

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 23, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On January 22, Governor R N Ravi - announced the names of those selected for two awards.**
- ✓ R P Krishnamachari of Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society, Chennai, and Vanitha Mohan of Siruthuzhi an NGO working for the rejuvenation of Noyyal river were announced as the winners of the awards
- ✓ They have been chosen under social service and environmental protection categories respectively.
- ✓ Nominations were scrutinised by two panels, including retired high court judges and eminent people from the respective areas.
- ✓ The awards would be given away on January 26.

NATIONAL

- **The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) - has notified India's first National Assessment Regulator 'PARAKH' recently.**
- ✓ It will serve as a standard-setting body to advise various school boards in the country regarding the new student assessment patterns and promote collaboration between them
- ✓ Its assessment guidelines will help remove disparities in the scores of students enrolled with different state boards.
- ✓ PARAKH refers to 'Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development'
- ✓ The Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers international tests like TOEFL, TOEIC, GRE, and PISA among others in more than 180 countries, has won the bid to set up PARAKH.
- ✓ PARAKH has been launched as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ✓ According to NEP-2020, the three broad areas of work for PARAKH would be large-scale assessments, school-based assessments and examination reforms.

- ✓ Moreover, it will also manage India's participation in international assessments such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and (PIRLS)

INTERNATIONAL

- **New Zealand Labour MP and education minister Chris Hipkins - is set to become New Zealand's next prime minister after becoming the only nominee for the party's leadership.**



- ✓ In a surprise announcement on January 19, Jacinda Ardern announced she was resigning after five-and-a-half years in the top role.
 - ✓ Ardern became the youngest female head of government in the world when she took office in 2017 at 37 years.
 - ✓ She was praised around the world for her handling of the nation's worst-ever mass shooting and the early stages of the Covid pandemic.
 - ✓ The 44-year-old Chris Hipkins is currently minister for police, education and public service.
 - ✓ He was first elected to parliament in 2008 and was appointed minister for Covid-19 in November 2020
 - ✓ He will formally tender his resignation to the governor-general on February 7.
 - ✓ The governor general will then, on behalf of King Charles III, appoint Hipkins as the country's 41st prime minister
- **The US - has recently announced a new refugee scheme called 'Welcome Corps' to financially assist and sponsor refugees seeking resettlement**
 - ✓ The pilot programme will seek to mobilise 10,000 Americans as private sponsors for at least 5,000 refugees in its first year.
 - ✓ The majority of refugees who will be welcomed by private sponsors in Welcome Corps's first months will be from sub-Saharan Africa.
 - ✓ Under the new scheme, all refugees will be admitted through the US Refugee Admissions Program orUSRAP

- ✓ Only those who successfully complete both security vetting and health screening will be allowed for settlement in the US.
- ✓ Sponsors are required to raise at least \$2,275 for each refugee, which will be used for their initial basic needs until the refugee finds employment.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- On January 22, Israel envoy to India Naor Gilon - inaugurated the 30th Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence at Grignow village in Haryana to mark the 30th diplomatic relationship between the two countries



- ✓ The Centre was launched as part of the joint agricultural project under the collaborative work programme for the farm sector between India and Israel.
- ✓ The 30th CoE has been dedicated to semi-arid horticultural crops
- ✓ It will demonstrate how to maximise resources in an arid environment by overcoming harsh climatic conditions
- ✓ Apart from this, 29 other CoEs are fully functional in 12 states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Every year, these CoEs produce more than 40 million premium quality vegetable seedlings and over 500 thousand high-quality fruit plants.
- ✓ These CoEs have also been training more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year for best farm practices.

OBITUARY

- **‘Ironman of India’ Sabir Ali - passed away in New Delhi on January 22 at the age of 67**
- ✓ Ali, who retired from Railways, won the decathlon gold at the 1981 Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo
- ✓ He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka.
- ✓ Ali won eight consecutive Open National titles in the decathlon event between 1979 and 1985.



- ✓ The Railways star, who represented Haryana, won the Inter-State meet twice in 1979 and 1981.
- ✓ Ali won a bronze and silver at the World Railway meets in 1981 and 85 and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981.

SPORTS

- **Hosts India - made a shock exit from the FIH Men's World Cup at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on January 22**



- ✓ India lost 5-4 to New Zealand on penalties in sudden death in a dramatic must-win crossover match
 - ✓ The Kiwis won in the fourth round of the sudden death stage
 - ✓ The loss ended India's hopes of a World Cup medal after 48 years.
 - ✓ The Indians will now play classification matches next in Rourkela for the 9th to 12th position and will take on Japan on January 26
 - ✓ New Zealand will now face defending champions Belgium, who topped Pool B, in the quarterfinals in Bhubaneswar on January 24
- **Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn - stunned two-time World Champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark to win the India Open Super 750 tournament in New Delhi on January 22**



- ✓ Axelsen, a former India Open winner, suffered a defeat to the World Championships silver medalist in what was a repeat of last year's World Championship final.
- ✓ It was also Axelsen's first defeat after a winning streak of 13 matches, dating back from the World Tour Finals.
- ✓ Last year, the 29-year-old Axelsen became the first player in men's singles to win seven Super Series in a single season.
- ✓ Axelsen won the World Tour Finals last year and began the season with a Super 1000 title in Malaysia earlier in January.
- ✓ In 2022, he became the only man to win the All England Open, BWF World Championships, and year-ending World Tour Finals in the same season.
- ✓ It was the former world junior champion Kunlavut's first win over the reigning Olympic champion Axelsen to win his maiden Super 750 tournament.
- ✓ Kunlavut also became only the 4th shuttler after HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Loh Kean Yew to beat Axelsen in a completed match since the start of the 2022 season.
- ✓ Earlier, 20-year-old South Korean shutter An Se Young defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the women's singles final
- ✓ In the men's doubles final, third seeds Aaron Cha and Soh Wooh Yik lost to China's Lian Wei Keng and Wang Chang
- ✓ Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino were declared the mixed doubles champions, while another Japanese pair of Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida were awarded the women's doubles title.
- ✓ With this match, India successfully hosted its first Super 750 badminton tournament as India Open was upgraded from Super 500 last year.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ Parakram Diwas – January 23

- ✓ Parakram Diwas is observed on January 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ✓ Subhas Chandra Bose was born on January 23, 1897 in Cuttack, Odisha
- ✓ In 1938, he became the president of the Indian National Congress



- ✓ On October 21, 1943, Bose formed 'Azad Hind Fauj' and later started Azad Hind radio station in Germany
- ✓ The Government had declared January 23 as Parakram Diwas in 2021 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ✓ Last year, on the occasion of Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, the Prime Minister unveiled the hologram statue of the freedom fighter at India Gate in Delhi.
- ✓ Netaji, as Bose is fondly called, went missing on August 18, 1945, after a plane crash in Taiwan