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21st December 2022

INTERNATIONAL

1) World Trade Organization ministerial conference

- The next World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in February 2024, the global trade watchdog confirmed in a statement.
- The UAE and Cameroon were both vying to host the event and came to an informal agreement for Abu Dhabi to host the first one and Cameroon to do the next, trade sources.

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NATIONAL

1) Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project

- The fifth Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited Mumbai.
- Defence Ministry said, the submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.
- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France.

2) 'Pralay'

- As the conflicts in the border region with China increase, the Indian armed forces are now set to procure the 'Pralay' ballistic missile that can hit the target from 150 to 500 km.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation had successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha in December 2021.



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3) "KALYANI FERRESTA"

- Union Steel Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched India's first Green Steel Brand "KALYANI FERRESTA" in New Delhi.
- This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.

4) First-ever surety bond

- Road, transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product, a move that would reduce the dependence of infra developers of bank guarantee. Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal.
- The product will cater to the requirements of a diversified group of contractors, many of whom are operating in today's increasingly volatile environment.

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5) 'AYURSWASTHYA Yojana'

- The Ministry of Ayush issued a notification regarding the status of the centres of excellence scheme 'AYURSWASTHYA Yojana'.
- Financial assistance is provided to eligible individual organizations/institutes for establishing and upgrading their functions & facilities and/or for research & development activities in AYUSH under the scheme.

6) Millet food festival

- To raise awareness about the importance of millet, the Agriculture Ministry is hosting a Millet food festival in Parliament for the members.

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- As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing global population, resilient cereals like millet provide an affordable and nutritious option.
- The United Nations has passed a resolution declaring the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The IYM 2023 and the push towards increasing millet production will also contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7) PT Usha

- Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated legendary former athlete PT Usha to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament.
- YSRCP member Vijai Sai Reddy has also been nominated along with her.
- PT Usha was also elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association recently.

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STATE NEWS

1) Tribal Winter Festival

- A first-of-its-kind Tribal Winter Festival was held in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The festival is organised by the district administration in collaboration with various departments at Ketson, the festival witnessed huge public participation.
- The festival witnessed music, dance, and cultural events that left the people enthralled.

2) Governance Week celebrations

- Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated Good Governance Week celebrations from 19-25 December 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Offering his homage to India's former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, in whose memory the Good Governance Day and Good Governance Week are celebrated.
- The Minister also launched a five-day "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" a nationwide Campaign, to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

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3) Vainu Bappu 40-inch telescope

- On the celebrations of 50 years of operations of the Vainu Bappu 40-inch telescope, several stellar discoveries of the telescope were highlighted.
- The celebrations were held on the 15th and 16th of December 2022 in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu. The telescope set up by Professor Vainu Bappu has played a significant role in astronomy with major discoveries like the presence of rings around the planet Uranus, a new satellite of Uranus, the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter.
- Several important kinds of research were conducted with the telescope, including the discovery and study of many 'Be Stars', Lithium depletion in giant stars, optical variability in Blazars, and the dynamics of the famous supernova SN 1987A.

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APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Mohit Seth

- Major General Mohit Seth has took over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Counter Insurgency Force Kilo.
- He took over from Major General Sanjiv Singh Slaria who has been moved to Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur.
- In his distinguished military career spanning over three decades, the General Officer has held various prestigious staff and command appointments in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast and at the Army headquarters.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage'

- A book titled, 'The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage' by Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee.

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- The book tells you how the exploits and sacrifices of the British-era Royal Indian Navy (RIN) during World War 2 were omitted by British historians who could not digest the RIN's mutiny in 1946.
- The IN built its own records and archives to rectify that.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data"

- Under Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon in the Digital India Awards 2022 for their initiative "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data".
- The award was announced under the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category.
- The DataSmart Cities Initiative is a key step in creating a robust data ecosystem that enables evidence-based decision-making in cities.

2) Pro Kabaddi League

- Jaipur Pink Panthers won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final against a hard-fighting Puneri Paltan by a score of 33-29 to win their second PKL championship.
- After Patna, Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever winners, are currently only the second team to win multiple titles.
- The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai.
- Jaipur Pink Panthers team is currently led by Sunil Kumar Malik and coached by Sanjeev Baliyan. The team is owned by Abhishek Bachchan.

OBITUARY

1) Lance Naik Bhairon Singh Rathore passes away

- Lance Naik Bhairon Singh Rathore, a BSF veteran and hero of the 1971 India-Pakistan War, passed away in Jodhpur at the age of 81.
- The BSF veteran's bravery at Rajasthan's Longewala post during the war was portrayed by actor Suniel Shetty in the Bollywood movie 'Border'.
- He served in the 14th BSF unit during the war and retired from service in 1987.

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