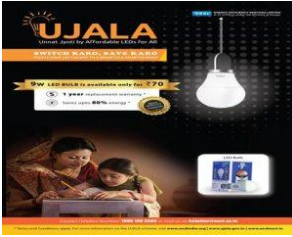


Cross And Climb Academy

Current Affairs 07.01.2022

Centre's flagship UJALA scheme completes 7 years; saves 48 b kWh energy every year



The flagship UJALA programme of the Ministry of Power has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights on January 05, 2022. **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme** was launched by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on **January 05, 2015**. More than 36.78 crore LEDs have been distributed across the country under the scheme till date, which has saved 47,778 million units of electricity per annum.

Losar, the traditional new year festival celebrated in Ladakh



In **Ladakh**, the celebration of the traditional **Losar festival** was held on January 03, 2022 with zeal and enthusiasm. Losar Festival is celebrated by **Buddhist Community** in the region, to **celebrate the onset of the New Year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan**

Buddhism. The annual event is celebrated with performances of traditional songs and folk dances of the region and hypnotising chanting prayers. Generally, this Losar festival in Ladakh is a 15 days long celebration, from the start of the Tibetan lunar calendar. However, due to Covid pandemic, Losar in 2022 was celebrated with symbolic performances in a low-key affair. Gathering to celebrate and performances of rituals have been called off.

Indian-Origin UK Army officer Harpreet Chandi becomes first women of colour to trek solo to South Pole



Captain Harpreet Chandi, an Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer has created history by becoming the **first woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported expedition to the South Pole**. The 32-year-old Chandi completed the 700 miles (1,127 kilometres) trek in 40 days in temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of around 60mph. Currently

based in London, Capt. Chandi is also a physiotherapist.

NPCI Bharat BillPay launches Unified Presentment Management System to simplify recurring bill payments

NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL) has announced the launch of a **Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS)** on January 04, 2022. Under the UPMS system, bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers to take action in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management. The customers will have full control to authorise recurring bill payment through a channel of their choice (banks or payment apps) and modes of digital payments. NPCI Bharat BillPay is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and bill payments services platform.

Full list of winners of Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards



The **Indian Express Group** has announced the **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards (RNG Awards)** for **journalists across the country**, for their work done in 2019. RNG awards are one of the most prestigious awards in India in the field of journalism, held annually since 2006. The award is given to honour journalists across the country from print, broadcast and digital media who have maintained the highest standards of their profession and, despite immense challenges, produced work that sustains public trust in the media and impacts the lives of people. The award is named after Ramnath Goenka, the founder of “The Indian Express” and Indian Express Group in 1932.

TS Tirumurti assumes Chair of UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022



T S Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, has been appointed as the **Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022**. It must be remembered that India has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022. Being the Chair of CTC 2022, India will work to

further enhance the role of CTC in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism, and ensure that global response to the threat of terrorism remains unambiguous, undivided and effective. India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation UNSC. Its two-year term will end December 31, 2022.

G Asok Kumar takes over as Director General for National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

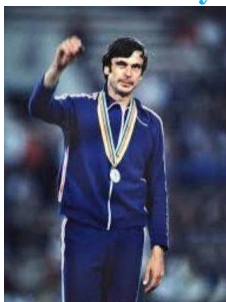


G Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti has been appointed as the new **Director General** for the **National Mission for Clean Ganga**, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Kumar, a 1991 batch Indian Administrative Services officer of Telangana Cadre is popularly known as “*the Rain Man of India*”, for his inspiring work in “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” campaign. He replaces Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra.

Elon Musk-backed Starlink India Head Sanjay Bhargava Resigns

Sanjay Bhargava has stepped down from his post as the **Country Director and Chairman of the Board of Starlink India** citing personal reasons. Bhargava had joined Elon Musk-led SpaceX as the Country Director for Starlink in India on October 1, 2021.

Three-time Olympic triple jump champion Viktor Saneyev passes away at 76



Ace Triple jumper Viktor Saneyev, who was a **three-time Olympic champion and former world record-holder**, has passed away. He was 76. Viktor competed internationally for the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR)**. He had won four Olympic medals which included three golds (Mexico 1968, Munich 1972 and Montreal 1976) and one silver (Moscow 1980). After retirement he moved to Australia where he served as coach at the New South Wales Institute of Sport.

