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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31st Dec 2022

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Congress Foundation Day

- The Indian National Congress (INC), India's largest opposition party, marked its 138th foundation day on December 28.
- The English bureaucrat Allan Octavian Hume or AO Hume is credited as the founder of the organisation.
- On December 28, 1885, 72 social reformers, journalists and lawyers congregated for the first session of the INC at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay.

❖ Chhattisgarh police 'Nijaat' campaign gets IACP 2022 Award.

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the US-based international organisation has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat' of Chhattisgarh police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' award in the institutional category.
- The prestigious IACP 2022 Award has selected the de-addiction drive 'Nijaat', which was executed following the directive by chief minister Bhupesh Baghel to act tough against drug peddlers, and bootleggers and check to smuggling of drugs.
- International Association of Chiefs of Police Founded: May 1893;
Headquarters: Alexandria, Virginia, United States;

❖ Praveen Kumar Srivastava appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)

- Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- Srivastava's appointment comes after Suresh N Patel completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission on December 24.

➤ Srivastava is a 1988-batch (retired) Indian Administrative Service officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He superannuated as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat on January 31 this year.

➤ The commission is headed by a CVC and can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners.

➤ Besides Srivastava, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar is the other Vigilance Commissioner.

➤ CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam.

➤ It consists of a Chairman and two vigilance commissioners.

❖ **Indian-American Rajeev Badyal named into National Space Council Advisory Group**

➤ The American Vice President Kamala Harris has named Indian American Rajeev Badyal to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG).

➤ The UAG is tasked to maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise and preserve space for current and future generations.

➤ The UAG is headed by US Air Force Rtd General Lester Lyles.

➤ Rajeev Badyal is currently the vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon.

➤ The UAG will provide the National Space Council advice and recommendations on matters related to space policy and strategy, government policies, laws, regulations, treaties, international instruments, programmes, and practices across the civil, commercial, international, and national security space sectors.

❖ **Ahilyabai Holkar**

➤ Maharashtra state government is planning to rename the city of Ahmednagar as 'Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Nagar', after the 18th century Malwa queen.

- Ahilyabai (1725 -1795) was one of the women rulers of Medieval India who belongs to the Holkar dynasty of the Maratha Empire.
- She was married Khanderao Holkar in 1733 at the tender age of 8. Her husband was killed in the battle of Kumbher in 1754.
- Ahilyabai is famous for having built numerous forts and roads in the Malwa region, sponsoring festivals and offering donations to many Hindu temples. Her philanthropy was reflected in the construction of *several temples, ghats, wells, tanks and rest houses stretching across the length of the country.
- She welcomed stalwarts such as Marathi poet Moropant, Shahir Ananta Gandhi, and Sanskrit scholar Khushali Ram into her capital.
- John Keay, the British historian, gave the queen the title of 'The Philosopher Queen'. She had been an acute observer of the wider political scene.

❖ **Prahari App**

- Recently Union Home Minister launched 'Prahari' app for Border Security Force (BSF) Jawans.
- BSF 'Prahari' app is a great example of Proactive Governance, now Jawans can get personal and service related information, housing, Ayushman-CAPF and leave related information on their mobile.
- It is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India, and was raised in the wake of the 1965 war on 1 December 1965.
- It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

❖ **Benjamin Netanyahu sworn-in as Israel's new Prime Minister**

- Benjamin Netanyahu has been sworn-in as Israel's prime minister for a sixth time.
- Netanyahu, 73, already Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister, has the support of 63 lawmakers in the 120-member Knesset (Israeli parliament).

- The Israeli Parliament is called the Knesset. It is a unicameral house which has a term of four years. It has 120 members.
- Israel is a small country located in West Asia. It is the only Jewish nation in the world with the Jews constituting $\frac{3}{4}$ population of the country.

❖ Ethylene glycol

- Uzbekistan's health ministry has recently claimed India-made cough syrups contained ethylene glycol which led to the death of at least 18 children
- Ethylene glycol is a colourless and odourless alcoholic compound that can be fatal if consumed. $C_2H_6O_2$ is the formula.
- The sweet-tasting ethylene glycol is a syrupy or viscous liquid at room temperature.
- It is mostly used as an automotive antifreeze and as a raw material for manufacturing polyester fibres.
- It is also found in several products such as hydraulic brake fluids, stamp pad inks, ballpoint pens, solvents, paints, cosmetics and plastics.
- Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are adulterants that are sometimes illegally used as solvents in liquid drugs.
- Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol may be used by pharma companies as an alternative to non-toxic solvents such as glycerine or propylene glycol to cut costs.

❖ Cyprus, India inks 3 agreement.

- Foreign Minister of Cyprus Ioannis Kasoulides and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar signed three important agreements.
- The agreements were about bilateral relations, multilateral cooperation, geopolitical and regional problems, the Indo-Pacific issue, the Middle East, Europe, and India's relationship with the European Union.

➤ Cyprus is an island country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea that has been divided into the Republic of Cyprus (ROC), which has a majority of Greeks, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus since the Turkish invasion there in 1974.

❖ "2022 World Rapid Championship"

➤ GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway) has secured his fourth title of 2022 World Rapid Championship, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

➤ Vincent Keymer (Germany) has settled for silver and Fabiano Caruana (America) has secured bronze.

➤ While, Tan Zhongyi (China) has won gold in 2022 Women's World Rapid Champion.

➤ Indian chess player, B Savitha Shri has won bronze medal in women's event and became third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and Humpy to win a medal at the world rapid championship.

❖ Football legend "Pele" passes away

➤ Brazilian football legend, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, who was popularly known as Pele has been passed away at the age of 82 in São Paulo, Brazil.

➤ He is the only player to win the World Cup three times (1958, 1962 and 1970).

➤ He was named FIFA's Player of the Century in 2000.

➤ During his 21-year career, he has scored the most career goals of 1,283 in 1,363 games including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country.

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