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**Saturday, 03 February 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**



## Kalaignar Sports Kit Scheme

Saturday, 03 February 2024

### Tamil Nadu Launches 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' Initiative

- Sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin announced that Tamil Nadu is set to launch the Kalaignar sports kit scheme.
- Under the scheme, similar to the free schoolbooks scheme, state government will provide free sports kits to students in all the 12,000 village panchayats.
- The scheme will be launched in Trichy on February 7.”
- The initiative seeks to honor his legacy by promoting sports development among the youth of Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu came second in the overall medal tally, after Maharashtra.
- This was the first time that Tamil Nadu had secured a place among the top three in Khelo India games.

#### Tamil Nadu:

- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Language: Tamil

**Q.** Which state launched the 'Kalaignar Sports Kit' initiative?

**Tamil Nadu**



**Saturday, 03 February 2024**

## **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to commission INS Sandhayak**

- The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest survey vessel Sandhayak in Vizag and the ship is expected to boost the force's surveillance apparatus in the strategic waterways.
- The event will mark the formal induction into the Navy of the first of four survey vessel (large) ships under construction at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The primary role of the ship would be to carry out full scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels, coastal areas and deep seas, with an aim to enable safe marine navigation.
- In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations.
- Sandhayak is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment including deep and shallow water multibeam echosounders, autonomous underwater vehicle, remotely operated vehicle, data acquisition and processing system and satellite-based positioning systems.
- The ship, re-incarnated in its present avatar from erstwhile Sandhayak which was decommissioned in June 2021, is propelled by two diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 18 knots.
- Measuring 110 metres in length, displacing 3400 tons and with 80 per cent indigenous content, Sandhayak is a true testament of India's growing shipbuilding prowess in pursuit of the national vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
- The ship was built at GRSE Kolkata.

**Q.** Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commission INS \_\_\_\_\_.

**'Sandhayak'**



**Saturday, 03 February 2024**

## **Tamil Nadu makes record with 16 Ramsar Sites, adding two new Sanctuary**

- The Longwood Shola, known to the local Badagas in the Nilgiris as 'dodda solai' or 'big forest', was declared as Ramsar wetland along with four other sites in India, including the Karaivetti bird sanctuary in Ariyalur district. With this, Tamil Nadu now has 16 Ramsar wetlands, the highest in the country.
- Ramsar status is an international recognition for conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Spread across 116 hectares, the Longwood Shola has been a source of water and firewood for several villages around Kotagiri town.
- In a first in Tamil Nadu and second in India, the site had bagged the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy accreditation in August 2022.
- It is the only shola (evergreen forest of indigenous trees) pocket located in an urban area in the Nilgiris.
- Home to several species of flora and fauna, this shola is a critical factor in balancing the fragile ecosystem of the Nilgiris.
- It is also home to around 170 rare and endangered species of birds, making it an ideal spot for birdwatching. According to various sources, 14 of the 170 bird species are endemic to western ghats.

**Q.** Which state has set the record for highest number of Ramsar sites with 16 Ramsar sites? **Tamil Nadu**



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## **Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania assumed role of Chief Hydrographer**

- Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania assumed charge as the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt. of India.
- Commissioned in the Executive branch of the Indian Navy in 1990, he is a Hydrography Specialist.
- The Flag Officer has commanded IN Ships Darshak and Sandhayak. During his career spanning more than three decades he carried out hydrographic surveys across the entire stretch of the country and in IOR including challenging task of data collection for IMBL arbitration and for production of new chart in Sundarbans delta.
- He also has the distinction of serving onboard HMS Bulldog of Royal Navy.
- He has held various important shore appointments being Interviewing Officer & Deputy President of Naval Selection Board, Principal Director (Hydrography) at NHQ, Officer-in-Charge, National Hydrographic Office (NHO) and Joint Chief Hydrographer.

**Q.** Who took charge as the Chief Hydrographer of the Government of India? **Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania**



**Saturday, 03 February 2024**

## **Champai Soren: The next Chief Minister of Jharkhand**

- Jharkhand Transport Minister Champai Soren's appointment was finalised by the Governor following Hemant Soren's resignation and arrest, the senior JMM leader Champai Soren took oath as the new Chief Minister.
- The 67-year-old tribal leader sworn in as the 12th chief minister of the state.
- He is the sixth CM from the Jharkhand's Kolhan region which comprises East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.
- A veteran of the Jharkhand statehood movement, Champai Soren one of the senior-most leaders in JMM and has held several key portfolios such as welfare and transport.
- During the oath taking ceremony, senior Congress leader Alamgir Alam, RJD leader Satyanand Bhokta took oath as cabinet ministers.

**Q.** Which tribal leader took oath as the 12th Chief Minister of Jharkhand? **Champai Soren**



**Saturday, 03 February 2024**

## **IAF to conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokharan Range in Jaisalmer**

- The Indian Air Force will conduct the mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at the Pokharan Range in Jaisalmer.
- During the exercise, the Air Force will demonstrate its air fighting and operational capabilities by focusing on interoperability and maneuvering.
- Vayu Shakti, 2024 will witness the participation of more than 100 aircraft, and helicopters.
- Several indigenous manufactured and designed aircraft and helicopters like Tejas, Prachand, and Dhruv will take part in the exercise.
- Air to air and surface-to-air missile systems including MICA, R-73, SAMAR, and Akash will also demonstrate fire power.
- According to the Indian Air Force, 77 fighter aircraft including Rafale, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi 30 MKI, 41 Helicopters including MI 17, Apache and five transport aircraft including C130 and C17 will participate in the Vayu Shakti 2024.

**Q.** Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise \_\_\_\_\_ in Pokharan range of Jaisalmer. **Vayu Shakti 2024**



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## **US approves sale of 31 Predator drones to India**

- The US approved the sale of 31 MQ-9B armed drones to India at an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion.
- The proposed mega drone deal was announced during the historic State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi here in June 2023.
- The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of India of MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 3.99 billion.
- The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance patrols in sea lanes of operation.
- Under the deal, India will get 31 High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs, of which the Navy will get 15 SeaGuardian drones, while the Army and the Indian Air Force will get eight each of the land version – SkyGuardian.

**Q.** America approved the sale of how many Predator drones to India? **31**





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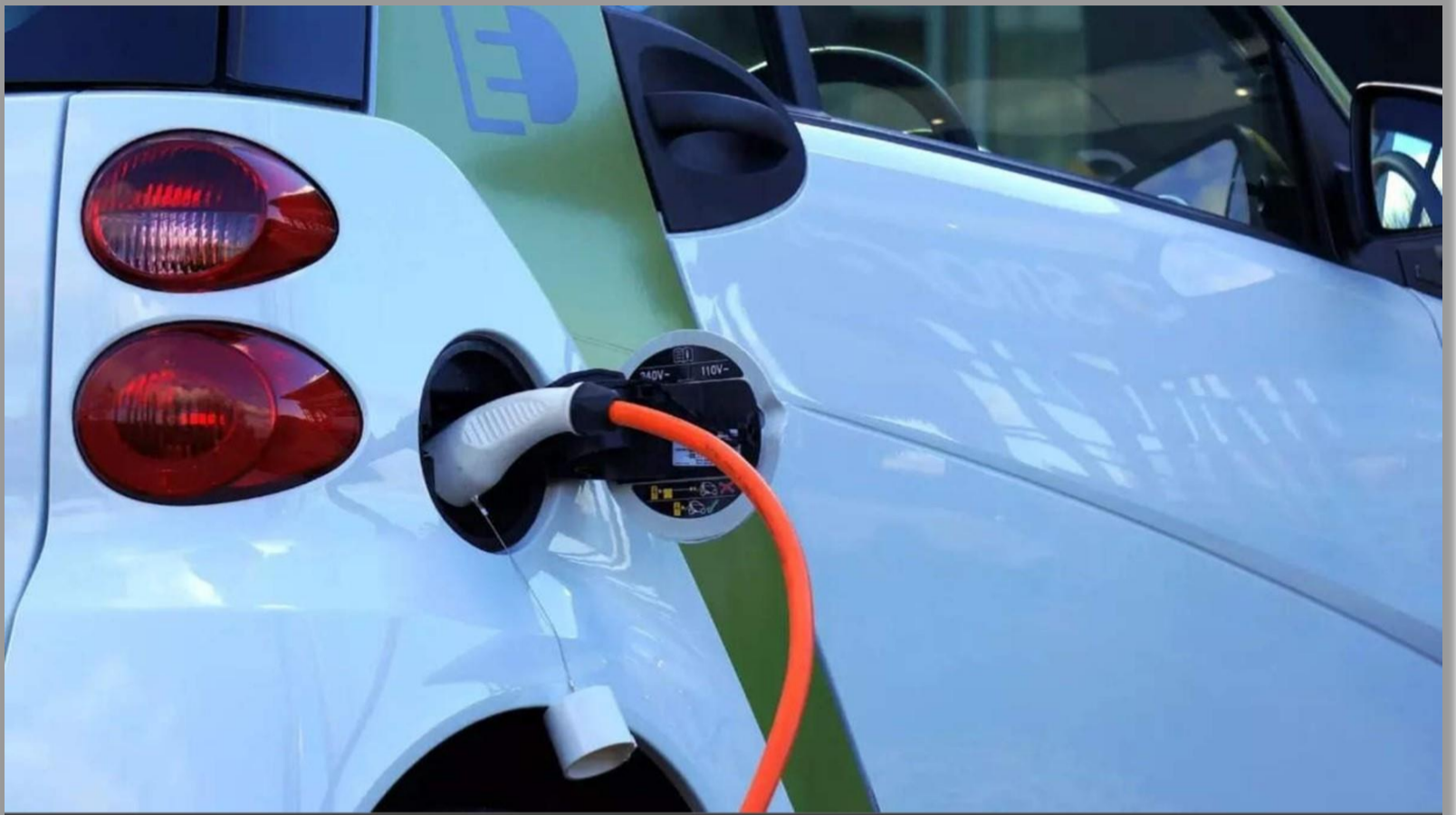
## AU Small Finance Bank Appoints HR Khan as Non-Executive Chairman

- Private sector lender AU Small Finance Bank informed exchanges that it has appointed Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as non-executive chairman following approval from the shareholders.
- Khan will take charge from Raj Verma, whose tenure as Part-time Chairman ended on January 29, 2024.
- Khan is a former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and has vast experience of more than four decades in the areas of banking & finance, payment and settlement systems, economics, financial markets, and has held leadership positions.
- At RBI, he handled diverse areas and spearheaded major projects relating to financial markets, foreign exchange management, external investments, banking regulation and supervision, IT transformation, payment and settlement systems, training and HR initiatives, and financial inclusion.

### AU Small Finance Bank:

- Headquarters: Jaipur
- Founder: Sanjay Agarwal
- Subsidiary: Index Money Limited
- Founded: 1996

**Q.** Who was appointed non-executive chairman of AU Small Finance Bank? **HR Khan**



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## **Govt cuts FAME allocation by over 44 pc to Rs 2,671.33 cr in FY25**

- The government has earmarked Rs 2671.33 crore, over 44 per cent lower than the revised estimate for 2023-24, towards the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicle in India (FAME) scheme for FY25.
- The proposal comes at a time when there is no clarity over whether the existing FAME II plan, already extended by two years, will see another extension or the government will announce a new FAME III scheme.
- In 2023-24, Rs 5,171.97 crore was allocated for the scheme, with revised estimates showing around Rs 4,807.4 crore spent by the end of the fiscal year.
- The deadline for the ongoing FAME II scheme is March 31, 2024, with a budget outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.
- The main objective of the scheme is to offer upfront incentives for the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles and add more charging stations.
- The FAME scheme, launched in April 2015, is the umbrella programme of the government to promote electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- The first phase of the scheme ran till 2019 and the second phase ends in March this year.

**Q.** Government cut FAME allocation by over 44 per cent to how many crore rupees in FY25? **Rs 2,671.33 crore**



## PM Narendra Modi To Inaugurate Bharat Mobility Global Expo, Showcasing India's Rise In Global Mobility

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address India's first-of-its-kind mobility show, which aims to showcase the country's growing role as a global hub for mobility.
- The event, Bharat Mobility Global Expo, will be organised during February 1-3 in the national capital.
- It will bring the entire mobility value chain under one roof, including over 800 exhibitors and around 50 overseas players.
- While the share of vehicles being exported is 14 cent right now, India aims to increase it to about 25 per cent of all passenger vehicles produced in the country by 2030.
- India is also playing a crucial role in the future of the automotive industry, including innovating automotive software, next gen electronics and industrial automation.
- Besides domestic stakeholders, the expo will be attended by international participants across 47 countries.

**Q.** Who will inaugurate the India Mobility Global Expo, which will showcase India's growth in global mobility?

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



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