

## Current Affairs: 26-28.01.2022

### India and Israel launch commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties

- **India and Israel** have launched a **commemorative logo** on January 24, 2022 to mark the **30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties** between the two countries.
- The logo was unveiled jointly by Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla through virtual mode.
- The logo features the respective symbols of the national flags of both countries, that is Ashoka Chakra and the Star of David.
- The symbols form the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- The diplomatic relations between Israel and India were established on 29 January 1992.

### Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches revamped website and Mobile App “MyCGHS” of Central Government Health Scheme

- The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the **revamped website and mobile app of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** on January 24, 2022.
- The website is [www.cghs.gov.in](http://www.cghs.gov.in) and the mobile app is called “MyCGHS”.
- The new features will benefit more than 40 lakh beneficiaries with real-time information from the convenience of their homes.
- The website has been made 3U compliant, where u stands for Usable, User-Centric and Universally Accessible.

### CSCs launches Yogyata mobile app to impart skill-based vocational education to rural youths

- The **Common Services Centers (CSC)** has launched a mobile phone application named “Yogyata” to **impart vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens in rural areas.**
- Through this Yogyata App, CSCs aim to provide industry-based skills to youth in rural areas and thereby make them job-ready.
- The enrolments under the app will be carried out by the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE).

### Spices Board of India launches ‘Spice Xchange India’, country’s first online platform for spice exports

- The **Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash** inaugurated India’s first portal for spice exports named ‘**Spice Xchange India**’ at a hybrid event held in Kochi.
- The **spicexchangeindia.com** portal has been launched by the **Spices Board of India.**
- The portal is a 3D virtual platform, that makes use of artificial intelligence (AI)-based technology to connect India’s spice exporters with buyers from around the world.

### Coal Ministry launches Koyla Darpan Portal to share Key Performance Indicators

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• Government of India has launched a web portal ‘**Koyla Darpan**’ to share **Key Performance Indicators (KPI)** related to the **Coal Sector**.

- The portal was launched by Dr. Anil Kumar Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Coal on January 21, 2022.
- The portal can be accessed through the website of Ministry of Coal (<https://coal.gov.in>).
- Initially **nine KPIs** have been listed on the portal. These includes:
  - 1. Coal/Lignite Production,
  - 2. Coal/Lignite Offtake,
  - 3. Exploration Data,
  - 4. Central Sector Schemes,
  - 5. Status of Coal Stock in Thermal Power Plants,
  - 6. Infrastructure Projects,
  - 7. Allocation of Blocks (CMSP/MMDR),
  - 8. Monitoring of Major Coal Mines(CIL),
  - 9. Coal Price.

## **AIIB Commits USD 150 million investment in Data Center Development to Serve Emerging Asia**

- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has committed to invest **USD150 million** in the development of data centers that mostly serve Emerging Asia.
- The Beijing-based multilateral development bank, AIIB, will invest the fund through the **Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II)**.
- This is the first data center project investment by AIIB.
- KDCF II is a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by **Singapore-based financial institution, Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha)**.

## **Indian film Koozhangal wins Best Film Award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival 2022**

- The Oscar-nominated Tamil film ‘**Koozhangal**’, has bagged the **Best Film Award** in the Asian Film Competition category at the **Dhaka International Film Festival 2022**.
- The film has been directed by P S Vinothraj. Famous South Indian actress Nayanthara and her husband Vignesh Shivan are the producer of the film.
- Meanwhile, Malayalam actor **Jayasurya won the Best Actor** award in the Asian Competition for the movie ‘**Sunny**’. The film is directed by Ranjith Shankar.

## **Assam Confers ‘Assam Baibhav’ Award To Industrialist Ratan Tata**

- The state government of Assam has conferred its highest civilian award ‘**Assam Baibhav**’ for the year 2021 on industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata**.
- Mr Tata has been awarded for “his exceptional contribution towards furthering cancer care in Assam”.
- The award was presented by Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on January 24, 2022.
- Assam Baibhav is the **highest civilian award in the State of Assam**
- The award carries a cash prize of **Rs.5 lakh (US\$6,600)**.

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## Armenian President Armen Sarkissian Resigns

- The **President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian** has announced his resignation on 23 January 2022.
- As per Sarkissian, his office is not granted sufficient powers to allow him to be an effective head of state.
- Armen Sarkissian served as the **4th president** of Armenia from 9 April 2018 to 23 January 2022.
- He had also served as Prime Minister of Armenia from 4 November 1996 to 20 March 1997.

## India is Celebrating 73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022

- India is observing the **73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022**.
- Republic Day marks the date on which the **Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950**.
- It replaced the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India.
- Every year, on Republic Day, the President of India gives away Padma Awards to the civilians of India.
- Padma Awards are given in three categories – **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**, in decreasing order of importance.

## International Customs Day: 26 January

- The **International Customs Day (ICD)** is observed on **26 January** every year.
- Objective of the day is to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.
- Theme 2022: “**Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem.**”.
- The day was instituted by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** to commemorate the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO).

## MeitY releases Vision Document 2.0 titled ‘USD 300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026’

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document 2.0 for the electronics sector on January 24, 2022
- The Vision Document 2.0 titled “**\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026**” has been prepared by MeitY in association with the **India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA)**.
- It is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document.
- The first part of the document titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.
- Vision Document 2.0 provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products. This will help India to transform into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026, from the current **US\$75 billion**.

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## 128 People Conferred with Padma Awards 2022

- The **Padma Awards** are one of the **highest civilian Awards in India**. They are conferred in three categories namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**.
- The awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day on January 26, in various disciplines/ fields of activities, such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. .
- The 2022 Padma Award has been conferred upon **128 winners**.
- These includes four Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan awardees, and 107 Padma Shri awardees.
- 34 out of 128 awardees are women, while ten persons are Indian origin and Non-Resident Indians.

## President approves 384 Gallantry Awards for 2022

- The **President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has approved **384 Gallantry awards** to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of 73rd Republic Day celebrations, on January 25, 2022.
- Apart from this, the **President's Police Medals** have been conferred on **939 awardees**, including 189 Gallantry Medals, 88 Police Medals for Distinguished Service and 662 medals for Meritorious Service.

## IMF lowers India's FY22 growth forecast to 9% from 9.5%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has cut India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal **2021-22 (FY22) to 9 percent**, in its latest **world economic outlook** report, released on January 25, 2022.
- Earlier this was estimated at 9.5%
- IMF has projected the growth forecast for India in **2022-23 (FY23) at 7.1%**
- IMF has projected the global growth rate in **2022 to 4.4%, and in 2023 to 3.8%**.

## Apple retained the title as world's valuable brand in Brand Finance 2022 Global 500

- **Apple** has retained its position as the **most valuable brand in 2022** as well, according to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report.
- The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at **\$355.1 billion** in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year.
- This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- **Other brands in top 10** are
  - Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Walmart, Samsung, Facebook, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Huawei and Verizon respectively.
- **Top Indian brand**
  - The Indian conglomerate **Tata Group** emerged as the most valuable brand from India and also in South Asia. It is only brand from the country in the top 100.
  - Global Rank – 78
  - Brand value – US\$23.9 billion.

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## India ranks 85th in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021; Top- Denmark, Finland, NZ

- **Transparency International** has released the **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021** in which **India** has been ranked at **85th spot** (Score of 40).
- The ranking has been **topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand.** (Score of 88)
- This ranking measures **how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be.** The results are given on a scale of **0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).**
- **180 countries** are ranked in it.
- Last year (for 2020) India was ranked 86th with a score of 40.
- This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals that corruption levels are at a **worldwide standstill.** The **global average** remains unchanged for the tenth year in a row, **at just 43** out of 100 points.

## Western Naval Command conducts Joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)

- **Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy** conducted a **joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** off the West Coast which concluded on January 25, 2022.
- The exercise continued for 20 days and was conducted with an aim **to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.**
- The **Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai)** is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy. Other two are **Eastern Naval Command (HQ- Visakhapatnam)** and **Southern Naval Command (HQ- Kochi)**

## Russia-China-Iran conducts joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22 in Gulf of Oman

- The **Russian, Chinese and Iranian** navies undertook naval exercises **CHIRU-2Q22** in the **Gulf of Oman** from January 18 to 22, 2022.
- The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.
- The participants practiced various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical maneuvers as a part of the drill.

## Russia delivers 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to India

- **Russia** delivered all the contracted **70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles** to the Indian Armed Forces on January 25, 2022.
- The Indian Armed Forces had placed an order for **670,000 rifles**, for which the contract was signed on December 06, 2021 between India and Kalashnikov (Russian defense manufacturing unit).
- The total cost of the contract is around **Rs 5,124 crore.**
- The contract included procuring 70,000 rifles off the shelf.
- The remaining 600,000 rifles will be manufactured by an **Indo-Russian joint venture company, Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)**, based at **Amethi, Uttar Pradesh India** under transfer of technology (ToT). [**at Korwa Rifle Factory, Amethi**]
- The lightweight AK-203 Rifles will replace military's in-service **INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) Rifle.**

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day: 27 January

- **International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day)** is observed on **27 January** every year since 2006.
- The theme of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022 is “**Memory, Dignity and Justice**”
- The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.
- A genocide occurred during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945.
- United Nations designated the day in 2005 to serve as a date for official commemoration of the victims of the Nazi regime and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.

## Govt notifies Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)- to boost indigenous manufacturing

- The Government of India has notified the **Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** commonly known as Drones to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements of drones.
- It was notified on January 26, 2022 and **it will boost indigenous manufacturing of Drones**. It has been **notified under Rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021**, which replaced Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) 2021.
- The Government of India has formulated the **Digital Sky Platform** for registration and operation of drones with an all-digital process. These initiatives like Certification Scheme, PLI (production-linked incentive) Scheme, Liberalised drone rules, airspace map and DigitalSky Platform, will help the drone manufacturing industries in India.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation in September 2021 had approved a **PLI scheme for drones and drone components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore** spread over three financial years.

## PM Narendra Modi Hosts First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit

- Prime Minister of **India** Shri Narendra Modi hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** on 27 January 2022, through virtual platform.
- It was the first of its kind engagement between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.
- Central Asian region has **five recognized countries**. These are the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan), Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.
- The Summit was attended by the Presidents of these five Central Asian countries.
- The first India-Central Asia Summit coincided with the **30th anniversary** of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- During the summit, the Leaders agreed to hold the Summit every **2 years (biennial)**.

## Tata Group Officially takes over Air India Operations

- The Government of India officially handed over India's flag carrier, **Air India to Talace Private Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Group**, on January 27, 2022, almost 69 years after acquiring the conglomerate.
- The total value of the deal is **Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion)**.
- The **strategic disinvestment** transaction of Air India includes transfer of **100 percent stake of GoI in Air India to Tata Sons**, along with management control.
- The transaction covers three entities namely, **Air India, Air India Express and Air India SATS (AI SATS)**.
- Under the deal, Tata group will also be handed over Air India Express and 50 percent stake in ground handling arm AI SATS.

## MoS Culture Meenakshi Lekhi launches pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'

- The Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has released a pictorial comic book titled '**India's Women Unsung Heroes**', as a tribute to the forgotten women freedom fighters of the country.
- The book has been prepared by the **Ministry of Culture** in partnership with **Amar Chitra Katha**, an Indian publisher of Indian comics and graphic novels..
- The book portrays the stories and tales of valour of queens who battled imperialism & dedicated their lives for Maa Bharati (Mother Earth).

## Former Indian Hockey Team Captain Charanjit Singh Passes Away at 90

- The former **Hockey mid-fielder Charanjit Singh** has passed away at his residence in Una, Himachal Pradesh, after suffering a cardiac arrest and prolonged age-related illnesses. He was 90.
- Charanjit Singh was the **Captain** of the Indian hockey team which won **gold** in the **Tokyo Olympics of 1964**,
- He was also a member of the Indian team which won **silver medals in the 1960 Games in Rome**, and in the **1962 Asian Games at Jakarta**.

## Veteran Marathi author and social activist Anil Awachat passes away at 77

- Renowned **Marathi author and social activist Anil Awachat** has passed away due to a prolonged illness.
- He was 77.
- Dr Awachat was the founder of a de-addiction center called Muktangam Rehabilitation Center in Pune in 1986.
- He was known for his several Marathi books like "Manasa", Swatahavishayi, "Gard", "Karyarat", "Karyamagna" and "Kutuhalapoti".

## Padma Shri awardee Kathakali artist Milena Salvini passes away at 84

- Noted **Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini from France**, known for teaching Indian classical dance, has passed away. She was 84.
- Salvini was born in Italy but moved to France for learning music.

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- In 1962, Salvini obtained a two-year scholarship training in Kathakali at the Kerala Kalamandalam.
- In 1975 she opened the Mandapa Centre in Paris to teach Indian classical dance.
- The Government of India conferred the **Padma Shri upon Salvini in 2019** for her contribution to the field of performing arts.