

National and International Weekly Current Affairs 02 to 07 January 2024

National News

First girls' Sainik School opened in Mathura

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School, the first all-girls Sainik School, at Vrindavan in Mathura**, Uttar Pradesh.
- The school is set up under the partnership mode initiative that aims to establish 100 new Sainik Schools.

Key points

- The first all-girls Sainik School, with a strength of approximately 870 students, has been inaugurated under the initiative of **establishing 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode** with non-governmental organisations (NGO), private and State government schools in all State/Union Territories, of which 42 have been set up
- The objectives behind the vision of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools are to **provide quality education to the students in tune with the National Education Policy, 2020** and give them better career opportunities, including joining the armed force

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat declared 'unlawful body'

- The Union Home Ministry declared **Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu and Kashmir (TeH)** an "unlawful association" under **Section 3 of the anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**.
- The TeH is one of the constituents of the **All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC)** and was founded by separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani

About UAPA

- UAPA was passed in **1967**.
- It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.
- The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- It has **death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments**.

- Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.

Govt. restrictions on imports

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has issued a **Quality Control Order** for a slew of electrical accessories and put the imports of screws in the prohibited category from its current 'free' status.

Key points

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** mandated Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for all products included under an Electric Accessories (Quality Control) Order, 2023
- The Centre also scrapped the 'free' import status for screws of various kinds that have a **CIF value of less than ₹129 per kilogram**.
- The CIF value refers to the landed cost of imported goods, including insurance and freight.

'Prithvi' programme for earth observation

- The Union Cabinet cleared a ₹4,797-crore programme called **'Prithvi' (Earth)** that is expected to subsume five existing schemes of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- A major component of the Ministry is the **Deep Ocean Mission or DOM** [one of whose objectives is to send a manned submersible 6,000 metres into the Indian Ocean].

Key points

- The Prithvi programme broadly **subsumes all of our other major activities**
- These programmes are to improve and increase
 - long-term observations of the atmosphere**, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth to track changes in the planet;
 - develop models to understand and predict weather, ocean and climate hazards,
 - and understand the science of climate change;
 - explore polar and high-seas regions of the earth to discover new phenomena and resources;

- o develop techno-logy for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for societal applications;
- o and translate knowledge and insights from earth system science into services for societal, environmental, and economic benefit.

Maharashtra State News

Arun Yogiraj's idol of Ram Lalla chosen for Ayodhya's grand temple

- Days after the idol of Lord Ram Lalla for 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) was finalized by the temple trust in Ayodhya, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said that **renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj's idol of Ram Lalla** has been **chosen for installation** in the grand **Ram Janmabhoomi temple** in Ayodhya.
- The grand consecration **ceremony of Ram temple** will be held on **January 22**.

Who is Arun Yogiraj?

- Sculptor Yogiraj hails from a lineage of five generations of renowned sculptors in **Mysore**. Yogiraj started his sculpting career at a young age and was highly influenced by his father, Yogiraj, and grandfather, Basavanna Shilpi, who enjoyed the **patronage of the King of Mysore**.
- After pursuing an MBA and working in the corporate sector, Yogiraj started pursuing sculpting full time from 2008.
- Besides Ram Lalla idol, Yogiraj has carved an array of impressive sculptures, including a **30-foot statue of Subhash Chandra Bose** displayed behind the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** near India Gate in Delhi.
- His other notable contributions include a **12-foot tall sculpture of Adi Shankaracharya** in Kedarnath to a **21-foot tall Hanuman statue** in Mysore.

PM Modi to inaugurate Mumbai Trans Harbour Link

- **PM Modi will inaugurate** the **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)** on January 12.
- This **MTHL project** is said to be the **country's longest sea bridge**.
- It is expected to drastically **reduce travel time** between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from a

current 2 hours to approximately 15-20 minutes

- Its **length is 21.8 kilometers** (comprising 16.5 km over the sea and 5.5 km on land)

MH CM to attend Akhand Harinam Saptah

- The MH CM is expected to take part in **state's largest Akhand Harinam Saptah** organized at the foothills of **Shri Malang Gad hill** of Thane District.

About:

- The **Akhand Harinam Saptah** is a week-long **spiritual festival** observed by **devotees of Lord Vishnu**, particularly those belonging to the **Varkari Sampradaya in Maharashtra**.
- The festival is **characterized by uninterrupted chanting of the name "Hari"** by devotees throughout the seven days.

Ram temple inauguration likely to generate ₹50,000cr business

- The **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** has estimated that **business worth Rs 50,000 crore** will be generated in the country following the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya in January
- The **Ram Temple** holds **immense religious significance for Hindus**, and millions are expected to visit Ayodhya for the inauguration and darshan (viewing the deity).
- According to CAIT, there is a **large demand for special cloth garlands, lockets, key chains, pictures of Ram Darbar, models of Ram temples, Ram Dhwaja, and Ram Angvastra** imprinted with the image of Lord Ram across different Indian markets.
- This **influx of pilgrims will also boost demand** for various goods and services like travel, accommodation, food, souvenirs, and religious items.

Newlyweds to get wedding sets from Mangoan panchayat

- The **gram panchayat of Manganon village** in Kolhapur district has **decided to gift wedding sets worth Rs 11,000** to all women getting married.
- The **sets will be funded through the honorarium of the sarpanch, deputy sarpanch, panchayat members, and the gram panchayat corpus**.

Did you Know?

- **Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar made his first public appearance** a century ago in Manganon village.

Pench Tiger Reserve- first to start 2 Van e-Seva Kendras

Context:

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in Maharashtra has taken a remarkable step towards bridging the digital divide in remote forested villages by launching two "Van e-Seva Kendras" – the first of their kind in India.
- These **mobile e-service centers aim to bring essential government services directly to the doorsteps of villagers**, eliminating the need for them to travel long distances to access them.

What are Van e-Seva Kendras?

- These are **mobile units that travel to remote villages** within the buffer zone of the Pench Tiger Reserve
- It offers a range of services including:
 - Online services
 - Banking services
 - Recharge facilities
 - Utility bill payments
 - Information dissemination

Int'l planners, designers to prepare master plan for Dharavi project

- **Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, is set for a major transformation** with the appointment of renowned international planners and designers to prepare a master plan for its redevelopment.
- A **consortium led by Adani Infrastructure Developers Ltd.(AIDPL)** has partnered with several renowned firms for this master plan preparation
- Aim is to **improve the lives of Dharavi's residents** while creating a model for sustainable urban development.

Ajit Pawar pays tributes at Koregaon Bhima war memorial

- **MH Deputy CM Ajit Pawar paid respects at the Jay Stambh (Victory Pillar)** near Pune,

commemorating the **206th anniversary of the Battle of Koregaon Bhima.**

Key Points:

- The **Battle of Koregaon Bhima** was fought on **January 1, 1818.**
- The **battle was part of the Third Anglo-Maratha War**, a conflict for control of vast swathes of India.
- The battle holds **immense significance for the Dalit community in India**, marking their victory over the **Peshwa army** of the Maratha Empire.

Yadav dynasty of Maharashtra (Static)

- **Yadava dynasty**, are rulers of a 12th–14th-century Hindu kingdom of central India what is now the Indian state of **Maharashtra.**
- Originally feudatory of the **Eastern Chalukyas of Kalyani**, the dynasty became paramount in the Deccan under **Bhillama** (c. 1187–91), who founded **Devagiri (later Daulatabad)** as his capital.
- Under **Bhillama's** grandson **Singhana** (reigned c. 1210–47) the dynasty reached its height, as the **Yadava** campaigned against the **Hoysalas in the south, the Kakatiyas in the east, and the Paramaras and Chalukyas in the north.**
- During the reign of the last **Yadava king, Ramachandra** (reigned 1271–c. 1309), a Muslim army commanded by the Delhi sultan 'Alā' al-Dīn Khaljī invaded the kingdom in 1294 and imposed tributary status.

CM Eknath Shinde to attend World Economic Forum

- **MH CM Eknath Shinde, Industries Minister Uday Samant and a 10 member delegation** will be attending the **World Economic Forum at Davos** slated for **January 15- 16**

About:

- **The World Economic Forum (WEF)** is a **non-profit organization** that brings together leaders from business, government, civil society, and academia to discuss global challenges and work together to find solutions.
- It was founded in **1971 by Klaus Schwab.**

Ramlalla's Seating Ceremony on 22nd January

- From Vaikom to Ayodhya, the Hindu community has come a long way.
- Ceremony is going to be held with great pomp on Jan 22.
- Significant changes like Ayodhya Dham Airport being renamed after **Maharishi Valmiki**, tells a loud and clear message of social assimilation, justice and harmony — this is what was envisioned by Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- The **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Dham** will link to the divine and majestic Ram Temple.
- The newly built airport has the capacity to serve 10 lakh travellers annually.

MMRDA merges monorail with metro operations

- The **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)** has merged the **Monorail Project Implementation Unit** with the **Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation** to revive the struggling Mumbai Monorail.
- The merger aims to improve operation, cut costs, and save expenses.
- The move is **expected to save over ₹40 to 60 crore annually** and reduce duplication of manpower.

MSEDCL supplies electricity to 2,395 tribal homes in Maharashtra in 12 days

- The **Maharashtra state Electricity distribution company Ltd (MSEDCL)** has achieved a significant milestone by **supplying electricity to vulnerable tribal communities in remote areas of the state within just 12 days**
- It was done in view of **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** schemes initiated by PM Modi

PM Modi to inaugurate major Infra-projects in Navi Mumbai

- **PM Modi** will lay the foundation stone of **two underground road projects** in South Mumbai and Thane.

- He will also **inaugurate Phase II of Nerul/Belapur - Uran railway lines** as part of **Mumbai Trans- Harbour Link (MTHL)** project
- He will also **officially inaugurate Digha station** on the **Airoli- Kalwa route** of the Central railway's Trans-Harbour Link.

Rashmi Shukla appointed as Maha DGP

- The **MH state government** has appointed **1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla** as the **Maharashtra director general of police (DGP)**

Did you Know?

- She is the **first woman police chief of the state.**

MH state takes wine promotion scheme off ice

- The **MH government** has decided to **revive the Wine Industrial Promotion Scheme (WIPS) for five years.**
- The scheme was **initially launched in 2020** but faced a major opposition and thus was put on ice for nearly a year.

Key Points:

1. Wine Festivals and Events:

- The scheme will **allow the organization of wine festivals and events across the state**, promoting wine tourism and local wineries.

2. Direct Sales at Wineries:

- **Wineries will be permitted to sell wine directly to consumers** at their premises, boosting their sales and outreach.

3. Training and Skill Development:

- The scheme will **also focus on training programs and skill development initiatives**

4. VAT Refund:

- The **20% VAT refund to wineries** is a significant incentive, aimed at easing their financial burden and mendorong investment in the sector

CSMT gets IR's first AC odorless toilet block

- **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)**, formerly **Victoria Terminus**, has taken a significant step towards improving passenger experience with the **inauguration of India's first air-conditioned odorless toilet block.**

- This modern facility promises not only comfort and hygiene but also **sets a new standard for railway station amenities.**

QR Code Placed To Get Information About Trees In Thane Municipal Parks

- The QR code has been placed on the trees so that the citizens can easily get information about the trees in the parks in the Thane municipal area.
- After scanning this code on the mobile phone, information about the tree will be available to the citizens in two languages, Marathi and English.

Govt fixes MTHL toll at ₹250 per car

- The Maharashtra government has finalized the toll charges for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as the Atal Setu, at ₹250 per car for a single trip.

Did you Know?

- The MTHL, India's longest sea bridge, stretches 21.8 kilometers
- It connects Sewri in Mumbai to Nhava Sheva in Raigad district.

BILINGUAL

ADDAPEDIA

e-Books

NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL | REGIONAL | STATE SPECIFIC CURRENT AFFAIRS CURATED NOTES

IMPORTANT FOR ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Kajal Kambale becomes First Disabled Female Climber to Scale Lingana Fort

- Kajal Kambale, a disabled mountaineer from Maharashtra, has become the first female mountaineer with any disability to conquer the challenging Lingana Fort in the Sahyadri range.

About:

- Lingana, a sub-fort of the iconic Raigad, holds historical significance as the "prison" of the Maratha Empire, contrasting Raigad's role as the "capital."
- Its name is derived from the resemblance to a "Linga" (a phallic symbol in Hinduism)

Maharashtra reports highest dog bites in India in 2023

- Maharashtra reported the maximum number of dog bite cases in 2023, with over 4.35 lakh incidents.
- It is nearly 11% more than 2022
- It was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,04,488 cases.
- The rise in cases was attributed to high reporting in Maharashtra. Mumbai, Thane, and Pune had the highest number of cases due to poor sterilization implementation.

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Old Pension Scheme For Govt Employees

- The Maharashtra govt has approved a proposal offering the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as an option for state government employees who joined service after November 1, 2005.

About:

- The OPS is a retirement pension scheme where government employees receive a monthly pension equivalent to 50% of their last drawn salary.
- The employee does not contribute to the pension fund, and the entire burden is borne by the government.

World Braille Day

- World Braille Day is celebrated annually on January 4th
- It commemorates the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the braille writing system.

- This day serves as a **vital reminder of the importance of access to information and communication** for people who are blind or visually impaired
- The **theme for World Braille Day 2024** is “Empowering Through Inclusion and Diversity”

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Tiger Claw arrival delayed Again

- The **Wagh Nakh (Tiger claw) of Chatrapatti Shivaji Maharaj from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London will be delayed to arrive in Maharashtra in May** due to **delay in the legal process** of bringing them.
- **Earlier**, it was said that the tiger claw would come to India in **November** and then in **January**.

National Birds Day

- National Bird Day on **January 5** highlights the **importance of small birds in the ecosystem**.
- Led by the Avian Welfare Coalition, the day focuses on raising awareness about birds in captivity, emphasizing the need to protect them from exploitation for profit or entertainment.
- The **Indian peacock**, with its majestic plumage and captivating dance, is the **national bird of India**.

National Birds Day 2024: Theme

- The theme of this year's National Birds Day is **'Right To Fight'**.
- It resonates with the flight of a bird that symbolises freedom. With this campaign, the Avian Welfare Coalition aims to reduce the suffering of birds by raising public awareness of the destructive bird trade, the realities of cruel bird breeding mills and the ways to improve the welfare of birds already in captivity.

State News

Kerala's Internet cable project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Kochi-Lakshadweep submarine optical fibre cable project**.

Key points

- It was implemented at a **cost of ₹1,072 crore**
- It will connect the islands to high-speed internet for the first time, after years of relying on limited satellite bandwidth.
- The undersea cable link “**will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep**”
- Kavaratti, Lakshadweep's capital, will be connected along with the islands of Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra
- The cables have been laid by the **state-owned telco BSNL**, while the project was executed by the **Japanese firm NEC**.

Silambattam

- The **martial dance of Tamil Nadu** is called Silambattam.
- The **dancers do mock combat with various weapons**, such as sticks, clubs, sword, horns, daggers etc, one kind of weapon at a time.
- The mock combat is done in pairs.
- The drum music for the dance is provided by **Sendai Melam**, i.e. group of three to four drummers playing the drum Sendai in unison.

Greenfield corridors in Kerala

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced **greenfield corridors aimed at enhancing road connectivity in Kerala**.
- He virtually inaugurated three projects and laid the foundation stone for nine national highway projects totalling 105 km and costing ₹1,464 crore under the **Bharat Pariyojana scheme**.

Key points

- One of the greenfield corridors is the 121-km **NH-966 Kozhikode-Palakkad** stretch estimated at ₹10,371 crore. The stretch will reduce travel time between Palakkad and Kozhikode from four to one-and-a-half hours.
- The **NH-744 Kollam-Sengottai stretch** and the **Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road** are the other greenfield corridors.
- Additionally, the **SH1/NH 183 Thiruvananthapuram-Kochi stretch**, Kutta Malappuram Economic Corridor, and the **NH-544 Angamali-Kundanur stretch** will be upgraded for improved connectivity under the project.

Economy News

KABIL to invest over ₹200 cr. to secure lithium in Argentina

- India's KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.) will invest ₹211 crore over a five-year-period for exploration of five lithium blocks in **Fiambala area of Argentina**.
- An exploration and development agreement is expected to be signed with **CAMYEN, a state-owned miner in Argentina's Catamarca province**
- **Chile and Argentina account for 30-35% of the world's lithium supplies.**

NSO estimate on India's GDP

- india's real GDP growth in 2023-24 is estimated at **7.3%, compared to 7.2%** a year ago, as per the first advance estimates of national income released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**
- The economy will outperform the 7% uptick recently projected by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- GVA growth for the farm sector is **estimated to more than halve from 4% a year ago to 1.8% this year**, as is the case for Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services.

National Statistical Office (NSO)

NSO acts as the **nodal agency under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** for planned development of the statistical system in the country

- It **lays down and maintains norms and standards** in the field of statistics, involving concepts and definitions, methodology of data collection, processing of data and dissemination of results.
- The National Statistical Office(NSO) consists of the **Central Statistical Office (CSO), the Computer center and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**.
- It compiles and releases the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** every month in the form of 'quick estimates'; conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**; and provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and

structure of the organized manufacturing sector.

Agreement news

Satellite for Mauritius

- The Cabinet approved an agreement between the **Indian Space Research Organisation and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council** to jointly develop a "small satellite."
- It is expected to cost **₹20 crore**.

Schemes and Committees News

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- It is an **umbrella program for the highways sector** that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- This will be done by development of **Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.**

Appointment News

Vice-Chief of Naval Staff

Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi took over as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)

Key Points

- Vice-Admiral V. Srinivas took over as **30th FOCINC of the Southern Naval Command** at the Naval Base in Kochi
- Before taking over as the FOCINC, Vice-Admiral Singh served as the VCNS at Naval Headquarters.
- **He was commissioned in 1986** into the Executive Branch of the Navy.

Head of 16th Finance commission

- The government appointed former **NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya** Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission

- It will recommend the tax revenue sharing formula between the Centre and States for the five-year period beginning April 2026.

About FC

- It is a **constitutional body** constituted every 5 years by the President of India under **Article 280 of the Indian Constitution** to define the Centre-states financial relations.
- The First Commission was **established in 1951** under **The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951**.
- Individual commissions operate under the terms of reference (ToR) which are different for every commission, and they define the terms of qualification, appointment and disqualification, the term, eligibility and powers of the Finance Commission.
- As per the constitution, the Commission consists of a chairman and four other members.

Ranks & Reports News

SC report on toilets for women in district courts

- Nearly **one-fifth of the district court complexes** in the country lack separate toilets for women, according to a report published by the **Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court** recently.
- The report named **'State of the Judiciary'** — underscored the necessity of women-friendly toilets, stating that sanitary napkin vending machines have been provided at only **6.7% of the toilets meant for women**.
- The report also revealed that most district courts did not have toilets for transgender persons and emphasised the need for **"gender-inclusive toilets"** in every court complex.

Health Ministry survey on Antibiotics

- A Health Ministry survey was released.
- It highlights that Over half of the almost 10,000 patients surveyed recently were given antibiotics to prevent infection, rather than to treat it, amid growing concerns about the rise in resistance to antibiotics
- As much as **94% of the patients** surveyed were given antibiotics before the confirmation of a definitive medical diagnosis of the precise cause of infection.

About Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has identified antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the top threats to public health.
- It is a **natural phenomenon as bacteria evolve, making drugs used to treat infections less effective**.
- One of the main drivers for the development of antibiotic resistance is the excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics.

About National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- The NCDC is the **nodal agency for India's national programme on AMR** containment, of which one of the key components is the surveillance of antibiotic usage.
- To achieve this goal, it has established the **National Antibiotic Consumption Network (NAC-NET)** through which network sites compile data on antibiotic consumption in their respective health facilities and send it to the NCDC.

Award News

Best sustainable developer award

- **DLF Cyber City Developers Limited** was declared the best sustainable developer at the fourth edition of the **PropertyGuru Asia Property Awards (India)** in Bangkok recently.
- The company also earned special recognition for sustainable design and construction during the award ceremony.
- **Supreme Universal** received the recognition for luxury development while **Turner House by Raiaskaran** won the special recognition for "landmark office design".

Nritya Kalanidhi award

- Classical dancer and choreographer **Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari** was presented with the 'Nritya Kalanidhi' award at the **17th Dance Festival of the Music Academy**
- The festival stands as a testament to the Academy's commitment to musical education and cultural preservation.

Science and Technology News

XPoSat

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched **PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** mission
- The successful launch put India in an elite category as it has become the second nation to send an observatory **to study astronomical sources such as black holes, neutron stars among others.**

Key points

- XPoSat is **only the second X-ray polarimetry mission** in the world, after **NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)** launched in 2021.
- It is the **first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO** to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources.
- It carries two payloads, namely **POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays)** and **XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing)**. POLIX has been developed by the Raman Research Institute and XSPECT by the Space Astronomy Group of URSC, Bengaluru.
- During the mission, the **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3)** experiment was also executed to meet the objective of 10 other payloads.

GSAT-20

NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, will launch **GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2)**, on board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket

Key points

- The GSAT-20 is a **high-throughput Ka-band satellite (HTS)**, which will be fully owned, operated and funded by the NSIL.
- GSAT-20 offers **Ka-Ka band HTS capacity with 32 beams** having pan-India coverage, including the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- The satellite, **weighing 4,700 kg, offers an HTS capacity of nearly 48 Gpbs** and has been specifically designed to meet the demanding service needs of remote and unconnected regions.

New antibiotic for drug-resistant bacterium

- Researchers have identified a new class of antibiotics with the potential to tackle a **drug-resistant bacterium, Acinetobacter baumannii. Zosurabalpin**
- The antibiotic was found to be effective against **CRAB (carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii)**-induced pneumonia and sepsis in mouse models.
- The **identification and analysis of the antibiotic zosurabalpin** that can kill *Acinetobacter baumannii*, antibiotic-resistant strains of which are hard to treat in the clinic.

VIPER

- VIPER stands for **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover**.
- It is a robot the size of a golf cart that NASA will use to explore the moon's south pole.
- **Astrobotic, a private company**, developed it as part of the Commercial Lunar Payload Services program.
- This **robotic mission is designed to search for volatiles**, which are molecules that easily vaporize, like water and carbon dioxide, at lunar temperatures.
- These materials could provide resources for future human exploration on the moon.
- The **VIPER robot will rely on batteries, heat pipes and radiators** throughout its 100-day mission, as it navigates everything from the extreme heat of lunar daylight — when temperatures can reach 224 degrees Fahrenheit (107 degrees Celsius) — to the moon's frigid shadowed regions that can reach a mind-boggling -240 degree Celsius.

ISRO tests fuel cell-based power system in space

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested a **100 W-class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell-based Power System (FCPS)** in its orbital platform, POEM3
- The FCPS payload is significant as it has potential applications in India's space station which is proposed to come up by 2035.
- It provided a wealth of data on the performance of various static and dynamic systems that formed part of the power system and the physics at play.

Miscellaneous News

ST status for Hatties

President Droupadi Murmu notified the inclusion of the Hattee community in Himachal Pradesh's Scheduled Tribes list.

About Hattee

- The Hattis are a **close-knit community that got their name from their tradition of selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat, and wool**, etc. at small markets called 'haat' in towns.
- Hatti men traditionally don a distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.
- The Hatti homeland straddles the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
- **The Tons marks the border between the two states.**
- There are two Hatti clans, in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are common.
- The Hattis are governed by a traditional council called 'khumbli' which, like the 'khaps' of Haryana, decides community matters.
- The Khumbli's power has remained unchallenged despite the establishment of the Panchayati raj system.
- They have sizeable presence in about nine Assembly seats in the Sirmour and Shimla regions.
- According to the 2011 Census of India, the total **tribal population of Himachal Pradesh is 3,92,126, which is 5.7%** of the total population of the state.

Goldy Brar declared 'individual terrorist'

The Union Home Ministry declared Canada-based Satwinder Singh, alias Goldy Brar, an **"individual terrorist"** under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

About UAPA

- The UAPA was enacted in **1967**.
- It **lays down the definitions and rules for designating an organisation as an "unlawful association"** if it is engaged in certain types of activities.

- The government can then issue a notification designating such an organisation as a terrorist organisation, if it believes that the organisation is part of "terrorist activities."
- Under the Act, **'unlawful activity' is not limited to terror activities relating to causing direct violence or attacks, it also includes any activities that disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country**, disrupts the economic stability of the country or causes disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities in the country
- The **2019 Amendment** gave the Home Ministry the power to designate individuals as terrorists.

Warli Tribe

The Warli tribe in Mumbai objected to the construction of Shivaji Museum on the land they live on.

About

- The **Warli or Varli are an indigenous tribe of western India** there related ethnic groups are Konkani people, Marathi people, living in mountainous as well as coastal areas along the Maharashtra and Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- **The Warli have their own animistic beliefs, life, customs and traditions**, and as a result of acculturation they have adopted many Hindu beliefs.
- The Warli speak the unwritten Varli language which belongs to the southern zone of the **Indo-Aryan languages**.
- Waralis have sub castes such as **Murde varli, Davar varali**.

Painted Stork (Mycteria leucocephala)

- Painted stork is a shorebird.
- **Distribution:** endemic to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- **Habitat:** freshwater marshes, lakes, flooded fields, irrigation canals, rivers, etc.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, hunting, pollution, invasive species and diseases.
- **Conservation status:** IUCN: NT

Mount Merapi

- Mount Merapi is an **active stratovolcano**

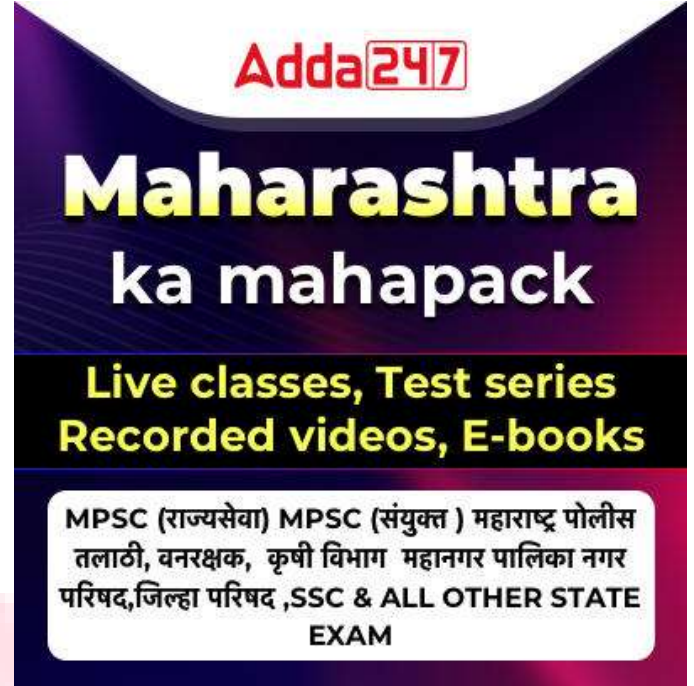
- It is located on the border between the province of Central Java and the **Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia**.
- It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.
- Indonesia, situated on the subduction zone (**the Indo-Australian Plate is subducting under the Eurasian Plate**), part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, experiences frequent volcanic and seismic events.

Kadamba inscription

- An inscription written in Kannada and Sanskrit and said to be of **10th century A.D. Kadamba period** has been discovered in the **Mahadeva temple at Cacoda in southern Goa**.
- The inscription opens with an auspicious saying '**be it well**' (**Swasthi Shri**), and records that when Talara Nevayya was administering the mandala, his son Gundayya having taken a vow to fulfil his father's desire of capturing a gopura of the port of Goa, fought and died after fulfilling his father's wish

History behind

- Kadambas of Goa were the subordinates of Chalukyas of Kalyana.
- Chalukya emperor Tailapa II appointed **Kadamba Shasthadeva as mahamandaleshwara of Goa** for his help in overthrowing the Rashtrakutas.
- Kadamba Shasthadeva **conquered the city of Chandavara** from the Shilaharas in 960 A.D.
- Later, he conquered the port of Gopakapattana (present Goa).
- **Gundayya, the son of Talara Nevayya**, may have participated in this battle, and won the port at the cost of his life.



Adda247

Maharashtra ka mahapack

**Live classes, Test series
Recorded videos, E-books**

**MPSC (राज्यसेवा) MPSC (संयुक्त) महाराष्ट्र पोलीस
तलाठी, वनरक्षक, कृषी विभाग महानगर पालिका नगर
परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, SSC & ALL OTHER STATE
EXAM**