

❖ GoI named Bharat Lal as new DG of National Centre for Good Governance

- Retired Gujarat cadre officer, Bharat Lal has been appointed as the Director General, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG).
- The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) is an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India. Its head office is at New Delhi and the branch office at Mussoorie.

❖ India wins UN award for hypertension control initiative

- India Hypertension Control Initiative was launched in 2017. The mission statement of the initiative is to reduce the issue of hypertension by 25% by 2025.
- India has won a UN award for its initiative to control and prevent hypertension under the government's National Health Mission.
- The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) has been recognized for its exceptional work within the country's existing primary healthcare system.
- The award recognizes the outstanding commitment and action of India to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and deliver integrated people-centric primary care.
- Hypertension or uncontrolled blood pressure is one of the risk factors for cardiovascular-related diseases such as stroke, heart attack, etc. Cardiovascular deaths are responsible for one-third of the total deaths in India.

❖ **Elvis Ali Hazarika become the first person from Northeast India to cross the North Channel**

- Ace Assam swimmer, Elvis Ali Hazarika, became the third oldest Indian and the first from the Northeast to cross the North Channel, a strait linking the Irish Sea with the North Atlantic Ocean.
- Hazarika who hails from Guwahati is known for his swimming records and this time he has made another record making the people of Assam proud.
- Hazarika has set another record by becoming the first Assamese to successfully swim from Dharamtar Jetty to the Gateway of India, Mumbai, the Arabian Sea in 2021.
- Also, Hazarika has become the first from the state to cross the Catalina channel in the United State of America (USA) in 2019.
- Elvis Ali Hazarika, reached Mexico from the USA, swimming through the channel and covering a distance of 80 km in a span of 10 hours 59 minutes.

❖ **Ratan Tata, two others appointed as trustees of PM CARES Fund**

- The Centre appointed Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata and two others as the trustees of the PM CARES Fund.
- Two other members are former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas and former Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda.
- The government also decided to nominate three eminent persons for the constitution of the advisory board to the PM CARES Fund.
- Among those nominated for the board are former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, former Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murthy, and Anand Shah, former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation.
- The decision was announced a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the PM CARES Fund.

➤ PM CARES, a public charitable trust, was set up keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation and providing relief to the affected.

➤ The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairman of the PM CARES Fund.

❖ **Project “Saaras” for menstruation health launched by Israeli embassy**

➤ Project “Saaras”: The women of Arthala village in Ghaziabad are fond of 27-year-old Uzma Kazmi; it was she who gave them better coping mechanisms for those “uncomfortable days” of the month by bringing affordable and environmentally friendly sanitary napkins, “Saraas,” within their grasp.

➤ As part of project “Saraas,” an initiative of the Israeli embassy in India in conjunction with NGO Khushii, which aims to raise awareness about menstruation health and cleanliness and improve skills and capacity for women, the centre was opened by Naor Gilon, the Israeli ambassador to India.

❖ **RBI Governor Launches 3 key Digital Payment Initiatives at Global Fintech Fest 2022**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, launched three key digital payment initiatives at the Global Fintech Fest 2022.

➤ The three digital payment initiatives that were launched by the RBI are RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), UPI Lite, and Bharat BillPay Cross-Border Bill Payments.

➤ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched the Rupay credit card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network.

➤ The move is likely to expand the credit market multi-fold. Up until now, only debit cards were allowed to be linked with UPI.

➤ Customers of Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank will be the first to be able to use RuPay Credit Card on UPI with BHIM App.

➤ The RuPay credit card linked with UPI will improve penetration in rural and semi-urban areas.

❖ **Indian Navy Launches Two Diving Support Vessels (Nistar & Nipun)**

➤ Two Large Diving Support Vessels (DSVs), which will also assist in rescue operations of disabled submarines, have been "launched" at the Hindustan Shipyard in Visakhapatnam.

➤ The first of the two DSVs (Nistar and Nipun), each with a displacement of 9,350 tonnes, is likely to be delivered to the Navy by July 2023.

➤ They are the first of their kind ships to be indigenously designed and built for the Navy. The vessels, which are 118.4 metres long and 22.8 metres wide, will be deployed for deep sea diving operations.

❖ **Chennai Open 2022 WTA**

➤ Czech Republic's 17-year-old, Linda Fruhvirtova scripted a brilliant comeback to win the Chennai Open 2022 WTA 250 tennis singles. The teenager beat Magda Linette of Poland, the third seed, in the final.

➤ She is the youngest singles champion on tour since Coco Gauff won Parma last year at 17 years, 70 days old.

➤ In doubles, the top-seeded pair of Brazil's Luisa Stefani and Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski defeated Russian Tennis Federation's Anna Blinkova and Georgia's Natela Dzalamidze 6-2, 6-1 in the one-sided final.

➤ Linda Fruhvirtova is a well-known Czech professional Tennis player.

❖ **India's first MotoGP to be held in Noida's Buddh circuit in 2023**

➤ India is set to host its maiden MotoGP World Championships race at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida in 2023.

➤ MotoGP commercial rights owner Dorna and Noida-based race promoters Fairstreet Sports signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to host the premier two-wheel racing event in India for the next seven years. Riders from as many as 19 countries will participate in the

event, which will give a push to trade and tourism in the country, besides generating employment.

➤ The Buddh International Circuit was once home to the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix, held for three consecutive years from 2011 till 2013, before it was discontinued due to financial, tax and bureaucratic hurdles.

❖ **Russian cosmonaut Valery Vladimirovich Polyakov, who holds the record for the longest spaceflight dies**

➤ Cosmonaut Valery Vladimirovich Polyakov, who holds the record for the longest spaceflight, has died at the age of 80.

➤ According to Roscosmos, Polyakov has participated in two space missions during his career with a total duration of 678 days and 16 hours.

➤ Polyakov took part in his first mission to space in 1988, and returned eight months later in 1989. That year, he was appointed deputy director of the Institute of Biomedical Problems.

➤ Valery Polyakov spent a full 437 days orbiting the Earth on the Mir space station between 1994 and 1995.

➤ Polyakov had previously spent 288 days in space on a mission in 1988-89.

➤ He worked on experiments to see if people could maintain their mental health to make the long journey to Mars.

➤ The Mir space station was put into orbit in 1986, first under the control of the Soviet Union and later by Russia.

❖ **Sanskrit scholar Padmashree Acharya Ramayatna Shukla passes away**

➤ Padma Shri awardee, Prof Acharya Ram Yatna Shukla, a Sanskrit scholar and former President of Kashi Vidwat Parishad, passed away at the age of 90 years.

➤ He is popularly called as “Abhinav Panini” due to his contribution towards inventing new methods of Sanskrit Grammar and Vedanta teaching and modernisation.

- He was honoured with more than 25 awards including the Keshav award, Vachaspati Award, and Vishwabharti award. He has been conferred the title of “Mahamahopadhye”.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in 2021 for his immense contribution in social work. He has authored several books and research papers. One of his key publications is “Vyakaran Darshne Shristi Prakriya Vimarsha”.