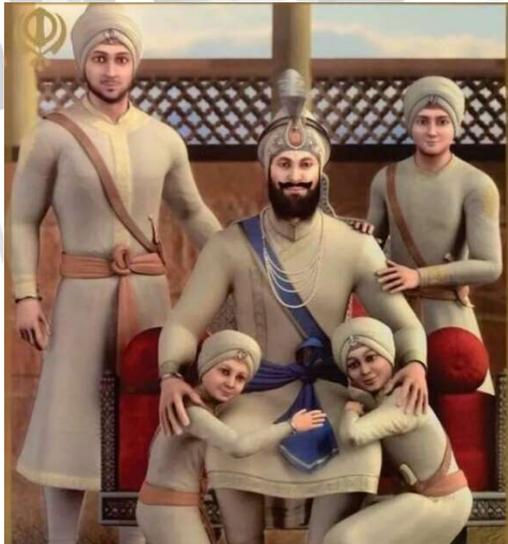


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 10, 2022

NATIONAL

- **On January 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced the government decision to observe December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas' in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons**
- ✓ The PM made the announcement while paying rich tributes to the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, on the occasion of Parkash Purab on January 9



- ✓ The PM hailed the bravery of Mata Gujari, Guru Gobind Singh ji and his four sons Sahibzades (meaning sons in Punjabi).
- ✓ Guru Gobind Singh ji had four sons – Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh
- ✓ Two of the four Sahibzades - Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh - were killed by Mughals under Aurangzeb in 1705
- ✓ 'Veer Baal Diwas' will be observed on the same day Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall.
- ✓ All four of Guru Gobind Singh's sons were initiated into the Khalsa and all were executed by Mughal forces before the age of 19.

- ✓ Guru Gobind Singh was also killed by a Mughal assassin in 1708, a year after the death of Aurangzeb.
 - ✓ Earlier, the Prime Minister had announced the decision to repeal farm laws on November 19, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism.
 - ✓ The government also commemorated the 400th anniversary of the martyrdom of the ninth Guru, Tegh Bahadur, who was executed by Mughals for protesting against the persecution of Kashmiri Pandits, on a big scale.
 - ✓ The PM had spoken about the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh's sons in one of his Mann Ki Baat addresses.
- **The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - has amended rules to mandate that all bank fraud cases involving more than ₹3 crore will be referred to an expert panel to decide if they need investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**

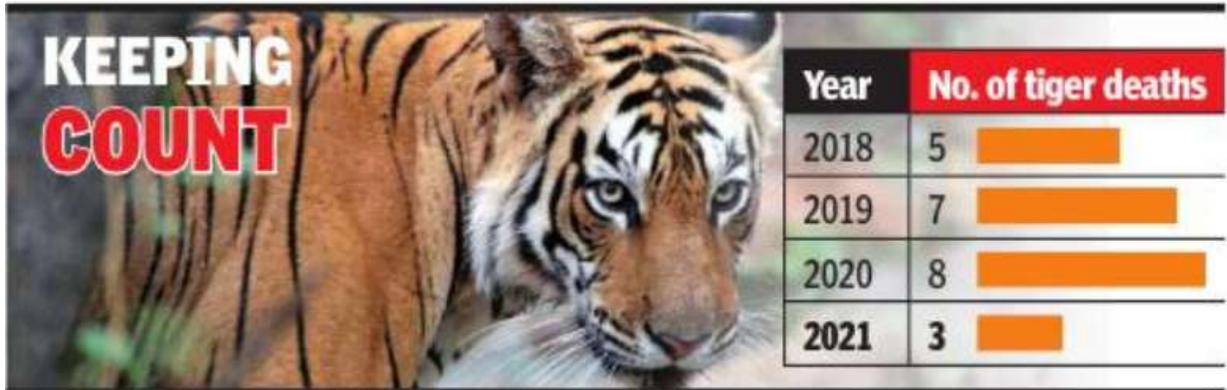
EARLIER THRESHOLD WAS ₹50 CRORE

- Till now, large bank fraud cases above ₹50 crore in public sector banks were referred to panel
- Panel will also examine role of all levels of officials/wholtime directors now
- Decision taken based on discussions with RBI and finance ministry
- Bankers have approached finance ministry seeking 'sunset period' for probes so they are not 'hounded'

- ✓ Earlier, only fraud cases that dealt with more than ₹50 crore in public sector banks were referred to this panel.
- ✓ In this regard, the CVC has issued a circular based on discussions with the RBI and the finance ministry
- ✓ Accordingly, the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds will examine the role of all executives and whole-time directors in cases of Rs 3 to Rs 50 crore classified as fraud by state-run banks and financial institutions on or after January 6.
- ✓ According to CVC, a separate board for cases between Rs 3 crore and Rs 50 crore will be set up

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Twenty three tigers were reported dead in the reserve forests of Tamil Nadu in the past four years, since 2018.**



- ✓ While three tigers were poached either by poisoning or electrocution, the remaining deaths were natural.
- ✓ The number of tiger deaths and poaching in this period was less by at least 50% when compared to previous four years (2014-17).
- ✓ During 2014-17, at least 32 tigers were reported dead in the reserve forest areas in the State, of which six were poaching cases.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu accounts for 250 tigers.
- ✓ A total of 3, 8, 7 and 5 tigers were reported dead during the years 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018
- ✓ In 2021, Hasanur and Coimbatore divisions recorded one death each, while Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) reported one tiger death.
- ✓ In 2020, of the eight tiger deaths, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Anaimalai Tiger Reserve and Hasanur forest division reported two tiger deaths each.
- ✓ Besides the 23 tigers reported dead in forest areas in the past four years, another nine tigers in Arignar Anna Zoological Park were also reported dead during the same period.
- ✓ Countrywide synchronized tiger census is conducted at an interval of every three years by National Tiger Conservation Authority.

ECONOMY

- **The government - has opened a multiagency probe against the Indian operations of top Chinese phone companies Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo**
- ✓ The probe will cover allegations of “lapses and discrepancies” in their statutory financial filings and other reporting over the last few years, apart from looking into their business practices.
- ✓ The agencies will seek to investigate if there was concealment of income, deliberate attempts to suppress profits to evade taxes, and abuse of dominant position in the smartphone market to the detriment of the local industry.
- ✓ Besides, policies related to alleged non-transparent methods in sourcing components and distribution of products will also be covered under the probe

AREAS OF CONCERN

- ▶ Despite strong revenues & mkt share, **Chinese cos yet to report profitability** in India
- ▶ Continued losses mean **non-payment of income tax**
- ▶ Govt **probing pacts** with Chinese component suppliers
- ▶ **Lack of Indians in distribution chain** is also under the scanner of agencies

- ✓ The widening of the probe comes amid the recent searches conducted against the Chinese makers by various agencies, including the income tax department and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- ✓ Oppo and Vivo are owned by Chinese electronics giant BBK that also controls the OnePlus and Realme brands that are sold in India.
- ✓ Despite gaining in revenue and market share in India with a cumulative turnover of over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2019-20, Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo haven't paid any taxes in India.

SPORTS

- **Chennai's Bharath Subramaniam - became India's 73rd Grandmaster after bagging his third and final GM norm at the Vergani Cup in Cattolica, Italy on January 9.**



- ✓ During the event, the 14-year-old scored 6.5 points from 9 rounds to secure the GM norm.
- ✓ Bharath got his maiden GM norm at the Aeroflot Open in Moscow in 2020.
- ✓ In October last year, Bharath bagged his second GM norm at the U-21 junior roundtable tournament in Bulgaria.
- ✓ From playing his first ever tournament in school in 2013, Bharath caught the attention of many by clinching the world U-8 title in Greece two years later.
- ✓ Bharath notched up consistent performances over the years to become an International Master (IM) in 2019.