

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 13, 2020

NATIONAL

- The Union government - has decided to completely withdraw NSG commandos from the task of protecting VIPs



- ✓ The 'black cat' commandos of the elite counter-terror force will be shifted out from VIP protection duties, a task not originally meant for it when the force was created in 1984.
 - ✓ The NSG force provides proximate and mobile security cover — commandos armed with sophisticated assault weapons — under the top 'Z+' category to 13 'high-risk' VIPs that consists of about two dozen personnel for each one of them.
 - ✓ The protection duties of the commandos, which include giving security to Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, will soon be transferred to paramilitary forces.
 - ✓ The other NSG protectees include ex-CMs Mayawati, Mulayam Singh, Chandrababu Naidu, Parkash Singh Badal and Farooq Abdullah, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani.
 - ✓ The National Security Guard will take over, as per its original charter, the handling specific tasks of counterterrorist and anti-hijack operations
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - rechristened Kolkata Port Trust after Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on January 12



- ✓ The Prime Minister addressed the 150th anniversary programme of Kolkata Port Trust and launched commemorative stamps of the port trust

- ✓ During the event, the PM also launched Rs 600 crore worth port development activities.
- ✓ It includes upgrade of a ship repair facility, upgraded railway infrastructure for the port and also river front development schemes
- ✓ Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh
- ✓ He laid the stone for the development of Chittaranjan Locomotive Factory, Damodar Valley Corporation and Hindustan Aircraft Factory.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- Home Minister Amit Shah - chaired the 6th Island Development Agency meeting in New Delhi.
- ✓ The meeting focused on “Green Development in the Islands to reach new heights”
- ✓ It had reviewed the progress of the programme, “Holistic Development of Islands”, taken up by the Island Development Agency (IDA)
- ✓ In the first phase, the plan will be implemented in 4 islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 5 islands of Lakshadweep Islands.
- ✓ In the second phase, 12 more islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 5 Islands of Lakshadweep islands are to be covered.
- ✓ Also, the city of Port Blair and other 7 islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are to be digitally connected through submarine optical fibre cable by June 2020

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Indian Space Research Organization - will launch GSAT-30 satellite on the launch vehicle Ariane-5 on January 17, 2020
- ✓ It will be launched in Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou
- ✓ The GSAT-30 is a communication satellite, which seeks to replace INSAT-4A.
- ✓ The mission life of GSAT-30 is 15 years.
- ✓ It will help in supporting VSAT network, teleport services, DTH televisions services, cellular backhaul connectivity and digital news gathering.
- ✓ The INSAT-4A was launched in 2005 mainly to facilitate communication.
- ✓ APPLE Experimental was the first Indian ‘experimental’ satellite launched by Ariane in 1981
- ✓ It was used for TV and radio communications.
- ✓ Ariane Space is a commercial satellite launching organization, founded in 1980
- ✓ Since then, it has launched 23 Indian satellites.

DEFENCE

- Two Indian Coast Guard Ships (ICGS) — Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur — were commissioned by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar at Kolkata on January 12.



- ✓ Annie Besant will be based at Chennai and Amrit Kaur will be based at Haldia
- ✓ The ships are fitted with state-of-the-art technology, and navigation equipment, along with Bofors 40/60 guns and 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Controlled Guns for sophisticated fighting efficiency.

SPORTS

- Tamil Nadu's Sherin Abdul Gafoor - won the silver with a jump of 6.30m in the Under 21 Long jump event in the Khelo India Youth Games on January 12
- ✓ 18 year old Kerala athlete, Ancy Sojan produced an impressive 6.36m performance to win the women's U-21 long jump event



- ✓ She also broke the U-20 national record, overtaking the earlier mark of 6.30m in U-20
- ✓ Her effort was impressive, considering that the record at the senior level in women's long jump last season was 6.42m in the name of Rintu Mathew.
- ✓ Ancy had won four gold medals in the SGFI National School Athletics Championship in Sangrur last month.
- ✓ Telangana's Jeevanji Deepthi and Tamil Nadu's Ruthika Saravanan won the gold and silver respectively in the girls U-17 100m race after both clocked 12.26 seconds in a photo finish.
- Hero MotoSports' Portuguese motorbike driver Paulo Goncalves - died after a fall while competing during Stage VII of the Dakar Rally on January 12



- ✓ During the ride from Riyadh to Wadi ad-Dawasir, Goncalves met with the accident after a 276km ride on the route.

- ✓ He was placed 46th in the overall bike standings after Friday's Stage VI.
- ✓ This was Goncalves' 13th edition of Dakar, having made his debut in 2006.
- ✓ He had finished runners-up to Marc Coma in 2015 Dakar Rally
- ✓ Goncalves was the first competitor to die in the gruelling endurance event since Polish motorcycle rider Michal Hernik in Argentina in 2015.
- ✓ The Portuguese finished in the top 10 at the Dakar Rally four times other than the runner-up finish in 2015 to Coma, who is competing this year as codriver to double Formula One champion Fernando Alonso.
- ✓ The 2013 FIM cross country rallies world champion was representing the Hero team, along with his brother-in-law Joaquim Rodrigues.
- ✓ Goncalves crashed out on the fifth stage in Peru last year, while Rodrigues was at 27th after Stage 6.

