

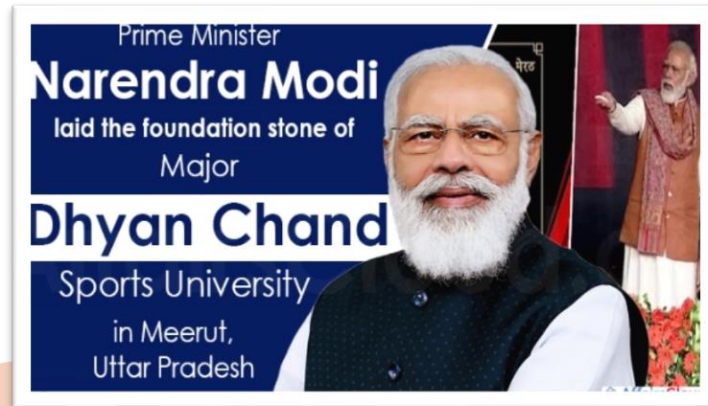
## 1 January, 2022 Current Affairs

### 1. Dharmendra Pradhan launches reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'



- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'.
- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which lays emphasis on the promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring the availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal language.
- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8. The reading campaign will be organized for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from January 1, 2022, to April 10, 2022.
- The reading campaign aims to have the participation of all stakeholders at the national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators etc.

## 2. PM Modi to lay the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut. The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut at an estimated cost of about 700 Crore rupees.
- The University will have the capacity of training 1080 sportspersons including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.
- The Sports University will be equipped with modern and state-of-the-art sports infrastructure including synthetic Hockey ground, Football ground, Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Kabaddi ground, Lawn tennis court, Gymnasium hall, Synthetic running stadium, Swimming pool, Multipurpose hall, and a Cycling Velodrome.
- It will also house facilities for Shooting, Squash, Gymnastics, Weightlifting, Archery, Canoeing, and Kayaking, among other facilities with the capacity of training.

### 3. Government approved 19th Tranche of Electoral Bonds



- The government has approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds, which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022, ahead of assembly elections in five states Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa.
- In the 19th tranche of sale, the State Bank of India (SBI), has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 specialised branches. There is no limit on the number of bonds an individual or company can purchase. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days.
- Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. However, Opposition parties have been raising concerns about alleged opaqueness in funding through such bonds.

#### 4. World's longest Metro line opened in China



- Shanghai has opened two new metro lines, upholding its rank as the city with the largest Metro network in the world. With the new lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network has extended to 831 km, continuing to be the longest in the world.
- China's Shanghai opened two new metro lines – Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18. The opening of the two new lines will bring the total number of fully automatic metro lines in Shanghai to five, with an operating length of 167 km, ranking first in the world for the first time. The city will now enjoy 20 metro lines with 508 stations, 83 of which are transfer ones.

#### 5. China launches 5-year plan to become a hub of world robotics innovation

- China has announced a five-year roadmap to achieve its goal of becoming a global robotics innovation hub by the year 2025. China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology revealed operating income from the country's robotics industry is expected to grow by around 20% per year between 2021 and 2025.
- From 2016 to 2020, the sector expanded at an average growth rate of 15%. Last year, operating income surpassed 100 billion yuan (\$15.69 billion) for the first time.

- As per the 2021 World Robot Report, South Korea, Singapore, and Japan were the top three most automated countries in Asia-Pacific.

## 6. Odisha launched Digital Life Certificate system for pensioners 2022



- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched an online service for the verification of identity and submission of life certificates for pensioners of the state government.
- The chief minister virtually launched the new initiative while attending the orientation programme for newly recruited 153 officers of Odisha Civil Services.
- Identification and life certificates can now be submitted by the pensioners using an artificial intelligence-based video-verification process.
- It will be of immense help to the pensioners as they can submit their identification and life certificates digitally, without visiting any government office simply by using their mobile phones.
- This facility will also be available at the 'Mo Seva Kendras' located across the state. Patnaik said the introduction of digital life certificates and E-dairy were part of his government's 5T and 'Mo Sarkar' initiatives.

**Odisha Capital:** Bhubaneswar

**Odisha Governor:** Ganeshi Lal

**Odisha Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik

## 7. UP's Jhansi Railway Station renamed as 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station'



- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has announced that the government of UP has renamed the Jhansi Railway Station, in Jhansi, UP as “Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station” after Rani Laxmibai.
- The announcement was made by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A notification to this effect has been issued by the UP government and the Railways has started preparations to implement the change.
- Earlier the Mughalsarai Railway station was renamed as Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt.

## 8. Vinay Kumar Tripathi named as Chairman and CEO of Railway Board

- 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service, Vinay Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board. He is presently working as General Manager, Northeastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- Indian Railway Board is the apex body of the Indian Railways, which reports to parliament through the Ministry of Railways. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has not only approved the

appointment of Tripathi for six months from January 1 but also further granted an extension of his tenure till 31 December in 2022.

- Vinay Kumar Tripathi has attended higher Management training programmes in Switzerland & USA. Tripathi had played a key role in the commissioning of state-of-art three-phase locomotives and their indigenization, which are now the workhorse of Indian Railways. Tripathi holds wide experience in railway management and administrations.

## 9. Baldev Prakash named as MD & CEO of J&K Bank



- Baldev Prakash has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank for three years. His appointment will be effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier.
- Apart from him, R K Chhibber has been appointed as an additional director on the board of the bank.
- Prakash has over 30 years of experience in banking. He had joined SBI as a probationary officer in 1991 and was the Chief General Manager (Digital and Transaction Banking Marketing Department) at SBI, Mumbai. The appointment is effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier.

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Headquarters:** Srinagar

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Founded:** 1 October 1938

## 10. VS Pathania takes over as Director-General of Indian Coast Guard



- V.S. Pathania took over as the 24th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard from Krishnaswamy Natarajan who retired from service. He is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in Nov 2019 and took over the reins as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.
- In a career of over 36 years, Pathania has held several key appointments afloat and ashore and has also commanded all classes of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel 'Ranijindan', Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vigraha' and advanced OPV 'Sarang', it said.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in November 2019 and took over as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.
- Pathania is the recipient of President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished Service, Tatrakshak Medal for gallantry and DG Coast Guard Commendation.



## 11. SBI Card joined hands with Paytm for Card Tokenization

- SBI Cards and Payment Services has tied up with Paytm for card tokenisation to protect the data of the cardholders. SBI Card has collaborated with Paytm to enable cardholders to tokenise their cards on devices and make payments through Paytm.
- Tokenisation refers to masking the original card number by replacing it with a set of unique characters, termed as token, which secures the customer's card details when a transaction is under process.
- Currently, only cards issued in the Indian territory are enabled on the Paytm network. However, customers may transact using his/her SBI Card through the Paytm network in international locations.

**SBI Card Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana

**SBI Card Managing Director & CEO:** Rama Mohan Rao Amara

## 12. RBI extended deadline for Periodic KYC Update till March 31, 2022



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it has extended the deadline for periodic KYC updates by 3 months till March 31, 2022. Extension in view of prevalent uncertainty due to a new variant of COVID-19 – Omicron. Earlier the deadline for periodic KYC updates was December 31.

- Meanwhile, the government has also extended the deadline for businesses to file GST annual returns for the 2020-21 fiscal ended March 2021 by two months till February 28.

**Reserve Bank of India Founded:** April 1, 1935

**Reserve Bank of India Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Reserve Bank of India Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

### 13. **GST Collection Stood At Rs 1.29 Lakh Crore in December 2021**



- GST revenue collected in December 2021 was over Rs 1.29 lakh crore, 13 per cent higher than the same month in 2020.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December 2021 is ₹ 1,29,780 crore, of which CGST is ₹ 22,578 crore, SGST is ₹ 28,658 crore, IGST is Rs 69,155 crore (including Rs 37,527 crores collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 9,389 crore.