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CURRENT EVENTS **OF NATIONAL AND** *INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE*

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YEARLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Droupadi Murmu is the new President of India

Droupadi Murmu is the new President of India. She defeated the opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the election, the result of which was announced on Thursday (July 21). Murmu, 64, is the first Adivasi and second woman to become the nation's First Citizen and the Supreme Commander of India's Armed Forces.



Droupadi Murmu (a president of India)

Here are five things about the new incumbent of Rashtrapati Bhavan, who takes office in the historic 75th year of the nation's Independence.

Murmu won an election to the Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997, and served as councillor. She was elected to two terms in the Odisha Assembly in 2000 and 2004, and served as a Minister from 2000 to 2004 in Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's BJD-BJP coalition government.

She held the portfolio of Commerce and Transport and, subsequently, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in the state government. As Transport Minister of Odisha, she was credited with having set up transport offices in all 58 subdivisions of the state.

Murmu also served as vice-president of the BJP's Scheduled Tribes Morcha.

Murmu was sworn in as the first woman Governor of Jharkhand in 2015.

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In November 2016, the BJP government of the state led by Chief Minister Raghuraj Das passed amendments to two centuries-old land laws – the Chhotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act – that would have ensured easy transfer of land for industrial use. After widespread protests by Adivasis who believed that the move would limit their rights over land, Murmu returned the Bills in June 2017, and asked the government to clarify how the amendments would benefit tribals.

The refusal to give her assent to controversial Bills passed by the government of the party to which she had herself belonged, won Murmu admiration and respect.

Australian Open 2022

The 2022 Australian Open was a Grand Slam tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park, Australia from 17 to 30 January 2022. It was the 110th edition of the Australian Open, the 54th in the Open Era, and the first Grand Slam of the year. The tournament consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Junior and wheelchair players competed in singles and doubles tournaments. As in previous years, the tournament's main sponsor was Kia.

Men's singles

Spain **Rafael Nadal** def. Russia Daniil Medvedev, 2-6, 6-7(5-7), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5

Women's singles

Australia **Ashleigh Barty** def. United States Danielle Collins, 6-3, 7-6(7-2)

Men's doubles

Australia **Thanasi Kokkinakis** / Australia **Nick Kyrgios** def. Australia Matthew Ebden / Australia Max Purcell, 7-5, 6-4

Women's doubles

Czech Republic **Barbora Krejčíková** / Czech Republic **Katerina Siniaková** def. Kazakhstan Anna Danilina / Brazil Beatriz Haddad Maia, 6-7(3-7), 6-4, 6-4

Mixed doubles

France **Kristina Mladenovic** / Croatia **Ivan Dodig** def. Australia Jaimee Fourlis / Australia Jason Kubler, 6-3, 6-4

Uttar Pradesh wins best state tableau of Republic Day parade 2022

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The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has been picked as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2022. The theme of the tableau of Uttar Pradesh was 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'. A total of 12 states and union territories had participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26. The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'cradle of traditional handicrafts' while the third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau based on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.

Other winners of Republic Day parade 2022:

Best marching contingent among three Services: Indian Navy

Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

The tableaux of the ministry of education and the ministry of civil aviation have been declared as joint winners in the category of central ministries and departments. The theme of the tableau of the ministry of education and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship was 'National Education Policy. The tableau of the ministry of civil aviation was based on the theme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'.

Popular Choice Awards

The popular choice category award was introduced for the first time in 2022, wherein the general public was invited to vote for the best marching contingents and best tableaux through the MyGov platform. The online poll was conducted between January 25-31, 2022.

List of winners:

- ◆ Best state/UTs Tableau: Maharashtra (Theme 'Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra'.);
- ◆ Best marching contingent among three Services: Indian Air Force;
- ◆ Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF);
- ◆ Central Ministry: Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts (Theme 'India Post: 75 years @ Resolve – Women Empowerment'.)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Equality'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality in Hyderabad to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint

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Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. The inauguration of the statue is a part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing 1000th birth anniversary celebrations of the Bhakti saint. A 3D presentation on the life and teachings of the saint will also be showcased during the event.

Structure of the Statue:

The statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals- gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. It is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.

The 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality statue is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, called 'Bhadra Vedi'.

The floors of the building are dedicated to a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing works of Sri Ramanujacharya.

Divya Desams

The monument will be surrounded by 108 'Divya Desams' of Sri Vaishnavism tradition (model temples) like Tirumala, Srirangam, Kanchi, Ahobhilam, Bhadrinath, Muktinath, Ayodhya, Brindavan, Kumbhakonam and others. The idols of deities and structures were constructed in the shape at the existing temples. The idols were also painted.

The base building, which was 16.5 mts tall, had a meditation hall where a 54 inch statue of Ramanujacharyulu made of 120 kg gold, representing the years he lived, will be inaugurated by President Ramnath Kovind by performing the first puja on February 13. The inner sanctorum deity was meant for daily worship by people.

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passes away

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a multi-organ failure. The Bharat Ratna awardee was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the coronavirus disease in January. She is survived by her 3 sisters – Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Khadikar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

Facts

- ◆ She began her career as a singer back in 1942 and never looked back. She recorded innumerable songs in over 36 Indian and foreign languages.
- ◆ She gave us musical gems such as Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo, Lag Jaa Gale, Yeh

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Kahan Aage Hain Hum and Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya, among others.

- ◆ Having led an eventful and rich life of several milestones, Lata Mangeshkar was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1990. For her contribution to Indian music, she also was bestowed with Padma Bhushan in 1969 and Bharat Ratna in 2001.

U19 World Cup 2022: India beat England in final to win 5th title

India defeated England by four wickets to clinch a record-extending fifth title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua. India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018. Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw. Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for 189 in 44.5 overs. India chases down the target of 190 with 2.2 overs to spare.

India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022 Final between India and England. The Indian all-rounder picked 5/31, the best bowling figures for any final in the history of the championship and also scored crucial 35 runs with the bat to help his team in its 4 wicket win.

Latest amendments

- **103rd amendment (12 January 2019)** : A maximum of 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) of citizens of classes other than the classes mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15, i.e. Classes other than socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Inserted Clause under Article 15 as well as Inserted Clause under Article 16.
- **104th amendment (25 January 2020)** : To extend the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty years. Removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.
- **105th amendment (10 August 2021)** : Amended Article 338B, 342A and 366. To restore states' power to make their own OBC lists. Annuling Supreme Court judgement of 11 May 2021.

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100 Years of Chauri Chaura Incident

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the heroes of freedom struggle on completion of the hundred years of Chauri Chaura incident.

Chauri Chaura is a town in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

On 4th February, 1922, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of peasants set fire to a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident, Mahatma Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22).

What is the Background of the Incident?

On 1st August, 1920, Gandhiji had launched the Non-Cooperation Movement against the government.

It involved using swadeshi and boycott of foreign goods, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, "refusing to assist a ruler who misrules".

In the winter of 1921-22, volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement were organized into a national volunteer corps.

Khilafat Movement was a pan-Islamic force in India that arose in 1919 in an effort to salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India during the British raj.

The Congress supported the movement and Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement.

What was the incidence of Chauri Chaura and the Aftermath reactions?

Chauri Chaura Incident:

On 4th February, volunteers congregated in the town, and after the meeting, proceeded in a procession to the local police station, and to picket the nearby Mundera bazaar.

The police fired into the crowd killing some people and injuring many volunteers.

In retaliation, the crowd proceeded to set the police station on fire.

Some of the policemen who tried to escape were caught and battered to death. A lot of police property, including weapons, was destroyed.

Reaction of the British:

The British Raj prosecuted the accused aggressively.

A sessions court quickly sentenced 172 of the 225 accused to death. However,

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ultimately, only 19 of those convicted were hanged.

Reaction of Mahatma Gandhi:

He condemned the crime of the policemen's killing. The volunteer groups in nearby villages were disbanded, and a Chauri Chaura Support Fund was set up to demonstrate "genuine sympathy" and seek atonement.

Gandhi decided to stop the Non-Cooperation Movement, which he saw as having been tainted by unforgivable violence.

He bent the Congress Working Committee to his will, and on 12th February, 1922, the satyagraha (movement) was formally suspended.

Gandhi on his part, justified himself on grounds of his unshakeable faith in non-violence.

IUCN designates Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram 2022

The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site. This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity. The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

What is OECM?

OECM is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests. The park, which once was an abandoned mining pit, was transformed into a lush green forest patch in 10 years. Now, it has about 400 native species of plants.

Union Budget 2022-23

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Feb 1, 2022 presented the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament. Here are the highlights from Sitharaman's Budget speech, and an explanation and analysis of it.

India's economic growth estimated at 9.2% to be the highest among all large economies.

60 lakh new jobs to be created under the productivity linked incentive scheme in

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14 sectors.

PLI Schemes have the potential to create an additional production of Rs 30 lakh crore.

Entering Amrit Kaal, the 25 year long lead up to India @100, the budget provides impetus for growth along four priorities:

- ◆ PM GatiShakti
- ◆ Inclusive Development
- ◆ Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise opportunities, Energy
- ◆ Transition, and Climate Action.
- ◆ Financing of investments

PM GatiShakti

The seven engines that drive PM GatiShakti are Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

The scope of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan will encompass the seven engines for economic transformation, seamless multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

The projects pertaining to these 7 engines in the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be aligned with PM GatiShakti framework.

Road Transport

- ◆ National Highways Network to be expanded by 25000 Km in 2022-23.
- ◆ Rs 20000 Crore to be mobilized for National Highways Network expansion.

Multimodal Logistics Parks

- ◆ Contracts to be awarded through PPP mode in 2022-23 for implementation of
- ◆ Multimodal Logistics Parks at four locations.

Railways

- ◆ One Station One Product concept to help local businesses & supply chains.
- ◆ 2000 Km of railway network to be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.
- ◆ 400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured during the next three years.
- ◆ 100 PM GatiShakti Cargo terminals for multimodal logistics to be developed during the next three years.

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Parvatmala

National Ropeways Development Program, Parvatmala to be taken up on PPP mode.

Contracts to be awarded in 2022-23 for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length.

Infrastructure

- ◆ PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan at a cost of 20,000 crore
- ◆ National Highways network to be expanded by 25,000 kms in 2022-23.
- ◆ National Master Plan on Expressways will be formulated in 2022-23
- ◆ 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains to be manufactured in next 3 years.
- ◆ 60 km of ropeway projects under the Parvat Mala project
- ◆ Metro systems, multi-modal connectivity
- ◆ 100 Gati Shakti cargo terminals in the next 3 years.

Agriculture

- ◆ Procurement of wheat, paddy, kharif and rabi crops, benefiting over 1 crore farmers.
- ◆ NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- ◆ 2.37 lakh crore towards direct payments for minimum support price.
- ◆ Chemical-free, natural farming to be promoted across the country.
- ◆ 2022 to be Year of Millet - support for post-harvest value addition for millet products
- ◆ Using Kisan drones for crop assessment and spraying of pesticides
- ◆ Ken-Betwa river linking project at a cost of Rs 44,000 crore, to benefit 9.0 lakh hectare of farmer land.

Ken Betwa project

- ◆ 1400 crore outlay for implementation of the Ken – Betwa link project.
- ◆ 9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by Ken-Betwa link project.

MSME

- ◆ Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals to be interlinked.
- ◆ 130 lakh MSMEs provided additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

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- ◆ ECLGS to be extended up to March 2023.
- ◆ Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by Rs 50000 Crore to total cover of Rs 5 Lakh Crore.
- ◆ Rs 2 lakh Crore additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGT-MSE).
- ◆ Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP) programme with outlay of Rs 6000 Crore to be rolled out.

Skill Development

- ◆ Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through on-line training.
- ◆ Startups will be promoted to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).

Education

- ◆ Digital University will be established, and to be made in different Indian languages, based on networked hub model.
- ◆ One Class, One TV channel will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV Channels to provide supplementary education in all regional languages, to make up for loss of formal education due to Covid.

Health

- ◆ An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out.
- ◆ 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- ◆ A network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

Saksham Anganwadi

- ◆ Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vasalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- ◆ Two lakh anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal

- ◆ Rs. 60,000 crore allocated to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har

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Ghar, Nal se Jal.

Housing for All

- ◆ Rs. 48,000 crore allocated for completion of 80 lakh houses in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana.

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE)

- ◆ New scheme PM-DevINE launched to fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North-East.
- ◆ An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore made to enable livelihood activities for youth and women under the scheme.

Vibrant Villages Programme

- ◆ Vibrant Villages Programme for development of Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure on the northern border.

Banking

- ◆ 100 per cent of 1.5 lakh post offices to come on the core banking system.
- ◆ Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts.

e-Passport

- ◆ e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology to be rolled out.

Urban Planning

- ◆ Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented.
- ◆ Battery swapping policy to be brought out for setting up charging stations at scale in urban areas.

Land Records Management

- ◆ Unique Land Parcel Identification Number for IT-based management of land records.

Accelerated Corporate Exit

- ◆ Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to be established for speedy winding-up of companies.

AVGC Promotion Task Force

- ◆ An animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic (AVGC) promotion task force