

Daily Current Affairs

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Kargil Vijay Diwas

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is a significant day observed on **26th July each** year in India. This day marks the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the **Kargil War of 1999**.
- The conflict, fought in the **high-altitude region of Kargil**, was a turning point in Indo-Pak relations and a testament to the valor and resilience of the Indian soldiers.



- In 2024, Kargil Vijay Diwas marks the **25th anniversary** of the Kargil War of 1999. The Indian **Army's 'Operation Vijay'** successfully repelled Pakistani forces in the Kargil sector, now part of Ladakh. This significant milestone commemorates the valor and sacrifices of soldiers who defended India's sovereignty, reinforcing national pride and honoring their enduring legacy.
- After the **Indo-Pak War of 1971** there have been many military conflicts. Both the countries have **conducted nuclear tests in 1998** which have further escalated tensions. To calm the situation in February 1999, **Lahore Declaration was signed by both** the countries, promising to provide a peaceful and bilateral solution to the Kashmir conflict.
- But Pakistan Armed Forces started sending its soldiers and paramilitary forces across the Line of Control (LoC) into the territory on the Indian Side and the infiltration was code named **'Operation Badr'**.



- The main objective is to **break the link between Kashmir and Ladakh** and to withdraw the Indian Army from the Siachen Glacier. At the same time, Pakistan believed that creating any kind of tension in this area would help in making the Kashmir issue an international issue, helping it to secure a speedy resolution.

Ganatantra Mandap

- **Durbar Hall** has been renamed as **Ganatantra Mandap** and **Ashok Hall** as **Ashok Mandap** of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- According to the President's Secretariat, continuous efforts are being made to make Rashtrapati Bhawan more accessible to people and consistent endeavour to make the **ambience of the Rashtrapati Bhavan** reflective of the Indian cultural values and ethos.

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN'S DURBAR HALL & ASHOK HALL RENAMED



- It said, Durbar Hall is the venue of important ceremonies and celebrations such as the presentation of National Awards. The **term Durbar refers** to courts and assemblies of Indian rulers and the British.
- It lost relevance **after India became a Republic**, that is, Ganatantra. The concept of Ganatantra is deeply rooted in Indian society since ancient times, making Ganatantra Mandap an apt name for the venue.
- The President's Secretariat said, **Ashok Hall was originally a ballroom**. The word Ashok connotes someone who is free from all sufferings or is bereft of any sorrow.
- **Also, Ashoka refers to Emperor Ashok**, a symbol of unity and peaceful co-existence. The National Emblem of the Republic of India is the lion capital of Ashok from Sarnath. Renaming Ashok Hall as Ashok Mandap brings uniformity in language and removes the traces of anglicisation while upholding the key values associated with the word Ashok.

'Model Skill Loan Scheme'

- **Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary** today launched the **'Model Skill Loan Scheme' in New Delhi**.
- The **scheme aims to empower** the country's future-ready workforce. Under the scheme, education and upskilling opportunities will be provided to 25 thousand youth across the country.



- Under the new scheme, the **loan amount** limit has been increased to **7.5 lakh rupees** which was **1.5 lakh rupees** earlier. He added that several Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC), scheduled banks, and rural banks also have been added to the scheme which will provide hassle-free loans to students.
- The Minister said that this scheme had been mentioned by the Union Finance **Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in Union Budget 2024-25.
- New Model Skill Loan Scheme is tailored to support **advanced-level skill courses**, which often come with higher fees, creating a significant financial barrier for many deserving students.
- This **initiative aims to bridge that gap**, ensuring that aspiring candidates receive the necessary financial support to pursue their skill training.



Global Hunger Crisis Deepens

- **United Nations'** goal to eradicate **world hunger by 2030** seems increasingly challenging to achieve due to the impacts of wars, climate change, and economic crises.
- According to a UN report released, **chronic hunger remained** high and healthy food was out of reach of many people.
- The annual **State of Food Security and Nutrition** in the World report said that around **733 million people** faced hunger in 2023.



- It said that the **situation in Africa** was particularly dire, with **one in five people there experiencing hunger**.
- According to the report **jointly compiled by** the Food and Agriculture Organization based in Rome, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the World Food Program, a nutritious diet was beyond the financial reach of over one-third of the global population in 2023.
- The report also warned that with ongoing trends, about 582 million people are projected to **suffer chronic undernourishment** by the end of the decade, with half of this population in Africa.



France Set To Host 2030 Winter Olympics

- **International Olympic Committee** named the **French Alps** as the host for the 2030 Winter Games, though the decision is subject to certain conditions.
- While presenting the bid to **IOC members in Paris**, French President Emmanuel Macron assured the committee that the government formed after the 2024 Summer Games in Paris would handle all outstanding organisational and financial guarantees.



- IOC members accepted his guarantees and voted their approval. The French bid, the **IOC's sole candidate with exclusive negotiating rights** since November, centred on ski resorts in the French Alps and ice sports venues in the coastal city of Nice.
- **National governments in Olympic host** countries need to formally underwrite financial and security promises that are essential to organise and run the Games.

Nita Ambani Unanimously Re-Elected As IOCM

- **Paris 2024 Olympic Games:** With the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games scheduled to begin this weekend, the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that **Nita Ambani**, has been re-elected unanimously as the IOC from **India at the 142nd session**.
- **Nita is the founder of Reliance Foundation** and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote. As Founder and Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani seeks to empower millions of Indians with resources and opportunities.



- She drives various initiatives across sport, education, health, art and culture – all aimed at improving the lives of people across the country. Reliance Foundation is at the forefront of driving India’s sports growth with its programmes from grassroots to the elite, reaching more than 22.9 million children and youth in India since its inception.
- Nita Ambani was first appointed to join the prestigious body in 2016, at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.
- Since then, as **India’s first woman to join** the IOC, Nita Ambani has already made great strides for the association, whilst also championing **India’s sporting ambitions and Olympic vision**. This includes recently hosting the first IOC session in Mumbai for over 40 years, in October 2023, which was hailed as showcasing the new, ambitious India to the world.

What Is Agristack

- In the 2024-25 Budget, Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister, called for a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for the agriculture sector.
- The goal of this DPI is to connect more than **six crore farmers to a formal land registry system** through a project called Agristack.
- **Agristack is a digital framework** that is meant to build a complete database for farmers that includes information about their identity, land records, income, loans, crop information, and insurance history.



- It uses data from **farms and information** that comes from government APIs.
- The information for Agristack will come from three main databases:
- **Farmers Registry:** Gives each farmer a unique digital ID that is tied to their Aadhaar and land records.
- **Geo-referenced Village Maps:** These maps show how farms look and keep track of crops through digital surveys.
- **Crop Sown Registry:** This uses satellite data and remote sensing technology to make accurate maps of crops.



- Agristack was started by the **Ministry of Agriculture in 2021** based on the suggestions of a task group. Its design was spelled out in a white paper, which led to pilot projects in several states.

- Agristack wants to make it easier to get information, cut down on unnecessary copies, and improve the accuracy of agriculture records. This unified method will help farmers plan their sales and assist the government in putting the scheme into action and keeping an eye on it.
- **e-Nam, eChoupal, and NeML** are some of the applications that will be part of the framework. These will give farmers important information about the weather, market supply lines, and storage.

UNRWA As A Terror Organization

- **Israeli Knesset** has approved a bill to designate the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)** as a terrorist organization.
- This move proposes severing relations with the agency, which Israel accuses of collaborating with Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza.
- **UNRWA offers education**, health services, and aid to millions of Palestinians across Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.
- **UNRWA's views the bill** as part of a broader campaign to dismantle it and has condemned the move as unprecedented in UN history.



Project Swasthya Nagaram

- Telangana launched the “**Project Swasthya Nagaram**,” a unique model for TB-free municipalities, in Hyderabad.



- This initiative, a **collaborative effort** by the State Tuberculosis Cell, Municipal Corporations of Peerzadiguda, Boduppall, and Pocharam in Medchal Malkajgiri district, along with the Central TB Division, WHO India, USAID, and other stakeholders, aims to achieve TB-free municipalities through an innovative approach.
- **The project targets urban settings**, where social determinants significantly impact the TB burden. It emphasizes a holistic approach encompassing surveillance, prevention, and the complete cascade of quality TB care.
- This model **aims to reduce TB incidence** by one-third and decrease TB-related mortality over a period of three years.
- **The project will use a digital app** for active TB screening and employ X-ray and molecular tests for early diagnosis and prevention. Patients will receive free medical care, and their families will be provided with counseling.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Is Decided To Be Host For 2030 Winter Games Olympics

- A. Greece
- B. Japan
- C. France
- D. India

ANSWER: C

2. Project Swasthya Nagaram For TB Launched By

- A. Kerala
- B. Telangna
- C. Gujrat
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

3. Which Organization Approved A Loan Of USD 240.5 Million To Finance Rooftop Solar Systems In India

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. Asian Development Bank
- D. United Nations Development Programme

ANSWER: C

4. Which Government Launched Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme

- A. Telangana
- B. Karnataka
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

5. Upper Karnali Hydro Electric Power Project Is Located In Which Country

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. India
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: B

6. Remission Of Duties And Taxes On Exported Products Scheme, Is A WTO - Compliant Scheme Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Commerce
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: C

7. Which Indian Shooter Has Been Awarded Olympic Order By International Olympic Committee

- A. Abhinav Bindra
- B. Jaspal Rana
- C. Manu Bhaker
- D. Pranju Somani

ANSWER: A

8. Which Indian State Has Made It Mandatory For Tourist Vehicles To Carry Garbage Bags

- A. Assam
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: D

9. Indian Maritime Center Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- B. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: A

10. Scientists From Which Country Developed A Robot Face With Living Skin

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Russia
- D. India

ANSWER: B

11. Padma Shri Awardee Kamala Pujari, Was Associated With Which Profession

- A. Archaeologist
- B. Agriculturist
- C. Folk Singer
- D. Journalist

ANSWER: B

12. Krishnaraja Sagar & Kabini Dams, Are Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

13. Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Power
- B. Ministry of Urban Development
- C. Ministry of Heavy Industries
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: C

14. How Much Funding Has The Finance Ministry Allocated For The Namu Drone Didi Scheme

- A. Rs 600 crore
- B. Rs 400 crore
- C. Rs 500 crore
- D. Rs 300 crore

ANSWER: C

15. Rank Of India In 'Henley Passport Index 2024'

- A. 69th
- B. 85th
- C. 78th
- D. 82nd

ANSWER: D

16. Sangameshwara Temple, Lies On The Banks Of Which River

- A. Narmada
- B. Krishna
- C. Kaveri
- D. Beas

ANSWER: B

17. India Signed An Agreement With Which Country To Implement Four Community Development Projects

- A. Marshall Islands
- B. Solomon Islands
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. New Zealand

ANSWER: A

18. Vishalgad Fort, Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

19. Where Was Asia's First Health Research Related Pre-clinical Network Facility Inaugurated

- A. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Faridabad, Haryana
- C. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- D. Indore, Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: B

20. Which Indian City Was Also Known As Kusumapura During The Ancient Period

- A. Allahabad
- B. Patna
- C. Ujjain
- D. Amaravati

ANSWER: B