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1. Lok Sabha Speaker to lead Parliamentary delegation to Kenya, Tanzania (Jan. 14, 2023)

Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** will lead a delegation to **Kenya and Tanzania** from January 16 to 21.

An overview of the news

- **The delegation includes** Chirag Paswan, Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak and S Phangnon Konyak (all Members of Parliament) and Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha.
- During their visit to Tanzania, apart from meeting their host, the delegation will also call on the Vice President of Tanzania, **Philip Mpango**.
- The delegation will also visit places of cultural and historical importance.

About Kenya

- Kenya is a country in **East Africa**.
- President: **William Ruto**
- Capital: **Nairobi**
- Currency :**Kenyan shilling**

About Tanzania

- Tanzania, **East African country** situated just south of the Equator.
- President: **Samia Suluhu Hassan**
- Capital: **Dodoma**
- Currency: **Tanzanian shilling**

2. Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal disqualified from Lok Sabha over attempt to murder case (Jan. 14, 2023)

The **Lok Sabha Secretariat** has issued a notification **disqualifying Lakshadweep MP Mohd Faizal**, who was recently convicted in an **attempt to murder case** by a court in the Union Territory.

An overview of the news

- According to a notification issued on January 13, Faizal has been disqualified from the date of his sentencing by a **sessions court** in Kavaratti on **January 11**.
- This decision has been taken under **Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** under the provisions of **Article 102 (I) (e) of the Constitution of India**.
- The court in Lakshadweep had sentenced four people, including Faizal, to **10 years in jail** after they were found guilty in an attempt to murder case.
- The Kavaratti sessions court also imposed a fine of **Rs one lakh each** on the convicts for attempting to murder **Mohd Salih**, son-in-law of late Congress leader and former Union minister P M Sayeed, during the 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

3. EU Inaugurates First Mainland Satellite Launch Port (Jan. 14, 2023)

European officials and Swedish King **Carl XVI Gustaf** inaugurated the **EU's first mainland orbital launch complex** on 13 January during a visit to **Sweden** by members of the European Commission, which is the **27-nation bloc's executive arm**.

An overview of the news

- The European Union is looking to boost its ability to launch **small satellites** into space with a new launchpad in arctic Sweden.
- The new facility inaugurated at the **Esrange Space Center** near the **city of Kiruna** will complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana.
- The tiny satellites are vital for tracking natural disasters in real time and helping to guarantee **global security** in light of Russia's war in Ukraine.
- The total number of satellites could reach **100,000 by 2040** as compared to the current **5,000 operational satellites**.

European Union (EU)

- It is an international organisation made up of European countries, which was **formed in 1993**.
- It is a group of **27 countries** that act as a cohesive economic and political bloc.
- 19 of these countries use the **euro** as their official currency.
- Its goal is to promote peace and the well-being of all citizens of the EU.
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**

4. Vidisha becomes first Indian district to implement state-of-the-art 5G use cases proposed by startups (Jan. 13, 2023)

innovative 5G use cases

Vidisha, an aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh became the **first ever district in India** for on ground deployment of **innovative 5G use cases** offered by startups.

An overview of the news

- This feat has been achieved through a joint initiative of Vidisha district administration and Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecom (DoT) under the guidance of Additional Secretary (Telecom) and Administrator USOF.
- **Department of Telecom (DoT)** is promoting digital communication technology - partnership of startups and SMEs for potential user communities.
- This partnership is being done through **Telecom Startups and MSME Mission (TSuM) and 5G Vertical Engagement Partnership Program (VEPP)**.
- This has been accomplished to accelerate digital transformation across **socio-economic verticals**.

What is 5G technology?

- The fifth generation mobile network is called 5G.
- The 5G network will operate in the millimeter-wave spectrum (**30-300 GHz**) which can send huge amounts of data at very high speeds.
- It is the newest upgrade in **Long Term Evolution (LTE)** mobile broadband networks.
- Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G have been tested to exceed **20 Gbps (gigabit per second)**.

5. Startup firm IG Drones develops India's first 5G-enabled drone (Jan. 13, 2023)

Tech startup firm **IG Drones** has developed **India's first 5G-enabled drone** capable of vertical take-off and landing.

An overview of the news

- This drone has been named **Skyhawk**.
- It can be used in other areas apart from defence and medical applications.
- The Skyhawk can fly for about five hours with a **payload of 10 kg**, as this drone is also equipped with capabilities like artificial intelligence and thermal imaging.

- Due to the facility of **vertical take-off and landing (VTOL)**, it does not require any special runway or track for take-off or landing, so it can be operated in any area.
- The drone is **IP67** rated and can be controlled through a combination of **NavIC + GPS navigational satellites**.
- This drone can travel **100 km in 12 to 15 minutes** at its maximum speed.

About IG Drones

- IG Drones is an India-based tech company providing drone survey, mapping and inspection services.
- It was established at **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology in Sambalpur, Odisha**.
- Its headquarter is located in **New Delhi**.

6. Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak: WHO (Jan. 13, 2023)

Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak: WHO

According to the statement released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** Uganda declared the **end of the Ebola disease outbreak** caused by **Sudan ebolavirus** on Jan 11, 2023.

An overview of the news

- Uganda has managed to bring the outbreak to an end in less than four months after the first case was confirmed on September 20, 2022, in **Central Mubende District**.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

- Formerly known as **Ebola hemorrhagic fever**, it is a rare, severe and fatal disease in humans.
- The Ebola virus was first discovered in **1976 near the Ebola River** in what is now the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
- The first case of the disease was reported in **Guinea** in December 2013. Later, the disease spread to neighbouring **Liberia and Sierra Leone**.

Transmission of disease

- The virus is transmitted from **wild animals** to people and through human-to-human transmission (zoonotic nature) to human populations.

Symptoms of the disease

- Fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, and sore throat.
- This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, liver and kidney dysfunction, and in some cases, internal and external bleeding.

Treatment of the disease

- The **Arvebo vaccine** has been shown to be effective in protecting people from the **Zaire ebolavirus species**.
- **Remdesivir** was also tested as an Ebola treatment.

7. Indian economy to grow at robust rate of 6.6% in FY24: World Bank (Jan. 13, 2023)

The **World Bank** projected the Indian economy to grow at a robust **6.6 per cent in 2023-24 (FY24)**, slowing down from an estimated **6.9 per cent in 2022-23 (FY23)**.

An overview of the News

- According to the World Bank's latest "**Global Economic Prospects**" India's economic growth will slow to 6.6% in the next fiscal year from an expected 6.9% in the current year.
- It said that the slowdown in the global economy and rising uncertainty will have an impact on export and investment growth.
- After March 2024, India's potential growth rate is likely to return to **above 6%**.
- According to the World Bank, India will be the fastest growing economy among the seven largest emerging markets and developing economies.
- For the South Asian region, growth is expected to slow down to **3.6% and 4.6% in 2023 and 2024**, respectively, due to weaker growth in Pakistan.

Global position

- The World Bank has predicted a sharp, long-lasting recession globally, with global growth slowing to **1.7% in 2023 from 3% six months** earlier.
- Europe, which has long been a major exporter to **China**, will likely suffer from a weaker Chinese economy.

8. India to send three person to 6,000 metre below sea level under Samudrayaan Mission (Jan. 13, 2023)

India will send three men **six thousand metres** below sea level to search for mineral resources under the **Samudrayaan mission**.

An overview of the news

- Earth Sciences Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** said, a vehicle named **MATSYA 6000** will carry three people and this mission is expected to be realized in the next three years.
- The vehicle is being designed and developed by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai**.
- It can bear 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours under emergency for human safety.
- PM Narendra Modi mentioned the **Deep Ocean Mission** in his Independence Day address for two consecutive years in 2021 and 2022.

About Samudrayaan Mission

- It is a part of the **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- It was announced by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** with ISRO's **Gaganyaan mission**.
- It aims to develop a self-propelled manned submersible to carry **3 humans** to a **depth of 6000 meters** in the ocean with scientific sensors and equipment for deep sea exploration.
- Under this mission, a manned submersible vehicle named **MATSYA 6000** will be sent for deep underwater studies.

What is the Deep Ocean Mission?

- It was approved by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** in June 2021.
- It aims to explore deep sea marine resources, develop deep sea technology for sustainable utilization of ocean resources and support the blue economy initiatives of the Government of India.
- The cost of the mission is about **Rs 4,077 crore** over a period of five years and will be implemented in phases.

9. ICG ship 'Kamla Devi', last vessel of FPV series, commissioned (Jan. 13, 2023)

Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICG ship '**Kamala Devi**' was commissioned on 12 January in **Kolkata**, the capital of West Bengal.

An overview of the news

- This **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** designed, built and delivered by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** to the Indian Coast Guard.
- A passenger-cum-cargo ocean going ferry '**MV Ma Lisha**' built by the shipyard for the **Republic of Guyana** was also flagged off.
- This is the first such ship built by a Defense Public Sector Shipyard for export to a Latin American country.

About ICG Kamla Devi

- ICG Kamla Devi is **48.9 meters long and 7.5 meters wide** with a **displacement of 308 tonnes**.
- It is capable of a top speed of **34 knots** and an endurance of over **1,500 nautical miles**, with three engines and water jets.
- She also has an integrated bridge system and is fitted with a **40/60 gun** as the main armament.
- The ship has advanced livable facilities with fully air-conditioned accommodation for 35 personnel.
- ICGS Kamla Devi will patrol the seas and undertake **anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and search and rescue operations** when required.

About MV Ma Lisha

- It has been designed and built by **GRSE** and will be housed at **Chennai**, a semi-submersible vessel **MV Sun Rise** for the long voyage to **Guyana**.
- The ship was launched on **June 15, 2022** and within six months, GRSE secured the 'technical acceptance' of the ship on December 16.
- The **70 metre long** vessel with a displacement of **1,700 tonnes** is propelled by two diesel engines and can attain a maximum speed of **15 knots**.
- The ship can accommodate **294 passengers** including **14 crew members** along with **14 cars**, two trucks and 14 containers and cargo.

10. Centre approved ₹2,600 crore as incentive for banks to promote digital payments (Jan. 12, 2023)

Centre approved ₹2,600 crore as incentive for banks to promote digital payments

The **Union Cabinet** on 11 January approved a **₹2,600 crore scheme** for promoting **RuPay debit cards** and low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions**.

An overview of the news

- Under the scheme, banks will be given financial incentives in the current financial year 2022-23 to promote '**Point of Sale' (PoS) i.e. payment machines** and e-commerce transactions using **RuPay and UPI**.
- The Cabinet has approved this incentive scheme to promote small amount transactions between individuals and merchants through RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI.
- This will further strengthen **India's progress in digital payments**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had said in the last budget, will continue to provide financial help to increase digital payments.
- India has remained a cash-dependent economy since independence. **India's Cash to GDP ratio is 13%** while the global average is at most **8%**.

Significance of the Incentive Scheme

- The government had approved an incentive scheme in pursuance of the budget announcement for FY 2022 to promote digital transactions.
- As a result, total digital payment transactions registered a year-on-year growth of **59 percent**.
- This increased from **₹5,554 crore in FY21 to ₹8,840 crore in FY22**.
- **BHIM-UPI transactions** registered a year-on-year growth of **106 per cent**, from **Rs 2,233 crore in FY21 to Rs 4,597 crore in FY22**.
- This incentive scheme will promote as a digital payment solution and enable further deepening of digital payments in the country.