

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2, 2024**

### **STATE**

- **Sign of the future: The PSLV C58 mission is a symbol of the demands being made of ISRO**
- ✓ Two missions the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched in the five months since its success with Chan-drayaan-3 have both been scientific in nature: the Aditya L-1 space probe to study the sun and the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to study polar-ised X-rays emitted in astrophysical phenomena.
- ✓ ISRO launched the XPoSat, in a two-part mission, onboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on its C58 flight on January 1. The relative timing of these launches may be a coincidence but it is heartening because the ratio of scientific to technological missions ISRO has launched is skewed in favour of the latter, at the expense of research in the sense of discovery. Those science-oriented missions have all been exceptional in their own right. For example, XPoSat is only the second space-based experiment to study X-ray polarisation, and at higher x-ray energies than the other, NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer. Its POLIX payload, realised by the Raman Research Institute, will track X-rays in the 8-30 keV energy range and observe emissions from around 50 sources in five years.
- ✓ The XSPECT payload, by ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, will study X-rays of energy 0.8-15 keV and changes in continuous X-ray emissions. Together, they are expected to shed light on intense X-ray sources such as pulsars and black holes.

- **Panagariya to head 16<sup>th</sup> Finance commission.**

- ✓ The government on Sunday appointed former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman of the 16<sup>th</sup> finance commission, which will recommend the tax revenue sharing formula between the centre and the states for the five-year period beginning April 2026.
- ✓ The finance Ministry on Sunday notified the president Droupadi Murmu's order for Mr. Panagariya's appointment. The terms of reference for the panel were approved by the cabinet on November 29.

- **SBI donates ₹79 lakh to Sankara Nethralaya**

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI), Chennai Circle, recently donated ₹79 lakh to Sankara Nethralaya Medical Research Foundation to procure medical equipment for eye care. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, SBI, handed over the cheque to the foundation.

## NATIONAL

- **After Centre's clarification letter, Hatties get ST tag**

- ✓ Months after President Droupadi Murmu notified the inclusion of the Hattee community in Himachal Pradesh's Scheduled Tribes list, the State government on Monday issued the necessary directions to all departments for the implementation of the new classification, officials told *The Hindu*.
- ✓ The implementation had been held up for this long over a confusion in the State government as to who the Hatties of the Trans-Giri area of Sirmour district were.
- ✓ As the term 'Hattee' is also used to describe people already classified as the Scheduled Castes, the confusion was over whether these communities too would be included in the ST list as Hatties.
- ✓ Officials in the Himachal Pradesh Tribal Development Department said the Union government clarified its stance on December 30 through a letter.

- **First girls' Sainik School opened in Mathura with 870 students**

- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday 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.
- ✓ "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,” a Defence Ministry statement said. These are in addition to the existing 33 Sainik schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern.

- ✓ U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and several senior officials were present for the inauguration.



- ✓ Mr. Singh described the new school as a beacon of light for girls who aspire to join the armed forces and serve the country. In 2019, the Union Minister had approved admission of girls to Sainik schools from the academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner. The decision was taken following the success of the pilot project started by the De-fence Ministry in Sainik School, Chhingchhip in Mizoram.

## AWARDS

- **Bombay Jayashri Ramnath gets Sangita Kalanidhi Award**

- ✓ Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri Ramnath was given the Sangita Kalanidhi award at the Music Academy, Chennai, on Monday.
- ✓ Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi noted that by honouring Ms. Ramnath, “we honour the purity of her *swaras*, the sublimity of her *bhava*, the yogic equipoise of her singing soul and the amazing strength of her will power”.



- ✓ Presiding over annual of the Music

the ‘Sadas’ of the 97th conference and concerts Academy, he talked about how artificial intelligence is ushering in a revolution. “In the realm of music, artificial intelligence can do some spectacular things like removing recording flaws and can clean up scratches without trace. The Music Academy can so guide and influence the regulators that must be placed in position for artificial intelligence in the realm of music. Artificial intelligence must nurse, not doctor music,” he said.