











For Daily Current Affairs/Notifications/Preparation Tips/Study Material

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26th and 27th January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) White House

- The White House nominated a special envoy for human rights in North Korea, moving to fill a post that has been empty since 2017 amid debate over how rights issues fit with efforts to counter Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.
- President Joe Biden nominated Julie Turner, a long-time diplomat and current director of the Office of East Asia and the Pacific in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the Department of State.
- The announcement comes amid a hardening line toward Pyongyang from the United States and South Korea, whose new conservative leader, Yoon Suk Yeol, has also turned his attention to human rights issues.

2) Mabja Zangbo river

- Satellite images show that China is constructing a new dam on the Mabja Zangbo river, geospatial intelligence researcher Damien Symon has claimed.
- The dam will be sitting just a few kilometres north of the Indian-Nepali-Chinese border trijunction. Satellite images show work is being done on the Mabja Zangbo river in Tibet's Burang County since 2021.
- While the construction of the dam is not complete, it does pose questions regarding China's hegemony on water supplies downstream in the future.



3) World's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a new federal investment to build and commercialise the world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer.
- According to a news release from the Prime Minster's website, the investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million) will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc, a Toronto-based Canadian quantum computing company, to develop the quantum computer which will have the potential to provide world





















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leading capabilities to help solve complex data problems and could be used in a variety of sectors such as finance, transportation, environmental modelling, and health.

4) Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority of Egypt

- India and Egypt signed an MOU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between Prasar Bharati and the National Media Authority of Egypt.
- The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs, and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry.
- The MoUs were exchanged between the two countries in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Egypt following the delegation-level talks between the two sides at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.



5) Scandium nitride

- A team of scientists at Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, who were working on nitride-based materials has used their background for developing hardware for neuromorphic computing.
- They used ScN to develop a device mimicking a synapse that controls the signal transmission as well as remembers the signal.

Scientists have used scandium nitride, a semiconducting material with supreme stability and Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor compatibility, to develop brain-like computing.

- This invention can provide a new material for stable, CMOS-compatible optoelectronic synaptic functionalities at a relatively lower energy cost and hence has the potential to be translated into an industrial product.

NATIONAL

























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1) 74th Republic Day of India

- Google celebrates the 74th Republic Day of India with a creative masterpiece by a Gujarat-based guest artist Parth Kothekar.
- The Google Doodle finely illustrates the Republic Day Parade, along with some iconic landmarks like Rashtrapati Bhavan, the India Gate, the Daredevil motorcycle riders, and the CRFP marching contingent.

2) Artificial Intelligence Programme

- The Indian Railways has successfully concluded the trial of an Artificial Intelligence Programme it built to fix the endless problem of the Waiting list.
- The Indian Railways has also introduced the Ideal Train Profile to maximize the capacity utilization and revenue generation in reserved mail express trains by regularly analyzing the demand pattern of every single train.
- The AI module has been developed by an in-house team led by R Gopalakrishnan of the Centre of Railways Information System (CRIS). The module is completed after an extensive effort by the team for over two years.

ELIGIBILITY : 10th/Matriculation AGE : 18-25/27 LAST DATE : 17-02-2023 EXAM DATE : APRIL 2023

3) 100 cheetahs to India

- South Africa said that it had reached a deal to transfer more than 100 cheetahs to India as part of an ambitious project to reintroduce the spotted cats in the south Asian country.
- The environment ministry said an initial batch of 12 cheetahs would be flown to India next month, after eight cheetahs arrived from Namibia last September.

4) 74th Republic Day

- President Droupadi Murmu discussed the Covid pandemic, the Indian economy, the G20 chair, and women's empowerment in her first Republic Day speech.





















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- President Droupadi Murmu remarked in a speech to the country on the eve of the 74th Republic Day that the reason India was successful as a democratic republic was because so many different religions and languages "had not divided but unified us."

5) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India released a discussion paper on the securitisation of stressed assets framework as a way to improve the quality of the sale and resolution of such accounts.
- The regulator's proposal comes on the heels of an announcement it made in September 2022.
- In September 2019, a task force for the development of a secondary market for corporate loans suggested the creation of a similar framework for non-performing assets.

6) Dr. B N Tripathi

- In the 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources India was elected as Vice-Chair and represented Asia & Pacific region. Dr. B N Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, and the National Coordinator, vice-chaired the Session and also act as Rapporteur.
- The 12th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources was held in Rome from 18th January to 20th January 2023.



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APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Toyota Motor Corp

- The chief executive of Toyota Motor Corp, Akio Toyoda will step down as head of the company his grandfather founded, the Japanese automaker. Koji Sato, the automaker's 53-year-old chief branding officer, who is also president of Toyota's luxury brand Lexus, will take over as chief executive from April 1, as Akio Tovoda becomes chairman.
- The current chairman Takeshi Uchiyamada will drop his chairman title but remain on the board. During his more than a decade at the top, Toyoda presided over the carmaker during a period of intense change in the auto industry and rising uncertainty about how legacy automakers such as Toyota can fend off the challenge from newer – and often nimbler – challengers such as Tesla.





















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2) Prabdev Singh

- India's Central Bank has approved JP Morgan Chase & Co. to appoint Prabdev Singh as the lender's Chief Executive Officer in the Country.
- The Reserve Bank of India approved a three-year term for Prabdev Singh last week.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) International Cricket Council

- The International Cricket Council has announced its first individual award winners in the ICC Awards 2022, naming the stars honoured in the Associate, Emerging and T20I categories following a global vote conducted among the specialist panel of media representatives, the ICC Voting Academy and global fans who voted for their favourite stars.
- Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year, with winners announced across ICC digital channels.



2) 'Green Railway Station Certification'

- East Coast Railways' Visakhapatnam railway station has received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating.
- The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories.

3) 412 Gallantry awards

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved 412 Gallantry awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others.



















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- These include six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, and 15 Shaurya Chakras including two posthumous.
- These include one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, including four posthumous, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Customs Day on 26th January

- The World Customs Organisation marks International Customs Day on 26th January every year. The occasion commemorates the WCO's maiden session held in 1953.
- The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about the role Customs authorities play in the seamless movement of goods across borders and their importance in the cross-border regulatory apparatus.
- Every year, such authorities of WCO's member administrations organise events to celebrate International Customs Day.



2) International Holocaust Remembrance Day

- Every year, International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on January 27 to reflect on the atrocities inflicted by Adolf Hitler, which resulted in the deaths of an estimated six million Jews.
- The day commemorates the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in January 1945 from Nazi control.

OBITUARY

1) 'Ironman of India' Sabir Ali, has passed away

- 'Ironman of India' Sabir Ali, who won the decathlon gold at the 1981 Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo, passed away. He was 67.
- Ali, who retired from Railways, won the title in the Japanese capital with a tally of 7,253 points beating Japan's Nobuya Saito (7,078) and China's Zu Qilin (7,074).

























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- He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka.

2) J Jamuna passed away

- Veteran Telugu film actor and former parliamentarian J Jamuna passed away at the age of 86. She was born in Hampi on August 30, 1936, Jamuna made her film debut at the age of 16 with Puttillu (1952) made by Garikapati Raja Rao of Praja Natya Mandali, cultural wing of the Communist Party of India.
- Before that she acted in several stage plays on behalf of Indian People's Theatre Association floated by Raja Rao.













