

pravahini

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

22 JAN – 28 JAN



MRP ₹ 50.00

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2. World's first Melanistic Tiger Safari in Odhisa.
3. Diamond jubilee celebration of The Supreme Court Of India.
4. BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM)
5. Bharat Ratna to former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur.
6. First Nitrogen Execution in USA



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1. Pran Pratisthan of Ayodhya Ram temple

- Shri Ram Mandir, popularly known as Ayodhya Ram Mandir, is a Hindu temple located in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. As the name suggests, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shri Rama and is believed to have been built at Ram Janmabhoomi (the birthplace of Lord Shri Rama). This Ram



Temple reflects the cultural and spiritual heritage associated with Lord Rama and holds immense cultural and religious significance for the Hindus.

Main Complex:

- The Ram Mandir is a Hindu temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. It is located at the site of Ram Janmabhoomi, the birthplace of Lord Rama.
- No iron or steel has been used in the construction of the grand structure. Stones have been sourced from Rajasthan's Bansi Paharpur area.
- The temple complex, built in the traditional Nagara style, will be 380 feet long from the east to the west, 250 feet wide and 161 feet high.
- Each floor of the temple will be 20 feet high and have a total 392 pillars and 44 gates.
- Around the grand temple is a rectangular periphery called the percota, a feature found in temples in south India, but not generally in north India.
- The percota will be 14 feet wide and the periphery span 732 meters. The temple will be nestled within the percota periphery. Ornate statues of elephants, lions, Lord Hanuman and Garuda were installed at the main entrance leading to the temple earlier this month. These statues have also been made using sandstone brought from the Bansi Paharpur.

2. Gol plans to make study material in 22 languages by utilizing the “Anuvadini” app.

- A major project by the government has been unveiled, which aims to supply digital study materials in all languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution for all school and university courses.
- Within the next three years, educational authorities like UGC, AICTE, NCERT, NIOS, and IGNOU, as well as institutions like IITs, CUs, and NITs, are required by an order from the Ministry of Education to provide study materials in Indian languages. b
- The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's guidelines, which emphasize the promotion of multilingualism in education at all levels, are in line with this directive.
- The aim is to facilitate students' study in their mother tongues, resulting in improved educational achievements.
- The Anuvadini AI-based application has been employed for the translation of Engineering, Medical, Law, Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), and Skill books.



3. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana- rooftop solar panels on 1 crore Households.

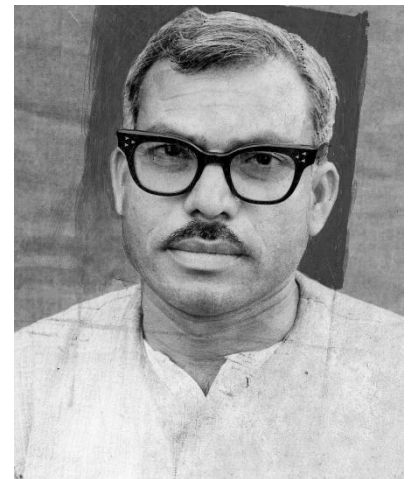
- On Monday, January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the "Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana," a government initiative that will provide rooftop solar power equipment to one crore families.
- However, this is not the first programme designed to encourage the installation of solar power installations on rooftops.



- Aiming to reach 40,000 megawatts (MW) or 40 gigawatts (GW) of cumulative installed capacity by 2022, the government began the Rooftop Solar Programme in 2014.
- A watt is a unit of electricity that is defined as the quantity of energy used over time, particularly one Joule per second.
- According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's website, solar power installed capacity in India has reached around 73.31 GW as of December 2023.
- Meanwhile, rooftop solar installed capacity is around 11.08 GW as of December 2023.

4. Bharat Ratna to former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur

- To commemorate the centennial of the late Bihar politician Karpoori Thakur's birth, the central government has announced Bharat Ratna.
- Though he personally belonged to a caste that was neglected, Thakur, also known as "Jannayak," or the people's leader, served as chief minister twice and developed social justice laws.
- The state icon should receive India's highest civilian accolade, as supported by major parties in Bihar for a long time.
- Thakur (1924-1988) emerged as Bihar's tallest backward caste leader despite being from the nai (barber) community.
- He paved the way for the rise of other influential OBC politicians who eventually overtook his mantle.
- As CM, Thakur revolutionized caste-based reservations in Bihar by expanding quotas for backwards castes from 12% to 20%. This 'Karpoori formula' of January 1977 even had a specific 8% quota for extremely marginalized groups, preceding the central government's EWS reservation by decades.



5. world's first Melanistic Tiger Safari in Odhisa

- In a groundbreaking move for wildlife conservation and tourism, Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently announced the establishment of the world's first Melanistic Tiger Safari near Baripada in the Mayurbhanj district.
- This exclusive safari will provide visitors with a rare opportunity to witness the majestic melanistic tigers, also known as black stripe tigers, in their natural habitat.
- The initiative is set to take place near the renowned Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), the only location where these unique big cats are found in the wild.
- Spanning 200 hectares near Baripada, the strategic location ensures an immersive experience for visitors, with 100 hectares dedicated to a display zone and the rest utilized for essential infrastructure.

6. Padma Awardees of 2024

- The Padma Awards are India's highest civilian honors conferred in three categories – Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri – recognizing exceptional contributions across diverse fields.
- They are announced annually ahead of Republic Day.
- A total of 132 Padma Awards are announced for this year, including 2 duo cases where the award is counted as one.
- There are also 8 non-resident or foreign awardees who trace their roots to India. Nine of the selected awardees will be honored posthumously.
- Padma Vibhushan Awardees:- The Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest award, has been conferred to 5 eminent personalities this year.



- Padma Bhushan Awardees:-17 distinguished individuals have been selected for India's third highest award, the Padma Bhushan, this year.
- Padma Shri Awardees:- As many as 110 inspiring personalities across fields have been conferred with the Padma Shri.

7. KRUTRIM- India's first AI Unicorn

- Krutrim, the next business of Bhavish Aggarwal, the mastermind behind Ola, has successfully raised \$50 million, a first for the Indian tech industry.
- With its cutting-edge technology at its core, this AI start-up has the potential to completely transform the sector. Bhavish Aggarwal co-founded Krutrim, which has quickly become a major force in the artificial intelligence space.
- With Krutrim, Aggarwal—who is well-known for his inventive efforts through Ola and Ola Electric—brings his technological expertise to the AI space.
- The significant inflow of funds will support Krutrim's objective of quickening the pace of AI innovation. Krutrim is dedicated to constructing the first all-inclusive AI computing stack in India and wants to take the lead in internationally introducing revolutionary innovations.



8. 75th Republic Day of India

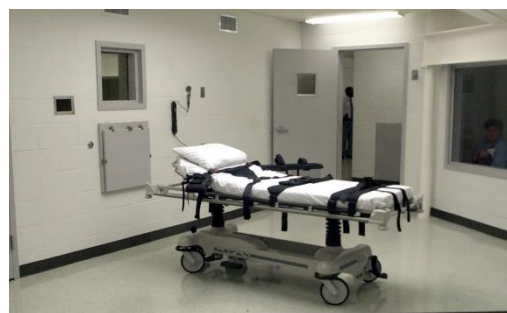
- Every year on January 26, India celebrates Republic Day, marking the day the Government of India Act, 1935 was superseded by the Constitution of India.
- India became a sovereign democratic republic on this day. Indians will always cherish the 75th Republic Day in 2024, as it represents their country's transition from colonial domination to a thriving, independent democracy.



- The themes for Republic Day 2024, “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) and “Bharat – Loktantra ki Matraka” (India – Mother of Democracy), encapsulate the aspirations and democratic ethos of the nation.
- The President of France, Emmanuel Macron, will be the guest of honor during the Republic Day 2024 festivities.
- The main event of Republic Day is the grand parade held in the capital, New Delhi, at Rajpath, showcasing India’s military might and cultural diversity.

9. First Nitrogen Execution in USA

- Kenneth Smith, a murderer on trial, is the first person in US history to be killed with nitrogen gas in a historic development.
- The execution, which happened in Alabama, uses a novel technique meant to be the least painful and cruel substitute for the widely used lethal injection.
- Alabama officials have championed the new execution protocol as “the most painless and humane method of execution known to man.”
- Smith’s execution is linked to the murder-for-hire killing of 45-year-old Elizabeth Sennett in March 1988. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey expressed that Smith’s execution was a pursuit of justice for this heinous crime.
- The methodological shift to nitrogen gas reflects Alabama’s commitment to evolving approaches to capital punishment.



10. European Ports Alliance Launched

- The European Union established the "European Ports Alliance" in order to coordinate strategies against drug trafficking and criminal organization infiltration at ports.
- The principal port of entry for cocaine into Europe, Antwerp, Belgium, served as the launchpad for the initiative. Representatives



from sixteen EU ports and maritime transportation groups were gathered, along with EU interior ministers.

- If attempts are only done at one port, criminals will quickly relocate to another, so coordination is necessary. Major ports in Europe are presently threatened by violence by regional mafias that want to continue the lucrative black market drug trade.
- These organizations include criminal groups of Moroccan ancestry in the Netherlands and ties to Italian and Albanian mafia rings in Belgium.
- To facilitate drug smuggling, they try to bribe or exert pressure on port employees, officials, truck drivers, customs officers, and police.

11. National Voters' Day 2024

- National Voters Day is celebrated on 25 January to encourage the youth to participate in the vote in the electoral process.
- It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right.
- National Voters' Day is celebrated on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India.
- The theme for the year 2024 NVD, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'
- 13th National Voters' Day 2024: It is celebrated on 25 January. The main objective behind the celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and maximize enrolment, especially for new voters.
- The day has been celebrated since 2011 across the country to mark the foundation of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.



12. Diamond jubilee celebration of The Supreme Court of India.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Supreme Court of India on 28 January at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- He also launched citizen-centric information and technology initiatives that include Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts 2.0 and a new website of the Supreme Court.
- The Digital Supreme Court Reports (SCR) will make Supreme Court judgments available to the citizens of the country free of cost and in electronic format.
- The key features of digital SCR are that all 519 volumes of the Supreme Court reports since 1950, covering 36,308 cases, shall be available in a digital format, bookmarked, user friendly, and with open access.
- Digital Courts 2.0 application is a recent initiative under the e-Courts project to make court records available to the Judges of the district courts in the electronic form
- The Supreme Court of India is marking the beginning of its 75th year and the Constitution of India entering its 75th year.



13. Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden clinched the Australian Open

- Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden made history as they clinched the Australian Open 2024 title after defeating the Italian pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassor in the men's doubles final.
- Bopanna and Ebden won 7-6, 7-5 in the summit clash, with the Indian veteran becoming the oldest Grand Slam winner in history at 43 years and 329 days.
- He will also become the oldest world No. 1 doubles player when the rankings are issued on Monday.



- Bopanna has now become the second Indian to win the Australian Open men's doubles title after Leander Paes (2012), and also clinch the first Grand Slam for his country in 7 years.

14. Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to introduce her sixth consecutive budget

- As Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to introduce her sixth consecutive budget (five consecutive annual budgets and one interim budget), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is about to make history that will go down in Indian parliamentary annals.
- Sitharaman's term is comparable to that of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who previously held the finance position from 1959 to 1964, building on her legacy of fiscal discipline.
- Sitharaman's impending presentation on February 1, 2024, marks the interim Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- This interim Budget, commonly referred to as a vote-on-account, is pivotal in authorizing government expenditures until the advent of a new administration following the general elections slated for April-May.



15. BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM).

- CoRover.ai, a leading player in the Conversational AI space, has recently introduced BharatGPT, India's first Large Language Model (LLM).
- This groundbreaking development aims to revolutionize AI conversations across 22 Indian languages, addressing the language diversity challenges prevalent in the country.



- Positioned as an Indigenous Generative AI platform, BharatGPT integrates seamlessly with both voice and text modalities, offering a unique solution to the complexities of linguistic diversity.
- One of the notable achievements of BharatGPT is its extensive language integration. The model proudly supports voice modality in over 12 Indian languages and text modality in a whopping 22 languages.

16. World's Largest Ship Fueled by Methanol

- In a monumental stride towards sustainability, maritime titan Maersk unveils its latest marvel: the Ane Maersk, a revolutionary container vessel powered by green methanol derived from green hydrogen.
- The Ane Maersk represents a bold leap into a greener future, boasting the title of the world's largest container vessel fueled by green methanol, a derivative of green hydrogen.
- This innovative propulsion system heralds a new era of eco-friendly maritime transportation.
- With an unprecedented capacity to carry 16,000 20ft shipping containers (TEU), the Ane Maersk eclipses its predecessor, the Laura Maersk, by nearly eightfold.
- This remarkable feat not only underscores Maersk's commitment to sustainability but also signifies a paradigm shift in the scale and efficiency of container shipping.



WEEK THROUGH MCQs

1. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the MoU with which country for cooperation in the information technology sector?
(a) Oman (b) Bahrain (c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal

2. Who won the 'Polly Umargar' award at the BCCI Awards 2024 for the season 2022-23?

(a) Jasprit Bumrah	(b) Mohammed Shami
(c) Shubhman Gill	(d) Ravichandran Ashwin

3. Which of the following countries has contributed to the development of Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project (JNPP)?

(a) USA	(b) Germany	(c) France	(d) U.K
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4. 'Disease X', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

(a) Hypothetical pathogen for future pandemic
(b) Fungal disease
(c) Plant disease
(d) Genetic disease

5. Recently, which global financial institution became the anchor investor in India's largest renewable energy infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)?

(a) European Investment Bank
(b) World Bank
(c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(d) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

6. Which Institution Selected For Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 In The Institutional Category?

(a) 60 Parachute field hospital, UP	(b) 30 Parachute field hospital, UP
(c) KJMU, Lucknow	(d) AIIMS, Delhi

7. Which City Recently Became 1st In India To Develop 3D Urban Spatial Digital Twin?

(a) Gandhinagar	(b) New Delhi
(c) Bengaluru	(d) Varanasi

8. Where Was The 42 Day Mahamandal Festival Inaugurated?
(a) Haryana (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
9. Which Exchange Retained Its Position As World's Largest Exchange In 2023, Particularly In The Global Derivative Exchange?
(a) Bombay Stock Exchange (b) National Stock Exchange
(c) New York Stock Exchange (d) London Stock Exchange
10. Mamani Ethnic Food Festival in Purig Celebrated In
(a) Ladakh (b) Chandigarh
(c) Puducherry (d) Hyderabad

ANSWER KEY

1. (b)	2. (c)	3. (c)	4. (a)	5. (d)	6. (a)	7. (d)	8. (c)	9. (b)	10. (a)
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