

Daily Current Affairs 2 January 2024



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Important News: International

Australian batter David Warner announces retirement

Why in News:

- Australian batter David Warner announced his retirement from ODIs just before playing in his farewell Test match against Pakistan starting January 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Key Points:

- Australian batter David Warner has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- The 2 time ODI World Cup Winner had previously announced that he would be ending his Test career after Australia's upcoming Test against Pakistan in Sydney.
- However, the opener has said that he will keep himself available for selection in the Champions Trophy in 2025.
- Warner is Australia's sixth-highest run scorer in the ODI format and is only second to former captain Ricky Ponting's tally for most Centuries for Australia in ODIs.

Source: News on AIR



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Important News: National

2 New Amrit Bharat, 6 Vande Bharat Trains flagged off from Ayodhya

Why in News:

- PM Modi flagged off eight new trains, out of which six are Vande Bharat Express and two are Amrit Bharat trains.

Key Points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Ayodhya and launched multiple mega-projects for the country, including eight new trains.
- Out of these eight trains, six were Vande Bharat Express and two were Amrit Bharat trains.
- Amrit Bharat trains will be non-air conditioned with second-class unreserved coaches and sleeper coaches.
- These trains will run on a push-pull technology with a 130 kmph speed potential.
- The Vande Bharat Express is an AC chair car train, being self-propelled with a speed potential of 160 kmph.
- **Vande Bharat Express train routes**
 - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express
 - Amritsar - Delhi Junction Vande Bharat Express
 - Coimbatore - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
 - Jalna - Mumbai (CSMT) Vande Bharat Express
 - Ayodhya - Anand Vihar Terminal Delhi Vande Bharat Express
 - Mangaluru - Madgaon Goa Vande Bharat Express
- **Amrit Bharat Express train routes**
 - Darbhanga to Anand Vihar Terminal in Delhi via Ayodhya Amrit Bharat Express
 - Malda Town to Bengaluru (Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal) Amrit Bharat Express

Source: Hindustan Times



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Gujarat To Unveil India's First Submarine Tourism In Dwarka

Why in News:

- The tourism facility is likely to be operationalized before Diwali 2024.

Key Points:

- The Gujarat government is set to introduce India's first submarine tourism.
- It has joined hands with the Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) in a project to explore the marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a small island off the coast of Dwarka city, which has a mythological significance in the Hindu religion.
- The tourism facility is likely to be operationalized before Diwali 2024.
- It will enable tourists to dive 100 metres below the sea in a submarine to experience the marine life around the island.
- The place is believed to have a submerged city, which was created by Lord Krishna, according to mythological texts.

Source: Hindustan Times

ULFA Peace Accord Marks Historic Day for Assam

Why in News:

- The pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) recently signed a peace accord with the governments at the Centre and state, agreeing to shun violence, disband the organization, and join the democratic process.

Key Points:

- After several years of ceasefire with the Union and state governments, the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to formally shun violence and disband the outfit.
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi on Friday, December 29, by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the head of this faction of the ULFA, Arabinda Rajkhowa in the presence of Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.
- As per the agreement, 97 of the state's 126 assembly seats would be 'reserved' for indigenous people.



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- An investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, staggered through years, is also a Union government's promise under the agreement, besides declaring Assam's annual floods as a 'national priority'.
- As per the agreement, the government is likely to form a committee soon to look into reservations for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at the panchayat level; also relook at the updated National Register of Citizens (NRCs) and make voter enumeration process stricter.

Source: The Wire

Guinness world record of performing mass Surya Namaskar

Why in News:

- Gujarat has set a Guinness record for performing mass Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 places in the state on the first day of the new year.

Key Points:

- On the morning of January 1, 2024, more than 4,000 participants participated in the Surya Namaskar yoga sequence, spanning 108 locations and covering 51 different categories. This collective effort strengthened the state's unwavering commitment towards welfare and its rich cultural heritage.
- The record-breaking event took place against the backdrop of the splendid Modhera Sun Temple, witnessing enthusiastic participation from a wide spectrum of individuals, including families, students, dedicated yoga practitioners, and esteemed senior citizens.
- The function also witnessed the felicitation of the winners of the state-level Mega Surya Namaskar Competition. This month-long competition was organized for the first time in the state by the Gujarat State Yog Board and the state government to popularise Surya Namaskar practice among people.

Source: DD News



ISRO begins new year with successful launch of X-ray Polarimeter Satellite

Why in News:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) began the new year with the successful launch of its first X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), which will study X-ray polarisation and its cosmic sources such as black holes and neutron stars.

Key Points:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C58.
- The satellite was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Ten other scientific payloads were also launched along with XPoSat. The 10 other payloads are from TakeMe2Space, LBS Institute Technology for Women, K J Somaiya Institute of Technology, Inspecity Space Labs Private Ltd, Dhruva Space Private Ltd, Bellatrix Aerospace Private Ltd (two payloads) and three payloads from the ISRO.
- This mission marks India's first dedicated scientific endeavour to study the polarisation of cosmic X-rays from celestial sources.
- Following the launch of XPoSat, India has become the second country in the world after the United States to send a specialised astronomy observatory to study black holes and neutron stars in our galaxy.
- The mission life of the primary payload XPoSat is about five years. ISRO Chief S Somanath said, XPoSat has been successfully ed into a 650 km Low Earth Orbit as intended.

Source: News on AIR



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Important News: Defence

Defence Secretary Opens HAL's Aero Engine R&D Facility

Why in News:

- The Defence Secretary inaugurated a new design & test facility at HAL's Aero Engine Research & Development Centre in Bengaluru.

Key Points:

- Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new design and test facility at the Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru, Karnataka on December 29, 2023.
- The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines including two strategic engines - Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) of 25 kN thrust for powering trainers, UAV's, twin engine small fighter aircraft or regional jets and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE) of 1200 kN thrust for powering light and medium weight helicopters (3.5 to 6.5 tonnes in single/ twin engine configuration).
- The new state-of-the-art facility, spanning over 10,000 sq. meters, houses special machines, advanced setups leveraging on computational tools, in-house fabrication facility and two test beds for testing HTFE-25 and one testbed each for testing HTSE-1200 and upcoming JV engine for IMRH to be co-developed by Safran, France and HAL.

Source: PIB



Paramilitary Forces Embrace 'Sandes App' for Secure Official Commute

Why in News:

- Para-Military forces will completely switch to 'Sandes App' for all official communication and sharing of documents from the first week of January.

Key Points:

- Paramilitary troops are slated to shift to the 'Sandes App' for all official communication and document exchange in the new year, in a strategic move aimed at improving data security and favoring indigenous technology.
- This trend emphasizes the growing necessity of sensitive information protection and secure communications systems inside security companies.
- The choice to utilize the 'Sandes App' was influenced by the widespread use of WhatsApp for internal communication among paramilitary forces. While WhatsApp was a popular choice, the high priority placed on data security forced a shift to a platform conceived and developed in India. The NIC's 'Sandes App,' developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), appears as a solid option.
- The 'Sandes' program is an indigenous instant messaging platform built on open source that is geared to suit the severe security requirements of government enterprises. Its main characteristics are as follows-
- **End-to-end encryption:** ensuring secure and private message communications.
- **Encrypted Backup:** Protecting data with an additional layer of encryption during backup processes.
- **Encrypted OTP Service:** Providing secure one-time password services for authentication.
- **Data Privacy:** The app does not share data with third parties and follows the privacy and data policies governed by the Government of India.
- 'Sandes' application is an open source-based indigenous instant messaging platform developed by NIC, Ministry of Electronics and Information



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Technology, Government of India to facilitate instant messaging communication in Government organisations.

- Its privacy and data policy is governed by the rules and regulations of the Government of India. Sandes can be integrated with other Government communications systems for sending encrypted messages without any cost.
- Currently, Sandes is integrated with NIC email, DigiLocker and e-office. At present, full features of the Sandes app are available only to government-verified users.
- Employees of Government organisations need to contact the Nodal officer of their Ministry/ Department for verification.

Source: The Times of India

