

## Weekly Current Affairs 1st Week January 2022

### Important News: State

#### 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

### Important News: India

#### Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things (IoT)

- In order to secure Consumer Internet of Things (IoT) devices, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has released a report “Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)” as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices.
- This report is intended for use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc.



Source: PIB

#### Ayush Aahaar

- Promoting nutritional diet and a healthy living, the **Ministry of Ayush** made a new beginning by making ‘**Ayush Aahaar**’ available at its canteen at Ayush Bhawan.

- Started as a pilot project, the 'Ayush Aahaar' includes Vegetable Poha, Bhajani Vada, Gajar Ka Halwa and Kokum Drink.
- The Ayush diet made available in the canteen is beneficial for health and easily digestible.



Source: newsonair

### National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 3.0)

- **Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** launched **NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) 3.0**, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.
- The Minister also launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages.
- NEAT will be a game-changer in bridging the digital divide, especially among the economically disadvantaged students and also in fulfilling the knowledge-based requirement of India and the world.
- More than 12 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged students have received free ed-tech course coupons worth over ₹253 crore under NEAT 3.0.

#### About National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT):

- It is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.
- These solutions use Artificial Intelligence for a personalized and customized learning experience for better learning outcomes and skill development in the niche areas.
- AICTE, Ministry of Education is acting as the facilitator in the process while ensuring that the solutions are freely available to a large number of socially and economically backward students.
- NEAT has 58 Education Technology Companies with 100 products that help to develop employable skills, capacity building, and bridge learning gaps.

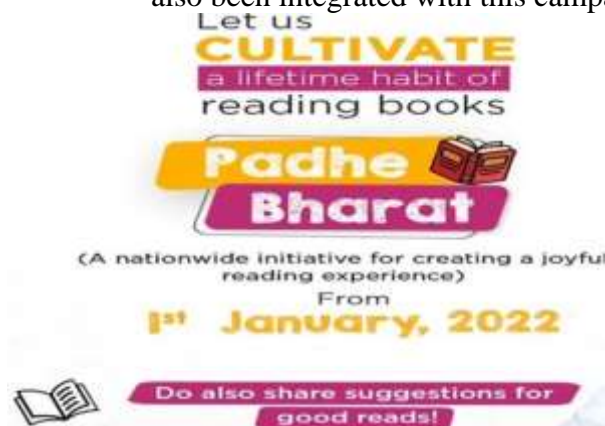


Source: PIB

### 'Padhe Bharat' Campaign

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a **100 days Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'**.

- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- This campaign has also been aligned with the vision and goals of foundational Literacy and Numeracy mission.
- The 100 days reading campaign will also focus on Indian languages including mother tongue/local/regional languages.
- It is in this regard, **21st February** which is celebrated as **International Mother Tongue Day**, has also been integrated with this campaign.



Source: PIB

## Electoral Bonds

- Ahead of assembly elections in five states, the government approved issuance of the 19th tranche of **electoral bonds** which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022.
- Assembly elections for 5 states-- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa-- are expected to be announced soon.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches with effect from January 1 to January 10, 2022.

### About Electoral Bond:

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- SBI is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.



Source: ET

## Important News: World

### United Nation Security Council (UNSC)

- The **United Nation Security Council (UNSC)** got five new non-permanent members (**Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates**).
- Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam finished their terms recently.
- Albania is joining for the first time while Brazil is taking an 11th turn. Gabon and Ghana each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.

#### Facts about UNSC

- **Formation:** 24 October 1945
- **Headquarter:** New York, USA
- **Membership:** 15 countries
- **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States)
- **Non-permanent members:** 10 including India



Source: Indian Express

### Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announces resignation

- **Prime Minister of Sudan, Abdalla Hamdok** has announced his resignation.
- The 66-year-old Hamdok served as the 15th Prime Minister of Sudan from 2019 to 2022.
- Mr Hamdok, who was sacked by the military in October 2021 and reinstated a few weeks later as part of a deal, stepped down as anti-military protests continued to rock the country.
- The protesters rejected Mr Hamdok's deal with the military and demanded the Generals hand over power to an independent civilian authority.

#### Facts about Sudan:

- Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa.

- It borders the countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and the Red Sea.
- **Capital:** Khartoum
- **Currency:** Sudanese pound



Source: The Hindu

### 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

## Important News: Economy

### Apple becomes first company to touch \$3 trillion market cap

- **Apple Inc** became the first company to hit a \$3 trillion stock market value.
- On the first day of trading in 2022, the company's shares hit an intraday record high of \$182.88, putting Apple's market value just above \$3 trillion.
- The stock ended the session up 2.5% at \$182.01, with Apple's market capitalization at \$2.99 trillion.

#### Facts about Apple Inc.:



- **CEO:** Tim Cook
- **Founded:** 1 April 1976
- **Headquarters:** Cupertino, California, United States
- **Founders:** Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Ronald Wayne



Source: ET

## Important News: Defense

### Bollard Pull Tug “Balraj”

- Contract for construction of **50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs** was concluded with **M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd**, Visakhapatnam on 14 Feb 2019 at a cost of Rs. 260.70 Crores.
- Third tug in the series, “**Balraj**” has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on **31 Dec 2021**.
- Tugs “Veeran” and “Balram” were inducted on 22 Oct 2021 and 30 Oct 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam and Naval Dockyard, Mumbai respectively.
- These tugs have been designed and built under the classification rules of Indian Register for Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 20 years and are capable of assisting large naval ships, including Aircraft Carrier and Submarines in berthing, un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring.



Source: PIB

## Science and Technology

### National Air Sports Policy 2022

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has released draft **National Air Sports Policy (NASP) 2022** for public feedback.
- **NASP 2022** covers sports like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding and paragliding; microlighting and paramotoring; skydiving and vintage aircraft.
- The vision is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.

- The mission is to provide a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.
- An **Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI)** will be established as the apex governing body.
- The **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)**, headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland is the world governing body for air sports.
- To make air sports affordable to the common public, the Government will request the GST Council to consider rationalising the **GST rate** on air sports equipment to 5% or less.



Source: PIB

## Schemes

### Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the scheme on **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II** for **Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)** for addition of approximately 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and approx. 27,500 MegaVolt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations.
- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) power projects in seven States namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The transmission systems will be created over a period of five year from Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.
- This scheme is in addition to GEC-Phase-I which is already under implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for grid integration and power evacuation of approx. 24 GW of RE power and is expected to be completed by 2022.



Source: PIB

## Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar

- **Government-promoted CSC (Common Services Centres), SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture**, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application.
- The survey, titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar', will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique.
- The entire exercise is expected to be completed by mid-2022.
- As per the agreement signed between the two entities, CSC will develop a mobile application and train the village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in conducting the survey.
- Over 4 lakh VLEs, managing the CSCs across the country, will conduct the survey in 6.38 lakh villages.

### About Common Service Centres (CSC):

- Common Service Centres are physical facilities for delivering Government of India e-Services to rural and remote locations where availability of computers and Internet was negligible or mostly absent.
- **Founder:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- **Founded:** 16 July 2009
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India



Source: TOI

## Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)

- **The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched “**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**” program.
- It is a joint initiative of **MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
- The Smart Cities Mission’s urban projects are lighthouse projects to other aspiring cities.
- Since the start of the Mission in 2015, the 100 Smart Cities have been developing a total of 5,151 projects with an investment of Rs 2,05,018 crore.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart City Mission.
- These 75 urban projects are innovative, multi-sectoral, and have been implemented across geographies.





Source: PIB

### One District One Product brands

- Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Pashupati Kumar Paras launched six, **One District One Product (ODOP)** brands under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing 10 brands of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme.
- Out of these, six brands namely Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes were launched.
- All the products will be available at NAFED Bazaars, E-commerce platforms, and prominent retail stores across India.

#### About the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.



Source: PIB

### Awards and Honours

#### 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

### Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021

- **Sahitya Akademi**, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021** in 20 languages.
- The Sahitya Akademi announced a list of 22 winners each of the **Yuva Puraskar** and the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021**.
- **Megha Majumdar** won the **Yuva Puraskar** for her debut novel *A Burning* and Himanshu Vajpai won it for his collection of short stories titled *Kissa Kissa Lucknowa — Lucknow Ke Awami Kisse*.
- 07 books of poetry, 02 of novel, 05 of short stories, 02 Plays, one each of Biography, Autobiography, Criticism and Epic Poetry have won the **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021**. Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date.
- Sahitya Akademi presents the award to literary works in 24 languages including English. It was established in 1954.
- Kiran Gurav, Pranav Sakhdev and Sanjay Wagh have been honored for writing in Marathi while Sanjeev Vernekar, Shraddha Garad and Sumedha Desai have been honored for writing in Konkani.
- Kiran Gurwan has been honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of short stories 'Baluchya Avasthantarachi Diary' and Sanjeev Vernekar for his collection of poems 'Raktachandan'.
- The award is in the form of Rs 1 lakh and a badge of honor.



Source: The Hindu

## Books and Authors

### HarperCollins announces the release of new book 'Mamata: Beyond 2021'

- **HarperCollins** announced the release of the book titled '**Mamata: Beyond 2021**'.
- The book is written by Jayanta Ghosal, a political Journalist, and translated by Arunava Sinha, a fiction and non-fiction translator.
- The book successfully portrayed the works and achievements of Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee**.
- The book will be published on January 24, 2022.



Source: TOI

## Important Days

### World Day of War Orphans

- The **World Day of War Orphans** is observed on January 6 every year.
- The day aims to raise awareness about children who have been orphaned due to wars.
- World Day for War Orphans was created by SOS Enfants en Detresse, a French organization that works to bring a sense of normalcy to the lives of children affected indirectly by wars and conflict.
- UNICEF describes an orphan as a child who is under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death.



Source: India Today

### 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

### World Braille Day

- **World Braille Day** is observed on January 04 every year.
- World Braille Day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.
- The date for the event was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly via a proclamation in November 2018, and marks the birthday of Louis Braille, creator of this writing system.
- The first World Braille Day was celebrated on January 4, 2019.



Source: un.org

## Sports

### National Youth Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Puducherry to inaugurate the **25th National Youth Festival** beginning on January 12.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur and Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan unveiled the Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival.
- More than 7,000 youth from across the country will take part in the events in Puducherry held in association with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **National Youth Festival** is organized by the Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States from January 12th to 16th to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12th January**.



Source: Indian Express

### U-19 Asia Cup 2021

- In cricket, **India** lifted the **Under-19 Asia Cup 2021** by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain-interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.
- India has won a record eighth Asia Cup title.
- The 2021 Under-19 Asia Cup was the 9th edition of ACC Under-19 Cup.



Source: newsonair

## Reports and Indexes

### 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

### Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the opening of **Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge- 2022** to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge has been organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality GIS datasets.
- More than 1000 geospatial datasets have been made available to the registered participants from national geospatial agencies, private sector enterprises, scientific and academic institutions, businesses, consumer services & start-ups to analyse this data and create insightful data stories.
- Leading up to the '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization**' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge will commence for the registered participants on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 and conclude by the end of January 2022.



Source: PIB

## New Appointments

### Alka Mittal becomes first woman to head ONGC as CMD

- **Alka Mittal** has been appointed as the interim **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, making her the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.
- Alka Mittal became the first woman to join ONGC's board on November 27, 2018.

#### About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

- It is the largest government-owned-oil and gas exploration and production corporation in the country, and produces around 70% of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 57% of the country's total demand) and around 84% of its natural gas.
- In November 2010, the Government of India conferred the Maharatna status to ONGC.



Source: India Today  
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)**.



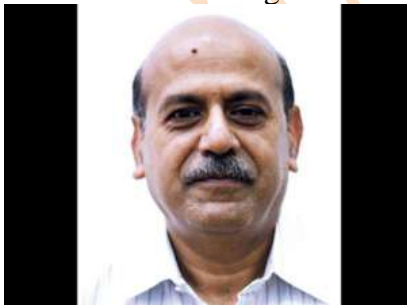
Source: Indian Express  
Tesla's Autopilot team

- **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  
CEO of Railway Board

- **Vinay Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed as new **Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Railway Board.
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi who is presently working as General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- He belongs to 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.



Source: ET



## Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga

- **G Asok Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti took over as the new **Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga**, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- G Asok Kumar belongs to the Indian Administrative Services Telangana Cadre 1991 batch.
- He is also the recipient of several awards such as the **SKOCH Award** for Public Services 2021, **Jal-Mitra award** from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the **first Telangana Excellence Award** by the Government of Telangana for outstanding work done in Public Administration.



Source: PIB

## Coast Guard Director General

- **V.S. Pathania** took over as the **24th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICGICG)** from Krishnaswamy Natarajan who retired from service.
- In a career of over 36 years, V.S. Pathania has held several key appointments afloat and ashore and has also commanded all classes of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel 'Ranjindan', Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vigraha' and advanced OPV 'Sarang'.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in November 2019 and took over as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.
- He is the recipient of the President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished service, Tatrakshak Medal for gallantry and DG Coast Guard Commendation.



Source: The Hindu

### UN Conference on Disarmament

- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the **UN Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva.
- Mr. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- Dr Pankaj Sharma, who is presently the Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on the Disarmament, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico.

#### About UN Conference on Disarmament:

- It is a multilateral disarmament forum established by the international community to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements.
- **Membership:** 65 Countries
- **Headquarters:** Geneva



Source: The Hindu

### Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra** has been proposed to be appointed as the **Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh**.
- Durga Shankar Mishra is 1984- batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Durga Shankar Mishra to his cadre for his proposed appointment as Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, by the state government.
- Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985-batch IAS officer, is currently serving as the state's Chief Secretary.



Source: HT

### Obituaries

#### Shillong Chamber Choir founder Neil Nongkynrih passes away

- Shillong Chamber Choir founder and noted music composer **Neil Nongkynrih** passed away at 52.

- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015.
- He led the Shillong Chamber Choir to national fame after a reality TV show, India's Got Talent about a decade ago.



**Source: India Today**  
**Sindhutai Sapkaal**

Sindhutai Sapkaal, 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**

**Miscellaneous**

**Jagannath Temple Act, 1954**

- In a historic decision, the **Odisha** state cabinet approved amendments to the **Sri Jagannath Temple Act of 1954**, simplifying issues pertaining to land owned by the Jagannath Temple.

- In the year 1806, the then British government had issued regulations for management of the Jagannath temple which was referred to as the Juggernaut temple by the colonial rulers.
- Under these regulations, pilgrims who visited the temple were expected to pay taxes.
- Three years later, the powers of management of the temple were passed on to the King of Khordha while the colonial government continued to retain some control.
- It was only after India gained Independence that the state of Odisha formally introduced the Jagannath Temple Act in the year 1952, which came into effect in 1954.
- The Act contains provision on land rights of the temple, duties of the sevayat, administrative powers of the Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, rights and privileges of the Raja of Puri and other persons connected with the management and administration of the temple.

**Recent Amendments:**

- The recent amendment approved by the state cabinet now decentralizes the power to settle land related issues of the temple.
- The cabinet has delegated power to temple administration and concerned officials for sale and lease of land in name of Jagannath temple.



Source: Indian Express

**Rock Museum**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first unique **Open "Rock" Museum** and later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).
- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser known facts, 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 kms of distance from the surface of the earth.
- Dr Jitendra Singh also released **Earthquake Risk Maps** of Lucknow and Dehradun Cities.
- CSIR-NGRI has made earthquake risk maps for Lucknow and Dehradun cities which are vulnerable for future earthquakes in the Indo-Gangetic plains area.



Source: PIB

### Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes first Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole

- **Captain Harpreet Chandi**, a 32-year-old Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.
- **Harpreet Chandi** completed her 700 miles (1,127 kilometres) expedition to the South Pole in 40 days.



Source: The Hindu

### Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed Jhansi Railway Station as '**Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station**'.
- The state government changed the name of the railway station after approval from the Central Government.
- Earlier, the Mughalsarai Railway Station was renamed Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Railway Station and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt.
- Since coming to power, Mr Adityanath government has changed names of several establishments including those of Faizabad and Allahabad districts, which were renamed as Ayodhya and Prayagraj, respectively.



Source: India Today