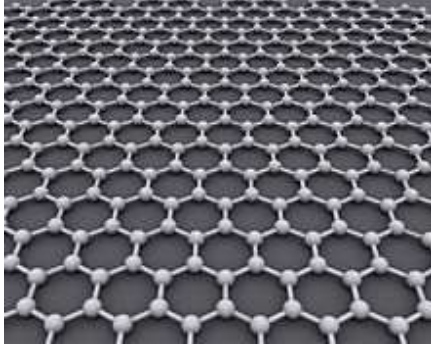


Weekly Current Affairs

4th Week January 2022

Important News: State

Graphene Innovation Centre



- India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.
- Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- **Graphene** is an allotrope of carbon consisting of a single layer of atoms arranged in a two-dimensional honeycomb lattice nanostructure.
- Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, and as per latest research, it could replace indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones.

Source: The Hindu

Andhra Pradesh government forms 13 new districts



- The Andhra Pradesh government formed 13 new districts in the state.
- The new districts have been formed based on Parliamentary constituencies.
- Adding to the existing 13 districts, the total number of districts in Andhra Pradesh is now 26.
- The new districts are being formed under the AP Districts Formation Act, 1974, Section 3(5).

List of the new districts: Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Kona Seema, Eluru, NTR District, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Sri Satyasai, Annamayya and Sri Balaji District.

Source: Indian Express

1st District Good Governance Index in Jammu and Kashmir



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah released India's First "**District Good Governance Index**" in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under the index, the policies, schemes and programs of the central as well as the state governments have been monitored at the district level.
- The index will rank the districts and also present their comparative picture.
- The District Good Governance Index, which has been launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, has been prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in partnership with the Union Territory's administration.
- Previously, the Centre had released the **National Good Governance Index** on December 25, 2021 that indicated Jammu and Kashmir saw an increase of 3.7% in Good Governance Indicators from 2019 to 2021.

Source: HT

Important News: India

India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber and gherkins in the world



- India has emerged as the largest exporter of **cucumber and gherkins** in the world.
- India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of 1,23,846 Metric Tonnes with a value of USD 114 million during April-October (2020-21).

- In 2020-21, India had shipped 2,23,515 Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins with a value of USD 223 million.
- Following directions of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** undertook a series of initiatives in infrastructure development, product promotion in the global market and adherence to food safety management system in processing units.
- **Gherkins** are exported under two categories -- cucumbers and gherkins, which are prepared and preserved by vinegar or acetic acid and cucumbers and gherkins, which are provisionally preserved.
- Gherkin cultivation, processing and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in Karnataka and later extended to the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Source: PIB

Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with National War Memorial flame



- The flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at the India Gate in Delhi was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial.

About Amar Jawan Jyoti:

- The flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti in the India Gate memorial paid tributes to the martyrs of 1971 and other wars, however, none of the names who made that supreme sacrifice for the country were present there.
- The India Gate memorial, on the other hand, was built by the British government in memory of the British Indian Army soldiers who lost their lives between 1914-1921.
- The Amar Jawan Jyoti there was only included in the 1970s after the massive victory of India over Pakistan in which 93,000 troops of the enemy country surrendered.

About National War Memorial:

- The National War Memorial, which was built in the India Gate complex by the Narendra Modi government and was inaugurated in 2019, has the names of all the Indian defence personnel who have lost their lives in different operations from the 1947-48 war with Pakistan to the Galwan valley clash with Chinese troops.
- The names of troops who lost lives in the counter-terrorist operations are also included on the walls of the memorial.

Source: HT

Important News: World

UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022



- India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for the year 2022.
- India has joined the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

Source: Business Standard

First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** in virtual format on 27 January 2022, which was attended by Presidents of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- This first India-Central Asia Summit coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- The Leaders discussed far-reaching proposals to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and, in particular, on cultural and people to people contacts.
- A comprehensive **Joint Declaration** was adopted by the leaders that enumerates their common vision for an enduring and comprehensive India-Central Asia partnership.
- In a historic decision, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.
- They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
- An **India-Central Asia Secretariat** in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.

Source: PIB

India, Israel launch commemorative logo



- India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- The logo was unveiled virtually at an online event in the presence of Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla.
- The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- Israel and India relationship encompasses slew of areas — health and innovation, agriculture and water, trade and economic activities, science and technology, research and development, defence and homeland security, art and culture, tourism and space.
- Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29th of January 1992.

Facts about Israel:

- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **President:** Isaac Herzog
- **Prime Minister:** Naftali Bennett
- **Currency:** Israeli Shekel

Source: ET

Prajakta Koli becomes India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion



- Prajakta Koli has become India's first **UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion**.
- Prajakta Koli is a content creator on various online platforms like youtube, Instagram, etc.
- The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.

About UN Development Programme (UNDP):

- It is a United Nations organization tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- **Headquarters:** New York, United States
- **Founded:** 22 November 1965
- **Parent organization:** United Nations General Assembly

Source: Business Standard

UNSC uses 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time



- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** used 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time.
- Members of the UNSC went on a virtual field trip to Columbia, listening, watching and getting insights into the peace process with the help of **Virtual Reality (VR) technology**.

Digital diplomacy:

- Digital diplomacy is also dubbed as Digiplomacy and eDiplomacy.
- It is defined as the use of new information communication technologies and the Internet to achieve diplomatic objectives.

Facts about UNSC (United Nations Security Council):

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

Source: Business Standard

Important News: Economy

FDI flows to India drop 26% in 2021: UNCTAD



- According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**'s Investment Trends Monitor, **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows to India dropped 26 percent in 2021 as compared with the previous year.
- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77 percent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020.
- Recovery of investment flows to developing countries is encouraging, but stagnation of new investment in least developed countries in industries important for productive capacities, and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) sectors - such as electricity, food or health - is a major cause for concern.
- Developed economies saw the biggest rise by far, with FDI reaching an estimated \$777 billion in 2021 - three times the exceptionally low level in 2020.
- FDI to India increased 27 percent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

Source: ET

Important News: Defense

Exercise Paschim Lehar



- A joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** conducted by the Indian Navy off the West Coast was concluded on 25 January 2022.
- The exercise was conducted over a duration of 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- The exercise was conducted under the aegis of FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command.
- The intra-theatre exercise included mobilisation and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.

Source: PIB

Delivery of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs "Balbir" to Naval Dockyard Mumbai



- Contract for construction of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs was concluded with M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam in February 2019.
- The Fourth tug in the series, “**Balbir**” has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on **24 Jan 2022**.
- 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 in confined waters and in harbour.
- With all major and auxiliary equipment/system sourced from indigenous manufacturers, these tugs are proud flag bearers of “Make in India, Make for the World” initiatives of Ministry of Defence in consonance with “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.

Source: PIB

Saab awarded Indian contract for AT4 Support Weapon



- **Swedish defence company Saab** has been awarded a contract to supply single-shot **anti-armour weapon AT4** to the Indian armed forces.
- The company has been awarded the contract for the lightweight and fully disposable weapon after going through a "competitive programme".
- AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The contract was signed by FFV Ordnance AB, responsible for Saab’s Ground Combat offer in India.
- Operated by a single soldier, this single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures, landing craft, helicopters, armoured vehicles and personnel.
- Its 84 mm calibre warhead offers enhanced power and performance.

Source: ET

Science and Technology

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)



- The **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** chairman Dr S Somanath has mentioned the launch of an “SSLV-D1 Micro SAT” in April 2022.
- The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.

About Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):

- The SSLV is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO.
- It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle.
- SSLV is a three-stage all solid vehicle and has a capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- The maiden flight of the SSLV was scheduled to launch in July 2019 but that has since been delayed due to setbacks from Covid-19 and other issues.

Source: Indian Express

Drone Certification Scheme



- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** notified a **Drone Certification Scheme (DCS)** to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements as it will boost indigenous manufacturing.
- The **Drone Certification Scheme** notified on January 26, 2022, under Rule 7 of the **liberalized Drone Rules, 2021** will help in simpler, faster and transparent type-certification of drones.
- Along with the liberalised drone rules, airspace map, the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme and the single window DigitalSky Platform, this will help drone manufacturing industry in India, grow.
- This is another step in making India the drone hub of the world by 2030.

- A multi-stakeholder steering committee (MSC) chaired by a known professional, who is respected by government and industry alike, will oversee the scheme, along with a QCI (Quality Control of India) secretariat.

Source: Business Standard

Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing



- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA, released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector, titled “\$300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.”
- This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document – the first of which titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.
- This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India’s transformation into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current US\$75 billion.
- Mobile manufacturing that is expected to cross US\$100 billion annual production - up from the current US\$30 billion - is expected to constitute nearly 40% of this ambitious growth.

Source: PIB

Environment

Environment Management Plans for Najafgarh jheel



- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed **Delhi and Haryana** to enforce the **Environment Management Plans** that the two governments have prepared for the rejuvenation and protection of the Najafgarh jheel, a transboundary wetland.
- The implementation of these action plans is to be monitored by the National Wetland Authority through the respective State Wetland Authorities.

- The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** first took the matter of restoration of the Najafgarh Jheel to the NGT in 2014, and then filed an execution application before the tribunal in 2019, noting that no remedial measures had been taken.

About Najafgarh Jheel:

- It is located in a natural depression in southwest Delhi, close to the Gurugram-Rajokri border on National Highway-48.
- The presence of 281 bird species, including several threatened ones such as Egyptian vulture, Sarus Crane, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle and those migrating along the Central Asian Flyway has been reported at the lake.

About National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Source: Indian Express

Peru declares 'Environmental Emergency'



- The Peruvian government declared a 90-day “**Environmental Emergency**” in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.
- The spill was caused by freak waves, which resulted from the eruption of a volcano in Tonga.
- Peruvian authorities say that this measure will allow for “sustainable management of the affected areas,” through “restoration and remediation” work.
- The oil spill came out of a tanker belonging to the Spanish energy firm Repsol.

Environmental Impacts:

- Harmful to aquatic life
- Toxic Effects
- Threat to Mangroves

Economic Impacts:

- Tourism
- Power Plants
- Fishing

Source: Indian Express

Awards and Honours

President and Police Medal Announced



- On the occasion of Republic Day, 51 police officers and staff of the state have been awarded President's and Police Medals.
- Out of them, 4 police officers were awarded 'Presidential Distinguished Service Medal' for outstanding service, 7 were awarded 'Police Bravery Medal' and 40 were awarded 'Police Medal' for commendable service.

About the award

- Every year on the eve of Republic Day, the 'Police Medal' is announced by the Union Home Department for the bravery of the police across the country.
- This year, It has been announced a total of 939 Police Medals have been awarded to 88 policemen for President's Distinguished Service Medal (PPM), 189 Police for Police Bravery Medal (PMG), 662 Police for Police Medal for Commendable Service (PM) and two for President's Bravery Medal.

Recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Medal

- Vinay Mahadevrao Korgaonkar (Additional Director General of Police (PCR), Fort Mumbai)
- Pralhad Nivruti Khade (Commandant SRPF, Group 6, Dhule)
- Chandrakant Rambhau Gundge (Inspector of Police PTC Nanvij, Daund, Pune)
- Anwar Beg Ibrahim Beg Mirza (Sub-Inspector of Police SP, Nanded)

Source: Loksataa

Padma Awards 2022



- This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.

- 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- Among the notable names, India's first chief of defence staff (CDS) – the late General Bipin Rawat – was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, while Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra was among Padma Shri recipients.

Following are some notable names from the Padma awards:

- **Padma Vibhushan:** Kalyan Singh, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (posthumous); General Bipin Rawat, India's first chief of defence staff (posthumous)
- **Padma Bhushan:** Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, former West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech's chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder wife Suchitra Ella, Serum Institute of India (SII) managing director Cyrus Poonawalla
- Key names from Big Tech, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, were also named as Padma Bhushan recipients.
- **Padma Shri:** Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, Olympians Pramod Bhagat, and Vandana Kataria, singer Sonu Nigam

Source: PIB

[Jai Bhim and Marakkar eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022](#)



- Suriya's Jai Bhim and Mohanlal's Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham are eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022.
- Suriya's Jai Bhim, directed by TJ Gnanavel, premiered on Amazon Prime Video in November 2021.
- Jai Bhim is the only Tamil film to get shortlisted for the Best Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.
- Among the 276 films that have been shortlisted across the world, Jai Bhim and the Malayalam film, Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham, have been chosen from India.
- The award ceremony is scheduled on March 27, 2022, in Hollywood, US.

Source: Indian Express

[India's Koozhangal wins best film award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival](#)



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- During the recently concluded **20th Dhaka International Film Festival** in Dhaka, **Indian movie Koozhangal** won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category.
- Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films.

Koozhangal:

- It's a Tamil-language drama directed by director PS Vinothraj and is produced by top South Indian actress Nayanthara and her husband Vignesh Shivan under their banner Rowdy Pictures.
- The film was screened at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam held in the Netherlands last year, where it received the Tiger Award at the festival.
- It was also selected as India's entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards, but did not make the final nomination.

Source: newsonair

Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe conferred Netaji Award 2022



- **Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** was conferred with the **Netaji Award 2022** by Netaji Research Bureau.
- Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honour on behalf of Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the Padma Vibhushan on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the country's second-highest civilian honour.

Source: India Today

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2022



- 29 Children have been conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2022**, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories.
- There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs.
- During the function, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave digital certificates to the 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using a **Block Chain**-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the **National Blockchain Project**.

About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

- The Government of India presents PMRBP awards to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely Innovation, Social Service, Scholastic achievements, Sports, Art & Culture and Bravery.
- Each awardee is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a certificate.

Source: PIB

Babar Azam named Captain of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021



- **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the **ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021**.
- The ICC Team of the Year recognises the 11 best players in men's cricket who have impressed one and all with their performances in a calendar year, either with the bat, ball or their all-round performance.
- No Indian male player has found a place in the team of 11.
- However, in ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021, **Smriti Mandhana** is the only Indian women player named in the 11 member team.

- England's Nat Sciver has been made the captain of ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021.

Source: India Today

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022

Honouring Selfless Service in Disaster Management
We are honoured to announce that the
Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)
has been awarded the prestigious
Subhash Chandra Bose Aapada Prabandhan Puraskar
for the year 2022
Under the **Institutional Category**

- For the year 2022, (i) Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and (ii) Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category) have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- They have been conferred with the Award, along with the awardees of the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)**, established in 2012, has been working to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity of Gujarat.
- **Professor Vinod Sharma**, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and Vice-Chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, was the founder co-ordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, now known as the National Institute of Disaster Management. He has worked tirelessly towards bringing disaster risk reduction (DRR) to the forefront of the national agenda.

About Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:

- To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

Books and Authors

A pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle



- Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi released a pictorial book on **India's Women Unsung Heroes** of Freedom Struggle as part of Azadi ka Mahotsav.
- The book has been released in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha which is a household name in India.
- The Ministry of Culture has decided to release pictorial books on 75 Unsung Heroes of the Freedom Struggle in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.
- The second edition will be on 25 unsung Tribal Freedom Fighters which is under process and will take some time.
- The third and final edition will be of 30 unsung heroes drawn from other areas.

Source: PIB

Important Days

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

- International Holocaust Remembrance Day or the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is an international memorial day on 27 January.



- The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.
- 27 January was chosen to commemorate the date that Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army in 1945.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 1 November 2005.

Source: un.org

National Voters' Day



- **National Voters' Day (NVD)** is observed on January 25 every year.
- **Theme** for NVD 2022 is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- The day was established to mark Election Commission's foundation day on January 25 in 2011, by the Government of India.
- On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices for the year 2021-22 will be conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres.

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
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission Executives:**
 1. **Sushil Chandra**, Chief Election Commissioner
 2. **Rajeev Kumar**, Election Commissioner
 3. **Anup Chandra Pandey**, Election Commissioner

Source: India Today

National Tourism Day



- **National Tourism Day** is celebrated on January 25 every year across the country.
- This day is observed by the Government of India to encourage tourism and explain the essential role of tourism in the growth of the country.
- The **World Tourism Day** is celebrated on 27 September.

Source: India Today

Parakram Diwas



- **Parakram Diwas (Bravery Day)** is celebrated in India on January 23rd.
- January 23, 2022, marks the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- It was introduced by the Government of India in 2021 ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary.
- The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The central government has decided to start the Republic Day celebrations from January 23 to include Bose's anniversary.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Orissa on 23 January 1897.
- He played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement.
- He was the head of the Japanese-supported Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fouj).
- He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

Source: HT

Sports

Lucknow's IPL team to be called Lucknow Super Giants



- The Lucknow franchise of the IPL (Indian Premier League) will be called **Lucknow Super Giants**.
- Last year, the franchise was purchased by the Sanjiv Goenka-owned RPSG group for an amount of Rs 7090 Crores.

- The other new team to enter the competition is from Ahmedabad who was bought by the Irelia Company Pvt Ltd. for Rs 5635 Crores.

Source: Indian Express

Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of 2021



- India's **Smriti Mandhana** has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for 2021.
- Smriti has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy awarded to the ICC Women's Cricketer of the year for the second time after 2018.
- Smriti has also become the second women's cricketer after Australia's Ellyse Perry to win the honour more than once.
- Mandhana was also named in the ICC Women's T20 International Team of the Year.

Source: newsonair

Syed Modi India International 2022



- The **Syed Modi India International** is an international badminton tournament, which is held annually in India.
- The tournament was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association (UPBA) in 1991 as the 'Syed Modi Memorial Badminton Tournament' in memory of the Commonwealth Games champion Syed Modi.
- Venue: Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, India
- Two-time Olympic medalist, **P.V. Sindhu** has won the **Women's singles title** at the Syed Modi International tournament 2022. Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod.

List of Winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
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Winner- Not awarded	Winner- P V Sindhu (India)	Winner- Man Wei Chong (Malaysia), Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)	Winner- Anna Cheong (Malaysia), Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)	Winner- Ishaan Bhatnagar (India), Tanisha Crasto (India)
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Source: newsonair

Reports and Indexes

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021



- Recently, the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021** was released by **Transparency International**.
- India ranks 85 in the index.
- Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.
- South Sudan, Syria and Somalia remain at the bottom of the index.
- India's rank improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020.
- India's CPI score is 40.

About Index:

- The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

Source: Indian Express **New Appointments**

Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority



- **Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **PMLA Adjudicating Authority** for a period of 5 years.
- Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
- The PMLA Adjudicating Authority is a three-member body whose mandate is to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**.

About Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted by the NDA government to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money-laundering.
- PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.

Source: The Hindu

Obituaries

Noted Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri recipient Milena Salvini of France passes away



- **Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini** of France passed away.
- Italian-born Salvini was a regular visitor to India, especially Kerala where she learnt Kathakali, and ran 'Centre Mandapa', a school for Indian dance forms, in Paris.
- The Government of India conferred the **Padma Shri** award on Salvini in 2019 for her contribution in the field of performing arts.

Source: Business Standard

Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist Ramachandran Nagasamy passes away



- Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist **Ramachandran Nagasamy** passed away.
- Nagasamy is known for his epigraphy research on the sculptures in Mahabalipuram.
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in 2018 for his research work in archeology and was also the recipient of Kalaimamani award — the highest civilian award, from the Tamil Nadu government.
- He was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology.

Source: India Today

Miscellaneous

Shivangi Singh



- The country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** was part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) tableau at the Republic Day parade 2022.
- **Shivangi Singh** is only the second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- Last year, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the first female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- Shivangi Singh, who is from Varanasi, joined the IAF in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
- She is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab.

Source: Indian Express

Fit India Quiz 2021



- Results of the Preliminary Round of the **first-ever Fit India Quiz**, India's biggest sports and fitness quiz for students were announced.
- Results of the nation-wide competition organised by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has revealed that two students from Uttar Pradesh have outperformed students from all other states to become the top scorers of the Preliminary Round.
- Divyanshu Chamoli of Delhi Public School, Greater Noida won the top spot, he was closely followed by Shashwat Mishra of Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi.
- The preliminary round of the Fit India Quiz, saw participants from 13,502 schools from more than 659 districts across the country, out of which students of 361 schools across 36 States and Union Territories have now been shortlisted for the State Rounds.
- The Quiz has a prize money of 3.25 crores which will be given out to winning schools and students at various phases of the quiz.

About Fit India Movement:

- Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 29 August 2019.

Source: PIB