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1. SPIC MACAY and Ministry of Culture collaborates for 'Music in the Park' series under "Shruti Amrut" (Jan. 16, 2023)

Shruti Amrut

SPIC MACAY organizes its very popular 'Music in the Park' series this year under the name "**Shruti Amrut**" in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture** and the New Delhi Municipal Council.

An overview of the news

- In this series, the first event of 2023 was held on 15 January in **Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.**
- The concert began with a sarod performance by **Aman Ali Bangash**, the 7th generation musician of the Senia Bangash Gharana. Accompanied by Anubrata Chatterjee (tabla) and Abhishek Mishra (tabla).
- This was followed by a Hindustani recital by **Padma Bhushan Begum Parveen Sultana** of Patiala Gharana, accompanied by Akram Khan (Tabla), Srinivas Acharya (Harmonium) and Shadab Sultana (Vocals).

About SPIC MACAY

- SPIC MACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture among Youth) is a non-political, nationwide, **voluntary organization.**
- It was founded in **1977 by Dr. Kiran Seth**, Professor-Emeritus at IIT-Delhi, who was awarded the 'Padma Shri' in 2009 for his contribution to the arts.
- It enriches the quality of formal education by raising awareness about various aspects of Indian heritage and inspiring young minds to imbibe the values inherent in it.
- In 2011, SPIC MACAY was awarded the **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award** for its contribution to youth development.

2. Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins at Davos in Switzerland (Jan. 16, 2023)

Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins at Davos in Switzerland

The five-day annual meeting of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** begins on 16 January 2023 in **Davos, Switzerland**. It is the **53rd edition** of the World Economic Forum which will be organised till 20 January 2023.

An Overview of the news

- The theme of the meeting of the 53rd edition of the World Economic Forum is '**Cooperation in a Fragmented World**'.
- The main topics of discussion in the meeting are likely to be discussed like the **Ukraine crisis, global inflation, climate change etc.**

Prominent global leaders participating in the meeting

- Global leaders attending the meeting include European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, South African President Cyril M. Ramaphosa, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yol, Swiss President Alain Berset and Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin etc. are the main ones.

Representation of India in the meeting

- Many Indian leaders are participating in the World Economic Forum meeting. Apart from Chief Union Ministers **Ashwini Vaishnav, Mansukh Mandaviya, Smriti Irani and RK Singh**, Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** is also participating in these.
- Prominent business tycoons like **Gautam Adani, Sanjiv Bajaj, Kumar Mangalam Birla**, N Chandrasekaran, Nadir Godrej, Sajjan Jindal, Sunil Mittal, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Nandan Nilekani, Adar Poonawalla, Rishad Premji attended the meeting.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

- WEF is a Swiss non-profit organisation.
- Establishment: **1971**
- Headquarters: **Cologne (Switzerland).**
- Founder and Executive Chairman: **Klaus Schwab.**
- Chairperson: **Borge Brende**

Major reports published by WEF

- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Risk Report
- Global Travel and Tourism Report
- Energy Transition Index (ETI)
- Global Competitiveness Report

3. Entire country to be covered by doppler weather radar network by 2025 (Jan. 16, 2023)

doppler weather radar network by 2025

Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, **Dr Jitendra Singh** on 15 January informed that **by 2025**, the entire country will be covered by **Doppler weather radar network** so that extreme weather events can be predicted more accurately.

An overview of the news

- The accuracy of the meteorological department's forecast regarding severe weather has improved by about **40 per cent** in the last eight to nine years.
- In this sequence, by 2025, there will be a Doppler radar network across the country. The number of Doppler radars in the country has increased from **15 in 2013 to 37 in 2023**.
- India will set up **25 more radars** in the next two to three years, taking the number to **62**.
- Speaking on the occasion of the **148th Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the minister said with the improvement in forecasting, the disaster-related death rate has come down to single digit.
- IMD commissioned **four Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir**. This will strengthen the weather monitoring capabilities in the Western Himalayan region.
- These were installed at **Surkanda Devi in Uttarakhand, Jot and Murari Devi in Himachal and Banihal Top in Jammu and Kashmir**.

What is Doppler Weather Radar?

- It is a special type of radar that uses the **Doppler effect** to generate velocity data about objects at a distance.
- It is designed to improve accuracy in long range weather forecasting and monitoring using a parabolic dish antenna and a foam sandwich spherical radome.

What is Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging)?

- It is a device that uses electromagnetic waves in the microwave region to detect the location, height, intensity, and speed of moving and non-moving objects.

What is the Doppler effect?

- It refers to the change in wave frequency during the relative motion between a wave source and its observer.
- It was discovered by Johann Doppler, who described it as a process of increasing or decreasing the luminosity of stars depending on the relative motion of the star.

4. PM announces 'Aarogya Maitri' project to provide medical supplies to developing nations (Jan. 15, 2023)

PM announces 'Aarogya Maitri'

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced a new **'Aarogya Maitri' project** on 13th January under which India will provide essential medical supplies to developing countries affected by **natural disasters or humanitarian crises**.

An overview of the news

- Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any of the developing countries affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
- PM announced at the Concluding Session of the two-day virtual '**Voice of Global South Summit**'.
- India will launch the **Global South Science and Technology Initiative** to share its expertise in areas like space technology and nuclear energy.
- India will also set up a '**Global South Center of Excellence**' for research on development solutions which can be scaled up and implemented around the world.
- PM Modi also suggested a **Global South Young Diplomats Forum** that would help connect young officials with foreign ministries.
- During the Covid pandemic, India's '**Vaccine Maitri**' initiative supplied vaccines made in India to over 100 countries.

5. PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train (Jan. 15, 2023)

Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the **Vande Bharata Express train** connecting **Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam**.

An overview of the news

- This is the **8th Vande Bharata Express** which will cover a distance of about eight hours between Secunderabad in Telangana and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The intermediate stops envisaged for the train include **Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry**.
- This will lead to ease of living, boost tourism and benefit the economy.
- In the last few years, seven Vande Bharat trains have covered a distance of **23 lakh kms**, carrying 40 lakh passengers to their destinations.
- The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express can accelerate to **100 kmph in just 52 seconds**.

Name of all 8 Vande Bharat Express train

1. Varanasi-New Delhi,
2. Katra-New Delhi,
3. Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar,
4. Amb Andaura - New Delhi
5. Chennai - Mysuru

6. Nagpur - Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
7. Howraha-New Jalpaiguri
8. Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam

About Vande Bharat Express Train

- The first Vande Bharat Express was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **15 February 2019**.
- These trains have a self-propelled engine which can save diesel and reduce electricity usage by up to **30%**.
- The first Vande Bharat Express was manufactured by **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It was manufactured under the '**Make in India**' programme, at a cost of about Rs 100 crore.
- These trains can achieve a maximum speed of **160 kmph**.
- In the Union Budget for 2022-2023 the government has proposed the development and manufacture of **400 new Vande Bharat trains** in the next three years.

6. Best Agripreneurs honoured on National Youth Day (Jan. 15, 2023)

National Youth Day

On the occasion of National Youth Day, **82 best Agripreneurs** trained under **Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business (AC&ABC) scheme** were honoured for their significant contribution through **Agri-Clinic and Agri-business services** to the farmers.

An overview of the news

- The Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Scheme is a mega flagship scheme of the Government, which was launched by the Government of India in **April 2002** in collaboration with **NABARD**.
- It aims to transform unemployed youth into self-employed agri-entrepreneurs through **45 days free residential training** in different parts of the country along with access to loans and subsidies from banks.
- The scheme is being implemented by the **National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad** through a network of 136 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIS) spread across all states.

7. Dr Jitendra Singh launches “Geospatial Hackathon” (Jan. 14, 2023)

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** on 14th January launched "**Geospatial Hackathon**" to promote Innovation and Start-Ups in India's **Geospatial ecosystem**.

An overview of the news

- The hackathon will promote innovation and startups in the geospatial ecosystem of India.
- The objective of this hackathon is not only to foster partnerships between the **public and private geospatial sectors**, but also to strengthen the **geospatial start-up ecosystem** of our country.
- The "**Geospatial Hackathon**" will end on **March 10, 2023** and will have two sets of challenges - **Research Challenge and Startup Challenge**.
- There will be **4 winners** to be found for the best solution to the geospatial select problem statements.
- The minister invited the youth of the country to participate and contribute in building the country's geospatial economy.
- Half of India's population is below 40 years of age and very ambitious.
- The Indian start-up economy has crossed a major milestone as **India's 100th start-up** joins the **unicorn club in 2022**.

8. G20's first Infrastructure Working Group meeting to be held in Pune on January 16-17 (Jan. 14, 2023)

The first ever **Infrastructure Working Group (IWG)** meeting of the **G20** under India's **G-20 presidency** will be held in **Pune** on January 16-17.

An overview of the news

- The Forum will bring together IWG member states and international organisations invited by India to discuss the **2023 Infrastructure Agenda** under the Indian G20 Presidency.
- The meeting is being hosted by the **Department of Economic Affairs**, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. **Australia and Brazil** are joining as co-chairs.
- The outcomes of the Infrastructure Working Group feed into the **G20 Finance Track priorities** and promote Infrastructure Development.
- The theme of the Indian G-20 presidency '**One Earth, One Family, One Future**' explains the purpose of the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda.
- The theme emphasises the message of **equitable development** and is in sync with the central agenda of the discussion which talks about building resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban infrastructure.

Topics of discussion

- Infrastructure investments
- Developing infrastructure as an asset class
- Promoting quality infrastructure investment
- Identifying innovative instruments for mobilising financial resources for infrastructure investment
- The most priority topic of discussion in this meeting has been kept on '**Financing Cities of the Future: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable**'.

9. Italian man sets Guinness World Record by creating 'mirror typing' books in ancient languages (Jan. 14, 2023)

According to a report by **Guinness World Records (GWR)**, an Italian man, **Michele Santaglia** has created a **world record** by typing copies of 81 books backwards, which is called '**mirror writing**'.

An overview of the news

- **Santaglia** types books using four completely **blank keyboards** without looking backwards.
- He types each book in its original language whether it be hieroglyphs, Old Hebrew, Traditional Chinese, Mayan, Etruscan, Cuneiform or Voynich glyphs.
- He reverse-typed the Bible, the Code of Hammurabi, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Book of the Dead from ancient Egypt, the writings of Leonardo da Vinci.
- He is able to type using **16 computer keyboards** simultaneously located at different heights.
- He credits **Leonardo da Vinci** who inspired him to do mirror typing.
- **Santaglia** has given several books to various world figures over the years, including former US Presidents **Bill Clinton, George Bush and Barack Obama, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI**, and former Italian Presidents **Carlo Ciampi and Giorgio Napolitano**.
- Also, he has compiled all the four Indian Vedas in a single book by reverse typing.

10. World's First Digital Party (Jan. 14, 2023)

World's First Digital Party

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become the world's first fully digital party, with data on over three crore office-bearers from national president to booth level being made available through an app called **Organisational Reporting and Analysis (SARAL)**.

- Through this app prepared with the simple name, it will be an important medium of communication within the party along with making it easier for the general public to access the party's executive members from the president to the booth level.
- Both phone and SMS options are available on the app to contact any level official from any state.
- The biggest feature of this app is that with its help real time messages can be sent to any office bearer, which will facilitate the activation of the office bearers on any issue.
- Everyone will have the facility to download this app and only party-affiliated office-bearers will have access to the main part of the organisation in the app.