

### NATIONAL

#### 1. MV Ganga Vilas

**Why in news** – PM Narendra Modi flagged off the World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas on Jan 13, 2023.

##### Key Points –

- Other inaugurations –
  - A. Tent City at Varanasi.
  - B. Multi-modal terminal in Haldia.
  - C. Maritime Skill Development Centre for North East at Guwahati.
  - D. Ship repair facility in Guwahati.
- The maiden voyage has 32 tourists from Switzerland.
- Artha Ganga - Sustainable development of the Ganga by focusing on economic activities related to the river.

##### About MV Ganga Vilas –

- From Varanasi (UP) to Dibrugarh (AS) via Bangladesh.
- Travel around 3,200 km in 51 days.
- Sail through 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh.
- It has 3 decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists.
- It would reach Patna on the 8th day, passing through Buxar, Ram Nagar and Ghazipur.

#### 2. UPI payments for NRIs

**Why in news** – Non-resident Indians (NRIs) would soon be able to make UPI payments using their international number (No Indian mobile number required).

##### Key Points –

- 10 supported countries - Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

#### 3. 'Sur Sarita - Symphony of Ganga'

**Why in news** – Ministry of Culture organised 'Sur Sarita - Symphony of Ganga' in Varanasi on Jan 12, 2023.

##### Key Points –

- It was organized to give the audiences a taste of the different flavours of the states that the MV Ganga Vilas would be passing through.

- It was ended with Shankar Mahadevan's rendition of 'Kartavya Ganga' (Promise to Ganga).

#### 4. Paigah tombs

**Why in news** – US govt extended \$250,000 towards conservation of historic Paigah tombs in Hyderabad.

##### Key Points –

- For conservation and restoration of six of the Paigah tombs.
- They were built in the 18th and 19th centuries, located at Santosh Nagar in Hyderabad.
- Paigah tombs or Maqbara Shams al-Umara is a necropolis belonging to the nobility of the Paigah family who served the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- Paigah is a Farsi word, which says 'footstool' (meaning Right-hand man in English).
- The tombs are the finest examples of Indo-Islamic architecture, which is a blend of both features of Asaf Jahi and Rajputana style.

#### 5. 5G use by startups

**Why in news** - Vidisha (MP) became the first district ever in India for on-ground implementation of ground breaking 5G use cases proposed by startups.

##### Key Points –

- The following 5G/IoT use cases were demonstrated by startups in collaboration with C-DOT.
- Digital India Startup Hub would set up India's first Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming at Shillong by March 2023.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 1. Punjabi in Australian schools

**Why in news** - Punjabi is all set to be the newest language to be taught in public schools of Western Australia (WA).

##### Key Points –

- As per 2021 census, Punjabi is the fastest-growing language in Australia.
- Earlier, Australian Sikh history was included in the Humanities and Social Sciences subjects in WA schools.
- Tamil, Hindi and Korean were added to the curriculum in 2021.

### 2. Sônia Guajajara

**Why in news** – Sonia Guajajara has been appointed as the first minister of the new Ministry of Indigenous People in Brazil.

#### Key Points –

- She is a member of the Amazon Guajajara, the defenders of Amazon rainforests.
- In Jan 2022, she made it to the Time Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people.

### 3. Rare earth elements

**Why in news** - Swedish mining company, LKAB, announced it has discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides in Sweden.

#### Key Points –

- This is the largest known deposit in Europe.
- Currently, no rare earths are mined in Europe.
- 98% of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China.

#### About rare earth elements –

- They are a set of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table – the 15 lanthanides, plus scandium and yttrium.
- One of the rare earths, promethium, is radioactive.
- Cerium is the most abundant rare earth element.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. UAE COP 28 climate talks

**Why in news** - Sultan al-Jaber would act as president of the COP28 UNFCCC 2023.

#### Key Points –

- He is the founding CEO of Abu Dhabi's renewable energy firm Masdar.
- COP28 venue – Dubai, UAE.
- UAE is the second Arab state to host the climate conference after Egypt (COP 27, 2022).
- The UAE, the first country in the region to ratify the Paris Agreement, has committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

## ECONOMY

### 1. Auto Expo 2023

**Why in news** - Auto Expo 2023, India's largest automotive event, kicked off in Greater Noida.

### Key Points –

- Pune-based automaker start-up Vayve Mobility has unveiled a prototype of what it calls the country's first solar-powered electric vehicle 'Eva'.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. 75th Army Day

**Why in news** - The 75th Army Day celebration would be held in Bengaluru on January 15, 2023.

#### Key Points –

- This is for the first time that the event is being conducted out of the National capital.
- On Jan 15, 1949, K M Cariappa took over from General Sir Francis Butcher to become the Indian Army's first Commander-in-Chief.
- Cariappa is one of the only 2 Indian officers to hold the five-star rank of field marshal (other - Sam Manekshaw).

## STATES/UTS

### 1. 30% women's reservation

**Why in news** - The bill providing 30% reservation to women in Uttarakhand has been approved by its Governor Gurmit Singh.

#### Key Points –

- It would provide 30% horizontal reservation to domiciled women citizens in state public services and posts.

## BIHAR

### 1. Multi modal logistics park

**Why in news** - Logistics parks would be built in Bihta and Fatuha and Raxaul.

#### Key Points –

- The state government has prepared a logistics policy in this regard.
- Due to the connectivity of Nepal and construction of the expressway from Raxaul to Haldia, preparations are on to build a logistics park in Raxaul.
- Both Raxaul (drypot) and Haldia have ports.





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### POINTERS

- According to NSO, what will be the percentage of India's GDP growth rate in the financial year 2023 - **7 percent**.
- As per Central Pollution Control Board data, which was the most polluted city in India in 2022 - **Delhi**.
- Which fintech unicorn has recently announced that it has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator - **Bharat Pe**.
- Who has become the second-highest scorer of all time in Ranji Trophy history - **Prithvi Shaw**.
- How many crores has been approved by the cabinet to promote low value BHIM-UPI transactions - **Rs 2,600 crores**.
- Who has recently been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 'Jaipur Film Festival' - **Aparna Sen**.
- Who has been announced by the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival as its official powered-by partner for the 2023 event - **Master Card**.
- Which state government has recently made '10 minutes of yoga' daily compulsory for school students - **Karnataka**.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declared whom a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 - **Arshdeep Singh Gill alias 'Arsh Dalla'**.
- India's forex reserves to decline by what amount during 2022 - **\$70.1 billion**.



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