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1. Notification for General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura in 2023 (Jan. 19, 2023)

The National Election Commission has prepared a schedule for holding **general elections to the Legislative Assemblies** of the three states of North-East India, **Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.**

An Overview of the news

- For this, the Commission made a thorough assessment of all relevant aspects, such as climatic conditions, academic calendar, board examinations, major festivals, law and order situation in these states, availability of Central Armed Police Forces, movement of forces and other relevant ground realities, etc. has been taken into account.
- The Election Commission, after considering all relevant aspects, has decided to recommend the Governor of the three States to issue notification for the General Election under the relevant provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

Tripura Legislative Assembly General Election Schedule

- Total Assembly Constituencies:- **60**
- Date of poll:- **February 16, 2023**
- Date of counting of votes:- **March 2, 2023**

General Election Schedule to the Legislative Assemblies of Meghalaya and Nagaland

- Total assembly constituencies:- **60-60 assembly constituencies** in both the states
- Date of Poll:- **February 27, 2023**
- Date of counting of votes:- **March 2, 2023**

Tripura

- Capital: **Agartala**
- Governor: **Satyadev Narayan Arya**
- Chief Minister: **Dr. Manik Saha**

Meghalaya

- Capital: **Shillong**
- Governor: **BD Mishra**
- Chief Minister: **Conrad Sangma**

Nagaland

- Capital: **Kohima**
- Governor: **Prof. Jagdish Mukhi**
- Chief Minister: **Neiphiu Rio**

2. India announces donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba (Jan. 19, 2023)

Minister of State for External Affairs **Meenakshi Lekhi**, during her official visit to **Cuba** from January 12 to 14, announced that India has decided to donate **12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines** to Cuba.

An overview of the news

- During her visit, Meenakshi Lekhi held a meeting with Cuban President **Miguel Diaz-Canel** and discussed bilateral importance and political and economic cooperation.
- Both sides discussed issues of common interest and expressed desire to enhance cooperation in development assistance programmes, trade and investment, energy, disaster management, culture, health and pharma, AYUSH and biotechnology.

Pentavalent vaccine

- Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases – **Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae.**
- It is injected in three doses.

About Cuba

- Prime Minister: **Manuel Marrero Cruz**
- President: **Miguel Díaz-Canel**
- Capital: **Havana**
- Currency: Cuban peso

3. Jammu and Kashmir becomes the first Indian Union Territory to completely shift to e-governance mode (Jan. 19, 2023)

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory of India to go completely digital.

- Presently all government and administrative services in Jammu and Kashmir are being provided digitally only.

- Jammu and Kashmir is also emerging as a model of digital government in the country
- with a transparent and accountable governance system.

- **Purpose of Line to Online**

- The main objective of making government services online is to make people online.
- Through this, citizens can avail government services digitally without going to government office.
- With the digitization of government offices, now government offices will be in the pocket of the citizens. With this, citizens can take advantage of any government service anywhere and anytime without going to any office.

- **Jammu and Kashmir**

- Jammu and Kashmir was a state of India till August 2019, which was bifurcated on 31 August 2019 to form two union territories named Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Capital- Srinagar (May–October), Jammu (November–April)
- Lieutenant Governor - Manoj Sinha
- Legislative Council - 36 seats
- Legislative Assembly - 89 seats

4. Indo-Russian joint venture has started manufacturing Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles in India (Jan. 19, 2023)

The manufacturing of **Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles** has recently started in **Amethi, Uttar Pradesh by an Indo-Russian joint venture.**

An overview of the news

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited plans to ensure **100 percent production** of AK-203 rifles in India.
- In the future, the company may increase production and upgrade its production facilities to produce advanced rifles based on the Kalashnikov assault rifle platform.
- India is the first country to start production of the world famous brand **AK-200-series assault rifles.**
- The first batch of 7.62 mm Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles has been produced by the **Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- Deliveries to the Indian Army are expected to commence soon.

About AK 203 Rifles

- The AK-203 assault rifle is considered to be the latest and most advanced version of the **AK-47 rifle**.
- It is a **7.62×39mm variant from the AK-100 rifle family**.
- This variant will replace the **Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) 5.56×45mm assault rifle**, which is currently being used by the Army, Navy and Air Force besides other security forces.
- INSAS rifles are not suitable for use at high altitudes. These rifles also have problems like gun jamming, oil leakage etc.

Other India-Russia bilateral projects

- Indigenous production of T-90 tanks and Su-30-MKl aircraft
- Supply of MiG-29-K aircraft and Kamov-31 and Mi-17 helicopters
- Upgrade of MiG-29 aircraft and supply of Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher Smerch
- Develop and produce supersonic BrahMos cruise missiles in India

5. India announces 100 million Maldivian Rufiyaa for community development projects in Maldives (Jan. 19, 2023)

External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** arrived in **Maldives** on 18 January as part of his three-day visit to **Maldives and Sri Lanka**.

An overview of the news

- To strengthen bilateral ties, India and Maldives signed an **MoU on development projects** and held talks with top leadership in the country.
- The agreement included grant assistance of **100 million rufiyaa (Maldives' currency)** for the **High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP)**.
- Under this funding, several socio-economic development projects are planned to be implemented in Maldives.
- It also includes the development of a sports complex at **Gahadhoo** and academic collaboration between the Maldives National University and the Cochin University of Science and Technology.
- India has handed over two sea ambulances to help the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)**.

About Maldives

- It is also called **Maldives Islands**, an independent island country in the north-central Indian Ocean.

- It extends more than **510 miles (820 km)** from north to south and **80 miles (130 km)** from east to west.
- Basis of economy - **fisheries, tourism**
- Industries - handicraft or cottage including the making of coir (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products, fish canning, and boatbuilding.
- Capital - **Male**
- President - **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Official Language - **Dhivehi (Maldivian)**
- Official Religion - **Islam**
- Currency - **Rufiyaa**

6. India announces 100 million Maldivian Rufiyaa for community development projects in Maldives (Jan. 19, 2023)

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7. Jacinda Ardern announced her resignation as Prime Minister of New Zealand (Jan. 19, 2023)

On 18 January 2023, the Prime Minister of New Zealand '**Jacinda Ardern**' has announced her resignation from her post at the annual meeting of her party.

An Overview of the news

- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will hold the post of Prime Minister till **7 February 2023** and will resign after that.
- The 2023 general election in New Zealand is going to be held on 14 October.
- Prime Minister Ardern's shock decision comes after five and a half years in office as she led New Zealand through the coronavirus pandemic.
- Prime Minister Ardern is one of the **world's youngest female heads of state** at the age of 37 when she came to power in 2017.

Jacinda Ardern

- Ms Ardern began her political career in the office of former New Zealand Prime Minister **Helen Clark**.
- Ardern has also served as a **policy advisor in Tony Blair's government in the UK**.
- She was elected to the Parliament of **New Zealand in 2008** and became Deputy Leader of Labor in March 2017.
- Jacinda Ardern announced her resignation as Prime Minister of New Zealand

New Zealand

- Capital: **Wellington**
- Currency: **New Zealand Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Jacinda Ardern**
- President: **Debbie Hockley**

8. NASA awards 425 million to Boeing Company for agency's sustainable flight demonstrator project (Jan. 19, 2023)

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has awarded **\$425 million** to The **Boeing Company** for a sustainable flight demonstrator project.

An overview of the news

- Boeing will work with NASA to validate technologies aimed at 'building, testing and flying a full-scale demonstrator aircraft and reducing emissions'.
- Over seven years, **NASA will invest \$425 million**, while Boeing and its partners will contribute the remainder of the agreement, estimated to **cost \$725 million**.
- The **Transonic Truss-Braced Wing Demonstrator Single-Aisle** is an aeroplane that aims to reduce fuel consumption and emissions by up to **30 percent**.
- The goal of the project is to produce and test a full-scale demonstrator that will help build future fuel-efficient commercial airliners.
- The United States has set a goal of achieving **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions** from the US aviation sector **by 2050**.

About NASA

- NASA was formed under the **National Aeronautics and Space Act** on **July 19, 1948**, in place of its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA).
- NASA - **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**
- Headquarters- **Washington D.C.**
- Administrator - **Bill Nelson**

9. UN General Assembly adopts Indian Co-sponsored Resolution on 'Education For Democracy' (Jan. 19, 2023)

To provide education to all, a resolution titled "**Education for Democracy**" was adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on 18 January.

An overview of the news

- The resolution co-sponsored by India reaffirms the **right to education** to strengthen democracy.
- Adopted unanimously, this resolution will recognize the importance of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- This is not the first time that an education resolution has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

- **Earlier in 2015**, a similar resolution was passed in the General Assembly, encouraging all UN entities **to use education to promote peace, human rights and democracy**.
- The purpose of the resolution was to encourage member states **to integrate Education for Democracy** into their education standards.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- It is the United Nation's chief policy-making and representative organ and was created in **1945**.
- It is one of the six principal organs of the **United Nations (UN)**.
- It serves as the main deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations.
- Its powers, structure, functions and procedures are set out in **Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter**.
- Its main functions are to prepare the budget of the United Nations, appoint non-permanent members to the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations system, and make recommendations through resolutions.

10. World's oldest person, Lucile Randon dies at the age of 118 (Jan. 18, 2023)

World's oldest person, Lucile Randon, died on 17 January at the age of **118**.

An overview of the news

- Ms Randon, who was known as **Sister André**, died in her sleep at her nursing home in Toulon, France.
- She was born on 11 February, 1904 in **Southern France**.
- Despite being blind and dependent on a wheelchair, Andre took care of other elderly people.
- In the year 2022, the world's oldest person **Ken Tanaka of Japan** died. He was **119 years old**.
- After Tanaka's death, 118-year-old Sister **Lucille Randon** became the oldest person in the world.
- **Guinness World Records** had officially recognised her status in April 2022.
- Randon became a Catholic when she was 19 years old. Eight years later she became a nun.

