

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 26, 2022

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the last Mann Ki Baat of the year on December 25, 2022**



- ✓ This was the 96th edition of monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat
- ✓ PM Modi wished everyone on Christmas and remembered former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 98th birthday, which was observed as 'Good Governance Day'
- ✓ He hailed Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai for its research, innovation and cancer care.
- ✓ PM Modi recalled the accomplishments of the year 2022 as India celebrated 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- ✓ He also mentioned 'Har Ghar Tiranga' in his address, which people across the country followed and shared selfies with the tricolour flag.
- ✓ PM Modi hailed Sikkim's Sange Sherpa for having been engaged in environment conservation at the height of over 12,000 feet for the last 14 years.
 - ✓ Sange has taken up the task of cleaning Tsomgo Lake, which is of cultural and ancient importance.

- ✓ PM Modi spoke about Kalari Club Dubai which, in association with Dubai Police, achieved the record of the most people performing Kalarippayattu simultaneously, as part of the UAE National Day celebrations.
- ✓ He also mentioned Karnataka's Kala Chetana functioning under Kavemshri who is a hotelier by profession.
- ✓ The PM also said that the Namami Gange mission helped to improve the biodiversity.
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) has recognized Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world

INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 25, Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari - named CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' as the new Prime Minister of Nepal.**



- ✓ Prachanda is being appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time
- ✓ He has the support of 165 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives
- ✓ There has been an understanding between Prachanda and CPN-UML chairman & former PM Oli to lead the government on a rotation basis and Oli agreed to make Prachanda Prime Minister at the first chance as per his demand.
- ✓ Born in Kaski district near Pokhara on December 11, 1954, Prachanda remained underground for almost 13 years.
- ✓ Prachanda led the decade-long armed struggle from 1996 to 2006 that ultimately ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006
- ✓ He joined mainstream politics when the CPN-Maoist adopted peaceful politics, ending decade long armed insurgency.
- ✓ Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- ✓ The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the basis of the special relations between the two countries.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Tata Group - has renamed AirAsia India as 'AIX Connect Pvt. Ltd' as part of the ongoing merger process**
- ✓ The merger of budget carrier AirAsia India with Air India Express is likely to be completed by the end of 2023
- ✓ Post-merger, the entity will be branded as Air India Express.
- ✓ The Tata group is now the 100% owner of erstwhile AirAsia India as it recently bought out Malaysian AirAsia Aviation Group's remaining 16.3% in this JV.
- ✓ AirAsia India was launched in 2014 while Air India Express, which is the international low-cost arm of Air India, started operations back in 2005.
- ✓ Tatas are consolidating their four airlines into two — full-service Vistara into Air India and AirAsia India into AI Express.
- ✓ Last month, Tata group also announced the merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1% stake in Air India
- ✓ The merger of Vistara into Air India is expected to be completed by March 2024 after getting regulatory approvals.
- ✓ Both the low-cost airlines and full-service carriers -- Air India and Vistara -- are owned by Tata group.
- ✓ Last week, AI MD & CEO Campbell Wilson had named AI Express CEO Alok Singh as the head of the low-cost airlines from January 1, 2023.

APPOINTMENTS

- **US President Joe Biden - has nominated Indian-American lawyer diplomat Richard Verma to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.**



- ✓ He would be the highest ranking Indian American in the State Department if confirmed by the US Senate.
- ✓ The 54-year-old is currently the Chief Legal Officer and Head of Global Public Policy at Mastercard.

- ✓ Before being nominated to the top diplomatic position in the State Department, Verma served as a former US ambassador to India from January 16, 2015, to January 20, 2017.
- ✓ Verma served as Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs during the Obama government.
- ✓ He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served on active duty as a Judge Advocate.
- ✓ Verma has served as Vice Chairman of The Asia Group, Partner and Senior Counsellor at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, and Senior Counsellor at the Albright Stonebridge Group.
- ✓ He is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal from the Department of State, the International Affairs Fellowship from the Council on Foreign Relations and the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Air Force.
- ✓ A former member of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Commission, Verma was appointed to the President's Intelligence Advisory Board.
- ✓ He serves as a trustee of The Ford Foundation, and is on numerous other boards, including the National Endowment for Democracy and Lehigh University.

AWARDS

- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) - has won Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) 'Best Security Practices in Government Sector' award**



- ✓ The award was given to UIDAI during the recently concluded DSCI's three-day Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) in New Delhi
- ✓ The award has been given to UIDAI for its significant role in securing national critical Aadhaar infrastructure that provides digital identity-based welfare services to residents.

- ✓ Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, which was setup by NASSCOM
- ✓ UIDAI is the first Government Organization to be Privacy Certified on leading industry standard (ISO27701)

SPORTS

- **Sam Curran - has become the most expensive player in the history of IPL auctions**



- ✓ He was bought by Punjab Kings for Rs 18.50 crore in the 2023 IPL auctions held on December 23
- ✓ Curran beat the earlier record set by Chris Morris when he was bought by Rajasthan Royals for Rs 16.25 crore in the 2021 IPL auction.
- ✓ The 24-year-old all-rounder has been part of the T20 league before, having played for Punjab Kings in 2019 season and Chennai Super Kings in 2020 season
- ✓ In his 32 IPL matches, Curran has scored 337 runs at a strike rate of 149.77, and picked 32 wickets.
- ✓ Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was second-highest earner, obtaining Rs 17.5 crore bid from Mumbai Indians.
- ✓ England Test skipper Ben Stokes was the third-highest gainer, fetching Rs 16.25 crore from Chennai Super Kings
- **Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur - launched the Khelo India's new Dashboard in New Delhi recently on December 23**
- ✓ The new Dashboard has all the statistical data related to the Khelo India Scheme and the Khelo India events.



- ✓ It will be updated in real-time and is a unique one-stop platform for the citizens to access all the information regarding the Khelo India Scheme
- ✓ The unique platform also has a database regarding Khelo India Centres (KICs), Khelo India Academies, SAI Training Centres & National Centre of Excellence (NCOEs)
- ✓ This will help athletes find the closest centre where sports training is available in various disciplines.