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Sindhutai Sapkaal

Sindhutai Sapkal, a social worker working for orphans, died of a heart attack. She was 75 years old. He died at the Galaxy Hospital in Pune. He had undergone a hernia operation a month ago. After that they start treatment.

Institutions established by Sindhutai:

- Mamta Bal Sadan (1994), Pune, Kumbharwalan Gaon
- Bal Niketan Hadapsar, Pune
- Savitribai Phule Girls Hostel, Chikhaldara
- Abhiman Bal Bhavan, Wardha
- Gopika Gairakshan Kendra, Wardha (Gopalan)
- Mamta Bal Sadan, Saswad
- Saptasindhu Mahila Aadhar Child Care and Education Institute, Pune

Awards and honors

Sindhutai has received about 750 national and international awards:

- Padma Shri Award (2021)
- Government of Maharashtra Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samaj Bhushan Award (2012)
- Government of Maharashtra's 'Ahilyabai Holkar Award' (2010)



Source: Sakal

PM's Excellence Award

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for **PM's Excellence Award** in Public Administration portal for the year 2021-2022.
- After 2014, the process and selection of PM's Excellence Award have been institutionalized and now this is based on the performance of the District, rather than that of the District Collector or individual civil servant.
- The prize money was also doubled this year from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization which is to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.
- For the year 2021, the scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of civil servants in:
 - 1) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or Peoples' participation in **Poshan Abhiyan**
 - 2) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through **Khelo India scheme**
 - 3) Digital Payments and good governance in **PM SVANidhi Yojana**
 - 4) Holistic Development through **One District One Product scheme**

5) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention

6) Innovations

- The total number of Awards under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 would be 18.



Source: PIB

Nuclear-Weapon States

- Five global nuclear powers namely **China, France, Russia, the U.K. and U.S.** pledged to prevent atomic weapons spreading and to avoid nuclear conflict, in a UN Security Council joint statement.
- The statement was issued after the latest review of the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** was postponed from its scheduled date of January 4 to later in the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT):

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. Presently, it has 190 member states.
- India is not a member.



Source: The Hindu

Good Governance Index

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said that **Jammu & Kashmir** will soon become the first Union Territory in the country to have a **district level Good Governance Index**.
- Centre will set up the **District Good Governance Index (DGGI)** in J&K and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will carry out this task in collaboration with the Union Territory Government.

- The framework of the proposed Index has been finalised with the technical support from the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) Hyderabad.
- DGGI is modeled on the **Good Governance Index 2021** launched on 25 December 2021.



Source: ET

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Recently, **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** celebrated 64th Raising Day on January 01, 2022.
- Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy addressed the DRDO fraternity in New Delhi on January 03, 2022.



Source: PIB

Telangana tops in highest number of ODF villages

- **Telangana** stood first in the country in the list of highest number of **open defecation free (ODF Plus)** villages under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme** till December 31, 2021.
- As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in Telangana are in the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%.
- The State government has enacted a new Telangana Panchayat Raj Act to ensure holistic development of villages.
- Sanitation drives have often been carried out through the Palle Pragathi programme in villages.
- The implementation of Palle Pragathi programme for holistic development of villages is being uploaded on SBM (G) 2.0 mobile app, which gets reported at the national level dashboard.



Source: The Hindu
Tesla's Autopilot team

- **Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk**, who has been using social media to recruit people, has disclosed that **Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy** was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.
- Before joining Tesla, Mr. Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.



Source: The Hindu
Vistara Airline CEO

- **Vinod Kannan** took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Vistara Airline**.
- Vinod Kannan replaced Leslie Thng.
- Kannan started his stint with Vistara as the Chief Strategy Officer in June 2019 and took over as Chief Commercial Officer in January 2020.
- Vistara, is a 51:49 joint venture between **Tata Sons Private Limited and Singapore Airlines (SIA)**.



Source: Indian Express