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News in Short





KARNATAKA ISSUES

- Seeking to honour **Puneeth Rajkumar** who was a role model for youths with his dignified conduct, simplicity and social service, the government has named the podium of '**Udyami Aagu, Udyoga Needu**' after the late actor.
- **Basti Vaman Shenoy**, founder of **World Konkani Centre**, Mangaluru, passed away on due to age-related illness.
- Close on the heels of Durga Puja being accorded the **UNESCO intangible cultural heritage tag**, Karnataka is set to initiate the process to secure a similar status for **Mysuru Dasara**.
- The **Directorate of Urban Land Transport** has opened first **Pedal Port** at the **Dr B R Ambedkar metro station's** exit near Vidhana Soudha. The project was piloted at Church Street when it was made pedestrian-friendly last year. It is a first-of-its-kind initiative where cycle pumps and tools such as tyre levers, Allen keys, screwdrivers, and spanners are available for self-service. Cyclists can fix their cycle tyre punctures, fill air or even tighten seat posts
- Bengaluru will get Rs 6,000 crore over three years under the **Chief Minister's Amrit Nagarotthana scheme** for infrastructure development. This is the third phase of the scheme
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT)**, designed and developed by HAL for the stage-2 training of Indian Air Force pilots, has successfully demonstrated its ability to carry out six-turn spins to the right-hand and left-hand sides.
- For providing more facilities for tourists at the **Jog Falls**, where water from **river Sharavati** takes a plunge from a height of 810 feet, the State Cabinet on Thursday decided to construct a ropeway, a five-star hotel, coffee bars and other facilities on Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model. In this model, the entire responsibility for the design, construction, finance, and operation of the project for the period of concession lies with the private party.
- The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the amendments made to the **Karnataka Essential Commodities Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2017**, fixing minimum educational qualification and period of extension of dealership of fair price shops.
- Karnataka government launches "**The Kutumba project**". It aims to be a comprehensive database to create an Integrated Social Protection System (ISPS) consisting of a Social Registry and an Entitlement Management System that the government wants to use for automatic disbursement of benefits to eligible citizens without them having to even apply.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka said irrigation projects in Karnataka are bogged down by inter-State river water disputes and asked the Centre to "revisit the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act** since the law is creating more disputes than resolving them."
- **Institute for Social and Economic Change** celebrates mark its **golden jubilee**. It is a Social science research institute **situated in Bengaluru**, Helping in formulating policies in various social and economic sectors, which contributed to the upliftment of weaker sections in Karnataka



- Karnataka government celebrates death anniversary of **Dr Shivakumara Swamiji** as **Dasoha Day** on January 21 every year
- Government of Karnataka celebrated the birth anniversary of **Ambigara Chaudayya** on 21 January.
- **Tiger census** commenced at **Bandipur at Nagarahole** as part of the All-India Tiger and Mega Herbivore Estimation recently. It is conducted by National tiger conservation authority
- Noted astrophysicist Dr. Tarun Souradeep assumed charge as director of one of the leading institutes in the country, **Raman Research Institute (RRI)** in Bengaluru.
- Three students from Bengaluru and Mangaluru were awarded the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**. Children will be awarded the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' for their exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments.
- The Karnataka government's ambitious **Grama One initiative** that seeks to eliminate middlemen and provide various departments' services in the rural areas of 12 districts was launched on Republic Day.
- Death anniversary of **Sangolli Rayanna** was observed recently
- Karnataka Bank has launched mobile banking facility to its NRI customers through its existing mobile banking application 'KBL MobilePlus' app.
- The **Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD), Bengaluru** has been declared as the designated facility to treat Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illnesses (SARI).
- Birth anniversary of **K. M. Cariappa** recently celebrated
- Karnataka has raised objections on **Hogenakkal project** saying Tamil Nadu cannot go ahead with any scheme that utilises Cauvery water without its concurrence. Originally conceived in the 1960s, the Hogenakkal project saw the light of day only in 2013. Under the first phase, 160 MLD of potable water is supplied to the drought-prone districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.



NATIONAL ISSUES

- India's **Balance of Payments (BoP)** position moved to a deficit of \$9.6 billion in the quarter ended September (Q2), as widening trade deficit weighed. Balance of Payments is **Record the transactions in goods, services, and assets** between residents of a country with the rest of the world for a specified time period typically a year.
- **GST Council's 46th meeting** was held recently. It is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax formed under **Article 279-A**
- Defence Minister inaugurated 27 projects built by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** recently. It is in south Ladakh connecting Chisumle and Demchok, passes through a pass known as Umling La (height of over 19,000 feet)
- **POWERGRID** celebrated anniversary of One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency. It is the Administrator of Transmission of Power
- India steamroll Sri Lanka by 9 wickets for **eighth U-19 Asia Cup title**
- Director General **VS Pathania**, took over as the **24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard**
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the opening of **Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge** to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem. The challenge has been organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality GIS datasets.
- Officials of the **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** have said that international clients are on its roster for the export of L-Band 3D Air Surveillance Radar RAWL-03 manufactured by the defence public sector undertaking. RAWL-03 antenna is compact and can be accommodated on wheeled vehicles and ships.
- Success of **Yuva initiative of Delhi police** is being discussed. It aims to engage and steer street children & youth towards the mainstream of society by providing them with the opportunities to realise their potential and creating awareness about their potential through sports, Nukkad Nataks and skill development training.
- Union Education Minister launched a 100-day Reading Campaign called '**Padhe Bharat**'.
- Birth anniversary of **Savitri Bai Phule** celebrated
- **Aviation Ministry** releases draft **National Air Sports Policy**. It will require entities providing these services and their equipment to be registered, as well as be liable for penalties.
- **Border Roads Organisation** breaks record at Zoji La battling extreme weather conditions. **ZOJI LA PASS** is located in the Kargil district of Ladakh and it connects Leh and Kashmir
- **Chilika Lake**, the largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of birds in the Indian subcontinent, saw a million birds, including the uncommon Mongolian gull, visiting the



waterbody this year. It is Brackish water lagoon spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state

- 19th Meeting of **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** held. The Wildlife Protection Amendment Act, 2006 provides for the constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority. It administers Project Tiger.
- Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) releases '**Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things (IoT)**'. Internet of Things is the inter-linking of digital devices, machines, people and other objects with each other through wireless networks.
- **Delhi Assembly** passed an amendment Bill to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971, recognising **Takht Damdama Sahib as the fifth Takht of Sikhs**. It is in Bhatinda. A Takht, which means a throne and is Seat of temporal authority for Sikh
- PM inaugurated Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport in Tripura. **MAHARAJA BIR BAKAM MANIKYA KISHORE** was King of Tripura from 1923 to 1947 & Belonged to Manikya dynasty. He was an enlightened and benevolent ruler and is considered the father of modern architecture in Tripura
- **Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV)** has been found to be the reason for the mass mortality of crabs (*Scylla serrate*) in Andhra Pradesh.
- **P-8I aircraft** began operations from the **INS Hansa Naval Air Base** in Goa
- **Sindhutai Sapkal**, Social worker and Padma Shri awardee, passes away at 74. Overcoming circumstances, Sindhutai Sapkal soon started working for the welfare of the orphan children which led them to fondly call her 'Mai'.
- The Prime Minister has expressed sorrow on the demise of **Mr Neil Nongkynrih**, mentor and conductor of Shillong Chamber Choir.
- As part of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations across the country, the Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA has launched "**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**" program, a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) 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 the Smart Cities Mission
- **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)** was established by the Government of India in the year 1986 at Fursatganj Airfield, presently in the district of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. IGRUA is an Autonomous Body established under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and is administered by a Governing Council under the Ex-officio Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) sets a new record of 19000 flying hours in 2021



- **Election Commission** announced a hike in **expenditure limit** for candidates to Rs 95 lakh (up from Rs 70 lakh) for Lok Sabha elections, and Rs 40 lakh (up from Rs 28 lakh) for Assembly polls.
- PFMS Division of Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under Ministry of Finance organized a workshop on **Public Finance Management System (PFMS)** to generate awareness among the officials on the functioning and achievements of the system at Jaydev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.
- In a conservation effort to monitor seasonal fluctuations in birds' movements, the ringing of **oriental darters** has been taken up in the **Keoladeo National Park** after a gap of 22 years. They are Water birds of tropical South Asia with long and slender neck which looks like a snake when it swims and dives into water to catch a fish.
- The **Sanjay Lake in east Delhi** has become polluted over the years and the number of birds sighted there has fallen. It is a artificial lake in Delhi
- Cabinet approves Intra-State Transmission System – **Green Energy Corridor Phase-II**. It facilitates grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy (RE) projects in seven states -- Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- North Korea has successfully tested a hypersonic missile in the first major weapons test by the nuclear-armed nation this year. **HYPERSONIC WEAPONS** are those with speed faster than five times that of sound i.e. greater than 5 Mach
- Union Minister of State for Science & Technology inaugurated **India's first open rock museum** displaying different types of rocks gathered from different States of ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years on the campus of the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). It is located in **Hyderabad**
- **Veer Gatha** is one such unique project that has been launched to inspire the school children of our country with the stories of war heroes, brave hearts, and it has elicited a tremendous response from all over the country. For the first time as part of Republic Day celebrations, the Ministry of Defence has envisioned that school students may be motivated to do projects/activities based on gallantry award winners. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy & Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) organized the Veer Gatha Project from 21 October to 21 November 2021 all across the country.
- India is among the six Indo-Pacific nations participating in a multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Pacific Ocean named Sea Dragon 22 along with the navies of India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea.
- With the **model code of conduct** coming into effect in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur, the Union Health Ministry has decided to "exclude" the picture of Prime Minister from the Covid-19 vaccine certificates in these states. It is set of



guidelines to be followed by political parties during elections. It is in Line with **Article 324** that gives powers to election commission

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Announces 3rd **National Water Awards**. It is to motivate individuals/organisations who are doing commendable work in the field of water resources conservation and management. UP is the best performer
- The Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), recently conducted a pilot project on the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) corporate office premises to demonstrate the use of **clean energy to power EVs**. It has said Solar-powered EV charging reduces carbon footprint.
- **INS Vikrant**, is likely to be commissioned in 2022. It successfully conducted Sea Trials. Also called Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1, It is an aircraft carrier constructed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy
- PM announces 26th December as '**Veer Baal Diwas**' to mark martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji. They were sahibzades/Warriors & sons of Guru Gobind Singh
- Various district administrations in Tamilnadu have banned the conduct of **Jallikattu** events, ahead of Pongal festival, as part of safety measures. It is a bull taming festival that is celebrated during Pongal
- **Adi Sankaracharya's birthplace in Kerala** likely to be declared as **national monument**. It is located in Kalady, Kerala
- **Bharath Subramanian** becomes **73 chess grandmaster of India**. He completed his third and final GM norm at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Urjit Patel** has been appointed vice-president of the Beijing-based **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.
- **ALKA MITTAL** becomes the **first ONGC full-time woman director**
- KVIC rolls out innovative "**Mobile Honey Processing Van**" to support farmers and beekeepers
- Haryana government invoked the **Essential Services Maintenance Act** due to doctors strike. ESMA, 1968 was established to ensure the delivery of certain services, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people. These include services like public transport (bus services), health services (doctors and hospitals).
- Vodafone Idea has opted to convert its **adjusted gross revenue** dues into equity, resulting in the government owning 35.8 per cent of the total outstanding shares of the company. Adjusted Gross Revenue is usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It is Divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.
- India Tests Advanced '**Sea-To-Sea**' Variant Of **BrahMos Missile** From INS Visakhapatnam.
- UK firm Henley & Partners released its latest global passport ranking index recently. Global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom for their citizens. India ranks 83
- High court of Calcutta has imposed More curbs for **Ganga Sagar mela 2022**. It is a Religious festival celebrated on Sagarwip (Sagar Island) in the West Bengal state of India during Makara Sankranti



- Birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda** celebrated
- **January 10** is observed as **World Hindi Day** or Vishwa Hindi Diwas every year to commemorate one of the world's most widely spoken languages. The permanent delegation of India to UNESCO yesterday announced that on the occasion of World Hindi Day, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on WHC website.
- Union Education Ministry launched the **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022**. The awards help in recognizing, inspiring and awarding the schools, that have undertaken exemplary work pertaining to water, sanitation and hygiene and provide a benchmark and roadmap for schools for make further improvements in future
- Ministry of Education recently launched the **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0**. Implemented by AICTE, it aims to Use **Artificial Intelligence** to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.
- S Somanath appointed tenth chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation
- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** to achieve the mandate of **Investor Education, Awareness and Protection** by utilizing the tele-lecturing facility of Gyan Darshan Channel.
- **NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd.** and **InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, two start-ups supported by DBT-BIRAC), have received the World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global **Women's Health Tech Awards**, which recognises innovative startups that leverage tech to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.
- The committee to select the next director of the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** held interactions with a few shortlisted candidates recently. NCERT is Autonomous organisation set up in 1961 to assist and advise the Central and State Governments on policies and programmes for qualitative improvement in school education.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has released the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**. India witnesses increase in Forest and tree cover with an additional cover of 1,540 square kilometres over the past two years.
- Edtech sector companies have formed a collective — **India EdTech Consortium** — under the aegis of the industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- Ministry of AYUSH hosted the first-ever global **Surya Namaskar** demonstration programme where about 10 million people participated
- **Sahaja Samrudha**, an organisation engaged in promoting cultivation and consumption of indigenous variety of paddy and millets, has rolled out a **desktop calendar for 2022** that highlights the benefits of **tubers and roots**. Titled Return to Roots, the calendar has



different variety of tubers and roots displayed in every page of the month coupled with benefits and the culinary delights that one could dish out using them.

- Kathak dancer **Pandit Munna Shukla** dies at 78
- The University of Oxford has appointed Indian-origin academic **Professor Soumitra Dutta** as the new Dean of its **Sad Business School**.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended two drugs, **baricitinib** and **sotrovimab**, for treatment of Covid-19.
- The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi celebrated Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav with **Kala Kumbh-** artist workshops for painting scrolls measuring approximately 750 metres, representing the tales of valor of unsung heroes of India's freedom movement.
- Election commission of India issued guidelines regarding attention of all media to the **Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** that prohibits displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency
- 58th Foundation Day of the **Food Corporation** of India celebrated recently. It is Statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Set up in 1965 following the enactment of the Food Corporation Act, 1964
- PM extends best wishes to Indian Army personnel on **Army Day**
- PM pays tributes to the great Thiruvalluvar on **Thiruvalluvar Day**. He is Tamil poet, best known as the author of Thirukkural.
- Veteran journalist **Sam Rajappa**, a long-serving correspondent of the Kolkata-based newspaper Statesman, is no more.
- Kathak maestro Pandit **Birju Maharaj** passes away
- Noted environmentalist **M K Prasad** passes away at 89. Prasad was a guiding force behind the national movement against the state government's move to set up a hydro-power project in Silent Valley in Palakkad district in the 1970s.
- Padma Shri awardee and social activist **Shanti Devi** of Odisha passes away
- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, exercised with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea. The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities. It is named **Passex**. A passing exercise (a PASSEX in U.S. Navy terminology) is an exercise done between two navies to ensure that the navies are able to communicate and cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief. Common drills include flashing light drills, semaphore drills, and flaghoist drills.
- Prime Minister has paid tributes to Bharat Ratna **MGR** on his birth anniversary. He was a famous actor and former chief minister of Tamilnadu
- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has recommended that the Delhi government must suspend its flagship 'Desh ke Mentor' programme
- Addressing first National Start-up day Union Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted that "**Purple Revolution**" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India". It relates to growth of **LAVENDER flowers**.



- Prime Minister has declared that January 16 will be celebrated as '**National Start-up Day**'. Startup India Scheme was launched on 16th January 2016 with an aim to promote and support the start-ups in India by providing bank finances.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has invited applications from 100 domestic companies, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as well as startups for incentives under the **design linked incentive (DLI) scheme**. It is a incentive based scheme for production of **Semi conductors**
- **Union defence ministry** has rejected **Tableaux** proposals of Kerala and West Bengal
- Election commission of India announced postponement of Punjab general elections on account of **Guru Ravidas** Jayanti. He was a mystic saint and founder of Ravidassia sect of Punjab
- **Hyderabad** officially bid as a candidate to host the **Formula E World championship** exclusively for electric cars, scheduled to be held between November 2022 and February 2023.
- India's **Lakshya Sen** secured his maiden Super 500 title by winning "**Yonex-Sunrise India Open**"
- **Narendra Kumar Goenka**, took charge of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) as its new Chairman.
- The Union government is planning to acquire for itself overriding powers to transfer IAS and IPS officers through Central deputation, doing away with the requirement of taking the approval of the State governments. It is as per **INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE (CADRE) RULES 1954**
- Union Labour and Employment Minister said special camps would be organised to register brick kiln, plantation, forestry and other unorganised sector workers on the Centre's **e-Shram portal**. It is a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) by Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Cabinet approves extension of tenure of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis** for three years. It was established in 1993.
- Large chunks of forests and the **Aravalis in Gurugram** and Faridabad could lose protection from construction under the National Conservation Zone as defined in the Regional Plan-2021, if the provisions in the Draft Regional Plan-2041 are implemented, fear environmentalists
- The population of the vulnerable **eastern swamp deer**, extinct elsewhere in South Asia, has dipped in the **Kaziranga National Park** and Tiger Reserve.
- **Denison barb (Miss Kerala)**, a native freshwater fish species commonly found in parts of Karnataka and Kerala, has been included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.
- PM greets **NDRF team** on their Raising Day. It is specialized response team to natural and man-made disasters set up in 2005
- Sixty Ninth Meeting of Governing Body of **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** was held recently. It is a Agency of the Union Ministry of Water Resources, set up in July,



1982 established to carry out the water balance and other studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilisation of Water Resources of the Peninsular rivers system.

- In a bid to revive the **Saraswati river**, the governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh will enter into an agreement that entails the building of a dam to supply round-the-year water flow to the river channel
- PM condoles demise of noted cartoonist Shri **Narayan Debnath Ji**
- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of **reservation** for Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates in the All India Quota seats for the **National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)** for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses, noting that “reservation is not at odds with merit” in open competitive examinations.
- Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has written to Home Minister and urged the government to consider “legislative action”, including **amendments to the IPC and CrPC**, to deal with all manifestations of hate speech.
- On the **Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura** (21st January), Prime Minister and other leaders praised the traditions and culture of the three northeast states.
- ISRO successfully conducted a 25-second qualification test for its liquid propellant-based **Vikas engine** to be used under the **Gaganyaan** mission.
- The supersonic cruise missile **BrahMos** with increased indigenous content and improved performance was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha
- The State of **Himachal Pradesh** is well on track to achieve the target of providing clean tap water supply to every rural home by 2024 under **Har Ghar Jal** initiative. Har Ghar Jal is a component of Jal Jeevan Mission which envisages supply of **55 litres of water** per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- Modalities to deepen cooperation in "**Deep Ocean Mission**" was recently discussed. It is India's first manned ocean mission
- The government has put out the eternal flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** underneath India Gate and merged it with the one instituted at the **National War Memorial** in 2019
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that the property of a man who had died without executing a will and is survived only by a daughter will devolve upon the daughter and not others such as his brother.
- Kerala govt decides to bring Ordinance to clip Lokayukta powers. **LOKAYUKTA** is anti-corruption authority or ombudsman – an official appointed by the government to represent the interests of the public.
- The **National Voters' Day** has been celebrated on January 25 every year since 2011, all across the country to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.
- Himachal Pradesh observes its statehood day on January 25.
- **India ranks 85** in Transparency International's **corruption index**



- India celebrates **73 Republic Day**. The Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, a date specially chosen to coincide with the anniversary of 'Purna Swaraj Diwas'.
- 125TH birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** observed recently
- The central government on the eve of 73rd Republic Day, announced the names of the **Padma awardees**.
- Six Army personnel, five of them posthumously, have been selected for the **Shaurya Chakra**, the third highest peacetime gallantry award, by the President and Supreme Commander of the Indian armed forces, Ram Nath Kovind.
- The country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** was part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the Republic Day parade on Wednesday. She is only the second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau. Last year, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the first female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- PM condoles the demise of eminent archaeologist **Thiru R. Nagaswamy**
- The Centre appointed **V. Anantha Nageswaran** as the **Chief Economic Advisor**
- PM pays tributes to **Lala Lajpat Rai** on his Jayanti
- **Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation** was launched recently marking the occasion of 92nd birth anniversary of late Indian classical vocalist, Pandit Jasraj.
- In the year's first episode of his monthly radio programme '**Mann Ki Baat**', Prime Minister paid tribute to the teachings of **Mahatma Gandhi** on the occasion of his 74th death anniversary, which is observed annually as **Martyrs Day**. He also honoured the **national symbols**.
- 30th **National Commission for Women (NCW)** Foundation Day was recently celebrated. It is a statutory body concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of 1990 National Commission for Women Act.



INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- Sri Lanka Cabinet clears oil tank deal with India to jointly develop Trincomalee oil tank farms
- Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between **India and Turkmenistan** on Cooperation in the **field of Disaster Management**
- Cabinet approves Agreement between **India and Spain** on Cooperation and **Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters**
- Cabinet approves MoU between **India and Nepal** for construction of bridge over **Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) – Dharchula (Nepal)**
- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)** has signed a Joint Development Agreement with **Africa50**, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.
- **Pakistan** launched first-ever **National Security Policy** based on a citizen-centric framework and focusing more on boosting the country's flagging economy
- A massive underwater volcanic eruption was recorded in the small island country of **Tonga**. It is expected to trigger Tsunamis
- US passes bill with regards to **Rare earth materials** monopoly of China. Rare earth materials are group of 17 elements, that Have many similar properties which often cause them to be found together in geologic deposits.
- Nepal questions on unilateral construction of roads at **Lipulekh**. The pass Links the Byans valley of Uttarakhand, India with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, and forms the last territorial point in Indian territory.
- **Indonesia** passed a bill replacing its capital Jakarta with East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo island. The **new capital city** of the country will be called **Nusantara**.
- Lahore High Court's Justice Ayesha Malik was sworn in as the Supreme Court's first female judge
- U.S. planning sanctions on **Nord Stream Pipeline**. It is a piped gas connection between Russia and Germany