

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 31, 2022

NATIONAL

- **The Budget Session of Parliament – to begin with the address of President Ram Nath Kovind to both Houses in the Central Hall on January 31**
- ✓ The Budget session will have only a seventy-nine and a half hours window for the government's legislative agenda and for taking up issues of immediate public concern over the scheduled 29 sittings of both the Houses
- ✓ On February 1, the General Budget for 2022-23 will be presented in the Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- ✓ The first part of the Budget session will have 10 sittings between January 31 and February 11 while 19 sittings are scheduled for the second part between March 14 and April 8.
- ✓ There will be a break from February 12 to March 13 during which the standing committees will examine the budgetary allocations for various ministries and departments and prepare reports
- ✓ A total of 135 hours of sitting time is available for the 256th session of the Rajya Sabha for transacting various items of business during the 27 sittings scheduled during February 2- April 8
- ✓ Of this, the first part of the session with 40 hours accounts for about 30% of the total scheduled sitting time while the second part with 95 hours accounts for about 70%.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha is set to cut down the hour-long Zero Hour by 30 minutes with a total time of 13 hours 30 minutes for raising issues of public importance during its 27 sittings, while Lok Sabha is yet to decide the length of the Zero Hour.
- ✓ A total of 15 hours has been scheduled for Private Members' Business during the session
- ✓ The Discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members of both the Houses and on General Budget-2022-23, constitute the major items of business of the House during the first part of the Budget session.

- ✓ The Rajya Sabha has achieved productivity of 47.90% during the last 255th session and of only 29.60% during the 254th Session
 - ✓ The House, however, reported high productivity of 93.50% during the last year's Budget session that had 23 sittings.
 - ✓ In order to ensure social distancing norms are maintained owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Rajya Sabha will sit between 10am and 3pm, while the Lok Sabha will sit from 4pm to 9pm.
 - ✓ There will be no Zero Hour and Question Hour in both Houses of Parliament during the first two days of the Budget Session - January 31 and February 1, 2022
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation in the 85th episode of his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" on January 30, 2022**
- ✓ For the first time, the Mann Ki Baat has begun at 11:30 AM instead of the usual time of 11 AM on the last Sunday of the month



- ✓ Earlier, PM Modi had invited citizens to share their ideas for the first episode of Mann Ki Baat of 2022.
- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi said more than one crore children have sent him "their Mann Ki Baat" via postcards from many parts of the country and even from abroad
- ✓ The prime minister also talked about the merging of the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' near India Gate and the flame at the nearby National War Memorial.
- ✓ He also referred to the installation of the hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate
- ✓ PM Modi urged the citizens to visit the National War Memorial and get rid of corruption, among other things.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM mentioned that one crore people have taken precaution doses within 20 days and 60% of the youth in the age group of 15 to 18 years have got their vaccines within three to four weeks
- ✓ On poaching of rhinoceros, PM Modi there has been a steady decline in the hunting of these animals in Assam due to a huge campaign launched by the people in the last seven years
- ✓ He also spoke about Virat horse who used to lead the Republic Day parade as Commandant Charger and given a farewell during this year's parade

- ✓ PM Modi also spoke about Shriman Amai Mahalinga Naik (also known as Tunnel Man) who is a farmer and was chosen for Padma Shri award this year.
 - ✓ Further the Prime Minister mentioned some of the Padma Award recipients of this year such as Basanti Devi of Uttarakhand, Lorembam Beino Devi of Manipur, and Arjun Singh of Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ **Talking about people's contribution to the education system, the PM cited the example of Tayammal from Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu.**
 - ✓ Thayammal, 43, a tender coconut vendor in Chinnavverampatti village in Tirupur, donated ₹1 lakh to construct classrooms to her children's panchayat middle school.
 - ✓ The PM also referred to an IIT-BHU alumnus, Jai Chaudhary, who donated around Rs 7.50 crore to the IIT BHU Foundation
 - ✓ Later, PM Modi recalled the affection people had for the recently dead tigress codenamed T-15, and popularly known as Collarwali of the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ The PM also announced that an open synthetic track and astro-turf football stadium will be built in Ladakh at a height of more than 10,000 feet and its construction will be completed soon.
 - ✓ He also made a reference to his visit to Argentina in 2018, during which, he participated in a yoga programme organised by the Hastinapur Foundation, founded 40 years ago by Professor Aida Albrecht
 - ✓ Lastly, PM Modi said one should not forget "Swachhta Abhiyan" and encouraged people to campaign against single-use plastic
 - ✓ The 85th episode of the programme comes on Martyrs' day which is observed on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to honour his contribution towards the freedom of the country.
 - ✓ Last year, PM Modi addressed his last Mann Ki Baat on December 26, in which he spoke on many topics including coronavirus and 'Swachh Bharat' initiative
- **India's electronic goods exports - registered a growth of 49% at \$11.0 billion in April-December 2021 compared to \$7.4 billion during the same period in 2020**
- ✓ This was revealed in a statement by Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 - ✓ The top five export destinations in April-November 2021 are - USA (18%), UAE (16.6%), China (7.6%), Netherlands (4.5%) and Germany (4.2%)
 - ✓ The previous high of \$11.7 billion electronic goods exports was recorded in FY 20
 - ✓ Mobile Phones constitute a major chunk of India's electronics goods exports.
 - ✓ The electronic goods sector includes IT hardware (laptops, tablets), consumer electronics (TV and audio), industrial electronics, auto electronics, electronic components, LED lighting, wearables and hearables, and Telecom equipments among others

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) released the second volume of a 5-year road map and vision document for the electronics sector on January 24
- ✓ The first volume of the road map was released in November 2021.
- ✓ The road map seeks to transform India into a \$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse over the next 5 years, from the current US\$75 billion.
- ✓ This will make electronics goods among India's top ranking exports by 2026
- ✓ As per the vision document, the electronics goods exports are expected to increase from the projected \$15 billion in 2021-22 to \$120 billion by 2026

INTERNATIONAL

- **The European Parliament - voted to approve the initial draft of the Digital Services Act, becoming the first government to do so**
- ✓ The Parliament adopted the draft with 530 votes of approval, 78 against, and 80 absences.
- ✓ The Digital Services Act will prevent platforms, like Google, Amazon, and the Meta-owned Facebook, from using sensitive information, such as sexual orientation, race, and religion for targeted ads
- ✓ First introduced in 2020, the Act seeks to give the users the ability to remove illegal content and products online, including hate speech or counterfeit goods.
- ✓ The approved proposal also includes two rules that the Parliament agreed on last month - a ban on both targeted ads for minors and dark patterns
 - ✓ Dark patterns are a practice that some platforms use to trick users into agreeing to share their data.
- ✓ Any company in violation of these policies could face fines of up to 6% of its global revenue.
- ✓ The key digital rights proposed in the Act include Right to use digital content, Right to access electronic devices like computers, Right to privacy, Right to create digital content, Right to express ideas digitally and Right to report what seems inappropriate
- ✓ US Democrats introduced a similar bill last week, which would also ban targeted advertising if passed.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **A \$150-million India-UAE venture capital fund – was launched on January 25 from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai to support the growth of start-ups in both countries**
- ✓ Ajai Chowdhry, HCL Founder and Chairman-Start-up Committee, FICCI, announced the launch of this fund
- ✓ The group, which consists of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry), IAN (Indian Angel Network), startup funding company Turbostart and

professional services firm MCA, signed an agreement to encourage investment and regional cooperation.

- ✓ The funding will target to invest in a minimum of 50 demonstrated and validated start-ups based in India and the UAE over a period of 5 years and create 10 unicorns by 2025
 - ✓ Unicorns are startups whose value is more than 1 billion USD.
- ✓ The VC Fund is a first-of-its-kind to be set up in the UAE to source, invest and nurture promising start-ups through an accelerator
- ✓ It will be funded by investors across UAE, India and wider GCC countries.
- ✓ The India pavilion is currently showcasing new startups every week at the India innovation hub

SPORTS

- **Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal - created history at the Rod Laver Arena after defeating Russia's World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev in the final of the Australian Open in Melbourne on January 30**
- ✓ With the win, the 35-year old World No. 1 became the first male tennis player to win 21 Grand Slam titles, going ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic of Serbia

NADAL 1ST MAN TO WIN 21 GRAND SLAM SINGLES TITLES

Rafa Nadal roared back from two sets down against Daniil Medvedev to win an epic Australian Open final – his record 21st Grand Slam title – 17 yrs after his first, only months after fearing his career might be over due to a nagging injury

- Having missed the Wimbledon due to fatigue and the US Open because of a chronic condition in his left foot, Nadal was on the brink of quitting in late-2021 and felt simply 'blessed' just to turn up at Melbourne Park
- His 2-6, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 triumph defied time and logic, with the 35-year-old Spaniard successfully fighting back from a two-set deficit for the first time since 2007
- With Djokovic having missed this Australian Open after being deported and Federer still recovering from a knee surgery, Nadal is now one major title clear of his 'Big Three' rivals
- Nadal is within striking distance of the overall record of most major title wins by Australia's Margaret Court (24). He is also behind Serena Williams (23, including the triple career Grand Slam) and Steffi Graf (22, including the quadruple career Grand Slam)
- By winning his 1st Oz Open title since 2009, he joins Aussies Roy Emerson & Rod Laver, & Djoko in winning all 4 Slams at least twice in Open era
- Nadal and Djokovic have between them won 13 of the last 15 Slams from 2018

**“It was one of the most emotional matches in my career
RAFAEL NADAL**

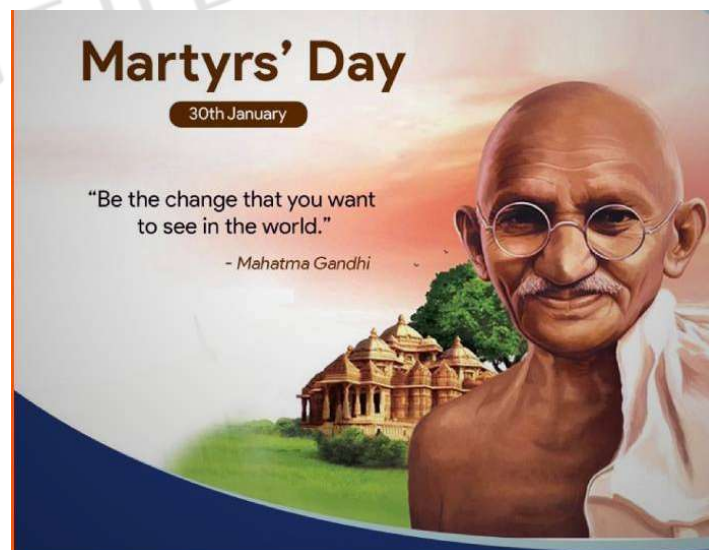


- ✓ Djokovic and Federer are currently tied at 20 Grand Slam titles each and didn't participate in the Australian Open
- ✓ Since winning his first ever grand slam title in 2005, Nadal is unique as he has also won the Olympic singles and doubles gold, which Federer and Djokovic have failed to achieve

- ✓ This is Nadal's first Australian Open win since 2009 and his first major victory since French Open in 2020
- ✓ A foot injury had Nadal sidelined since August and forced him to miss the US Open last summer
- ✓ This was the first time in over 14 years that Nadal came from two sets down to win a Grand Slam game with the last was in the 2007 Wimbledon where he defeated Mikhail Youzhny of Russia in the fourth round
- ✓ Nadal is the second man in the Open Era, and only the fourth man in history, to complete the career Grand Slam twice, after having previously won the Australian Open in 2009.
 - ✓ Djokovic became the first man to achieve the feat by winning his second title at Roland Garros last year.
- ✓ Nadal also joins Rojen Federer and Ken Rosewall as the only men to win the Australian Open at age 35 or older, and becomes the third-oldest man to win any major title in the Open Era.
- ✓ The five-hour, 24-minute victory, was the second longest Australian Open final after Novak Djokovic beat Nadal in five sets in 5 hours and 53 minutes in 2012
- ✓ Dubbed as the King of Clay, Nadal's 21 Grand Slam titles is dominated at Roland Garros with the Spaniard winning 13 French Open titles.
- ✓ This is the most for a single Grand Slam by any player in the history of the sport
- ✓ Apart from his 13 French Open titles, Nadal has won the US Open four times, Wimbledon twice, and the Australian Open twice in 2009 and 2022.

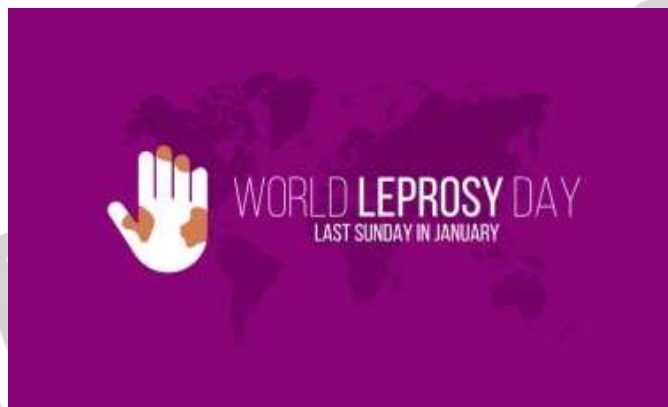
NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Martyr's Days or Shaheed Diwas – January 30



- ✓ The Martyrs' Day is observed every year to mark the death anniversary of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ On this day, homage is paid to the freedom fighters and soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their country.

- ✓ On January 30th, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse during his evening prayers in the Birla House.
 - ✓ Godse held Mahatma was responsible for India-Pakistan partition, which led to the loss of thousands of lives.
 - ✓ The President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and the three Service Chiefs assemble and pay respects at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat memorial on the Day
 - ✓ People observe a two-minute silence at 11 AM in the memory of Indian freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives
 - ✓ The second most popular Martyrs' Day is on March 23, the day when Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death by the British in 1931.
 - ✓ The trio was hung for assassinating British officer John Saunders in 1928
- **World Leprosy Day – January 30, 2022**



- ✓ World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in the month of January to raise awareness about leprosy disease across the world
- ✓ The day is observed to call for an end to the social discrimination made against people suffering from leprosy
- ✓ The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau, who created early awareness about this disease
- ✓ Theme 2022 – ‘United for Dignity’
- ✓ Leprosy or Hansen’s disease is a chronic infectious disease caused by a slow-growing bacteria, Mycobacterium leprae
- ✓ When a leprosy patient coughs or sneezes, droplets containing the bacterium might be inhaled by another person and thus transmitted.
- ✓ Leprosy primarily affects the skin and peripheral nerves
- ✓ In August 2021, “Don’t forget leprosy” awareness campaign was launched by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination

