

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 27, 2022

STATES

- **The management of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur - has announced that IIT Malaysia campus will be established in the near future**
 - ✓ This was announced during the 68th Convocation of IIT Kharagpur held recently
 - ✓ The director of IIT Kharagpur also declared that the institute had received the highest placement offers among all IITs.
 - ✓ In August, a committee was set up by the Centre for the global expansion of IITs
 - ✓ The committee has, in consultation with Indian missions abroad, identified UK, UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Malaysia and Thailand as prospective locations for offshore campuses under the “Indian International Institute of Technology” brand name.

- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur - inaugurated the Sports Science Centre at M.G. Stadium at Udupi on December 24**



- ✓ This Sports Science Centre will bring together sports scientists and athletes.

- ✓ The Center, which cost two crore rupees to create, would treat athletes and aid in improving their physical and mental capabilities.
- ✓ During the occasion, the minister launched the National Level Kabaddi Championship in Udupi, Karnataka

NATIONAL

- On December 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the nation on the occasion of ‘Vir Bal Diwas’ at Major Dhyan Chand stadium in New Delhi



- ✓ During the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid respects to Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, Guru Gobind Singh's sons who laid down their lives while defending their faith
- ✓ December 26 is observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh's four sons called the 'Sahibzadas'.
- ✓ On January 9 this year, PM Narendra Modi declared that December 26, shall henceforth be marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas' to pay homage to the courage of the 'Sahibzadas', the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, who was the last Sikh guru.
- ✓ Guru Gobind Singh's four sons -- Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh -- were all part of the Khalsa.
- ✓ All four of them were executed by Mughal forces before the age of 19.
- ✓ On December 26, 1705, the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Ji, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, aged 9 years and 6 years, attained martyrdom at the hands of Moghuls upon the orders of the then-ruler Aurangzeb.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Hyderabad-based Hetero Group - has announced the receipt of World Health Organization Prequalification of Medicines Program (WHO PQ) approval for its generic version of COVID-19 oral anti-viral treatment candidate 'Nirmatrelvir'.

- ✓ With this, the company has become the first pharma player in the world to bag WHOPQ approval
- ✓ The approval is the first prequalification for a generic version of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral anti-viral drug 'Paxlovid,' which is the best therapeutic choice for high-risk Covid patients to date, according to WHO
- ✓ Hetero entered into a non-exclusive, voluntary licensing agreement with medicines patent pool (MPP) in March this year for manufacture and sale of a generic version of Nirmatrelvir
- ✓ Hetero was one of the 35 generic global companies, which includes 19 Indian companies to sign the licensing agreement
- ✓ Hetero's 'Nirmacom' (Nirmatrelvir) is co-packaged with Ritonavir in low and middle income countries (LMICs)
- ✓ It is available by prescription only and should be initiated as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of symptom onset.
- ✓ WHO made a strong recommendation for Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir for mild and moderate COVID-19 patients at highest risk of hospital admission, such as unvaccinated, aged or immune-suppressed patients
- ✓ With WHO approval in place, Hetero plans to roll out its affordable generic Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir combipack under Nirmacom brand across 95 LMICs, including India.
- ✓ The entire five-day regimen of 30 tablets comprising 150mg Nirmatrelvir tablets and 100mg Ritonavir tablets, will be rolled out at around Rs.4,900 in the Indian market by first week of January 2023.
- ✓ Hetero has already received emergency use authorisation (EUA) from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for manufacturing and marketing in India.
- ✓ The drug, which will be available only on prescription, will be manufactured at its facilities at Hyderabad and will be supplied only to government institutions and hospitals as well as private hospitals only.

RANKINGS

- **India's badminton star PV Sindhu - is the only Indian player in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world.**



- ✓ Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist, occupies the 12th spot in the list.
- ✓ The 27-year-old made \$7.1 million of her earnings, having won a singles gold and doubles silver at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year in Birmingham.
- ✓ For the third straight year, Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops Forbes' annual list of the World's highest-paid female athletes with an annual earnings of \$51.1 million
- ✓ As is usually the case, tennis players dominated the list with as many as 12 in the top 25, and seven in the top 10 rankings.
- ✓ The list's Top 10 included Serena Williams (2nd place), Emma Raducanu (4), Iga Swiatek (5), Venus Williams (6), Coco Gauff (7) and Jessica Pegula (9) – all tennis players.

