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1. 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Jan. 10, 2023)

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated **every two years** on **9 January** to mark the **contribution of the overseas Indian community** in the development of India.

An overview of the news

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the three-day **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention** and a digital exhibition on the contribution of overseas Indians in the freedom struggle in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- He also released a commemorative postage stamp '**Go Safe, Go Trained**'.
- The theme of the Convention is "**Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in the Age of Amrit**".

About Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

- On **January 9, 1915**, this day was chosen as Pravasi Bhartiya Divas to commemorate the return of **Mahatma Gandhi** to India from South Africa.
- Mahatma Gandhi led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.
- Celebration of Pravasi Diwas started in India **in 2003**.
- **In the year 2015** it was revised and it was decided to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas every **two years**.
- The **16th Pravasi Divas Conference** was held in **New Delhi** with the theme "**Contribution to Self-reliant India**".
- This day marks the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.

2. World Hindi Day (Jan. 10, 2023)

World Hindi Day

Every year on **January 10, World Hindi Day** is celebrated with the aim of **spreading awareness about Hindi language** among the people all over the world and presenting Hindi as an international language.

An overview of the news

- Theme of World Hindi Day 2023 - '**Making Hindi the language of public opinion, without forgetting the importance of their mother tongue.**'

Background of the day

- The first World Hindi Conference was held at **Nagpur on 10 January 1975** with delegates from 30 countries.
- In memory of this conference, the **Government of India** had decided to celebrate January 10 as World Hindi Day from 2006.

How is World Hindi Day different from Hindi Day?

- **Hindi Diwas** is celebrated every year on **14 September** as Hindi was recognized as the official language on this day.
- On September 14, 1949, the **Constituent Assembly** gave Hindi language the **status of the official language of India**.

Other information related to Hindi, the official language of India

- The Hindi language derives its name from the Persian word '**Hind**', which means '**the land of the Indus River**'.
- It is the official language of India, English being the other official language.
- Hindi is also a language included in the **Eighth Schedule**.
- According to **Article 343**, the official language of the Union will be Hindi in Devanagari script.
- **Article 351** is related to '**Directions for the development of Hindi language**'.

3. World Braille Day 2023 (Jan. 4, 2023)

World Braille Day is celebrated on 4 January of every year around the world and it also marks the birth anniversary of **Braille's inventor Louis Braille**.

Important facts

- This day is very important for blind people because on this day, **Louis Braille**, who brought light to the lives of the **blind**, was born.
- It was Louis Braille who gave birth to the Braille script, due to which today blind people are also able to read and write and are moving forward.
- Thus it is a perfect day to recognise his efforts.
- The day also recognizes that people with visual impairments are equally entitled to the same standards of human rights as all others.

Background of the day

- By passing a resolution on 6 November 2018, the **United Nations General Assembly** decided to celebrate the birthday of Louis Braille, the father of Braille script, on 4 January every year as '**World Braille Day**'.
- World Braille Day was celebrated for the first time on 4 January 2019.
- According to a report by the **World Health Organization of the United Nations**, about 39 million people are blind in the world and about 253 million people are suffering from some kind of eye problem. Braille script is very helpful for such people.

What is a Braille script?

- Braille is a system of reading and writing by touch used by the **blind**.
- It consists of an arrangement of dots that form the letters of the alphabet, numbers and punctuation marks.
- It was first developed by a young Frenchman named Louis Braille in the **late 1820s**.
- He created Braille by modifying a system of night writing that was intended for military use.
- Braille devices help blind people to recognize letters easily.
- There is a wide range of electronic devices to meet the needs of blind people and these devices use different technologies to transmit different types of graphic information such as **pictures, maps, graphs, text etc.**

4. Global Family Day (Jan. 3, 2023)

Global Family Day

Global Family Day is celebrated every year on **January 1** to start the year positively and to promote peace, love and unity among people.

Important facts

- The Aim of the day is to **strengthen familial ties**.
- The day creates a sense of **unity and brotherhood** among nations and cultures through families.
- To **maintain peace** in the world, it is necessary to build a family, so that along with establishing peace in the world, violence can also be reduced.

Background of the day

- The Global Day of Families had its origins in two books. The first was '**One Day in Peace, January 1, 2000**', written for children in 1996 by American authors **Steve Diamond and Robert Alan Silverstein**.

- Whereas, the other book was the 1998 utopian novel '**Tree Island: A Novel for the New Millennium**' by American peace activist and author **Linda Grover**.
- Based on the ideas of these books, in 1997, the **United Nations General Assembly declared** January 1 to be a day of peace.
 - **In 1999**, the United Nations and its member states celebrated the Global Day of Families for the **first time**.
 - Seeing the success of this day, in the year 2001, the United Nations General Assembly established this day as an **annual event**. Since then, every year January 1 has been celebrated as Global Family Day.

5. DRDO celebrated its 65th foundation day (Jan. 2, 2023)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its **65th foundation day** on 1st January 2023.

Important facts

- DRDO Chairman **Dr S V Kamat** addressed the DRDO fraternity on the occasion.
- He reaffirmed DRDO's commitment towards R&D excellence and briefed about the development of cutting edge technologies for self-reliance in defence.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- It is a premier defence research and development agency under the **Ministry of Defence, Government of India**.
- It is working on several cutting-edge military technology areas, including aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation, engineering systems, missiles, materials, naval systems, advanced computing, simulation, cyber, hypersonic technology, quantum computing and communications
- DRDO's first project for the Indian military was in **surface-to-air missiles (SAM) known as Project Indigo**.
- Since inception, DRDO has made several breakthroughs in developing key systems and critical technologies such as aircraft avionics, UAVs, small arms, artillery systems, EW systems, tanks and armoured vehicles, sonar systems, command and control systems and missile systems
- It aims to make India self-reliant in critical defence technology and systems.
- It was set up in **1958**.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Chairman - **Samir V Kamat**

6. International Year of millets 2023 (Jan. 1, 2023)

International Year of millets 2023

The year 2023 is being observed all over the world as the **International Year of the millets**. The Government of India aims to make the International Year of the millets a 'People's Movement' and position India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'. India is the largest producer of millets in the world.

Background to the International Year

The Government of India proposed to the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2023 as the International Year of the Millets.

The proposal was accepted and passed by the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2021 and 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets.

Celebration of the International Millet Year in India

In the month of January 2023 the government of India and its ministries in collaboration with the state government will undertake a series of events to celebrate the International Years of Millets.

The Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries which will be organizing Millet Fair-cum-exhibitions in **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh**.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will participate in a trade show on millets in **Belgium**.

The External Affairs Ministry through its embassy in **Azerbaijan and Belarus** will conduct Business to Business meetings and participate in food festivals in these countries to promote Indian millets.

The Indian High Commission in **Nigeria** has planned a Millets Food Festival and a Millets Food preparation competition in January 2023.

In the month of January **Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Punjab** will be conducting millet centric activities including Mahotsav/ meals and food festivals, training of farmers, awareness campaigns etc.

Importance of Millets

Millet is one of the oldest known foods to humans. However its consumption in the world has declined due to the emphasis given to wheat and rice by the governments.

It is also called coarse cereals or nutri cereals due to its high nutritive value. To increase the consumption of millets in India the government of India declared millets as nutri-cereals and **2018 was declared as the National Millets Year in India**.

The Government of India has set a target of production of **205 lakh tonnes of Nutri Cereals in the country by 2022-23**.

Rajasthan is the largest producer of nutri-cereals in India followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

7. International Day of Epidemic Preparedness (Dec. 27, 2022)

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on **December 27**.

Important facts

- The purpose of this day is to create **awareness about the pandemic**.
- The day aims to facilitate exchange of information, dissemination of scientific knowledge and ensure exchange of best practices at the international level.
- This will help prevent pandemics like **COVID-19** in future as it has had a devastating impact on human lives.

Background of the day

- A resolution passed by the **United Nations General Assembly** on December 7, 2020 declared **December 27** as the International Day for Pandemic Preparedness.
- The coronavirus outbreak in China began in **late 2019**. As the infection rate started rising and the number of infected people increased, many parts of the city were sealed.
- In light of this, the **first International Day of Pandemic Preparedness** was observed on **December 27, 2020**.
- The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly to emphasize pandemic prevention, preparedness and cooperation.

8. Good Governance Day 2022 (Dec. 25, 2022)

Good Governance Day 2022

Every year **25 December** is observed as **Good Governance Day** to mark the birth anniversary of the 10th Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day is celebrated so as to ensure that the citizens of the country are treated fairly by the government and the various government services shall be made available to them fairly.

The purpose of Good Governance Day is to increase public access to various government programmes and services via good governance. It was established with the slogan "**Good Governance through e-Governance**."

Background to the day

In 2014 the Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that from now on 25 December will be observed as 'Good Governance Day' in the memory of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Vajpayee was born on 25 December 1924 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

He has been the prime Minister of India three times.

He became the Prime Minister for the **first time** on 16 May 1996 and had to resign on 1 June 1996. He was the Prime Minister for the **second time** from 19 March 1998 – 13 October 1999.

He became the Prime Minister for the third time from 13 October 1999 – 22 May 2004.

Unique facts about Vajpayee

He was the first person to address the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in **Hindi**. As an External Affairs Minister he spoke in Hindi at the 32nd Session of the UNGA in 1977.

He also holds the distinction of being the prime minister of India for the shortest time, **16 days** in 1996.

He was the first Prime Minister against whom **a no- confidence motion was passed in the Lok Sabha**. He lost the no confidence vote by 1 vote in 1999.

He was awarded India's highest civilian award **Bharat Ratna** on 27 March 2015.

9. PM Modi to participate in the historic programme marking 'Veer Bal Diwas' in Delhi on 26 December (Dec. 24, 2022)

'Veer Bal Diwas' in Delhi on 26 December

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a historic programme marking the first '**Veer Bal Diwas**' at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi on 26th December 2022.

On the Prakash Purab(birth anniversary) of the 10th Sikh Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh on 9th January 2022 the Prime Minister had announced that 26th December will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas to mark the martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons **Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh** and **Baba Fateh Singh**.

They were brutally murdered by Wazir Khan the Mughal Governor of Sirhind on this day in 1705. .

During the programme, the Prime Minister will attend a 'Shabad Kirtan' performed by Baal Kirtanis. On this occasion, Mr Modi will also flag off a march-past by about three thousand children in Delhi.

10. National Consumer Day (Dec. 24, 2022)

National Consumer Day

Every Year **24th December** is observed as **National Consumer Day** in India.

Important facts

- Its objective is to make the consumers aware of their rights and prevent them from the prevalent malpractices.

- A large population of India is uneducated, who is not aware of their rights and duties, but in the matter of consumer rights, even educated people seem indifferent to their rights.

Background of the day

- The day was established in **1986** as part of the **Consumer Protection Act**.
- The day was established to promote and protect the rights of consumers.
- The main objective of the Consumer Protection Act is to provide protection to the consumers against various forms of exploitation such as **defective goods, unsatisfactory services and unfair trade practices**.
- This day was celebrated for the first time in the year 2000.
- It is noteworthy that **World Consumer Rights Day** is organized globally on **15 March** every year.