

Daily Current Affairs- 14/01/2021

1. Suriname's Indian-origin President to be Chief Guest at Republic Day 2021



- Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Indian-origin President of Suriname, will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2021.

- **Note:** The Suriname President was earlier the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, which was conducted by the Ministry of External Affairs.

- India had initially invited UK PM Boris Johnson to be the Republic Day Chief Guest but the British PM later decided to cancel his visit due to the escalating COVID-19 situation in the United Kingdom.

2. The Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three farm laws and set up a committee



- The court formed a four-member committee of experts to listen to the grievances of the farmers on the farm laws and the views of the government and make recommendations.
- The committee will comprise agricultural economist Ashok Gulati, Pramod Kumar Joshi, Director South Asia International Food Policy Research Institute, Anil Ghanwat of the Sethkari Sangathan and B S Mann of the Bharatiya Kisan Union.
- **The laws whose implementation has been suspended are-** (i) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (ii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 (iii) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

3. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country



- At present, India has a network of 903 Protected Areas covering about five percent of the total geographic area of the country.
- 70 percent of the global tiger population, 70 percent of Asiatic lions and more than 60 percent of leopard's population in country, is a certificate of India's thriving biodiversity.
- The Minister also announced that from this year onwards ten best National Parks, five Coastal and Marine parks and top five Zoos in the country will be ranked and awarded every year.
- Javadekar also launched the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Indian Zoos framework which proposes guidelines, criteria and indicators for evaluation of zoos of the country.

4. India ranks 85th in World's most powerful passports index 2021



- Henley Passport Index 2021 has revealed the list of the world's most powerful passports and India has been ranked 85th on it.
- India's passport got a visa-free score of 58, which means Indian passport holders can visit 58 countries without prior visa.
- **First rank-** Japan (191), **Second rank-** Singapore (190)
- Iraq and Afghanistan are the countries with the worst passport with score 28 and 26 respectively.

5. RBI cancels the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra with effect from the close of business on January 11, 2021.
 - Consequent to the cancellation of its licence, Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect.
- 6. 4th 'One Planet Summit' for biodiversity**



- **The Summit was organized by France, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank on January 11, 2021.**
- The summit's theme is "Let's act together for nature!"
- The Summit programme focused on biodiversity preservation: the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, the promotion of agroecology, the mobilization of funding for biodiversity, and the link between deforestation, species and human health.

7. First ever Ice climbing festival celebrated in Nubra valley



- In Leh, the first ever Ice climbing festival was celebrated in Nubra valley.
- To promote winter tourism in Nubra valley, Nubra Adventure Club, with the help of Social activist Dr. Nordan Otzer, has organized the seven day Ice Climbing festival.

8. Arunachal Pradesh can become India's prime producer of Vanadium



Vanadium are in China, followed by South Africa and Russia.

- In an exploration being carried out by the Geological Survey of India, the eastern Himalayan State has been placed on the vanadium map and geologists are confident of finding a deposit soon.
- **About Vanadium:** In its pure form, it is a grey, soft and ductile element primarily derived from mined iron ore, steel slag, and phyllites. It is a high-value metal that has been used in strengthening steel and titanium.

- **Note:** The largest deposits of Vanadium are in China, followed by South Africa and Russia.

9. Eminent social worker Padma Shri D Prakash Rao passed away



- Rao was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019 by the Government of India for his contribution towards boosting the value of education among slum and orphan kids in Cuttack.