

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (03 Jan - 08 Jan 2022)

### Smriti Mandhana nominated for prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy

- Indian women's team cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** has been nominated for the prestigious **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award**.
- She has scored **855 runs in 22 internationals**, at an average of **38.86** with one century and five half-centuries
- Besides her, other 3 cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis are also being nominated
- She was named as **Best Indian Women's International Cricketer in 2018**

### Kargil Winter Expedition cancelled due to rising COVID cases

- Kargil District Disaster Management Authority, DDMA, has canceled **Kargil Winter Expedition** due to the rising of Covid 19 cases in Ladakh region
- **About Kargil Winter Expedition:**
  - It is a 7-day tryst, starting from Leh, crossing some of the highest mountain passes and covering Kargil's gorgeous sectors like Aryan, Batalik, Drass and Suru
  - It includes events like Snow Horse Polo, Snow Soccer, Snow Bashing etc
  - It was scheduled to begin from 22nd January.

### Union Minister to inaugurate CGHS Wellness Centre in Nashik

- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pawar** will inaugurate **Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS Wellness Centre** in Nashik, Maharashtra
- After this, **Nashik will be the 4th city in Maharashtra** to have CGHS Wellness Centre, after **Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur**
- It will provide OPD Treatment including issue of medicines, indoor treatment at Govt and Empanelled Hospitals, cashless facility for treatment in empanelled centers for pensioners, etc.

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### PM Modi to lay foundation stone of 22 Developmental Projects in Manipur

- PM **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of **22 Developmental Projects** worth over Rs 4,800 crore in Imphal.
- He will also inaugurate 13 Projects worth around Rs 1,850 crore and lay the foundation stone of nine projects worth around two thousand 950 crore rupees.
- These projects relate to diverse sectors such as Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban Development, Housing, Skill Development, Art and Culture, among others.



## Maharashtra implements use of electric vehicles from January 2022

- **Govt of Maharashtra** has decided to implement the decision of Purchasing or Renting only Electric Vehicles for Govt/ Urban Local Bodies/ Corporations from 1st January 2022 instead of 1st April 2022
- As per **Maharashtra EV policy, 2021**, adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) contributes to a wide range of sustainability goals.
- It includes better air quality, reduced noise pollution, enhanced energy security, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

## Anupam Ray to become India's new ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray (1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer)** has been appointed as the **India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament**
- He is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- He will succeed **Pankaj Sharma**, who has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Mexico.
- **UN Conference on Disarmament** is a multilateral disarmament forum based at the **Palais des Nations in Geneva**.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Road renamed as 'Narendra Modi Marg' by Sikkim Government

- Governor of Sikkim **Ganga Prasad** has officially inaugurated Second road linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok has been christened as '**Narendra Modi Marg**'
- The older route is known as **Jawaharlal Nehru Road**
- Alternative double-lane road at 51 Kyongasala gram panchayat unit, spanning 19.51 km has been operational for almost a year now
- It has been constructed by **Border Roads Organization** and has reduced the distance between Gangtok and Tsomgo lake by 15 km

## Centre releases 830 crore to Odisha for Jal Jeevan Mission implementation

- Centre has released over Rs 830 crore to Odisha to expedite the implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission** in the state.
- Odisha has planned to become Har Ghar Jal State in 2024.
- Out of around 85 lakh rural households in the state, around 41% households have tap water supply in their homes.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** was announced on 15th August 2019, with the aim to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.

## IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches India Semiconductor Mission

- Information Technology Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**
- The schemes have been notified and uploaded on the IT website with dedicated portal
- Interested companies can tap Rs 76,000-crore incentives earmarked by Centre for development of semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India can begin applying for the same from 1st January



- **ISM** is a specialized and independent business division within Digital India Corporation

### Parliamentary Panel to examine women marriage age bill

- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill** was introduced in **Lok Sabha** during the winter session.
- It was referred to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee** on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.
- The bill seeks to increase the legal age of marriage of women from **18 to 21**.
- The parliamentary standing committee will be led by senior BJP leader **Vinay Sahasrabudde**.
- TMC MP **Sushmita Dev** is the only woman among the 31 members.

### Mumbai to host India's first water taxi service

- **Mumbai** is set to get a new transportation solution with the commissioning of state-of-the-art water taxi services.
- The services would be formally launched in January by PM Narendra Modi and the exact dates are being finalised.
- The project is a joint initiative of **Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT)**, City and **Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO)** and **Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB)**.
- **Infinity Harbour Services LLP** and **West Coast Marine** will be the two service operators.

### Cochin Shipyard hands over first electric boat to Kochi Water Metro

- The **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** handed over the first of the 23 battery-powered electric boats being constructed for the water metro project under the **Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL)**.
- This is the first of the 23 boats awarded for building to **Cochin Shipyard** under the **Kochi Water Metro project**.
- Five boats are under construction and will be handed over to **KMRL** in a couple of months by the **CSL**.
- The construction of water metro terminals is also progressing.

### Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science, Technology inaugurated

- **Raksha Mantri** has inaugurated **Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology** at Chandigarh University.
- He also launched **Scholarship Scheme**, worth Rs 10 crore, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three Services.
- It is established with the objective of training students in space science, satellite development and meet future challenges in space research
- It would be the Ground Control Station for the **Chandigarh University's Student Satellite**.

### G Asok Kumar takes over as new DG for National Mission for Clean Ganga

- **G Asok Kumar** (1991 batch IAS officer of Telangana Cadre) took over as the **new Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- He has held several important post like Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation and Director in Ministry of Power
- He has also served as **NMCG Executive Director Projects**



- **NMCG:** It was launched to reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of Ganga River, along with improvement in ecology, biodiversity

### France takes over European Union Presidency for Six Months 2022

- **France** takes over the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union** for the first time in 14 years with effect from **1st January 2022 till 30 June 2022**
- **Presidency of the Council (Council of Ministers)** organizes meetings, brokers compromise, submits conclusions.
- Each Member State of EU holds the presidency of Council of the European Union for six months on a rotational basis.
- It serves as the **co-legislator of the European Union**, along with **European Parliament**.

### Foundation stone for Heartfulness International Yoga Academy laid

- Union Ayush Minister, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has laid foundation stone for the **Heartfulness International Yoga Academy** for setting new benchmarks in yoga training at **Hyderabad**.
- It comprises Yoga halls that can accommodate 100 Yoga students in each hall, therapeutic Yoga rooms for consultation, one to one training spaces, etc
- It will have trainers from **India, Europe, Australia, Uzbekistan** and **US**.
- It is registered with **Yoga Certification Board** as a Leading yoga Institution.

### Union Education Minister launches NEAT 3.0 ed-tech solutions

- Union Education Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched **NEAT 3.0**, a single platform to provide best-developed ed-tech solutions, courses to students
- AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages was also launched
- It will help more than **12 lakhs socially and economically disadvantaged students** have received free ed-tech course coupons
- **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT):** initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions

### Prime Minister Hasina inaugurates Dhaka International Trade Fair

- Prime Minister of Bangladesh, **Sheikh Hasina** has inaugurated **26th annual Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)**
- She also declared the ICT products and services as the **'product of the year 2022'**
- It is a month-long trade fair for exploring new markets and diversify product basket.
- It is being organized by **Ministry of Commerce** and **Export Promotion Bureau** with the help of other agencies
- DITF has 227 stalls including 23 pavilions where traders from 11 countries are taking part



## Manuals and Newsletter of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre released

- Union Home Secretary has released three Manuals and Newsletter of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under Cyber and Information Security Division (CIS) in New Delhi.
- Manuals and newsletter released were:
  - **Cyber Hygiene for Cyber Space - Dos and Don'ts – Basic Manual**
  - **Cyber Hygiene for Cyber Space - Dos and Don'ts – Advanced Manual**
  - **Quarterly Newsletter 'CyberPravah' covers introduction to I4C, various activities of I4C, etc.**

## Climate Awareness Campaign and National Photography Competition

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** is organizing **Climate Change Awareness Campaign and National Photography Competition**
- Campaign will have Municipal Commissioners and key heads of urban local bodies and Smart City CEOs creating awareness about Urban Climate Change and Sustainability
- The competition will be open to all participants till 26th January 2022 on climate change
- Both the campaign and competition to sensitize the challenges posed by climate change.

## Hong Kong news portal 'Citizen News' announces to cease its operations

- Hong Kong online news portal titled '**Citizen News**' has announced to cease operations from January 4th to ensure everyone is safe in this time of crisis and its website will also shut down soon.
- The decision came just three days after another Hong Kong-based news portal '**Stand News**' shut down as national security police booked seven people who worked at or were linked to the news portal for allegedly publishing anti-China content, stirring up hatred against the government.

## Sri Lanka to go bankrupt by 2022 with record-high inflation

- **Sri Lanka** is reported to go **bankrupt by 2022** as the country is facing a deepening financial and humanitarian crisis due to record-high inflation levels, food prices rocket and its coffers run dry
- Meltdown faced by government, led by president **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**, is in part caused by Covid crisis and loss of tourism but is compounded by high government spending and tax cuts eroding state revenues, vast debt repayments to China.

## Govt announces suspension of Biometric Attendance for govt employees

- Union Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has announced the **suspension of Biometric Attendance for govt employees** with immediate effect due to rise in Covid cases.
- It will remain suspended till **31st January**.
- Apart from this, **physical attendance of Govt servants below the level of Under Secretary has been restricted to 50% of the actual strength** and rest of the 50% of the staff will work from home.



- DoPT has further ordered to follow staggered timing to avoid over crowding.

### Iran announces new space launch amid nuclear talks

- **Iran** has announced **new space launch**, in a move likely to irk Western powers amid reviving 2015 nuclear deal.
- Simorgh satellite launcher carried three research cargos into space.
- Iran announced successful test of its most powerful solid fuel satellite launcher **Zoljanah**, boasting that it can put a 220-kg payload into orbit
- Iran insists its space programme is for civilian and defence purposes only and does not breach the nuclear deal or any other international agreement.

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

- **Alka Mittal** has been appointed as the **interim chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** with effect from **January 1, 2022**, or until further orders.
- She is the **first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer**.
- She replaced **Subhash Kumar**, who retired on December 31.
- She has been appointed for a period of six months.
- She was also the first woman to join ONGC's board on November 27, 2018.
- ONGC's Headquarters: **New Delhi**.

### Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Deepak Kumar promoted as Executive Directors of RBI

- **Deepak Kumar** and **Ajay Kumar Choudhary** have been promoted as **new executive directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- Prior to this, Deepak Kumar was heading the Department of Information Technology of RBI, while Choudhary was Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision.
- As executive director, Deepak Kumar will look after Foreign Exchange Dept, Dept of Communication and Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.

### IRDAI sets new norms for surety insurance business and market

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has come out with guidelines, titled '**IRDAI (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2022**'
- **Aim:** to ensure orderly development of the surety insurance business and surety bonds market.
- It will come into effect from **April 1, 2022**.
- As per the new guidelines, surety contracts will include advance payment bond, bid bond, contract bonds, customs and court bond, performance bonds and retention money.





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

- **Apple Inc.** became 1st company with **stock-market value above \$3 trillion**, shattering yet another record
- Its share price has climbed steadily for years, leaving it up more than 200% since Covid lockdown in early 2020 and underlined centrality of technology for work, education, entertainment, etc
- Apple shared \$2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp, which is now worth \$2.5 trillion
- **Alphabet Inc, Amazon.com** and **Tesla Inc** have market values above **\$1 trillion**

## Airtel Payments Bank designated as scheduled bank by RBI

- **Airtel Payments Bank Ltd.** has been included in the **Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** which means it has been categorized as a Scheduled Bank.
- With this, bank can now pitch for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFP) and primary auctions and undertake both Central and State Government business participating in government-operated welfare schemes.
- MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: **Anubrata Biswas.**
- Headquarters of Airtel Payments Bank: **Delhi.**

## India's first index of cryptocurrencies 'IC15' launched

- Crypto Superapp, **CryptoWire** has launched India's first crypto index titled '**IC15**', which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies
- Crypto assets like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba inu will be monitored by this platform
- **CryptoWire's index governance committee** will maintain, monitor and administer the index
- Base value of the index is set at **10,000** and base date is **1 April 2018**

## Kerala CM unveils ₹13,265-crore compensation package for SilverLine

- Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** has unveiled **₹13,265-crore compensation package** that will provide up to four times the market value of land that would be acquired for **SilverLine semi-high speed railway project.**
- Total estimated cost for the project: **₹63,941 crores.**
- One-time incentive of ₹4.6 lakh or ₹1.6 lakh along with a house built under norms of LIFE Mission will also be provided additionally for those who stood to lose their homes.

## Sri Lanka Cabinet clears Trincomalee oil tank farm deal with India

- **Sri Lanka's Cabinet** has given nod for a new deal announced by Energy Minister to jointly develop the **Trincomalee oil tank farm** with India.
- Cabinet of Ministers also approved a proposal to allocate **24 oil tanks for Ceylon Petroleum Corporation** and to implement development project by Trinco Petroleum Terminal Pvt. Ltd.



- Ashok Leyland has won the bid for providing **500 new buses to Sri Lanka**, while Sri Lanka Police force will procure 750 jeeps from Mahindra and Mahindra

### Ayush Ministry makes available 'Ayush Aahaar' at its canteen in New Delhi

- **Ministry of Ayush** has made available '**Ayush Aahaar**' at its canteen at Ayush Bhawan in New Delhi.
- It started as a pilot project and includes **Vegetable Poha, Bhajani Vada, Gajar Ka Halwa** and **Kokum Drink**.
- **Ayush diet** made available in the canteen is beneficial for health and it is easily digestible.
- **Ayush Ministry in 2021** collaborated with various states and did some commendable work under **National Ayush Mission**.

### JC Chaudhry achieves 2022 Guinness World Record on Numerology

- India's top numerologists, **JC Chaudhry** has achieved **first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology** and the first world record of 2022
- He educated about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology from **USA, UK, Middle East and India**
- The initiative was organized by **Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd (CNPL)** and **Indian Institute of Numerology** to create awareness regarding numerology, which was prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt and India

### Mithali Raj to lead India's 15-member squad at World Cup 2022

- **Mithali Raj** has been selected to lead **India's 15-member squad at Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**.
- India's 15-member squad for ICC Women's World Cup 2022 has been announced by **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, which will be played between March 4 and April 3 in New Zealand.
- **Harmanpreett Kaur** will be deputy lead at the World Cup.
- Among the notable absentees from squad are fast bowler Shikha Pandey and in-form batter Jemimah Rodrigues.

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

- Smart Cities Mission has launched '**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**' program.
- It is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Institute of Urban Affairs** 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 Smart Cities Mission.

### Union Minister launched theme of National Science Day 2022

- Science and Technology Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has launched the **theme of National Science Day 2022**.
- Theme of National Science Day 2022: **Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future**.
- **National Science Day** is observed every year on **28th February** to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.





- Science integration is based on four pillars, all of which work together with all science ministries for problem-solving theme-based approaches, technology, etc.

### Logo and Mascot of National Youth Festival 2022 in Puducherry unveiled

- Union Minister, **Anurag Thakur** and Lt. Governor of Puducherry, **Tamilisai Soundararajan** has unveiled **Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival** to be held in Puducherry from **12<sup>th</sup> to 16th January 2022**.
- He also unveiled the tagline of National Youth Festival, **Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva** meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth.
- **National Youth Festival** is organized by **Government of India** every year in collaboration with one of the States

### Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi sets a record of 19000 flying hours

- **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)** sets a new record of **19000 flying hours in 2021** as against an average yearly flying output of 15000 per year during the previous five years while it was 11641 hours in 2020.
- During concurrent period, 66 cadets have graduated as against 43 during the previous year. The achievement becomes more significant when it is done with a reduced fleet strength of 18 aircraft as against 24 during the previous years.

## National Affairs

### Govt launches 6 brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product'

- Union Minister **Pashupati Kumar Paras** has launched six brands developed as part of '**One District-One Product**' approach under **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM-FMFPEs)** in New Delhi
- **Six products:** Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.
- **PM-FMFPEs:** centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in unorganized segment

### Odisha's Ganjam district is now free of child marriages

- **Odisha's Ganjam district** was declared child marriage-free with effect from **January 3, 2022**, after collecting detailed information about all weddings that took place in 2020 and 2021
- Ganjam district administration has increased the reward for people informing about the occurrence of child marriage to **Rs 50,000 from Rs 5,000**
- **Ganjam:** 1st district in the state that has been declared child marriage-free
- The district has been known to be severely affected by child marriages



## Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO

- Veteran Chinese diplomat, **Zhang Ming** has taken over as **Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** with effect from 1st Jan 2021 for three years
- He succeeded **Vladimir Norov**, former diplomat from Uzbekistan.
- Before joining SCO, he served as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union.
- SCO comprises: **India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**
- India took presidency of SCO for 2022-2023
- HQs: **Beijing, China**

## Jitendra Singh to inaugurate 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh will inaugurate **24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad**
- Organized by: **Dept of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** in association with **Govt of Telangana**
- Theme: **India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World**
- It will be presented under 6 categories to 26 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State, District levels and Academic-Research Institutions and PSU

## India's Biggest Skill Competition 'IndiaSkills 2021' commenced

- National competition of **IndiaSkills 2021** commenced in New Delhi
- Organized by: **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**
- It will witness participants from 26 states/ union territories competing in more than 50 skills such as car painting, patisserie and confectionery, welding, cyber security, among others.
- It will be held at multiple locations, including **Pragati Maidan**, from **7 to 9 Jan** under Covid-19 protocols mandated by local authorities and the state government.

## UP govt announces 50% rebate in electricity bills for private tube wells

- Uttar Pradesh CM **Yogi Adityanath** has announced **50% rebate in power bills of private tube wells** used by farmers in the state with effect from January 2022
- It covers the metered, unmetered, energy efficient and private tube wells of the farmers in rural areas and metered tube wells in urban areas.
- It will benefit around **13 lakh farmers of the state directly**.
- According to the proposed new rates, now consumers in rural areas will have to pay Re 1 per unit.



## ICAR-SBI launches tribal intervention project in Anamalai Tiger Reserve

- **ICAR–Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI), Coimbatore** in collaboration with **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** has conducted campaign on ‘**knowledge empowerment of tribals**’ and launched its **Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) project at Attakatti**
- Interventions by Institute for implementing STC, was finalized based on systematic need assessment by conduct of Focus groups among two tribes ‘**Malasar**’ and ‘**Malai malasar**’ tribes belonging to **Nagaroothu, Old Sarkarpathy, Chinnarpathy**

## Intra-State Transmission System of Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the scheme on **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)**
- It will add **10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines** and **27,500 MVA transformation capacity of substations**
- It will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of 20 GW of Renewable Energy power projects in **Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, TN, UP**
- Total estimated cost: **Rs. 12,031.33 crores**

## PhonePe crosses 350 m registered users mark

- Digital payments platform **PhonePe** has crossed 350 million lifetime registered users.
- The platform’s registered user base has grown 28% from **273 million** in January to **350 million** in **December 2021**.
- PhonePe also reported 150 million monthly active users (MAU) and an annualised total payment value (TPV) of \$651 billion in December.
- PhonePe is among the leading UPI platforms with over **45 per cent market share** in terms of the volume of transactions processed in December.

## Elections in five states from Feb 10-March 7

- **Election Commission** announced that the assembly elections in **UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa** will be held between February 10 and March 7 in seven phases.
- The counting of votes will be held on March 10.
- Uttar Pradesh to go to poll in 7 phases from Feb 10-March 7; Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa to vote on February 14 and Manipur to vote on Feb 27 and March 3.
- The **Model Code of Conduct** has come into effect in the five states with the announcement of elections.

## Sidney Poitier, first black man to win Oscar for best actor, passes away

- Bahamian-American Actor, **Sidney Poitier (94)**, the first black winner of the **Best Actor Oscar** for his role in **Lilies Of The Field**’ in 1963, passed away.
- Apart from his successful acting career, Sidney was also a tireless civil rights activist.



- He was awarded the **US Presidential Medal** of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work.
- A dual citizen of the **US** and the **Bahamas**, he served from 1997-2007 as **Bahamian Ambassador to Japan**.

### J&K Govt signs MoU with Century Financial for 100 million investment

- **Jammu & Kashmir** govt has signed a MoU with UAE's pioneering financial services company, **Century Financial** that will invest **100 million** dollars in the UT.
- Investment will cover 3 hotels and one commercial cum residential complex in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The owner of **Century Financial** Sh. **Bal Krishen** is originally a native of the Doda district of Jammu and has been a forerunner in supporting his home region.

