

Current Affairs

21st January, 2024



Today's Important News

PM Launches Khelo India Youth Games
2023 In Chennai, Tamil Nadu

1. PM Launches Khelo India Youth Games 2023 In Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 open at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. The opening ceremony of the national sports event took place in a grand fashion with several cultural programmes exhibiting the traditional and cultural practices of Tamil Nadu.
- The event, which is being held for the first time in a south Indian state, will feature over 5,600 athletes. The games will be played across four cities of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore, from January 19 to January 31. The games will feature 26 sporting disciplines with a mix of conventional sports and traditional ones.



Foot Note:

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Chief minister: M. K. Stalin

2. PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth around Rs. 2,000 crores in Solapur, Maharashtra. The Prime Minister noted the fact that his 11-day special ritual was initiated at Panchwati in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The nation is in a mood for bhakti with the Pran Pratishtha at the Ram Temple at Ayodhya Dham on 22nd January. “The decade-old pain of Lord Ram’s darshan in a tent will be far out now”, PM Modi remarked. He said he is following the rules and regulations of the 11-day anushthan with utmost dedication and commitment under the guidance of saints and seers and expressed confidence in conducting the Pran Pratishtha with the blessings of all citizens.



Foot Note:

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais

3. Himachal Pradesh Launches ‘My School-My Pride’ For Education Transformation

- In a move aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, Himachal Pradesh has unveiled the ‘My School-My Pride’ campaign under the ‘Apna Vidyalay’ programme, aimed at revolutionising the quality of education in government schools.
- This initiative will encourage active participation from individuals and organisations to adopt schools and contribute to various aspects of students’ growth. Officers from the education department will act as mentors for specific schools.



Foot Note:

About Himachal Pradesh:

Capitals: Shimla

Chief Minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla

4. Annual celebration at Jagannath Temple featuring stalls showcasing local artistry and cuisine

- Budhua, the cab driver, is oblivious to the fact that I cannot speak Odia. He points at the plastic bottles and paper plates strewn by picnickers along the picturesque Marine Drive Road and says something in an angry tone. I too express my disgust in Hindi, with a smattering of Bengali. I wind down the window to catch some cool breeze and sleep.
- While the Nila Chakra is said to face you from wherever you view it in Puri, the flag is changed every evening, a ritual that has been followed for the past 800 years. People gather to watch Dhawaja Parivartan, a fascinating feat, when the member of a family that has been performing it hereditarily scales the shikara of the 214-ft high temple.



5. LIC Introduces Jeevan Dhara II Deferred Annuity Plan

- Unveiled by LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, the new Jeevan Dhara II plan offers a non-participating, individual savings, deferred annuity option. Jeevan Dhara II offers life cover during the deferment period, enhancing the financial security of policyholders. The plan provides higher annuity rates as policyholders age, ensuring a secure and stable income stream in later years.
- Guaranteed Annuity from Inception: Prospective policyholders can enjoy the assurance of a guaranteed annuity right from the inception of the plan. According to the exchange filing, the product, which will be available from 22 January 2023, is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings deferred annuity plan.



Foot Note:

About LIC:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson: Siddhartha Mohanty

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

Owner: Government of India

6. Maharashtra Secures Investments Of Rs 3.53 Trillion At Davos

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said he is resolute in leading the state to its ambitious target of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy as the state government secured investment MoUs worth Rs 3.53 lakh crore (USD 44 billion) this week at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.



- The state government successfully sealed investment MoUs amounting to Rs 3.53 lakh crore (USD 44 billion) across various sectors, including electronics, IT, data centers, gems and jewelry, agriculture, automobile, and renewable energy. An additional expression of interest for Rs 1 lakh crore investment was also received, catapulting the total potential investment to Rs 4.5 lakh crore .

Foot Note:

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Governor: Ramesh Bais

7. Tata Sons secures the IPL title sponsorship for the next five seasons

- The Tata Group has extended its title sponsorship of the IPL for another five years, from 2024 to 2028, for INR 2500 crore (US\$301 million approx.), making it the "highest-ever sponsorship amount in the history of the league," a BCCI statement said. The group were the IPL title sponsors in 2022 and 2023, and are also the title sponsors of the Women's Premier League (WPL).
- "The collaboration with TATA Group for the title sponsorship of IPL 2024-28 is a significant milestone in IPL's journey," IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal said. "The record-breaking sum of INR 2500 crore by TATA Group is a testament to the immense value and appeal that the IPL holds in the world of sports."



8. Jagrut Kotecha appointed as the new CEO of PepsiCo in India

- India remains a pivotal market for PepsiCo, playing a crucial role in our global strategy. Over the last six years, Ahmed has been instrumental in transforming our business, driving innovation, and steering the team through challenging landscapes.
- His leadership saw the introduction of pioneering products and various community focused initiatives, and I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new capacity. This leadership change has been meticulously planned and was communicated to the India office employees as part of a series of leadership changes across the AMESA region.



Foot Note:

About PepsiCo:

CFO: Hugh F Johnston

CIO: Seth Cohen

COO: Gregg Roden

Headquarters: Purchase, Harrison, New York, United States

9. Bengaluru and Dehli airports jointly receive the 'Best Airport of the Year' award at Wings India

- The Bengaluru airport announced the news on social media, writing, "We are happy to announce that BLR Airport was awarded the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024. We are committed to operational excellence, sustainability initiatives and passenger-centric innovations. Thank you passengers, partners, stakeholders and team for being a part of our journey."
- The Wings India forum is Asia's largest civil aviation exhibition, according to news agency PTI. It conducted the four-day event at Hotel Taj Krishna in Hyderabad from Thursday, January 18, onwards.



10. India launches the "Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equality" at the World Economic Forum

- In a significant move on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, India has unveiled the "Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality." The initiative has gained support from influential entities, with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Invest India joining as crucial partners.
- The announcement took place during an India Reception, hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Union ministers Smriti Irani and Hardeep Singh Puri, along with WEF Founder Klaus Schwab, were present at the event.



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