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CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2022

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Covered all the important areas of this month.

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JANUARY 2022

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NATIONAL

19TH TRANCHE OF ELECTORAL BONDS

The government approval given for issuing electoral bonds, since the assembly elections in 5 states announced at Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa.

The sale of bonds will start from 1st Jan to 10th Jan 2022.

The issuing authority has been given to SBI through their 29 branches.

Any individual or a company can purchase the bonds without any limit.

The validity of the bonds will be only fifteen days.

PADHE BHARAT CAMPAIGN

In order to enhance the reading and to create interest over books this campaign is initiated.

This is hundred days reading programme, launched by Union Education Minister Dharmendra pradhan.

This campaign is a part of New Education Policy 2020.

Under this campaign children will have a happy reading in their local language/regional language even in tribal language.

Padhe bharat has been conducted integrally with International Mother tongue day – on 21st Feb

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND SPORTS UNIVERSITY

Foundation stone has been laid for Major Dhyani Chand Sports University by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Meerut.

Estimation cost for this is around 700 Crore and the University will be at Sardhana town in Salawa and Kaili villages of Meerut.

The overall capacity will be 1080 sports person comprising 540 women and 540 men sports persons.

MOBILE HONEY PROCESSING VAN

India's 1st Mobile Honey Processing Van has equipped at Sirora village of Ghaziabad.

This has been launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Around 300 kg of honey will be processed by this unit within eight hours.

Mobile honey processing van is designed by KVIC Multi-disciplinary Training centre, Haryana.

The van comprises of testing lab which will provide instant honey quality.

GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE – II

Indian government raised its approval to Green Energy corridor Phase –II.

This corridor will help India to achieve the target renewable energy production of 450GW by 2030.

Transmission line of 10,750km are to constructed, with addition of substations to produce 27,500 mega volt ampere.

This project includes Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Center Government will sponser 33% of the total cost for this project which should be implemented in 2 stages between 2021-22 and 2025-26.

LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE BILL COMMITTEE

Inorder to examine the provisions of Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill -2021, a parliamentary standing committee has been formed.

This committee includes 31 members, with only one women representative.

Since to raise the voice of women Sushmita Dev is included in the committee.

The main aim of the committee is to examine and report on the legal marriage age of Women in India from 18 to 21.

As well as the bill will provide recommendations to make amendments in the already existing Prohibition of child marriage Act of 2006.

There are 7 personal laws regarding marriage exists in India, since India promotes secularism.

Hence those laws also be examined by the committee as well.

OMICRON – RAPID TEST KIT.

To test the Omicron, a new variant of nCOV-19 rapid test kit has been designed.

The test kit is named as Omisure – RT – PCR, this kit identifies Omicron through S Gene target failure.

The elements of the test kit were derived by Thermo Fisher – US company.

The manufacturer of this test kit in India is TATA groups.

This is only kit used to detect the Omicron variant in India.

WORLD'S LARGEST NATIONAL FLAG

On 'Army Day' – 15th Jan 2022 – world's largest national flag has been put on show which is made of Khadi cloth.

The unveil was along the Indo-Pak border in Jaisalmer at Longewala.

The auspicious Indian Flag measures 225ft in length with 150 ft as breadth.

The Flag weighed about 1400 kg.

LOSOONG FESTIVAL

Losoong or Namsoong is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Sikkim based on the Tibetan Lunar Calendar.

On the 10th month represented in the Tibetan Lunar Calendar – 18th day is celebrated as Namsoong Festival.

This is a festival of agriculture marked by initiating the Harvest.

The sikkimese celebrate with the name of Lossong while the Lepchas and bhutia celebrate by the name Namsoong.

Even Nepal and Bhutan citizens also celebrate this festival.

MONEY MADE EASY FOR KIDS AND TEENS – PENCILCARD

Pencilcard - National Common Mobility Card – debit card for teens- 1st in India

This card has been launched by Pencilton – fintech company in collaboration with Transcorp.

It is an All in 1 card, specially designed especially for teens, ie, it can be used as a debit card, metro card / bus card.

It can be availed either as a virtual or physical card based on the users need. Virtual card is free of cost while physical card costs Rs. 199.

Pencilcard has been activated with the help of PENCILTON App.

This app provides all the data regarding transaction and savings based on the pocket money provided by the teen's Parent.

INDIA - 85th RANK – STAGNANT IN CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX

Corruption Perception Index – released by Transparency International (TI).

Among 180 countries India ranked 85 in this index.

The TI statistics reported that India has a stagnant score in corruption for a decade.

The rank is decided based on the score taken by considering the countries corruption occurring in public sector.

If the score is zero – high corruption, or the score is 100 – no corruption ie, country is clean. (India's score is 40).

In 2019, India got 80th rank, for 2020 it got 86th rank.

In India journalists faces risks and even the activists against corruption become the victims to police attacks, reported the TI.

DENMARK, FINLAND, NEW ZEALAND – ranked 1st

UK– 11th rank with a score of 78

CANADA – 13th rank with a score of 74

JAPAN – 18th rank with a score of 73

USA– 27th rank with a score of 67

CHINA – 66th rank with a score of 45

SRI LANKA– 102nd rank with a score of 37

PAKISTAN – 140th rank with a score of 28.

BANGLADESH – 147th rank with a score of 26

HIMACHAL PRADESH – STATEHOOD DAY – 25th JANUARY

Himachal Pradesh celebrates 52nd anniversary of becoming a state.

Himachal Pradesh attained its full fledged statehood on 25th Jan 1971, since it has been formed on 15th April, 1948 from 30 princely states after Independence.

STATEHOOD:

1950 – Himachal Pradesh was recognized as Part C state, ie, centrally administered Princely state

1966 – Hill areas were merged and Himachal was given Union territory recognition.

1971 – Himachal Pradesh Act was passed on 18 Dec 1970 and on 25th Jan 1971 it attained its full fledged statehood. Finally recognized as 18th state of India.

VACCINATION IN THE ISLANDS

Eligible children among the age group of 15 to 18 years in Lakshadweep got vaccinated.

1st Union Territory to have this leap among all other UTs and States of India.

Even Lakshadweep became the 1st UT to achieve 100% vaccination in other category, ie, above 18 years age group.

TAMILNADU

KALAINAR PORKIZHI' AWARDS 2021

The Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India's **(BAPASI)** - 'Kalaingar Porkizhi' Awards 2021 were given to

1. Journalist Samas for Prose
2. Prasanna Ramasamy for play
3. Aasaitambi for poem
4. A. Venilla for Novel
5. Paul Zacharias for Foreign Language Literature
6. Meena Kandasamy for English Literature

Other awards announced such as,

1. Pathipaga Chemmal award for Best Publisher: Manivasakkar Publishings
- S.M. Meenakshi Soma sundaram (Manivasakkar Publishing)
2. Pathipaga Chemmal C. Meiyappan award for Best Bookseller: Nadam
Geetham Booksellers
3. Azha. Valliyappa award: Thiruvai Babu
4. Paari Sellappanar Award for Best Tamil Scholar: Dr. Devira
5. Amsaveni Periyanan Award for Best Female Writer: Bharathi Bhaskar
6. Nellai S. Muthu Award for Children's Science: K.Y. Balasubramanian

TAMIL NADU UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE CORPORATION

Tamil Nadu has launched its own drone manufacturing corporation established at Anna University.

The corporation will design, manufacture and merchandise all types of drones and allied systems.

With financial assistance from the State government, The Centre for Aerospace Research on the Madras Institute of Technology campus of Anna University has been going to manufacture drones.

TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT AWARDS

The State government has chosen Congress leader and former TNCC President Kumari Ananthan for the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award for 2021.

The Thiruvalluvar award will be awarded to All-India Tamil Sanga Peravai president Meenakshi Sundaram.

His effort made for installing a statue of Thiruvalluvar by the former CM Karunanidhi in Bengaluru in 2009 is vital one.

Assembly proceedings - live telecast

The proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which commenced with the Question Hour session, were telecast live for the first time in its history

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) live telecasts this.

DD Podhigai had also done the same apart from the DIPR streaming it live online.

Statue of Pennycuik

The Tamil Nadu government going to implement a statue of Col. Pennycuik in Camberley, United Kingdom.

Since it is the native place of British Army Engineer Pennycuik.

He played a major role in constructing the Mullaperiyar reservoir of Kerala.

He made a milestone by building the dam in the year 1895.

The late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had installed Col. Pennycuik's statue at the Public Works Department campus in Tallakulam, Madurai in 2000.

Now TamilNadu government built a memorial (Mani mandapam) at Gudalur, Lower Camp in Theni district and also portrayed a life-size statue of Pennycuik.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRUG FOR nCOV-19

United States gave Paxlovid the authorisation – a Pfizer's antiviral drug for nCOV-19.

1st authorisation given by US in order to have home treatment for COVID. Even US regulatory board gave approval for Merck's Molnupiravir.

Can be used from age group of 12 and above.

Several Indian Pharma are analysing the possibility for pill consumption to treat COVID-19.

ASTEROID 1994 PC1

On 18th Jan 2022 asteroid named 1994PC1 came near and passed by Earth at a distance of 1.2 million miles.

1994 PC1 is also called as **7482**.

1994 Pc1 is a hard rocky asteroid and its length is more than a Kilometre.

This asteroid is considered as near Earth object category.

It has been keenly observed by the astronauts and researchers since it is highly a threatening Asteroid.

PEELING ONIONS WITHOUT TEARS

Peeling onion without tear is a dream to all women, finally tearless onion came into existence.

This has been achieved by researchers of United States.

SUNIONS = Sweet + Onions, new cross breed variety of onion with less pungent.

Less pungent resulted in the tearless peeling of Onions.

United Kingdom is the 1st place to sell these onions.

WATER IDENTIFIED ON THE MOON'S SURFACE

On site evidence for the existence of water on the surface of moon has been identified by Chang'e 5 Lunar Lander of China.

The landing site on the Lunar finalised that around 120 parts per million water on the moon's surface.

This is almost equal to 120gms of water per ton.

Even a vacuole rock contains minimum of 180ppm.

AWARDS

NATIONAL COSTUME AWARD

Navdeep Kaur of India won the Best National Costume Award – at Mrs World 2022 held in Los Vegas.

She got the award for her innovative costume – designed based on the Theory of Kudalini meditation – which energises base Chakra present at the end of spine – root chakra of body.

Navdeep Kaur belongs to a small town of Odisha.

She already won Mrs. India 2021 and now she represented India in Mrs. World 2022, Los vegas.

RAMNATH GOENKA AWARD – 2019

The award is named after Ramnath Goenka, the founder of “The Indian Express” and Indian Express Group in 1932.

Shiv sahay singh under Uncovering India Invisible category won the Ramnath Goenka award.

He acquired the award for his story titled “Death by Digital Exclusion”

His story emphasis how the digitization deprived the people who were benefited through PDS system.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

The President of India honours the military personnel for their valour activities with 6 awards, such as,

- Param Vir Chakra
- Maha Vir Chakra
- Vir Chakra
- Ashok Chakra
- Kirthi Chakra
- Shaurya Chakra

For 2022, President sanctioned 384 gallantry awards. This 384 comprises of Param vishisht seva medal, Ati vishisht medals, Uttam yudh seva medals, Bar

to vishisht seva medals, Bar to sena medals, Vayu sena medals, Nao sena medals and Sena medals.

ASHOKA CHAKRA:

It is the India's highest gallantry award for peace time.

On 2022 Republic day parade, this honourable gallantry was awarded to Assistant SI Babu Ram of Jammu and Kashmir police.

He was posthumously awarded for his sacrifice by the President, for killing 3 terrorists in Srinagar, under an operation on 29th Aug 2020.

Along with these awards, Subedar Neeraj Chopra awarded with Param Vishisht Seva medal.

Eventually this medal is given to 3 star officers for their service. But for the first time given to 2 star officer, since he made Indians feel proud by securing 1st Gold in track and field event held at Tokyo Olympics 2020.

PRATHAN MANTRI RASTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

PM Narendra Modi through video conferencing awarded the Rastriya Bal Puraskar.

The awards are under 6 categories such as, sports, scholastic achievements, Social service, Art & culture, Innovation and Bravery.

Vishalini and Aswatha Biju under the category of Innovation got this award from Tamilnadu.

THE NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS 2021 – 2ND EDITION

Awards constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Forty six Startups have been given recognition as winners of the National Startup Awards 2021

State-wise, Karnataka secured the highest number of awards, which included 14 out of 46 national start-up awards.

Bengaluru-based Naffa Innovations Private Limited – won the fintech category of financial inclusion award.

Umbo Idtech Private Limited won the award under fintech category of insurance sub-sector.

Sagar Defence was announced as the winner in the Robotics sub-sector.

Jaipur-headquartered Frontier Markets was given special honour for women-led start-up category.

3rd NATIONAL WATER AWARD

3rd National Water Awards 2020 were announced by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat .

in the Best State Category ,Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu secured first, second and third prizes respectively .

‘Best Village Panchayat - South zone’ - Vellaputhur Panchayat, Chengalpattu district, won the second prize.

‘Best Urban Local body’- Madurai Municipal Corporation won the third prize.

‘Best School Category’, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kaveripattinam won the first prize.

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

Vinisha Umashankar

Vinisha Umashankar is announced as India's baton bearer at 16th official Queen's Baton Relay.

Vinisha Umashankar of Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu had inspired the world with her solar ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box.

She won Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India for her invention.

Queen's baton Relay event initiated at the Buckingham Palace, London on October 7, 2021 and conclude by July 28, 2022.

The Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games after travelling across 72 Commonwealth nations and territories for 294 days.

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya kicked off the Queen's Baton Relay in India with a symbolic run in Delhi.

Ashok Elluswamy

Ashok Ellusamy of Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy of Chennai was the first employee to be hired for Tesla's electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.

Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk have started recruitment through social media, the first Indian to be recruited was him.

Before joining Tesla, Mr. Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.

Sindhutai Sapkal

The Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal of Maharashtra passed away at the age of 73 years.

She was popularly known as 'Mother of Orphans'. She was also referred to just as 'Sindhutai' or 'Mai'.

She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021 in the Social Work category.

"Mee Sindhutai Sapkal" was a biopic on her life released in the year 2010

Saturnino de la Fuente Garcia

World's oldest living man, World's oldest person (male), Saturnino de la Fuente Garcia (Spain) has passed away at the age of 112 years and 341 days.

He bagged Guinness World Records for the oldest person living (male).

Saturnino was awarded with Guinness record on September 2021 when he was exactly 112 years and 211 days.

He was born on February 11, 1909, in the Puente Castro, Spain.

DEFENCE

BRAHMOS MISSILE

BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit's foundation stone laid by defence minister Rajnath Singh in Lucknow.

Foundation of DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow also laid by him.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the NPOM of Russia jointly put forward resulted in BrahMos.

BrahMos = Brahmaputra river of India + the Moskva river of Russia.

EXERCISE MILAN 2022

Ex Milan – India's largest naval exercise, it is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise which started in 1995.

For which 46 friendly countries have been invited to take part in Ex Milan at Visakhapatnam.

The exercise will be the participation of all Quad countries with the U.S. being invited for the first time.

Previously, held at Port Blair and now is shifted to Visakhapatnam

The Navy has held 10 editions of the Milan exercise, with the theme of "synergy across the seas" to enhance interactions between friendly foreign navies and learn best practices from each other, since 1995.

The area of consideration of the exercise includes marine domain awareness, capacity building training, hydrography, technical assistance, and operational practice exercises.

INDIA AND JAPAN – MARITIME EXERCISE

Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode, undergone a Maritime Partnership Exercise.

Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt stand from the side of Indian navy.

Uraga and Hirado took part from the Japanese side.

PASSEX

It is an international passage exercise between India and Russia.

India's INS Kochi and Russian ships participated in the Exercise (PASSEX).

A passage exercise is usually held whenever an opportunity arises, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.

Previously, Indian Navy conducted PASSEX with the US Navy also.

Other Exercises of India and Russia:

Exercise TSENTR 2019 (Multilateral Military Exercise).

Indra Exercise - Joint Tri- Services (Army, Navy, Air Force) Exercise.

ZAPAD 2021(Multilateral Military Exercise).

ASIGMA (Army Secure Indi - Geneous Messaging Application)

Indian Army has launched a contemporary messaging application named 'ASIGMA' (Army Secure Indi-Geneous Messaging Application).

It is a new generation web-based application developed entirely in-house by a team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army.

It works as an alternative to Army Wide Area Network (AWAN) messaging application which has been in service for the past 15 years.

ENVIRONMENT

OLDEST LABIATED BEAR OF INDIA

Labiated bear otherwise called as Sloth bear – the oldest one of India was passed away.

Its a female one named as Gulabo and its 40 years old.

Gulabo belonged to Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Sloth bear belongs to myrmecophagous species.

These are native of Indian sub- continent, even seen in Bhutan & Sri Lanka and Terai region of Nepal.

IUCN have listed sloth bear under Vulnerable category

They are categorised on the Red List because of their degradation and habitat loss.

INTRODUCTION OF CHEETAH IN INDIA

Action plan for introducing Cheetah in India has been launched by the Union government of India.

The environment ministry announced the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was released in the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Initially within next 5 years, 50 cheetahs will be introduced in India under this action plan.

RED SANDERS IN REDLIST

The Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood) has been listed again as an endangered species in the IUCN's Red List.

The species is biologically known as *Pterocarpus santalinus*.

Species of this tree are endemic to the Eastern Ghats.

They are confined to a tract of forest in Andhra Pradesh.

5TH HOTTEST YEAR OF THE EARTH - 2021

Copernicus Climate Change Service, a European Union program,

It issued a report recently indicating that 2021 was the fifth hottest year on record.

Climate data reported in the report show the past seven years have been the warmest on record.

Because of the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, 2021 ranked fifth among those 12-month stretches.

FIRST TREE SPECIES OF 2022

A newly identified tree species, *Uvariopsis dicaprio*, was discovered in the rainforest of Ebo, Cameroon, and is native to the region.

It grows yellow-green flowers directly on the trunk of the tree.

Plant species classified as critically endangered have been added to the Strange and Spectacular list.

LARGEST RHINO TRANSFER

Recently, 30 white rhinos were transferred from South Africa to Rwanda through Boeing 747 chartered plane.

They were transferred due to increasing threat of illegal poaching.

This is the largest single transfer of white rhinos ever.

White Rhinoceros is also known as square-lipped rhinoceros while their scientific name is *Ceratotherium simum*.

There are five species of rhino:

i) Black rhino (ii) White rhino.

(iii) Greater-one horned rhino (also known as Indian rhino)

(iv) Javan rhino (v) Sumatran rhino

MASS MORTALITY OF SPOT-BILLED PELICANS

Andhra Pradesh State Forest Department has approached experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII-Deharadun), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI-Kolkata).

In order to prevent mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans in Naupadaswamp at Telineelapuram, Srikakulam district.

Telineelapuram is a flaged as Important Bird Area (IBA), where pelicans have been capitulated to 'Nematode infestation' since December 2021.

BOOKS AND AUTHOR

'Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography'- by Dr Thomas Matthew retired IAS officer.

"Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist" - BIOGRAPHY - authored by Chandrachur Ghose will be released in February 2022.

‘The Legend of Birsa Munda’, authored by Tuhin A Sinha and co-authored by Ankita Verma (released by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1 January	Global Family Day
4 January	World Braille Day
6 January	World Day of War Orphans
8 January	African National Congress Foundation Day
9 January	i)NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Day or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ii)Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti
10 January	World Hindi Day
11 January	i)Death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri ii)National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
12 January	National Youth Day
13 January	Lohri Festival

15 January	Indian Army Day
21 January	Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya Foundation Day
23 January	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti
24 January	i)National Girl Child Day ii)Anti Terrorism Day iii)International Day of Education
25 January	i)National Voters Day ii)National Tourism Day
26 January	i)Republic Day of India ii)International Customs Day
28 January	Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai
30 January	i)Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas ii)World Leprosy Eradication Day(last Sunday of January)