

NATIONAL

1. Jain community protests

Why in news - Members of the Jain community have been staging protests across the country over demands related to two holy sites.

Key Points –

- The two holy sites are Sammed Shikhar on Parasnath hill in Jharkhand and Shetrunjay hill in Palitana of Gujarat.
- Reason –
 - A. Jharkhand - Parasnath area (Giridih) was declared a 'tourist spot' and an eco-sensitive zone.
 - B. Someone had vandalised the Adinath Dada's Pagla, a marble carving representing the feet of Lord Adinath, the first Jain Tirthankar.
- Sammed Shikhar is considered among the most important Jain pilgrimage sites, where 20 of the 24 Jain Tirthankars are believed to have attained salvation.
- Parasnath Hill is revered as "Marang Buru" (supreme deity or literally the great mountain), especially for the people of the Santhal community.

2. Kala-azar (Visceral leishmaniasis)

Why in news - There has been a 98.7% decline in cases of Kala-azar from 44,533 in 2007 to 834 in 2022 in India.

Key Points –

- India is committed to eliminating Kala-azar from the country by 2023.
- Elimination status - less than one case per 10,000.
- Four endemic states - Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Only one block (Littipara) of Pakur district, Jharkhand is in the endemic category (1.23 cases/10,000 population).
- Kala-azar is the second deadliest parasitic killer in the world after Malaria.
- It is caused by the protozoa parasite Leishmania.
- The parasite is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected female phlebotomine sandfly.

3. Joshimath crisis

Why in news – Uttarakhand authorities declared it a landslide and subsidence-hit zone after cracks appeared in hundreds of houses of Joshimath.

Key Points –

- Reason behind land subsidence - Unplanned construction, over-population, obstruction of the natural flow of water and hydel power activities.
- Joshimath city has been built on an ancient landslide material — meaning it rests on a deposit of sand and stone, not rock, which doesn't have high load-bearing capacity.
- Geographical reason - Reactivation of a geographic fault where the Indian Plate has pushed under the Eurasian Plate along the Himalayas.
- Subsidence is the "sinking of the ground because of underground material movement.
- MC Mishra committee report (1976) cautioned against "unplanned development in this area, and identified the natural vulnerabilities."

4. Coal gasification-based fertiliser plant

Why in news - India's first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertiliser plant in Odisha would be ready by October 2024.

Key Points –

- Coal India Ltd, GAIL and the National Fertiliser Corporation are supporting the setting up of the coal gasification technology.
- Gasification of coal is a process in which coal is partially oxidated by air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide under controlled conditions to produce a fuel gas.

5. Fully digital banking state

Why in news - Kerala became the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.

INTERNATIONAL

1. International Kite Festival 2023

Why in news - The International Kite Festival 2023 began in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on January 8, 2023.

Key Points –

- Organized by - Gujarat Tourism on the G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

- Ahmedabad first hosted the festival on the occasion of Uttarayan in 1989.

2. Female Sikh judge in the US

Why in news - Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh became the first female Sikh judge in the US.

Key Points –

- She was sworn in as a judge of the Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 in Texas.

3. Riots in Brazil

Why in news - On January 8, supporters of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro stormed important government buildings including the Supreme Court.

Key Points –

- Bolsonaroists demanded that the result of the presidential election of October 2022 be overturned.
- Bolsonaro is often called “Trump of the Tropics.”
- Other populist leaders – Donald Trump (USA), Viktor Orban (Hungary), Marine Le Pen (France) and Geert Wilders (Netherlands).

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. 'Voice of Global South' summit

Why in news - A 2-day virtual summit (Jan 12-13) would be organised to bring the countries of the global South together.

Key Points –

- To be chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- Theme - Unity of voice, unity of purpose.
- The 'global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Hindi Day 2023

Why in news - World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas) is celebrated on January 10 every year.

Key Points –

- It marks the anniversary of the first time Hindi was spoken in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1949.

- In the year 1975, then PM Indira Gandhi inaugurated the first World Hindi Conference.
- On January 10, 2006, World Hindi Day was celebrated for the first time.
- The 12th World Hindi Conference is being organized in Fiji from Feb 15-17, 2023.
- Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14 annually.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. “Chief Minister's Diary No.1”

Why in news - Former CJI and Rajya Sabha MP Ranjan Gogoi released a book titled “Chief Minister's Diary No.1”.

Key Points –

- It contains the account of events of the first year in office of Assam CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma.

SPORTS

1. Khelo India Youth Games-2022

Why in news - MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the mascot, torch, and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games-2022 in Bhopal.

Key Points –

- Madhya Pradesh is hosting the 5th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (30th Jan to 11th February).
- 8 host cities of the state - Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat and Khargone (Maheshwar).
- A game (cycling) would be held in Delhi.
- For the first time, water sports i.e., kayaking-canoeing, canoeing and fencing competitions would be part of games.

2. Chetan Sharma

Why in news - Chetan Sharma was reappointed as the chairman of the BCCI by the senior selection committee.

Key Points –

- Other members - Subroto Banerjee, Salil Ankola and Shiv Sunder Das.



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POINTERS

- 'Water Cunningham' has passed away. Who was he – **Astronaut.**
- When has DRDO celebrated its 65th Foundation Day – **1st January.**
- Where will the first meeting of G20 be held in India – **Puducherry.**
- With the approval of the Central Government to the Kalasa Banduri project, the river dispute flared up in which two states – **Goa and Karnataka.**
- Which union minister has launched the 'CAPF e Awas' portal – **Amit Shah.**
- Which union minister has announced India's first National Center of Excellence for Green Ports and Shipping - **Sarbananda Sonowal.**
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the second Adarsh Ved Vidyalaya in which city – **Puri.**
- Guru Nanak Dev University became the only university in India to get A grade by NAAC. It is located in which state – **Amritsar, Punjab.**
- Recently, in which state the world's highest polling station Tashigang has been built – **Himachal Pradesh.**
- Which state government has started 'Trees Outside Forest in India' program – **Haryana.**



NEW UPSC ENGLISH MEDIUM BATCH STARTING FROM 8TH FEBRUARY 2023

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