

**PLUTUS
Academy**

PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

10/01/2022 to 16/01/2022

Basement C59 Noida, Opposite to Priyagold Building Gate, Sector-2, Pocket-1, Noida

Contact No. : +91 8123002808 | website : www.plutusacademy.com

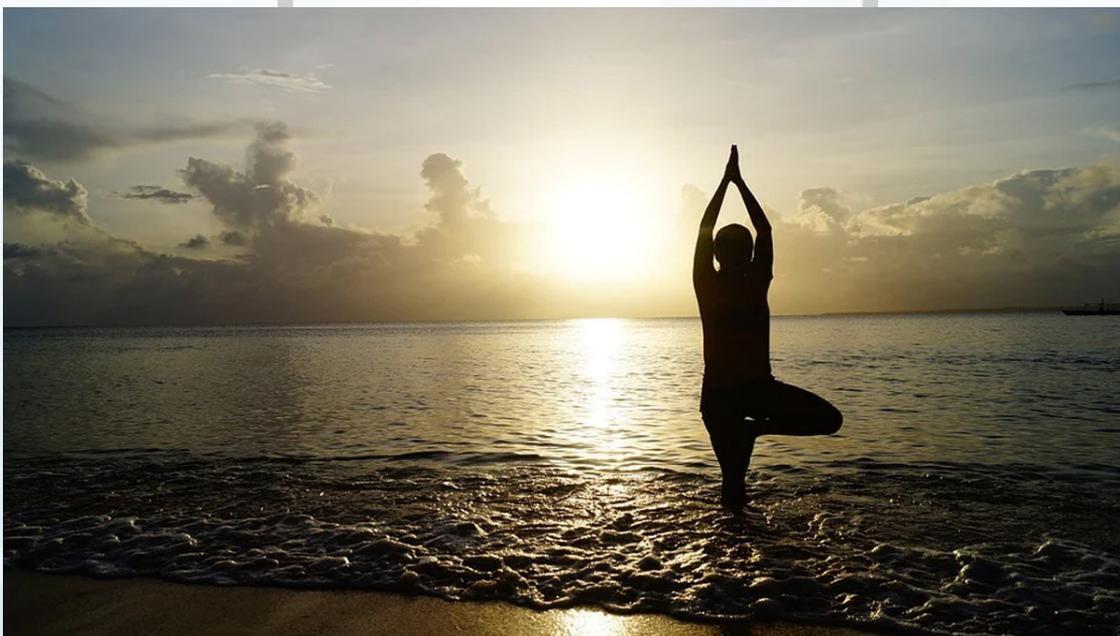


CURRENT AFFAIRS

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 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 Goley.
- 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 occasion of Prakash Parva.

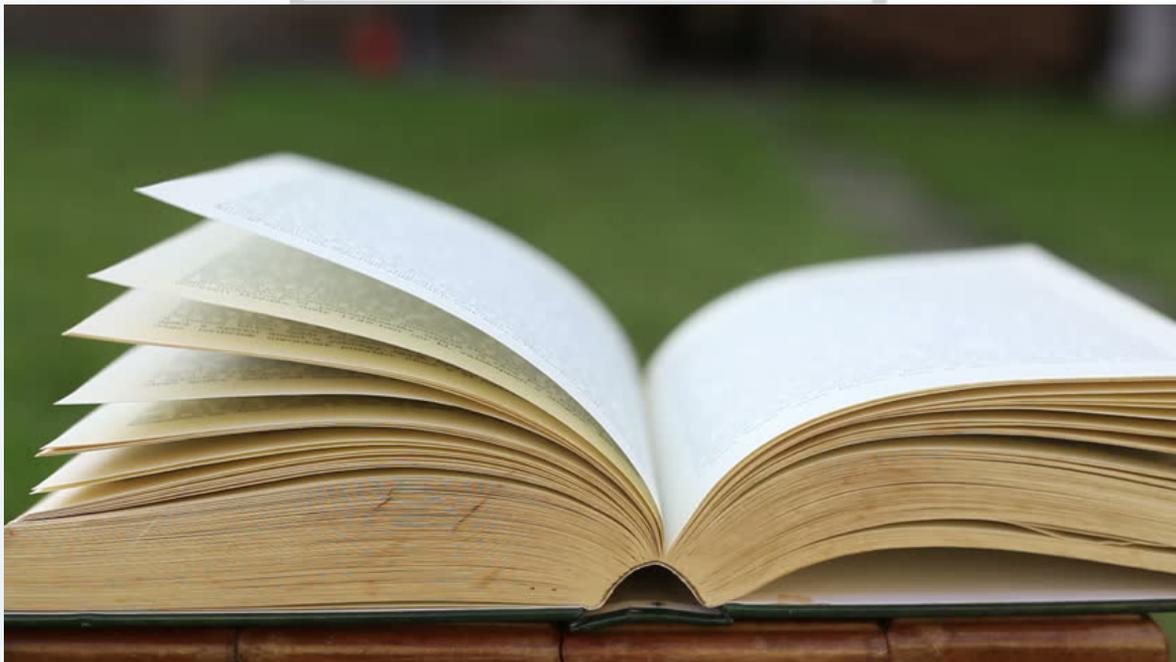
7. 26TH DECEMBER WILL BE MARKED AS VEER BAAL DIWAS: PM MODI

- 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 Prakash 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.



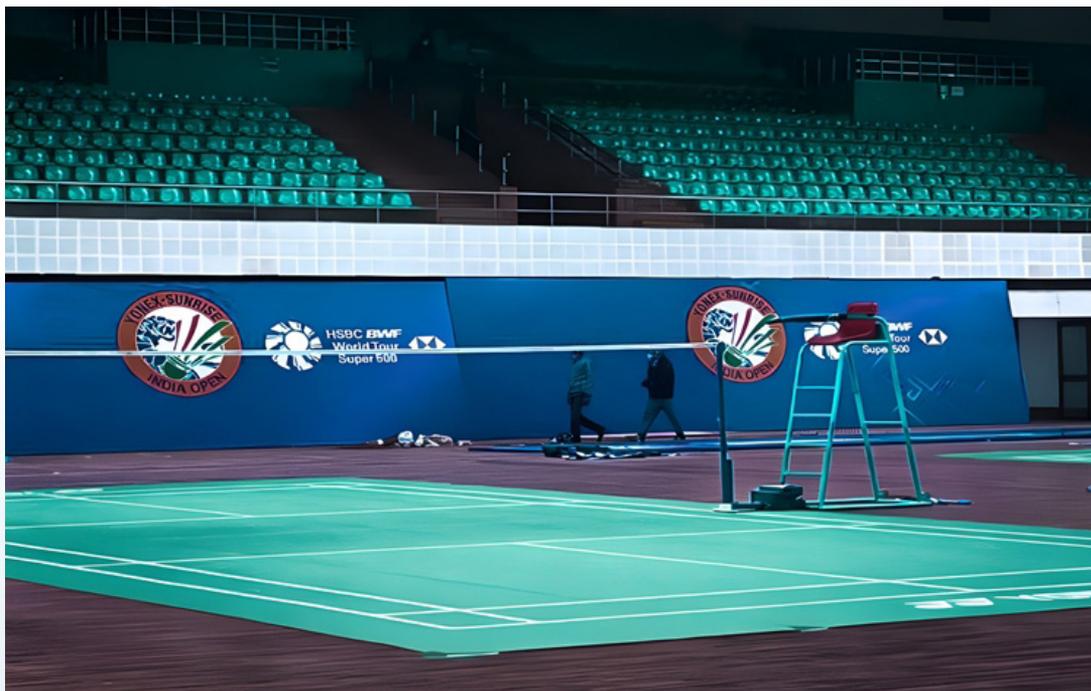
7. FORMER RBI GOVERNOR URJIT PATEL APPOINTED AS VICE PRESIDENT OF AIIB



- 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.



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

युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS

my
GOV
मेरी सरकार

NATIONAL
YOUTH
FESTIVAL
12 & 13 JANUARY 2022
Puducherry

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate
National
25th Youth
Festival

Date: 12th January 2022 | Time: 10:30 AM

Saksham Yuva - Sashakt Yuva

- 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 nation-building.
- 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: WashingtonD.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.



Academy 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, Thiruvananthapuram.

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 Chandrashekhara 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

PLUTUS Academy

National News

1. MAKAR SANKRANTI, BIHU AND PONGAL BEING CELEBRATED TODAY

MANY NAMES, ONE FESTIVAL

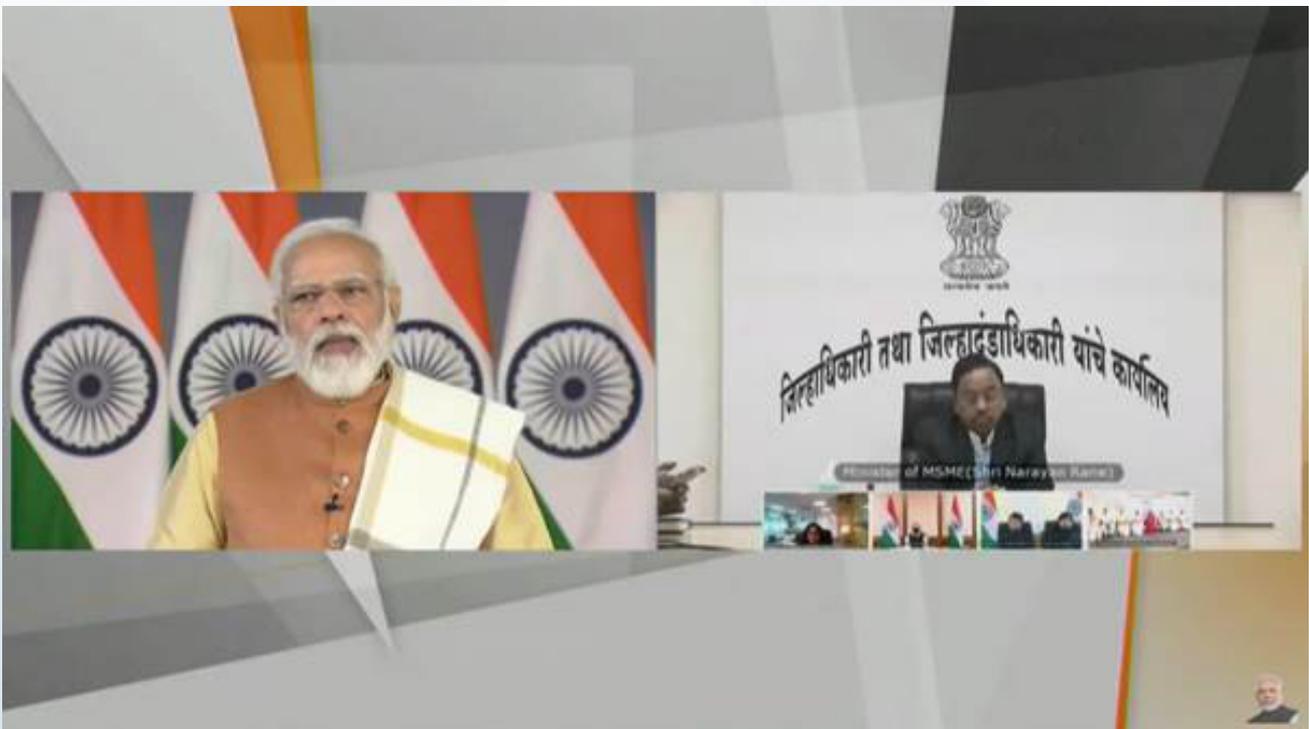
Makar Sankranti is one of the many names given to the winter harvest festival.

State	Name of the Festival
KASHMIR	Shishur Saenkraat
PUNJAB	Maghi/Lohri
GUJARAT	Uttarayan
KARNATAKA	Suggi
KERALA	Makara Sankranti
HIMACHAL PRADESH	Magha Saaji
UTTAR PRADESH	Kicheri
BIHAR, JHARKHAND	Makar Sankranti or Sakraat
ASSAM	Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu
WEST BENGAL	Poush Sankranti
ODISHA	Makara Sankranti
ANDHRA PRADESH, TELANGANA	Makara Sankranti
TAMIL NADU	Thai Pongal

NEWS18 creative

- 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.



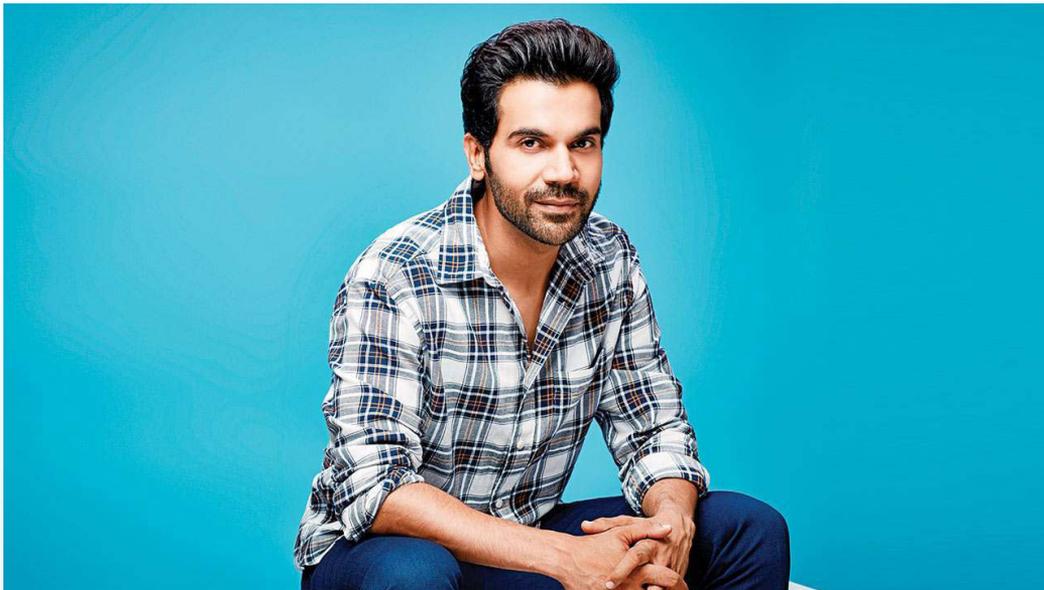
5. AXIS BANK TIE-UP WITH MINKASUPAY FOR BIOMETRIC-BASED BANKING PAYMENTS



- 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

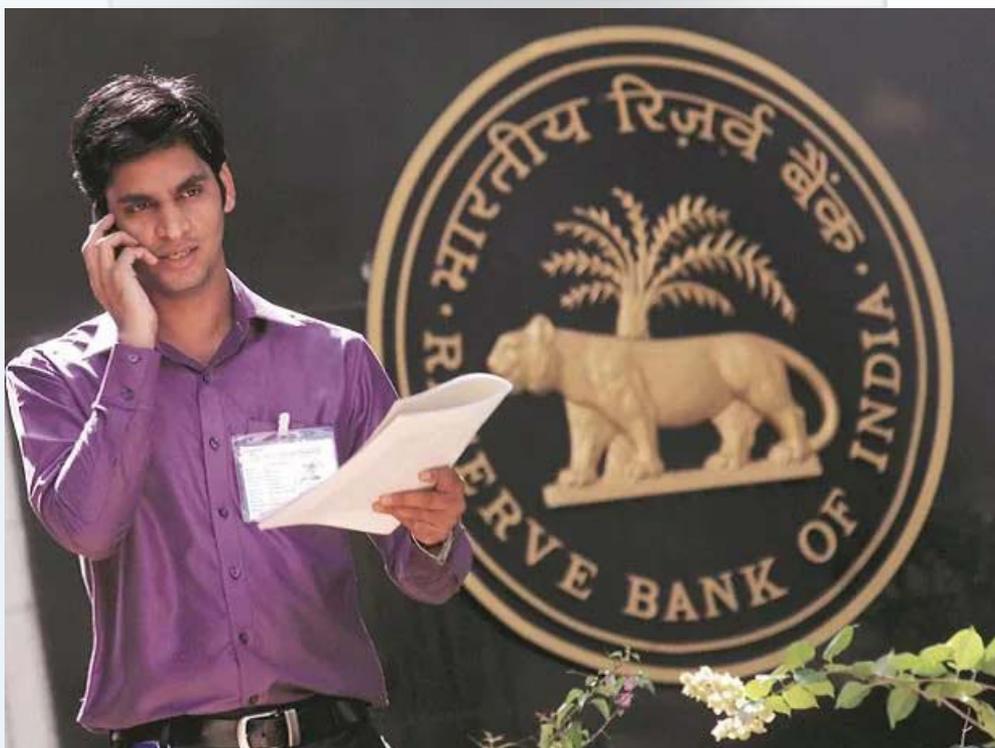
Appointment News

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 Mahotsav.
- 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

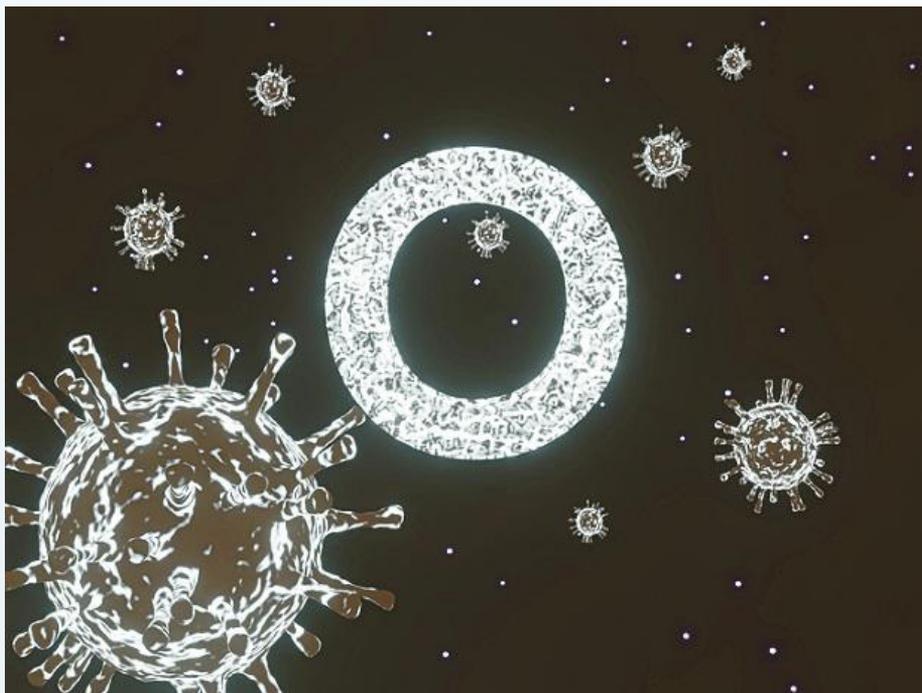
- Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa's (then a Lieutenant General) taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Frانسis Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, on 15 January 1949.
- 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 'DELTA CRON' 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
- Currency Sri 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, Raghuveer Singh 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