

Weekly Current Affairs

22-28 January, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.Punjab government to launch ‘Schools of Eminence’ project

- The Punjab government will launch its first major education project, ‘Schools of Eminence’ on 21st January 2023 at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali. Under the project, the Punjab government will upgrade the existing government schools into the School of Eminence for the students of classes 9 to 12.
- Under phase 1, the government plans to upgrade nearly 110 government schools as ‘Schools of Eminence’. The Punjab govt had set aside a fund of Rs 200 crore for this project. This project is inspired by the Delhi model of the School of specialized excellence which conducts the admissions of Class 9 level.

2.Modi govt plans to bring 75% of all Indians under Ayushman Bharat

- The government is planning to integrate CGHS with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). This is aimed at creating digital health identification of CGHS beneficiaries and storing their digital health records, thus ensuring quick treatment to the needy. The PM-JAY or Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme currently covers the poorest 40%, but the Modi govt plans to merge all state & central schemes under it.
- Under this process, beneficiaries’ CGHS numbers will be mapped with ABHA numbers and digital linking of all health will be recorded.

3.PM Modi launches projects worth Rs 38,000 cr, inaugurates two Metro rail lines:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects in Mumbai. These projects, which are worth more than Rs. 38,000 crores, belong to different sectors and aim to develop infrastructure, ease urban travel, and strengthen healthcare in the state.
- During his visit, PM Modi launched two new Mumbai Metro Rail Lines 2A and 7 which have been developed at a cost of around Rs. 12,600 crores. The Prime Minister not just did inaugurated the metro lines, but also rode the newly launched metro. The two newly-inaugurated metro lines comprise a 35 km-long elevated corridor stretching from Andheri to Dahisar in suburban Mumbai.

4.Centre approves ‘Apple Cluster’ for Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) approved an “Apple Cluster” for Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district under the Cluster Development Programme. This was announced during a daylong conference on the ‘India Cold Chain Conclave’. The Conclave was organized by the Ministry in conjunction with the D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) & National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Shopian apple cluster envisages the development of Shopian apple on 3 verticals including pre-production-production, post-harvest management, value addition and logistics, marketing, and branding to make it globally competitive.

5. Assam's Charaideo Maidam nominated for UNESCO world heritage tag

- Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that Charaideo Moidams (pyramids) is India's nomination for UNESCO's world heritage site status in the cultural category for 2023-24.
- Out of 52 sites Assam's site is selected by the government of India. Sarma on Saturday in Guwahati said, “The Prime minister on Saturday informed me that Assam’s site is India's entry for the UNESCO world heritage.”

6. Himachal targets to be first green energy state by 2025

- The Himachal Pradesh government intends to make the state as the first Green Energy State by the end of 2025 by harnessing hydro, hydrogen and solar energy and switching to green products.
- The state government would also invest in solar plants and will install 500 MW solar projects during the year 2023-24, out of this, 200 MW would be installed by HPPCL for which land has been identified for 70 MW capacity and the rest of the sites will be finalized soon.

7. J&K govt to host its maiden SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is going to host its maiden SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14 wherein artisans and women self help groups from across the country will showcase their crafts, handcrafts, handloom and foods.
- The fair is expected to witness the participation of women Self Help Groups from around 15 States and UTs across the country to sell their self made products. The fair will be the first of its kind in the UT. The eleven-day exhibition is going to witness several cultural events, aids and plays on several government schemes and campaigns.

8. Amit Shah awards Aska police station as number One in the country

- Union home minister Amit Shah awarded Aska police station in Odisha's Ganjam district as the number one police station in the country in the annual ranking of police stations for 2022.
- The award was given during the DGsP/IGsP Conference – 2022 which began in National Agriculture Science Complex, New Delhi on Friday. Prashanta Kumar Sahoo, the inspector in-charge of Aska police station received the prestigious award with the certificate of appreciation from Shah.

9. North India's largest floating solar power plant opens in Sector 39 in Chandigarh, Punjab

- North India's largest floating solar power plant of 2000kWp at waterworks, Sector 39, and a 500kWp floating solar project with fountains at Dhanas lake were inaugurated by UT administrator Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Sector 39 solar plant has been installed at Rs.11.70 crore, including 10 years operation and maintenance and the 500kWp solar plant with fountains at Dhanas lake at Rs 3.34 crore, including 10 years O&M. The projects have been designed and executed by Crest (Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society), UT, and will generate a minimum of 35 lakh Units(kWh) of solar energy per year with 20% module efficiency.

10. Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day with full enthusiasm across state

- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 53rd Statehood Day with full enthusiasm across the state on Wednesday (January 25). It was on this day in 1971 that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.
- The state-level function of Full Statehood Day will be held at Hamirpur district, where Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will unfurl the national flag and take a salute from the march past presented by various contingents.

11. India among top 3 nations in expanding organic farming in 2020

- India is reported to have become one of the top countries in the world that have the largest area of land reserved for organic farming.
- Based on reports by IFOAM -Organics International data the total increase in lands reserved for organic farming in India has reached 3,59,000 hectares, which has made the nation one of the top countries in the world with the most amount of area reserved for organic farming.

12. Low Carbon Cruise on Mahabahu Brahmaputra' flagged off by Union Petroleum Minister

- In a run-up to India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023) to be held in Bengaluru from 6-8 Feb 2023, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India Shri Hardeep S. Puri today ceremonially inaugurated the demo-run of Inland Water Vessel powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15). Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas , Labour and Employment , Government of India, Shri Rameswar Teli was also present on the occasion.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.UNESCO dedicates this year's International Day of Education to Afghan girls and women

- UNESCO has decided to dedicate the International Day of Education on the 24th of January, 2024 to Afghan girls and women.
- Director general Audrey Azoulay said that no country in the world should bar women and girls from receiving an education and it is a universal human right that must be respected. According to UNESCO, currently, around 80 per cent of school-aged Afghan girls and young women are out of school under the Taliban rule, as they denied them access to secondary schools and universities.

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2.Brazil and Argentina to begin preparations for common currency

- Brazil and Argentina will announce that they are starting preparatory work on a common currency, the Financial Times .
- The plan, set to be discussed at a summit in Buenos Aires this week, will focus on how a new currency which Brazil suggests calling the "sur" (south) could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the US dollar, FT reported citing officials. Politicians from both countries have discussed the idea already in 2019, but met with pushback from Brazil's central bank at the time.

3.Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi To Be Chief Guest on Republic Day 2023

- President of Egypt Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2023. This is the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest on our Republic Day.
- Also, this is the 1st first time India has invited a foreign dignitary to the event after the gap of the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2020, Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who won the last elections to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in October, was the chief guest. The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.

4. Makkah got the world's longest calligraphic mural installed on road leading to Great mosque.

- The world's longest calligraphic mural has been installed on the road leading to Makkah's Grand Mosque, in the latest beautification of the holy city. The 75-meter mural, designed by artist Amal Felemban, joins a host of sculptures and installations already adorning Makkah in a project run by local authorities to boost its visual appeal and depict Saudi heritage and culture for pilgrims.
- The Municipality of Makkah organizes competitions for painting murals and drawing Arabic calligraphy, which it describes as one of the most significant written and visual arts which is associated with the Holy Quran.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1. Netflix founder Reed Hastings steps down as co-CEO

- Netflix founder and co-CEO Reed Hastings announced Thursday that he would step down after more than two decades at the company. While news of his departure comes as a shock, Hastings noted that Netflix has planned its next era of leadership "for many years" in the announcement, which was shared on the company's blog.
- In 2020, Netflix named Ted Sarandos, who has long led content efforts at the company, as co-CEO alongside Hastings. At the time, Netflix characterized the change as formalizing the way that the company was already operating.

2. UNGA confirms Ms. Inger Andersen for a second term as UNEP Executive Director

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) confirmed Inger Andersen of Denmark for a second term as executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- She will serve as a UNEP executive director for a second four-year term from June 2023 to June 2027. Andersen is currently serving her initial four-year term from 2019 to 2023.

3.Mr. Nick Walker was appointed as the new CEO of Vedanta's Cairn Oil & Gas

- Vedanta's Cairn Oil & Gas, India's largest private oil and gas exploration and production company, has appointed Nick Walker as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will be the 6th CEO of the company since mining billionaire Anil Agarwal-led group bought the company from Scottish explorer Cairn Energy plc, now known as Capricorn Energy plc, in 2011.
- Cairn Oil & Gas is committed to increasing India's domestic crude oil and gas production with a vision to contribute 50% of India's production and add reserves and resources.

4.Senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as new director general of DGCA

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt as the next director general of Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), a govt release said. Dutt's appointment will be in the 'rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India,' and he will take the charge 'upon superannuation of Arun Kumar, IAS on 28.02.2023 by keeping the Recruitment Rules of the post in abeyance,' the release further said.
- Dutt is presently serving as the chairman and managing director of Air India Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL). He will take over as the head of the aviation regulator on February 28. Dutt was the last government-appointed chairman and managing director of Air India. Dutt was given the Air India CMD charge in January 2022.

5.Jeff Zients to be Biden's next chief of staff

- U.S. President Joe Biden will name former COVID policy coordinator Jeff Zients as his next chief of staff, a source familiar with the matter, refreshing a key role as Biden readies a likely re-election bid and faces a probe of his handling of classified documents.
- Ron Klain, Biden's current chief of staff, plans to leave his post in the coming weeks, sources familiar with the matter have told Reuters. He is expected to stay in the role after his successor starts to ease the transition.

6.Nykaa appoints Mr. P. Ganesh as chief financial officer

- Nykaa's parent firm, FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd., has appointed Mr. P Ganesh as the chief financial officer (CFO) from Feb. 3, 2023.
- To strengthen and boost the company's financial operations and key long-term business strategies. Ganesh is a successor of Mr. Arvind Agarwal who resigned from his post of CFO at Nykaa in November 2022.

7.Tata Trusts names Siddharth Sharma as CEO, ropes in Aparna Uppaluri as its first COO

- Tata Trusts, one of India's oldest public charitable foundations, has appointed Siddharth Sharma and Aparna Uppaluri as its CEO and COO, respectively.
- Sharma (54), the chief sustainability officer at Tata Sons, will succeed N Srinath, who stepped down from the CEO's post last year following his retirement. Tata Trusts will create the COO post for the first time to accommodate Uppaluri (48), who is currently the programme director for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka at the Ford Foundation.

8.RBI approves appointment of Mr. Prabdev Singh as India CEO of JP Morgan Chase

- JPMorgan Chase & Co. has received approval from India's central bank (Reserve Bank of India) to name Prabdev Singh as the lender's chief executive officer (CEO) in the country for a period of a three-year.
- Mr. Singh had been JPMorgan's interim CEO since November 2022 replacing Mr. Madhav Kalyan who in October 2022 was named head of payments for Asia Pacific. Before joining JPMorgan, he was a trained engineer and had worked for a decade at HSBC Holdings Plc.

BANKING

1.SBI General Insurance to promote road safety as part of its CSR

- SBI General Insurance, a leading general insurance company in India, has partnered with Doers NGO to support the Himachal Pradesh police in reducing the number of road accidents.
- As part of its CSR program, SBI General has provided a well-equipped ambulance for immediate medical care for road accident victims in the Mandi district within the crucial "Golden Hour".

2.South Indian Bank Partners with SAIL for finance dealers

- South Indian Bank (SIB) and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide financial assistance to the dealers of SAIL across India. The MoU was exchanged between Praveen Joy (Head-Transaction Banking Group) of South Indian Bank and Surendra Kumar Sharma, (CGM- Finance & Accounts) of SAIL.
- The tie-up allows us to offer SAIL's dealers financial assistance for working capital, especially steel procurement. With a network of 928 branches, the bank will be able to serve the Micro Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) and corporate customers of SAIL located in different geographies.

3.LIC launches guaranteed return life insurance plan – Jeevan Azad

- The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has launched Jeevan Azad (Plan No. 868), aimed at individual savings and life insurance.
- LIC Jeevan Azad is a limited-period payment endowment plan that provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term. The plan addresses the liquidity needed through a loan facility. It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount to the surviving life assured on the date of maturity.

4.AU Bank launches another industry first innovative Credit Card offering – SwipeUp platform

- AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest Small Finance Bank, announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind platform in the credit card industry – the SwipeUp platform. With this platform, AU Bank will provide an opportunity to other bank Credit Cardholders to upgrade their card to one of AU Credit Cards.
- The Bank has provided a platform to compare existing Credit Cards of customers within 2-3 seconds. Thereafter, within minutes they can upgrade credit limit, cashback, reward points with a quick end-to-end digital process so that the Card can match their current lifestyle.

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5.World Economic Forum signs pact with Indonesia for Ocean conservation

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) signed a new partnership with the Indonesian government to support its ambitions to scale blue carbon restoration and ocean conservation efforts at the Annual Meeting 2023.
- The partnership is the first of a series being initiated by the Forum's Ocean Action Agenda to help meet the rapidly increasing demand for high-quality blue carbon credits and projects around the world and connect global blue carbon actors from various sectors.

6.Reserve Bank of India extends time for Bank Locker Renewal Agreements till Dec 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the time for banks to renew their customer agreements for locker facilities to December 31, 2023, due to compliance delays. The previous deadline was January 1, 2023, communicated through a circular on August 18, 2021.
- The deadline has been extended to December 31, 2023, for renewals in a phased manner, with 50% completed by June 30, 2023, and 75% by September 30, 2023. To facilitate the execution of the revised agreements, the banks have been advised to make arrangements, like ensuring the availability of stamp papers, etc.

7. Bombay High Court quashes write-off of YES Bank's additional AT1 bonds

- The Bombay High Court has declared the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) order to write off 8,300 crores of Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds of YES Bank to ineligible investors. The order was passed by justice SV Gangapurwala and justice SM Modakin a batch of petitions. The Bombay HC has given YES Bank 6 weeks for the implementation of this order.
- Bondholders, including financial institutions like 63 moons technologies ltd and Axis Trustee Services Ltd, Yes Bank AT-1 Bond Holders Association, and a few retail individual investors, have filed these petitions.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. PhonePe raises \$350 mn from General Atlantic, Now bigger than Swiggy, Paytm

- Payments and financial services unicorn PhonePe has raised \$350 million in funding from General Atlantic — a leading global growth equity firm — at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion, making the Walmart-owned start-up the most-valued financial technology (fintech) player in India.
- The investment is the first tranche of the company's latest fundraise that could see marquee global and Indian investors put in up to \$1 billion in the fintech firm.
- With this funding round, the home-grown digital payments start-up has more than doubled its valuation — from \$5.5 billion in 2020. With a \$12-billion valuation, it has joined the decacorn club. PhonePe has managed to raise late-stage funding amid a funding winter.

2. Indian Air Force to hold Exercise Pralay along Line of Actual Control in northeast amid standoff with China

- The Indian Air Force will carry out Exercise Pralay involving all its major air bases in the northeast including the recently moved drone squadrons in the northeast amid the ongoing standoff with China.
- The exercise planned to be held in the next few days also comes at a time when the Indian Air Force has deployed and activated the S-400 air defence

squadron in the area which can take on any enemy aircraft or missile from a distance of up to 400 km.

3.India's 1st intranasal Covid vaccine to be launched on Republic Day 2023

- Homegrown vaccine maker Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) will launch its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC (also known as BBV154), the first of its kind in India, on Republic Day January 26, 2023.
- This was announced by the chairman and managing director of Bharat Biotech, Krishna Ella while participating in the 'Face-to-Face with New Frontiers in Science' segment of the IISF, organized at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT). Also, a homegrown vaccine for the lumpy skin disease in cattle, Lumpi-ProVacInd, is likely to be launched next month.

4.iPhone Maker Apple Becomes First Company To Export Phones Worth \$1 Billion In A Month

- iPhone maker Apple has become the first company from India to export smartphones worth \$1 billion (8,100 crores) in a single month, meeting the milestone in December 2022. December was also a record month for the industry with mobile phone exports of over 10,000 crore
- Last year, tech giant Apple became the world's first company to hit a \$3 trillion market capitalization. Apple and Samsung have been the leading players in exporting mobile phones from India.

5.Indian Navy conducts 6-day Mega exercise AMPHEX 2023 in Andhra Pradesh

- The Indian Navy conducted a six-day-long mega military exercise – AMPHEX 2023 along with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh (AP). It was the largest biennial tri-services amphibious exercise. AMPHEX-21 was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands from 21-25 January 2021.
- AMPHEX 2023 included complex activities in all domains that demonstrated and validated the high level of preparedness and excellent coordination between the three Services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations.

6.Indian Navy's flagship maritime exercise TROPEX 2023 held in the Indian Ocean

- A maritime exercise called TROPEX is being conducted by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean region. TROPEX-2023 is being organised over a period of three months from January to March. The TROPEX exercise is held once every two years.

- Apart from the Indian Navy the exercise will involve their participation with assets from the Indian Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. The aim of the exercise is to test the combat readiness of the Navy and safeguard national interests in the maritime domain and promote stability and peace in the Indian Ocean region.

7. Indian Army participates Monastic festival of Monpa tribe of Tawang at Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh

- The three-day Torgya festival, a Monastic festival of the Monpa tribe was celebrated at the Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district.
- The festival starts on the twenty-eighth day of the eleventh lunar month. Torgya festival is celebrated by the Monpa tribe of the Tawang Monastery to pay homage to Lama Tsongkhapa to chase away evil spirits that usher in diseases, misfortunes, and natural calamities. The Indian Army participated in the event at the gracious invitation of Gyalsi Rinpoche of Tawang Monastery.

AWARDS

1. Nepalese ophthalmologist Dr. Sanduk Ruit wins Bahrain's ISA Award for Service to Humanity

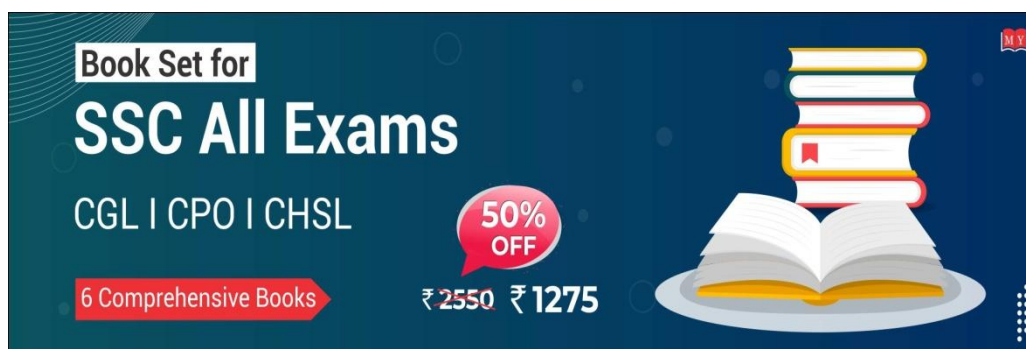
- Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder Dr. Sanduk Ruit has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award in Bahrain. The award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a certificate of merit, and a gold medal. Ruit is the pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. He made modern eye care affordable and accessible to countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Ruit has trained more than 650 doctors, teaching them to cure preventable blindness.

2. PM Modi to name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra awardees

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will name 21 unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees. The Prime Minister will also unveil the National Memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep. PM Modi will participate in the event via video conferencing at 11 am.
- The largest unnamed island will be named after the Param Vir Chakra awardee, the second after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee and so on. The renaming comes as the government aims to give an everlasting tribute to national heroes.

3.Hindustani singer Prabha Atre honored with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award

- Hindustani singer Padma Vibhushan Dr. Prabha Atre was on Sunday honored with the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- The Chief Minister honored Dr. Atre at a function at Ram Ganesh Gadkari Rangayatan in Thane.Mr. Shinde presented a citation and 1 lakh to Dr. Atre at the event, during which a symphony of 90 flute players was performed to mark his 90th birthday.



SPORTS

1.India Open Badminton: Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final

- In India Open Badminton Championship, Korean sensation An Seyoung wins Women's singles final today at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. In finals, An Seyoung beat World No.1 Japanese Akane Yamaguchi.
- In men's singles final, world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark takes on Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn today in New Delhi. The match will begin at 0240 PM Indian time.

2.Adani bags Ahmedabad team for Rs 1,289 crore

- Jay Shah, the secretary of the BCCI, has stated that the winning bids were Rs. 4,669.99 crore (USD 572.78 million approx). The owners of men's IPL teams Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, as well as the Adani Group and Capri Global, have won bids to own the five women's IPL teams at the auction ahead of the inaugural edition to be played in March this year.
- The teams will be headquartered in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow, respectively, and the competition will be called as the Women's Premier League (WPL).The winners were identified after opening sealed bids.

OBITUARIES

1.Jnanpith winning Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan passed away

- Renowned Assamese poet and Jnanpith winner Nilamani Phookan passed away at Guwahati, Assam at the age of 89. Phookan was born in Dergaon in the Golaghat district, of Assam.
- He started his career as a lecturer at Arya Vidyapeeth College in Guwahati in 1964, where he worked until his retirement in 1992. In 1981 he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in Assamese for his poetry collection, Kavita (Kobita). He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1990 for Literature & Education.

2.Pioneer of modern architect known for designing IIM Banglore, passes away

- A Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan recipient, Doshi's illustrious career spanned over 70 years and the architect is renowned for completing over 100 projects including notable public buildings.
- The Pritzker prize winning architect had previously assisted Estonian-American Louis Kahn on the design of IIM Ahmedabad and then designed the renowned school of architecture at Ahmedabad (later renamed as CEPT). In 1973, he was commissioned to design the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in 1973 which was completed by 1983. He later delegated the IIM Bangalore and Udaipur projects.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti is celebrated on 23rd January

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti 2023 is observed on the 23rd of January 2023. In Cuttack, Orissa/Odisha, on January 23, 1897, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born. Janakinath Bose and Prabhavati Dutt were his parents.
- With the motto "Delhi Chalo," Netaji organized and oversaw a 5,000-man army known as the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) in Southeast Asia during World War II in 1942. To win over the people in his native Bengal, he also started a new political party called "the Forward Bloc."
- To honor Netaji's sacrifice and enormous contribution to the Indian independence cause, this event was given the name Parakram Diwas (or Parakram Divas), which means "Day of Courage" or "Day of Valor."

2.National Girl Child Day is celebrated on 24th January

- National Girl Child Day is celebrated on 24 January in India to spread awareness about the rights of girls and to highlight the inequalities that they face in their lives. Let us have a look at the history and significance of National Girl Child Day.
- The objective behind celebrating National Girl Child Day is to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India. As we know in India, gender inequality is one of the major issues that is needed to be focused on and it exists in several areas including legal rights, education, medical care, marriage, etc. Female foeticide is another major issue that further affects the demographic problems in India.
- **Theme:** "Digital Generation, Our Generation"

3. Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away

- Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora passed away at the age of 61 in New Delhi, India.
- Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) in December 1981. He served as the former Vice Chief of the Air Staff from 1 October 2019 till 30 June 2021. In his career of over 38 years, he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2011 and the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in January 2020.

4. 13th National Voters' Day (NVD) to be celebrated on 25th January 2023

- Election Commission of India is celebrating 13th National Voters' Day on 25th January 2023. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the national function being organized in New Delhi by the Election Commission of India. Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju will grace the function as Guest of Honour.
- The theme for this year's NVD, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' is dedicated to voters which conveys individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through power of their vote. The logo is designed to showcase festivity and inclusivity of the electoral process. Ashoka Chakra in the background represents the largest democracy of the world, whereas the inked finger represents participation of each and every voter of the country. The tick mark in the logo stands for informed decision making by the voter.

5. International Customs Day 2023 observed on 26th January

- International Customs Day is celebrated every year globally on January 26 to acknowledge the role of customs officials in managing efficient flow and exchange of goods and services across countries. This year the theme of International Customs Day is 'Nurturing the next generation'.

- This year's theme focuses on fostering and promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in the field. Following the theme, World Customs Organisation(WCO) members will get to showcase their endeavours in this domain.

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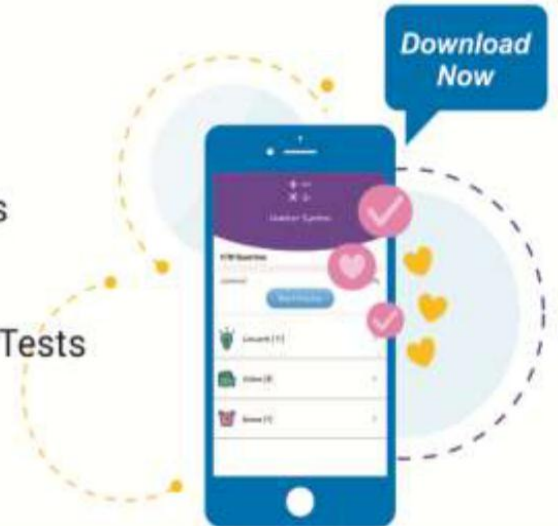


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