

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 25, 2023

NATIONAL

- On January 24, Serum Institute of India (SII) - announced that it has launched “CERVAVAC” which is India’s first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer.



- ✓ The launch took place on the occasion of India’s National Girl Child Day in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, Adar Poonawalla, and the Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India, Prakash K Singh
- ✓ 'CERVAVAC' is an outcome of a partnership of DBT and BIRAC with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supported by SII through its partnership programme 'Grand Challenges India'.
- ✓ In India, cervical cancer is the second-most frequent cancer among women aged 15 to 44 years.
- ✓ The Human Papilloma Virus or HPV causes cervical cancer
- ✓ India accounts for the bulk of deaths from cervical cancer in the world, while almost 80,000 cases of cervical cancer occur in India every year

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- On January 24, the Supreme Court - agreed to modify the guidelines to simplify the procedure for passive euthanasia given to terminally ill patients

- ✓ A Constitution bench, headed by justice KM Joseph, proposed major changes in the guidelines prescribed by the 2018 judgment of the top court
- ✓ The bench comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar proposed replacing the old three-tiered procedure for 'authorisation' with a simpler two-tiered one.
- ✓ This decision came in response to a petition filed by the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine

THE CHANGES BROUGHT		
	NOW	EARLIER
Living will	An attestation by a notary or a Gazetted officer to be sufficient for a living will	It was necessary that a judicial magistrate attest or countersign a living will
Access to the living will	Living will a part of national health record which can be accessed by Indian hospitals	Living will was kept in the custody of the district court concerned
Primary board to examine patient's condition	Three doctors, including treating physician and two other doctors with five years of experience in the specialty, will comprise the primary board of doctors	Primary board of doctors needs at least four experts from general medicine, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, psychiatry or oncology with overall standing of at least 20 years
Time taken to decide	Primary/secondary board to decide within 48 hours on withdrawal of further treatment	The 2018 judgment did not specify any outer limit on withdrawal of treatment
Secondary board	Hospital must immediately constitute a secondary board of medical experts	The district collector had to constitute the second board of medical experts

- ✓ The SC had removed the necessity of a judicial magistrate to attest or countersign a living will, and held that an attestation by a notary or a gazetted officer would be sufficient for a person to make a valid living will.
- ✓ The living will may be a part of the national health digital record which can be accessed by hospitals and doctors from any part of the country, instead of being in the custody of the district court concerned
- ✓ In India, passive euthanasia was made legal in 2011, for exceptional cases.
- ✓ In March 2018, a Constitution bench recognised a person's right to die with dignity, saying that a terminally ill person can opt for passive euthanasia and execute a living will to refuse medical treatment.
- ✓ Passive euthanasia means withdrawal of life support from a terminally ill patient who is comatose and cannot decide for himself/herself.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The country's first-ever sovereign green bond auction - will kick off on January 25 for both domestic and foreign investors.**

- ✓ It aims to raise resources exclusively for green projects.
- ✓ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for 2022-23 had said the government, as part of its overall market borrowings, will issue sovereign green bonds for mobilising resources for green infrastructure.
- ✓ The proceeds will be deployed in public sector projects, which would help in curbing the carbon intensity of the economy.
- ✓ The announcement was in line with country's commitment to sharply reduce the carbon intensity of the economy.
- ✓ Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had said it will auction Rs 16,000 crore of sovereign green bonds on January 25 and February 9.
- ✓ The tenure of the bonds will be five and 10 years.
- ✓ The government had earlier issued the green bond framework, setting the Centre's obligation as a green bond issuer.

AWARDS

- **The nominations for the 95th Academy Awards - have been announced on January 24.**

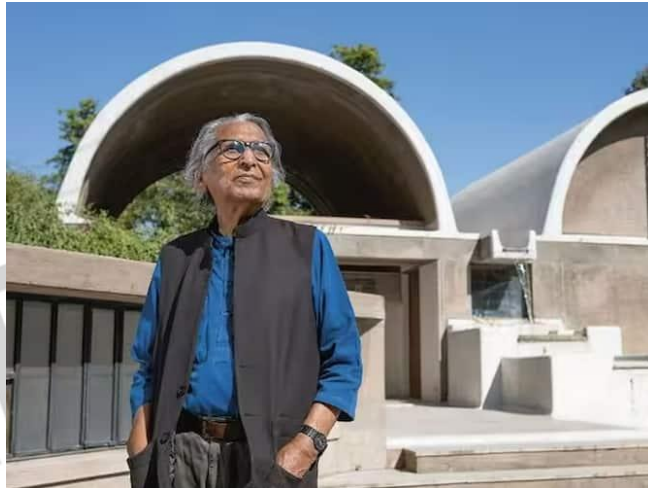


- ✓ RRR has been nominated for an Oscar in the Best Original Song category for "Naatu Naatu".
 - ✓ The song created history at the 80th Golden Globes becoming the first Indian song to win the Best Original Song award.
 - ✓ This is the third major international recognition for "Naatu Naatu", composed by MM Keeravaani and sung by Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, after a Golden Globe as well as a Critics Choice Award.
- ✓ The movie also won another Critics Choice Award in Best Foreign Language Film.
- ✓ Two of Indian documentary films - Shaunak Sen's "All That Breathes" and Kartiki Gonsalves's short film "The Elephant Whisperers" - have also been nominated to the final five in the Best Documentary Feature Film and the Best Documentary Short Film categories, respectively.
- ✓ "All That Breathes" is the first Indian feature documentary to be nominated for an Academy Award.

- ✓ The winners will be announced on March 12.
- ✓ In the past 55 years in which India has been sending entries for the Best International Feature Film Oscar, only three films were shortlisted for the nominations - Nargis-Sunil Dutt classic "Mother India" (1957), Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay" (1988) and Ashutosh Gowariker's Amir Khan-starrer "Lagaan" (2001).
- ✓ The only films based out of India that have won Oscars are Sir Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi" (which got for Bhanu Athaiya the Oscar for Best Costume) and Danny Boyle's "Slumdog Millionaire" (including the two that went to A.R. Rahman for Best Original Music Score and Best Song for "Jai Ho").

OBITUARY

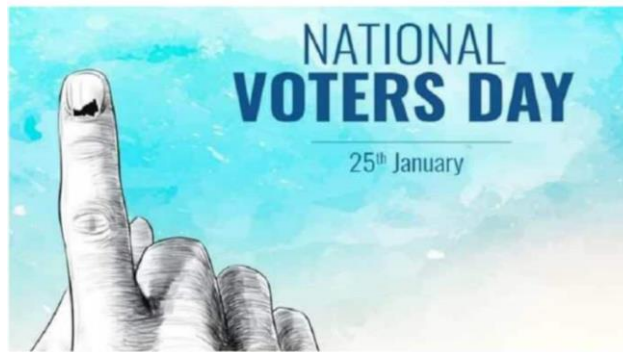
- **Distinguished architect and Padma Bhushan awardee Balkrishna Vithaldas (B V) Doshi – passed away in Ahmedabad on January 24**



- ✓ Doshi, 95, worked with architecture legends of the 20th century like Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn
- ✓ He is considered a pioneer of modernist architecture in India.
- ✓ Doshi was the first Indian to be awarded the Pritzker Prize — considered to be the Nobel Prize of Architecture — in 2018 and Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India, in 2020.
- ✓ Born in Pune in 1927, Doshi made Ahmedabad his home, the city which houses some of his most celebrated works, including Faculty of Planning at CEPT, Amdavadni Gufa, and Tagore Memorial Hall.
- ✓ He also assisted Corbusier and Kahn on projects like ATMA House and IIM Ahmedabad, respectively.

NATIONAL DAY

- **National Voters Day – January 25**



- ✓ The day reminds the right to vote and focuses on the concept of voting and enrollment of voters.
- ✓ It marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India in 1950
- ✓ The main purpose of the Voter's Day celebration is to create electoral awareness amongst citizens and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.
- ✓ This year, the theme of National Voters Day is "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure".
- ✓ The observance of the day began as an initiative by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in 2011.
- ✓ The 13th National Voter's Day 2023 was organized by the Election Commission of India, at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi
- ✓ During the event, President Droupadi Murmu distributed National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices to State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections during 2022.
- ✓ The President also awarded the National Media Award to All India Radio News for carrying out an outstanding campaign for voters' awareness and education in the electronic media category
- ✓ President also presented the first copy of "Electing the First President" to the ECI Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

