

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 25, 2022

NATIONAL

- On December 24, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal - launched several new initiatives on the occasion of the National Consumer Day



- ✓ The Union Minister launched the 'right to repair' portal and an National Test House (NTH) mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline (NCH) centre in New Delhi
- ✓ Further, a MoU was also signed between the Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi for capacity building programme of consumer commissions.
- ✓ On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair the gadgets themselves or have them repaired by third parties, instead of depending on original manufacturers.

- ✓ Initially, the portal would cover mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, automobile and farming equipment.
 - ✓ The aim of the portal is to enable people for self-repair, unrestricted access to repair; and reduction in e-waste.
 - ✓ The portal will be a one-stop point for consumers for searching the companies by name and their products besides details of their services and warranty of products.
 - ✓ Consumers can use it for finding the links of authorised service networks of companies, including the third party ones.
 - ✓ The Centre had set up a committee in July headed chaired by Nidhi Khare, additional secretary, department of consumer affairs to develop a comprehensive framework for the right to repair.
- **The Union government - has decided to waive off the fees for registration, diagnostics and treatment for persons with disabilities (PwDs) having unique Ids.**
- ✓ The service charges have been waived off at all the nine National Institutes (NIs) and 21 associated composite regional centres (CRCs) across various states from January 1.
 - ✓ The decision has been aimed at enhancing access to rehabilitation facilities for persons with disabilities (PwDs)
 - ✓ The benefit will also be extended to those who have disability certificates and are enrolled on the UDID portal, irrespective of the percentage of disability.
 - ✓ In terms of benefit to eligible candidates, this indicates waiver of fee and other charges ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.10,000.
 - ✓ Further, full course fee will be waived for those students enrolled in various courses at NIs/ CRCs, who have Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities (UDID) cards and those who have disability certificates and are enrolled on the UDID portal.
 - ✓ This will be effective for 2022-23 batch students onwards and including all those who are doing two years or more duration courses and are in their second, third and fourth year.
 - ✓ The NIs offer courses ranging from certificates, diplomas, graduation level programmes and even M. Phil programmes.
 - ✓ The minimum fee for a certification course is around Rs.5,000 and the maximum can go upto Rs.1.25 lakh for an M. Phil programme.
- **On December 24, the government - issued an advisory that those permanent account numbers (PAN) which are not linked with Aadhaar by the end of March next year will be rendered “inoperative”.**
- ✓ The directive has been issued by the Income Tax department as per Income-tax Act, 1961

- ✓ It is mandatory for all PAN holders except those who fall under the exempt category.
- **Union Minister for Steel, Jyotiraditya Scindia - launched the country's first Green Steel Brand 'KALYANI FeRRESTA' in New Delhi recently on December 20**



- ✓ Saarloha Advanced Materials, a Kalyani group company, launched green steel under the brand Kalyani FeRRESTA.
- ✓ This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment.
- ✓ The company had successfully managed to achieve up to 90% reduction in CO₂ emissions by replacing the coking coal furnace with an electric one powered by renewable energy
- ✓ Green steel is manufactured using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification and electricity instead the traditional carbon-intensive coking coal
- ✓ Sweden was the first country to manufacture green steel.
- ✓ The steel industry produces 7% of CO₂ emissions internationally, while the Indian steel industry accounts for 12 % of such emissions.
- ✓ India has become the second largest steel producer in the world in the last 8 years, doubling capacity from 150 to 154 million tonnes of production
- ✓ Further, the country intends to double its steel production to 300 million tonnes per annum by 2030.
- **The Centre - has prepared "Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal" document for Lion conservation as a part of the 'Project Lion' for conservation of Asiatic Lions in Gir, Gujarat.**
- ✓ The details of the document was provided by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey in Rajya Sabha on December 22

DECISIONS MADE

- No translocation outside Saurashtra
- Government to focus on natural dispersal of lions
- No increase in area of Gir National Park
- No shifting Maldharis from Gir Sanctuary
- Barda Dungar, Bhavnagar and coastal areas of Saurashtra to be strengthened
- Facilitating more diverse breeding to strengthen the gene pools within Saurashtra
- Barda to be taken up on priority
- Disease monitoring and research centre for lion research
- NTCA to play major role in the project and monitor lion counts




Royal ride for tourists

Project Lion includes the mission to develop tourism circuits in Saurashtra in which lion habitats will be important attractions, forest department officials said. For example, the Somnath-Dwarka circuit will include Devaliya, Sasan, and Porbandar.

- ✓ 'Project Lion' is being implemented by the State Government of Gujarat and other stakeholders like Central Zoo Authority
- ✓ A financial assistance of Rs. 124.58 lakhs have been provided to State of Gujarat for conservation of wildlife including Asiatic Lions under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)- 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' during last three years.
- ✓ Further, revalidation of Rs 1641.42 lakhs of grants released during 2018-19 under the Asiatic Lion Conservation project has also been done during the period
- ✓ 'Project Lion' aims to promote landscape ecology-based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development
- ✓ It is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat which is the last home of the Asiatic lion.
- ✓ The 'Project Lion' document titled "Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal" has been prepared with the objectives to secure and restore lions' habitats for managing its growing population.
- ✓ 'Project Tiger', another conservation project, is being implemented in tiger landscapes spread across the country in 53 tiger reserves

INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 24, the Taliban government - ordered all foreign and domestic non-governmental groups in Afghanistan not to employ women**
- ✓ The decision has been taken because some female employees didn't wear the Islamic headscarf correctly.
- ✓ Any organisation found not complying with the order will have their operating license revoked in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The United Nations condemned the NGO order, and said it will seek to meet with the Taliban leadership to get some clarity.

- ✓ The Taliban had also separately banned women from attending religious classes at the mosques in the capital of Kabul.
- ✓ The bans are the latest restrictive moves by Afghanistan's new rulers against women's rights and freedoms
- ✓ Few days before, the Taliban banned female students from attending universities across the country.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - is organizing the Urban 20 (U20) event from December 01, 2022 to November 30, 2023.**
- ✓ Ahmedabad, a UNESCO World Heritage city, will host the U20 meetings that will culminate in U20 Mayors' Summit in July 2023



- ✓ As part of the G20 Leaders' Summit, the first Sherpa meeting of Urban 20 (U20), one of the 10 engagement groups under G20, to prepare the urban agenda will be held in Ahmedabad on February 9-10, 2023
- ✓ U20 is a city diplomacy initiative wherein cities of participating nations discuss city-level efforts to address pressing global challenges
- ✓ The priority areas of U20 are climate change and sustainable development, including socio-economic issues.
- ✓ The meeting will be attended by members of G20 countries, mayors and representatives of Climate40 (C40) and United Cities and Local Governments, which are the two international non-governmental advocacy groups on urban issues
- ✓ Ahmedabad became a member of the C40 on June 30, 2022, and has been a member of other global alliances like Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).
- ✓ On December 19, Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the logo, website and social media handles of Urban-20 at an event in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- ✓ Union housing and urban affair minister Hardeep Singh Puri joined the event virtually.
- ✓ The National institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), under the ministry of housing and urban affairs, has been tasked to provide technical assistance in preparing the urban agenda for U20.
- ✓ India assumed the presidency of G20 on December 1 for a year

DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy's first anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASWSWC), INS Arnala – was launched at the Larsen & Toubro shipyard in Kattipalli, Chennai recently on December 20**

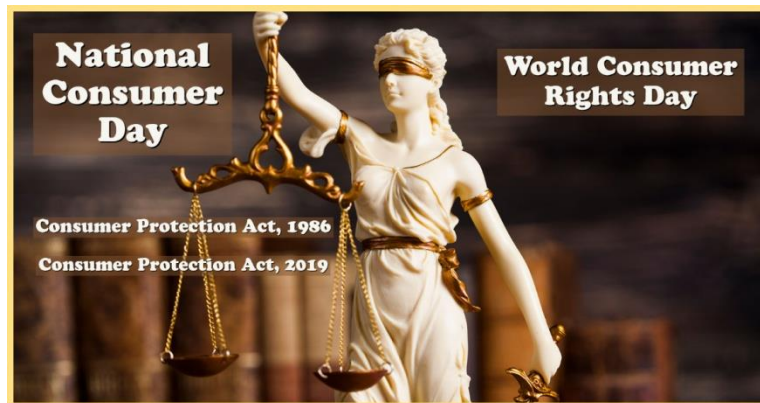


- ✓ In keeping with the Naval maritime tradition, the ship was launched in the waters of Bay of Bengal to the chanting of invocation from Atharva Veda
- ✓ This is the first of eight such ships being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd for the Navy, while eight more ASWSWC are being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- ✓ Incidentally, GRSE became the only defence public sector unit (DPSU) shipyard in India to be honoured with the Raksha Mantri's Award 2022 for designing the most silent ship, ASWSWC, which does not make any sound in water
- ✓ These ships will be capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters as well as search and attack operations
- ✓ They will also be capable of carrying out coordinated anti-submarine operations with aircraft.
- ✓ These ships will have combat management systems on board and will be armed with lightweight torpedoes as well as anti-submarine warfare rockets.
- ✓ The 77.6m ASWSWC ships have a displacement of 900 tons with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 NM.
- ✓ The ship has been named Arnala to highlight the strategic maritime importance given to the island of Arnala located about 13 Km north of Vasai, Maharashtra by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

- ✓ The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between Defence Ministry and GRSE, Kolkata in April 2019.
- ✓ Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy
- ✓ India has a total of 22 corvettes of Kamorta class, Kora class, Khukri class, Veer class and Abhay class.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ **National Consumer Day – December 24**



- ✓ The National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas is celebrated every year to spread awareness about consumer rights and consumer power.
- ✓ In 1986, the Consumer Protection Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament.
- ✓ The bill received the assent of the President on December 24, 1986, and came into force.
- ✓ To commemorate the importance of the day, December 24 is marked as National Consumer Day.
- ✓ The Consumer Protection Act has provisions for easy and fast compensation for consumer grievances.
- ✓ It safeguards and encourages consumers to raise their voices against insufficiency and flaws in goods and services.
- ✓ The act outlines six consumer rights for all Indian citizens, and it further mentions five responsibilities that every consumer should fulfil.
- ✓ Consumers are provided protection against unfair trade practices like hoarding, fake advertisements, false offers, insufficient or poor products and many others.
- ✓ Consumers can register their grievances through an effective complaint redressal forum.
- ✓ In August 2019, the Parliament passed the Consumer Protection Act 2019, which replaced the Consumer Protection Act of 1986, and came into force in July 2020.
- ✓ World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year.