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India to chair 3 key subsidiary bodies of United Nations Security Council during its two-year tenure



The **Permanent Representative of India to the UN, T S Tirumurti** has announced that India has been asked to chair **three important committees of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**, during its tenure as non-permanent member of the powerful 15-nation UN body. The three highly significant committees include the **Taliban Sanctions Committee, Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Libyan Sanctions Committee.**

Among these, India will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC in 2022, which coincides with the 75th anniversary of India's independence. India began its two-year term at UNSC from **January 01, 2021**. It is the eighth time that the country has joined UNSC as the non-permanent member. In 2021, along with **India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico** joined as non-permanent members in the Council.

Pakistan Successfully Test Fires Indigenously Developed Rocket System, Fatah-1



The **Pakistan Army** successfully conducted the test flight of an **indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, Fatah-1**, on January 07, 2021. Fatah-1 weapon system is capable of precisely delivering conventional warheads deep into "enemy territory." It can hit targets up to a range of **140 km**.

Indian-American Raj Iyer takes charge as US Army's first Chief Information Officer



Indian-American Dr Raj Iyer has been appointed as the **first Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the US Army**, since the creation of the position by the Pentagon in July 2020. Iyer currently serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army. He will supervise an annual budget of USD 16 billion for the US Army's IT operations.

List of New Appointments of Chief Justices in High Courts by President Kovind



The President of India, **Shri Ramnath Kovind** has transferred **4 Chief Justice and 6 Judges of High Courts**, in exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 222 of the Constitution of India. He also elevated **4 Judges as Chief Justices of the High Courts**, in exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India.

Indian economy likely to rebound with 8.9% growth in FY22: IHS Markit



London-based financial services company **IHS Markit** has projected the Indian economy to rebound by **8.9 percent** in the fiscal year **2021-22**, beginning April 2021.

This upward estimate is based on the backdrop of the significant improvement in domestic economic activity in the fourth quarter of 2020 by India.

Australian umpire Claire Polosak becomes first-ever female to officiate Men's Test Match

Claire Polosak, an **Australian umpire**, has become the **first-ever woman match official of a men's Test match**.

The 32-year-old achieved the feat on January 07, 2021, when she took over the role of fourth umpire in the ongoing third Test between India and Australia in Sydney.

Prior to this, Polosak had also become the first-ever female to officiate in a men's ODI on April 27, 2019.

To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

To commemorate the **125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, a **High Level Committee (HLC)** has been constituted. This HLC will be headed by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.

The High Level Committee will decide about the various activities for a **one year long commemoration**, which shall begin from **23 January 2021**.

The commemoration activities will be held in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and Azad Hind Fauj, both in India as well as overseas.

- There are **85 members** in this committee including ministers, distinguished citizens, historians, authors, experts, family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj.

Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON-2020'



The Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Virtual International Akhand Conference 'EDUCON 2020' through video conferencing on January 7, 2021. The two-day International Conference was organized by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA). The focal theme of EDUCON-2020 was **Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Restore Global Peace.**

J&K LG, Manoj Sinha launches Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched **Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal** of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) recently.

Satark Nagrik App

This app has been developed to facilitate seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility.

Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal

The Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal has been designed to put in place an online communication channel with the DVOs of various departments. The portal will help in quick disposal of complaints, redress grievances in a systematic manner by enabling monitoring of the status of DVO matters and Citizens Grievances assigned to DVOs at ACB Central Office.

Faustin-Archange Touadera Re-elected as President of Central African Republic

Faustin-Archange Touadera has been reelected as the **President of Central African Republic.**



He received more than 53% votes, in elections held in December 2020. The 63-year-old President Touadera has been in power since 2016. He has also served as the Prime Minister of the country from January 2008 to January 2013.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: 09 January



The **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day)** is observed by the **Republic of India** on **9 January** to mark the favors and contributions made by Non Resident Indians towards the welfare and development of the nation.

The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915, and eventually led India's freedom struggle.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas conventions have been held on annual basis since 2003 till 2015.

Since **2015** the event was declared as a **biennial** by the Ministry of External Affairs and takes place once in two years.

The last PBD, 15th edition, was held on 9th January 2019 at Varanasi.

The **16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention** has been organized on **9th January 2021** in virtual format, in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

The theme of 16th PBD Convention 2021 is **“Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat”**.

World Hindi Day: 10 January



The **World Hindi Day** is celebrated annually on **January 10** since **2006** to promote the language at the global stage.

The day marks the anniversary of **first World Hindi Conference** which was inaugurated on **January 10, 1975** by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

However, the celebration of first World Hindi Day was commenced on **10 January 2006** by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

It must be noted that the National Hindi Day is celebrated in India on September 14 every year.