

Weekly Current Affairs

3rd Week January 2022

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: India

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the tenure of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for three years beyond 31.3.2022.
- The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.
- The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022.
- The **NCSK** was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the **NCSK Act 1993** initially for the period upto 31.3.1997.

Background:

- The NCSK has been giving its recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- Also as per the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Source: PIB

MoHUA announces winners of Streets for People and Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an online event wherein it announced eleven winning cities for the **Streets for People Challenge**, and ten winning cities for the pilot stage of the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**.
- At the event, the Ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change and Streets for People Challenges and a book titled ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field’.
- These cities will now enter the scale up stage of the challenge wherein the projects undertaken in the pilot stage will now be scaled up in a sustainable manner.

Announcement of winning cities under Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

- MoHUA announced ten winning cities for the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

Source: PIB

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

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative



- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing **26th CISO (Chief Information Security Officers) Deep Dive Training program** under **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**.
- The training program is a part of a series of workshops organised by the National e-Governance Division at MeitY under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.
- The program is being conducted from January 17 - 22, 2022 and will cover topics such as Governance Risk & Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application & Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act,

Security audit, guidelines for preparing CCMP and operation and monitoring of Security Operation Centre (SoC) etc.

- It will help the CISOs and other participants to equip themselves with better understanding of the emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security.

About Cyber Surakshit Programme:

- To empower the CISOs with the emerging challenges of cyber security and train them to meet the challenges, MeitY had initiated the Cyber Surakshit Programme in January 2018 with active support of industry consortium.
- The objective of the programme is to train 1200 CISOs and frontline IT officials from Central and State Government, PSUs, Banks and government organizations.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 'Open Data Week'



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the initiation of the '**Open Data Week**' to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.
- Leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.
- It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.
- The Event will see participation from all **100 Smart Cities** that will be publishing high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal.
- The Event aims to show the benefits of open data such as increased efficiency, transparency, a spur in innovation, and economic growth.

Source: PIB

National Startup Awards 2021



- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal presented the **National Startup Awards 2021**.
- A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of **National Startup Awards 2021** along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conceived the National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- Shri Goyal called upon the Startups to focus mainly on five areas to make India the No. 1 Startup ecosystem in the world:
 1. Develop solutions & content in Indic languages
 2. Encourage products & solutions that have a larger social & economic impact
 3. Promoting Startups in every district across the country, - Establish 'Startup Access centers' in every district
 4. Creating Innovation zones at the level of Urban Local Bodies
 5. Adopt best practices from across the globe & enhance India's global competitiveness

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **January 16** will be celebrated as **National Startup Day**, to take the Startup culture to the far-flung areas of the country.

Source: PIB

India grants financial assistance of over USD 900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis



- **India** has announced a USD 900 million loan to **Sri Lanka** to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.
- Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a shortage of almost all essentials due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.
- These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over \$509 million and currency swap of \$400 million.

Facts about Sri Lanka:

- **Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee
- **President:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- **Prime Minister:** Mahinda Rajapaksa

Source: ET

Important News: World

First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship



- The first **BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022** was held virtually on January 18-19 under the Chinese chairship with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021.
- **China** has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.
- Programme and priorities for the year were discussed at the first BRICS Sherpas Meeting of 2022.
- They looked forward to continuity, consensus and consolidation of BRICS cooperation.

Source: Business Standard

PM Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurate the Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the **Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius**.
- The two Prime Ministers also took part in a virtual foundation stone laying ceremony for two other projects – construction of a state-of-the-art Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar PV Farm– also undertaken as part of India’s development support.
- The Prime Minister acknowledged the importance of the Civil Service College project in nation building and offered to share learnings of *Mission Karmayogi*.
- Prime Minister recalled the **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** that he put forth at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018 and said that the 8 MW Solar PV Farm project will help mitigate the climate challenges that Mauritius faces through avoidance of 13,000 tons of CO2 emissions.
- Ceremony included exchange of **two key bilateral agreements**: Agreement for the extension of USD 190 million Line of Credit from the Government of India to the Government of Mauritius for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects and MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects.

Source: PIB

World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022



- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released the **World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022 (WESO Trends)**.
- The report examines the impacts of the crisis on global and regional trends in employment, unemployment and labour force participation, as well as on job quality, informal employment and working poverty.
- It also offers an extensive analysis of trends in temporary employment both before and during the COVID-19 crisis.

Findings of the Report:

- Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022.
- This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began.
- Global working hours in 2022 will be almost two percent below their pre-pandemic level — that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.
- There is the need for a broad-based labour market recovery — the recovery must be human-centred, inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director-General;** Guy Ryder
- **Formation:** 11 April 1919

Source: DTE

Indonesia passes law to relocate capital from Jakarta to remote Borneo



- Recently, Indonesia's parliament has passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on jungle-clad Borneo Island that will be named "Nusantara".
- The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java Island.
- The new capital (Nusantara) will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo, which the country shares with Malaysia and Brunei.
- Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital.
- Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003, while Myanmar moved its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

Source: TOI

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

Volcanic eruption in Tonga



- Recently, a volcano erupted in the southern Pacific Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around the Pacific.
- It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga-Ha'apai and Hunga-Tonga.

- The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano has erupted regularly over the past few decades.
- During events in 2009 and 2014/15 hot jets of magma and steam exploded through the waves. But these eruptions were small.

Source: Indian Express

International Film Festival



- The 9-day long **20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)** was inaugurated at the National Museum premises in Dhaka on 15th January, 2022 by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami was present as special guest on the occasion.
- The film festival is showcasing 225 films spread in ten categories.
- Films from 70 countries are being shown at various venues during the festival.
- The **Indian entries** to the Festival include films like Koozhangal directed by P S Vinohraj, Avijatrik directed by Subhrajit Mitra, Mayar Jonjal directed by Indranil Roychowdhury, and Aandaal directed by Shareef Easa among the 35 entries.
- The Lebanese-German film 'The Anger' directed by Maria Ivanova was the inaugural movie of the festival.

About Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF):

- DIFF is organised by the Rainbow film Society established in 1977.
- DIFF was started in 1992.

Source: newsonair

Important News: Economy

SEBI launches Saa᳚᳚hi mobile app



- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched “**Saa᳚᳚hi**” – a mobile app on investor education.

- The Saaṙthi mobile app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.
- The app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

Source: Indian Express

Cabinet approves infusion of Rs. 1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited



IS/ISO 9001:2015, ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified
(A Mini Ratna Category – I PSU)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**.
- This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately 10200 jobs-year and CO2 equivalent emission reduction of approximately 7.49 Million Tonnes CO2/year.

About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- IREDA, a mini ratna (Category-1) company under the administrative control of MNRE was set up in 1987 to work as a specialised non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.

Source: PIB

Important News: Defense

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with enhanced capability, successfully test-fired



- **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, with increased indigenous content and improved performance, was successfully test-fired from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- BrahMos Aerospace has been continuously upgrading the powerful, highly versatile BrahMos to increase its effectiveness and lethality against sea and land targets.

BrahMos missiles:

- A combination of the names of Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by DRDO and NPOM of Russia.
- The first test launch of the initial version Brahmos took place in 2001.
- Various types of the BrahMos including those which can be fired from land, warships, submarines and Sukhoi-30 fighter jets have already been developed and successfully tested since then.

Source: Indian Express

BSF's "Operation Sard Hawa"



- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan under its "**Operation Sard Hawa**" from January 23 to 28, 2022.
- Due to fog and haze on the border during winter, the force remains on "high alert" to deal with infiltration and other nefarious activities from across the border.
- All personnel and officers of the headquarters will remain on the border during this period and will monitor the situation 24 hours.
- The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer and "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year.

Source: ET

In a first, India to export Brahmos missiles to the Philippines



- **India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** will be exported first time and missiles will be purchased by Philippines.
- The Philippines has approved the purchase of anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos. This deal has been done for about \$ 374.9 million.
- **BrahMos Aerospace**, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.
- The BrahMos order is the first major military export by India.
- Last year, India and the Philippines signed a defence arrangement that would enable export of defence equipment to Manila.
- Other countries in Southeast Asia, including Vietnam and Indonesia, have also expressed their interest in buying BrahMos from India, to which end discussions are ongoing.

Source: India Today

Indian Navy conducts Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy



- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, conducted Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kochi along with RFS Admiral Tributes of the Russian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASEX) in the Arabian Sea on 14 January 2022.
- This is for the first time that the Indian Navy has tested its indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer and was tested with the Russian Federation Navy to showcase India's defence capabilities.
- The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.

Exercise between India and Russia:

- Indra: Joint Exercise (Army, Navy, Air Force)

Source: TOI

Science and Technology

Devas-Antrix deal



- Recently, the Supreme Court upheld a May 25, 2021 order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to liquidate Devas on the ground that the firm was created under fraudulent circumstances.
- The investors have won separate compensation awards in international tribunals, including \$1.2 billion awarded by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) tribunal on September 14, 2015.
- The Supreme Court has kept the \$1.2 billion award in abeyance.
- A 2005 satellite deal between Antrix Corporation — the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – and Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd, a start-up headquartered in Bengaluru, is at the heart of a global legal tussle between the Indian government and foreign investors in Devas.
- The tussle is a fallout of the cancellation of the deal in 2011 by the then UPA government citing requirement of satellite spectrum allotted to Devas for security purposes.

Devas-Antrix deal:

- Under the deal, ISRO would lease to Devas two communication satellites (GSAT-6 and 6A) for 12 years for Rs 167 crore. Devas would provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using S-band transponders on the satellites.

Source: Indian Express

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

Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan: ISRO



- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully conducted qualification tests of the **Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan human space programme**.
- The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu conducted the test for 720 seconds duration and met the test objectives.
- The engine will further undergo four more tests for a cumulative duration of 1810 seconds.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle to be used for the Gaganyaan programme will use two cryogenic engines.
- This engine developed by ISRO is named as Vikas.

Note:

- India's first Human Space Mission '**Gaganyaan**' will be launched in 2023.
- ISRO is planning to conduct the first Unmanned Mission under Gaganyaan program by the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

Source: The Hindu

Environment

Pacific 'Ring of Fire'



- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano, which erupted recently, lies along the Pacific 'Ring of fire'.
- The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted, sending ash and smoke thousands of feet into the air.
- The volcano, situated on an uninhabited island, became active in 2009.
- It lies along the Pacific 'Ring of fire', and is just over 60 kilometres from the island nation of Tonga.

Pacific 'Ring of Fire':

- The Pacific 'Ring of Fire' or Pacific rim, or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific Ocean that is characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It is home to about 75 percent of the world's volcanoes – more than 450 volcanoes. Also, about 90 percent of the world's earthquakes occur here.
- Its length is over 40,000 kilometres and traces from New Zealand clockwise in an almost circular arc covering Tonga, Kermadec Islands, Indonesia, moving up to the Philippines, Japan, and stretching eastward to the Aleutian Islands, then southward along the western coast of North America and South America.
- The area is along several tectonic plates including the Pacific plate, Philippine Plate, Juan de Fuca plate, Cocos plate, Nazca plate, and North American plate.

Source: Indian Express

Awards and Honours

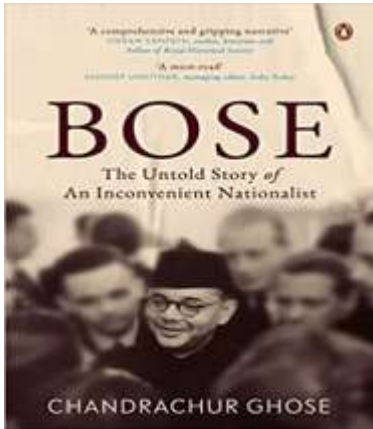
Lavni artist from Maharashtra wins gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai



- A young Lavni artist from Maharashtra, Sumit Bhale has won a gold medal at the **International Folk Art Festival in Dubai**.
- **Lavani** is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra, India.
- Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.
- Lavani is noted for its powerful rhythm. Lavani has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre.
- Lavani dance originated from Maharashtra in 18th and 19th century.
- This dance form was popular in the Peshawari Dynasty that was situated in Pune.

Books and Authors

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

Important Days

Indian Army Day



- **Indian Army Day** is celebrated every year on January 15 in recognition of Field Marshal KM Cariappa as the first commander-in-chief of the Indian army.
- This year marks the 74th Army Day.
- Indian Army Day's theme for the year 2022 was **"In Stride with the Future"**.
- The Indian Army originated from the East India Company, which was known as the British Indian Army and later named the National Army after India's independence.

Note:

- **28th Chief of Army Staff:** General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The new uniform of the Indian Army was unveiled on the occasion of the Army Day Parade.
- On the occasion of 74th Army Day, the world's largest Khadi national flag was displayed on the highest hill near Jaisalmer military station in Rajasthan.

Source: India Today

Sports

Best FIFA Football Awards 2021



- The Best FIFA Football Awards is an association football award presented annually by the sport's governing body, FIFA.
- The first awarding ceremony was held on 9 January 2017 in Zürich, Switzerland

Best FIFA Football Awards 2021:

- The Best FIFA Men's Player: Robert Lewandowski
- The Best FIFA Women's Player: Alexia Putellas
- The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper: Edouard Mendy
- The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper: Christiane Endler
- The Best FIFA Men's Coach: Thomas Tuchel
- The Best FIFA Women's Coach: Emma Hayes
- FIFA Puskas Award: Erik Lamela
- FIFA Special Award: Cristiano Ronaldo

Source: HT

2022 India Open (badminton)



- The 2022 India Open (officially known as the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 for sponsorship reasons) was a badminton tournament that took place at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India, from 11 to 16 January 2022.
- The 2022 India Open was the first tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the India Open championships, which had been held since 1973.
- The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Lakshya Sen (India)	Winner- Busanan Ongbamrunphan (Thailand)	Winner- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India), Chirag Shetty (India)	Winner- Benyapa Aimsaard (Thailand), Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand)	Winner- Terry Hee (Singapore), Tan Han (Singapore)
Runner-up- Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)	Runner-up- Supanida Katethong (Thailand)	Runner-up- Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia), Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)	Runner-up- Anastasiia Akchurina (Russia), Olga Morozova (Russia)	Runner-up- Chen Tang Jie (Malaysia), Peck Wei (Malaysia)

Source: newsonair

West Indies legend Clive Lloyd awarded knighthood for his services to Cricket



- **Clive Lloyd**, the former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team, has been given the honour of knighthood for his services to the game of Cricket.
- He was also a former West Indies team manager and selector, and ICC Match Referee. In 2009 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- A **knighthood** is a title that is given to a man by a British king or queen for his achievements or his service to his country. A man who has been given a knighthood can put ' Sir' in front of his name instead of ' Mr'.

Source: ndtv

Reports and Indexes

Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report



- According to **Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report**, the income of 84 percent of households in the country declined in 2021, but at the same time the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142.
- In 2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion).
- In the same year, the share of the bottom 50 percent of the population in national wealth was a mere 6 per cent.
- During the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30, 2021), the report says, the wealth of Indian billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore (USD 313 billion) to Rs 53.16 lakh crore (USD 719 billion).
- India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world, just behind China and the United States, with more billionaires than France, Sweden and Switzerland combined — a 39 percent increase in the number of billionaires in India in 2021.
- The Oxfam India briefing also points out to the increase in indirect taxes as a share of the Union government revenue in the last four years, while the proportion of corporate tax in the same was declining.

Source: Indian Express

New Appointments

Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as CMD of Air India



- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions appointed **Vikram Dev Dutt** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Air India Limited**.
- Vikram Dev Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of **AGMUT** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.
- In October 2021, the government accepted the highest bid made by a Tata Sons company for 100 percent equity shares of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50 percent stake in ground-handling company AISATS.
- The government had signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

Source: Business Today

Roberta Metsola becomes European Parliament's new president



- **Roberta Metsola**, Centre-right Maltese lawmaker, was chosen to head the **European Parliament**.
- Her election comes a week after the shock death of outgoing parliament president David Sassoli.
- Roberta Metsola has become the only third woman to hold the position.
- She is also viewed as a political moderate despite the controversy over her anti-abortion stance.
- She is a member of the biggest Parliamentary bloc, the European People's Party.

About European Parliament:

- The Parliament is composed of 705 members.
- **Headquarters:** Strasbourg, France
- **Founded:** 10 September 1952, Europe

Source: newsonair

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 Sakhivel 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

Obituaries

Shaoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality, actress passes away



- **Shaoli Mitra**, an eminent Bengali theatre personality, passed away.
- Mitra, who was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012, will be remembered by her fans and critics alike for her solo performances as Draupadi in "Naathvati Anaathbat" and as Sita in "Sitakatha" or Bitata Bitangso.

Source: India Today

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 Bibhusan.
- The Rabindra Bharati University gave him an honorary D.Litt in 2015.

Source: TOI

Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away



- Padma Vibhusan awardee and legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away at 83.

- Pandit Birju Maharaj, better known simply as Birju Maharaj, was an Indian dancer, composer, singer and exponent of the Lucknow "Kalka-Bindadin" Gharana of Kathak dance in India.
- **Kathak** is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.

Source: TOI

Miscellaneous

Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers: MoRTH



- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has approved a draft notification, making it compulsory for the car manufacturers to equip a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers.
- To enhance the safety of occupants of the motor vehicle, it has been decided to enhance safety features by amending the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989**.
- The General Statutory Rules (GSR) have been mandated to the motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats, in addition to the driver's seat), with the effective timeline of cars manufactured after 1st October 2022.
- Recently, dual airbags (driver and passenger) became mandatory on all motor vehicles (M1 category) from 1st January 2022. Earlier, a driver airbag was mandated for all passenger vehicles since July 1, 2019.

Source: newsonair