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1. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur unveils Hockey World Cup trophy (Dec. 17, 2022)

unveils Hockey World Cup trophy

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** on 16th December **unveiled the Hockey World Cup trophy in New Delhi.**

Important facts

- **The Federation of Indian Hockey (FIH) Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela** Trophy arrived at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the national capital.
- The event was also graced by 1975 World Cup winners Ajit Pal Singh, Ashok Dhyanchand, Brig HJS Chimni, and former Olympians Harbinder Singh, Padma Shri Zafar Iqbal, and Vinit Kumar (Vice president, Delhi Hockey) among other dignitaries.

About the Trophy Tour

- The trophy will travel across **13 states and one union territory** before returning to Odisha on December 25, giving fans and the public a chance to engage with the coveted trophy.
- The nationwide Trophy Tour was launched in Bhubaneswar on 5th December by the Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik.**
- The trophy will go to West Bengal, Manipur, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

Men's Hockey World Cup- 2023

- The World Cup will be jointly hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from **13 to 29 January 2023.**
- Matches will be played in the newly constructed **Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela**, and in the **iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar.**
- The Hockey World Cup is organised **every four years.**

Teams of Hockey Men's World Cup 2023

- **Pool A:** Australia, Argentina, France, South Africa
- **Pool B:** Belgium, Germany, Korea, Japan
- **Pool C:** Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia, Chile
- **Pool D:** India, England, Spain, Wales

- **Semi Final 1:** 27th January, 2023
- **Semi Final 2:** 27th January, 2023
- **Final:** 29th January, 2023

2. National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd signs MoU with NIT Manipur (Dec. 16, 2022)

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) has signed MoU with **NIT Manipur** through Video Conference on 14th December 2022.

Important facts

- The MoU was signed between Prof **Gautam Sutradhar**, Director NIT Manipur and **Chanchal Kumar**, Managing Director, NHIDCL.
- National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), works under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.**
- It is looking for innovative technologies to find practical solutions to the challenges faced in the construction of highways that withstand extreme climatic conditions.
- In the same process NHIDCL has signed MoU with prestigious institutes like IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, CSIR-CRRI, NSDC, IIT Patna, NIT Srinagar, NIT Agartala, NIT Silchar, NIT Uttarakhand, NIT Nagaland NIT Sikkim, IIT Kharagpur\

3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) (Dec. 16, 2022)

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

Minority Affairs Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 15 December said that the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)** is being implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** with the objective of infrastructure development.

About Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).**
- It aims to develop infrastructure projects in identified areas for **socio-economic development.**
- Under this the priority areas are **education, health, skill development, women centric projects etc.**

- It has been implemented in **1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs)** of the country.
- Projects under PMJVK are implemented and managed by the **concerned State/ UT Government.**
- In the **North Eastern Region (NER)**, the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura come under PMJVK.
- The scheme is now implemented in all Districts of the country including all the Aspirational Districts.

Beneficiaries under PMJVK

- Communities notified as minority communities under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** will be taken as minority communities.
- Currently, **6 Minorities communities** have been notified as Minority Communities. These are - Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.

4. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurates National Maternal Health Workshop (Dec. 14, 2022)

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurates National Maternal Health Workshop

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar** inaugurated the **National Maternal Health Workshop in New Delhi** on 14 December.

Important facts

- The theme of the workshop was “**Striving for zero preventable maternal mortality**”.
- During the event, Dr. Pawar unveiled the **Midwifery-Led Care Units (MLCUs) brochure** and **Standard Operating Protocol poster for the labour room.**
- She also introduced the Maternal health guidance **booklet for community health officers (CHOs)** and **SUMAN community linkages brochure.**
- India has achieved a momentous milestone in reduction of **maternal mortality ratio (MMR)** registering a significant decline from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20.
- India is on a positive path towards maternal health and child health and the Government of India is determined to meet the new challenges.
- For the implementation of “**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**”, doctors pledge one day of service per month for this campaign.
- More than 3.6 crore pregnant women have received comprehensive antenatal care under this program across all states and union territories.

Awards to states for remarkable efforts and achievements in the area of maternal health

Intensive efforts in reducing MMR: 1st position: Kerala and 2nd Maharashtra

- Performance as per the NFHS-5: Antenatal Care services & Institutional deliveries
- **In 4 ANC services**

1st position- Madhya Pradesh; 2nd position Rajasthan

- **Increase in Institutional Delivery in large states-**
- 1st position West Bengal; 2nd position Uttar Pradesh
- **Roll out of SUMAN:**
- **In bigger state category, highest SUMAN notification**
- 1st position- Punjab; 2nd position- Tamil Nadu
- **In smaller state category, highest SUMAN notification**
- 1st position - Goa; 2nd position- Tripura
- **Quality certifications under LaQshya:**
- **In the Bigger state category**, Karnataka bagged the first position.
- **In the small state category**, Chandigarh was the winner.
- **In absolute numbers of certifications**, Madhya Pradesh holds 1st position.
- **Gujarat won the state with the highest number of medical colleges prize.**
- **High-risk pregnancy management under PMSMA.**
- Tamil Nadu was the best performing state.
- Manipur bagged the first prize for rapid rollout of extended PMSMA.
- **Bolstering the teamwork among the frontline workers**, the best ANM- ASHA teams went to the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Midwifery initiative:** Best performing state was Telangana.

5. PM addresses Manipur Sangai Festival via video message (Dec. 1, 2022)

PM addresses Manipur Sangai Festival via video message

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **Manipur Sangai Festival** via video message on 30 November.

Important facts

- Every year the State of Manipur celebrates the “**Manipur Sangai Festival**” from 21st to 30th November.
- It started in the **year 2010** and over the years has grown into a great platform to showcase the rich tradition and culture of Manipur to the world.
- The theme of the festival is “**Festival of Oneness**”. It promotes a sense of belonging and creates pride in ownership of land among people.
- The festival showcases the **glorious cultural heritage of the state** and the love for art that is inherent in the various tribes living in the state of Manipur.
- Manipur’s famous martial arts- **Thang Ta** (a combination Spear and Sword skills), **Yubi-Lakpi** (a game played with greased coconut like rugby), **Mukna Kangjei** (a game that combines hockey and wrestling), and **Sagol Kangjei**- Modern Polo (believed to have evolved in Manipur) were all form part of the festival.
- Celebrated as the grandest festival in the state, the Manipur Sangai Festival helps in promoting Manipur as a world-class tourist destination.
- The festival is named after the state animal, the **Sangai, a deer** found only in Manipur.

About Sangai Deer

- It is an endemic and endangered subspecies of **brow-antlered deer** found only in **Manipur, India**.
- It is found in its natural habitat only in **Keibul Lamjao National Park**, locally in the south eastern part of Loktak Lake.
- It is the state animal of Manipur.
- IUCN status : **Endangered**

6. Assam lifts travel restrictions to Meghalaya, six days after border violence (Nov. 28, 2022)

Assam lifts travel restrictions to Meghalaya

The Assam government on 27 November 2022 lifted travel restrictions to Meghalaya, six days after being imposed in the aftermath of violence in a disputed area along the inter-state border.

An advisory was issued by the Assam Police, asking people to avoid travelling to the neighbouring state following the incident on 22 November. Barricades were erected in **Jorabat** near Guwahati and Cachar district, the two main entry points to Meghalaya.

Violence had broken out at **Mukroh village** (Meghalaya) near the disputed border between the two states in West Karbi Anglong district in the early hours of 22 November, after a truck

allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam. Five tribal villagers from Meghalaya and a forest guard from Assam were killed due to the clashes.

Border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya

During the British colonial rule, undivided Assam included **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram**. In 1972, Meghalaya was formed as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969.

Background to the Assam Mizoram Boundary Dispute

- Assam and Mizoram share a 164.6 km long boundary.
- Mizoram was a district of Assam known as Lushai Hills during the British time. In 1972, Meghalaya was formed as per the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969.
- The genesis of the dispute lies in the border demarcation during British times.
- In 1875 a notification was issued that differentiated the Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar and in 1933 another notification was issued to demarcate the boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur.

Different Interpretation of Boundary

- According to Mizoram, the boundary shall be demarcated on the basis of 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873.
- However the Assam government believes that boundary shall be based on the 1933 notification ,
- Mizoram says that when in 1933 the boundary was demarcated, Mizo society was not consulted.

Attempt to resolve the Border Dispute

- To resolve the issue the chief ministers of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma and Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam held several rounds of talks.
- Twelve disputed areas were identified – three areas contested between West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya and Kamrup in Assam, two between RiBhoi in Meghalaya and Kamrup-Metro, and one between East Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and Cachar in Assam.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 29 March 2022 between the two chief ministers in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The MoU stated that out of 36.79 sq km of the disputed area, Assam would get full control of 18.46 sq km and Meghalaya of 18.33 sq km.
- The second phase of talks was supposed to take place by the end of November, but has been disturbed due to the recent clash.

7. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attend Manipur's Sangai Festival as a chief guest (Nov. 27, 2022)

Sangai festival 2022

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** attended Manipur's [Sangai festival](#) as a chief guest on 27 November 2022 under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative of the Government of India. Manipur's biggest festival Sangai is being held from 21 -30 November

2022. Under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Manipur and **Madhya Pradesh** are **partner states**.

Artist of Madhya Pradesh will perform traditional dance form of Manipur's like Mao tribe's Naurata dance, Thai dance troupes etc. Before this, Imphal had participated in the Lokrang Mahotsav of Bhopal and now Bhopal is participating in Sangai Mahotsav of Imphal.

The theme of this festival is the '**Festival of Oneness**.' Sangai is the state animal of Manipur, which is found only in Manipur.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister Modi on **31st October, 2015** on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme is a unique initiative by the Government to promote the spirit of national integration and to strengthen the fabric of emotional bonds between the people of our country.
- Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a time period, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

8. Indian Navy and Royal Enfield organises motorcycling expedition across North east India (Nov. 25, 2022)

The Indian Navy Motor Bike team, '**The Sea Riders**', in partnership with **Royal Enfield**, the world's oldest motorcycle brand, embarked on an motorcycle expedition, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations', commemorating the 75th year of independence, across the seven states of North East India from 25 Nov - 14 Dec 22. Royal Enfield is the owner of the famous brand 'Bullet'.

The expedition was flagged off by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral **R Hari Kumar**, by Video Conferencing from South Point School at Guwahati. Fifteen Sea Riders rode out on Royal Enfield Meteor 350 cc bikes on their journey to cover a total distance of 3500 kms over a period of 24 days across the seven states of NE India.

The expedition is being conducted over two phases across seven states with each phase covering some of the toughest and most breath-taking terrains in North East India. The riders will traverse along the Indo-Bangladesh border, visiting historical Unakoti sculptures, , the only floating national park in the world **Keibul Lamjao National Park (Manipur)** and witness the famous **Hornbill festival (Nagaland)**. The expedition will pass through Guwahati (Assam), Shillong (Meghalaya), Aizawl (Mizoram), Imphal (Manipur), and Kohima (Nagaland).

North Eastern States

States	Capitals
Assam	Dispur

Manipur	Imphal
Mizoram	Aizawl
Meghalaya	Shillong
Sikkim	Gangtok
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
Nagaland	Kohima
Tripura	Agartala

9. Biggest Manipur festival Sangai commences in the state (Nov. 21, 2022)

Union Minister for Tourism **G Kishan Reddy** inaugurated the biggest tourism festival of Manipur -**Sangai festival** on 21 November 2022 at **Moirang Khunou** in Bishnupur district of Manipur.

The 11th Sangai festival will be held from 21 -30 November 2022. The festival which started in 2010 is being held after a 2 year gap due to covid. It is being held in 13 venues across six districts.

The festival is called Sangai festival to highlight the uniqueness of the shy and gentle deer popularly known as the Sangai in the region. It is a rare species of deer which is also the **state animal of Manipur**.

The **theme** of the Sangai festival 2022 is : '**Festival of Oneness**'.

The indigenous **sagol kangjei**, a sport that has now evolved into the modern **game of polo**, will also be featured during the festival in its very own birthplace. The Men's International Polo Tournament will be held in Imphal and the CM's Sagol Kangjei Tournament in **Kangla** as part of the festival.

Other major festivals of Manipur

Gang-Ngai

Celebrated for five days in the month of December/January, Gang-Ngai is an important festival of the **Kabui Nagas**.

Lui-Ngai-Ni

It is a collective festival of the Nagas observed on the 15th day of February every year. This is a seed sowing festival after which tribes belonging to the Naga group begin their cultivation.

Yaoshang

Celebrated for five days commencing from the full moon day of Phalguna (February/March), Yaoshang is the premier festival of Manipur. The **Thabal Chongba** – a kind of Manipuri folk dance, where boys and girls hold hands together and sing and dance in a circle, is particularly associated with this festival. Yaoshang to Manipur is what Durga Puja is to Bengal, Diwali in north India and Bihu to Assam.

Cheiraoba: The Manipuri New Year

It is celebrated during the month of April. Villagers climb the nearest hilltops in belief that it will enable them to rise to greater heights in their worldly life.

Kang: The Ratha Yatra of Manipur

One of the greatest festivals of the Hindus of Manipur, this festival is celebrated for ten days in the month of July. **Lord Jagannath** leaves his temple in a car known as “Kang” in Manipur pulled by devotees who vie with one another for this honour.

Heikru Hitongba

Celebrated in the month of September, Heikru Hitongba **is a boat race**. Long narrow boats are used to accommodate a large number of rowers. An idol of **Lord Vishnu** is installed before the commencement of the race.

Ningol Chak-kouba: A social festival of the Manipuris

It is a remarkable social festival of the **Meiteis**. Married daughters of the family come to their parental house along with their children and enjoy a sumptuous feast. It is celebrated on the second day of the new moon in the month of Hiyangei (November) as per Manipur Calendar system.

Kut: Festival of Kuki- Chin- Mizo

It is an autumn festival of the different tribes of **Kuki-Chin-Mizo** groups of Manipur. It is a happy occasion for the villagers whose food stock is bountiful after a year of hard labour. It is observed on the 1st November every year.

Chumpha: Festival of Tangkhul Nagas

Celebrated for seven days in the month of December, the Chumpha Festival is a great festival of the **Rangkhul Nagas**. The festival is held after harvest.

10. Manipur tops the medal table as the 2nd edition of North East Olympic Games concludes in Shillong (Nov. 18, 2022)

The 2nd Edition of the North East Olympics games concluded on 16 November 2022 at the Meghalaya’s capital **Shillong**. The week-long (10-16 November) Olympic Games was dominated by the North East sports powerhouse Manipur.

The Games was organised by the government of Meghalaya and the state Olympic Association under the aegis of Northeast Olympic Association.

Arunachal Pradesh was to host the second edition of the Games in 2019 but there was a change of plan following the Covid-19 pandemic and Shillong was named the host city.

The first North East Olympics games **was held in Manipur** in 2018 and the **third edition will be held in Nagaland**.

Final Medal position

Manipur emerged as the overall team champion with a total of 240 medals which included 88 gold medals, 75 silver and 77 bronze medals.

Assam took the second spot with a total of 203 medals which included 79 gold medals, 61 silver and 63 bronze medals.

Arunachal Pradesh got the third spot from the host State with a total of 112 medals which included 39 gold, 36 silver and 37 bronze medals.

Meghalaya was at the 4th spot followed by Nagaland at the 5th, Mizoram at 6th, Tripura at 7th and Sikkim was at the last position.

In this one week long edition of the sporting event, about 3000 participants from all around the North East states competed in 18 disciplines like football, shooting, basketball and others at 12 venues spread across Shillong.