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1. Chhattisgarh CM announces unemployment allowance for youth from financial year 2023-24 (Jan. 30, 2023)

Chhattisgarh CM announces unemployment allowance for youth from financial year 2023-24

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in his address on the occasion of Republic Day, announced unemployment allowance for the youth from the financial year 2023-24.

An overview of the news

• The amount to be given as unemployment allowance to the youth has not been announced yet.

Other announcements made on the occasion:

- Rice will be provided free of cost for one year to the ration card holders of Chhattisgarh.
- A grant amount of Rs 50,000 will be provided to construction workers registered in the Chhattisgarh Building and Construction Workers Welfare Board for the construction of houses for a period of three years.
- The **formation of Chhattisgarh State Innovation Commission** has also been announced.
- Several other announcements were also made on the occasion including establishment of Aerocity near Raipur airport, housing assistance scheme for labourers and scheme to promote women entrepreneurship.

Chhattisgarh:

- Capital Raipur
- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel
- Governor Anusuiya Uikey
- Lok Sabha seats 11
- Rajva Sabha seats 5
- National Parks Indravati National Park, Kanger Valley National Park, Guru Ghasi Das National Park
- Dams Gangrel Dam (Mahanadi River), Murum Silli Dam (Silari River), Dudhwa Dam (Mahanadi River), Hasdeo Bango Dam (Hasdeo River)
- · Festivals Hareli, Navakhana, Chherchera, Bhojli

2. PM to address 1111th Avataran Mahotsav of Bhagwan Devnarayan in Rajasthan's Bhilwara on Jan 28 (Jan. 27, 2023)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the ceremony commemorating 1111th 'Avataran Mahotsav' of Bhagwan Shri Devnarayan Ji in Bhilwara, Rajasthan on 28th January. PM Modi will be the chief guest during the programme.

Bhagwan Shri Devnarayan Ji

- Bhagwan Shri Devnarayan Ji was born in the family of a popular **Mandalji Gurjar** who established the famous **Mandal Lake** near Bhilwara district in Mewar.
- Devnarayan was a **mighty warrior** who fought many battles and wars against tyrannical rulers. He was also a ruler.
- He attained many achievements. On the basis of miracles, gradually he became a **deity** and was worshipped as the presiding deity.
- Devnarayan is worshipped as an **incarnation of Vishnu** by the Gujjar community as a folk deity in **Rajasthan and South-Western Madhya Pradesh.**

3. Norovirus cases detected in Kerala (Jan. 27, 2023)

Norovirus cases detected in Kerala

The Kerala Health Department on January 24 confirmed two cases of the **gastrointestinal infection norovirus** in class 1 students in Ernakulam district.

What is Norovirus?

- This virus has been found in humans for more than 50 years and is known to be one of the primary causes of gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines).
- The virus is estimated to kill **200,000 people globally every year**, with the majority of deaths occurring in children under the age of five and adults over the age of 65.
- The virus is able to survive in low temperatures, and outbreaks are more common during winter and in colder countries, so it is sometimes called "winter vomiting disease".

Transmission

- Having direct contact with the infected person.
- Consuming contaminated food or water.
- Touching contaminated surfaces
- Infection usually occurs in closed and crowded environments.

Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Stomach Pain

Symptoms of dehydration include-

- · Decrease in urination
- Dry mouth and throat
- Feeling dizzy when standing up

Treatment

- There is no real treatment for this virus. Consuming large amounts of fluids.
- In cases of severe dehydration, hospitalisation may be required for treatment through intravenous or IV fluids.

4. Himachal Pradesh Foundation Day (Jan. 26, 2023)

January 25 is celebrated as Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day, Himachal Pradesh was granted full statehood on January 25, 1971.

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An overview of the news

Background of the State

- After India's independence, Himachal Pradesh was formed on April 15, 1948 by uniting 30 hill princely states of the region.
- It was granted the status of a Union Territory on November 1, 1956.
- After this, in the year 1966, the hilly areas of Punjab were included in Himachal Pradesh.
- On December 18, 1970, the Parliament passed the Himachal Pradesh Act, and on January 25, 1971, Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a full-fledged state and **became** the 18th state of India.

Himachal Pradesh State

- The state is bordered by Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Punjab to the west and southwest, Haryana to the south, Uttarakhand to the southeast, and China to the east.
- Capital: Shimla
- Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

State Symbol

State Animal: Snow Leopard

• State Bird: Western Tragopan

• State Flower: Pink Rhododendron

5. J&K govt to host its maiden SARAS Fair 2023 from February 4 to 14 (Jan. 24, 2023)

The Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** is going to host the **Saras Mela 2023** from **February 4 to February 14** for the first time.

An overview of the news

- The fair would be organised at **Bagh-e-Bahu**, **Jammu**.
- In the fair artisans and women self help groups from across the country will showcase their **crafts**, **handcrafts**, **handloom and foods**.
- The national level food and cultural fair will showcase unique and famous indigenous products from different states and union territories of the country.
- The event will provide a platform to the participants to **sell and promote their self-made products.**
- Another prominent feature of this national fair is that it will have cultural programs showcasing the **cultural and traditional heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- It is organised under the guidance of the **Ministry of Rural Development.**
- The fair is organised jointly by the Centre-State Government as part of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in which entrepreneurs from across the country participate.

6. Uttar Pradesh Day (Jan. 24, 2023)

Uttar Pradesh State Day is celebrated on 24 January.

An overview of the news

- On 24 January 1950 itself, United Provinces or United Provinces was renamed as Uttar Pradesh.
- In 2017, the state government announced to celebrate January 24 every year as Uttar Pradesh Day.
- It was celebrated for the first time in 2018.

General information about Uttar Pradesh

• State Reorganisation - 1st November, 1956

Naming of the state

North-West Provinces	since 1836
North-West Agra and Awadh Provinces	since 1877
United Provinces of Agra and Awadh	since 1902
United Provinces	since 1937
Uttar Pradesh	since January 24, 1950

State Symbol

- Official language Hindi (second Urdu)
- State Animal Barasingha
- State Bird Stork / Cronch
- State Flower Palash (since 2011)
- State symbol two fish inside a circle and an arrow bow

First in the state

- The first Chief Minister of the state Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant
- First Deputy Chief Minister of the state Chaudhary Narayan Singh
- The first woman Chief Minister of the state and the country Sucheta Kriplani
- The first woman governor of the state and the country Sarojini Naidu
- Current Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Current Governor - Anandiben Patel

Geographical Situation

- District 75
- Area of Uttar Pradesh -2,40,928 sq km. (about 7.33% of the area of India)
- Largest district (in area) Lakhimpur Kheri (7680 sq.km.)
- The smallest district (in area) Hapur (660 sq.km.)
- Number of states adjacent to the state-9 (8 states and 1 union territory)
- Legislative Assembly Seats 403
- Lok Sabha seats 80
- Rajya Sabha seats 31
- State Legislative Council Seats 100

Census-2011

- Total population -19,98,12,341 (16.51% of the total population of the country)
- Population density -829 persons per sq km.
- Total Literacy -67.72%
- Male literacy -77.30%,
- Female literacy -57.20%
- Most populated district (1) Prayagraj (2) Moradabad (3) Ghaziabad
- Districts with minimum population (1) Mahoba (2) Chitrakoot (3) Hamirpur

7. Jharkhand government launches water conservation scheme to benefit drought-hit farmers (Jan. 23, 2023)

Jharkhand Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh launched a water conservation scheme with an outlay of Rs 467.32 crore to benefit farmers who faced drought last year in the state.

An overview of the news

- Under the scheme, 2,133 ponds will be renovated and 2,795 percolation tanks will be built in all blocks of 24 districts of the state.
- Foundation stone for renovation work of 71 ponds and 184 percolation tanks was also laid on the occasion.

- Percolation tank is an artificially created surface water body to recharge groundwater
- storage.
- The objective of this scheme is to provide water to the drought-affected farmers of the state so that they can get enough water to irrigate their fields.

Jharkhand State

- Capital Ranchi
- Governor Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister Hemant Soren
- Legislative Assembly 82 seats
- Lok Sabha 14 seats
- Major festivals of Jharkhand Sarhul, Karam / Karma, Rohini, Sohrai

8. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 'International Craft Summit' (Jan. 23, 2023)

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** on 20 January inaugurated an 'International Craft Summit' in Jajpur.

An overview of the news

- It is a first of its kind Crafts Summit which brings together leading craftsmen, culture and art enthusiasts.
- International delegates from **15 countries** have reached Jajpur to engage with local artisans and other stakeholders.
- Four United Nations agencies and five UNESCO Creative Cities have partnered to make this ambitious and forward-looking event a reality on behalf of the State Government.
- Jaipur was the ancient capital of Odisha.
- With its existing wealth of **religious tourism, urban tourism and Buddhist tourism**, it has the potential to become a major tourism hub.
- The cultural heritage of Jajpur is reflected in its vibrant art forms.
- Odisha is a glorious land of immaculate arts and crafts. This is an example of artistic culture. The artistic skills of the craftsmen are reflected in many forms.
- It can be seen in temples, sculptures, Buddhist temples, hand-woven fabrics, Patta paintings, wood works, metal works, etc.

9. HCHF and Ladakh Tourism Department organised the annual Ethnic Mamani Festival (Jan. 23, 2023)

In Ladakh, the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and the Ladakh Tourism Department organised the annual Ethnic Mamani Festival at the historic Satyang Kung village and Chiktan Shagran on 22 January.

An overview of the news

- Steyang Kung village is about **500 years old** and is still preserved and being developed as one of the **heritage villages in Ladakh.**
- The history of Mamani Festival in Ladakh is linked to the ancient tradition of **offering food to departed family members.**
- During Mamni, people exchange food with their relatives and neighbours and worship a variety of spirits (Lha).
- These festivals have helped in reviving more than 35 cuisines of Kargil Ladakh.
- **Dr. Ghulam Mehdi**, Principal Scientist, KVK Kargil was the chief guest on the occasion and the program executive AIR **Kargil Annendra Singh** was the guest of honour and **Maj. Dr. Raja C**. was the guest of honour.

Significance of the festival

- The festival has great cultural significance as it allows communities to bond together and celebrate their **shared heritage.**
- It also facilitates communal harmony as members of both **Buddhist and Muslim communities** in Ladakh participate in the festival, which strengthens social harmony in the region.
- In 2018, the **Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation** along with **Anayat Ali Shotopa** formally took the responsibility to organise the festival at various locations in order to preserve the heritage in the region.

10. PM Modi distributed land title deeds to Banjaras, an SC group in Karnataka (Jan. 22, 2023)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi symbolically distributed Hakku Patra (land title deeds) to five families of the Banjara (Lambani) community in the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka recently.

An overview of the news

• The five families were among the 50,000-plus families to whom land title deeds were distributed during the programme.

The event was organised by the state Revenue Department at Malkhed, in the Kalaburagi • district of Karnataka.

What are hakku patras or title deeds?

- A title deed is a document of **ownership of property**, and the holder of the document is the owner of the land.
- The title deed enables the owners of the land to get bank loans with the said document.
- They will also be eligible to buy or sell the land for which the title deed has been given by the government.
- It is issued to the underprivileged section of the country, which includes Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, urban slum dwellers, disabled and other disadvantaged populations.

About Banjara/Lambani Community

- Banjara is a **nomadic caste** who in earlier times used to trade salt, bullocks and other essential commodities in different villages.
- The word '**Banjara**' is derived from the words '**Vanaj**', which means trade and 'J**ara**' which means to travel.
- They are mainly settled in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The tribe is believed to have originated in the **Marwar region of Rajasthan.**