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Important News: World

PM Modi delivers 'State of the World' special address at the WEF's Davos Agenda



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered '**State of the World**' special address at the **WEF (World Economic Forum)**'s **Davos Agenda** on 17th January, 2022.
- **Davos Agenda 2022** will be held from 17th to 21st January 2022.
- It will be the first global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022.
- The event is being convened on the theme of "**State of the World.**"
- It will also be addressed by several Heads of State.
- It will also witness participation of top industry leaders, international organizations and civil society.
- During his special address, Prime Minister Modi outlined the reforms implemented by his administration to address the country's retrospective taxation problem.
- He also mentioned his government's asset monetisation efforts and large-scale infrastructure projects underway in India.

Facts about World Economic Forum (WEF): It is an international NGO.

- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Founded:** January 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab

Source: India Today

Activities of 2022 discussed at BRICS STI Steering Committee: India to host 5 events



- **India** will host five events in 2022, namely Startups Forum meeting, Working Groups meetings on Energy; Biotechnology & Biomedicine; ICT & High-Performance Computing; STIEP (Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group Meeting and the launching of BRICS innovation Launchpad as a microsite (Knowledge Hub), as per discussions at the 15th meeting of the **BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee**.
- India has successfully handed over the **BRICS Chairmanship to China** from January 2022.
- The **theme for BRICS 2022** is “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”.
- A total of 25 events have been planned, of which India will host a total of five.

Facts about BRICS:

- **Formation:** 2009
- **Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

Source: PIB

Important News: India

Valedictory function of Kala Utsav 2021



- Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State for Education Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh addressed the valedictory function of **Kala Utsav 2021**.
- **Kala Utsav 2021** was launched online on January 1, 2022 through a digital platform.
- A total of 35 teams have participated in Kala Utsav 2021, from different states, union territories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti schools where 582 students demonstrated their talent.
- Out of these participants, 291 girls and 291 boys participated in Kala Utsav 2021 including 5 Divyang participants.

About Kala Utsav:

- The National **Kala Utsav** was launched by the National Council of Educational Research and Training and the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, in 2015.

Source: PIB

Important News: State

Election Commission defers February 14 Punjab Assembly election due to Guru Ravidas Jayanti



- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** decided to postpone the February 14 assembly election in Punjab due to **Guru Ravidas Jayanti**.
- The Election Commission has announced that the voting for the state's 117 assembly seats will now take place on February 20.
- Commission has received several representations from State Government, Political Parties and other organizations drawing attention regarding movement of a large number of devotees from Punjab to Varanasi for participation in Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Jayanti celebrations, which is observed on 16th February 2022.

About Guru Ravidas Jayanti:

- "Guru Ravidass Jayanti" is the birthday of Guru Ravidas, celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day in the month of Magh month.

Source: TOI

Important News: Science

India's first coal to methanol plant built by BHEL



- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated **India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant** to the nation.
- The Minister also inaugurated an exhibition on Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's (BHEL) Hyderabad unit.
- This conversion of high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India.

- The 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99 percent from high-ash Indian coal.

Source: Business Standard

Important News: Appointment

Narendra Goenka takes over as new Chairman of AEPC



- **Narendra Kumar Goenka** took charge of **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** as its new Chairman.
- Padma Shri Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him.
- Narendra Kumar Goenka was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman, AEPC.

About Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC):

- AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/international buyers.

Source: PIB

Important News: Personality

Renowned cartoonist Narayan Debnath passes away

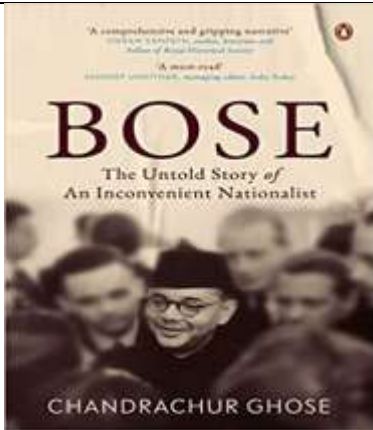


- Eminent cartoonist Narayan Debnath — the creator of unforgettable characters like Batul The Great, Nante and Fante — passed away.
- Debnath was conferred with Padma Shri in 2021. He was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013 and the West Bengal government also honoured him with Banga Bibhushan.
- The Rabindra Bharati University gave him an honorary D.Litt in 2015.

Source: TOI

Important News: Books

A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist'



- A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' is all set to release in February, 2022.
- The biography is authored by researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji' **Chandrachur Ghose** and published by Penguin Random House India.
- The biography attempts to bring new perspectives on Netaji's thoughts on independent India's development, the problem of communalism, geopolitics, his political ideology, and how he negotiated with the political parties, revolutionary societies, and the government.

Source: TOI