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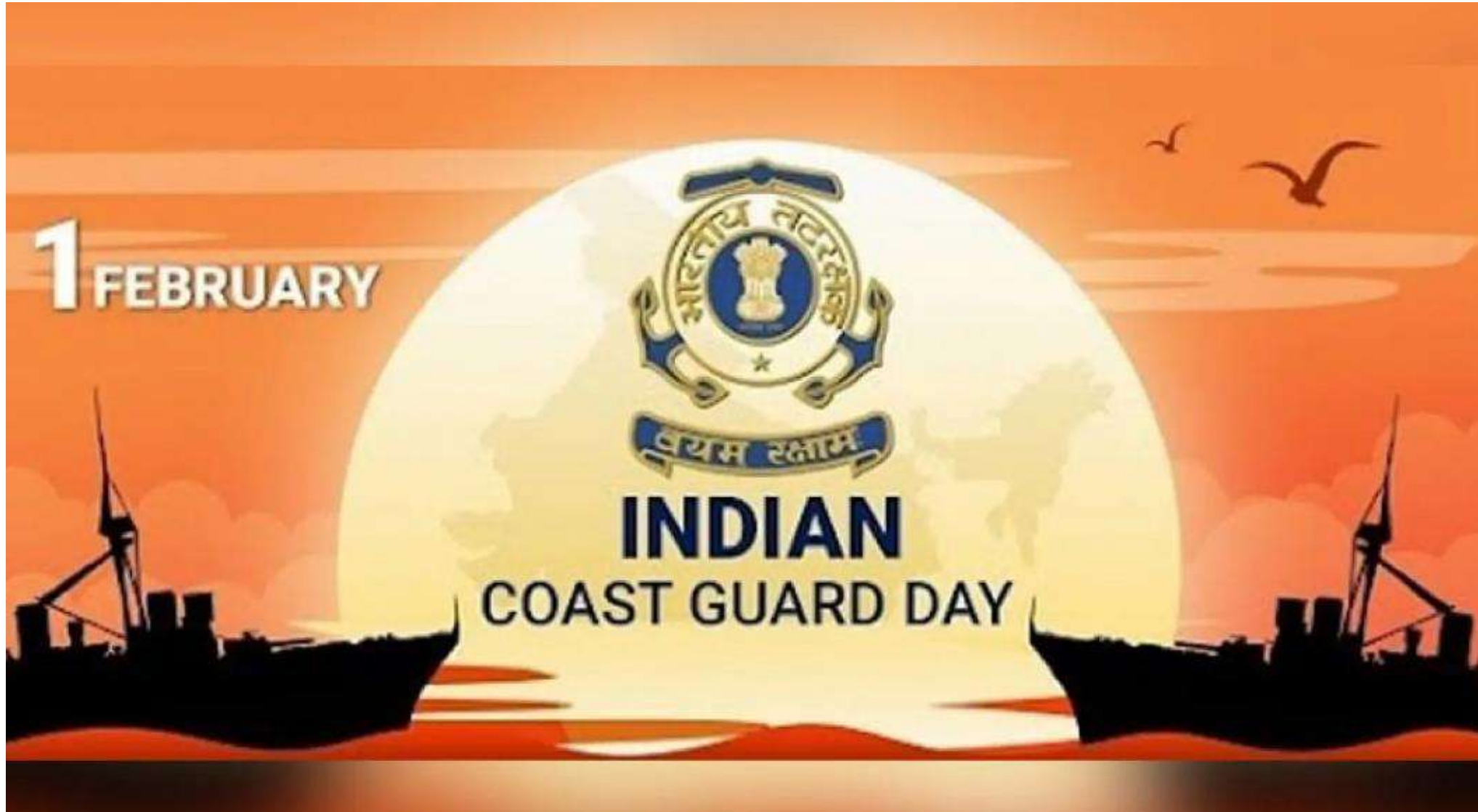
- ❖ Indian Coast Guard Day – February 1st
- ❖ BHU is creating North India's first human DNA Bank
- ❖ Four Full-Time Members Appointed to 16th Finance Commission
- ❖ Sultan Ibrahim sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king
- ❖ GAIL has signed a long term deal with Abu Dhabi
- ❖ WHO honors five countries for the first time for eliminating industrially produced trans fat
- ❖ Snow leopard is the mascot of Khelo India Winter Games 2024
- ❖ Champai Soren will be the new CM of Jharkhand
- ❖ The number of Ramsar sites reached 80 with the addition of 5 more wetlands by Government of India
- ❖ Textile Ministry will organize 'One Bharat Saree Walkathon' in Kota, Rajasthan
- ❖ Maharashtra takes the Khelo India Youth games crown for 4th time

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- ❖ Jay Shah reappointed as ACC president
- ❖ Genome Valley Excellence Award for Nobel laureate
- ❖ Rhythm Sangwan & Ujjwal Malik secure India's first gold: ISSF Shooting

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Indian Coast Guard Day – February 1st

- The Indian Coast Guard was established on February 1, 1977, to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampered the economy.
- The day aims to honour the contribution of the Coast Guard and is dedicated to the officers and personnel who look after maritime security.
- This year, the Indian Coast Guard Day will be commemorating its **48th Raising Day**.
- The responsibilities of the Coast Guard include offshore security, marine safety, and coastal security as well as safeguarding India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
- According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the ICG department is ranked as the **fourth largest Coast Guard in the world**.
- The duty of each personnel varies in collaboration with the Indian Navy, the Customs Department, and the Police.
- The guards are allotted to different regions including the **North-West region** situated in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat, the **East region in Chennai**, and the **North East region** in **Kolkata** and **Andaman and Nicobar regions**.
- President Droupadi Murmu approved the President's **Tatrakshak Medal** and Tatrakshak Medal to some selection awardees of the Indian Coast Guard on January 26.
- These medals are being awarded to the personnel who have played a pivotal role in safeguarding the maritime boundaries and responding to emergencies at sea.



BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY (BHU)

is CREATING NORTH INDIA'S

FIRST HUMAN DNA BANK



BHU is creating North India's first human DNA Bank

- North India's first human DNA bank is being set up at **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**.
- The Automated DNA Extractor Machine has been installed in the Gnyaneshwar Lab of the Zoology Department of BHU.
- A three-day conference on Personalised Medicine was organised by the Department of Zoology of BHU and Adnet Society, Hyderabad, in March 2023.
- 21 famous scientists from 15 countries had reached this conference. On a suggestion from this conference, a human DNA bank has been established at BHU.
- In the same conference, it was decided that BHU is fully prepared to create a genome bank like the country of Estonia.

About Automated DNA Extractor Machine:

- These machines are completely indigenous to Make in India. It has been made in such a way that the minimum plastic is used in it, so that there is no harm to the environment.
- With this machine, DNA can be extracted from any biological material, like blood, saliva, hair or tissue.
- With its help, DNA can be separated from about 32 samples at one time in 30 minutes.
- Through this, the medical history details of every person will be available to the doctors with a single click.

Four Full Time Members to 16th Finance Commission **Appointed**



Four Full-Time Members Appointed to 16th Finance Commission

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed three full-time members and a part-time member to the 16th Finance Commission.
- The three full-time Members are **Ajay Narayan Jha**, former Member of the 15th Finance Commission and former Secretary, Department of Expenditure; **Annie George Mathew**, former Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure; and **Niranjan Rajadhyaksha**, Executive Director, Artha Global.
- **Soumya Kanti Ghosh**, Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India, will be a **part-time member**.
- **Arvind Panagariya**, former Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog and Professor, Columbia University, was appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission last December.

Sultan Ibrahim sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king

- Sultan Ibrahim of Johor state has been appointed as Malaysia's 17th king, marking a significant moment in the nation's constitutional monarchy system.
- He will serve a 5 year term, performing ceremonial duties and holding special powers, including appointing the prime minister, assenting to laws, and serving as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.
- He is not only known for his royal lineage but also for his extensive business empire, which includes investments in real estate, telecoms, and power plants.
- He is one of the country's richest individuals and has a high corporate profile, including a significant stake in the multibillion-dollar Forest City development project.
- Bloomberg estimates **Sultan Ibrahim and his family**, rulers of southern Johor state, are worth at least **\$5.7 billion**, including land in Singapore and investments in various companies including in palm oil, real estate and telecommunications.



GAIL Has Signed A Long Term Deal with **ABU DHABI**



GAIL has signed a long term deal with Abu Dhabi

- GAIL has announced that it has signed an LNG deal with Vitol Asia for the supply of approximately 1 million metric tons of LNG per year into India.
- This deal will be for a period of 10 years, starting in 2026. As part of this agreement, GAIL will also receive deliveries from ADNOC, starting from 2026 for a period of 10 years across India.
- This agreement will assist India in meeting its growing energy security requirements. It will also support GAIL's strategic growth objectives of catering to downstream customers in the rapidly evolving natural gas landscape of the country.
- The deal will bridge the gap in India's demand and supply of natural gas and open up more opportunities for strategic partnership between GAIL and ADNOC in other areas of the energy sector.
- GAIL's efforts to secure supplies are also aligned with India's goal of increasing the share of natural gas in the energy basket to 15% from the current levels of around 6%-7%.

WHO honors five countries for the first time for eliminating industrially produced trans fat

- WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty-acids to five countries.
- **Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand** have each demonstrated they have a best practice policy for industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFA) elimination in effect, supported by adequate monitoring and enforcement systems.
- WHO also released results from the first five years of its REPLACE initiative to eliminate iTFA.
- While the ambitious target set by WHO in 2018 was to fully eliminate iTFA from the global food supply by the end of 2023, which was not met. There has been remarkable progress made towards this goal in every region of the world.
- In 2023 alone, new best-practice policies became effective in 7 countries (Egypt, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, and Ukraine).
- Trans-fatty acids (TFA) are semisolid to solid fats that occur in two forms: industrially produced and naturally occurring.
- Intake of TFA is associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from heart disease.





**KHELO
INDIA**
WINTER GAMES 2024



JAMMU & KASHMIR | LADAKH

SHEEN-E SHE(SHAN)



Snow leopard is the mascot of Khelo India Winter Games 2024

- The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is scheduled to be held from February 2-6 in **Gulmarg** and **Leh** areas of the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The second part is scheduled in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir from February 21-25.
- In keeping with the tradition and biodiversity of the region, the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the **'Sheen-e She' or Shan**, which is a snow leopard that is native to the Ladakh region.
- The J&K Sports Council and the sports department of Ladakh came up with the idea of having the snow leopard as the mascot.
- The mascot highlights the high-mountain development issues of the natives, and the region's fragile environment as well as addresses the importance of conservation efforts to protect the natural habitat of this beautiful big cat and ensure its survival for the future.
- The **logo** of the Games with the **Indian tricolour** reflects the uniqueness of the picturesque land.
- The logo is accompanied by a **'dharmachakra'** (turning wheel of dharma) on a hilltop in Chanspa in Leh, the venue of the Games.

Champai Soren will be the new CM of Jharkhand

- **Hemant Soren** quit as Jharkhand Chief Minister amid questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged corruption case. He has been arrested now. Jharkhand minister **Champai Soren** will be the **next Chief Minister**.
- Champai Soren has the support of over 41 MLAs; also, 41 is the majority mark in the **80-member assembly**.
- He is a senior leader who has been with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) with Hemant Soren's father Shibu Soren since the party started.
- He is currently cabinet minister of transport, and Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes welfare in the Hemant Soren's government.
- The new Chief Minister is the eldest son of Simal Soren, a farmer from **Saraikela-Kharsawan district**.
- Governor of Jharkhand : **C. P. Radhakrishnan**



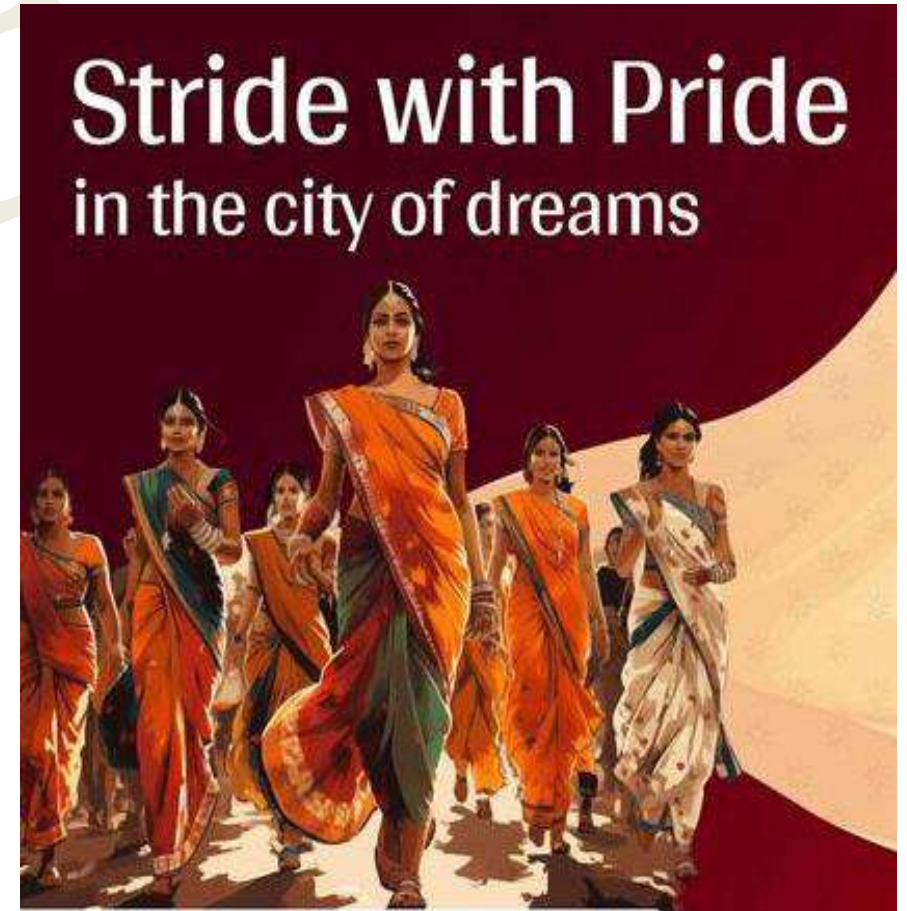
The number of Ramsar sites reached 80 with the addition of 5 more wetlands by Government of India

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** said on the eve of World Wetlands Day 2024, to be celebrated on 2 February, India has increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 from existing 75 by designating five more wetlands as Ramsar sites.
- Three of these sites, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in **Karnataka** whereas two, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in **Tamil Nadu**.
- With the addition of these five wetlands to List of Wetlands of International Importance, the total area covered under Ramsar sites is now 13.3 lakh hectares.
- **Tamil Nadu continues to have maximum number of Ramsar Sites** (16 sites) followed by **Uttar Pradesh** (10 sites).
- India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in **Ramsar, Iran**, in **1971**.
- New addition has made **India the fourth largest country** in terms of number of sites in the list after the UK (175), Mexico (144), China (82).



Textile Ministry will organize ‘One Bharat Saree Walkathon’ in Kota, Rajasthan

- The Ministry of Textiles is organizing ‘One Bharat Sari Walkathon’ at Dussehra Ground, Shakti Nagar, Kota, Rajasthan, in collaboration with the AatmNirbhar Bharat Utsav.
- The event aims to raise awareness about fitness among women and to encourage them lead healthier lives.
- The Sari Walkathon is a unique initiative where thousands of women from across the country come together, draped in saris representing the pride of their respective states.
- The event not only promotes fitness but also supports the ‘Vocal for Local’ idea, encouraging women to embrace traditional attire.
- **Aatmnirbhar Bharat Utsav** will showcase and celebrate the self-reliance in India and holistic end-to-end support to the traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- Our Handloom sector is a symbol of country’s rich and varied cultural heritage, besides being one of the key sectors providing employment to a large number of people, especially women.
- This event is to promote Handloom sari culture in India by inviting participation of women from various states showcasing their ways of wearing saris and thereby presenting India as a country having **“Unity in Diversity”**.



Maharashtra takes the Khelo India Youth games crown for 4th time

- The sixth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games-2023, held across four districts in Tamil Nadu, concluded on January 31, with Maharashtra emerging as the overall champion.
- The 13-day event witnessed intense competition among young athletes from across the country, with Maharashtra securing a total of **158 medals**, including **57 gold, 48 silver**, and **53 bronze** medals.
- Maharashtra's impressive performance placed them firmly at the top of the medal tally, followed by the host state **Tamil Nadu** and **Haryana** in second and third positions, respectively.
- Tamil Nadu bagged 98 medals, comprising 38 gold, 21 silver, and 39 bronze medals, while Haryana secured 103 medals, including 35 gold, 22 silver, and 46 bronze medals.
- With the continued support of the government and stakeholders, the Khelo India initiative is poised to play a vital role in nurturing sporting talent and promoting a culture of physical fitness among the youth of India.
- The event provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills, while also inspiring future generations to pursue excellence in sports.



Jay Shah reappointed as ACC president

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary Jay Shah was appointed as president of the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** for a third consecutive term on 31 January.
- His extension for another year was unanimously approved at the ACC Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Bali, as he was the midst of his second year of his second two-year term as the ACC Chief.
- His extension was proposed by Shammi Silva, the president of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), and the nomination was unanimously backed by all ACC members.
- Shah, who took over the reins of the ACC in January 2021 from the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board Nazmul Hassan, became the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC president.



Genome Valley Excellence Award for Nobel laureate

- Nobel laureate paediatrician professor **Gregg L Semenza** will be conferred the Genome Valley Excellence Award at the 21st edition of life sciences conclave BioAsia 2024 to be held in city from Feb 26 to 28.
- Semenza was awarded the Nobel Prize in **Physiology in 2019** along with Kaelin Jr and Sir Peter J Ratcliffe for his discovery of how the body's cells sense and react to low oxygen levels.
- Prof Semenza, who is currently the C Michael Armstrong professor of genetic medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA, was selected by BioAsia's international advisory board.
- His discovery of the hypoxia inducible factor 1 (HIF-1 protein) in controlling gene expression in response to fluctuations in oxygen availability could lead to treatments for diseases such as cancer, anemia, diabetes and heart disease.



Rhythm Sangwan & Ujjwal Malik secure India's first gold: ISSF Shooting

- The Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal Malik won India's first gold medal at the **ISSF Shooting World Cup 2024 in Cairo**.
- They defeated the Armenian pair of Elmira Karapetyan and Benik Khlghatyan 17-7 in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.
- Earlier, Arjun Babuta and Sonam Uttam Maskar won silver in the 10-meter air rifle mixed team event. They lost 16-14 to Great Britain's Seonaid McIntosh and Dean Bale in the final.
- Indian shooters have so far won one gold and two silver medals in Cairo.
- **Anuradha Devi** had opened the team's account with a silver in the women's 10-meter air pistol.

