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# NATIONAL

### 1. Green hydrogen blending

Why in news - NTPC Ltd commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project.

#### Key Points -

- It started in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township, Surat.
- The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL).
- Green hydrogen is made by electrolysis of water.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has given approval for 5% blending of green hydrogen with PNG to start with and would reach 20% phase wise.
- PNGRB regulate the refining, processing etc of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas.

## 2. Palm-leaf manuscript museum

Why in news - World's first palm leaf manuscript museum opened in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

## Key Points –

- It houses accounts of the famed Battle of Colachel.
- Battle of Colachel (1741) Travancore king Marthanda Varma (1729-58) defeated the Dutch East India Company at Colachel and ended Dutch expansion in India.
- Marthanda Varma became Asia's first state to defeat the expansionist designs of any European power.

### 3. Lithium mines in Argentina

Why in news - India has identified two lithium mines and one copper mine in Argentina.

### Key Points -

- India may acquire or lease them soon.
- Ownership or leasing rights of the mines would be with Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (Kabil).
- It was formed in 2019 to ensure the supply of strategic minerals in India's market.
- Argentina is the fourth largest producer of lithium. It also has the third-largest reserve of the mineral in the world.

• Australia, US and China are the other major producers of the mineral.

# INTERNATIONAL

## 1. Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU)

Why in news - India would take over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in Jan 2023.

#### Key Points -

- 13th APPU Congress held in Bangkok during August-September, 2022.
- Vinaya Prakash Singh would take over the charge of secretary general of the Union for 4 years.

### About APPU -

- APPU is an intergovernmental organization of 32 member countries of the Asia-Pacific region.
- HQ Bangkok, Thailand.
- It is the only restricted union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialised agency of the United Nations.

### Serbia-Kosovo tensions

Why in news – Tensions between Serbia and Kosovo flared anew after Serbs erected barricades in the north of Kosovo.

#### **Key Points –**

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- Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.
- The Serbian government has refused to recognize Kosovo's statehood.



### 3. Ceasefire in Ukraine

Why in news – Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a ceasefire in Ukraine over Orthodox Christmas (Jan. 6-7, for 36 hours).

1

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#### **Key Points** –

• Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, called for Christmas truce.

# SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water

Why in news – PM Modi addressed the opening session of the first All India Annual State Ministers' Conference on Water via video message.

#### Key Points -

- Theme Water Vision @ 2047.
- It was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- As per 'Per Drop More Crop' campaign (under PMKSY) - More than 70 lakh hectares of land in the country have been brought under microirrigation so far.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

## 1. World Day for War Orphans 2023

Why in news – It is marked annually on January 6 with an aim to highlight the challenges that these orphans face.

#### **Key Points** -

• It was established by SOS Enfants en Detresse, a French organisation.

### AWARDS & HONOURS

### 1. Odakuzhal Award for 2022

Why in news – Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad has been chosen for the Odakuzhal Award for 2022.

#### Key Points –

- For his collection of short stories 'Pranavaayu' (Life Breath).
- 'Pranavaayu' (2015) portrays the struggle of a city where oxygen supply is low and all people depend on oxygen kits to breathe.

## SECURITY

## 1. Captain Shiva Chauhan

**Why in news** - Captain Shiva Chauhan has become the first woman army officer to get operationally deployed on the Siachen Glacier.

#### Key Points –

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- Siachen Glacier is the world's highest battlefield.
- Siachen (altitude 20,000 feet) is located in the Karakoram range in the Himalayas.

### AGREEMENTS

## 1. 'DRDO Industry Academia- Ramanujan Centre of Excellence' (DIA-RCoE)

Why in news - IIT Madras is collaborating with DRDO to develop advanced technologies for national defence.

#### 2. HCL and IIT Dhanbad

Why in news – An MoU was signed between Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad.

#### Key Points -

HCL is the only copper miner in India.

## BIHAR

#### 1. Samadhan Yatra

Why in news – Hon' CM Nitish Kumar formally started yatra from West Champaran on January 5, 2023.

#### Key Points –

- This is his 14th Yatra named Samadhan Yatra.
- The first phase yatra would continue till January 29. 18 districts will be covered in this.
  - CM Nitish Kumar previous yatra's -
    - A. Nyay Yatra (2005),
    - B. Vikas Yatra (Jan 2009)
    - C. Dhanyavad yatra (June 2009).
    - D. Samaj sudhar yatra (2021) etc.

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	Which is the first state to have separate registration for Vintage Vehicles – Odisha.
>	Railways has launched a plan to achieve 'net zero carbon emissions' by which year – 2030.
	Which state has signed an agreement of Rs 2275 crore with ADB to improve the power distribution network - Tripura.
	In which state/UT, 'Tribal Winter Festival' has been organized for the first time – Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir.
	Who has been appointed as the chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes - Hansraj Gangaram Ahir.
	Which state government has decided to start 'Solar Roof Top Project' under renewable energy - Uttar Pradesh.
	In which city the "Universal Health Coverage Day 2022" conference has been organized by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Varanasi.
	Crew-5 mission has recently been launched by which space agency – SpaceX.
	In which state has the Sudarshan Prahar exercise conducted by the Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Indian Army – Rajasthan.
	India has recently signed MoU with which country on Biodiversity Conservation – Nepal.



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