

**❖ Spiritual leader Dalai Lama honored with Gandhi Mandela Award**

- Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar felicitated Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama with the Gandhi Mandela Award at McLeodganj in Dharamsala.
- The award serves to recognise the global leaders who inspire citizens for peace, unity and freedom.
- The religious leader was selected for the award in 2020, however, it could not be given to him because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Gandhi Mandela Foundation, a Government of India registered trust, is a non-profit organization, formed with the motive to promote Mahatma Gandhi's and the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela's values of non-violence.
- Gandhi Mandela Award is conferred to the most deserving ambassador for peace. The 14th Dalai Lama is the highest Spiritual leader of the Tibetans and the former Head of State.
- He has also been the recipient of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize.

**❖ Youngest entrepreneur Ravi Kumar Sagar conferred with the prestigious Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar**

- Ravi Kumar Sagar, 22, one of the youngest founders and CEO of RK'S INNO group was conferred with the most prestigious Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar.
- The award was presented to him for his persistent service to society and is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in India.
- Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar is hosted every year by Vandhe Bharat Foundation and LeadIndia Foundation to commemorate the birth anniversary of the late former President of India Dr. APJ Adul Kalam.

➤ RK'S INNO Technologies Pvt. Ltd deals with Innovative & Creative ideas and Technologies. INNO Businesses Pvt. Ltd is into creating & supporting small home-based businesses to huge MNCs, and Achieve Entrepreneurs Academy Pvt. Ltd trains and empowers Young Entrepreneurs to follow their passion and creative ideas of Business potential.

### ❖ **Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram Villages**

➤ The Tamil Nadu government recently issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.

➤ It aims to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage, the government, as recommended by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, has declared Arittapatti a biodiversity heritage site.

➤ The site, comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (in Melur taluk) and 53.58 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk), will be known as the Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site.

➤ Arittapatti, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors — Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*), Shaheen Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*).

➤ It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Python (*Python molurus*) and Slender Loris (*Loris spp*).

➤ The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs, that serve as a watershed, charging “72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check-dams”.

➤ The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings in the 16th century, is one of them.

➤ The site also features various megalithic structures, Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions, Jain Beds and 2200-year-old rock-cut temples adding to its historical value.

### ❖ **Battle of Alaboi location in Assam to get a war memorial**

- To pay tribute to the sacrifices and valour of the Ahom army, the Assam government has of late taken several initiatives which include the building two memorials – one in Guwahati and the other in Jorhat.
- On the outskirts of the state capital city, Guwahati where the Battle of Alaboi was fought in the 17th century between the Ahom army and Mughals, a memorial with an estimated cost of Rs 150 crore will be set up.
- The main attraction of the memorial would be a 100-foot height Hengang (Ahom sword) right at the centre of the memorial.
- At the Battle of Alaboi fought on August 5, 1669, the Ahoms were routed by the Mughals and lost as many as 10,000 soldiers.
- Another memorial of Ahom general Lachit Barphukan would be built in Jorhat at an estimated cost of Rs 120 crore.
- Lachit Barphukan is revered as one of the greatest military heroes of India.

### ❖ **Sangai Festival begins in Manipur**

- Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the ‘Manipur Sangai Festival 2022’ at the Sangai Ethnic Park, Moirang Khunou in Bishnupur district.
- The 10-day-long festival will be held in 13 venues across six districts in the northeastern state till November 30.
- The festival named after the State Animal which is found only in Manipur have been organised in grand manner this time after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the festival in the last two years.
- This time the festival is being held at 13 different places of Manipur to showcase the varieties of cultural items to both domestic and international tourists.
- The theme of the festival is 'festival of oneness'. The ten days festival is expected to attract tourists in Manipur.

### ❖ **Anamalai Tiger Reserve launched 'jumbo trails'**

- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) has launched 'jumbo trails' at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, a programme aimed to educate visitors to the tiger reserve about elephants, the flora, and fauna of ATR and the aboriginal tribes who live in the hills.
- The jumbo trails will start at 'Anamalaiyagam', a newly-established forest interpretation centre at Sethumadai. The programme is organised by the Advanced Wildlife Management Training Centre (Attakatti) and implemented by Keelponachi Eco Development Committee.

### ❖ **HDFC Bank, Canara Bank get RBI approval for rupee trade with Russia**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed HDFC Bank Ltd and Canara Bank Ltd to open a special "vostro account" for trade in Rupees with Russia.
- Vostro accounts are accounts a bank holds on behalf of another, often foreign bank, and this forms a key part of correspondent banking.
- As many as five Indian banks have received regulatory clearance for rupee trade till now. These includes UCO Bank, Union Bank and IndusInd Bank are the other three.
- This apart, two Russian banks have the central bank's approval – Sber Bank and VTB. Both have branch presence in India.
- These Russian banks are the first foreign lenders to receive this approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in rupee in July.

### ❖ **KVG Bank gets award for Atal Pension Yojana enrolment**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has bagged the national award from Pension Fund regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is the regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India for overall supervision and regulation of pension in India.

➤ PFRDA has given a target of an average 80 accounts per branch, the bank has achieved an average of 110 accounts against the target. This achievement is highest among all other banks in South India.

➤ Atal Pension Yojana, formerly known as Swavalamban Yojana is a government-backed pension scheme in India, primarily targeted at the unorganised sector.

➤ It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May 2015 in Kolkata.

### ❖ **Australia Announces Free Trade Deal with India**

➤ Australian Parliament has passed the country's Free trade Agreement (FTA) with India.

➤ Trade agreement will provide duty-free access to the Australian market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery.

➤ After this deal, visas for Indian chefs and yoga instructors along with the assurance that every child who goes from India to Australia will be given an opportunity for employment there.

➤ Stem graduates and doctoral will get 4 years of work visa in Australia and the postgraduate will get 3 years of work visa.

### ❖ **10th Indian Film Festival in Busan**

➤ The 10th Indian Film Festival in Busan was held from Nov 18-20, 2022 in South Korea. The festival screened selected award winning, critically acclaimed Hindi and popular regional films with Korean sub-titles at Busan Cinema Centre.

➤ The festival was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India Seoul in association with Busan Cinema Center, the India Centre at Busan University of Foreign Studies, and Hannarae Foundation for Culture, Hongbeop Temple, Busan.

➤ The festival began with the opening ceremony on 18th November. Hindi movie Padmavat was the first to be screened.

➤ Total Six films were screened over a period of three days in Busan. These included: Padmavat (Hindi); Anandi Gopal (Marathi); Asuran (Tamil); Natyam (Telugu); House Owner (Tamil); and Shot Boot-3 (Tamil).

➤ The Film Festival is a part of the ongoing annual flagship cultural programme of Embassy of India, Seoul 'SARANG– The Festival of India in Republic of Korea' and also celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of India's independence.

### ❖ **Pranay Sharma: 1st Indian to win Gold medal at Karate 1 Series A in Jakarta**

➤ Indian Karate Star Pranay Sharma became the first Indian to win Gold Medal at Karate 1 Series A in Jakarta, Indonesia.

➤ Sharma defeated Ukraine's Davyd Yanovskiy in the Men's 67 kg Kumite Final to bag the historic gold medal in the competition.

➤ With his outstanding performance he defeated Japan, Turkey, England, Australia, Indonesia and Ukraine.

➤ This is the first medal ever won by any Indian in world level of Karate championship.

### ❖ **Novak Djokovic Won 6th ATP Finals Singles Title**

➤ Novak Djokovic won the sixth ATP Finals singles title win beating Casper Ruud from Norway. Novak Djokovic defeated the opponent by 7-5, 6-3 to walk away with a historic payday of \$4.7m.

➤ Novak Djokovic has equaled the record of six ATP title wins of Roger Federer.

➤ Novak Djokovic is also the oldest champion in the history of the ATP Tournament.

➤ Casper Ruud was the first Scandinavian to be a part of the ATP Finals.

➤ Doubles: Rajeev Ram (United States) and Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom)

### ❖ **Zorba, the first dog of anti-poaching dogs squad K9, passes away**

➤ India's first dog to be deployed for tracking down poachers, Zorba has passed away of old age in Guwahati.

- The 12-year-old male Belgian Malinois was a member of 'K9', the nation's first dog squad to fight wildlife crime.
- Zorba was the first dog of the squad and he was credited with helping law enforcement authorities nab over 60 poachers.
- Zorba retired from service in 2019 and was honoured for his services with a traditional Assamese 'gamosa' and a citation on Independence Day this year.
- The K9 squad, comprising six Belgian Malinois dogs and their handlers, has been actively assisting forest and police officials in Kaziranga and Manas National Parks as well as other rhino-inhabited areas in Assam.

#### ❖ **Former Indian football captain Babu Mani passes away**

- Babu Mani, who was an integral part of the Indian football team in the 1980s, passed away
- He represented India in 55 international matches and was a part of the first Indian team that qualified for the AFC Asian Cup in 1984
- Babu Mani made his India debut against Argentina in Kolkata during the 1984 Nehru Cup and went on to play 55 matches for the country.
- Mani was also a member of the Indian team which won gold medals at the 1985 and 1987 editions of the South Asian Games.
- He also played for and won various domestic football cups like Federation Cup, IFA shield, Durand Cup, Rovers Cup trophies for Kolkata's top three clubs, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohan Bagan and East Bengal.