

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 30, 2022

STATES

- **India's first innovation centre for graphene – to come up in Kerala at Thrissur**
- ✓ It will be a joint venture between Pune-headquartered Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), Tata Steel Limited and other industries.
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has given its in-principle approval to the first-of-its-kind centre for studying graphene and developing its newer applications as suitable for industries
- ✓ CMET, Thrissur, is mandated with research on graphene for supercapacitor purposes
- ✓ The project will be implemented with the support of the Kerala government
- ✓ The main collaborators of the project include scientists from the National Graphene Institute, University of Manchester
- ✓ Of the Rs 34 crore estimated for establishing the centre, the partnering industries will contribute 60% funding.
- ✓ Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, and as per latest research, it could replace indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones
- ✓ Being highly flexible and chemically stable, this two-dimensional form of crystalline carbon has enormous number of applications
- ✓ Graphene is widely used in electronic wearable devices, biomedical devices, sensors, fuel cells, semiconductors, field emission displays, nanoelectrodes for inexpensive organic electronic devices such as organic photovoltaics (OPVs), liquid-crystal devices (LCDs), supercapacitors, fuel cells and batteries.

NATIONAL

- **On January 29, the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk - marked the culmination of the Republic Day celebrations**

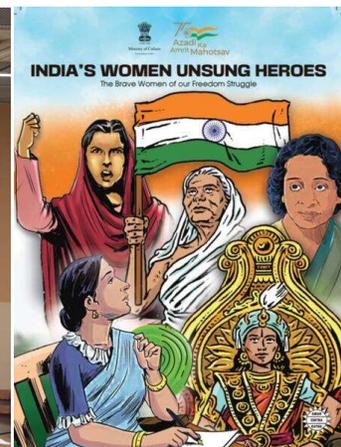
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh witnessed the ceremony among other dignitaries



- ✓ This year's celebrations scripted history with a laser and drone show for the first time ever after the Army, Navy, Air Force and central police bands had marched off.
 - ✓ From what began as tiny shape in the sky above Rashtrapati Bhawan, the formations took various shapes as the show progressed.
 - ✓ The drones depicted the globe and then spreading into a map of India, Mahatma Gandhi, even an animated Make in India logo.
 - ✓ The show comprised 1,000 drones indigenously fabricated and configured by a startup of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, called BotLab Dynamics.
 - ✓ At one juncture, the drones combined to form the "75, Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" visual alongside the tricolor image.
 - ✓ The laser show projected the history of the country's independence on the historic sandstone walls of the North Block and South Block.
 - ✓ Apart from snippets on the freedom fighters, the laser mapping also displayed India's cultural and religious diversity.
 - ✓ Before the bugler blew the retreat, the military bands retreated from the expanse of Vijay Chowk to the tune of "Saare jahaan se achha," adding to the grandeur of the event, which this year also saw renditions like "Ekla chalo re".
 - ✓ This year's ceremony, however, did not have the hymn "Abide with me", which fixture since 1950.
 - ✓ The hymn, considered as a personal favourite of Mahatma Gandhi, was usually the last piece to be played before the ceremony ended.
- **The Spice Board of India - recently launched the Spice Exchange Portal, which will connect the Indian spice exporters with buyers from all over the world**
- ✓ The spicexchangeindia.com is a 3D virtual platform created exclusively for spice exports

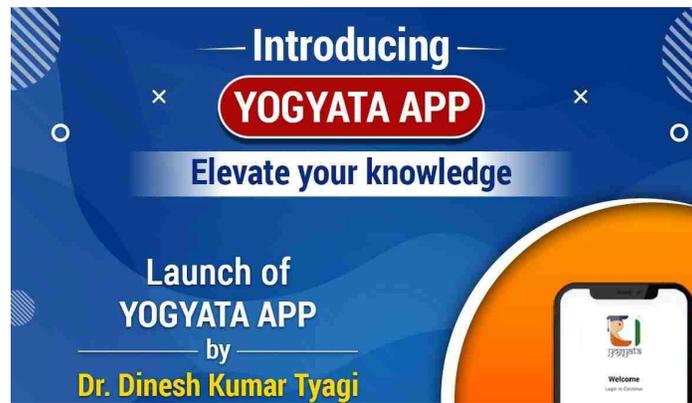


- ✓ The first-of-its-kind platform was developed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - ✓ The platform was launched by Som Parkash, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, at a hybrid event held in Kochi and online
 - ✓ The portal uses Artificial Intelligence to connect the buyers and sellers, thereby improving the ease of doing business
 - ✓ Spices are ranked fourth in Indian agricultural commodities after marine products, non basmati rice and basmati rice.
 - ✓ India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices in the world and contribute 41% of total horticultural exports by exporting 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries
- **Union Minister for State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi - released a pictorial book on 'India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle' in New Delhi on January 28**



- ✓ As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations this year, the Ministry of Culture will release three pictorial books on 75 unsung heroes of the freedom struggle in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha

- ✓ The first of the series was dedicated to 20 women whose contributions to India's freedom struggle remain largely unknown
- ✓ These include –
 - ✓ Rani Abbakka, the first Tuluva Queen of Ullal who fought the Portuguese in the latter half of the 16th century
 - ✓ Matangini Hazra, the Bengali revolutionary who was shot dead by the British Indian police in September 1942
 - ✓ Gulab Kaur, a freedom fighter who abandoned her dreams of a life abroad to mobilise Indians against the British Raj
 - ✓ Padmaja Naidu, the daughter of Sarojini Naidu and a freedom fighter in her own right, who later became Governor of West Bengal
 - ✓ Bishni Devi Shah, who inspired a large number of people in Uttarakhand to join the freedom movement.
 - ✓ Chakali Iamma, whose act of defiance against the local zamindar became an inspiration for many during the rebellion in the Telangana region and
 - ✓ Parbati Giri, nicknamed the Mother Teresa of western Odisha, who was a prominent female freedom fighter from the state.
- ✓ The first edition digital book will be available free of cost on the Amar Chitra Katha app
- ✓ The second edition of the series, which is in process, will be on 25 unsung tribal freedom fighters.
- ✓ The third and final edition will be on 30 unsung heroes drawn from other areas
- **The Centre - has announced changes in spending norms for Contingency Fund of India (CFI), enabling 40% of the total corpus to be at the disposal of the expenditure secretary for the purpose of meeting unforeseen expenditure.**
- ✓ The last budget had proposed to enhance the CFI from ₹ 500 crore to ₹ 30,000 crore through the Finance Bill.
- ✓ CFI is held by the department of economic affairs on behalf of the President of India and it can operated only through executive action
- ✓ This is fund is mainly used for disasters and other such unforeseen expenditures.
- ✓ Its limit can be hiked through the Finance Bill when Parliament is in the session, or through an Ordinance if the House is not in session and situation warrants.
- ✓ The withdrawal from the fund takes place with the approval of the secretary of department of economic affairs, as per the provisions of the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950.
- **The Common Service Centres operating under the Ministry of Electronics and IT - launched the 'Yogyata Mobile Application' to provide vocational education and skill enhancement to youths in rural areas**



- ✓ The app will provide access to courses in areas like cyber security, CAD, and 3D printing that can enhance skills and educational qualifications to the target youngsters.
- ✓ The enrolment under the app will be done by village entrepreneurs managing Common Service Centers across the country.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On January 29, India and Israel – have celebrated 30 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between both the countries**



- ✓ On the eve of the occasion, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for his "deep commitment" to the "strong and robust friendship" between both the countries
- ✓ It was on January 29th, 1992, that both countries established a formal relationship, which has since developed into several areas, from agriculture to security, even though India had recognised Israel on September 17, 1950
- ✓ Earlier this week, the Israeli envoy to India, Naor Gilon, and the Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, officially launched the logo marking the occasion
- ✓ The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra and forms the numeral 30, depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations
- ✓ The design was created by an Indian student, Nikhil Kumar Rai, a student of the National Institute of Design and also of BHU
- ✓ On the eve of the occasion, Iconic buildings in India and Israel were lit up with the official logo that was launched to commemorate the occasion.

- ✓ In India, the Gateway of India and Teen Murti Haifa Chowk were lit up in Mumbai while the iconic Masada fortress in southern Israel's Judean desert, which overlooks the Dead Sea, was lit up.
 - ✓ A special video was released that highlighted the people-to-people aspect of the relationship.
 - ✓ This includes a mention of Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, Gujarat.
 - ✓ Maharaja Jam Sahib saved the lives of several Jewish children during World War 2 by providing them shelter and taking care of them.
 - ✓ In 2016, the Polish Parliament passed a resolution to honour him
 - ✓ In 2000, L K Advani became the first Indian minister to visit Israel and Jashwanth Singh was the first Indian foreign minister to visit Israel.
 - ✓ Ariel Sharon was the first Israeli Prime Minister to visit India in 2003.
 - ✓ India is the largest buyer of Israeli military equipment and second largest defence supplier of Israel after Russia
 - ✓ India and Israel started the Indo – Israeli Agricultural Cooperation Project focussing on micro – irrigation, farming technologies and dairy
- **India and France - have signed an MoU for joint research on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders**



- ✓ The MoU was signed between France Institut Pasteur and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India under the purview of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ✓ The MoU provides for developing potential scientific and technological cooperation and networking in advanced and emerging areas of human health between both the institutes
- ✓ Under the agreement, both the countries will work together, identify and develop new mechanisms in cell biology, vaccine development, virology, infectious diseases, human evolutionary genetics studies and computational biology.
- ✓ Last year, both countries launched the Indo-French Year of the Environment in New Delhi.
- ✓ In 2018, an Memorandum of Understanding between India and France was signed in the field of energy efficiency/energy conservation

- ✓ In October 2021, on the sidelines of G20 summit, PM Modi and the French President Emmanuel Macron agreed that the countries shared common ambitions in health, environment and innovation.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Kumar Tomar - addressed the fourth National Agriculture for Summer Campaign 2021-22 on January 27 through video conference**



- ✓ The conference, also called the Zaid conference, focused on summer crops.
- ✓ The Government has taken new initiatives through various programmes for cultivation of summer crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, and oilseeds.
- ✓ The area under cultivation of zaid crops including rice has increased progressively 2.7 times from 29.71 lakh hectares in 2017-18 to 80.46 lakh hectares in 2020-21.
- ✓ The objective of Zaid conference is to review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons and fix crop-wise targets for summer season in consultation with State Governments
- ✓ The priority of government is to increase production of oilseeds and pulses where large imports are required
- ✓ Though more than half of cultivated area in summer season is under pulses, oilseeds and nutri-cereals, the farmers with irrigation source are growing rice and vegetables during the summer season.
- ✓ Pulses and oilseeds will be promoted through Targeted Rice Fallow Area sub-component of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and NFSM (Oil Seeds & Oil Palm).
- ✓ An area of 52.72 lakh hectares will be covered during 2021-22 in the country as against 40.85 lakh hectares under these crops in 2020-21
- ✓ Pulses will cover 21.05 lakh hectares while 13.78 and 17.89 lakh hectares will be brought under oilseeds and nutri-cereals, respectively

- ✓ India produced 3086.47 lakh tonnes of food grains during 2020-21 (4th Advance Estimates), which will be an all-time record.
- ✓ Pulses and oilseed production has also achieved all time high at 257.19 and 361.01 lakh tonnes, respectively.
- ✓ Production of cotton is being estimated at 353.84 lakh bales with which India is set to rise to the first position in the world.
- ✓ During the conference 'Working manual on Indian Seed Certification' was released

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- On January 27, the Lok Sabha secretariat - launches 'Digital Sansad App' to stream live proceedings in Parliament to citizens



- ✓ It is designed to provide a one-stop destination for viewing all information related to the daily business of the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ In addition, the new App will also help members of parliament access services such as checking personal updates like status of their notices, House bulletins, etc
- ✓ In future, the MPs can log in for attendance, give questions for the Question Hour or submit notices for debates or adjournment motions through the App
- ✓ The Digital Sansad app is available in both android and IOS platform and contains all major content of the interlinked portal of Indian Parliament.
- ✓ The App is a brainchild of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who has sought to make parliamentary proceedings more accessible to people.
- ✓ In addition to proceedings in the current House, people will also be able to access archival data like speeches, debates etc., related to all Lok Sabhas
- ✓ The archive of the House proceedings will be available from the 12th Lok Sabha to the 17th Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The 2022 Budget Session can also be watched on the App alongwith a virtual tour of the Parliament.

DEFENCE

- **A joint tri-service maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar' (XPL-2022) conducted by Indian Navy - concluded off the West Coast on January 25, 2022**



- ✓ The exercise was conducted over 20 days to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted under the aegis of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command
- ✓ The intra-theatre exercise included the participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ In addition, the IAF deployed SU 30 MKI & Jaguar maritime strike aircraft, Flight Refuelling Aircraft, and AWACs, alongside the Indian Navy's maritime reconnaissance aircraft P8I, Dorniers, IL 38 SD, unmanned aerial systems, and MiG 29K strike aircraft
- ✓ After a long gap, many OPVs, FPVs, and Air Cushion Vessels of the Coast Guard also participated in the exercise.

- **The Chinese, Iranian and Russian navies - conducted CHIRU-2Q22 joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman between January 18-22**



- ✓ China said it has sent its naval missile destroyer Urumqi alongwith helicopters and marines for the exercise
- ✓ Russia sent its Pacific Fleet's task force which included Nakhimov missile cruiser Varyag and anti-submarine warfare ship Admiral Tributs including a sea tanker.
- ✓ During the drill, the three countries conducted artillery fire against sea targets and took part in tactical manoeuvring alongwith anti-piracy drills
- ✓ At least 140 Russian warships and over 60 aircrafts with nearly 10,000 military personnel would be taking part in the military exercises
- ✓ After the naval exercise, Russian warships will participate in the naval drills.
- ✓ The first part of the drill will take place until February 9 with the second part due to take place February 10-20 with large scale troop deployment including drills by the Air Force

SPORTS

- **On January 29, Australia's Ashleigh Barty – scripted history by becoming the first Australian woman to win the year's first Grand Slam in 44 years.**
- ✓ World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty beat 27th-seeded American Danielle Collins to win the Australian Open title at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia



- ✓ Barty's victory secured her third major title, after she previously captured the 2019 French Open and '21 Wimbledon titles
- ✓ With this, Barty became the only active player other than Serena Williams to have won major titles on three different surfaces
- ✓ Barty's victory also made Australian Open history, as it marked the first time an Australian female has won the home major title since Chris O'Neil in 1978
- ✓ Fittingly, Barty received the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup from her mentor, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who won the title four times in the 1970s.
- ✓ The 25-year-old Queenslander has won the title without dropping a set in Melbourne this fortnight.

- ✓ Since O'Neil's triumph in 1978, four Australian players - Kim Warwick, Wendy Turnbull, Pat Cash and Lleyton Hewitt - had lost in the men's or women's singles final
- **On January 29, the All India Chess Federation - named five-time former World champion Viswanathan Anand as the team mentor**



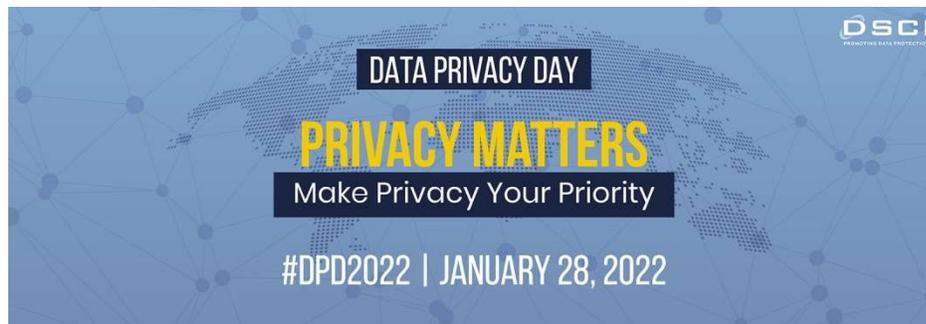
- ✓ The AICF also released a 10 member probables list -- each in men and women -- for the Asian Games this year
 - ✓ Chess returns to the Asian Games for the first time this year, since the 2010 Guangzhou edition in China
 - ✓ The final list of five players will be named in April.
 - ✓ The chess event at the Games to be played in two formats will commence on September 11.
 - ✓ The individual rapid event will be played from September 11-14 while the team events are scheduled to be held under the standard time control from September 16-24.
 - ✓ In the 2010 Asian Games, the Indian men's team won bronze while D Harika won an individual bronze in the women's rapid category.
 - ✓ In the 2006 edition held in Doha, India win two gold medals.
 - ✓ Koneru Humpy topped the individual women's category while the other gold for India came from the mixed team event.
- **Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi - became the fourth Indian player after P Harikrishna, B Adhiban and Vidit Gujrathi to win the Tata Steel Challengers event at Wijk Aan Zee in The Netherlands on January 29.**



- ✓ The 18-year-old from Warangal, Telangana won the tournament with a round to spare after his draw against Vietnam's Thai Dan Van Nguyen.
- ✓ Arjun dominated the Challengers event - winning with 9.5 points from 12 games
- ✓ With the win, Arjun has now qualified for the 2023 edition of Tata Steel Masters.
- ✓ Arjun is mentored by Viswanathan Anand as part of the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy, the academy run by Anand
- ✓ Meanwhile, reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen claimed his eighth Masters tournament title
- ✓ The reigning five-time world champion dominated the main event, winning the title with one round to spare.

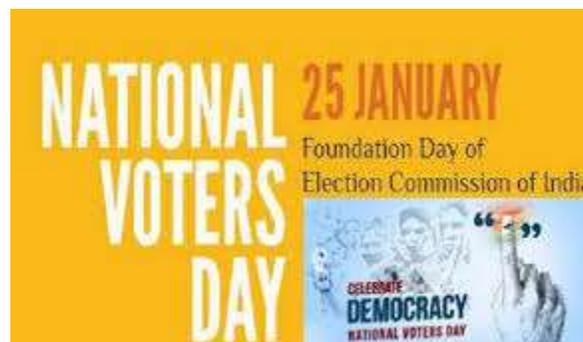
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Data Privacy Day - January 28



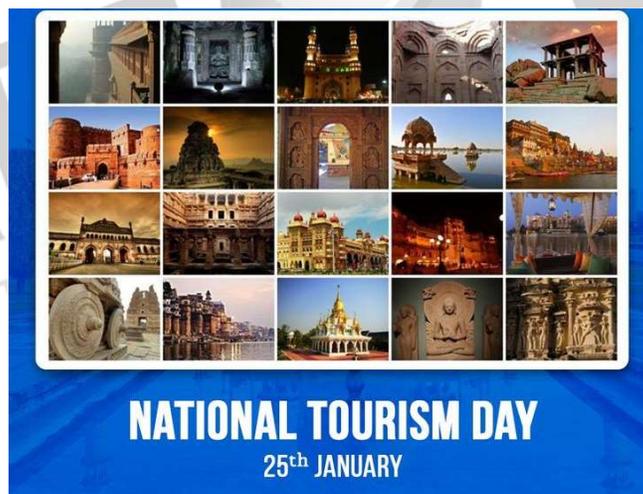
- ✓ Data Privacy Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness on promoting privacy practices and principles
- ✓ Data Privacy Day was first initiated by the Council of Europe in 2007 as the European Data Protection Day.
- ✓ Two years later, in 2009 the United States House of Representatives also declared January 28 the National Data Privacy Day.
- ✓ It is currently celebrated in the United States, Canada, India and 47 European countries.
- ✓ To ensure data privacy, companies have rolled out many security features on mobile application, such as “end-to-end encryption”.

➤ National Voters Day - January 25



- ✓ The Election Commission (EC) celebrated 12th National Voters' Day on January 25 to encourage the youth to participate in the electoral process
- ✓ The day aims at increasing the enrolment of voters, especially encourage participation of newly eligible young voters and ensure universal adult franchise.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'
- ✓ On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices for the year 2021-22 was conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres
- ✓ Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated on 25th January every year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India in the year 1950
- ✓ The Commission has recently launched a new initiative to deliver the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to newly enrolled voters, along with a personalised letter and a Voter Guidebook
- ✓ Election Commission's Publication 'Leap of Faith: Journey of Indian Elections' and another publication 'Pledging to Vote – A decadal Journey of The National Voters Day in India' were launched on the day

➤ **National Tourism Day - January 25**



- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism celebrated National Tourism Day this year on January 25 under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ The Mahotsav event is a 75-week-long grand celebration launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark 75 years of the nation's independence
- ✓ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the growth prospects of the tourism sector and its impact on India's economic development
- ✓ The country has a rich heritage and historical places to visit, making it a popular tourist destination.
- ✓ This year, the central government organised a programme at Telangana's Pochampally, which was selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as one of the best tourism villages.

- ✓ Pochampally in Nalgonda district is referred to as the silk city of India for the exquisite Ikat saris.
- ✓ The unique Pochampally Ikat received a Geographical Indicator (GI) status in 2004.
- ✓ To celebrate National Tourism Day, the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) and MyGov have organized an 'Open Poster Making Competition' with the topic 'India as a tourist destination'
- ✓ The tourism sector was first introduced in India in 1948 with the setting up of a tourism committee.
- ✓ Later in 1958, a separate tourism department was created under the Ministry of Tourism and Communication.
- ✓ Maharashtra has the highest number of tourists visiting the state with more than five lakh tourists visit the state annually.
- ✓ After Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu ranks second in tourism with more than four lakh tourists visiting the state.
- ✓ After these two states, UP has more than three lakh tourists visiting the state and Delhi has more than two lakh visitors.
- ✓ According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the tourism sector in India generated \$220 billion of revenue annually contributing to 9.2% of the total GDP of the country.