishes.
- Euthanasia is the act of deliberately putting an end to a person's life in order to eliminate pain or suffering.

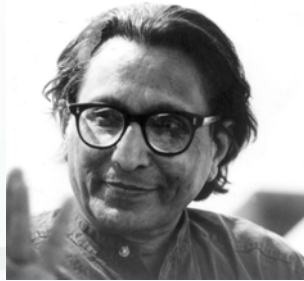
Hindustani vocalist Prabha Atre conferred with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award



- Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Prabha Atre was conferred with the the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award at the hands of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- The award was presented to her by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at Thane near Mumbai.
- The Chief Minister felicitated Dr Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan.
- Shinde presented Dr Atre with a citation and Rs 1 lakh at the program, during which a symphony of 90 flutists was performed to mark her 90th birthday.
- Prabha Atre (born 13 September 1932) is an Indian classical vocalist from the Kirana gharana.
- She has been awarded all three of the Padma Awards by the Government of India.
- Her music training was in the Guru-shishya tradition.

- She learnt classical music from Sureshbabu Mane and Hirabai Badodekar from the Kirana gharana.
- She acknowledges the influence of two other greats, Amir Khan for khyal and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan for thumri, on her gayaki.

BV Doshi (1927-2023) | Pioneer of Indian modernist architecture



- Dr Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi, who is widely revered for his contribution in the field of architecture, has passed away. He was 95.
- For his outstanding contribution to the field of architecture, he was conferred with Pritzker Prize in 2018 and the coveted Padma Shri in 1976.
- The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced that Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi will be the recipient of the 2022 Royal Gold Medal.
- A Padma Bhushan awardee, Doshi was known for designing the buildings of the Ahmedabad-based Centre for Environment and Planning Technology (CEPT) and Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute.
- His style of architecture — an amalgam of European modernist, brutalist architecture with Indian sensibilities — won many hearts.
- Doshi graduated from the Sir JJ School of Architecture in Mumbai in 1950 and left for Europe soon after, beginning his journey in architecture with Corbusier in Paris between 1951 and 1954. On returning to India, he worked for Corbusier in Ahmedabad.
- He was a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and had been on the selection committee for the Pritzker Prize, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. He was also a fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects

Veteran actress and former MP Jamuna passes away



- Veteran film actress and former Lok Sabha MP from Rajahmundry, Jamuna passed away this morning in Hyderabad.
- She was 86. She has been suffering from health issues for the past few days and breathed her last this morning around 7 AM.
- She was a contemporary to eminent and popular actors N T Ramarao and Nageswar Rao and acted in about 200 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi.
- Born in 1936 in Hampi in Karnataka, her schooling continued in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Started her career as a stage artist, debuting with Puttillu on Silver Screen.
- She won the Lok Sabha from Rajahmundry in 1989 from the Congress.
- She was identified with her role in 'Satyabhama' and became a household name for the mythological character.
- Union Culture minister G Kishan Reddy and several ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh condoled her demise.
- Condolences poured in from various walks of life over to her family members.

England's Ben Stokes and Nat Sciver win ICC annual awards



- England Test captain Ben Stokes and England all-rounder Nat Sciver are among the winners in the International Cricket Council's annual awards.
- All-rounder Stokes has been named Men's Test Cricketer of the Year while Sciver won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.
- Sciver, 30, is also named Women's one-day international (ODI) Cricketer of the Year.
- The 31-year-old took over the Test captaincy from Joe Root in April 2022 and has won nine of his 10 Tests in charge.
 - Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Babar Azam, Pakistan
 - Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year: Suryakumar Yadav, India
 - Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Marco Jansen, South Africa
 - Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy: Babar Azam, Pakistan
 - Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy: Nat Sciver, England
 - Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Nat Sciver, England
 - Women's T20 Cricketer of the Year: Tahlia McGrath, Australia
 - Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Renuka Singh, India

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates National Summit on Quality of Biologicals



- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has stressed on the need to initiate studies using state-of-the-art analytical platforms to promote the development of pharmacopeia monographs for new biologicals made from updated technologies.
- Inaugurating the National Summit on Quality of Biologicals virtually on Friday, Mr Mandaviya also commended National Institute of Biologicals (NIB) for realizing the need for trained human resource in the biopharma sector and for taking initiative towards National Skill Development Programme.
- The Minister expressed hope that the summit will help upgrade the infrastructure and technologies of the country's biopharmaceuticals and in-vitro diagnostic industry.
- Mr Mandaviya has emphasized on making treatments more affordable for the common man through these initiatives.
- Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar highlighted the need to adopt digital interventions in the biopharma industry.

Naresh Lalwani takes over as new General Manager of Central Railway



- Naresh Lalwani has taken over as the new General Manager of Central Railway.
- He is a senior officer of the Indian Railway Engineering Service of 1985 batch.
- Before taking over as General Manager, Central Railway, he was working as Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway.
- He succeeds Ashok Kumar Misra, General Manager Western Railway who was holding the additional charge of Central Railway as well.

Toyota names Koji Sato as new CEO, Akio Toyoda takes chairman role



- The chief executive of Toyota Motor Corp, Akio Toyoda will step down as head of the company his grandfather founded, the Japanese automaker.
- Koji Sato, the automaker's 53-year-old chief branding officer, who is also president of Toyota's luxury brand Lexus, will take over as chief executive from April 1, as Akio Toyoda becomes chairman.
- The current chairman Takeshi Uchiyamada will drop his chairman title but remain on the board.
- During his more than a decade at the top, Toyoda presided over the carmaker during a period of intense change in the auto industry and rising uncertainty about how legacy automakers such as Toyota can fend off the challenge from newer – and often nimbler – challengers such as Tesla

Iron Man of India: Sabir Ali's passing away marks the end of an era in Indian fitness



- 'Ironman of India' Sabir Ali, who won the decathlon gold at the 1981 Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo, passed away.
- He was 67. Ali, who retired from Railways, won the title in the Japanese capital with a tally of 7,253 points beating Japan's Nobuya Saito (7,078) and China's Zu Qilin (7,074).
- He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka
- Ali won eight consecutive Open National titles in the gruelling event between 1979 and 1985.
- The Railways star was unbeatable at the Inter-State meets too – he represented Haryana — which he won twice in 1979 and 1981.
- His pet event was the javelin throw. Ali won a bronze and silver at the World Railway meets in 1981 and '85 and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981.
- Ali, who grew up in Delhi, is survived by his wife, son and daughter

JPMorgan gets RBI nod for new India chief executive officer Prabdev Singh



- India's Central Bank has approved JP Morgan Chase & Co. to appoint Prabdev Singh as the lender's Chief Executive Officer in the Country.
- The Reserve Bank of India approved a three-year term for Prabdev Singh last week
- Prabdev Singh has been JPMorgan's interim CEO since November.
- He has replaced Madhav Kalyan who was named as the head of payments in the Asia Pacific.
- The Wall Street firm, JPMorgan, traces its presence in India back to 1922 and started commercial banking operations in the country about 15 years ago.
- JPMorgan has four commercial bank branches in the country.
- Prabdev Singh is a trained engineer and has worked for a decade at HSBC Holdings Plc before joining JPMorgan in 2010

Parliamentarians pay floral tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his birth anniversary at Parliament House



- Parliamentarians today paid floral tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his birth anniversary at the Parliament House.
- Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and other members of parliament attended the ceremony.
- Lala Lajpat Rai was an Indian author, freedom fighter, and politician. He played a vital role in the Indian Independence movement.
- He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari. He is also known as 'Punjab da Sher' which literally means the 'Lion of Punjab'.
- He was one of the three members of the Lal Bal Pal trimurti.

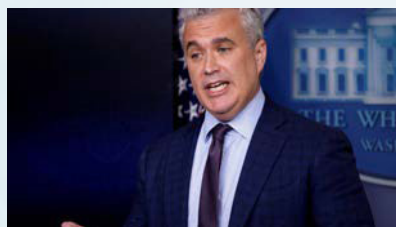
- He was also associated with management activities of Punjab National Bank in early years and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894.

US President Biden nominates Julie Turner as special envoy for human rights in North Korea



- US President Joe Biden has nominated Julie Turner as special envoy for human rights in North Korea.
- White House said that the move is to fill a post that has been empty since 2017 amid debate over how rights issues fit with efforts to counter Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.
- She is a long-time diplomat and current director of the Office of East Asia and the Pacific in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the Department of State.
- She speaks Korean and has previously worked on North Korean human rights as a special assistant in the envoy's office.
- Biden vowed repeatedly after taking office in 2021 that human rights would be at the center of his foreign policy, but the position had remained vacant.

US President Joe Biden appoints Jeff Zients as White House chief of staff

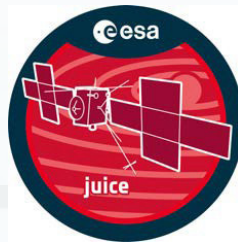


- US President Joe Biden on Friday appointed his long-term aide Jeff Zients as the new White House Chief of Staff, a former Obama administration official who ran his massive Covid-19 response operation.
- Zients will replace Ron Klain, who has served in the position for over two years now.
- Biden said that an official transition ceremony would be held at the White House next week.
- According to sources familiar with the situation who spoke to Reuters, Ron Klain, Biden's current chief of staff, intends to depart his position in the upcoming weeks.
- After his successor begins to ease the transition, he is anticipated to continue in the position, the

source said.

- On Monday, the appointment might be revealed. The White House was silent at the time.
- Since the beginning of the Biden administration in early 2021 through April of last year, Jeff Zients, who has spent the majority of his career in the private sector rather than politics, has served as the White House COVID coordinator.

ESA's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer



- The European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer or JUICE is the next venture of humanity into the outer Solar System.
- It will be conducted thorough examinations of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, and its three moons with oceans including Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.
- The spacecraft has just completed its final tests before departing Toulouse, France, for Europe's Spaceport to count down to on April 2023 launch.
- In December, the spacecraft underwent a thermal vacuum test to ensure it could withstand the extreme temperatures of space. A System Validation Test was conducted, connecting the spacecraft in Toulouse to mission control at ESOC in Darmstadt, Germany, to simulate the first activities after launch.
- On 18 January, the Qualification and Acceptance Review was concluded, confirming the spacecraft was ready to go ahead with launch preparations at the Spaceport.
- A plaque was affixed to the spacecraft in honor of Galileo Galilei, the Italian astronomer who was the first to observe Jupiter and its four largest moons with a telescope in January 1610, as the final step in the preparations.

Indian stock markets migrating to T+1 settlement cycle from January 27



- India will become the first major economy to move to a T+1 (trade plus one) market settlement cycle when it finally makes the transition on January 27.
- The Chinese market is currently partly T+1. With the move, all stock settlements will be done the next day, making financial transactions faster in the stock market
- Currently the market follows a T+2 settlement cycle, which means the investors receive shares or dividends as well as bonus shares in their accounts within two days after the transaction.
- T refers to the trading day. Starting January 27 all large-cap and blue-chip companies will switch to the T+1 system.
- A T+1 cycle will mean that transfers will be completed the very next day and result in shorter waiting times as well as reduced liquidity risks for traders and investors

EPFO launches massive outreach programme in all districts through revamped 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' programme



- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a massive district outreach program in all the districts of the country through a revamped Nidhi Aapke Nikat program.
- The aim of this program is to reach all the districts of the country on the same day i.e. 27th of every month. EPFO organized camps in 685 districts of the country.
- In the year 2015, Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat was rechristened as Nidhi Aapke Nikat and in the year 2019, the outreach of the Nidhi Aapke Nikat Program was further improved by inviting participation of trade unions.
- In the year 2021, for grievances redressal of pensioners, an exclusive platform monthly Pension Adalat was initiated.
- The Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 will not be only grievance redressal platform and information exchange network for the employers and the employees but also a platform for exchange of information with the district level authorities of various State and Central Government departments.
- In this programme, a help desk will be created where members will get the online services like filing of online claim etc.
- Grievance redressal of the members will be done on the spot and in case any grievance could not be redressed on the spot, it will be registered on the grievance portal of EPFO and will be resolved on priority

PepsiCo Foundation and CARE launches 'She Feeds the World' programme in India



- PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo and CARE, have launched 'She Feeds the World' program in India to strengthen the role of small-scale women producers through sustainable training and economic support.
- The program, which will be implemented in the Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts of West Bengal, aims to reach out to more than 48,000 women, men and children and indirectly benefit 1,50,000 individuals.
- 'She Feeds the World' will drive impact for women farmers and their families across the three dimensions of a sustainable food system including economic, social and environmental.
- At the economic level, it will build capacity for small-scale farmers to improve their cultivation practices, increase yield, and diversify livelihood options to generate more sustainable income.
- Socially, the project will promote more equitable access to knowledge, resources and inclusive markets for vulnerable farmers.

Fifth Khelo India Youth Games to start in Madhya Pradesh



- The fifth edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 is going to start in Madhya Pradesh this evening.
- Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate this Sports extravaganza around 7.00 pm at TT Nagar Stadium in Bhopal.
- Union Minister of State for Sports Nisith Pramanik and other dignitaries will also be present on the occasion.
- Grand preparations have been made for the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Youth Games to

be held for the first time in Madhya Pradesh today.

- Around 100 meters long stage has been made in the TT nagar stadium, the main venue of the inaugural ceremony.
- The cultural and historical heritage of Madhya Pradesh is depicted on the stage.
- Narmada Ghat, Khajuraho Temple, Shri Mahakal Lok, Sanchi Stupa, Temples of Orchha, Bhedaghat and Gwalior Fort are among them.
- Singer Shaan will perform at the opening ceremony. Shaan has sung the theme song of the Khelo India Youth Games. Singer Neeti Mohan will perform on Narmada Ashtak.

Novak Djokovic wins his 10th Australian Open title, equaling Rafael Nadal's record 22 Grand Slam



- In Tennis, Novak Djokovic beats Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (7-5) to win his 10th Australian Open.
- Djokovic equals Rafael Nadal's men's record of 22 Grand Slam titles and the Serb will now be world number one in ranking.
- Tsitsipas is still waiting for first major title.

Germany lift Hockey World Cup beating Belgium in a penalty shoot out



- In the FIH Hockey World Cup, Germany have lifted the World Cup after 17 years when they beat Belgium 5-4 on a penalty shootout, after the game ended 3-3 in the final at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Germany now have won the World Cup three times, first in 2002 and second in 2006.

BCCI announces cash prize worth 5 crore rupees for U19 woman's cricket team for winning World Cup



- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of five crores rupees for the Indian women's team after they emerged as champions in the inaugural edition of the ICC Under-19 Women's T-20 World Cup in South Africa.
- India lifted the inaugural Under-19 Women's T-20 trophy, beating England by seven wickets in the final at the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.
- Team India led by Shafali Verma chased down a modest target of 69 runs in 14 overs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also congratulated the Indian Women's Cricket Team on the win.

World Boxing Champion, Nikhat Zareen to represent mining PSU NMDC as its brand ambassador



- Hyderabad-based Navratna mining PSU NMDC Limited has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with World Boxing Champion, Nikhat Zareen to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador.
- The company in a statement said that Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist Nikhat Zareen represents the strength, courage, agility and national pride that goes with the brand of NMDC.
- She also represents the hopes and aspirations of New India and NMDC must become a part of her journey to the 2024 Olympics.
- NMDC is wholeheartedly extending its support to her as she trains and prepares for the Olympics 2024.

First G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency to be held begin in Chandigarh



- The first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency will be held today and tomorrow in Chandigarh.
- Briefing the media persons at Chandigarh, Anu P Mathai, Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs said that International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important workstreams under the G20 Finance Track with a focus on strengthening the international financial architecture.
- It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries.

India's First Green Solar Panel Factory to Build by Luminous in Uttarakhand



- Luminous Power Technologies revealed that it has planned to build India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand which will be operational by the end of this year.
- The location of the new India's first green energy-based solar panel is Rudrapur which will be equipped with the latest technology to design and produce high-quality solar panels that will be used for both residential and commercial applications
- Once India's first green energy-based solar panel will be operational, the facility, spread across 4.5 lakh square feet per 10 acres will help enable a solar production capacity of 500 MW per annum.
- It is expandable up to 1 GW, producing a range of solar panels with a power output of 40W to 600W. Luminous would establish its first solar panel facility with this factory's commencement.
- Preeti Bajaj, CEO, and MD, Luminous Power Technologies, informed that this project is a major step forward in Luminous Power Technologies' journey towards enabling a cleaner and more sustainable future and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of being net zero by 2070.
- The solar panel facility is fully robotic and will use 100 percent of solar power energy.
- The facility's annual production capacity will be equivalent to the carbon sequestration of planting one crore trees, making a major contribution to the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Khelo India Youth Games begin in Madhya Pradesh



- The fifth edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 began in Madhya Pradesh on Monday. These games will conclude on February 11.
- Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated this Khel Mahakumbh in a colourful and youthful ceremony at Tatya Tope Nagar Stadium in Bhopal.
- Union Minister of State for Sports Nisith Pramanik was also present on the occasion.
- Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur said on the occasion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made constant efforts to take sports forward in the country and its result is Khelo India Youth Games which are being organized in Madhya Pradesh today.
- Mr. Thakur said that in the next five years, a budget of 3200 crore rupees will be given for Khelo India. The country's sports budget has also gone up to two thousand crores.
- He said the Prime Minister himself encourages the players by meeting them. He further said that these games have given an opportunity to the children of poor families to move forward.
- Local sports and the talents are now making a mark at the national and international level.
- About six thousand players from across the country will try their sports skills for more than 900 medals including around three hundred gold medals in 27 sports events of these games.
- Eight cities of Madhya Pradesh Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Mandla, Balaghat and Maheshwar and Delhi are hosting various sports events.

'They came from Middle East': Central body refuses to include Muslim dynasties in exhibition



- The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, organized an exhibition on Medieval Indian dynasties,

highlighting 50 different dynasties. However, the exhibition did not feature any Muslim dynasty.

- The exhibition on 'Glory of Medieval India: Manifestation of the unexplored Indian dynasties, 8th-18th Centuries' was organised by the ICHR at the Lalit Kala Akademi in Delhi. The exhibition will be open to visitors till February 6.
- Muslim dynasties like Bahmani and Adil Shahi were not part of the exhibition since no Muslim dynasty was displayed in the exhibition.
- ICHR member secretary Professor Umesh Ashok Kadam informed that he does not consider Muslim dynasties as a part of Indian dynasties.
- According to Kadam, Muslims came from the Middle East and did not have a direct connection with Indian culture.
- However Islamic dynasties were undoubtedly a part of Indian history, Kadam noted that the past should not be dominated by the Mughal or Sultanate dynasties.
- Kadam also noted that Islam and Christianity came to India in the medieval period and they uprooted the civilization and destroyed the knowledge system.
- According to the ICHR, the exhibition will soon be shown across the country to educate people about India's past.

Former NATO general Petr Pavel becomes new President of Czech Republic



- Petr Pavel, a former chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military committee, has become the new president of the Czech Republic.
- Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire Andrej Babis in a run-off vote to replace controversial President Milos Zeman as he emerged as the new Czech President.
- A former military general, Pavel got more than 58 per cent of the vote, according to the Czech Statistics Office.
- As none of the eight initial candidates received an absolute majority in the first round of voting two weeks ago, the election was decided in a second-round run-off between Pavel and Babis.
- Pavel, a former paratrooper, won 58.3 percent of votes while Andrej Babis scored 41.7 percent.
- The 61-year-old Pavel will in March replace President Milos Zeman, an outspoken and divisive politician who fostered close ties with Moscow before making a U-turn when Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Uttarakhand Tableau Wins First Prize in Republic Day Parade 2023



- Uttarakhand tableau which showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites at the 74th Republic Day parade has won the top prize.
- Uttarakhand's tableau showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites during the ceremonial parade at Kartavya Path on January 26.
- In the foreground of the tableau, reindeer, deer and various birds were shown roaming in the world-famous Corbett National Park.
- The central part of the tableau depicted the state animal of Uttarakhand, musk deer, national bird peacock and ghoral.
- Jageshwar Dham, a group of 125 small and big ancient temples in Manaskhand's Almora district, and popular deodar trees were shown in the rear part of the tableau
- Gujarat's tableau emerged as the numero uno in the popular choice segment.
- Army's Punjab Regiment has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three services, while the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) marching contingent won the top prize among the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.
- Among the ministries and departments, the tableau of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools) won the best prize.
- The Central Public Works Department's tableau on biodiversity conservation and 'Vande Bharatam' dance group earned a special prize.
- The IAF's marching contingent emerged as the winner among the three services in the popular choice category

Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi Appointed As Drugs Controller General Of India



- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended the name of Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as the new Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- Last week, the UPSC conducted interviews for the appointment of the DCGI, with

the top contenders being Dr. VG Somani, Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, and Dr Jai Prakash.

- On November 11, last year, Dr VG Somani's term as DCGI was extended for three months, coming into effect on November 16, 2022. This was done for the second time, as he had also gotten an extension in the month of August 2022.
- Dr Kiran Kumar Karlapu, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, issued the circular regarding the extension of DCGI for a further period of three months.
- Dr VG Somani was appointed as the Drugs Controller General of India in the month of August 2019.

Ladli Behna Yojna Will Start: Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Chouhan Makes Big Announcement for Women



- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant statement for the women to launch the “Ladli Bahna Yojana” in the state following the success of the Ladli Laxmi Yojana for the girls.
- No matter their caste or status, underprivileged women would receive Rs 1,000 each month under this Yojna in order to gain financial independence.
- “Ladli Bahna Yojana” will be created for the poor and lower middle class women of the state, irrespective of caste or category.
- On the occasion of Narmada Jayanti, and on the sacred banks of the Narmada, there was Ladli Lakshmi Yojana for girls. What is the distinction between a general class, a backward class, a scheduled caste, and a tribal group? Sisters are sisters, and now those sisters will receive Rs 1,000 each month.
- The funds will be deposited each month into the accounts of the recipients from every eligible family, enabling them to achieve financial independence. In five years, it is predicted that this programme will cost roughly Rs 60,000 crore.
- Notably, the state had previously seen the Ladli Laxmi Yojna and Ladli Laxmi Yojna 2. To empower the state's underprivileged women, the state government will now launch the Ladli Bahna Yojna

Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid resigns



- Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid resigned on Monday from his position after the host nation's outing at the just-concluded World Cup.
- Reid, who was appointed India coach in April 2019, led the team to a historic bronze medal finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.
- The 58-year-old Australian submitted his resignation to Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, a day after the conclusion of the World Cup in Bhubaneswar, where Germany beat Belgium in a penalty shoot-out to emerge as champions.
- Announcing his retirement, Reid said, it is now time for him to step aside and hand over the reigns to the next management.
- He added that it has been an honor and privilege to work with the team and Hockey India enjoyed every moment of this epic journey.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament



- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament today.
- She said that the Indian economy is on the right track and is heading towards a bright future, despite challenging times.
- Ms Sitharaman said the economic growth in the current year is estimated to be at 7 per cent.
- Stating that this is the first budget in Amrit Kaal, the Finance Minister said, the vision for the Amrit Kaal includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector.

PM Modi, HM Amit Shah extend best wishes to all Coast Guard personnel on their Raising Day



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his best wishes to all Coast Guard personnel on their Raising Day.
- He said the Indian Coast Guard is known for its professionalism and efforts to keep the coasts safe.
- Mr Modi also conveyed his best wishes to them for their future endeavors.
- Home Minister Amit Shah has extended greetings to the India Coast Guard personnel on their foundation day.
- Saluting their unconquerable spirit of patriotism, Mr Shah said that they inspire with their commitment to the service of the nation by offering themselves as a line of defense to protect India's maritime.
- Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing regulations in the maritime zones of India.
- One of the primary duties of the Indian Coast Guard is the prevention of smuggling through maritime routes in its area of responsibility.

Shanti Bhushan, veteran lawyer and former Union Law Minister, dies at 97



- Former Union Law Minister and veteran lawyer Shanti Bhushan died Tuesday after a brief illness. He was 97.
- He is survived by his sons Prashant Bhushan and Jayant Bhushan, both leading lawyers, and daughters Shalini Gupta and Shefali Bhushan.
- A crusader in courtrooms and outside, Shanti Bhushan took up several causes in his long public life.
- After a brief stint in the Congress (O), he took on Indira Gandhi on behalf of his client Raj Narain before the Allahabad High Court, challenging her election victory.

- He won the case that eventually led to Gandhi imposing Emergency.
- In 1977, when the Janata Party came to power, Bhushan was appointed Law Minister when he overturned a series of Constitutional Amendments that were made during Indira Gandhi's time.

Reliance announces tie-up with Sri Lanka's Maliban Biscuits



- Reliance Consumer Products Limited, the FMCG firm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered Maliban Biscuit Manufactories Limited.
- Maliban, a biscuit manufacturer, has been well-known for the last 70 years for its range of quality products including biscuits, crackers, cookies, and wafers.
- According to the partnership, the company has expanded its product's reach to global markets and exports to over 35 countries across five continents
- Maliban has a deep-rooted heritage and credibility. With the strategic partnership between RCPL and Maliban, the company will not only be strengthening the FMCG portfolio through a great brand but will also be able to offer an excellent value proposition through quality products to our Indian consumers.
- Reliance is well-positioned to further expand the excellent consumer equity and reach that Maliban has built over 70 years.
- The vision of Reliance's FMCG arm is to bring Indian consumers a bouquet of domestic and globally recognized consumer brands and product choices that offer superior value propositions with exceptional quality.
- It launched its packaged consumer products brand, 'Independence' in December 2022 and is creating a distinct and dedicated retail distribution network for its fast-expanding FMCG portfolio

Indian Army organizes integrated exercise in North Bengal



- A joint training exercise "Exercise Trishakti Prahar" was conducted in North Bengal

from 21 January to 31 January 2023.

- The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the Security Forces using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving all arms and services of the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs.
- Exercise culminated on 31 January 2023 with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise in Teesta Field Firing Ranges.
- As part of the exercise, swift mobilization and deployment practices were carried out in various locations across North Bengal.
- Efforts of all agencies including the Civil Administration, Civil Defence Organisations, Police and CAPFs were coordinated to ensure efficient move and quick mobilization
- The exercise showcased the joint application of ground and aerial assets to include the latest generation Fighter Aircraft, helicopters, Tanks, Infantry Combat Vehicles, Medium & Field Artillery Guns, Infantry Mortars, and various New Generation Infantry weapons and equipment in a networked environment.
- The exercise also witnessed the participation of newly inducted weapons and equipment made in India as part of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' organized for Delhi govt school teachers



- Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has organized a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi government schools at Thyagaraj stadium.
- About 4,000 teachers from Delhi government schools are expected to participate in this workshop between 28th January 2023 to 1st February 2023.
- Jeevan Vidya Shivir is a co-existence workshop based on the Existential philosophy of A Nagraj.
- It is a proposal to understand all of Life and provides comprehensive clarity on all aspects of Reality and the Human Being.
- It provides resolutions for our multidimensional dichotomies and problems -via awareness and consciousness development. It offers a new direction for humans to live wholesome, coherent, and meaningful lives.
- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia participated in the workshop on Saturday and addressed the participant teachers.
- While addressing the teachers Sisodia informed the gathering that many good things are being done in the current education system, but there are still many flaws in it.

- These 5-day Jeevan Vidya Shivir, he said will help teachers in building their capacity to find those gaps present in the education system and fill them

Morgan Stanley names Arun Kohli new country head for India



- Morgan Stanley named Arun Kohli as the new India head to replace Sanjay Shah, a veteran of 26 years at the firm, who is retiring.
- Kohli, currently the chief operating officer for EMEA, will head the US bank's business in the country, according to a memo seen by Bloomberg News.
- With the bank since 2007, Kohli will relocate to Mumbai from London where he headed the firm's post-Brexit strategy and implemented growth strategies across markets in the region.
- The Wall Street bank had been operating in India for 29 years and provides a variety of services from investment banking, fixed income, commodities and derivative products, according to information available on its website.
- Shah, who rose through the ranks after joining the company as an associate in 1996 in the institutional equities division in Mumbai, was named its country head in 2021.
- The bank had picked Kamal Yadav and Sachin Wagle as co-heads of investment banking in the country, while Samarth Jagnani was picked as the new chief for global capital markets in India, at the same time in 2021.
- A spokesperson for Morgan Stanley confirmed the contents of the memo.

Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM



- Equatorial Guinea has appointed Manuela Roka Botey as prime minister. She became the first woman in the country to hold the position.
- President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has ruled the country since 1979, made the announcement in a decree read on state television.
- Ms Rotey was previously the education minister and joined the government in 2020.
- She replaces former premier Francisco Pascual Obama Asue, who has been in the position since 2016.

- Obiang, 80, was re-elected for a sixth term in office in November with 95% of the vote, cementing his place as the world's longest-standing ruler.
- The United States said at the time it had "serious doubts about the credibility of the announced results" in the election and called on authorities to work with all stakeholders to address allegations of voter fraud.

Former wrestler Babita Phogat joins Oversight Committee panel formed to probe allegations against WFI



- Babita Phogat, a former wrestler, joined the oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).
- The Oversight Committee is also looking into claims of sexual misbehavior, harassment, and/or intimidation, as well as financial and organizational irregularities made by well-known athletes.
- Babita Phogat has become the 6th member of the Oversight Committee, which is being headed by Khel Ratna Awardee MC Mary Kom.

RBI appoints V Ramachandra as member of Advisory Committee of SIFL, SEFL



- V Ramachandra, a former chief general officer of Canara Bank, was appointed by the Reserve Bank on Tuesday to the advisory committees of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL).
- The RBI had created a three-member advisory council to support the administrator of the two crisis-ridden enterprises after replacing the boards of SIFL and SEFL in October 2021.
- During the corporate insolvency resolution process, the Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Administrator regarding the management of SIFL and SEFL.
- Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, a former deputy managing director at the State Bank

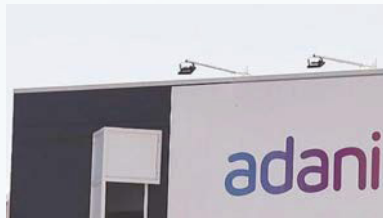
of India, and T. Srinivasaraghavan, a former managing director at Sundaram Finance Limited, make up the other two members of the committee.

UNESCO designates Ukraine's Odesa a World Heritage in Danger site



- The United Nations cultural organization, UNESCO, designated the historic center of Odesa as a World Heritage Site and categorized it as being “in danger” during a committee meeting in Paris.
- It is in recognition of the historical significance of a Black Sea port that Russia has pounded with missiles as it seeks to retake Ukraine.
- Catherine Colonna, France’s foreign minister, intended to visit the city to demonstrate her solidarity, but the possibility of a Russian missile strike derailed her plans.
- In October, President Volodymyr Zelensky requested that the United Nations declare Odesa to be an endangered World Heritage Site.
- The U.N. agency expedited the process out of concern for the harm being done to the city’s numerous cultural sites

Adani Group Acquires Israeli Port Of Haifa For \$1.2 Billion, Netanyahu Lauds Deal As ‘Enormous Milestone’



- The Adani Group acquired the strategic Israeli port of Haifa for USD 1.2 billion and vowed to transform the skyline of this Mediterranean city as part of its decision to invest more in the Jewish nation, including opening an artificial intelligence lab in Tel Aviv.
- Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, whose business empire was rocked by allegations of fraud by US short seller Hindenburg Research, appeared alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for signing of the deal to takeover Haifa Port, and spoke of investment opportunities.
- Promising to transform the entire port landscape. Adani said the group’s intention is to make the right set of investments that will not just make the Adani-Gadot partnership proud but will make the whole of Israel proud.

- “The acquisition of the Haifa port also comes with a significant amount of real estate.
- And I promise you that in the years to come we will transform the skyline we see around us.
- The Haifa of tomorrow will look very different from the Haifa that you see today.

Former PM Manmohan Singh Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Honour In UK



- Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honors in London for his contribution to economic and political life.
- The India-UK Achievers Honors by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- To mark 75 years of India's independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honors covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge.

India welcomes Congo to International Solar Alliance



- India has welcomed Congo to International Solar Alliance. The External Affairs Ministry said Ambassador of Republic of Congo, Raymond Serge Bale signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in the presence of Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy).
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.
- Its basic motive is to facilitate energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition in its member countries.

- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions
- The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in Gurugram.

Name of Bhopal's Islam Nagar village changed to Jagdishpur



- The Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village, situated in the Bhopal district, has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- The MP administration, in an official release, declared the changes and mentioned the change in the name with immediate effect.
- In the press note, the state government said the decision was conveyed by the central government's ministry of home affairs. Also, it stated that the home ministry had issued the renaming on September 15, 2022.
- Islam Nagar village is located at a distance of around 12 km from Bhopal and is famous for forts.
- According to certain accounts, the name of Islam Nagar used to be Jagdishpur 308 years ago.
- The account says Dost Mohammed Khan established his capital 10km away from modern Bhopal, at Jagdishpur and named it Islam Nagar.

Ek Nath Shinde govt. declares 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' as State song



- The Maharashtra government announced the Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha as the state song, which is usually performed at school cultural events on May 1, second only to the national anthem.
- The song will now be played on official occasions. The national anthem will always take precedence, and the state song will play at all government-organised events,

according to rules established by the state cabinet.

- In addition to the daily prayer and the national anthem, the song Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha will be played in all schools.
- From the following academic year, state board textbooks will feature the state anthem. The song's two stanzas have a total duration of 1.41 minutes.

Veteran Telugu filmmaker K. Viswanath passes away at 92



- Legendary film director K. Vishwanath passed away in Hyderabad on February 2, at the age of 92 while undergoing treatment for age-related illnesses at a hospital.
- In a career spanning seven decades, Vishwanath wrote, directed and acted in several movies.
- Though his work was primarily in Telugu cinema, he also directed several Hindi remakes.
- He was known for making films about social issues and frequently collaborated with the actor Kamal Haasan, who starred in movies like Sagara Sangamam (1983) and Swathi Muthyam (1986). Vishwanath's best-known film is Sankarabharanam (1980).
- Viswanath made his Bollywood debut with 1979 film Sargam, which was a remake of his own movie Siri Siri Muvva.
- His films won five National Film Awards and seven state Nandi Awards. For his work, he was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest award in Indian cinema, in 2017. He was also a recipient of the Padma Shri.

India to be theme country at 2025 Madrid International Book Fair



- India will be invited as the focal country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025, the Ambassador of Spain to India, Jose Maria Ridaos said.
- Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair. The Madrid International Book Fair is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid.

- “We are inviting India as the theme country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. It is usually for publishers only. But, we can expand the horizon, to include cinema and music as well,” Jose Maria Ridao told.
- He said as part of the cultural exchange between the two countries, Spain has donated books to five universities in Bengal, where the Spanish language is taught.
- Works of Spanish authors are also being published by leading Indian publishing houses, Ridao said.

President Droupadi Murmu addressed 31st Foundation Day of NCW.



- The President of India Droupadi Murmu addressed the 31st Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women in Delhi on January 31st, 2023.
- The theme of the program was ‘Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat’ which aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the stories of women who have excelled and paved their journey to leave a mark.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani and MoS, WCD, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai also graced the occasion.
- The Commission organized a two-day event to celebrate its 31st Foundation Day from 31st January 2023 to 1st February 2023.
- On the second day, a panel discussion was held with extraordinary women who have led the path of inspiration and empowerment for several others.
- The Commission aims to provide a platform with a diverse and varied exchange of dialogue focusing on gender equality in the decision-making and leadership roles of women belonging to different socio-economic backgrounds.
- NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, of 1990.

Madhvendra Singh appointed first CEO of Gujarat Maritime Cluster



- Madhvendra Singh was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster.

- The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards.
- Gujarat Maritime Board established GMC through its subsidiary, Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited, to provide impetus to the overhauling of the state and nation's maritime sector by developing an integrated ecosystem of soft services related to the global maritime and shipping industry in line with the concept of 'the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of the individual companies.'
- Gujarat Maritime Cluster intends to host a wide array of maritime, shipping, and logistics services providers in GIFT City at Gandhinagar.
- It is the first and only maritime cluster in India at present. Besides serving as a vital platform enabling the regional maritime businesses to put forth their views and interests.

A faint, stylized illustration of a laptop computer is centered in the background. On the screen of the laptop, the words "PLUTUS Academy" are displayed in a light, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page is a light blue gradient with several large, overlapping, semi-transparent circles in various shades of blue and white, creating a modern, abstract design.

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