

**❖ Mumbai's 100-year-old museum wins UNESCO's Asia Pacific Award**

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was conferred with the 'Award of Excellence' at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022.
- CSMVS tops the list of 13 projects from six countries --Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal and Thailand --which received awards. The jury reviewed 50 entries from 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Four awards went to India. The Stepwells of Golconda in Hyderabad won the Award of Distinction, while Domakonda Fort in Telangana, and Mumbai's own Byculla railway station received the Award of Merit.
- Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognising the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

**❖ Bangladesh film 'Agantuk' wins Prasad DI award at the Film Bazaar section of the IFFI**

- The 5-day long Film Bazaar concluded at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa with Bangladesh feature film 'Agantuk' being named the winner of the Prasad DI award.
- From the Work in Progress (WIP) Lab section of Film Bazaar, the Kannada film 'Mithya' bagged the Prasad Post-production award, while the multilingual Nepali, Kumaoni, and Hindi film 'Bahadur' won the Moviebuff Appreciation Award.
- Two short movies, 'Perianayaki' by Bala Murali Shingade and Suchana Saha's animated film 'Priyo Ami', received the under the "Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR)" category. The French Institute Award by the French Embassy was given to 'Kissa – E – Circus' by Savita Singh which was showcased in the co-production market.

## ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi announces winners : 2019, 2020 and 2021

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi has announced 128 winners of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 for their significant contribution to the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional/folk/tribal music/dance/theatre, puppetry and contribution/scholarship in the performing arts.
- The winners of the Akademi Puruskar will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, Akademi fellows will get Rs 3 lakh each and both will also receive a tamrapatra and angavastram.
- Apart from these, the Akademi has also announced the names of 86 artists from the field of the performing arts who have won the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), which commemorates 75 years of India's independence. These include artists above the age of 75 years who haven't been accorded any national honour in their career. These artists will receive a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.
- Additionally, the Akademi also announced the names of 102 artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. These artists are below the age of 40 years. The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar identifies and encourages outstanding young talents in diverse fields of performing arts and gives them national recognition so that they may work with greater commitment and dedication in their chosen fields. The Akademi seems to have ensured adequate representation in the winners' list with 19 artists from the North East. These artists will receive a cash prize of Rs. 25,000.

## ❖ Himalayan yak approved as 'food animal'

- Amid a decline in the population of Yak in the country, the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has given the 'food animal' tag to Himalayan Yak.
- The decision comes after the latest census, carried out in 2019, showed that India has 58,000 yaks.
- This was around 25 per cent drop from the last livestock census carried out in 2012.
- Himalayan Yak, scientific name *Bos grunniens*, is a species of long-haired domesticated cattle. They are found throughout the Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent.
- According to National Research Centre (NRC), at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or

consumption by humans. The \*NRC-Yak had in 2021 submitted a proposal to the FSSAI, for considering the yak as a food animal.

### ❖ **India's 1st Integrated Rocket Facility to be Based in Telangana**

- Telangana's IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao said the state will have the country's first integrated rocket design, manufacturing and testing facility in Hyderabad by Skyroot Aerospace.
- The Hyderabad-based startup, incubated at T-Hub, launched the country's first private rocket. Skyroot Aerospace became the first privately held company in India after the space sector was opened for the private players by the union government in 2020.
- Skyroot Aerospace wants to build high-technology, low-cost, reliable launch vehicles. Its co-founders Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka previously worked with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as rocket scientists for about a handful of years before starting up in 2018.
- The global space economy is valued at just over \$450 billion, out of which India's share is roughly about 2 per cent.
- In 2021, Skyroot formally signed up with ISRO.

### ❖ **Aero India 2023 to be held in Bengaluru**

- The 14th edition of Aero India will be held from February 13-17, 2023 at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka
- The biennial show, which is traditionally held for over five days, will return to its old avatar during the 2023 edition.
- The previous edition of the biennial event was held in a hybrid model in 2021 due to Covid as there were several restrictions in place.
- Bengaluru-based defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will organise the event, in which exhibitors from across the world are expected to take part.
- Aero India has been held in February month at Bengaluru since 1996.

### ❖ **Indian Navy launches new survey vessel 'Ikshak'**

- The Indian Navy launched 'Ikshak', the third of the four survey vessels (Large) project, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Larson and Toubro (L&T) on Saturday at Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The Survey Vessel (Large) ships are 110 m long, 16 m wide with deep displacement of 3,400 tonnes and a complement of 231 personnel
- The ship has been named 'Ikshak' which means 'Guide'. The ship has been named to signify the contribution of the Survey ships towards facilitating safe passage for Mariners at Sea.
- The first class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on December 5 2021, at M/s GRSE, Kolkata, by Pushpa Bhatt, wife of Ajay Bhatt, MoS, who was the Chief Guest for the Launching Ceremony.

### ❖ **India's proposal for enhance protection to Leith's softshell turtle adopted at wildlife summit**

- India's proposal for enhancing protection status to Leith's softshell turtle has been adopted at the world wildlife conference in Panama.
- The country also proposed to give a higher degree of protection to the red-crowned roofed turtle or 'Batagur Kachuga' and received wide support from other parties at the 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP 19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) being held in Panama City from November 14 to 25.
- Leith's softshell turtle is a large freshwater soft-shelled turtle which inhabits rivers and reservoirs. It is endemic to peninsular India.
- The turtle species has been subject to intensive exploitation over the past 30 years.
- It is listed on Schedule IV of the Wild Life Act, 1972.

### ❖ **PT Usha takes over as the president of Indian Olympic Association**

- Legendary sprinter PT Usha has been elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association. PT Usha becomes the first woman president of the IOA

- Usha is one of the most decorated Indian athletes ever, having won 11 medals, including four golds in the Asian Games from 1982 and 1994.
- She also bagged four gold medals at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, winning the 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay events.
- Usha is considered as one of the best Indian athletes of all-time but is most remembered for missing out on a medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics 400m hurdles final, where she was beaten by Romania's Cristiana Cojocaru by one hundredth of a second.
- The legendary sprinter will become the first sports person to have represented the country and also become IOA chief since Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, who played a Test match in 1934.
- Yadavindra Singh was the third IOA president who held office from 1938 to 1960.

### ❖ **Davis Cup 2022**

- Canada won their first Davis Cup title after Felix Auger-Aliassime beat Australia's Alex de Minaur by 6-3, 6-4 in the second match of the finals.
- The 2022 Davis Cup is the 110th edition of the Davis Cup, a tournament between national teams in men's tennis. It is sponsored by Rakuten. The Russian Tennis Federation were the defending champions, but they and Belarus were eliminated from competing in international events due to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

### ❖ **Paralympic medallist Avani Lekhara receives Para Sports Person of Year award**

- At the Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards of FICCI, former Ranji cricketer Sarkar Talwar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award.
- Apart from Talwar, Avani Lekhara, who won two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, was recognized as the Para Sports Person of the Year, while Shrey Kadyan was recognized as the Special Sports person of the Year.
- For their remarkable work over the past decade, Odisha was recognized as the best state for promoting sports.