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Telangana to Unveil Gruha Jyothi Scheme in February

- The Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, has taken significant strides to expedite the implementation of various welfare schemes, including the much-anticipated Gruha Jyothi Scheme.
- The state government aims to roll out this scheme, from the first week of February, bringing relief to numerous households.

Telangana Gruha Jyothi Yojana

- The Telangana government clarified that only individuals who have settled their electricity bills for December 2023 and January 2024 are eligible for the scheme.
- As a part of this scheme, **every household possessing a Below Poverty Line (BPL) card will receive 200 units of electricity free of charge** starting February.
- For households with electricity consumption within the 200-unit threshold, there will be no electricity charges.
- Recent schemes in Telangana state:
 - **Mahalakshmi scheme** - free TSRTC Bus travel for women and transgender persons
 - **Arogyasiri Scheme** - providing health benefits and insurance coverage upto 10 lakh for eligible individuals.

National Voter's Day – Jan 25th

- The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on January 25th to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.
- This year, it is the **14th edition** which is being celebrated.
- On this day in **1950**, The Election Commission of India came into existence.
- Actor **Pankaj Tripathi** is declared as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the Election Commission of India.
- **Theme 2024 : 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'**
- **Article 324** : Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
- **Rajiv Kumar** is the current and the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India.



After Turkey's approval Sweden is set to become NATO Member

- Sweden is set to become a NATO member after Turkey's parliament has ratified its application.
- Turkey's parliament ratifies Sweden's NATO membership bid, clearing the biggest remaining hurdle to expanding the Western military alliance after 20 months of delay.
- Turkey's general assembly, where President **Tayyip Erdogan's** ruling alliance holds a majority, voted 287-55 to approve the application that Sweden first made in 2022.
- **All NATO members need to approve** applications from countries seeking to join the alliance.
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** (NATO) was formed in **1949** with the aim of providing **collective security against the Soviet Union**.
- **Sweden** will be the **32nd member**, following the acceptance of its application for membership.
- **Finland** joined the alliance on April 4, and became the **31st member** of NATO.

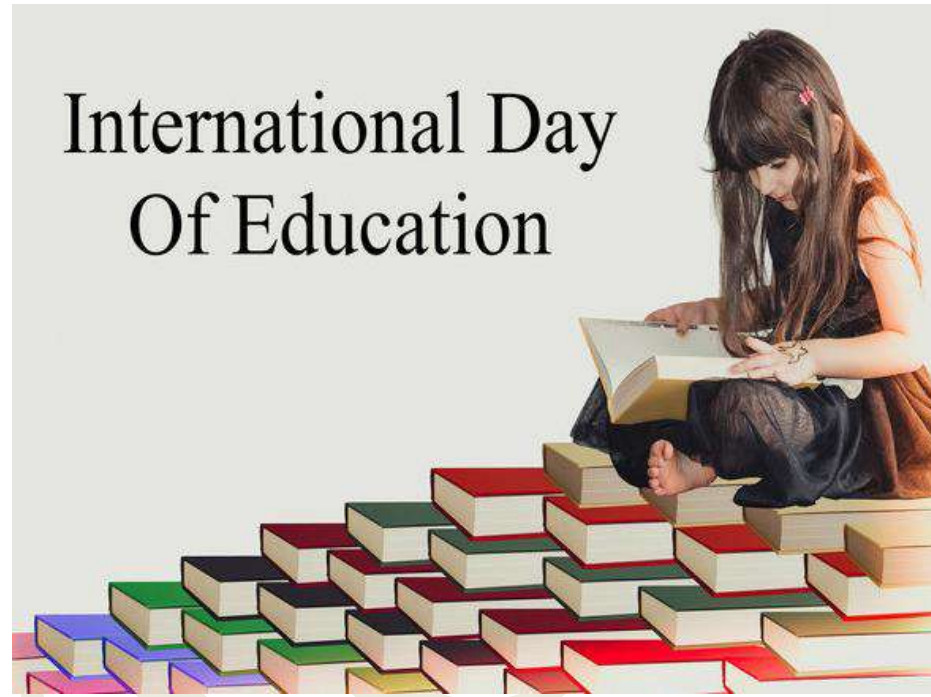


Saima Wajid is appointed as the WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia

- Saima Wajid of Bangladesh has been sworn in as the Regional Director of the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** South-East Asia Region on 23 January 2024.
- WHO's appointment of Saima Wajid as Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region was confirmed by its Executive Board in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Saima Wajid defeated Shambhu Prasad Acharya of Nepal by six votes in the election to become South East Asia Regional Director.
- She is the daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**.
- The current WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Region is Poonam Khetrapal Singh of India. Saima Wajid will take over from Poonam Khetrapal Singh from February 1, 2024.
- **About World Health Organisation (WHO):**
 - Established in 1948
 - **Headquarters:** Located in Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Director-General:** Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
 - 194 countries are members of WHO



International Day Of Education



International Education Day – January 24th

- Every year, we celebrate the International Day of Education on January 24 to remind us why education is so important.
- Back in 2018, the United Nations decided that January 24 would be the International Day of Education. This decision was made by 59 countries who wanted to highlight the importance of education.
- This year, the focus is on "**Learning for lasting peace.**"
- The United Nations tells us that education is like a powerful tool that can help us deal with big issues like climate change, inequality, discrimination, and conflicts.
- The theme emphasizes how education lays the foundation for more peaceful, fair, and sustainable societies.



Cameroon became the First Country to Roll Out Malaria Vaccine in Child Immunization Program

- Cameroon is set to become the first country to introduce a new malaria vaccine for children, marking a milestone in the ongoing efforts to combat Malaria.
- The Central Africa nation hopes to vaccinate about 250,000 children this year and next year.
- Cameroon will use the first of two recently approved malaria vaccines, known as **Mosquirix**.
- The World Health Organization endorsed the vaccine two years ago, acknowledging that even though it is imperfect, its use would still dramatically reduce severe infections and hospitalizations.

HDFC becomes the first bank in India to issue 20 million credit cards

- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has become the first lender in the country to achieve the milestone of **20 million credit cards** in force.
- The lender forayed into the credit card business in 2001 and hit the 10-million mark in 2017.
- The next 10 million issuances came in a little over six years. The milestone was achieved on 16 January.
- HDFC Bank is the largest issuer of card issuers in the country, which commands over a fourth of the overall card market in terms of numbers.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India data for November 2023, HDFC Bank's cards in circulation stood at nearly 19.51 million as compared to 19.18 million cards in October 2023.
- HDFC Bank is followed by **SBI Card, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank**, in terms of the number of credit cards issued.





IAF conducts 'Exercise Desert Knight' with French, UAE Air Force over Arabia Sea

- India, UAE, and France conducted the Desert Knight exercise over the Arabian Sea.
 - The IAF operated from its west coast bases, while UAE and France operated from **Al Dhafra airbase**.
 - The exercise aimed to enhance synergy and interoperability among the air forces and showcased the IAF's prowess.
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- The exercise is the latest instance of the way India is building military interoperability with countries in the region, especially the Gulf, in conjunction with others like the US and France.
 - The French Air and Space Force deployed **Rafale fighters** and a multi-role tanker transport aircraft for the exercise, while the UAE fielded **F-16 jets**.
 - The IAF contingent included **Sukhoi-30 MKI, MiG-29** and **Jaguar fighters**, along with AWACS, C-130-J Super Hercules and IL-78 mis-air refueling aircraft.



India's Rohan Bopanna becomes oldest player to hold number one spot in men's doubles tennis

- Indian **tennis** sensation Rohan Bopanna became the oldest player to hold the No. 1 men's doubles ranking.
- The 43-year-old Ace player, alongside Australia's Matthew Ebden defeated the Argentine pair Máximo González and Andrés Molteni in straight sets 6-4, 7-6 in the 2024 Australian Open quarter-finals.
- After becoming the World No. 1, Bopanna said that his achievement will inspire the people all over the world, being 40 and above in a different way.
- According to the International Tennis Federation, the previous oldest men's doubles No.1, **Mike Bryan**, was 41 years and 76 days old when his streak ended in 2019.



India and Japan sign world's first biggest agreement for supply of green ammonia

- **Gurgaon-based ACME Group** signed an offtake term sheet for the supply of green ammonia from its project in Odisha to **IHI Corporation**, a Japanese integrated heavy industry company.
- The term sheet covers the supply of 0.4 million metric tons per annum (MMTPA) of green ammonia from Phase-1 of ACME's Gopalpur on a long-term basis.

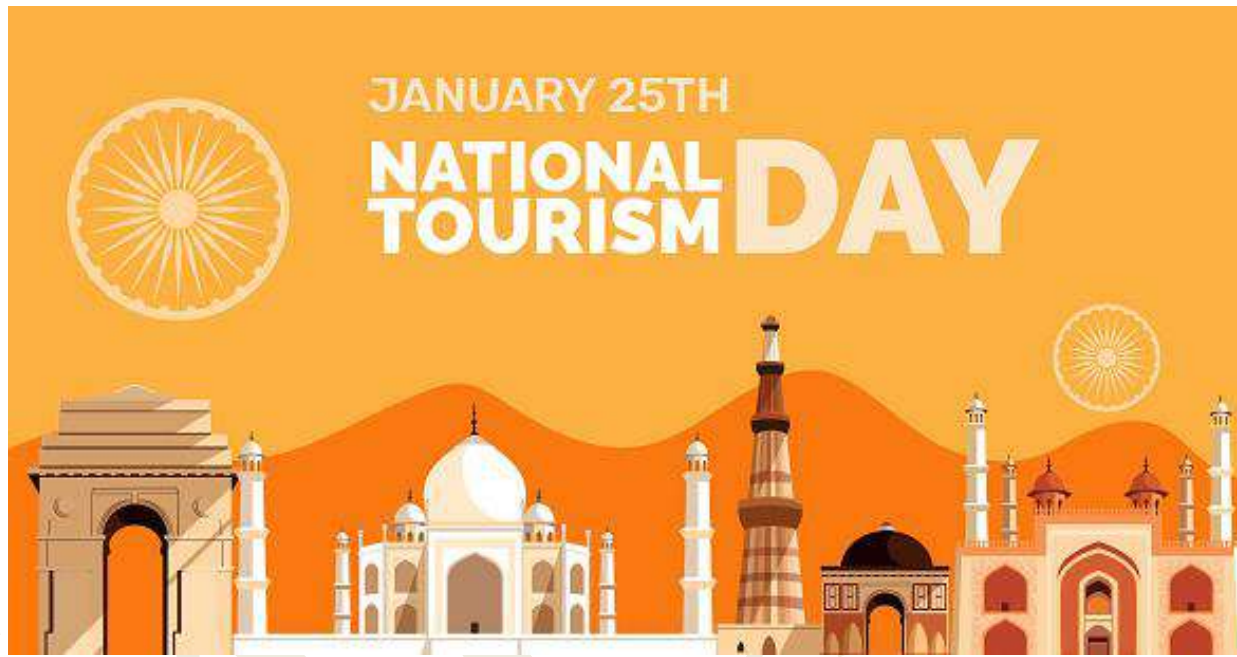
- Japan and other developed countries have huge requirements for green hydrogen and green ammonia, which India shall be able to supply at the most competitive rates.
- Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, presided over the signing along with the Ambassador of Japan to India, Hiroshi Suzuki.
- The partnership between ACME and IHI will bring remarkable success, given the potential of globally competitive green hydrogen in India.



Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

MoD inks 1,070 crore act with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

- The **Ministry of Defence** has signed contract with Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for acquisition of 14 fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of ₹1,070.47 crore.
- These multi role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by MDL under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) Category and will be delivered in total 63 months.
- These modern FPVs will play a critical role in enhancing fisheries protection and monitoring, control and surveillance, anti-smuggling operations, search and rescue operations including in shallow waters, assistance to ship/crafts in distress, towing capabilities, assistance and monitoring during marine pollution response operations, anti-piracy operations.
- The contract which is in line with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** will boost nation's indigenous shipbuilding capability bolstering maritime economic activities and foster growth of ancillary industries especially the MSME sector.



National Tourism Day – Jan 25th

- National Tourism Day in India is marked on 25th January every year.
- The day is celebrated to build awareness of the country's economic benefits from tourism. It was started by the government of India with a purpose to promote natural beauty, cultural diversity, and a rich legacy.
- India is a lovely country with astonishing tourist spots like rivers, mountains, beaches, valleys, historical monuments, and many more. National Tourism Day attempts to draw the attention of tourists to help the country's economy.
- National Tourism Day is also an opportunity to honour the people working hard in the travel and tourism industry, helping the country in promoting tourism and supporting the local economy.
- In 2024, the decided theme is '**Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories,**' promoting responsible and mindful travel.