



PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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07/01/2022 to 13/02/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2022

National News

National News

1. NATION BIDS FAREWELL TO THE LEGEND, LATA MANGESHKAR; CONDOLENCES POUR IN FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES 1. ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY



Government announces **Two-Day National Mourning** in memory of **Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar**

- As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary 2 days state mourning observed from 06.02.2022 to 07.02.2022
- National Flag flown at half-mast throughout India for 2 days
- State funeral will be accorded to the departed soul



- Nation bid tearful adieu to Nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar whose mortal remains were consigned to flames at Shivaji Park in Mumbai with full state honours yesterday.
- The funeral of the legendary singer was attended by a galaxy of leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi who placed a wreath on the mortal remains of the iconic singer, draped in the national flag.

- Bharat Ratna awardee Lata Mangeshkar passed away yesterday at the age of 92 due to multiple organ failures.
- The Queen of Melody was admitted to Breach Candy hospital in Mumbai on 8th of January after she was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The government has declared a two-day national mourning as mark of respect to the departed soul.
- Maharashtra government has also declared public holiday today due to demise of the veteran singer.
- The West Bengal government has also declared a half-day holiday as a mark of respect to the icon.
- Bihar Government has also declared two-day state mourning.

2. HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH 4.0



- Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya today launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 in New Delhi to protect children and pregnant mothers from severe diseases in the country.
- It is a special drive to expand full immunization coverage in India.
- In a tweet, Dr Mandaviya said, Mission Indradhanush 4.0 will give more impetus to the vaccination coverage in the country.

3. PROF SANTISHREE PANDIT APPOINTED AS VICE-CHANCELLOR OF JNU

- Prof Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi for a period of five years.
- She is the first female Vice-Chancellor of JNU.
- Former Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission UGC.



4. SOURAV GANGULY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST CRICKET STADIUM

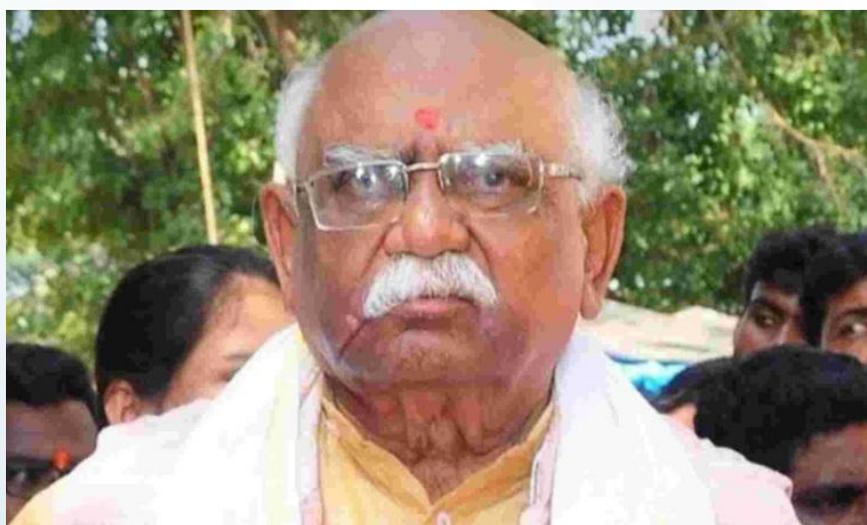


- Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Jaipur.
- The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world.
- The new international stadium will be built by the Rajasthan Cricket Academy (RCA) on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass, over 100 acres of land in Jaipur.
- The stadium will have a seating capacity of 75,000 spectators.

- The low-cost Indian airline, IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as the Managing Director (MD) of the company with immediate effect.
- He is the first-ever MD of Indigo, because before this the company never had a managing director.
- Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.
- The board of directors, during its meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of Bhatia as the managing director with immediate effect, subject to the approval of the shareholders.
- IndiGo is back in the black with a net profit for the December quarter at Rs 130 crore.

Obituary News

7. BJP'S FIRST TORCHBEARER IN LOK SABHA, C JANGA REDDY PASSES AWAY



- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Chandupatla Janga Reddy has passed away in Hyderabad following health issues.
- He was a native of Warangal and a former MLA in Andhra Pradesh.
- He is best known for his time as a Member of Parliament in the 8th Lok Sabha in 1984, which also marked the BJP's debut in the Lok Sabha, following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
- Reddy was one of the only two BJP MPs who got elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984 in 543 Parliament constituencies. The other was A K Patel.
- He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in undivided Andhra Pradesh thrice.

Banking News

8. LIC TIE-UP WITH POLICYBAZAAR FOR DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE INSURANCE

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with Policybazaar to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India.
- This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products.

- To facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across India.
- The alliance will provide insurance services in smaller cities to ensure financial inclusion and social security.
- It will increase its penetration digitally in rural and remote areas and offer a wide range of term and investment products to the customers.



9. ADB LENDS RECORD USD 4.6 BN LOANS TO INDIA IN 2021

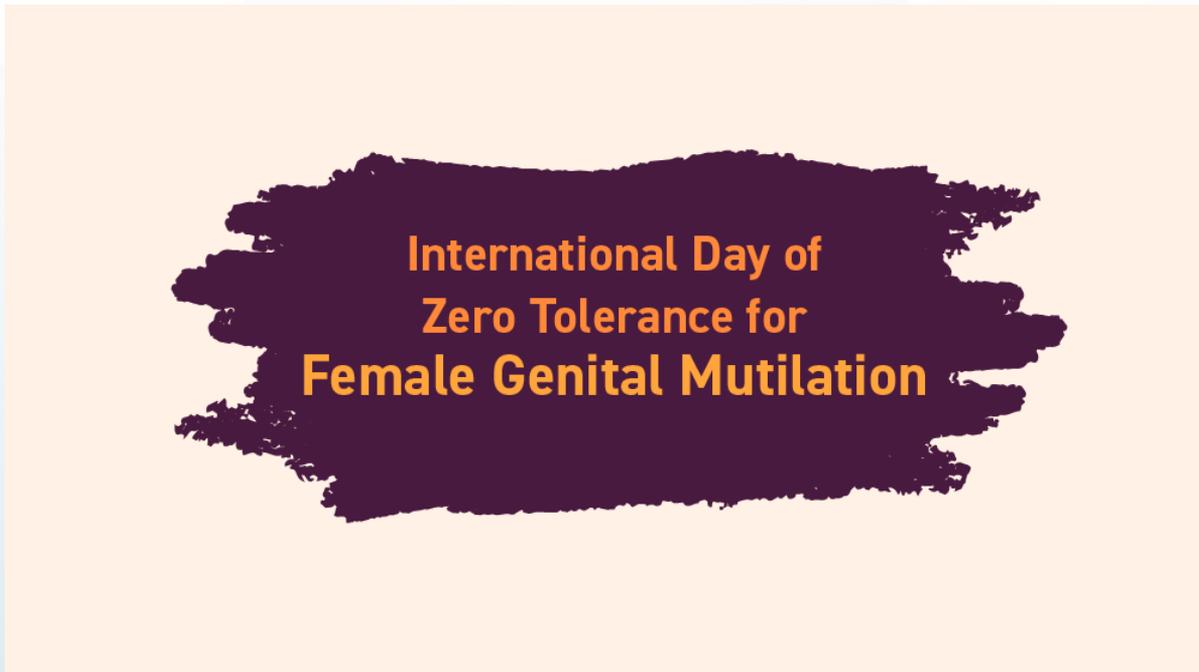


- As per the data official released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it provided a record USD 4.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2021.

- This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response.
- The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building.
- The ADB's project portfolio in 2021 reflected the Indian government's focus on transforming cities into economically vibrant and sustainable communities.

Important Days

10. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is observed on 6th February globally.
- This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- It was first introduced in 2003. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.
- Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. DRUGS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA, GRANTS EMERGENCY USE OF SINGLE-DOSE SPUTNIK LIGHT COVID-19 VACCINE



- Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has informed that Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI has granted emergency use permission to Single-dose Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine in India.
- In a tweet, Dr Mandaviya said that this is the 9th COVID19 vaccine in the country.
- He said, this will further strengthen the nation's collective fight against the pandemic.

2. CONSTITUTION (SC/ST) ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022 INTRODUCED IN RAJYA SABHA



- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha today.
- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to omit Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- The Bill was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.

3. INDIA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 DNA VACCINE



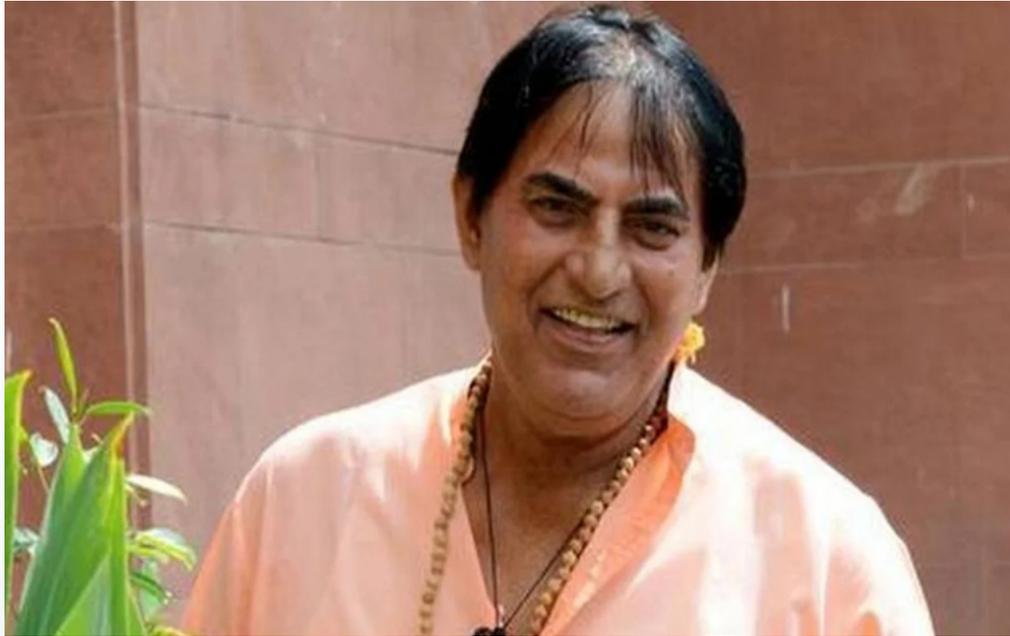
- India has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.
- The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna.
- It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
- It is the second India-made vaccine to get emergency authorization in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- The Indian government approved emergency use authorisation for Zydus Cadila's DNA vaccine earlier this year, citing initial results from Phase III clinical trials that showed approximately 66 per cent efficacy for symptomatic cases.

Obituary News

4. PRAVEEN KUMAR SOBTI POPULARLY KNOWN FOR HIS ROLE AS 'BHEEM' IN MAHABHARAT PASSES AWAY

- Praveen Kumar Sobti popularly known for his role as 'Bheem' in Mahabharat passes away.
- He was 74. Border Security Force has expressed grief over the demise of Praveen Kumar Sobti, former Deputy Commandant and Arjuna Awardee.

- In a tweet, BSF said, he was two-time Olympian and four-time Asian Games medallist



5. R RAJAMOHAN, WHO LED THE 1ST ASTEROID DISCOVERIES IN INDEPENDENT INDIA, PASSES AWAY



- Professor R Rajamohan, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away.
- He is best known for his Kalki Project, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India.
- This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.

International News

6. NASA WILL RETIRE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION IN 2031



- According to NASA, the International Space Station will continue its operation until 2031 and then crash into an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo.
- It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement.
- NASA also selected Houston-based Axiom Space to provide the ISS's first commercial module.
- The International Space Station was the brainchild of former US President Ronald Reagan, who in 1984 proposed building a permanently inhabited spacecraft in cooperation with a few other countries.
- In 1998, the first piece of the space station, a control module, was launched into space onboard a Russian rocket.
- About two weeks later, a crew onboard the US' Endeavour space shuttle attached the control module with another part, the Unity node.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

Sports News

7. SRI LANKAN FAST BOWLER SURANGA LAKMAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

- Veteran Sri Lankan fast bowler Suranga Lakmal has announced his retirement from international cricket, after Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of India.

- The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement.
- The Derbyshire County Cricket Club has signed Lakmal on a two-year contract.
- Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.



8. AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS: SENEGAL BEAT EGYPT 2022



- Senegal has defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- Sadio Mane scored the winning spot-kick as Senegal claimed a first-ever Africa Cup of Nations title with a 4-2 penalty shootout victory over seven-time winners Egypt.
- The final had ended 0-0 after extra time.

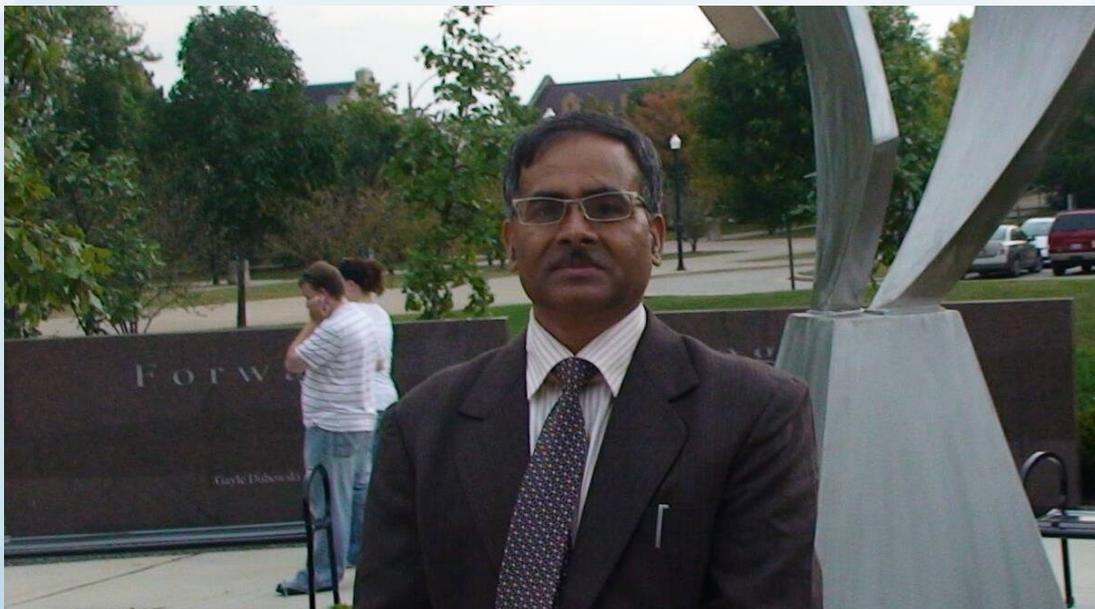
9. CHINA WINS AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP INDIA 2022 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



- China PR (People's Republic) defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China. India is hosting the 20th edition of the football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from January 20, 2022, to February 06, 2022.
- China now qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand.

Appointment News

10. PROFESSOR DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI NAMED AS NEW NCERT DIRECTOR



- Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- He has replaced Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term a year ago.
- The new director has been appointed for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till he attains the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- NCERT Headquarters: New Delhi
- NCERT Founder: Government of India
- NCERT Founded: 1961.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. AYUSH MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL LAUNCHES DEDICATED STOREFRONT FOR AYURVEDA PRODUCTS ON AMAZON



- AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today launched a dedicated storefront for Ayurveda products on Amazon in the marketplace.
- This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products such as various kinds of juices, skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils and more from small businesses and startup brands.
- It will make shopping easier as product selection has been organized according to focus areas and health benefits such as pain management, immunity boosters, blood purifiers, women's health, weight management, and mental wellness.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sonowal said, it is important to scientifically develop Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy medicines for COVID-19 and it is equally important to establish a robust marketing network of these products to reach the masses.

2. EAM S JAISHANKAR TO PARTICIPATE IN 4TH QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON FEB 11 IN MELBOURNE



- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will be on a six day visit to Australia and Philippines from tomorrow.
- In a statement External Affairs Ministry said, Dr. Jaishankar is paying an official visit to Australia at the invitation of his Australian counterpart Marise Payne.
- This will be his first visit as External Affairs Minister to Australia. It will be also the first high-level visit to Australia from India after the opening of its borders which were closed following the outbreak of the Covid19 pandemic.
- Dr. Jaishankar will participate in the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Friday in Melbourne, along with the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Japan and the United States.

3. AMAZON INDIA SIGNS MoU WITH KARNATAKA TO MAKE RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS STATE

- Amazon India signed an MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.
- Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products.
- The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.
- Through this, Amazon and the government bodies will come together to assist and empower lakhs of women entrepreneurs associated with them from the four states to register their business with Amazon India and access a wider market base.
- Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru

- Karnataka Chief Minister: Basavaraj S Bommai



4. KERALA SIGNED AN MoU WITH SOCIAL ALPHA TO DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY TECH



- Kerala Government has signed an MoU with the Social Alpha's Energy Lab – “Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC)” to support innovative and clean energy technology programmes in Kerala.
- The Government of Kerala signed this agreement through Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre (EMC).
- The EMC Kerala represents the Power Department agencies including the Kerala State Electricity Board, Electrical Inspectorate and ANERT (Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology).
- To establish a clean energy incubation centre to boost green energy development and energy conservation activities in Kerala.

International News

5. SONATA SOFTWARE TIE-UP WITH MICROSOFT FOR ITS LAUNCH OF 'MICROSOFT CLOUD'



- A global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company, Sonata Software has announced its partnership with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'.
- The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades.
- The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship.
- Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers worldwide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.
- The partnership with Microsoft Cloud for Retail will further enhance our capabilities, with its emphasis on leveraging data, elevating the shopping experience, building real-time, sustainable supply chains, and empowering store associates.
- Sonata Software Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Sonata Software Founded: 1986
- Sonata Software MD & CEO: P. Srikar Reddy

6. ENGLAND APPOINTS PAUL COLLINGWOOD AS INTERIM HEAD COACH

- For the three-Test tour of the West Indies next month, Yesterday, England appointed Paul Collingwood as interim head coach.
- The appointment comes after former head coach Chris Silverwood and managing director Ashley Giles were sacked last week, following England's 4-0 Ashes defeat to Australia.
- Paul Collingwood said that he is genuinely excited to be leading the Test team for the tour of the Caribbean and can't wait to get started.

- The tour squad is due to be announced later this week. The first test in Antigua starts on March 1.



Appointment News

7. AMITABH BACHCHAN NAMED AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF MEDI BUDDY



- MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms, has signed legendary Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as the official brand ambassador.
- As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health.
- With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India.

- Leveraging the veteran actor’s popularity, especially across tier II and tier III cities, the brand aims to position itself as a household name.

8. AKSHAY KUMAR HAS ACCEPTED TO WORK AS BRAND AMBASSADOR OF UTTARAKHAND



- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar on Monday (February 7, 2022) met Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at the CM residence in Dehradun.
- Following the visit, Dhami said that Akshay Kumar will work as a brand ambassador of Uttarakhand.
- “We had given him (Akshay Kumar) a proposal, he has accepted it. He will also work as a brand ambassador of Uttarakhand,” Dhami was quoted as saying.
- Dhami also presented Akshay with a cap.

9. S R NARASIMHAN TAKES ADDITIONAL CHARGE AS CMD POSOCO 2022



- S. R. Narasimhan, Director (System Operation) has assumed the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) w.e.f. 1st February 2022 at New Delhi.
- He has a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance.
- He has over three decades' experience in Power System Operation spread across CEA, POWERGRID and POSOCO after an initial stint with BHEL.
- POSOCO Founded: March 2010
- POSOCO Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. GOVT BANS IMPORT OF FOREIGN DRONES TO PROMOTE MAKE-IN-INDIA INITIATIVE

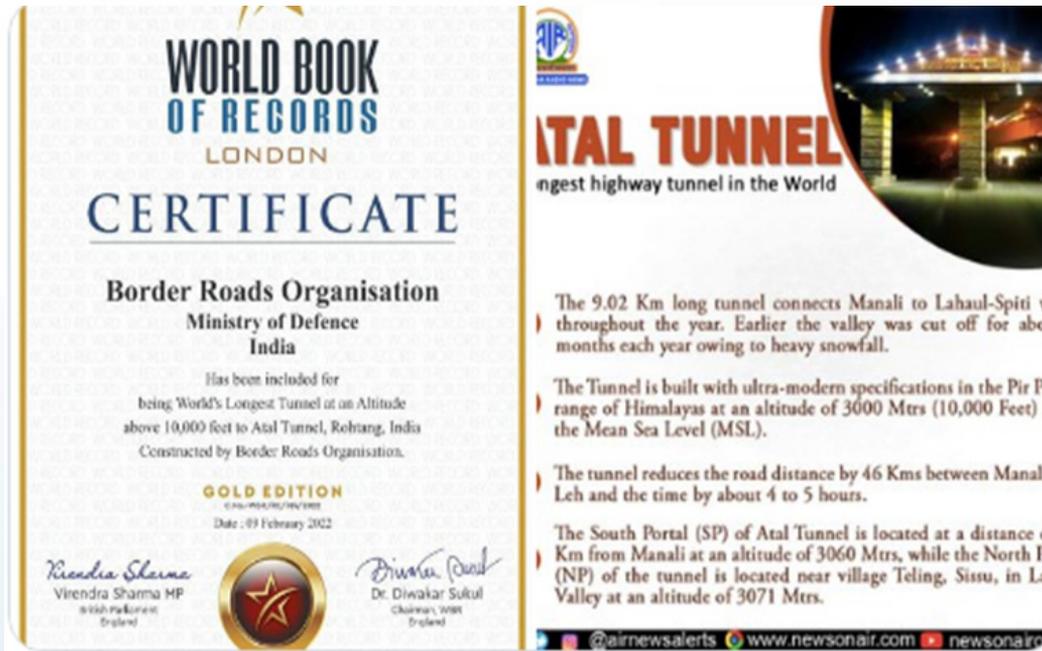


- As part of efforts to promote domestic manufacturing of drones in the country, the Government has banned import of foreign drones with certain exceptions.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade DGFT has issued a notification banning the import of foreign drones.
- However, import of drones for Research and Development, defence and security purposes have been exempted from the ban but such imports will require due clearances.
- Import of drone components shall not require any approvals.

2. ATAL TUNNEL CERTIFIED BY WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS AS WORLD'S LONGEST HIGHWAY TUNNEL

- Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10 thousand Feet.
- Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry received the award for the stupendous achievement of the organization in constructing this engineering marvel connecting Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley.

- World Book of Records in the United Kingdom, is an organisation that catalogues and verifies extraordinary records across the world with authentic certification.
- Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3rd October 2020.
- The 9.02 kilometers long strategically significant Atal Tunnel, that runs under the Rohtang Pass was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.



3. KANCHOTH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR



- The ancient festival of Kanchoth is annually celebrated, mainly by the Nag followers, during the Shukla Paksha of Magh month which usually falls in January or February.
- The festival is celebrated with religious fervour across the Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- The 3-day festival is celebrated by married women who pray for the long life of their husbands. Kanchoth or Gauri Tritya is widely celebrated in hilly kishtwar, Ramban and Doda of Jammu province.
- The festival is celebrated across Bhaderwah (also known as mini-Kashmir), Kotli, Mathola, Ghata, Khakhal, Gupt Ganga, Chinnote, Kapra, Bhalra, Bheja, Chinchora and other regions.

4. GUJARAT UNVEILS NEW IT/ITES POLICY TO GENERATE 1 LAKH DIRECT JOBS



- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday unveiled new “IT/ITES Policy 2022-27” which offers both capital and operational support to Information Technology (IT) firms making investments in Gujarat, and promises to generate one lakh direct jobs.
- Having missed the IT bus twice in 1980s and 2000, Gujarat introduced a special employment generation incentive in the new policy to encourage IT and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) firms for hiring local talent.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the new policy would take the state to “newer heights in IT sector” and will place Gujarat among top five performing states of India in IT sector.
- The policy launched at a formal event at a club in GIFT City in Gandhinagar replaces the 2016-2021 policy that had set an ambitious target to increase exports up to USD two billion (Rs 13,000 crore), IT turnover to USD 15 billion (Rs 75,000 crore) and create 10 lakh direct jobs.
- The policy provides support for both capital (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) expenditures.

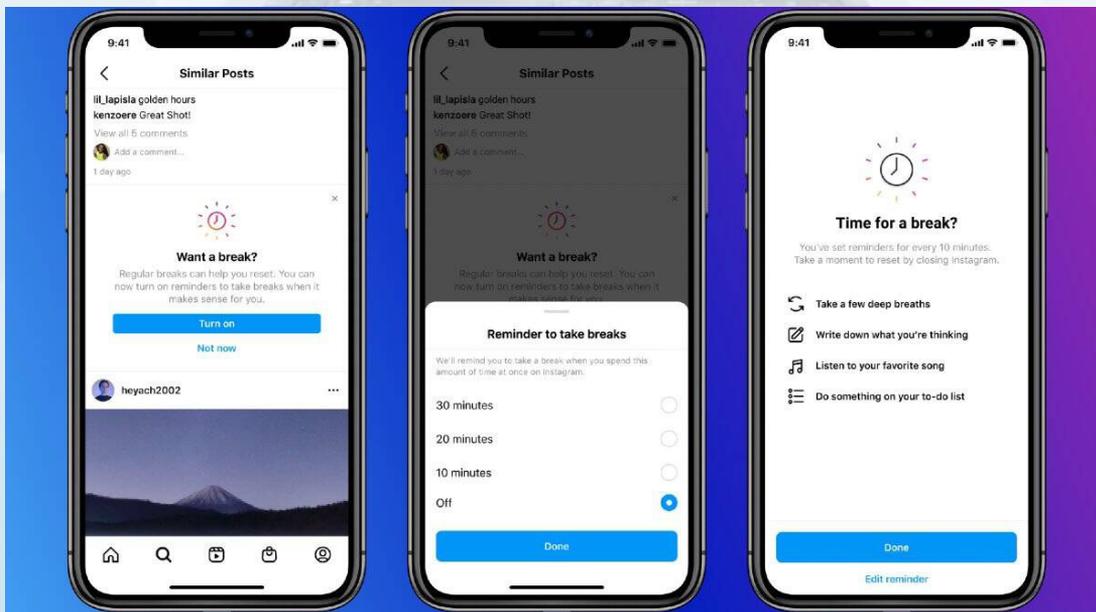
5. INDIA’S FIRST BIOMASS-BASED HYDROGEN PLANT TO COME UP AT MADHYA PRADESH

- India’s first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.

- The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs 24 crore.
- The company owns the technology for a ‘thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor’ that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass.
- Biezel Green will own 50 per cent in the yet-to-be-named joint venture; the other 50 per cent will come from interested farmers.



6. INSTAGRAM ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO ‘TAKE A BREAK’ FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



- Instagram has announced the launch of ‘Take a Break’ in all countries, including India, to empower people to make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time.
- This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with ‘We The Young’, called ‘Break Zaroori Hai’.

- ‘Take a Break’ was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.
- ‘Take a Break’ is a feature that will show up for people, as they have been scrolling for a certain amount of time. They will be asked to take a break from Instagram and suggest that they set reminders to take more breaks in the future.
- They will also be shown expert-backed tips to help them reflect and reset. To make sure that young people are aware of this feature, they will be shown notifications suggesting they turn these reminders on.
- Instagram Founder Kevin Systrom.

Important Days

7. WORLD PULSES DAY 2022



- The United Nations designated World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February.
- The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- This year World Pulses Day’s theme: “Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems”.
- In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day.
- The first WPD was held on February 10, 2019. On 20 December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/231) proclaiming 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).

8. SAFER INTERNET DAY 2022



- Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked.
- This year February 8 is being celebrated as Safer Internet Day across the world.
- This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe.
- This year, the occasion is being marked under the theme ‘Together for a better internet’, calling upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

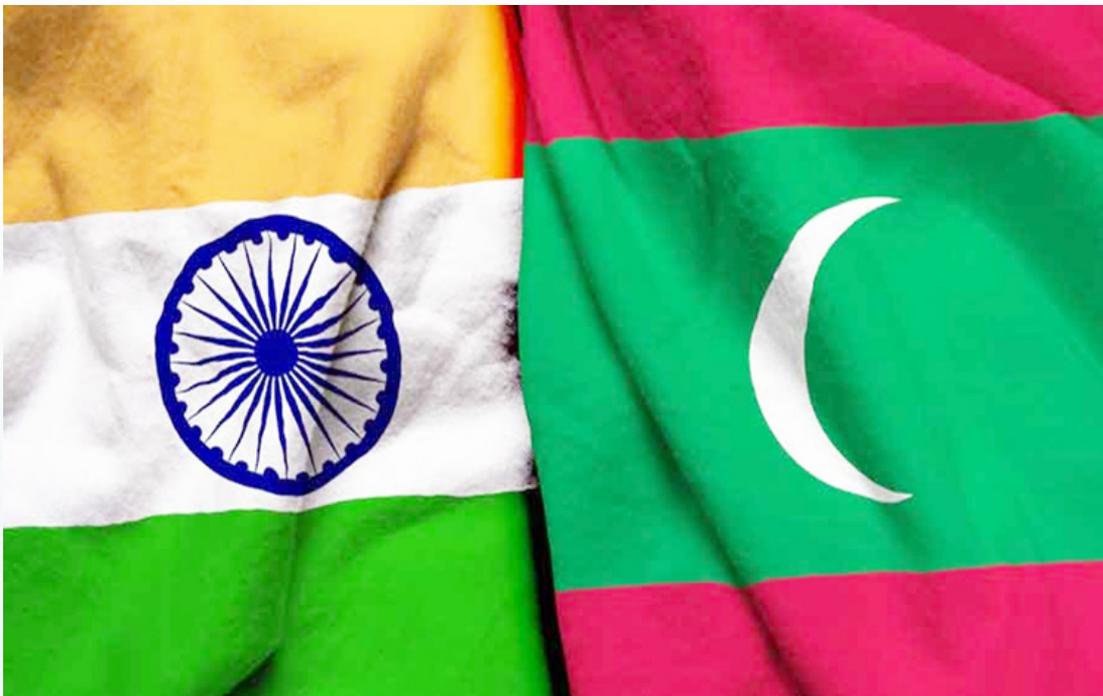
By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. MUGHAL GARDENS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC FROM SATURDAY

- The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be open for the public from coming Saturday.
- The gardens will remain open till 16th March and people can visit between 10 AM to 5 PM except on Mondays.
- President Ram Nath Kovind today opened the annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Visitors will be allowed to see the Gardens only through advance online booking. The booking can be made on
- www.rashtrapatisachivalaya.gov.in
- Each slot can accommodate a maximum of one hundred persons.
- During the tour, visitors have to follow COVID protocols such as wearing of mask and maintaining social distance.

2. VISA-FREE ENTRY FOR INDIAN BUSINESS TRAVELLERS TO MALDIVES COMES INTO FORCE



- Maldives has announced that the Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to the island nation, comes into effect.
- In a statement, the Maldivian Foreign Ministry said, starting from the 1st of this month, it has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days.
- This is according to the Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements between both the governments, signed on the 17th of December, 2018.
- As part of the reciprocal arrangement, a multiple entry, non-resident, business visa will be granted for Indian Nationals for a period of 90 days within 6 months.
- Any Indian National with an approved business visa is eligible to renew their visa up to 180 days within a calendar year.

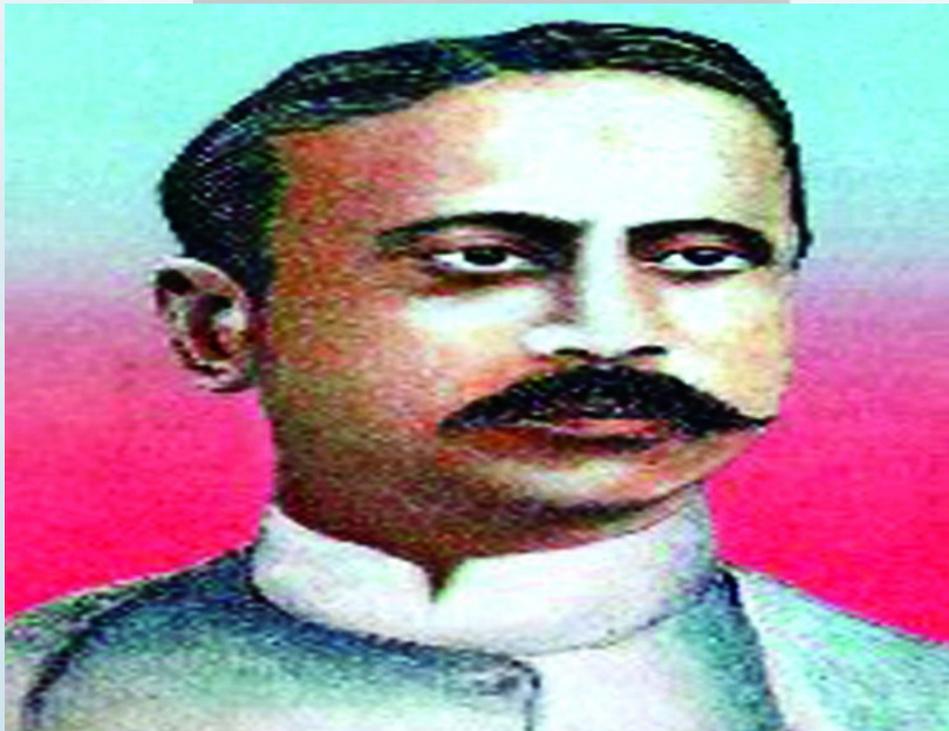
3. NATION REMEMBERS REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM FIGHTER, TRIBAL LEADER TILKA MANJHI ON HIS 272ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

- The Nation is remembering revolutionary freedom fighter and tribal leader Tilka Manjhi on his 272nd birth anniversary today.
- He organized Adivasis into an army and led the famous Santhal Hool in 1784 against the exploitative British.
- In 1770, there was a severe famine in the Santhal region and people were dying of hunger.
- Tilka Manjhi looted the treasury of the Company and distributed it among the poor and needy.
- Inspired by this noble act of Tilka, many other tribals also joined the rebellion. With this began his Santhal Hool, the revolt of the Santhals.

- He continued to attack the British and their sycophantic allies. From 1771 to 1784, Tilka Manjhi never surrendered.



4. NATION COMMEMORATES REVOLUTIONARY BENGALI POET, WRITER NABIN CHANDRA SEN ON HIS 175TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



- The nation is remembering revolutionary Bengali poet and writer Nabin Chandra Sen on his 175th birth anniversary today.
- He described the battle of Plassey and the arrival of British rule in India as "A Night of Eternal Gloom".

- Nabin Chandra Sen's novel-in-verse Bhanumati and memoir of his travels 'Prabaser Patra' brought him fame.
- His five-volume autobiography, Aamar Jiban-My Life is an important document chronicling the politics and social aspirations of the Bengali literati in the late nineteenth century.

5. SURAT TO GET INDIA'S 1ST BULLET TRAIN STATION BY DEC 2024



- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will be India's first bullet train route. While Surat city will get India's first bullet train station.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.
- The cost of the project is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore of which Rs 88,000 crores will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Of the 508.17-kilometre Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, 155.76 km is in Maharashtra, 384.04 km in Gujarat and 4.3 km in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

6. GUJARAT TITANS UNVEILED AS NAME FOR NEW AHMEDABAD IPL FRANCHISE

**GUJARAT
TITANS**

- The Ahmedabad-based IPL franchise, bought by CVC Capital, will be officially known as the Gujarat Titans.
- Titans picked allrounder Hardik Pandya (Rs 15 crore), legspinner Rashid Khan (Rs 15 crore), and top order batter Shubman Gill (Rs 8 crore) as their three picks ahead of the IPL 2022 mega auction set to be held on February 12 and 13.
- Debuting in the 15th season of the IPL, the Gujarat Titans will pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy, which has seen it produce countless Indian international cricket legends over the years.
- The franchise is inspired by the opportunity to represent and build on this deep cricketing heritage, as well as build on its future success on the pitch.

Important Days

7. TODAY IS NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY



- Parasitic worms or helminths, present in the soil, enter people and animals through the soles of their feet.
- These organisms can also infiltrate our bodies through worm-infested food or by touching infected faecal matter.
- The worms attach to the intestines and cause weakness, anaemia, indigestion, weight loss, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting.
- The worms may even enter the brain. Dewormers paralyse or kill adult worms.
- National Deworming Day is observed on February 10, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children from 1 to 19 years of age, who are the most vulnerable.
- The theme for National Deworming Day 2022, has not been announced yet

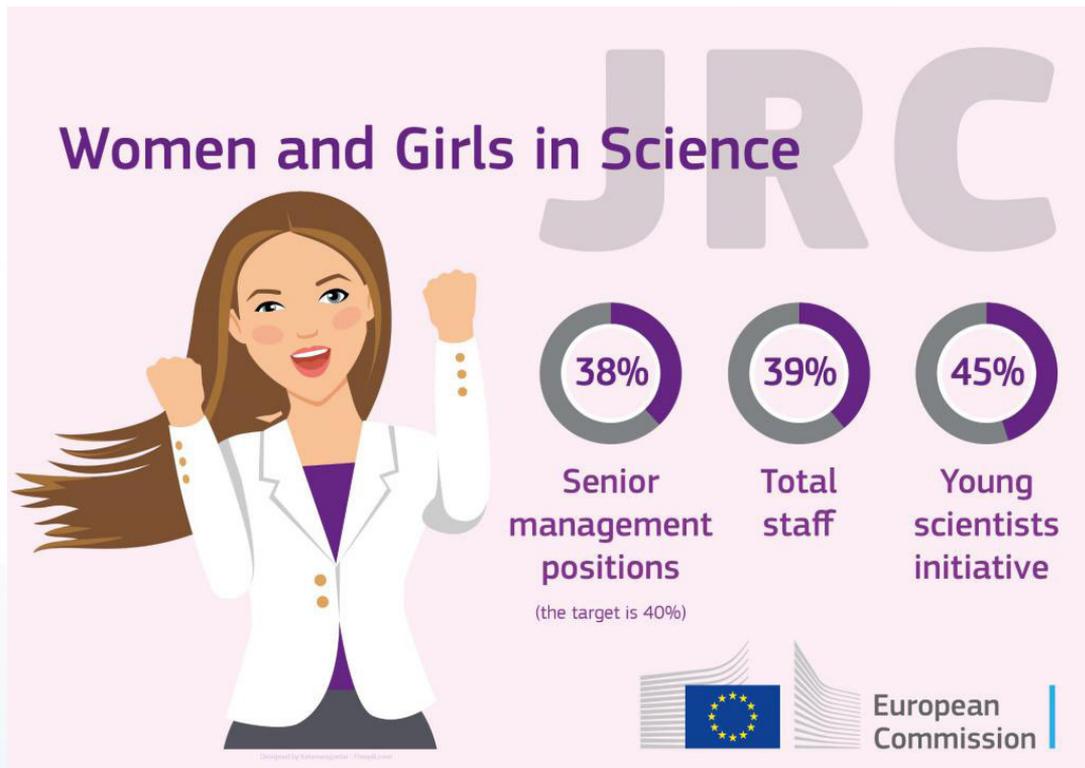
8. WORLD UNANI DAY 2022



- World Unani Day celebrates the Islamic Unani system of medicine.
- The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician Hakim Ajmal Khan, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.
- Below, we look at this year's theme, the history of World Unani Day, its significance, and key facts about Ajmal Khan.
- The Unani system treats patients based on body fluids, phlegm, blood, yellow bile and black bile.
- These are the four humors present in the body, attuned to the natural elements of earth, air, fire and water.
- This theory was developed by Hippocrates in Greece and the name Yūnānī literally means “Greek.” The system was further developed by Arabian and Persian physicians or Hakims and became the traditional medicine of Islam.
- Mohammad Ajmal Khan (11 February 1868 – 29 December 1927), better known as Hakim Ajmal Khan, was a physician in Delhi, India, and one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia University.
- He also founded another institution, Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, better known as Tibbia College, situated in Karol Bagh, Delhi.

9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: 11 FEBRUARY

- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed globally on 11 February.
- The 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, taking place on 11 February 2022, aims to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change, including in view of accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
- The 2022 theme of the Day is “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us”.



10. POWER MINISTER R K SINGH LAUNCHED POWERTHON-2022



- Union Minister of Power, R K Singh has launched Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply.
- The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks.
- He also encouraged technologists to come forward not only with solutions to existing problems but also with other problem statements and ideas for reliable power supply.

- Technology Solution Providers (TSPs), start-ups, educational institutions, research institutes, equipment manufacturers, state power utilities and other state and central power sector entities, shall be briefed on the current challenges/ problem statements faced across the power distribution sector and invited to showcase their technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems.

11. ISRO DECOMMISSIONED INSAT-4B THROUGH 11 RE-ORBITING MANEUVERS



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decommissioned the INSAT-4B, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the Indian National Satellite System.
- The INSAT-4B underwent Post Mission Disposal (PMD) at the end of its service, followed by decommissioning on January 24.
- INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.
- The development is in compliance with the UN and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommended space debris mitigation guidelines.
- The IADC guidelines provide guidance for limiting the generation of orbital debris both during and after space operations.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES 14.5 KM LONG RAIL-CUM-ROAD-BRIDGE OVER GANGA RIVER AT MUNGER IN BIHAR



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over the Ganga river at Munger in Bihar through video conferencing yesterday.
- The bridge has been constructed on NH 333B at the cost of 696 crore rupees.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the NDA government is committed to empowering every city and village of Bihar with better connectivity.
- He said, one of the major tourist and pilgrimage sites of Bihar, the city of Munger is known for its rich ancient history, culture, education and commerce.
- He said, with the construction of this bridge, the distance from Munger to Khagaria will be less than 100 km and the distance from Munger to Begusarai will be less than 20 km.
- He said, there will be a saving of three hours in traveling from Munger to Khagaria - Saharsa and 45 minutes in traveling from Munger to Begusarai - Samastipur.
- The Minister said, this rail-cum-road-bridge will get rid of traffic jams, fuel will be saved and traffic will accelerate.

2. GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME “SMILE” IN NEW DELHI TOMORROW

- The government will launch the Central Sector Scheme “SMILE- Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” in New Delhi tomorrow.

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in a statement said that the umbrella scheme is designed to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- The Ministry has allocated 365 crore rupees for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.



3. 45TH INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR TO START FROM FEBRUARY 28

- The 45th International Kolkata Book Fair will start from February 28 and will go on till March 13. The focal theme country this year is Bangladesh.
- Due to both Bangabandhu's birth centenary and Bangladesh's 50 years of Independence the theme this year is Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Day will be celebrated on March 3 and 4. The fair will be inaugurated on February 28 by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Kolkata Book Fair had got recognition from International Publishers Association, Geneva and also that Geneva has incorporated International Kolkata Book Fair in the calendar of book fairs published by them.
- Apart from Bangladesh, Britain, USA, Russia, Italy, Japan, Iran, Spain, Argentina, Mexico and other Latin American countries will participate in the Kolkata Book Fair.

4. INDIA'S GOA SHIPYARD LTD DELIVERED THE 5TH VESSEL ICGS 'SAKSHAM'

- India's Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project ahead of contractual schedule.
- The vessel was named ICGS 'Saksham'. The point to be underlined- all 5 vessels have been delivered before time to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The contract for 5 CGOPVs was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence on 26 August 2016.
- All the five CGOPVs will be the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the coast guard.

- Also, the 2,400 tonnes vessels are fitted with additional features including quick response boats for rescue and anti-piracy and gunnery simulators.
- The hull is designed to provide fuel efficiency, crew comfort and enhanced sea keeping qualities. With computerised control systems, they are the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the Coast Guard.



5. INDIA TO HELP SRI LANKA LAUNCH ITS VERSION OF AADHAAR CARD



- India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card.
- The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level programme.
- The initiative follows bilateral talks between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa & Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019.
- It is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data, a digital tool that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace, and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices.

6. TELANGANA GOVT TIE-UP WITH BRITISH COUNCIL TO EXPAND HIGHER EDUCATION



- The Government of Telangana and the British Council, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in education, English and arts.
- To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana.
- Under the extended 3-year MoU, the British Council has also signed an agreement with the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) to work closely to engineer new partnerships between universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in the UK and in Telangana.

International News

7. INDIA MOVED TO 46TH POSITION IN DEMOCRACY INDEX

- India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.

- With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.
- The list was published on February 10, 2022. India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the list.
- Our neighbour Pakistan has been placed further below in the hybrid regime with a rank of 104.
- Norway In the full democracy segment, Norway topped the charts. It had an overall score of 9.75.
- New Zealand ranked second in the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.37.
- Finland came in at number three on the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.27.



Appointment News

8. N CHANDRASEKARAN REAPPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF TATA SONS

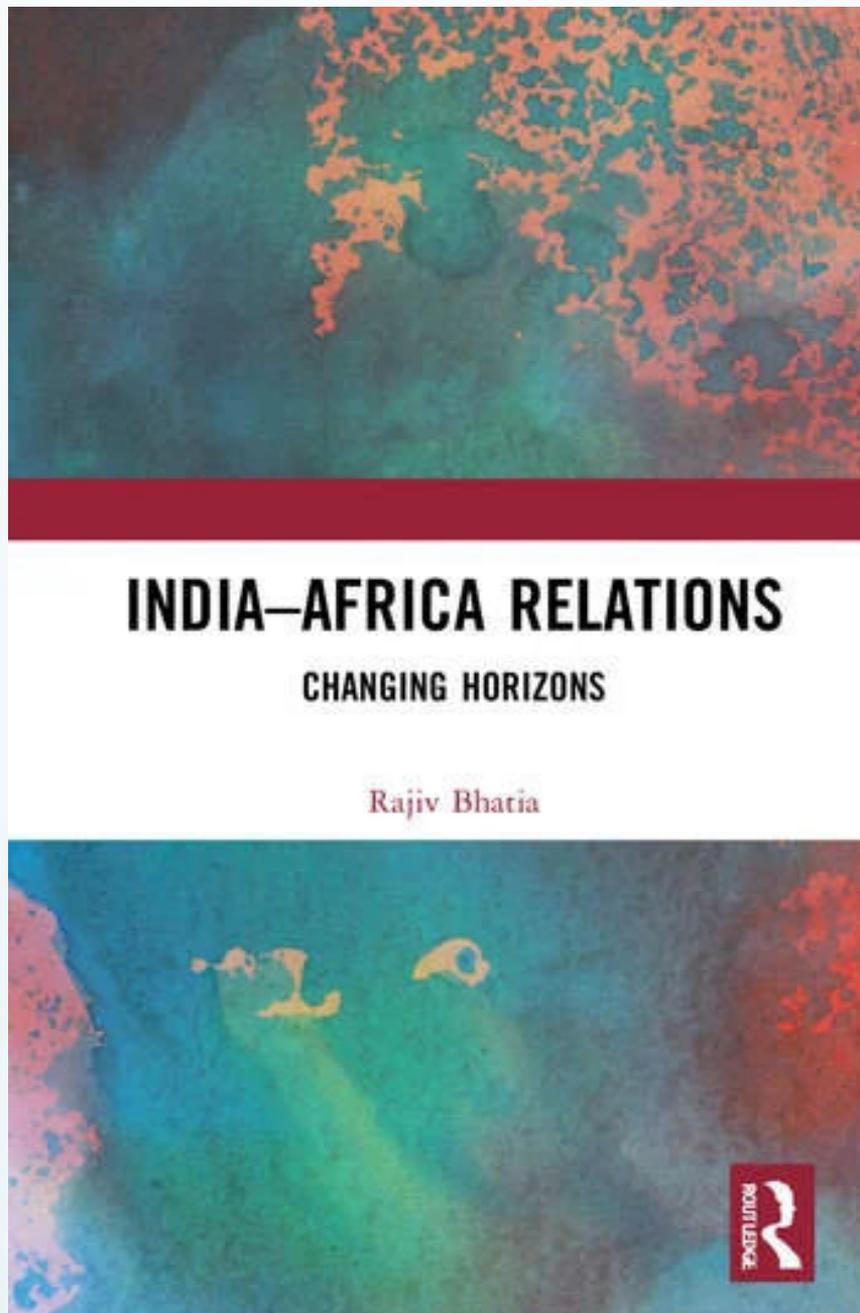


- The board of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has approved the re-appointment of N Chandrasekaran as the Executive Chairman of the company for the second five years term.

- Chandrasekaran's current tenure as the chairman was to expire at the end of February 2022.
- He joined the board of Tata Sons in 2016 and took over the role as Chairman in 2017.
- Chandrasekaran's tenure in the last five years saw several mergers and acquisitions by the group in the steel, aviation and digital sectors and a complete exit from the cellular telephony industry.
- One of the first tasks of Chandra, as he is popularly known, was to get rid of Tata Teleservices which lost around Rs 60,000 crore in paying back bank loans apart from paying the AGR dues till date.

Books and Authors

9. "INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONS: CHANGING HORIZONS" AUTHORED BY RAJIV BHATIA



- Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons”
- Which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.
- The book also provides a detailed exploration of India–the Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.
- The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualize the evolution of the India – Africa engagement.

By Sameer Singhal

