

Current Affairs: 23-25.01.2022

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 conferred to- GIDM and Professor Vinod Sharma

- Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar for their excellent work in Disaster Management for the year 2022.
- Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar, to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. This year marks the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

PM Narendra Modi unveils hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on Parakram Divas

- January 23 is being observed as Parakram Diwas in India, to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. (28 feet in height and 6 feet in width.)
- As a part of this year-long celebration, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a hologram statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi.
- The hologram statue will be replaced by a grand granite statue of Netaji, once the statue is completed.
- The statue is being installed on 125th birth anniversary as a tribute to the immense contribution of Netaji in the country's freedom struggle and would be a symbol of the country's indebtedness to him.

India's First "District Good Governance Index" launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir; Top- Jammu

- The Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah has virtually released India's First "District Good Governance Index" for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu district has topped the Index.
- The top 5 districts in the District Good Governance Index" are (1) Jammu, (2) Doda, (3) Samba, (4) Pulwama and (5) Srinagar.
- This index has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) is a framework document comprising of performance under ten governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.

Govt announces 40-100 per cent subsidy to popularise drone in agriculture; Maximum subsidy- Rs 10 lakh

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• Union Agriculture Ministry has amended the guidelines of **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** to provide **40-100 percent subsidy** until March 2023 in purchasing drones for farm mechanization.

- After the amendment, a **grant for the purchase of drones up to 100 percent of the cost of agriculture drones or ₹10 lakhs, whichever is less, can be given.** The detail of percent and maximum amount of subsidy is given below:
- Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities- 100% subsidy- Rs 10 lakh maximum
- Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)= 50 per cent subsidy up to ₹5 lakh
- Existing CHCs or new ones, already or to be set up by cooperative society of farmers, farmer producers organizations (FPOs) and rural entrepreneurs are entitled to receive= 40 per cent subsidy (maximum ₹4 lakh).

MNRE to infuse ₹1,000 crore in SECI for financing renewable energy (RE) capacity of 3,300 megawatt (MW)

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Ministry (MNRE) has announced that it will **infuse ₹1,000 crores** in the state-run **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**. This has been done to enhance the capital asset base of SECI.
- As per present RBI norms, **an agency can extend loans on 20 percent of its net worth.** With infusion of Rs 1000 crore in SECI its network will increase and hence it can extend more loans.
- With this additional capital infusion, the government **aims at financing renewable energy (RE) capacity of 3,300 megawatt (MW).**
- In 2015 Government had allowed the change of name from “Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)” to “Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI)”

World Bank approves USD 125 million loan to West Bengal to support poor and vulnerable groups

- The **World Bank** has sanctioned a loan worth **\$125 million (about Rs. 1,000 crore)** to the government of West Bengal to support its effort to help the poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services.
- The loan has been provided under the ‘**West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection**’ operation, on January 19, 2022.
- The financial assistance will help the state administration to improve services such as medical help through telemedicine, support for the elderly and differently-abled, financial inclusion of citizens with digital payments and disbursement of benefits for public schemes.

Scientists find evidence of secret ocean on Saturn’s moon Mimas

- A team of Scientists at **Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)** in the **US** have discovered an underground ocean buried beneath the surface of the ‘Death Star’-like moon of Saturn, named **Mimas**.
- The new discovery would help the scientists in better understanding Saturn’s rings and pave the way for further investigation towards possible signs of life on the planet.

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- If the discovery turns out to be true, Mimas ocean will represent a new class of small, ‘stealth’ ocean worlds.
- This report was published recently in the journal [Icarus](#).

NATO partners to hold 12-day maritime drills in Mediterranean Sea

- The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries will be conducting a 12-day maritime exercise in the Mediterranean Sea from January 24, 2022.
- The name of the maritime exercise is “Neptune Strike ’22”.
- The naval drill will end on February 04, 2022.
- The main purpose of this exercise will be to demonstrate and test NATO’s wide range of maritime capabilities.

Netaji Research Bureau presents Netaji Award 2022 to former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe

- The former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by the Netaji Research Bureau, based in Kolkata.
- The award was presented by the Bureau on January 23, 2022 to commemorate 125th birth anniversary celebration of the legendary freedom fighter, Subhas Chandra Bose at his Elgin Road residence in Kolkata.
- The award was accepted by Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Nakamura Yutaka on behalf of Abe.
- Japanese Ambassador to India – Satoshi Suzuki

PV Sindhu wins women’s singles title of Syed Modi International Tournament

- In badminton, ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu bagged the women’s singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament on January 23, 2022, in Lucknow.
- Sindhu beat fellow Indian Malvika Bansod 21-13 21-16 to win her second Syed Modi title after 2017.
- The 2022 Syed Modi International badminton tournament was held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 18 to 23 January 2022.
- Men’s singles final was declared a ‘No Match’ between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout, after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19.

International Day of Education: 24 January

- The International Day of Education is marked every year on 24 January globally to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development..
- The first International Day of Education was held in 2019.
- The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 3rd December 2018, proclaiming January 24 as International Day of Education.
- The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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National Girl Child Day : January 24

- In India the **National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is observed annually on **January 24** since 2008.
- The day was initiated by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** to:
 - Spread awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by girls in the country.
 - Promote awareness about the rights of a girl child.
 - Increase awareness on the importance of girl education, health, and nutrition.

29 Children Awarded Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022

- The **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)** for the year 2022 has been conferred to **29 children**.
- These winners include 15 Boys and 14 Girls, belonging to 21 States and UTs.
- The PMRBP award is given by the Government of India to the children with exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments in **6 categories**.
- Category wise distribution of awards is given below:
 1. Innovation – 7
 2. Social Service – 4
 3. Scholastic – 1
 4. Sports – 8
 5. Art & Culture – 6
 6. Bravery – 3
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-

Karnataka launches India's first AVGC center of excellence in Bengaluru

- The state government of **Karnataka** has set up **India's first AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru** recently.
- AVGC stands for **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics**.
- Karnataka is also the first in the country to bring an **AVGC policy in 2012**.
- This new development has positioned Karnataka as a pioneering high technology digital media hub of India.
- The AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE) has been funded by the state department of IT/BT & Electronics, under its 'Innovate Karnataka' initiative.
- The CoE is also said to be the **biggest such centre in Asia**.
- The basic objective of the AVGC COE is to make available the best facilities and technologies to start-ups, AVGC studios, and professionals who find it difficult to fund or access such a high-technology stack individually.

NASA launches \$1 Million Deep Space Food Challenge jointly with Canadian Space Agency

- The **US Space agency, NASA**, has launched Phase 2 of the challenge called as '**Deep Space Food Challenge**' in coordination with the **Canadian Space Agency**.
- The competition invites teams to design, build, and demonstrate innovative and sustainable prototypes of food production technologies and produce food for judging.

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- The technology will help future astronauts to produce nutritious, tasty, and satisfying meals on long-duration space missions, that require minimal resources and produce minimal waste.

- The Phase 2 of the challenge includes a prize of \$1 million.
- Phase 1 of the Challenge ended in October 2021 and 18 teams were awarded a total of \$450,000.

Swiggy turns decacorn with valuation of \$10.7 billion

- Swiggy (Food-ordering and instant grocery delivery platform) has signed a **\$700 million funding round led by asset manager Invesco.**
- With this, the total **valuation of Swiggy has reached to \$10.7 billion i.e. it is now a decacorn.**
- A decacorn is a startup with a valuation of more than \$10 billion.

Paytm partners with Fullerton India to provide lending products

- **One97 Communications (which owns Paytm) and Fullerton India,** have partnered to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.
- The two companies will leverage data-driven insights and wide reach to bring credit to new-to-credit users.
- The programme will offer Paytm Postpaid i.e. buy-now-pay-later to consumers on the Paytm platform by utilizing the risk assessment capabilities and scale of Fullerton India.

Indian military awards contract to Swedish Defence Company 'Saab' for supply of AT4 anti-tank weapons

- The Indian armed forces have signed a contract with the **Swedish defence company 'Saab'** for the supply of single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4.
- Saab was selected through a competitive program for the supply of the **AT4CS AST weapon,** which will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The AT4CS AST is a lightweight and fully disposable weapon.
- It can be fired from confined spaces such as from inside buildings, bunkers and other urban environments.
- The weight of AT4CS AST is around 9 kg with an effective range of 200m.

Centre appoints Vinodanand Jha as new Chairperson of PMLA Adjudicating Authority

- **Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority,** for a period of 5 years.
- Mr. Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer, who was serving as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune before this.
- The PMLA Adjudicating Authority is a **three-member body** whose mandated is to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and order for its continuity and further confiscation or release, considering the merits of the investigation.

Ladakh wins 9th Women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022

- **The women's team from Ladakh** has lifted the **9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship** in Himachal Pradesh on January 21, 2022.
- The championship was organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India at Kaza area in **Lahaul-Spiti district** of Himachal Pradesh from January 15 to 21, 2022.

- A total of six teams participated in the championship from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- The current President of the Association is Dr. Surinder Mohan Bali.

List of winners of 2021 ICC Awards

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the winners of **17th edition of ICC Awards for the year 2021** to recognise and honour the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months, between January 01, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

The winners are listed below:

1. Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year – Smriti Mandhana (India)
2. Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year – Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
3. ICC Umpire of the Year – Marais Erasmus
4. ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year – Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
5. ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year – Tammy Beaumont (England)
6. ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year – Janneman Malan (South Africa)
7. ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year – Fatima Sana (Pakistan)
8. ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year – Zeeshan Maqsood (Oman)
9. ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year – Andrea-Mae Zepeda (Austria)
10. ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year – Babar Azam (Pakistan)
11. ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year – Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
12. ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year – Joe Root (England)

Eminent archaeologist Thiru R. Nagaswamy passes away at 91

- Noted Indian **historian, archaeologist and epigraphist** from Tamil Nadu, **Ramachandran Nagaswamy**, has passed away. He was 91.
- He first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology.
- Nagaswamy was known for his work on temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu.
- In 2018, Nagaswamy was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award.
- Nagaswamy has authored more than 100 books and his latest book was 'Senthamizh Naadum Pandbum', published in January 2022.

National Voters' Day: January 25

- India observes "**National Voters' Day**" every year on **January 25** to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.
- 2022 marks the 12th National Voters' Day (NVD). The first NVD was celebrated on January 25, 2011.
- The theme of NVD 2022 is, '**Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative**'.
- The day also marks commemoration of the **Foundation day of Election Commission of India (ECI)**, which was established on 25th January 1950.

National Tourism Day of India: January 25

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- In India, the **National Tourism Day** is celebrated every year on **25th January** to promote tourism and raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.
- The Indian government established the National Tourism Day to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and to demonstrate how it affects social, political, financial, cultural worth and economic values worldwide.