

January - 04

NATIONAL

Padhe Bharat

- ❖ On January 1, 2022, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched this 100-day Reading Campaign.
- ❖ It marks a significant step to improve learning levels because it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary as well as ability to express in writing & verbal forms.
- ❖ Children studying in Balvatika to class 8 will be covered under the campaign.
- ❖ The campaign will also focus on Indian languages like mother tongue, local language or regional languages.
- ❖ In line with this goal, the campaign has also been integrated with the “International Mother Tongue Day” which is observed on February 21.



Report on Health status in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a two comprehensive report titled – Reports on current status on Country level- secondary and tertiary level and district level emergency and injury care in India.
- ❖ It was based on a study carried out by the Department of Emergency Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi.
- ❖ The report, surveyed the status of emergency and injury care in the country's secondary, tertiary and district-level hospitals.
- ❖ It found that although 88 per cent of hospitals had in-house ambulances, only 3 per cent had the trained paramedics needed to assist ambulance services.

- ❖ Only three to five per cent of beds in district hospitals across India are reserved for emergency care.
- ❖ Around 94 per cent of hospitals had no point-of-care labs (for simple tests), 76 per cent lacked separate access for ambulances, and 68 per cent hospitals lacked adequate spacing for the emergency department.



GST on Swiggy and Zomato



- ❖ Food aggregators like Swiggy and Zomato will have to collect and deposit tax at 5 per cent.
- ❖ Also, cab aggregators like Uber and Ola will have to collect 5 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) for booking 2 and 3-wheeler vehicles effective January 1.
- ❖ Also, footwear irrespective of prices will attract 12 per cent tax.

- ❖ Currently, restaurants registered under GST are collecting and depositing the tax.

INTERNATIONAL

India and Pakistan exchange information



India and Pakistan exchanged list of nuclear installation

- ❖ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities.
- ❖ It was according to the provisions of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ It states that India and Pakistan have to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the pact on January 1 every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 31st consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.
- ❖ Both also exchanged about the details of prisoners.
- ❖ These lists are exchanged in line with the provisions of the Agreement on Consular Access signed in May 2008.
- ❖ Under this pact, the two sides exchange comprehensive lists on January 1 and July 1 every year.

BrahMos missile deal

- ❖ India and the Philippines are set to formally seal a government-to-government BrahMos deal.

- ❖ A number of countries including Indonesia and many in the Gulf region have shown interest in procuring the missile.
- ❖ BrahMos Aerospace is an India-Russian joint venture.
- ❖ It produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.
- ❖ It is the only supersonic cruise missile in the World that flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- ❖ The variant to be exported is likely to have a range of around 290 kilometres.



India's help to Afghanistan



- ❖ For the first time since Kabul fell to the Taliban in mid-August, India has sent 5 lakh doses of Covaxin to Afghanistan as a “gift for the people of Afghanistan”.
- ❖ It is the second such assistance that India has provided to the Taliban-ruled country in less than a month.

- ❖ On December 11, the first consignment of 1.5 tonnes of medicines was sent.
- ❖ Earlier, India plans to send 50000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan.
- ❖ However, India has not formally recognised the Taliban administration as the legitimate ruler till now.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Paxlovid



- ❖ Pfizer's Covid-19 antiviral drug Paxlovid has received emergency use authorisation in the United States.
- ❖ It becomes first US-authorized home COVID treatment.
- ❖ It will be used for adults and children aged 12 and more.
- ❖ The United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) also approved this drug.
- ❖ The US regulators also authorized Merck's molnupiravir for covid treatment.
- ❖ The Indian Pharma giants Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, and Optimus Pharma are exploring the possibility to manufacture the Covid-19 pill.

Florona

- ❖ Israel reports 1st "Florona" Case or flu + Corona, Covid and Influenza Double Infection.
- ❖ Israel's national health providers began administering fourth vaccine shots against COVID-19.

- ❖ So far, the World Health Organization (WHO) has named Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Omicron as variants of concern of SARS-CoV-2.



SPORTS

Asian Powerlifting Championship



- ❖ Gaurav Sahu of Udaipur in Rajasthan won the first Gold Medal for India in the Asian Powerlifting Championship.
- ❖ It is underway at Istanbul in Turkey.
- ❖ Lorraine More at the age of 66 has won a gold medal for India by lifting 165 kgs in this championship.
- ❖ A 48-year-old driver with the Tamil Nadu Forest department, Manimaran from Trichy has bagged an overall gold medal in this championship.
- ❖ Raja, a DMK legislative member from Sankarankoil, won a bronze medal in this championship in the 140 kg weight category.

- ❖ He recently won first place nationally in a weightlifting competition.
- ❖ Raja is thus eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Games of 2022.
- ❖ Powerlifting (bench press only) is a Paralympic sport while weightlifting is an Olympic sport.

IMPORTANT DAYS

64th DRDO Foundation Day – January 01

- ❖ DRDO is the largest and most diverse research organisation in India.
- ❖ DRDO is the premier agency, working under the Department of Defence Research & Development in Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The organisation is headquartered in Delhi.
- ❖ It was established on January 1, 1958 after merging Directorate of Technical Development & Production of Indian Ordnance Factories and Technical Development Establishment, with Defence Science Organisation.
- ❖ It also developed a medicine named 2DG, to fight covid-19.

