

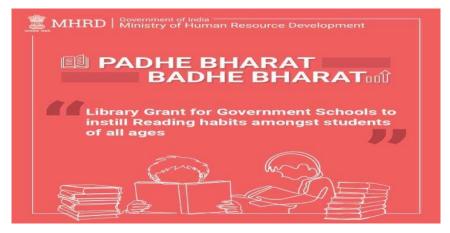


January - 04

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.
- SrahMos 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 Rajashtna 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.



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