## PLUTUS ACADEMY



CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2022



2022





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# PUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2022

#### **International News**

#### 1. PRIME MINISTER HASINA INAUGURATES THE DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh inaugurated the 26th annual Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) on Saturday. She declared the ICT products and services as the 'product of the year 2022'.
- Inaugurating the month-long trade fair virtually from her official residence, Prime Minister Hasina urged the business community to explore new markets and diversify the product basket. She emphasized the need to improve the quality and standard of the existing export items.
- Prime Minister Hasina highlighted the importance of agricultural products, food processing, leather products and jute products among important items of trade.
- Pointing to the continued growth in exports, Prime Minister Hasina said that export has gone up from USD 15.66 billion in 2009 to over USD 45 billion in 2021.

## 2. SRILANKA TO GO BANKRUPT BY 2022 WITH RECORD-HIGH INFLATION, DECLARES ECONOMIC EMERGENCY



- Sri Lanka is facing a deepening financial and humanitarian crisis with fears it could go bankrupt in 2022 as inflation rises to record levels, food prices rocket and its coffers run dry.
- The meltdown faced by the government, led by president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is in part caused by the immediate impact of the Covid crisis and the loss of tourism but is compounded by high government spending and tax cuts eroding state revenues, vast debt repayments to China.
- The foreign exchange reserves are at their lowest levels in a decade.
- Inflation has meanwhile been spurred by the government printing money to pay off domestic loans and foreign bonds.

#### 3. World's longest Metro line opened in China



- Shanghai has opened two new metro lines, upholding its rank as the city with the largest Metro network in the world.
- With the new lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network has extended to 831 km, continuing to be the longest in the world.
- China's Shanghai opened two new metro lines Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18.

#### 4. CHINA LAUNCHES 5-YEAR PLAN TO BECOME A HUB OF WORLD ROBOTICS INNOVATION



- China has announced a five-year roadmap to achieve its goal of becoming a global robotics innovation hub by the year 2025.
- China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology revealed operating income from the country's robotics industry is expected to grow by around 20% per year between 2021 and 2025.
- From 2016 to 2020, the sector expanded at an average growth rate of 15%.
- Last year, operating income surpassed 100 billion yuan (\$15.69 billion) for the first time.
- As per the 2021 World Robot Report, South Korea, Singapore, and Japan were the top three most automated countries in Asia-Pacific.

#### **Banking News**

#### 5. BALDEV PRAKASH NAMED AS MD & CEO OF J&K BANK

- Baldev Prakash has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank for three years.
- His appointment will be effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier.
- Apart from him, R K Chhibber has been appointed as an additional director on the board of the bank.

- Prakash has over 30 years of experience in banking.
- He had joined SBI as a probationary officer in 1991 and was the Chief General Manager (Digital and Transaction Banking Marketing Department) at SBI, Mumbai.
- The appointment is effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank Headquarters: Srinagar



6. GOVERNMENT APPROVED 19TH TRANCHE OF ELECTORAL BONDS



- The government has approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds, which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022, ahead of assembly elections in five states Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa.
- In the 19th tranche of sale, the State Bank of India (SBI), has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 specialised branches.
- There is no limit on the number of bonds an individual or company can purchase. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days

#### 7. IRDAI: LIC, GIC RE AND NEW INDIA SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT INSURERS



- Insurance regulator, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has stated that LIC, GIC Re and New India continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22.
- D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness, whose distress or failure would cause significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
- The continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the availability of insurance services. D-SIIs are insurers that are perceived to be 'too big or too important to fail'.
- IRDAI Founded: 1999
- IRDAI Headquarters: Hyderabad

#### **National News**

#### 8. Odisha launched Digital Life Certificate system for pensioners 2022



- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched an online service for the verification of identity and submission of life certificates for pensioners of the state government.
- The chief minister virtually launched the new initiative while attending the orientation programme for newly recruited 153 officers of Odisha Civil Services.
- Identification and life certificates can now be submitted by the pensioners using an artificial intelligence-based video-verification process.
- It will be of immense help to the pensioners as they can submit their identification and life certificates digitally, without visiting any government office simply by using their mobile phones.
- Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

## 9. UP'S JHANSI RAILWAY STATION RENAMED AS 'VEERANGANA LAXMIBAI RAILWAY STATION'



- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has announced that the government of UP has renamed the Jhansi Railway Station, in Jhansi, UP as "Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station" after Rani Laxmibai.
- The announcement was made by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- A notification to this effect has been issued by the UP government and the Railways has started preparations to implement the change.

#### 10. Danish Siddiqui posthumously gets Mumbai Press Club's RedInk Award

- Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, who died during an assignment in Afghanistan, has been posthumously awarded as the Journalist of the Year' for 2020 by the Mumbai Press Club.
- Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Wednesday presented the annual 'RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism', instituted by the Mumbai Press Club, in a virtual event.
- He presented the prestigious award to Siddiqui "for his spectrum of investigative and impactful news photography".

- Danish Siddiqui's wife Frederike Siddiqui received the award.
- Senior journalist Prem Shankar Jha, 83, was bestowed with the lifetime achievement award "for his long and distinguished career of incisive and analytical writing".



**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **National News**

1. GST collection at Rs 1.29 lakh crore in Dec, 2021



- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December 2021 is Rs 1,29,780 crore, of which CGST is Rs 22,578 crore, SGST is Rs 28,658 crore, IGST is Rs 69,155 crore (including Rs 37,527 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 9,389 crore (including Rs 614 crore collected on import of goods)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.
- Though the collection was lower than Rs 1.31 lakh crore mopped up in November, December is the sixth month in a row when revenue from goods sold and services rendered stood at over Rs 1 lakh crore.
- The average monthly gross GST collection for the third quarter (October-December) of the current year has been Rs 1.30 lakh crore against the average monthly collection Plutus Academy of Rs 1.10 lakh crore and Rs 1.15 lakh crore in the first and second quarter, respectively.

## 2. TECH MAHINDRA TO ACQUIRE 100 PERCENT STAKE IN ALLYIS INDIA, GREEN INVESTMENTS



- Tech Mahindra on Friday said it has approved a proposal for the acquisition of a 100 per cent stake in Allyis India and Green Investments, for a total consideration of up to USD 125 million.
- The acquisition will bolster Tech Mahindra's capabilities in Digital Experience Solutions, Learning & Development, Marketing, Instructional Design; Engineering: Cloud & Automation, BI & Analytics, Technical support services.
- Tech Mahindra will pay total consideration of up to \$125 million, including employment-related and performance-related earnouts, as per a regulatory update filed with the exchanges.
- Allyis India Pvt Ltd and Green Investments LLC offer technology consulting and managed services for organizations to help reduce costs, improve performance, and meet their objectives.
- Tech Mahindra CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- Tech Mahindra Headquarters: Pune

#### 3. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN CHAIRS 46TH GST COUNCIL MEET IN DELHI



- The GST Council's 46th meeting was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The GST Council has recommended deferring the decision to change the rates in textiles recommended in the 45th GST Council meeting.
- Consequently, the existing GST rates of 5 % instead of 12% in textile sector would continue.
- The 2022-23 Union Budget of India will be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2022.
- This will be the fourth budget of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government in its second tenure.

## 4. First electric boat built for Kochi Water Metro Project handed over to KMRL



- In Kerala, the first battery powered electric boat built for the Kochi Water Metro Project was handed over to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited at a function held at the Cochin Shipyard today.
- The fully air-conditioned boat is among the 23 boats being built by the Cochin Shipyard for the 747-crore rupee Kochi Water Metro project.
- The boat has been christened Muziris after the prominent BC-era port, located about 25 kilometres away from Kochi city. The 50 seater boat can carry 100 passengers at a time.
- Kochi Water Metro system will have 78 ferries, linking 38 terminals spread over 76 route kilometres.

#### 5. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHES READING CAMPAIGN 'PADHE BHARAT'



- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat.
- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which lays emphasis on the promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring the availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal language.
- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organized for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from January 1, 2022, to April 10, 2022.
- The reading campaign aims to have the participation of all stakeholders at the national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators etc.

#### **Important Days**

#### 6. WORLD BRAILLE DAY OBSERVED ON 04 JANUARY 2022

- World Braille Day is observed globally on 4th January since 2019.
- The day aims to recognize the right of access to braille by blind people and raise awareness of the

importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

- The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille for people with visual disabilities.
- Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France.



#### **Banking News**

#### 7. LIC INAUGURATES DIGI ZONE TO SELL POLICIES ONLINE



- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has inaugurated "Digi Zone", at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, as part of its effort to enhance its digital footprint.
- LIC's Digi Zone can be used by the customers to purchase policies online, pay the premium and avail of other services.
- As a part of its efforts to become a tech-driven life insurer, LIC will offer information related to its products and services through kiosks installed on the Digi Zone premises.
- LIC Chairperson: M R Kumar
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956

#### **Appointment News**

#### 8. V.S Pathania takes over as Director-General of Indian Coast Guard



- V.S. Pathania took over as the 24th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard from Krishnaswamy Natarajan who retired from service. He is an alumnus of Defense Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defense College, New Delhi.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in Nov 2019 and took over the reins as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.
- In a career of over 36 years, Pathania has held several key appointments afloat and ashore and has also commanded all classes of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel 'Rani Jindan', Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vigraha' and advanced OPV 'Sarang', it said.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in November 2019 and took over as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.

#### **Sports News**

## 9. Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez announces retirement from cricket



- Pakistani all-rounder, Mohammad Hafeez has announced his retirement from international cricket on January 03, 2022, to end his career spanning more than 18 years.
- The 41-year-old Hafeez retired from Test cricket in December 2018.
- He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs and 119 T20Is for Pakistan, scoring 12,780 runs across formats. He is nicknamed "The Professor".

By Sameer Singhal

#### **National News**

## 1. EDUCATION MINISTER AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHES NEAT 3.0

- Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched NEAT 3.0, which is a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.
- The Minister also launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages.

- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pradhan said that NEAT will be a game-changer in bridging the digital
  divide, especially among the economically disadvantaged students and also in fulfilling the knowledgebased requirement of India and the world.
- The Minister informed that 58 global and Indian start-up ed-tech companies are onboard NEAT and are offering 100 courses and e-resources for bettering learning outcomes, developing employable skills and overcoming learning loss.



## 2. PM Modi to inaugurate 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry on Jan 12



• Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th National Youth Festival in the Union Territory of Puducherry on January 12 at the Pondicherry Central University campus.

- As a part of the National Youth Festival Union Minister for Youth Affairs and sports Anurag Thakur and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan will jointly release the logo today.
- The Union Minister will oversee the preparations and logistics of the festival also.
- Around 7000 youth from across the country and 500 youth from Puducherry aged between 18 and 22 are expected to participate in the 5-day youth festival to be held from January 12 to 16.
- Lieutenant Governor Dr Soundararajan said that the Prime Minister will reach Pondicherry by 9.30 am and visit the Aurobindo Ashram.

#### 3. TELANGANA TOPS IN HIGHEST NUMBER OF ODF VILLAGES



- Telangana stood first in the country in the list of the highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021.
- As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in the State are on the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%.
- This was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%).
- Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45%).
- The State government has enacted a new Telangana Panchayat Raj Act to ensure the holistic development of villages.
- A secretary has been posted in every panchayat for smooth execution of welfare programmes, close monitoring, digital reporting and to ensure the prevalence of good governance in villages.

#### 4. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched "India Semiconductor Mission"

- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in India.
- The companies that are interested are invited by the Center for the development of the semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India.
- ISM is a specialized and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation.
- The financial support of up to 50 per cent of the project cost (ceiling of Rs 12,000 crore per fab) will be provided for the scheme for setting up display fabs.



#### **Defense News**

#### 5. DG NCC FORMALLY INAUGURATES NCC REPUBLIC DAY CAMP 2022



- Director-General of National Cadet Corps, Lt General Gurbirpal Singh formally inaugurated NCC Republic Day Camp 2022 at Delhi Cantt today.
- The Republic Day Camp is held at the culmination of one complete year of training of NCC cadets and is conducted at Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment from 1st to 29th January every year.
- The Camp is attended by around 2,200 cadets, specially selected from all over India. Inter Directorate competitions in training, cultural competitions and National Integration awareness programmes are conducted during the month-long camp.
- Two NCC marching contingents participate in the Republic Day Parade on Rajpath on 26th January every year.

#### **Appointments**

#### 6. Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy was first employee to be hired for Tesla's



- Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk, who has been using social media to recruit people, has disclosed that Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.
- Before joining Tesla, Mr Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.
- Ashok Elluswamy holds a bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the College of Engineering Guindy, Chennai and a Master's degree in Robotics System Development from Carnegie Mellon University.

#### 7. ALKA MITTAL BECOMES 1ST WOMEN HEAD OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION



- Alka Mittal has been appointed as the interim chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), making her the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.
- She is the first woman to head the top post at the Maharatna company. She replaces Subhash Kumar who superannuated on December 31. He was also serving as an interim head.
- ONGC Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi;
- ONGC Founded: 14 August 1956.

#### **Obituary News**

## 8. Legendary Kenyan Conservationist and Fossil-hunter Richard Leaky passes away



- World-renowned Kenyan politician, conservationist and fossil hunter Richard Leakey has passed away.
- The legendary paleoanthropologist is credited for the discovery of 'Turkana Boy' in 1984 which led to groundbreaking discoveries proving that humankind evolved in Africa.
- Turkana boy is the most complete fossil Skeleton of a human ancestor ever found.
- Paleoanthropology is the study of human evolution through fossil and archaeological records.
- Leakey is also known to spearhead campaigns against the ivory trade to save the population of African elephants.

#### **Banking News**

#### 9. RBI RETAINS SBI, ICICI BANK, HDFC BANK AS D-SIBS 2022



- Reserve Bank of India has retained State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- These three banks have continued to be on the D-SIBs list published by RBI, since Sep 04, 2017.
- Domestic Systemically Important Banks are those banks which if fail would have a significant impact on the economy.
- The D-SIBs banks are classified into 5 buckets. Bucket 1, Bucket 2, Bucket 3, Bucket 4 and Bucket 5.
- With Bucket 5 being the most important followed by rest in decreasing order. State Bank of India is in Bucket 3, while ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank are in Bucket 1.

By Sameer Singhal

#### **National News**

## 1. Various development projects launched by Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari in UP

- Defense Minister and MP from Lucknow, Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari today laid the foundation stone of Lucknow Kanpur expressway in a function in Lucknow.
- This 4,200 crore rupees project will reduce travel time between the two cities to barely 40 minutes.

The Defence Minister also launched many development projects worth more than rupees 10 thousand crores for his constituency Lucknow today.

- Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath Singh said that these projects will not only give impetus to development of Lucknow but the whole Uttar Pradesh state.
- He said that a new era of development has begun in the country in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



#### 2. KHELO INDIA GAMES 2023



- The Khelo India Games were introduced to revive the sports culture in India. The 2021 Khelo India Games were postponed due to COVID crisis.
- It is now to be conducted in Haryana in January 2022. The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur is to attend the games.
- The Khelo India Youth Games 2022-23 is to be held in Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet recently approved to host the games from Bhopal.
- The Government of Madhya Pradesh allocated Rs 176.59 crores for the first phase. Rs 15.56 crores is to be spent on operation and maintenance of International Sports Complex.
- Separate Funds are to be allocated for second and third phases.

#### 3. HIMACHAL PRADESH BECAME 1ST LPG ENABLED & SMOKE FREE STATE



- Himachal Pradesh became the first LPG enables, also, smoke-free state.
- This milestone was achieved due to the Ujjwala Scheme and Grahini Suvidha Yojana by Centre.
- The Ujjwala scheme was introduced by the government to get rid of the smoke.
- The Grahini Suvidha Scheme was introduced to assist the women of rural areas.
- Ujjwalla Yojna was started by the Centre government with the view to free the women of the country from indoor pollution.
- Himachal government also started the Grihini Suvidha Yojana to benefit as many women as possible
- Himachal Pradesh Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

#### 4. Ayush Minister lays foundation stone of International Yoga Academy



- Union Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of the Heartfulness International Yoga Academy in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- He also launched 75 crores suryanamaskar initiative as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- The 75 crore Surya Namaskar project is a tribute to 75 years of India's independence.
- Surya Namaskar's practice of sun salutation' literally means the sun salutation and the project will continue until February 20.
- The programme is supported by some central ministries and is led by five international organizations Patanjali Yogpeeth, Heartfulness Institute, NYSF-National Yogasana Sports Federation, Geeta Parivar and Kreeda Bharati.

#### **International News**

#### 5. NORTH KOREA SAYS HYPERSONIC MISSILE TESTED TO MODERNISE WEAPONRY



- It was North Korea's second such test, as the country pursues new military capabilities because of stalled denuclearisation talks.
- The launch by North Korea was the first since October 2021.
- It was detected by several militaries in the region.
- However, this test drew criticism from governments in the United States, Japan and South Korea.
- Hypersonic weapons usually fly towards targets at lower altitudes as compared to ballistic missiles.
- Such weapons can achieve more than five times the speed of sound, that is around 6,200 km per hour.
- However, main feature of the hypersonic weapon is not speed but their manoeuvrability.
- Hypersonic weapons are the next generation of arms, which aim to rob adversaries of traditional defeat mechanisms and reaction time.

#### 6. Google acquires Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 million



- Alphabet Inc-owned, Google has acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify, in a deal worth \$500 million.
- This acquisition will expand the U.S. tech giant's security offerings in the country amid rising cyberattacks.
- Siemplify will be integrated into Google Cloud's Chronicle operation.
- As a part of Google Cloud's security team, Siemplify will help companies better manage their threat response.

#### 7. Apple becomes world's first company to hit \$3 trillion M-Cap



- The stock market value of Apple Inc. hit \$3 trillion and became the world's first company to do so.
- The market cap of Apple hit \$182.86 per share, which made it the world's first company to touch the \$3 trillion mark.
- However shortly after hitting the mark, the share value dipped below it and did not rise again until the market closed.
- The iPhone maker passed \$2 trillion in 2020 and over \$1 trillion in 2018.
- Apple Inc. CEO: Tim Cook
- Apple Inc. Founded: 1 April 1976, California, United States
- Apple Inc. Headquarters: Cupertino, California, United States

#### **Obituary**

#### 8. SINDHUTAI SAPKAL POPULAR AS 'MOTHER OF ORPHANS' PASSES AWAY



- Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal, who was called as 'Mother of Orphans' passed away at the age of 73 years.
- She was also referred to just as 'Sindhutai' or 'Mai'. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021 in the Social Work category.
- Apart from this, she had received more than 750 awards and honours in her lifetime.
- She adopted close to 2,000 orphans and is grandmother to even more. She was from Maharashtra.

#### **Important Days**

#### 9. WORLD DAY OF WAR ORPHANS 2022



- World Day of War Orphans is marked on 6 January to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.
- In any conflict, children are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups present.
- World Day of War Orphans was started by the French organization SOS Enfants en Detresse, which aimed to help children affected by conflict.
- According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an orphan is defined as a "child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death".

By Sameer Singhal

#### **National News**

#### 1. PM Modi to inaugurate second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata tomorrow via video conferencing.
- The second campus of CNCI has been built in line with the Prime Minister's vision to expand and upgrade the health facilities in all parts of the country.
- CNCI was facing a heavy load of cancer patients and a need for expansion was being felt for some time. This need will be fulfilled through the second campus.
- The second campus of CNCI has been built at a cost of 530 crore rupees, out of which around 400 crore rupees have been provided by the Union government and rest by the West Bengal government.
- The campus is a 460 bedded comprehensive cancer centre unit with cutting edge infrastructure for cancer diagnosis, staging, treatment and care.

#### 2. Indian-Origin Captain Harpreet Chandi reaches South Pole

- Captain Harpreet Chandi, Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.
- Capt. Chandi announced her history-making feat at the end of Day 40 after travelling 700 miles (1,127 kilometres) while pulling a pulk or sledge with all of her kit and battling temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of around 60mph.
- As part of a Medical Regiment in the northwest of England, Capt. Chandi's primary role is to organise and validate training for medics in the Army as Clinical Training Officer.

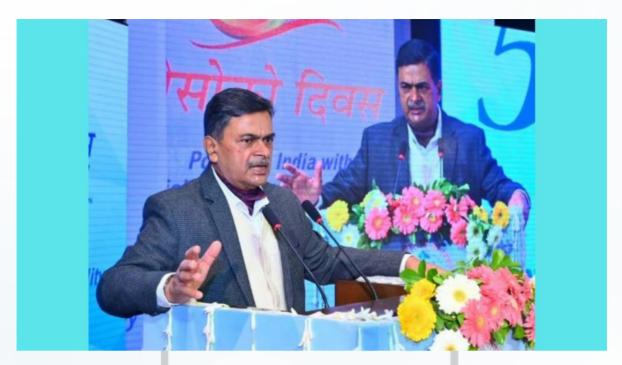


#### 3. KERALA'S HIGH COURT: INDIA'S FIRST PAPERLESS COURT



- The Kerala High Court is all set to become India's first paperless court. Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated the smart courtrooms on 1 January 2022.
- In the 1st phase six courtrooms, including the Chief Justice's room, will be converted into smart courts.
- Also, case files will be made available to the lawyers on the computer screen.
- Cases e-filed will be processed, verified and cured through e-mode, stakeholders can avail the option of hearing of cases in hybrid mode involving physical hearing as well as through videoconferencing, and orders and judgments will also be delivered through e-mode.

#### 4. Raj Kumar Singh dedicates Automatic Generation Control to nation



- Power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh has dedicated Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation.
- The AGC sends signals to power plants every four seconds to maintain the frequency and thereby reliability of India's power system.
- It will help in achieving the government's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030.
- Automatic Generation Control will be operated by Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) through National Load Despatch Centre.
- POSOCO will send signals to every power plant through AGC every 4 seconds to maintain the frequency and reliability of the Power System.
- R.K. Singh has also released a report titled "Assessment of Inertia in Indian Power System". It has been prepared by POSOCO with the help of IIT Bombay.

#### 5. JC CHAUDHRY GETS FIRST EVER GUINNESS WORLD RECORD IN NUMEROLOGY

- India's one of the top numerologists, JC Chaudhry has achieved the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 by educating about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology joined from the United States, the United Kingdom, Middle East, and India.
- The Guinness World Record London office has opened a new category, "Numerology" for this achievement.
- The initiative was organised by CNPL (Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd) and the Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology, which is prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt, China, Chaldea and India.



#### **International News**

#### 6. Antigua and Barbuda joined ISA as the 102nd member



- Antigua and Barbuda became the 102nd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the ISA Framework Agreement in St. John's, Antigua
- The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.
- ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.
- Antigua and Barbuda Capital: Saint John's
- Antigua and Barbuda Currency: East Caribbean Dollar

### 7. KAZAKHSTAN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY AFTER PROTESTS OVER FUEL PRICE RISES TURNED VIOLENT



- The President of Kazakhstan has declared a two-week state of emergency in parts of the country after protests over fuel price rises turned violent. Big demonstrations were reported in several areas across the country.
- Police in Almaty, the country's biggest city, used tear gas to contain crowds after vehicles were set on fire.
- A decree issued by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Wednesday said that he had accepted the government's resignation amid the unrest.
- It also appointed the nation's deputy prime minister, Alikhan Smailov, as the new prime minister on an interim basis.
- In a video address on Tuesday, the president said that attacks on government offices by protesters were absolutely illegal.

#### **Appointments**

#### 8. TS TIRUMURTI ASSUMES CHAIR OF UNSC COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- India has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022.
- Being the Chair of Counter-Terrorism Committee 2022, India will work to further enhance the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism, and ensure that global response to the threat of terrorism remains unambiguous, undivided and effective.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation UNSC. Its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.



#### 9. Shafali Verma appointed as Brand Endorser of Bank of Baroda



- State-owned Bank of Baroda has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser.
- The Bank continuously supports the youth of the country through its various banking and non-banking initiatives and this announcement reflects the bank's ethos of adding value to its customer experience by choosing youth-icons like Shafali to inspire them."
- In 2019, at the age of 15, Shafali became the youngest cricketer to play in a Women's Twenty20 International match for India.
- Previously in 2021, Shafali Verma became the 1st Women Cricketer to Hit 3 Sixes in Test Match.

**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **National News**

## 1. NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE TO BE INAUGURATED BY UNION MINISTER DR. JITENDRA SINGH IN HYDERABAD



- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the State Government of Telangana will organize the 24th Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21 on 7th 8th January 2022 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The theme of this Conference is 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'.
- Digital innovation will play an important part in the next decade for governance and this will necessitate conversations around topics and technologies which would shape Digital Governance in the future.
- The conference would provide considerable momentum to the e-governance initiatives across the country, providing opportunities for civil servants and industry captains to showcase their successful interventions in e-governance in improving end to end service delivery.

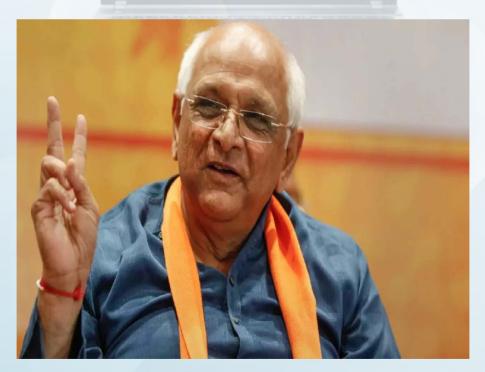
#### 2. EC HIKES EXPENDITURE LIMITS FOR CANDIDATES AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS

- The Election Commission on Thursday announced a hike in expenditure limit for candidates to Rs 95 lakh (up from Rs 70 lakh) for Lok Sabha elections, and Rs 40 lakh (up from Rs 28 lakh) for Assembly polls.
- The ceiling on parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from 70 lakh to 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and 54 lakh to 75 lakhs in smaller states.
- For Assembly constituencies, expenditure limits have been enhanced from 28 lakh rupees to 40 lakh rupees in bigger states and from 20 lakhs to 28 lakhs in smaller states.
- The government's decision is based on the poll panel's recommendation.

- The EC had formed a committee to study cost factors and other related issues, and subsequently make suitable recommendations.
- The committee invited suggestions from political parties, chief electoral officers and election observers, and found that there has been a substantial increase in the number of electors and Cost Inflation Index since 2014.



## 3. GUJARAT CM BHUPENDRA PATEL LAUNCHED STUDENT START-UPS AND INNOVATION POLICY 2.0



- Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel has launched "Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy 2.0 (SSIP-2.0)" for the next five years.
- The policy contains provisions for the establishment of active innovation and incubation centers in all universities in the state.

- The policy aims to cover 50 lakh students across 1,000 higher education institutes and 10,000 schools of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat

#### **Defense News**

#### 4. India joins Quad partners, Japan and South Korea for Sea Dragon exercise



- India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.
- The exercise, primarily focused on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training, will involve more than 270 hours of in-flight training and activities ranging from tracking simulated targets to tracking a US Navy submarine.
- Each event will be graded and the country scoring the highest points will receive the Dragon Belt award.
- Sea Dragon 22 focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training and excellence, which includes everything from tracking simulated targets to tracking a genuine US Navy submarine.

#### **Banking News**

#### 5. SOUTH INDIAN BANK WON UIPATH AUTOMATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2021



- Kerala-based lender South Indian Bank (SIB) has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for best automation under crisis for business continuity.
- The company said that the award was bestowed upon the bank for its exceptional use of robotic process automation capabilities under difficult times for solving severe operational constraints, thereby ensuring business continuity.

#### 6. SBI GENERAL INSURANCE LAUNCHED '#BAHANECHHODOTAXBACHAO' CAMPAIGN



- State Bank of India General Insurance Company Ltd has launched a campaign titled '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' to increase awareness around the need to buy health insurance to save tax.
- It will also highlight the other benefits of opting for health insurance.
- The campaign aims to increase the awareness of how buying health insurance can help people save tax which is crucial and seasonal in the last quarter of the financial year for all Indians.
- The campaign will also underline the other benefits of opting for health insurance.
- SBI General Insurance Founded: 24 February 2009
- SBI General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- SBI General Insurance Tagline: Suraksha Aur Bharosa Dono

#### **Appointment News**

#### 7. GOVT RE-APPOINTS VIJAY PAUL SHARMA AS CACP CHAIRMAN



- The Center has re-appointed Vijay Paul Sharma as the chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after he relinquished the post in May last year following completion of the five-year tenure.
- The role of the CACP chairman will be crucial in the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other reforms.
- Sharma, a professor at the Center for Management in Agriculture at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, was appointed CACP Chairman for the first time in June 2016.
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, established in 1965, is an apex advisory body under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- It's an expert body that recommends the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) by taking into consideration various factors.

## 8. SENIOR CHINESE DIPLOMAT ZHANG MING TAKES CHARGE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SCO



- China's senior diplomat Zhang Ming has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in which India is a member.
- He has taken charge from Vladimir Norov, former Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan for a three-year term.
- He was until recently China's ambassador to the European Union.
- The SCO comprises eight member states: India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It also comprises four countries with "observer" status and six more as "dialogue partners".
- India joined SCO at the Astana summit in 2017.
- 2022 will be an important year for India at SCO as, for the first time, it will assume the presidency of SCO, after Uzbekistan, for the period 2022-2023 which will culminate with the SCO Summit to be hosted by the Indian side in 2023.

#### **Awards and Honors**

#### 9. 3RD NATIONAL WATER AWARDS FOR 2020 ANNOUNCED

- Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared the winners of the third National Water Awards for the year 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged as the Best State in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020.
- It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectively.
- The award comes with a citation, trophy and cash prize. Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh received the best district award in the northern zone followed by Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab.

- The National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018 to recognise and motivate individuals and organizations doing exemplary work in the field of water resources management.
- "Best State" Uttar Pradesh
- Rest awards are listed Below:

"Best State"	Uttar Pradesh
"Best District" – North Zone	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh
"Best District" – South Zone	Thiruvanathapuram, Kerala
"Best District" – East Zone	East Champaran, Bihar and Godda, Jharkhand
"Best District" – West Zone	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
"Best District" - North-East Zone	Goalpara, Assam



#### **Books and Authors**

#### 10. A NEW BOOK TITLED "MAMATA BEYOND 2021" AUTHORED BY JAYANTA GHOSAL

- In the West Bengal election of 2021, the longest state election in the history of India, Mamata Banerjee won the khela, and the BJP lost the plot.
- The author, Jayanta Ghosal, traveled to all the districts of West Bengal and unearthed certain key factors that helped the Trinamool win the state.

- For instance, there was a massive gap in the BJP's understanding of Bengali identity, which Mamata was able to exploit.
- An 'overdose' of central intervention, ranging from paramilitary forces to intelligence agencies to target key TMC leaders, added to the BJP's disconnect with voters.
- Increasingly, the state felt the divide between New Delhi and Bengal grow.
- The book details how Mamata was successfully able to portray herself as the 'daughter of Bengal' who worked tirelessly for the state's poor and disadvantaged.



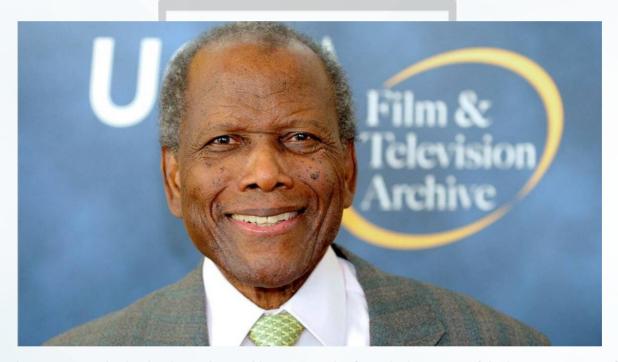
#### 11. France hits Google, Facebook with 210 million euros in fines over cookies



- French regulators have hit Google and Facebook with 210 million euros (237 million dollars) in fines over their use of cookies, the data used to track users online, authorities said Thursday.
- US tech giants, including the likes of Apple and Amazon, have come under growing pressure over their businesses practices across Europe, where they have faced massive fines and plans to impose farreaching EU rules on how they operate.
- The 150-million-euro fine imposed on Google was a record by France's National Commission for Information Technology and Freedom (CNIL), beating a previous cookie-related fine of 100 million euros against the company in December 2020.
- Facebook was handed a 60-million-euro fine.

#### **Obituary**

#### 12. LEGENDARY HOLLYWOOD ACTOR SIDNEY POITIER PASSES AWAY



- Sidney Poitier, who broke through racial barriers as the first Black winner of the best actor Oscar for his role in Lilies of the Field, and inspired a generation during the civil rights movement, has died at age 94, an official from the Bahamian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Poitier had won his history-making best actor Oscar for Lilies of the Field in 1963, playing a handyman who helps German nuns build a chapel in the desert.
- Five years before that Poitier had been the first Black man nominated for a lead actor Oscar for his role in The Defiant Ones.

By Sameer Singhal



# PUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10/01/2022 to 16/01/2022

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2022

#### **National News**

#### 1. AYUSH MINISTRY TO ORGANIZE GLOBAL 'SURYA NAMASKAR' ON MAKAR SANKRANTI



- The Ministry of AYUSH will organise a global Surya Namaskar demonstration programme on 14th January, Makar Sankranti for 75 lakh people globally.
- On this day, the 'Surya Namaskar' is offered as a salutation to the Sun to exhibit one's gratitude for each of its rays as it nurtures all living beings.
- The Sun, as the primary source of energy, is critical not only for the continuation of the food-chain but it also energizes the mind and body of human beings.
- The mass Surya Namaskar demonstration also intends to carry the message of climate change and global warming.
- The Ministry said the event will underline the importance of Makar Sankranti in our cultural and spiritual heritage.
- The Surya Namaskar is a set of eight Asanas performed in 12 steps with coordination of the body and mind.

## 2. EDUCATION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN ADDRESSES 82ND INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE PRINCIPALS' CONCLAVE



- Addressing the 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave today, Education Minister
  Dharmendra Pradhan has urged all schools attending the conclave to reflect how inclusive our leading
  schools are.
- He asked them to reflect on what more can be done towards ensuring that every child in the country gets the best education.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pradhan said that National Education Policy (2020) focusses on equitable and inclusive education with special emphasis given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups.
- The Indian Public Schools' Conference, since its inception in 1939, has guided public schools in India in forming traditions that build character and personality of students engendering a well-rounded education.

#### 3. PM Modi to inaugurate 25th National Youth Festival on January 12

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th National Youth Festival on 12th January at 11 AM in Puducherry via video conferencing.
- The day, being the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, is observed as National Youth Day.
- The Festival aims to shape the minds of India's youth and transform them into a united force for nation building.
- It is one of the biggest exercises in social cohesion as well as intellectual and cultural integration.
- It aims to bring diverse cultures of India and integrate them into a united thread of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.
- This year, in view of the emerging Covid situation, the Festival has been scheduled to be held virtually from 12th to 13th January, 2022.

- The inauguration will be followed by the National Youth Summit wherein there will be panel discussions on four identified themes.
- There will also be open discussions with Olympians and Paralympians followed by live performance in the evening.
- Virtual Yoga session will also be organised in the morning.



4. SIKKIM CELEBRATED LOSOONG (NAMSOONG) FESTIVAL



- Losoong (Namsong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Sikkim on the 18th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar, which also marks the beginning of the harvest season.
- The Namsong festival begins on the 1st day of the new moon phase Kurneet Logo, as per the Lepcha lunisolar Calendar known as Dungkit Karchu.
- Chief Minister of Sikkim: PS Golay.
- Governor of Sikkim: Ganga Prasad

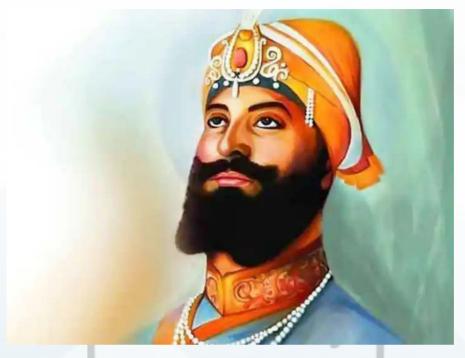
#### 5. Hyderabad gets India's first Open Rock Museum



- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Museum displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.
- These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 km from the surface of the earth. The rocks have been sourced from Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir and others.

#### **Important Days**

#### 6. 355TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH JI BEING CELEBRATED



- 355th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last Sikh guru. The auspicious occasion is also known as Prakash Parv.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted the people on the occasion.
- In a tweet, Mr Naidu said, Guru Gobind Singh Ji is an epitome of selfless service and righteousness.
- He said, Guru Gobind Singh will continue to inspire the people to lead a life of service for the greater good.
- In a tweet, Mr Modi said the life and message of Guru Gobind Singh give strength to millions of people.
- He said he will always cherish the fact that his Government got the opportunity to mark 350th Parkash Utsav.
- Meanwhile the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, is being celebrated in Bihar on a low key this time due to Covid.
- Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar greeted people on the occassion of Prakas Parva.

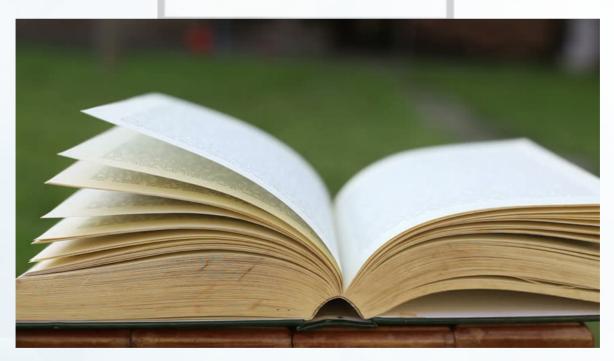
#### 7. 26TH DECEMBER WILL BE MARKED AS VEER BAAL DIWAS: PM MODI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that 26th December will be marked as Veer Baal Diwas.
- Mr. Modi said it will be a fitting tribute to the courage of the Sahibzades, the sons of Guru Gobind Singh and their quest for justice.
- Announcing this on the Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh today, Mr Modi said, Veer Baal Diwas will be on the same day Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall.

- He said, these two greats preferred death instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma.
- The Prime Minister said, the bravery and ideals of Mata Gujri, Guru Gobind Singh and the four Sahibzades give strength to millions of people.



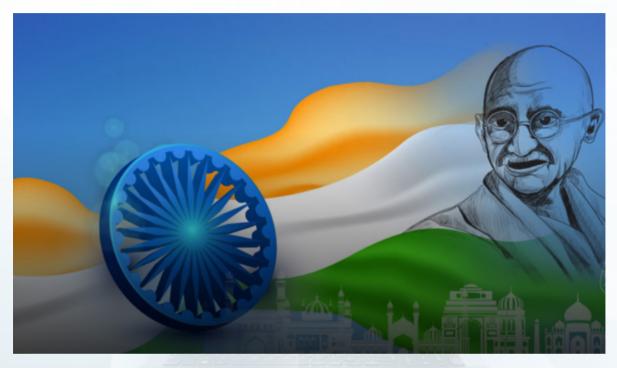
#### 8. WORLD HINDI DAY: 10 JANUARY



- January 10 is celebrated as World Hindi Day every year to spread awareness about Hindi as an international language across the world.
- The day is especially observed by Indian embassies abroad.
- In 1975, the first-ever World Hindi Conference took place in Maharashtra's Nagpur on January 10.

- The conference was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and saw participation from a total of 30 countries.
- And in 2006, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declared that January 10 will be observed as World Hindi Day every year.
- This was also the first time that the ministry of external affairs started celebrating the day abroad.

#### 10. Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2022 : 09th January



- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day is celebrated to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
- It is celebrated every two years on 09 January.
- On the occasion of 2022 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD), Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will speak at a virtual youth PBD conference on the "role of Indian diaspora" in innovation and new technology.

#### 9. FIRST-EVER STARTUP INDIA INNOVATION WEEK TO BE HELD FROM MONDAY

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week from today to 16th of this month.
- This virtual week-long innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.
- Interestingly, in the startup world, 2021 has been recognised as the 'year of unicorns,' with 40 Plus unicorns added in the year.
- India is emerging as a global innovation hub, boasting the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. DPIIT has recognised more than 61 thousand startups as on date.

- The startups representing 55 industries, spread across 633 districts with at least one startup from every State and UT of the country have created over 6 lakh jobs since 2016. 45 per cent of the startups are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and 45 per cent of them are represented by women entrepreneurs.
- The week-long event will be launched today by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.



#### **Appointment News**

10. SUDHIR KUMAR SAXENA COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO ENQUIRE SECURITY LAPSES DURING PM PUNJAB VISIT



- Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a committee to enquire into the serious lapses in the security arrangements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.
- It is a three-member committee and will be headed by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat. It also comprises Balbir Singh, Joint Director, IB and Suresh, IG, SPG.
- The committee has been asked to inquire about the alleged lapses in the security arrangements of PM Modi "which led to the exposure of the VVIP to grave risk" and submit the report at the earliest.

#### 11. JUSTICE AYESHA MALIK TO BE PAKISTAN'S FIRST WOMAN SUPREME COURT JUDGE



- Pakistan has moved closer to appointing the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, after a high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge Ayesha Malik to the apex court.
- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, approved Malik's elevation by a majority of five votes against four.

#### **National News**

## 1. PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 11 New Government Medical Colleges in TamilNadu



- The new medical colleges are being established at an estimated cost of about 4 thousand crore rupees.
- Of this amount, around 2 thousand 145 crore rupees has been provided by the Union government and rest by the Tamil Nadu government.
- The districts in which the new Medical Colleges are being established are Virudhunagar, Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram and Krishnagiri.
- Establishment of these medical colleges is in line with the Prime Minister's constant endeavour to promote affordable medical education and improve health infrastructure in all parts of the country.
- The new medical colleges, with cumulative capacity of 1 thousand 450 seats, are being established under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges attached with existing district and referral hospital'.
- Under the scheme, medical colleges are established in districts which do not have either a government or private medical college.

## 2. RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATES KALPANA CHAWLA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AT CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY

• Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Kalpana Chawla Center for Research in Space Science and Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University.

- The Union Minister also launched Chandigarh University's Defense Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 Crore, for the wards of Defense Personnel of the three services.
- Kalpana Chawla was the first woman of Indian origin to go to space.
- Established with an objective of training students in space science and satellite development and to meet future challenges in the area of space research, this state-of-the-art space centre would be the Ground Control Station (GCS) for the Chandigarh University's Student Satellite (CUSAT), an in-house developed nano-satellite being designed by the students of Chandigarh University, and a Geo Spatial Centre for research, besides other important projects.



#### **Awards News**

#### 3. 79TH EDITION OF GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

- The 79th edition of the Golden Globe Awards has been announced.
- Power Of The Dog movie won the two biggest awards, one of Best Film in Drama category and another of Best Director honoured upon Jane Campion.
- Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe of Best Film Actor for his movie King Richard. Nicole Kidman won her fifth Golden Globe for Best Film Actress for Being The Ricardos.
- West Side Story directed by Steven Spielberg won major awards that included Best Film in Comedy/ Musical segment,
- Best Film Actress for Rachel Zegler and
- Best Supporting Actress for Ariana DeBose.
- Andrew Garfield won Best Film Actor award in comedy/musical segment for Tick, Tick... BOOM!.
- In the TV category, 'Succession' series from Jesse Armstrong, took home two more awards as series stars Jeremy Strong won best actor award and Sarah Snook won best actress in a supporting role.
- It also won the Best Drama Series. Jason Sudeikis won Best TV Actor in Comedy/Musical category for Ted Lasso.



#### 4. SATISH ADIGA GETS ICMR NATIONAL AWARD "DR SUBHAS MUKHERJEE AWARD"



- A professor in the clinical embryology department at Kasturba Medical College (KMC), under Manipal Academy of Higher education (MAHE), Dr Satish Adiga has been selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for its national award.
- He will receive the Dr. Subhas Mukherjee Award from ICMR in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the field of in-vitro fertilization (IVF).
- He has contributed significantly to both clinical IVF and fertility research.

## 5. FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY WON SKOCH AWARD FOR COMBATING CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN



- The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) won the SKOCH Award in the Silver category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children.
- The award was given out at the 78 SKOCH Summit. The "State of Governance" was the theme of the summit.
- Deepa Verma, the Director of the Rohini-based lab, has accepted the award on behalf of the lab.
- FSL is a scientific department and a participant in the criminal justice system whose mission is to investigate incidents of crime and violence against children who have suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm.
- Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation. SKOCH Award winners include the mighty and the ordinary alike.

#### **Appointments**

## 6. LLC named Jhulan Goswami as Ambassador of All Women Match Official Team

- Legends League Cricket (LLC) has appointed Jhulan Goswami as an ambassador to its All Women Match
  Official Team to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives of the LLC and to increase participation
  of women in cricket.
- The LLC set up an All Women Match Official Team for the League. This is the first of its all-women official teams that would officiate an entire men's league.
- Legends League Cricket (LLC) is the professional cricket league for retired cricketers.

- The inaugural session of LLC will be organized from January 20 2022 at Oman Cricket Stadium in Muscat, Oman.
- Legends League Cricket (LLC) 2022 teams: Indian Maharaja, Aisan Lions, World Giants.



#### 7. FORMER RBI GOVERNOR URJIT PATEL APPOINTED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF AIIB



- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as the vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank based in Beijing.
- He will take over from DJ Pandian, a former Gujarat chief secretary who has been AIIB's vice-president and chief investment officer since 2016, the year the bank was set up with India as its second largest shareholder after China.
- Patel is currently the chairperson of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, a research centre affiliated to the finance ministry.
- The Nairobi-born Urjit Patel is said to have quit his job as RBI governor in 2018 following differences with the NDA government over fiscal policies.

#### **Sports News**

## 8. BWF 2022 Yonex-Sunrise India Open tournament to begin today in New Delhi



- In badminton, the BWF 2022 Yonex-Sunrise India Open tournament is beginning today in New Delhi with players like Kidambi Srikanth, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Sai Pratheek set to take on their respective opponents in the round 32 matches.
- Srikanth is the top seed in the men's singles while Sai Praneeth and Lakshya Sen are the second and third seeds respectively.
- In the women's singles, Sindhu is seeded first with Saina seeded fourth.
- The matches will be held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, IG Stadium in the national capital.
- The India Open badminton tournament, a BWF World Tour Super 500 series, is back after a two-year gap due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## 9. 14-YEAR-OLD BHARATH SUBRAMANIYAM BECOMES INDIA'S 73RD CHESS GRANDMASTER

- Fourteen-year-old Bharath Subramaniyam has become the 73rd Grandmaster of India, the All India Chess Federation confirmed today.
- The Chennai-based teenager completed his final GM Norm and crossed the requisite 2500 rating at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.
- Subramaniyam finished seventh overall in the event held at Cattolica by scoring 6.5 points from nine rounds.
- To achieve the Grandmaster (GM) title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Liqun.
- Headquarters of AIIB: Beijing, China.
- AIIB established: 16 January 2016.



#### **Banking News**

#### 10. ECONOMY TO GROW 9.2%, RECOUP COVID YEAR LOSSES



- The NSO estimate for the current financial year is a tad lower than the RBI's GDP projection in its December 2021 policy review.
- The central bank had projected the economy to grow 9.5 per cent, with the rider that this assumed no resurgence of Covid-19 infections in India.
- The RBI has projected the third quarter (Oct-Dec 2021) and fourth quarter (Jan-Mar 2022) to grow 6.6 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively.
- Real GDP had grown 8.4 per cent in July-September 2021, after a sharp 20.1 per cent jump in April-June 2021.

#### 11. RBI data: Forex reserves decline by USD 1.466 bn to USD 633.614 bn



- India's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 1.466 billion to USD 633.614 billion in the week ended December 31, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended December 24, the reserves dipped by USD 587 million to USD 635.08 billion.
- It touched a life-time high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.
- During the reporting week ended December 31, the decline in foreign exchange reserves was on account of a fall in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed.
- FCA declined by USD 1.48 billion to USD 569.889 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

#### **Obituary News**

#### 12. OSCAR AND GRAMMY-WINNING LYRICIST MARILYN BERGMAN PASSES AWAY

- Marilyn Bergman, the Oscar, Emmy and Grammy-winning songwriter whose lyrics graced hits such as 'The Way We Were,'
- 'The Windmills of Your Mind', 'In the Heat of the Night' and the songs from 'Yentl', has died at age 93.
- Bergman collaborated with her husband, Alan Bergman for song-writing.

• The pair were nominated for Oscars 16 times and won three times.



**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **National News**

1. PM Modi to inaugurate '25th National Youth Festival' in Puducherry



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th National Youth Festival today in Puducherry via video conferencing.
- The 12th of January is the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and is observed as National Youth Day every year.
- Briefing media about National Youth Festival, Secretary, Youth Affairs, Usha Sharma said that the
  Festival aims to shape the minds of India's youth and transform them into a united force for nationbuilding.
- In view of the emerging COVID situation, the two-day festival has been scheduled to be held virtually.
- The inauguration will be followed by the National Youth Summit which aims to galvanize, ignite, unite and activate the youth towards nation-building, to unleash the true potential of our demographic dividend.
- International Youth Day (IYD) is an awareness day designated by the United Nations.
- The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000.

## 2. SALMAN KHAN'S BAJRANGI BHAIJAAN CO-STAR HARSHAALI MALHOTRA DEDICATES BHARAT RATNA DR AMBEDKAR AWARD TO ACTOR





- The 2015 film Bajrangi Bhaijaan fame actress, Harshaali Malhotra has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.
- She received the award from Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra, for her commendable performance in the movie and contribution in the field of Indian Cinema.
- The Government of Maharashtra organised the Bharat Ranta Dr Ambedkar national Awards 2022 ceremony in the memory of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar as a part of the upcoming 73rd Republic Day.

## 3. Uttar Pradesh Govt Declares 4 Villages Near Nepal Border as Revenue Villages



- District Magistrate of Bahraich, Dinesh Chandra Singh said the decision was taken before the announcement of the general elections to the UP Legislative Assembly.
- These four villages are Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia and Bichhia located in Mihinpurwa tehsil of the district.
- All these villages are Vantangiya villages. The Vantangiya community comprises people brought from Myanmar during the colonial rule to plant trees.
- There are around 225 families in these four villages consisting of over 1,500 members.

## 4. PM SECURITY LAPSE: SC APPOINTS FORMER SC JUDGE, INDU MALHOTRA TO HEAD THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS



- The Supreme Court has appointed former SC Judge, Indu Malhotra, as the Chairperson to head the inquiry committee, along with other members.
- The inquiry committee will look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit on 5th January this year.
- A three-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana and also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, have passed the order today.
- While pronouncing the order, the CJI Ramana, leading the bench of the Supreme Court, has said" We appoint a committee headed by Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra, DGNIA, DG Security of Punjab and Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court,"

### 5. CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RANKS 8TH IN GLOBAL LIST FOR 'ON-TIME PERFORMANCE'



- The Chennai International Airport is one of the top 10 large international airports in the world that ensures 'on-time' departures.
- In a review conducted by Cirium, an organisation that specialises in offering aviation data to travel, finance, aerospace, and aviation industries, the airport has been ranked 8th for 'on-time performance' for the year 2021.
- According to the latest traffic figures of Chennai Airport, it has done recovery of 80 % in domestic traffic. It is the sixth busiest airport in India.
- RankAirports
- 1st Miami Airport (United States)
- 2nd Fukuoka Airport (Japan)
- 3rd Haneda Airport (Japan)
- 8th Chennai Airport (India)

#### 6. KEVADIA RAILWAY STATION RENAMED AS EKTA NAGAR RAILWAY STATION

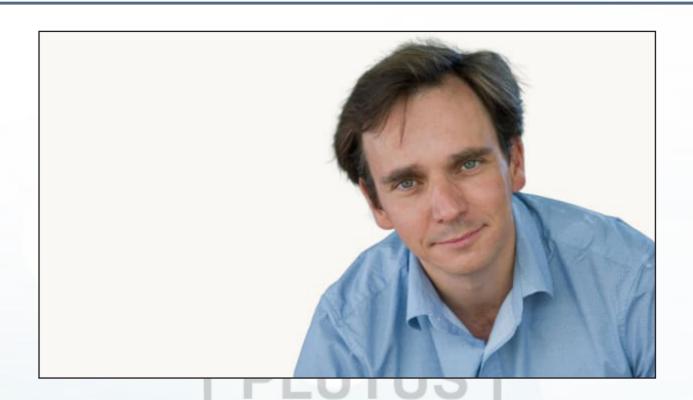


- The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of the Kevadiya railway station in the Narmada district of Gujarat, as Ekta Nagar railway station.
- The Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division.
- The station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be EKNR. The numerical code of the station will be 08224620.
- Last year, the Ministry of Railways had said tourists visiting the world's tallest statue in Gujarat "Statue of Unity" will be able to experience the rich cultural history of the state at the Kevadiya railway station itself.

#### **Appointment News**

#### 7. PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS APPOINTED AS NEXT IMF'S CHIEF ECONOMIST

- French-born economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been named as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- He will succeed Gita Gopinath, the first woman to serve as the Fund's chief economist.
- He will take over as first deputy managing director of IMF from January 21 2022.
- International Monetary Fund Formed: 27 December 1945
- International Monetary Fund Headquarters: Washington D.C., USA



**Defense News** 

8. India successfully tests advanced "Sea to Sea" variant of BrahMos missile from INS Visakhapatnam



- India today successfully tested an advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile from INS Visakhapatnam.
- Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO said the missile hit the designated target ship precisely.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the team work of the Indian Navy and DRDO.
- In a tweet, Mr. Singh said, the robustness of Indian Navy mission readiness is reconfirmed today after a successful launch of the advanced version of BrahMos Missile.

## 9. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS MAN-PORTABLE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE; RAJNATH SINGH CONGRATULATES FOR CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile today.
- The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is low weight and fire & forget missile. The missile successfully destroyed the target during the test flight.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the consistent performance of the anti-tank missile saying that this is an important step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in advanced technology-based defence system development.

#### **Banking News**

#### 10. FINANCE MINISTRY: DEPOSITS IN JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS CROSS RS 1.5 LAKH CRORE

- According to the finance ministry, the deposits in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme have crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark.
- The total balance in accounts under the Jan Dhan scheme was recorded at Rs 1,50,939.36 crore as of December-end 2021.
- The data revealed that over 44.23 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme.



## Sports News

#### 11. SOUTH AFRICA ALL-ROUNDER CHRIS MORRIS RETIRES FROM CRICKET



- South African all-rounder Chris Morris has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Morris has played in four Tests, 42 ODIs and 23 T20Is for South Africa.

- Morris made his Test debut as late as 2016 and featured in only four games in the traditional format, making 173 runs and taking 12 wickets.
- With the bat in hand, Morris scored 467 runs in ODIs and 133 in T20s respectively.
- In February 2021, Rajasthan Royals doled out a record INR 16.25 crores to avail his services.

By Sameer Singhal

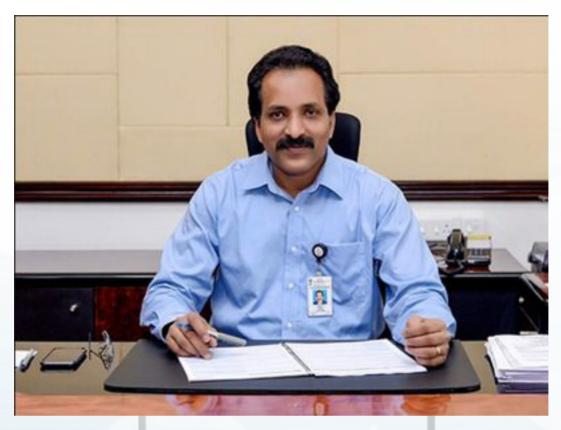
#### **National News**

## 1. ISRO successfully conducts qualification tests of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted qualification tests of the Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan human space programme.
- The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu conducted the test for 720 seconds yesterday and met the test objectives. This successful long duration test is a major milestone for the Human Space programme Gaganyaan.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle to be used for the Gaganyaan programme will use two cryogenic engines.
- This engine developed by ISRO is named as Vikas. The success of Vikas engine signals a great breakthrough in the Indian manned mission to outer space.

#### 2. EMINENT ROCKET SCIENTIST S SOMANATH APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF ISRO



- Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath has been appointed the new chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as well as the Space Secretary.
- He will succeed K Sivan who completes his extended tenure as ISRO chief tomorrow. His appointment as the Space Secretary and the Space Commission Chairman is for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post.
- The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.
- Mr Somanath will be the 10th chairman of ISRO.
- He is at present Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). Mr Somanath took charge as the VSSC's head on January 22, 2018, after a two and a half years stint as the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, Thiruvananathapuram.

#### 3. GURUGRAM TO GET INDIA'S FIRST HELI-HUB WITH ALL AVIATION FACILITIES

- Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala announced that Gurugram will get India's 1st heli-hub with all aviation facilities.
- The heli-hub will be the first of its kind in India to have all facilities at one place for helicopters.
- The heli-hub is proposed to be built in Gurugram & would be near the metro facility along with easy connectivity to industrial areas (Noida & Bhiwadi).
- The Haryana government has proposed to set up the first heli-hub of the country in Gurugram designed to have many aviation facilities like heliport, hangars, repairs, and any other related services.



#### 4. Tata group replaces Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as IPL title sponsor



- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed that Tata group has replaced Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.
- The multinational conglomerate will pay Rs. 300 crore per year as the title sponsor of IPL for the next two seasons. This is about 60% of what Vivo would have paid.
- Tata group Founder: Jamsetji Tata
- Tata group Founded: 1868, Mumbai
- Tata group Headquarters: Mumbai

#### **Sports News**

#### 5. RBI SET UP A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT FOR "FINTECH"



- Reserve Bank of India has set up a separate internal department for fintech (Financial technology).
- The new department has been created with effect from January 04, 2022, by subsuming the FinTech Division of Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, Central Office (DPSS, CO).
- The department will not only promote innovation in the sector but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.
- Ajay Kumar Choudhary, who was recently promoted as the Executive Director of RBI was appointed as head of the department.

#### **Obituary News**

#### 6. Pro-Kannada activist, literateur and poet Champa dies at 82

- Prominent Kannada writer Chandrashekhar Patil, popularly known as "Champa", passed away at the age of 82.
- He was a Kannada language activist, a poet and a playwright and also served as President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) and Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority.



## **Sports News**

## 7. NEW ZEALAND SPINNER AJAZ PATEL WINS ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD



- India-born New Zealand cricketer Ajaz Patel on Monday won the ICC Player of the Month award for December following his stupendous 10-wicket haul against Virat Kohli and Co. in the second Test in Mumbai.
- The left-arm spinner was nominated for the award alongside India opener Mayank Agarwal and Australian pacer Mitchell Starc but beat them to it on the back of his incredibly rare feat.
- Ajaz picked up 14 wickets in the Mumbai Test match in early December against India, including all 10 in the first innings, to become only the third player in Test history, after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble, to achieve the remarkable milestone.

## **International News**

## 8. HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2022: INDIA RANKS 83RD IN Q1



- India has improved its position by seven places to rank at 83rd place among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index, released for Q1 of 2022.
- India ranked at 90th spot among 116 countries in Q4 of 2021 in October.
- The Indian passport has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide in Q1 2022, as compared to 58 destinations in Q4 of 2021.
- Oman and Armenia are the latest destinations where Indian passport holders can visit without obtaining a visa.
- Japan and Singapore have retained the joint top position in the Henley Global Mobility Report 2022 Q1.
- Their passports holders are allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries. Afghanistan has the world's least powerful passports, with a visa-free score of 26.

## 9. SMAILOV BECOMES KAZAKHSTAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

- The parliament of Kazakhstan has unanimously approved the appointment of Alikhan Smailov as the new Prime Minister of the country.
- His name was nominated by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on January 11, 2022.
- Prior to this, the 49-year-old Smailov served as the country's finance minister from 2018 to 2020. He became the first deputy prime minister in the Cabinet in 2019.



**By Sameer Singhal** 

## **National News**

1. MAKAR SANKRNTI, BIHU AND PONGAL BEING CELEBRATED TODAY



- In Tamil Nadu, the beginning of the month Thai, marking the onset of Spring Harvest season is celebrated as Pongal.
- The season is celebrated for three days. Today the people offer their harvest to the Sun in the morning.
- Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan or Maghi or simply Sankranti, also known in Bangladesh and West Bengal as Poush Sankranti, and in Nepal as Maghe Sankranti, sam(n)kranti here means 'transfer', this day is considered as the transition day of Sun into the Capricorn.
- Now the sun moves northwards in the Hindu calendar, dedicated to the deity Surya (sun), many native festivals are organised all over India.
- It is observed each year the day Sun enters the Capricorn zodiac which corresponds with the month of January as per the Gregorian calendar.

## 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates MSME Technology Center at Puducherry



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Center of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day today.
- This World Class Technology Center was set up with an investment of about Rs.
- 122 crore is spread across 10 acres, will train 20,000 youth, support 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 Start Ups, thereby propelling the local economy to great heights.
- The centre was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry.
- He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.

## 3. Adani Group sign agreement with South Korea's POSCO to develop steel mill



- Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore business opportunities in India.
- This includes the establishment of a green, environment-friendly integrated steel mill at Mundra,
- Gujarat.
- The estimated investment of the project is up to \$5 billion (approx. Rs 37,000 crore).
- The alliance is a significant move for the diversified Adani Group, which has interests in logistics, ports, airports, mining, power generation and distribution, renewable energy, gas and infrastructure.
- Adani has recently announced major investment plans as part of an ambitious plan to become the world's top renewable energy company.
- Adani Group Headquarters: Ahmedabad
- Adani Group Founder: Gautam Adani

## **Banking News**

## 4. RETAIL INFLATION RISES TO 5.59% IN DECEMBER 2021

- Retail inflation in December 2021 rose to a six-month high of 5.59 per cent from 4.91 per cent in November 2021, mainly due to a sharp rise in food prices as food inflation for the period under review also rose steeply to 4.05 per cent against 1.87 per cent in November 2021.
- According to data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, prices of cereals, egg, milk products and prepared meals went up during December 2021.

• Apart from these items, prices of clothing and footwear, education, health as well as recreation activities and transportation too witnessed a rise in December 2021 compared to November 2021.



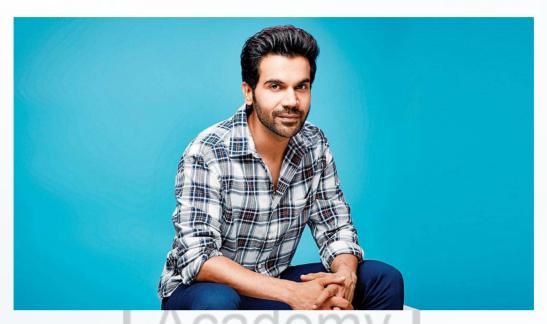
5. Axis Bank tie-up with MinkasuPay for biometric-based banking payments



- Axis Bank has tied up with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords, and One-Time Passwords (OTPs).
- This Solution will reduce the time of payment from 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds and also increase the transaction success rate.
- MinkasuPay's biometric authentication solution, which is a 2-Factor-Authentication (FA) solution (mandated by the Reserve Bank of India), will help in increasing quick and secure digital transactions through device binding and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI).
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai
- Axis Bank MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhary

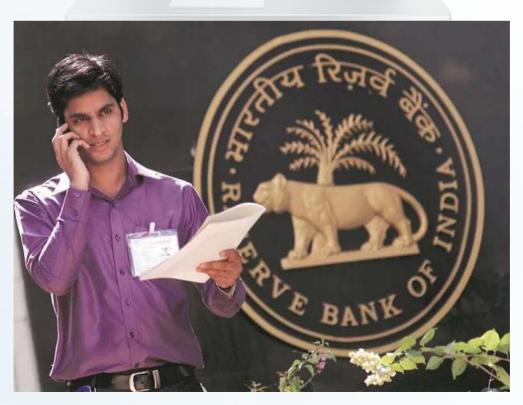
## **Appointment News**

## 6. RAJKUMMAR RAO NAMED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF RENEWBUY



- RenewBuy, the online insurance platform, has launched its first 360-degree ad campaign with actor Rajkummar Rao. He is the platform's first brand ambassador.
- The company said that the campaign emphasizes its guarantee of addressing consumers' insurance needs by digitally led insurance POSP (Point of Sale Person) advisor network.

## 7. RBI APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF ITTIRA DAVIS AS MD & CEO OF UJJIVAN SFB



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ittira Davis as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a one-year term effective January 14.
- On December 6, the bank's board had appointed Davis the MD & CEO for a three-year term from the date of approval of the RBI or such other period as may be approved by the central bank.
- Ujjivan SFB, in a filing with BSE, said the special committee of directors, formed in September to oversee the operations and administration in the absence of MD & CEO, stood dissolved from January 13, 2022.
- The panel was formed after Nitin Chugh resigned as MD & CEO.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Founded: 1 February 2017.

## **Important Days**

## 8. ARMED FORCES VETERANS DAY: 14 JANUARY 2022



- Armed Forces Veterans Day 2022: Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed on January 14 every year, since 2017.
- It is celebrated to honor the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation.
- Armed Forces Veterans Day was called Armistice Day when it was announced and this year, the nation will celebrate the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- Armed Forces Veterans Day recognises the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa OBE, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.
- He retired on January 14 in 1953.

## **International News**

## 9. DAVID BENNETT WORLD FIRST HUMAN RECEIVES A PIG HEART TRANSPLANT



- A US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.
- David Bennett, 57, is doing well three days after the experimental seven-hour procedure in Baltimore.
- The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common.
- Pigs are increasingly becoming popular candidates for organ transplantation.
- This is because their organs are anatomically similar to those of humans. What's more, porcine components are more tuned for genetic engineering.

By Sameer Singhal

## **National News**

## 1. BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TO COMMENCE ON 31ST JANUARY



- The budget session of Parliament will commence on January 31. The first half of the budget session will run from January 31 to February 11.
- It will reassemble on March 14 to sit until 8th of April subject to exigencies of government business.
- The government will present the Budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on 1st of February.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together at 11 AM on 31st of January, the first day of Budget Session of Parliament.
- Lok Sabha Secretariat in a communique said that the eighth session of the 17th Lok Sabha will commence on 31st of January and subject to exigencies of government business, the session is likely to conclude on 8th April, 2022.

## 2. Meenakashi Lekhi launches 'North East on Wheels Expedition' to promote Culture of Northeastern States

- Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi launched 'North East on Wheels Expedition' in New Delhi on Thursday to promote the Culture of Northeastern States.
- The Bike Expedition is scheduled between 8th to 16th April this year to mark the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay.
- 75 Bikers participating in this expedition will be selected from all over the country and will cover about 9000 km in the North East Region in 6 groups.
- The expedition will also promote the Dekho Apna Desh initiative of the Ministry of Tourism. The Riders will also carry the message of importance of Road Safety.



## 3. PHILIPPINES CONFIRMS MOVE TO ACQUIRE BRAHMOS CRUISE MISSILES IN \$375 MN DEAL



- The Philippines confirmed on Friday it will acquire three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia in a deal worth almost \$375 million, a development expected to boost India's efforts to become a major exporter of defense hardware.
- Philippines Capital: Manila
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte.

## 4. 18TH KACHAI LEMON FESTIVAL BEGINS IN MANIPUR 2022



- The 18th edition of the two days long Kachai Lemon Festival began in Manipur on Thursday at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in Ukhrul district.
- Kachai Lemon of Manipur has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag and widely grown in the Kachai Village of Ukhrul district.
- Unlike the other lemon varieties grown in other parts of the world, Kachai Lemon is considered to be unique as it is a rich source of ascorbic acid and famous for its juice content.
- The Kachai Lemon Festival is organised annually to promote this unique kind of lemon fruit and to encourage the lemon farmers.
- 260 stalls are put up at the festival showcasing the rich reap of lemon this year.
- While inaugurating the festival, Additional Chief Secretary of Manipur P. Vaiphei said that the Kachai Lemon is one horticulture product that can change the socio-economic facets of not only Kachai Village but the entire region.

## **Important Days**

## 5. Indian Army Day:15 January

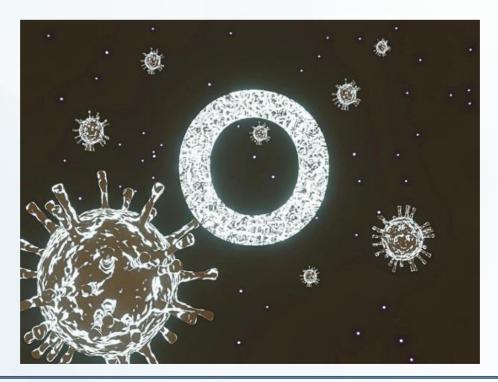
- Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa's (then a Lieutenant General) taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Fransis Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, on 15 January 1949.
- The day is celebrated in the form of parades and other military shows in the national capital New Delhi as well as in all headquarters.
- The Indian Army is one of the most powerful militaries of the world, competing with superpowers like the US, Russia and China.

• The Monumental National Flag, which is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric will be put to a grand public display along the India - Pakistan Border at Longewala in Jaisalmer to celebrate Army Day today. Longewala was the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.



**International News** 

6. Cyprus detects new 'Deltacron' Covid variant



- Cyprus has detected a new variant dubbed as "Deltacron", that has a similar genetic background to the Delta variant, coupled with 10 mutations from Omicron.
- The variant has already affected 25 people in Cyprus.
- According to Dr Leondios Kostrikis, the head of the laboratory of biotechnology and molecular virology at the University of Cyprus, of the 25 samples taken in Cyprus, 11 were hospitalised due to the virus, while 14 were from the general population.
- Cyprus Capital: Nicosia
- Cyprus Currency: Euro

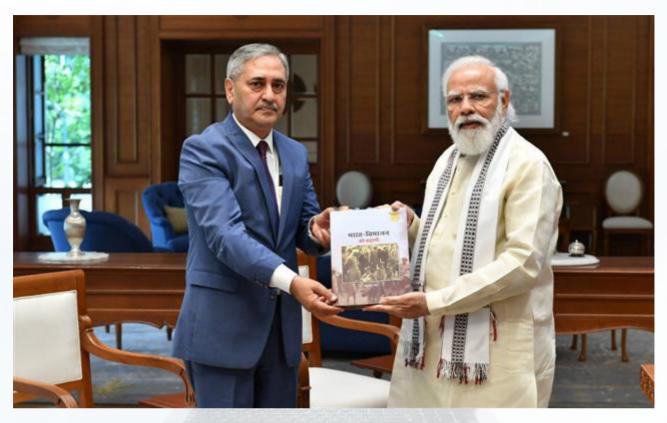
## 7. India grants over \$900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis



- India has announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, amidst a shortage of almost all essential commodities in the island nation.
- India is extending its support through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay met Cabraal and expressed India's strong support to Sri Lanka in the wake of RBI extending over USD 900 million facilities.
- These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over USD 509 million and currency swap of USD 400 million.
- Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a shortage of almost all essentials due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.
- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- CurrencySri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa
- Sri Lanka President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## **Appointments**

### 8. RAGHUVENDRA TANWAR APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF ICHR



- Professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University, Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- Tanwar appointment is for a period of three years from the day he assumes the office of the Chairman of the Council or until further order.
- Tanwar, who joined Kurukshetra University as a lecturer in August 1977, has an outstanding academic record, with two gold medals in MA History.
- The primary aim and objective of the Indian Council of Historical Research is to promote and give directions to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history.
- Indian Council of Historical Research Founded: 27 March 1972
- Indian Council of Historical Research Headquarters: New Delhi.

## **Obituary News**

## 9. Olympic medal-winning Athlete Deon Lendore passes away

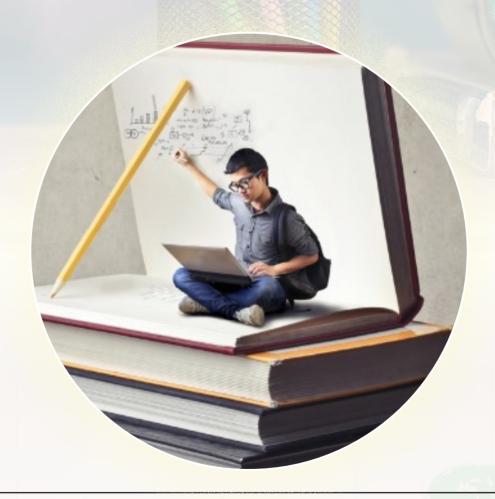


- Olympic athlete Deon Lendore, who participated in the 400 meters race at the 2020 Olympics, passed away at the age of 29 years due to a fatal car accident in Texas, United States (US).
- He was born on 28 October 1992 in Trinidad and Tobago (the Caribbean Islands, South America), was an expert of 400 meters championships.
- He participated in the London Olympics in 2012 and won a Bronze medal in 4×400 meter relay. He also participated in the Tokyo Olympic 2021 and in 2016 Rio Olympics.

**By Sameer Singhal** 



# PUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17/01/2022 to 23/01/2022

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2022

## **Sports News**

### 1. VIRAT KOHLI STEPS DOWN AS INDIAN CRICKET TEAM'S TEST CAPTAIN



- Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team. The decision comes after the series defeat against South Africa.
- Kohli announced his decision to step down through a post on social media this evening.
- Kohli replaced MS Dhoni as the captain of Indian team and became the most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches.
- Under his dynamic captaincy India became a formidable force and dominated every team at home. He became the first-ever Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.
- The former skipper thanked BCCI, former head coach Ravi Shastri and MS Dhoni in his statement on social media.
- Meanwhile the BCCI thanked Virat Kohli for his admirable leadership qualities that took the Test team to unprecedented heights.

## LAKSHYA SEN CLINCHES MEN'S SINGLES TITLE OF INDIA OPEN; PAIR OF SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY-CHIRAG SHETTY LIFTS MEN'S DOUBLES TROPHY



- It proved to be a blockbuster Sunday for the Indians in the Badminton arena after Lakshya Sen in Men's Singles and pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in Doubles lifted India Open titles in New Delhi today.
- World championship bronze medallist Lakshya defeated reigning World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 24-22, 21-17 in the Summit Clash this evening.
- Earlier in the day, India's top-ranked Men's Doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat the top seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan 21-16, 26-24 in the final in 43 minutes.

## **National News**

## 3. PM Modi to deliver 'State of the World' special address at WEF's Davos Agenda via video conferencing

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver State of the World special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda today at 8:30 PM through video conferencing.
- AIR correspondent reports, that during the event, several leaders will share their outlook, insights, and
  plans relating to the most urgent global issues such as climate change, social contracts, and vaccine
  equity.
- The five-day online Davos Agenda summit will kick off from today.
- During the event, several Heads of State and Government will address the forum.

• These include Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, President of the European Commission Ursua von der Leyen, Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett, President of China Xi Jinping among others.



4. IAMAI organises 16th India Digital Summit 2022



• Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal virtually addressed the 16th India Digital Summit, 2022.

- The two-day virtual event was organised on January 11 and 12, 2022 by the Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). The theme of the summit was "Supercharging Startups".
- India Digital Summit is the oldest event of the digital industry in India. During the event, the Minister unveiled 'LEAP' as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem.
- LEAP stands for "Leverage, Encourage, Access & Promote".

## GOOGLE PAY PARTNERS INDIFI TO PROVIDE INSTANT MSME CREDIT AS IT EXPANDS ITS FINANCIAL SERVICES PLAY



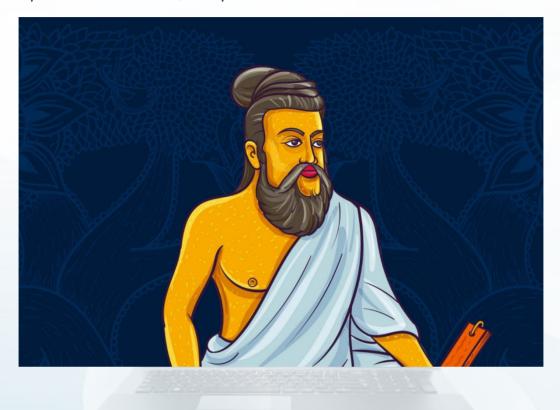
- MSME lending platform Indifi Technologies announced a collaboration with Google Pay to provide instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay platform.
- The borrowing process is entirely digital and eligible merchants on the Google Pay for the Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi and submit an application online. The loans will be in the range of Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh.
- With a 35 per cent share of monthly UPI volumes, Google Pay has been growing its financial services play over the past year like other payments leaders in India.
- It already provides loans and short-term credit to individuals and small merchants in tie-ups with IIFL Loans, CASHe, and ZestMoney, among others.

## **Important Days**

### 6. THIRUVALLUVAR DAY 2022

• Among Tamils, poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a cultural icon.

- His most popular work is Thirukkural, which is basically a collection of couplets on politics, ethics, economy, and love. To honor his contribution, the Tamils observe Thiruvalluvar Day either on January 15 or 16 as a part of Pongal celebrations.
- Previously in the 1930s, Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated either on May 17 or May 18 but in recent years, it is observed in January.
- And this year, it is celebrated on January 15.



## 7. PM Modi Pegs Startups as Backbone of New India, Declares Jan 16 as National Startup Day

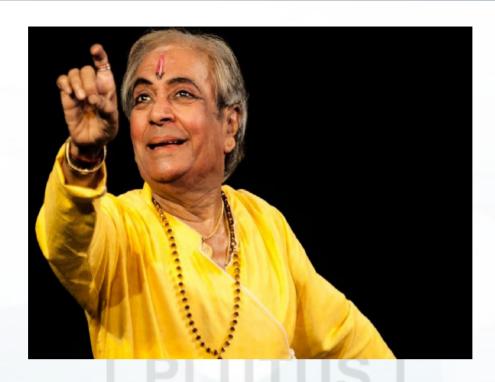


- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared to mark 16th January as 'National Start-up Day'.
- The announcement was made by PM Modi on January 15, 2022, via video conferencing during a weeklong event "Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem" as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The Prime Minister interacted with more than 150 startups across different sectors, during the event.
- The startups, categorised under six groups, gave presentations to the Prime Minister on six themes 'growing from roots, 'nudging the DNA', 'from local to global, 'technology of future', 'building champions in manufacturing' and 'sustainable development.

## **Obituary**

## 8. LEGENDARY KATHAK DANCER PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Kathak dancer, Pandit Birju Maharaj has passed away at the age of 83.
- A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, he was fondly called Pandit-ji or Maharaj-ji by his disciples and legions of followers and was one of India's best-known artistes.
- Birju Maharaj was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers, which includes his two uncles, Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj, and his father and guru, Acchan Maharaj.



## **International News**

## 9. 20TH DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INAUGURATED



- The 9-day long 20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) was inaugurated at the National Museum premises in Dhaka on Saturday by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami was present as special guest on the occasion.
- The film festival is showcasing 225 films spread in ten categories.
- Films from 70 countries are being shown at various venues during the festival.
- Close to 50 foreign delegates including many from India are participating in the festival.

- The festival is taking place against the alarming rise in corona cases in Bangladesh over the last 3 weeks.
- A new set of restrictions have been imposed since Thursday, Jan 13 in the country restricting public gatherings and occupancy in public transport among others.

## **Awards and Honors**

10. INNACCEL & NIRAMAI RECEIVE WORLD BANK GROUP & CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION'S GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTHTECH AWARDS



- DBT-BIRAC supported start-ups, NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt Ltd, and InnAccel Technologies Pvt Ltd have received World Bank Group and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards.
- The award recognizes innovative startups that leverage tech to improve women's health and safety.
- NIRAMAI Health Analytix was selected for early-stage breast cancer medical device. InnAccel was selected for Fetal Lite, AI-powered fetal heart rate (FHR) monitor.
- The award recognises innovative startups that use technology to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.

By Sameer Singhal

## **National News**

### 1. MEITY INVITES APPLICATIONS UNDER CHIPS TO STARTUP PROGRAMME



- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has sought applications from 100 academia, Research and Development organisations, start-ups and MSMEs under its Chips to Startup Programme.
- The Chips to Startup, C2S Programme aims to train 85 thousand high-quality and qualified engineers in the area of Very large-scale integration and Embedded System Design.
- This will be a step towards leapfrogging in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing space.
- The programme would be implemented at about 100 academic institutions across the Country, including IITs, NITs, and IIITs. The online applications are open until 31st January.

### 2. PM Modi urges people to register for this year's Pariksha Pe Charcha



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to register for this year's Pariksha Pe Charcha.
- In a series of tweets, Mr. Modi said, Pariksha Pe Charcha is a fantastic learning experience and it provides an opportunity to connect with dynamic youth, understand their challenges and aspirations in a better way.
- He said, it also gives an opportunity to discover the emerging trends in the world of education.
- The Prime Minister said exams are approaching and so is Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022.
- He urged the participants to take stress-free exams and once again support our brave Exam Warriors, their parents and teachers.

## **Defence News**

### 3. INS VIKRANT RETURNS TO KOCHI AFTER ITS THIRD SEA TRIAL



- The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant returned to Kochi after its third sea trial.
- The ship, being built by the Cochin Shipyard, had set out for the third sea trial on the 9th of January.
- A large number of ship systems were operated and tested, with training on various equipment fitted onboard.
- The trial data will be analyzed with mandatory inspections and balance work on the ship.

## 4. Indian Navy and Russian Navy conducts PASSEX Exercise in Arabian Sea

- Indian Navy and Russian Navy undertook PASSEX exercises at the port of Cochin, in the Arabian Sea.
- The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS Kochi, took part in the exercise. Russian Federation Navy was represented by RFS Admiral Tributs.
- Two other Russian naval ships, Russian Naval Missile Cruiser Varyag, and Russian Tanker Boris Butoma were also accompanied.

• These exercises are aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and this will involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations



**Obituary News** 

5. Shanti Devi Dies at 88, Worked to Uplift Tribal Girls



- Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Shanti Devi passed away at his residence in Gunupur of Odisha's Rayagada district, last night. She was 88.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, and several other personalities on Monday condoled the death of the noted social worker from Odisha.
- She had an immense contribution towards restoring peace in Maoist-affected areas of the state.
- She was also spearheading the voluntary organisation Seva Samaj. At the age of 17, she got married to Ratan Das, a Gandhian, and shifted to Koraput.

## 6. Toshiki Kaifu, Former Japanese Prime Minister Passes Away At The Age Of 91



- The former Prime Minister of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu who served the country for about two years, passed away earlier this month at the age of 91, according to the Japanese administration.
- In August 1989, Kaifu was elected as a Premier and governed until November 1991.
- Kaifu, who is most known for dispatching the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force to the Persian Gulf in 1991, died on Sunday, January 9, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno.
- The reason for his death remained unknown at the time

## **Appointment News**

### 7. SHERSINGH B KHYALIA APPOINTED AS CEO OF ADANI POWER

- The Board of Directors of Adani Power Limited (APL), a subsidiary of Adani Group, approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adani Powers with effect from 11th January 2022.
- He is a Chartered Accountant, who has served as the Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation.

• Earlier, Khyalia has worked as Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation, where he got experience of the Renewable Power Sector especially the development of Ultra Mega Renewable Parks.



**Awards and Honors** 

8. West Indies Great Clive Lloyd Given Knighthood For Services To Cricket After Year's Delay



- Former West Indies Captain Clive Lloyd received Knighthood from Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket.
- On the same day, England's world cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan was awarded with CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) by Prince William for his services towards the game of cricket.
- The CBE is the highest-ranking Order of the British Empire award, followed by OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) and then MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).
- A knighthood is a title that is given to a man by a British king or queen for his achievements or his service to his country.
- A man who has been given a knighthood can put 'Sir' in front of his name instead of 'Mr'

## **International News**

### 9. SCIENTISTS STRUGGLE TO MONITOR TONGA VOLCANO AFTER MASSIVE ERUPTION



- Scientists are struggling to monitor an active volcano that erupted off the South Pacific island of Tonga
  at the weekend, after the explosion destroyed its sea-level crater and drowned its mass, obscuring it
  from satellites
- The eruption of Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano, which sits on the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire, sent tsunami waves across the Pacific Ocean and was heard some 2,300 kms (1,430 miles) away in New Zealand.
- Saturday's eruption was so powerful that space satellites captured not only huge clouds of ash but also an atmospheric shockwave that radiated out from the volcano at close to the speed of sound.

By Sameer Singhal

## **National News**

1. Union Minister Narayan Rane virtually inaugurates MSME Pavilion in World Expo, 2020 Dubai



- Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister, Narayan Rane today virtually inaugurated MSME Pavilion in World Expo, 2020 Dubai.
- The World Expo 2020, held under the Bureau International des Expositions aims at bringing together millions of people for the world's exceptional show, celebrating human brilliance and achievement with the theme "Connecting Minds, Creating Future".
- The MSME Ministry's participation in the Expo will help to develop an understanding of the MSME ecosystem in India as well as enable interaction with governments of different countries, Business and Industry leaders, which will help in exchange for best practices adopted across the world.
- Mr. Rane also launched the Khadi India Film produced by KVIC.
- The Minister said, today it has over six crore units employing over 11 crore people and is a significant contributor to the economic growth of India.

### 2. NDRF ON 16TH RAISING DAY

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on its Raising Day and said that the force is at the forefront of many rescue and relief measures, often in very challenging circumstances.
- The PM asserted that NDRF's courage and professionalism are extremely motivating.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on January 19, since it came into existence on January 19, 2006.
- In 2022, the NDRF is observing its 17th Raising Day.

- The NDRF has earned a good name and fame nationally and internationally with its selfless service and unmatched professionalism in disaster management.
- NDRF has saved more than One lakh lives in its 3100 operations and rescued/evacuated over 6.7 lakh people during disasters.
- Director Generals of NDRF: Atul Karwal.



## **Appointment News**

3. Shashank Goel appointed as Additional Secretary in Labor and Employment Ministry



- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shashank Goel, IAS of 90 batch as Additional Secretary in Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Shailesh Kumar Singh, IAS of 91 batch has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Manish Kumar Gupta who is presently Principal Commissioner, Delhi Development Authority, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been appointed as Vice-Chairman, Delhi Development Authority in the rank of Additional Secretary.

## 4. NARENDRA KUMAR GOENKA NAMED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF AEPC



- Narendra Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the new chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC. Former chairman Padma Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him.
- Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades.
- He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.
- Apparel Export Promotion Council Established: 1978
- Apparel Export Promotion Council HQ: Gurgaon.

## **Banking News**

## 5. Axis Bank & CRMNEXT won IBSI Innovation Awards 2021

- Axis Bank & CRMNEXT Solution won the IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the "Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation".
- It is one of the most prominent awards for global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants across the world.

- The Axis Bank implemented CRMNEXT for sales and service modernisation and it also enables smarter lead processing, automated routing, complete tracking, and visibility.
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai
- Axis Bank MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhary



6. MobiKwik Launches 'ClickPay' in collaboration with NBBL



- MobiKwik, mobile wallet and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) fintech firm, has launched 'ClickPay' for its customers, in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd.
- (NBBL), the wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India.
- This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.

## **International News**

## 7. Dubai Opens Architectural Masterpiece 'Infinity Bridge' To Traffic For The First Time



- The most awaited 'Infinity Bridge' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, has finally been opened to traffic for the first time on January 16.
- As the Deira-Bur Dubai end of the bridge opened early in the morning, the opposite way opened afterward.
- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has closed the 46 years old Al Shindagha Tunnel which connects Deira with Bur Dubai to finish the linkage between the new Infinity Bridge as well as other new bridges.
- The bridge acquired the name 'Infinity' as the design of the newly constructed pathway has an iconic arch that resembles the mathematical sign for infinity.

## 8. South Africa Launches 1st 'made In Africa' Satellites Under SpaceX's Transporter-3 Mission

- South Africa has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa.
- Three locally produced nanosatellites, which made up the country's first Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation, were launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States, as part of American aerospace company SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.
- Transporter-3, SpaceX's third dedicated rideshare mission, carried a total of 105 spacecraft for various organisations and governments, including CubeSats, microsats, PocketQubes and orbital transfer vehicles.



#### 9. POET MAYA ANGELOU BECOMES FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO APPEAR ON US COIN



- The US Treasury has minted coins featuring poet Maya Angelou the first black woman ever featured on the US 25-cent coin known as a quarter.
- Angelou, a poet and activist, was the first black woman to write and perform a poem at a presidential inauguration.
- In 2010, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award by President Barack Obama.

**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **International News**

#### 1. ISRAEL COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST OF THE ARROW-3



- The Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) of the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) in Israel's Ministry of Defense, together with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA)
- Israeli Defense Forces, conducted a successful flight test of the Arrow Weapon System (AWS) and the Arrow 3 interceptor, which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside of the earth's atmosphere.
- The test was performed at a test site in central Israel, and led by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- ISRAEL Capital: Jerusalem
- ISRAEL Currency: Israeli New Shekel
- ISRAEL Prime Minister: Naftali Bennett
- ISRAEL President: Isaac Herzog

#### 2. Indonesia passes law to relocate capital to Borneo jungle

- Parliament on Tuesday approved a bill to relocate Indonesia's capital from Jakarta to a site deep within the jungle of Kalimantan on Borneo island, the most significant advancement of an idea the country's leaders have been toying with for years.
- The new state capital law, which provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious \$32 billion mega project, stipulates how development of the capital will be funded and governed.



### **Obituary News**

3. LEGENDARY BENGALI COMICS ARTIST, WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR, NARAYAN DEBNATH PASSES AWAY



- Debnath, a Padma Shri awardee, even held the record of running the longest comics series by an individual artiste for Handa Bhonda, which has now completed 53 years.
- He was the first and the only comics artist from the country to have received the D. Litt. degree 'Litterarum Doctor' or 'Doctor Litterarum', a degree in humanities that is considered to be a higher doctorate after the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.'

• The celebrated cartoonist was the creator of popular Bengali comic strips like Handa Bhonda (1962), Bantul the Great (1965) and Nonte Phonte (1969).

#### 4. Eminent theatre personality Saoli Mitra passes away



- Saoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality and daughter of legendary actor Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra died at her residence in South Kolkata on Sunday of heart ailments.
- Mitra, 73, a gifted actor, director and playwright, died at her residence in South Kolkata at 3:40 pm and was cremated at Siriti crematorium later without much fanfare, her close friend and theatre personality Arpita Ghosh.
- Mitra, who was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012 would be remembered by her fans and critics alike for her solo performance as Draupadi in Naathyati Anaathbat

## 5. Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner M.K. Prasad passes away



- Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner Prof M K Prasad passed away recently.
- He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroots level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction.
- He had also led the popular science movement, 'Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath'.
- Prof. Prasad, who had served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University, was in the forefront of environment protection activities in the State.
- Save Silent Valley was a social movement aimed at the protection of Silent Valley, an evergreen subtropical forest in the Palakkad district of Kerala, India.
- It was started in 1973 by an NGO led by Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) to save the Silent Valley from being flooded by a [hydroelectric] project. The valley was declared as Silent Valley National Park in 1985.

#### **National News**

#### 6. India & Japan conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bay of Bengal



- A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19.
- The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt while JMSDF Ships Uraga and Hirado participated from the Japanese side.
- Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.

#### 7. BSF: OPERATION SARD HAWA

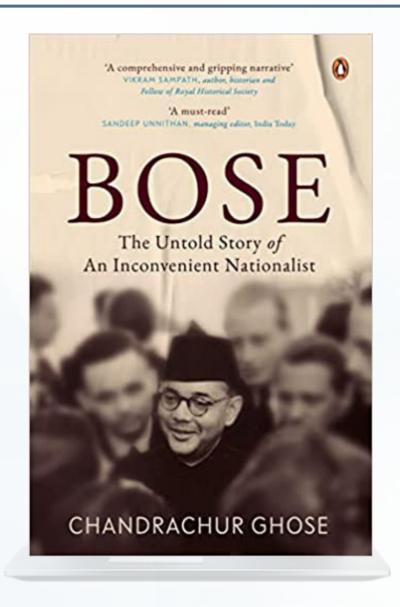


- The Border Security Force will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan under its "Operation Sard Hawa" from January 23 to 28.
- Arun Kumar Singh, Deputy Inspector General of the BSF, North Zone, said in a statement that due to fog and haze on the border during winter, the force remains on "high alert" to deal with infiltration and other nefarious activities from across the border.
- The operation will be carried out on the border from January 23 to 28. Under this, the security will be increased on the border.
- All personnel and officers of the headquarters will remain on the border during this period and will monitor the situation 24 hours
- The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer and "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year

#### **Books and Authors**

#### 8. Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist

- A new biography titled "Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist" authored by Chandrachur Ghose will be released in February 2022.
- The book contains the thoughts and opinions of Subhas Chandra Bose about the development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics and political ideology.
- It also marked the untold and unknown stories of Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose).



**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **National News**

## 1. New-Delhi: Amar Jawan Jyoti not being extinguished and is being merged with flame at National War Memorial

- The Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate will be merged with the flame at the National War Memorial in New Delhi today afternoon. The ceremony will be presided over by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff.
- India Gate was unveiled in 1931 and it was built to honour the 70 thousand soldiers of British India who gave the supreme sacrifice.
- The Amar Jawan Jyoti was set up after the 1971 Indo-Pak war. After a long wait and multiple considerations, the National War Memorial was built in the India Gate complex was inaugurated in February 2019.
- Government Sources said, there is a lot of misinformation circulating regarding the flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti. It said, the flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti is not being extinguished and it is being merged with the flame at the National War Memorial.

• The sources said, it was an odd thing to see that the flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti paid homage to the martyrs of 1971 and other wars but none of their names are present there.



2. Grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's to be installed at India Gate



- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has said, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand statue, made of granite, will be installed at India Gate.
- In a series of tweets, Mr. Modi said, this would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him.
- Till the grand statue of Netaji Bose is completed, a hologram statue of his would be present at the same place.
- Mr. Modi added that he will unveil the hologram statue on 23rd January, Netaji's birth anniversary.

## 3. Over 76500 'Agri Nutri Gardens' established under Agri Nutri Garden Week



- Over 76 thousand 500 'Agri Nutri Gardens' have been established under the Agri Nutri Garden Week' as against the target of 7 thousand 500.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) observed this week from 10th to 17th of this month.
- It is the Mission's agenda to support every rural poor household to have Agri Nutri Garden to fulfill the family's nutritional needs. Excess production can also be sold for income generation.

## 4. First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held on 18-19 Jan under Chinese Chairship

- The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19 2022, with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021 and China has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.
- Meanwhile, Sanjay Bhattacharyya India's BRICS Sherpa said that Last year we saw a significant achievement that our foreign ministers brought about in terms of the document on the strengthening and reform of the multilateral systems.

- These issues of global governance, particularly the UN systems and other institutions, are extremely important.
- And I'm happy that we shall continue to attach high importance to its continued relevance.



#### 5. India tennis star Sania Mirza to retire after 2022 season



- Sania Mirza, the most successful woman in Indian tennis history, has decided that she is bidding adieu to the sports at the end of 2022.
- The 35-year-old had already bowed out of singles competitions in 2013.
- Sania has six Grand Slam titles in women's doubles and mixed doubles to her name. However, her last Slam win came at the Australian Open as far back as in 2016.

- Her last headline-grabbing win came with Chinese partner Shuai Zhang in women's doubles at the Ostrava Open on September 26, 2021.
- "I am taking it week by week.
- Not sure if I can last the season, but I wish to," she was quoted as saying at the ongoing 2022 Australian Open.
- The announcement came after she had to face another defeat.

#### **Appointment News**

#### 6. DILEEP SANGHANI NAMED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF IFFCO



- The board of directors of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has unanimously elected Dileep Sanghani as the 17th Chairman of the Cooperative.
- He succeeds Balvinder Singh Nakai, who passed away earlier on October 11, 2021. Prior to this, Sanghani was serving as vice-chairman of IFFCO since 2019.
- Sanghani is a senior co-operator from Gujarat and the chairman of the Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (GUJCOMASOL), a position he has held since 2017.
- He held various portfolios in the Gujarat government, including agriculture, cooperation, animal husbandry, fisheries, cow-breeding, prison, excise, law and justice, legislative and parliamentary affairs.

## 7. VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA NAMED AS AMBASSADOR OF INTERNET PANEL ON LANGUAGES UASG

• Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been roped in as the Ambassador of Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), a community-based team of industry leaders supported by global internet body ICANN.

- UASG works on developing and recommending standards for languages script that are not currently used to access the internet.
- The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) aims to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. Its headquarter is based at California, United States.



**International News** 

8. Oxford University Press declares 'Anxiety' as Children's Word of the Year 2021



- The Oxford University Press (OUP) has picked up 'Anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021, based on their recent research. Apart from "anxiety" (21%), "Challenging" (19%), "isolate" (14%), "Wellbeing" (13%) and "resilience" (12%) were the children's top five words.
- Over 8,000 children from across 85 schools in the UK, spanning Year 3 to Year 9, were surveyed and asked to choose the top words they would use when talking about health and wellbeing.
- The research highlights the widespread impact lockdown and school closures had on children, with almost a quarter of all surveyed choosing anxiety (21 per cent) as their number one word, closely followed by challenging (19 per cent) and isolate (14 per cent).

By Sameer Singhal

#### **National News**

1. OSCAR 2022: SURIYA'S TAMIL SOCIO-DRAMA 'JAI BHIM' NOMINATED FOR BEST FEATURED FILM



- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revealed the list of 276 films that is eligible for consideration at the 94th Oscars, yesterday.
- Among these films, Suriya's hard-hitting Tamil socio-drama Jai Bhim is India's entry into The Academy.
- 'Jai Bhim' which has gained a nomination for best feature film, is in competition with other acclaimed flicks like 'Jockey,' 'Cruella,' 'Dune, 'Eternals,' 'Godzilla VS Kong,' 'King Richard,' among other movies.
- The courtroom drama directed by TCJ Gnanavel is inspired by a real-life incident from the 1990s in Tamil Nadu.
- Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan.

#### 2. Prajakta Koli becomes UNDP India's first youth climate champion



- Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion under her partnership with the organisation.
- The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.
- As a part of her responsibilities now, Prajakta will be entrusted with interacting with young minds to raise awareness around climate crisis, global warming and biodiversity loss and their impacts

#### 3. JERRI HAMLET DECLARED AS FIRST 'MILK VILLAGE' OF J&K



- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.
- The village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, will give the local farmers financial security.
- After being declared as 'Milk Village', a total of 57 units have been sanctioned under the IDDS for the village.
- Under the IDDS, dairy units of five animals are provided with a 50 per cent subsidy.

#### 4. TRIPURA RECHRISTENS TWO HILL RANGES WITH KOKBOROK NAMES



- The day commemorates the initial recognition of Kokborok as the official language in 1979.
- 19th January 2022 marks the observance of the 44th Kokborok Day. The Kokborok language, the official language of Tripura, is also known as Tripuri or Tiprakok.
- In 1979, Kokborok, along with Bengali and English, was declared an official language of the state of Tripura, India by the state government.
- Kokborok Day, also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on 19th January with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language.
- Chief Minister of Tripura: Biplab Kumar Deb Governor: Satyadeo Narain Arya.

## 5. Jahnavi Dangeti Creates Record, Becomes First Indian To Complete NASA Programme

- Jahnavi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (iasp nasa) at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US, making her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.
- She is part of a carefully shortlisted group of 20 students from around the world.
- She has been a campus ambassador for numerous organisations, including Star (Space Technology and Aeronautical Rocketry), an Indian private aerospace company.

• She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA).



#### 6. UNCTAD REPORT: FDI FLOWS TO INDIA FALLS BY 26% IN 2021



- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India fell by 26 per cent in 2021, compared to 2020, as per the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Investment Trends Monitor published.
- In 2020, FDI to India was recorded at USD 64 billion. This was 27 per cent more compared to USD 51 billion in FDI in 2019.
- UNCTAD said that low FDI in India was mainly because large cross-border mergers & acquisitions (M&A) deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated.
- The global FDI flows increased by 77 per cent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion in 2021, from USD 929 billion in 2020.

#### **Awards and Recognition**

7. BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS SUSHMITA SEN WINS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKING WOMEN AWARD FOR 'AARYA 2'



- Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen has been conferred with the International Association of Working Women Award at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021.
- The former Miss Universe has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.
- The Aarya 2 series is created by Ram Madhvani and had released on December 10, 2021, on Disney+Hotstar

#### 8. Scientists name new species of rainfrog after Greta Thunberg



- A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, has been named after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.
- The species has been named as Pristimantis gretathunbergae, or popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog.
- The frog was originally discovered in 2012, and was thought to be part of already categorised Pristimantis family.
- However, recent DNA analysis confirmed that the frog is a new species, according to scientific journal Zookeys.
- The new specimen of the tropical amphibian was discovered by an international team of biologists led by doctors Abel Batista, from Panama, and Konrad Mebert (Switzerland) in Cerro Chucantí, a private reserve located in the province of Darién.

#### **Appointments**

#### 9. VIKRAM DEV DUTT APPOINTED AIR INDIA CMD



- Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle.
- He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.
- Dutt's appointment comes at a time when the national carrier is going through an ownership change.
- On October 25, the Center had signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

#### 10. CHANCHAL KUMAR NAMED AS NEW MD OF NHIDCL



- Chanchal Kumar has been appointed as the Managing Director, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- He is appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
- He is a 1992 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, presently Principal Secretary of Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- NHIDCL Founded: 2014
- NHIDCL Headquarters: New Delhi

By Sameer Singhal



# PUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 24/01/2022 to 30/01/2022

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2022

#### **National News**

#### 1. India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber, gherkins in the world



- India has emerged as the largest exporter of cucumber and gherkins in the world.
- India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of over one lakh 23 thousand Metric Tonnes with a value of 114 million US dollar during April to October 2020-21.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a statement said that India has crossed 200 million US dollar mark of export of agricultural processed product- pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as gherkins or cornichons, in the last financial year.
- In 2020-21, India had shipped over 2 lakh 23 thousand Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins with a value of 223 million US dollar.

#### 2. PARAKRAM DIWAS: 23 JANUARY



- Netaji Jayanti or Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti, officially known as Parakram Diwas[2] or Parakram Divas (lit. 'Day of Valour'), is a national event celebrated in India to mark the birthday of the prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- It is celebrated annually on 23 January
- He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.
- It is traditionally observed in all over India.
- It is an official holiday in West Bengal,
- Jharkhand, Tripura and Assam.
- Netaji Jayanti was observed as Parakram Divas for the first time in 2021 on his 124th birth anniversary
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23rd January unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi.
- This hologram will be in place till the work of the granite statue of Netaji is completed.
- The statue will be unveiled in the same place to mark the year-long celebration of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

## 3. Indian film Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival



- PS Vinothraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival which concluded on Sunday in Dhaka.
- Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films during the concluding session.
- The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.
- The Best Script Writer Award went to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for Indranil Roychowdhury-directed India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal.
- The special audience award was given to Aimee Baruah Directed film Semkhor. Best Actor Award went to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.
- Sujit Bidari directed film Aina Jhyal Ko Putali from Nepal got the best director award.

#### 4. Amit Shah Launches District Good Governance Index in 20 districts of J-K

- The Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has virtually released India's First "District Good Governance Index" for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The top 5 districts in the District Good Governance Index" are (1) Jammu, (2) Doda, (3) Samba, (4) Pulwama and (5) Srinagar.
- This index has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) is a framework document comprising of performance under ten governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.



#### 5. ISRO Successfully Tests Vikas Engine Of India's Gaganyaan Human Space Mission



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test-fired the Vikas engine that would power India's first human-carry rocket (Gaganyaan human space mission).
- This qualification test of the Vikas Engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission was conducted by ISRO at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- More such tests on Vikas Engine will be conducted in the future by ISRO.
- Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr S Somanath;

#### **Important Days**

#### 6. International Day of Education observed on 24 January



- The International Day of Education is marked every year on 24 January globally to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development.
- The first-ever International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2019 as per the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 3rd 2018 to celebrate the role of education in development.
- The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education. The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

#### 7. NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY: HISTORY, OBJECTIVES AND CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR



- In India, the National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is observed annually on January 24.
- The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child.
- The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.
- International Girl Child Day: 11 october

#### **Defence News**

#### 8. NATO partners to hold maritime drills in Mediterranean Sea



- The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries will be conducting a 12-day maritime exercise in the Mediterranean Sea from January 24, 2022.
- The name of the maritime exercise is "Neptune Strike '22". The naval drill will end on February 04, 2022.
- The main purpose of this exercise will be to demonstrate and test NATO's wide range of maritime capabilities.
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee: Admiral Rob Bauer.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.

#### **Sports News**

#### 9. PV SINDHU WINS TITLE AT SYED MODI BADMINTON 2022



- Ace Indian shuttler, PV Sindhu has bagged the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament in Lucknow.
- Sindhu beat fellow Indian Malvika Bansod 21-13 21-16 to win her second Syed Modi title after 2017.
- The 2022 Syed Modi International badminton tournament was held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 18 to 23 January 2022.

By Sameer Singhal

#### **National News**

## 1. ELECTRONICS & IT MINISTRY RELEASES 5-YEAR ROADMAP AND VISION DOCUMENT FOR ELECTRONICS SECTOR

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA on Monday released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector.
- It is titled "300 billion dollar Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026".
- This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document the first of which was released in November last year.
- Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw lauded the entire team for their efforts in bringing out the documents and policy framework items at this remarkable speed.

- During the event, Mr. Vaishnaw also addressed some points raised by industry leaders during the recent interaction with him.
- The government has committed nearly 17 billion US dollar over the next 6 years across four PLI Schemes- Semiconductor and Design, Smartphones, IT Hardware and Components.



## 2. Jai Ram Thakur launches app to promote local handicrafts through tourism in Kangra



- Wit a view to provide a hassle-free experience for tourists and simultaneously boosting sale of local handicrafts, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur Thursday launched 'Apna Kangra' app and hampers handcrafted by self help groups at Dharamsala in the district.
- the motive of 'Apna Kangra' was to empower rural women and provide job opportunities to youth through tourism, while facilitating hospitality services such as hotels, homestays and transport to travellers.

- The CM also virtually inaugurated Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary at Luthan in Jawalamukhi Vidhan Sabha area of Kangra.
- The govt of HP initiated the scheme 'Mukhya Mantri HIMCARE' to provide medical services to cattles.
- Himachal Pradesh Capital: Shimla (Summer),
- Dharamshala (Winter)
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

#### **Important Days**

#### 3. NATIONAL TOURISM DAY BEING CELEBRATED TODAY



- National Tourism Day is being celebrated today. The day is observed on the 25th of January every year to celebrate the diversity of the country.
- The theme for this year is Rural and Community Centric Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism is observing this day under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Worldwide, India has a remarkable position because of magnificent places that are famous as tourist destinations. India has a culturally rich heritage which attracts foreign tourists.
- Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has greeted everyone on National Tourism Day today

#### 4. 12TH NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY BEING CELEBRATED TODAY

- The 12th National Voters' Day is being celebrated today. The theme for this year's voters' day is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will be the Chief Guest at the national function being organized in New Delhi to mark the day.
- Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju will be the Guest of Honour.

• On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practises for the year 2021-22 will be conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres such as IT initiatives, Security Management, Election Management, Accessible Elections and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach.



#### 5. Modi confers PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 29 children



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBR) award to 29 children from across the country ahead of Republic Day.
- The children received digital certificates through the blockchain technology the first time that the technology has been used in conferring awards by the government and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each.

- The Prime Minister also interacted with the winners virtually.
- The awards have been given for winners of 2021 and 2022 PMRBR certificates were issued to 61 children from both years.

#### **Sports News**

## 6. Dronacharya Awardee Gaurav Khanna Launches India's First Para-Badminton Academy



- India's first para-badminton academy has been set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It has all the advanced equipment and facilities.
- The set-up will improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics to be held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.
- The badminton centre has been launched by the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.

#### 7. International Cricket Council announced ICC Awards 2021



• The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the 17th edition of ICC Awards for the year 2021 to recognise and honour the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months, between January 01, 2021, and December 31, 2021.

Category	Winners
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tammy Beaumont (England)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam (Pakistan)

#### 8. NEERAJ CHOPRA ENDORSES GOODDOT AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR



- Plant-based meat company GoodDot has roped in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador.
- With this association, the company wants to create awareness about the new category of plant-based meats.
- It also wants to send out a message that small changes in lifestyle and food choices can go a long way in making the world a better place.
- The company provides alternatives to mutton, chicken and eggs and is a Direct-to-consumer (D2C) player so far and sells also through online marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, etc.

#### **Sports News**

## 9. Subhash Bhowmick, the 1970 Asian Games bronze medallist footballer, passed away

- Subhash Bhowmick, the 1970 Asian Games bronze medallist footballer, passed away early Saturday morning at 72.
- He was suffering from renal ailments and, according to his family sources, he recently had a chest infection also.
- One of those very few Indian footballers post the Class of 50s and 60s to have an Asian Games medal, Bhowmick was undergoing dialysis but remained sprightly until about a month ago, still harboring hopes to return to the maidan in the future.
- At around 3.30 am on Saturday, Bhowmick breathed his last at a private hospital in Kolkata.



**By Sameer Singhal** 

#### **National News**

#### 1. NATION CELEBRATES 73RD REPUBLIC DAY WITH GAIETY AND ENTHUSIASM



- The Nation is celebrating 73rd Republic Day today. The main function was held at Rajpath in the National Capital where President Ram Nath Kovind took the salute of the parade presented by Ceremonial Battery of 871 Field Regiment.
- On the occasion, Jammu and Kashmir Police ASI Babu Ram was conferred with Ashok Chakra posthumously for displaying valour and courage during an anti-terror operation in 2020 in Srinagar in which he killed three terrorists.

- His wife and son received the award from President Kovind.
- Adding more colour to the celebrations were the 12 Tableaux from different Sates, Union Territories and 9 from Ministries and Departments.
- Biodiversity of Maharashtra, the cradle of traditional handicrafts of Karnataka, Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood, Punjab's contribution in freedom struggle UDAN, National Education Policy, 150 years of Shri Aurobindo, Subhas @ 125 were some of the themes of tableaux.
- The tableau of Haryana had the theme Number One in Sports
- Besides, 480 dancers were selected through Vande Bharatam dance competition performed today at Rajpath. Detachments of Centurion Tank, PT-76, MBT Arjun MK-I, and APC Topaz participate in the parade.

## 2. Padma Award 2022: General Bipin Rawat, Kalyan Singh honored with Padma Vibhushan; Neeraj Chopra gets Padma Shri



- On the eve of Republic Day, Government today announced Padma Awards.
- Former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh and former President of Gita Press Radheshyam Khemka will be honoured with Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- Classical Vocalist Prabha Atre will get the second-highest civilian award.
- 17 persons will get Padma Bhushan.
- Krishna and Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech who brought Covaxin and Cyrus Poonawala of Serum Institute who brought Covishield will get Padma Bhushan.
- Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, Paralympic Medalist Devendra Jhajharia, Odia Author Pratibha Ray will get Padma Bhushan.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Google CEO Sundar Pichai will get Padma Bhushan.

## 3. GOVT NOTIFIES DRONE CERTIFICATION SCHEME TO MAKE CERTIFICATION OF DRONES SIMPLER, FASTER AND TRANSPARENT

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**बसाद्यारण** 

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

प्राधकार स प्रकाशत
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नागर विमानन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली 26 जनवरी, 2022

मानव रहित विमान प्रणालियों (यूएएस) के लिए प्रमाणीकरण योजना

का.आ. 347(अ).—

भाग-।

प्रस्तावना

मानव रहित विमान प्रणाली (यूएएस) जिसे सामान्यतः ड्रोन के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, अर्थव्यवस्था के लगभग हर क्षेत्र जैसे – कृषि, अवसंरचना, आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया, परिवहन, भू-स्थानिक मानचित्रण, मीडिया और मनोरंजन, कानून प्रवर्तन और राष्ट्रीय रक्षा इत्यादि, में उल्लेखनीय लाभ प्रदान करती है।

भारत सरकार भारत में एक विश्व-अग्रणी ड्रोन तंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए काम कर रही है, जिससे लाखों ड्रोन द्वारा भारतीय हवाई क्षेत्र में संरक्षित, कुशल और सुरक्षित पहुंच प्रदान करने हेतु भौतिक और डिजिटल अवसंरचना सृजित होगी। ड्रोन नियम 2021 के जारी होने से वास्तव में ड्रोनों के लिए एक वैश्विक प्रमाणन और मान्यता रूपरेखा स्थापित करना संभव हो गया है, जिससे उपयुक्त सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ, विभिन्न ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकियों के व्यावसायिक अनुप्रयोग में वृद्धि

भारत सरकार ने एक ऑल-डिजीटल प्रक्रिया के साथ ड्रोनों के पंजीकरण और प्रचालन के लिए डिजीटल-स्काई प्लेटफार्म तैयार किया है। प्रयोक्ताओं द्वारा अपने ड्रोनों, पायलटों और मालिकों के लिए एक-बार पंजीकरण पूरा किया जाना अपेक्षित है। पीले या लाल ज्ञोन में ड्रोन प्रचालित करने के इच्छुक प्रयोक्ता द्वारा प्रत्येक उड़ान के लिए, ऑनलाइन उड़ान की अनुमति का अनुरोध किया जा सकता है।

531 GI/2022 (1)

- Government has notified drone certification scheme to make certification of drones simpler, faster and transparent.
- In a tweet, Civil Aviation Ministry said, along with the liberalised drone rules, airspace map, the PLI scheme and the single window Digital Sky Platform, will help drone manufacturing industry in India.
- It said, this is another step in making India the drone hub of the world by 2030.
- The Government has been working to establish a world-leading drone ecosystem in India, which will create the physical and digital infrastructure to support safe, efficient and secure access to the Indian airspace by millions of drones.
- Drone technology is evolving on a daily basis with new improvement coming in rapid scale.

• The drones offer tremendous benefits to almost every sector of the economy, including agriculture, infrastructure, emergency response, transportation and geospatial mapping.

#### 4. Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri Recipient Milena Salvini Of France Passes Away



- Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini of France passed away on Tuesday, the Indian Embassy in France said in a tweet.
- Italian-born Salvini was a regular visitor to India, especially Kerala where she learnt Kathakali, and ran 'Centre Mandapa', a school for Indian dance forms, in Paris.
- The Government of India conferred the Padma Shri award on Salvini in 2019 for her contribution in the field of performing arts.
- "Ms. Milena Salvini will be remembered for her passion towards Indian culture. She made numerous efforts to further popularise Kathakali across France," PM Modi tweeted.

## 5. CDRI Develops Omicron Testing Kit named "OM"

- CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om', for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.
- Currently, two more such kits developed by private players are available in the market. The kit will give test results in around two hours.

- Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variant over genome sequencing for a large population.
- It was made within two months and will cost around Rs 150. Further, it will give the test results in around two hours.
- According to the scientists, it can also be aligned for the detection of other emerging variants of Covid infection and other respiratory infections.



# 6. Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary set to be notified as 4th tiger reserve of Rajasthan



- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is among the proposed five sites in the country, is expected to be formally notified as tiger reserve (TR) soon before the Global Tiger Summit, which is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia.
- The Center also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation.
- The Center has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1982.
- The core areas of the sanctuary have 8 villages and are home to large numbers of wild animals like sambhars, caracals, wild boars, nilgai, and striped Hyena.

## **Index and Ranks**

## 7. APPLE RETAINED THE TITLE AS WORLD'S VALUABLE BRAND IN BRAND FINANCE 2022

TOP 10 BRAND VALUE			
Brand	Rank 2022	2021	Value (\$)
Apple	1	1	355,080
Amazon	2	2	350,273
Google	3	3	263,425
Microsoft	4	4	184,245
Walmart	5	6	111,918
Samsung Group	6	5	107,284
Facebook	7	7	101,201
ICBC	8	8	75,119
Huawei	9	15	71,233
Verizon	10	9	69,639

Source: Brand Finance Global 500

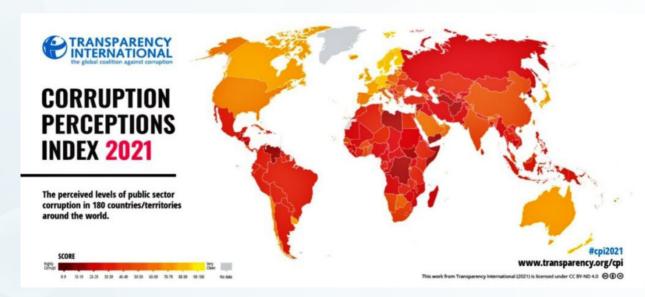
- Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well, according to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report.
- The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year.
- This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- TikTok (18th) has been named the world's fastest-growing brand in the list. Its brand value increased from US\$18.7 billion in 2021 to US\$59.0 billion in 2022.
- Tech remained the most valuable industry in the list in terms of sector. This was followed by Retail, Banking, Media and Telecoms in top 5 respectively.

#### 8. Russia-China-Iran conducts joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22



- The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman.
- The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.
- The participants practised various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical manoeuvres as a part of the drill.
- At least 140 warships and over 60 aircraft with nearly 10,000 military personnel would be taking part in the military exercises.

## 9. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) 2021



• Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40).

- The ranking has been topped jointly by three countriesDenmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88).
- This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be.
- Last year (for 2020) India was ranked 86th with a score of 40.
- Global Health Security Index 2021: 66th
- 5th Truecaller's Global Spam & Scam Report 2021: 4th
- Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2021: 3rd
- 2021 TRACE global Bribery Risk Rankings: 82nd
- World Talent Ranking report 2021: 56th
- Henley Passport index 2022: 83rd

#### 10. International Holocaust Remembrance Day



- International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on 27 January.
- In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "Memory, Dignity and Justice".
- The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.
- A genocide occurred during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945

By Sameer Singhal

## **National News**

#### 1. KERALA GOT ITS FIRST-EVER SCIENTIFIC BIRD ATLAS



- The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies.
- The KBA has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020.
- The KBA offers authentic, consistent and comparable data through random sampling from the geographical terrain split.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.

## 2. India pays \$29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for 2022

- India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for the year 2022.
- As of January 21, 2022, 24 Member States have paid their regular budget assessments in full.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.



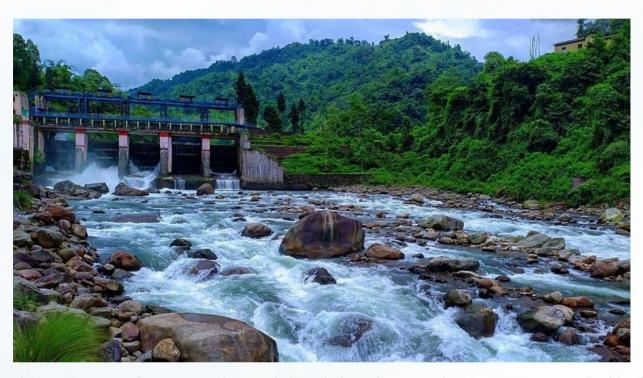
3. Assam To Confer State's Highest Civilian Award 'Asom Baibhay' To Ratan Tata On Jan 24



- The Assam government will confer the state's highest civilian award, Asom Baibhav, to chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, Ratan Naval Tata on Monday, January 24, in Guwahati.
- However, the industrialist will not be able to attend the event personally due to COVID-19.
- The Assam government is conferring 'Asom Baibhav' to Ratan Tata for his contribution to setting up cancer treatment facilities in the state.

- Tata Trusts had signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Assam government in 2018, giving a formal share to this project.
- Asom Baibhay: Ratan Naval Tata
- Asom Sourav: Professor Kamalendu Deb Krori, Dr Lakshmanan S, Professor Dipak Chand Jain, Neel Pawan Baruah, and Lovlina Borgohain
- Asom Gourav: Munindra Nath Ngatey, Manoj Kr Basumatary, Hemoprabha Chutia, Dharanidhar Boro, Dr Basanta Hazarika, Khorsing Terang, Namita Kalita, Kaushik Boruah, Boby Hazarika, Akash Jyoti gogoi, Dr Asif Iqbal, Kalpana Boro, and Bornita Momin

#### 4. HARYANA, HP INK DEAL TO BUILD ADI BADRI DAM, REVIVE SARASWATI RIVER



- The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh Friday entered into an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district, which, among others, will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswati river.
- Adi Badri, situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border, is believed to be the river's origin point.
- The proposed dam aims for the rejuvenation of the Saraswati river with an estimated cost of Rs 215.35 crore.
- The Dam would get 224-hectare meter water from Himachal Pradesh's Somb River that falls in the Yamuna near Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar district.

#### 5. LUCKNOW IPL TEAM TO BE CALLED LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

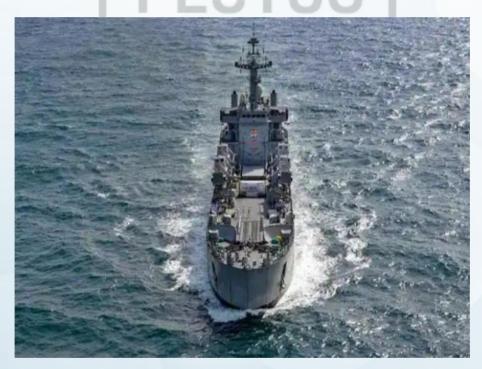
- Lucknow's IPL franchise, which is owned by Sanjiv Goenka (RPSG Group), has been renamed Lucknow Super Giants ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 mega auction.
- Lucknow team roped in KL Rahul as their captain and also roped in Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi.
- The official IPL team of Lucknow crowdsourced its name from fans and a consumer engagement campaign was launched on social media on 3rd Jan 2022.

• Last year, the franchise was purchased by the Sanjiv Goenka-owned of the RPSG group for an amount of Rs 7090 Crores.



#### **Defence News**

## 6. Western Naval Command conducts Joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar



- The Indian Navy conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar at the Arabian Sea to "validate operational plans" of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard
- The Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai) is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy.
- The other two are Eastern Naval Command (HQVisakhapatnam) and Southern Naval Command (HQKochi).
- A variety of weapon firings in a realistic tactical scenario, besides validation of operational missions and tasks under varying settings, were undertaken during the exercise.

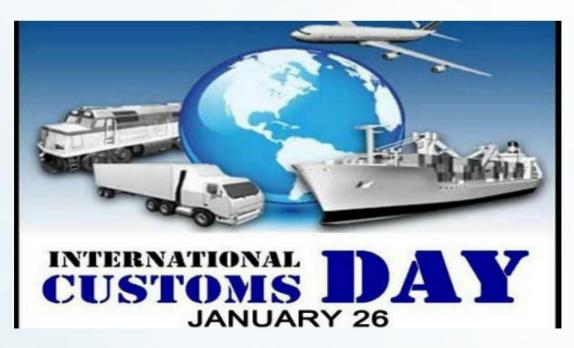
#### 7. Russia delivers all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to India



- Russia delivered all the contracted 70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Armed Forces.
- The Indian Armed Forces had placed an order for 670,000 rifles, for which the contract was signed on December 06, 2021, between India and Kalashnikov (Russian defence manufacturing unit).
- The total cost of the contract is around Rs 5,124 crore.
- The contract included procuring 70,000 rifles off the shelf.

## **Important Days**

## 8. International Customs Day observed on January 26



- The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed on 26 January every year.
- The day is celebrated to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.
- This year, the theme chosen by WCO for ICD is 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.
- The International Customs Day's objective is to boost leadership, guidance, and support to customs administrations as WCO strongly opines that while borders divide, it is the 'customs' that establish a connection between countries.
- World Customs Organization headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- World Customs Organization Membership: 182 countries.

By Sameer Singhal

### **National News**

1. Indian StartUp "Botlab" will fly 1,000 Drones in "Beating Retreat" ceremony



- Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that Indian StartUp "Botlab", funded by Technology Development Board (TDB) under Union Ministry of Science and Technology and led by IIT Delhi alumni, will fly 1,000 Drones in "Beating Retreat" ceremony tomorrow evening.'
- This will make India the fourth country, after China, Russia and UK, to carry out such a large-scale show with 1,000 drones.
- At a demonstration of the Drone presentation today, the Minister interacted with the "Botlab" StartUp team members at his residence in New Delhi.
- The Managing Director and Engineers of Botlab Dynamics Private Limited were visibly excited by the thought of being the first in India to light up the sky with 1,000 Drones, in one go.

- Botlab in association with the Ministry of Defence has conceptualised the novel 'DRONE SHOW' to commemorate the 75th year of Independence.
- The drone show will be of 10 minutes duration and will showcase government achievements @75 through many creative formations in the dark sky.

#### 2. India and UK conclude first round of talks for Free Trade Agreement



- India and the United Kingdom have concluded the first round of talks for India-UK Free Trade Agreement.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry has said that technical experts from both sides came together for discussions and covered 26 policy areas.
- Discussions were held on Trade in goods and services including Financial Services and Telecommunications, Investment, Intellectual Property, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Government Procurement among others.
- The Ministry said, negotiations were productive and reflected shared ambition to boost trade between India and UK.
- The second round of negotiations will take place from 7 to 18 March this year.

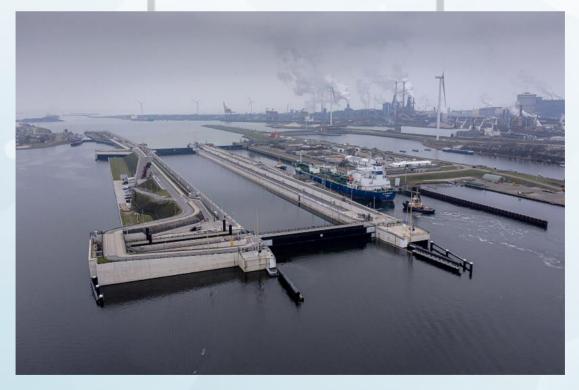
#### 3. GOOGLE TO INVEST UPTO \$1 BILLION IN BHARTI AIRTEL

- Bharti Airtel and Google have announced a long-term partnership agreement, to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem.
- Under the deal, Google will invest USD 1 billion in Airtel. From the total investment, Google will invest USD 700 million to acquire a 1.28 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel Ltd.
- The remaining USD 300 million will go toward multi-year commercial agreements with Airtel, including devices built together by the two tech giants

- The USD 1 billion funding is part of Google's USD 10 billion 'Google for India Digitization Fund', launched in 2020.
- This is Google second investment in an Indian telecom service provider (after Reliance Jio).



#### 4. WORLD'S-LARGEST CANAL LOCK UNVEILED IN NETHERLANDS



- The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at Ijmuiden, a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- The sea lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander. The Ijmuiden sea lock is 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide.

- Construction on the massive infrastructure project began in 2016 and was meant to be done by 2019.
- It also went over the initially planned budget by around €300 million (\$338 million).
- The Ijmuiden lock was designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam.
- The structure is also deep enough that ships will no longer have to wait for a favourable water level to enter the canal.

## **Appointments News**

#### 5. GoI APPOINTS ANANTHA NAGESHWARAN AS CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR



- Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran has been appointed Chief Economic Advisor to the government of India.
- He assumed charge yesterday. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant.
- He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore.
- He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

## **National News**

6. Lok Sabha secretariat launches Digital Sansad app for ease of use, access to proceedings



- The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched a new app, Digital Sansad, that will make it easier for people to follow proceedings in Parliament, and also their own lawmakers.
- In addition, it will also help members of parliament access services such as checking personal updates like status of their notices, House bulletins, etc.
- As MPs are barred from using laptops inside the House, the app comes handy for parliamentary information for MPs during a debate in the House.
- The Digital Sansad app is available in both android and IOS platform and carries nearly all major content of the interlinked portal of Indian Parliament.
- A senior official claimed that the Digital Sansad is one of the few apps of a parliament internationally that offer a 360-degree view of legislative activities as well as services for members.

## **International News**

# 7. Australia announces billion-dollar package to protect Great Barrier Reef

- Australia unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef on Friday, hoping to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- Conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) nine-year plan, months after narrowly avoiding the reef being placed on UNESCO's "in danger" list.

• "We are backing the health of the reef and the economic future of tourism operators, hospitality providers and Queensland communities that are at the heart of the reef economy,"



## 8. FACE MASK RULES AND COVID RESTRICTIONS END IN ENGLAND



- Most coronavirus restrictions, including mandatory face masks, were lifted in England yesterday.
- This comes after Britain's government said that its vaccine booster rollout plan has successfully reduced serious illness and COVID-19 hospitalizations.
- Health officials in Britain are saying that they are planning a longer-term, post-pandemic strategy that treats COVID-19 more like the flu.
- Incidentally, the World Health Organization has warned against the dangers of treating Covid-19 like the flu and dropping pandemic restrictions.

# 9. NeoCov: What WHO says on this new coronavirus variant found among bats in Wuhan



- The World Health Organization has said that whether NeoCov coronavirus, reportedly found among bats in South Africa, poses a threat to humans requires further study.
- "Whether the virus detected in the study will pose a risk for humans will require further study," WHO told Russian news agency Tass.
- WHO is aware of the new finding of Wuhan scientists and is in touch with the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization

# **Obituary News**

#### 10. RENOWNED AUTHOR AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST ANIL AWACHAT PASSES AWAY



- Renowned author and social activist Anil Awachat has passed away at the age of 77.
- He breathed his last breath at his residence in Pune. He created a distinct identity not only in the world of literature but also in society.
- He has made a big contribution to Marathi literature with his many books.
- He established Muktangan De-Addiction center with his late wife Dr. Anita Awachat.

**By Sameer Singhal** 

