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Important News: Obituary

Death of Pandit Ramdas Kamat



- Veteran singer-actor Pandit Ramdas Kamat died of old age at his residence in Vile Parle.
- He was 90 years old.
- He started his musical career with the play Sangeet Sanshay Kallol.
- He then acted in eighteen musicals such as 'Sangeet Sharda', 'Sangeet Saubhadra', 'Sangeet Manapman', 'Sangeet Madanachi Manjiri', 'Sangeet Ekch Pyala', 'Sangeet Mandarmala', 'Sangeet Honaji Bala'.
- 'Sangeet Matsyagandha' is his most famous play. Many of his plays like 'Guntata Hridaya He', 'Nako Visru Sanket Milnacha', 'Tam Nirashecha Sarla' were sung.
- He also sang lyric and film songs along with drama music. Many of his songs like 'Jana Vijan Zhale', 'Amber's Blue Cube Oath to You', 'Sriranga Kamala Kanta', 'Purvechya Deva Tuje', 'Deva Tuja Me Sonar' are still popular today.
- Ramdas Kamat was honored with 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' in 2015.
- He was also the President of the All India Marathi Natya Sammelan held in 2009.

Source: AIR News

Important News: India

National Water Awards



- Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced **3rd National Water Awards-2020**.
- In the Best State category, **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- National Water Awards were instituted in attaining the government's vision of a '*Jal Samridh Bharat*'.
- The first National Water Award was launched in 2018.

Source: PIB

EC announces schedule for assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur



- The **Election Commission** announced the schedule for assembly elections in **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur**.
- Uttar Pradesh will go to polls in seven phases from 10th February to 7th March.
- Voting for Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa will be held on 14th of February in a single phase. Manipur will vote on 27th February and 3rd March in two phases.
- Counting of votes will be held on 10th of March.
- The term of Goa Legislative Assembly is ending on 15th March this year, Manipur Assembly on 19th March, Uttarakhand and Punjab Legislative Assembly on 23rd March and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 14th May this year.

About ECI (Election Commission of India):

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950 (Later celebrated as National Voters Day)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission executives:**
Sushil Chandra, Chief Election Commissioner
Rajeev Kumar, Election Commissioner
Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner

Source: newsonair

Important News: Defence

Sea Dragon 22 Exercise



- Recently, the **US Sea Dragon 22 Exercise** began along with the navies of **India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea**.

- India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the Quad, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.
- Sea Dragon is a US-led multi-national exercise designed to practice and discuss Anti-submarine warfare tactics to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Appointment

Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO



- Veteran Chinese diplomat, **Zhang Ming**, has taken over as the new Secretary-General of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
- Zhang Ming took over from Vladimir Norov, a former diplomat from Uzbekistan.
- Before joining SCO, Zhang served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- **Formed:** 15 June 2001
- **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China
- India became a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.

Source: newsonair

Justice Ayesha Malik to be Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court judge



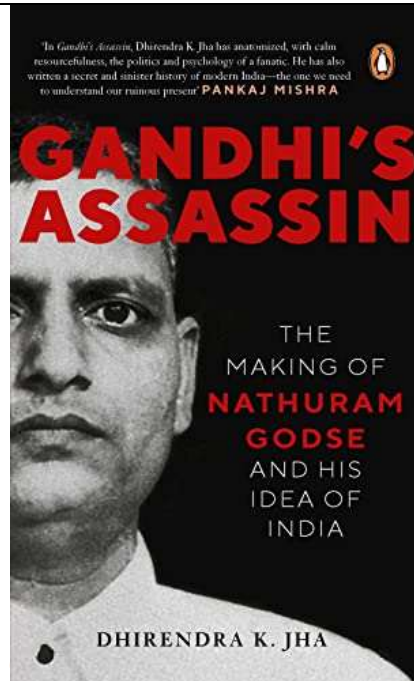
- Pakistan has moved closer to appoint the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, after a high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge **Ayesha Malik** to the apex court.

- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) – headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed – approved Malik’s elevation by a majority of five votes against four.
- Justice Malik became a high court judge in March 2012, and currently she is number four on the Lahore High Court (LHC) judge seniority list.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Books

Book : “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India”



- **Dharendra K Jha** has authored a new book titled “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India”
- Dharendra K Jha is a Delhi-based journalist.
- The book explores Godse’s relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse’s resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination.

Important News: Important Days

World Hindi Day



- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated every year on January 10.
- Hindi is not only the country’s most-spoken language, but it is the third most-spoken language in the world with 615 million speakers after English, Mandarin, according to the UN.

- Every year on January 10, World Hindi Day is marked to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that took place in 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, had inaugurated the conference.
- World Hindi Day was observed for the first time in 2006.
- National Hindi Divas is celebrated annually on September 14.

Source: India Today

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