

International

Mahama to be sworn in as Ghana's president for third time

About News:-



- ❖ John Mahama will be sworn in on Tuesday (January 7, 2025) as Ghana's president for the third time, as the country faces its worst economic crisis in a generation.
- ❖ Mr. Mahama, the opposition leader who started his political career as the communications minister, won the presidential election late last year after pledging to tackle the economic crisis, corruption, and unemployment.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Mr. Mahama, 65, was previously Ghana's president between July 2012 and January 2017. He was first sworn in as president when President John Evans Atta Mills died in July 2012. He served the rest of that term and then won an election in 2012. He will replace current President Nana Akufo-Addo.
- ❖ During a campaign that prioritized the economy, Mr. Mahama promised to "reset" the country on various fronts and largely appealed to young Ghanaians who saw the vote as a way out of the country's economic crisis.
- ❖ The December election for president and members of parliament was held against the backdrop of the country's worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation and was seen as a litmus test for democracy in a region shaken by extremist violence and coups. West Africa's regional bloc of ECOWAS said the election was generally peaceful, a continuing trend in Ghana.

About Ghana:-

- ❖ Capital:- Accra
- ❖ Currency:- Cedi
- ❖ President:- John Mahama

National

BHEL commissions hydroelectric project in Bhutan

About News:-

- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) has achieved yet another milestone in Bhutan with the successful commissioning of two units of the 6x170 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (PHEP-II).
- ❖ Executed as part of a bilateral agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan, PHEP-II is a greenfield hydro project located in the Wangdue district of Western Bhutan.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Significantly, the Francis Turbine installed in the project is designed to operate at a rated head of 241 meters - the highest for any Francis Type Hydro Turbine in Bhutan. On commissioning of all six units, the expected annual power generation will be 4,357 gigawatt-hours.



- ❖ Unit 1 and 2 of the 6x170 MW PHEP-II were synchronised on December 16 and 17, 2024, respectively. A ceremony marking Bhutan's National Day was held at the project site on December 17, 2024, which was graced by His Excellency Lyonpo Gem Tshering, Minister of Energy & Natural Resources for the Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman of PHPA-II.



- ❖ BHEL's scope in PHEP-II comprises design, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of Electro-Mechanical works for 6x170 MW Vertical Francis Turbines & matching Synchronous Generators, Control & Monitoring (SCADA) System, Generator Transformers, Shunt reactor, Busduct, Pothead yard along with associated auxiliaries.
- ❖ The equipment has been supplied by BHEL's units at Bhopal, Jhansi, Rudrapur, Bengaluru, and its Transmission Business Group, while erection and commissioning on site was carried out by the company's Power Sector-Eastern Region division, Kolkata.
- ❖ BHEL has executed major projects like 4x84 MW Chukha, 4x15 MW Kurichhu, 6x170 MW Tala and 4x180 MW Mangdechhu in Bhutan till date. With the commissioning of these two units at PHEP-II, BHEL's contribution to the total installed capacity in Bhutan now stands at nearly 89%. Further strengthening its footprint in the region, BHEL is currently executing an order for 6x200 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP, in addition to PHEP-II in Bhutan.
- ❖ Apart from the above, BHEL is executing the 4x225 MW Arun-3 HEP and 2x20 MW Rahughat HEP in Nepal. Notably, BHEL has successfully executed over 3.8 GW of Hydro Projects abroad with more than 2.8 GW Hydro Projects under execution.

About BHEL:-

- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- ❖ Founded:- 1956
- ❖ Headquarters:- New Delhi, India
- ❖ Chairman & Managing Director:- K S Murthy

State

Uttar Pradesh govt waives community contribution for Har Ghar Nal scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission

About News:-

- ❖ The state govt on Tuesday announced its decision to waive the 10% community contribution for the Har Ghar Nal scheme. The fund was contributed by villagers towards the capital cost of providing tap connections in rural households.
- ❖ A govt spokesperson said that the scheme so far required villagers to contribute 10% of the capital cost for providing tap water connections to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission's Har Ghar Nal scheme.

Key Points:-

- ❖ However, chief minister Yogi Adityanath felt that this expense should not burden the common people.
- ❖ Additional chief secretary, Namami Gange and rural water supply, Anurag Srivastava said, "Acting on the CM's instructions, the UP govt has ensured that rural residents face no financial burden for basic amenities like clean drinking water. A budget provision of Rs 2,000 crore for 2024-25 reinforces the govt's commitment to providing safe drinking water to every household."
- ❖ The total community contribution by 2.33 crore families was Rs 9,092.42 crore, of which Rs 2,000 crore was earmarked this year.
- ❖ The official also clarified that even though the community contribution has been waived, villagers will be required to pay Rs 50 to their gram panchayat as maintenance charge under the Har Ghar Nal Scheme.
- ❖ UP is not the first state where the govt will take responsibility for the community charge. States like Haryana, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal are covering the charge.
- ❖ In Rajasthan, the CM has announced that the state govt will bear the cost, while in MP, the matter is under consideration.

- ❖ Under the Har Ghar Nal scheme, the govt aims to provide clean drinking water to the rural population of UP. Until now, community contribution involved collecting 5% of the capital cost in villages with a higher SC/ST population and 10% in other villages.

About Uttar Pradesh:-

- ❖ Capital:- Lucknow
- ❖ Governor:- Anandiben Patel
- ❖ Chief minister:- Yogi Adityanath

Economic

RBI announces names of winners of 3rd edition of Global Hackathon

About News:-

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the results of the third edition of its Global Hackathon - HaRBInger 2024.
- ❖ Five winners have been announced for solving a set of problem statements.

Key Points:-

- ❖ FPL Technologies Pvt Ltd was judged the winner for coming out with a solution for real time prediction, detection and prevention of fraud in financial transactions using alternate sources of data including publicly available information.



- ❖ It came up with a solution called 'OneRadar'. It is an app which uses a visual colour-coded screen for alerting customers and capturing their feedback, a decision strategy model to process these signals and an expert platform to review feedback by humans and further enhance the model.
- ❖ The solution aims to achieve a high level of fraud prevention while reducing false positives and minimising latency.

- ❖ Xaults Technologies Pvt Ltd was judged the winner for coming up with a solution ensuring transaction anonymity in token-based (CBDC) transactions while maintaining financial system integrity.
- ❖ Epifi Technologies Pvt. Ltd and NapID Cybersec Pvt. Ltd jointly won the award for bringing in solutions to identifying mule bank accounts/payment wallets.
- ❖ H Vision India Pvt. Ltd. (Hasin Vaidya) and Rupya Darshini (Parthiban R., Jebaraj V. and Gobika S.) jointly won the award for providing solutions so that visually impaired people can accurately identify banknotes.
- ❖ Finally, VisAst (Krimisha Deore) won the award for Best 'all women team' (a team comprising of only women members), across all four problem statements.
- ❖ Their solution was a lightweight, wearable standalone device that can be attached to the body and is designed to detect currency notes and provide voice-based declarations. This AI/ML model-based device can also be trained to perform object detection tasks.
- ❖ "These (across problem statements) innovative solutions are expected to enhance the capability of the system to fight frauds, maintain security and integrity of the financial system by leveraging the use of advanced technologies," said RBI in a statement Tuesday.
- ❖ RBI said these products have the potential for wider adoption in the existing financial system, but are subject to compliance.
- ❖ Winners across each problem statement would receive Rs 40 lakh.
- ❖ A special prize of Rs 20 lakh would be awarded to the best 'all-women team' (a team comprising only women members), across all four problem statements.

About RBI:-

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India
- ❖ Established:- 1 April 1935
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Governor:- Sanjay Malhotra

Appointment

Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed new Revenue Secretary

About News:-

- ❖ The current Finance Secretary, Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey, took charge as the Secretary, Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance, in forenoon today.



- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Wednesday appointed Shri Pandey as the Secretary, D/o Revenue, Ministry of Finance. The Order also stated that Shri Pandey will continue to be designated as the Finance Secretary.
- ❖ Previously, Shri Pandey, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Odisha cadre, held the charge of Secretary of three Departments, i.e., Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM), since 24.10.2019, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) since 01.08.2024 and Department of Personnel and Training since 04.11.2024. Both the DIPAM and DPE function under the Ministry of Finance.

Past assignments

- ❖ Before serving as Secretary in the DIPAM, Shri Pandey has held many significant positions in Union Government and State Government of Odisha, in addition to serving a stint in the Regional Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).
- ❖ In the Union Govt. his previous positions include Joint Secretary, Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog), Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat and Deputy Secretary in Ministry of Commerce.

- ❖ In State Govt. of Odisha, he served as administrative head in the Departments of Health, General Administration, Commercial Taxes, Transport and Finance. He also served as Executive Director of Odisha State Finance Corporation and Managing Director of Odisha Small Industries Corporation.
- ❖ Shri Pandey holds a Masters in Economics from Panjab University, Chandigarh and an MBA from the University of Birmingham (UK).

Science & Technology

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's remarks at the start of Genome India Project

About News:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Genome India Project as a pivotal development in the biotechnology sector and an essential component of the foundation for achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). Speaking via video message on Thursday, he outlined the significance of the initiative in advancing biotechnology in India.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Prime Minister said that the project, approved five years ago, had been completed despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. He commended scientists for their work and acknowledged the contributions of over 20 research institutions, including IISc, IITs, CSIR, and DBT-BRIC. The project has culminated in the genome sequencing of 10,000 Indians, with the data now accessible at the Indian Biological Data Centre.



- ❖ PM Modi highlighted that the Genome India Project represents a key milestone for biotechnology research in India. He added that the availability of genetic data would support scientists and researchers in understanding the genetic landscape of the Indian population.
- ❖ He emphasized the significance of understanding genetic identity to address region-specific medical challenges. Referencing the issue of sickle cell anemia in tribal communities, Modi noted that genetic studies are crucial for creating targeted treatments and solutions.
- ❖ The Prime Minister further remarked on the growth of India's bio-economy, which has expanded from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$150 billion. The recent launch of the Bio E3 Policy is intended to boost India's position in the global biotechnology sector. Modi stated that the policy aims to build on this momentum, comparable to the impact of the IT revolution.

Defence

India & U.S. to jointly manufacture interoperable sonobuoys for Navy

About News:-

- ❖ In a significant development, India and the U.S. announced cooperation on co-production of U.S. sonobuoys for Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy, a high-end technology that allows tracking submarines in the deep seas and oceans.



Key Highlights of Collaboration on Sonobuoy Co-Production

- ❖ Partnership Details: The agreement is between Ultra Maritime (UM) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ❖ Sonobuoys will meet U.S. Navy standards and be co-produced in both India and the U.S., aligning with 'Make in India' principles.

- ❖ The production will be based in Visakhapatnam, with BDL committed to meeting operational demands of the Indian Navy.

About Sonobuoys

- ❖ Sonobuoys are small, expendable devices deployed from aircraft or ships to detect submarines.
- ❖ Components: They consist of a hydrophone (underwater microphone) that listens for sounds emitted by submarines, a radio transmitter that sends the acoustic data to the surface, and a buoyant float.
- ❖ Sonobuoys are used in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) to locate and track enemy submarines. They can also be used for scientific research, such as studying marine life and ocean currents.

Technical feature:

- ❖ UM and BDL will develop new sonobuoy technologies tailored to the unique acoustic environment of the Indian Ocean, enabling efficient wide-area searches.
- ❖ Co-produced sonobuoys will be interchangeable and interoperable among U.S. Navy, Indian Navy, and allied aircraft such as P-8, MH-60R, and MQ-9B Sea Guardian.

Award

Prize Distribution Function of 34th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2023-24 for Kendriya Vidyalayas



About News:-

- ❖ The Prize Distribution Function of 34th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2023-24 for Kendriya Vidyalayas will be held on Friday, the 10th of January, 2025 at GMC Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs will preside over the function and distribute the prizes to the prize-winning students and schools for their meritorious performance in the Competition. On this occasion, the students of PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, IIT, KHARAGPUR (KOLKATA REGION, EAST ZONE), the National Winner of the 34th National Youth Parliament Competition, 2023-24, will stage a repeat performance of their Youth Parliament Sitting on the occasion of the Prize Distribution Function.
- ❖ Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organising Youth Parliament Competitions for Kendriya Vidyalayas for the past 36 years. Under the scheme of Youth Parliament Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas, the 34th Competition in the series was organized during 2023-24 among 150 Kendriya Vidyalayas spread over 25 regions of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
- ❖ The Youth Parliament Scheme aims at inculcating among the younger generations the spirit of self-discipline, tolerance of diverse opinion, righteous expression of views and other virtues of a democratic way of life. Besides, the scheme also acquaints the students with the practices and procedures of Parliament, techniques of discussion and debate and develops in them self-confidence, quality of leadership and the art and skill of effective oratory.

Obituary

Indo-Pak war veteran Havaladar Baldev Singh passes away in Rajouri at 93

About News:-

- ❖ Veteran soldier Havaladar (retd) Baldev Singh, who fought four wars against Pakistan, passed away at his residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a defence spokesman said on Tuesday. He was 93.

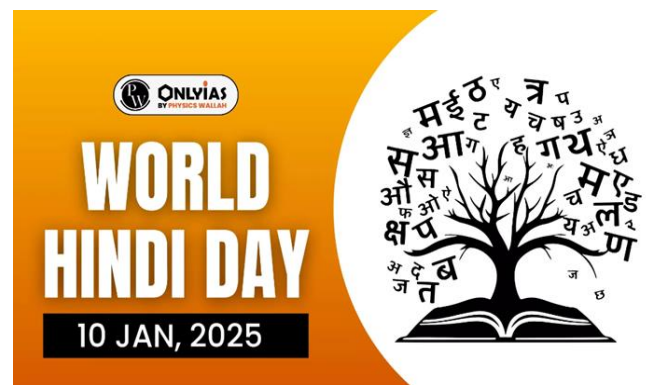


Key Points:-

- ❖ The revered war hero passed away due to natural causes in his hometown Naushera on Monday, the spokesman said, adding that his last rites will be performed with full military honours at his village later on Tuesday.
- ❖ Born on September 27, 1931, at Naunihal village, Singh was just 16 when he volunteered to join the Bal Sena Force under the leadership of Brigadier Usman, Commander of the 50 Para Brigade, during the battle of Naushera and Jhangar in 1947-48.
- ❖ His service spanned multiple wars, including the 1961, 1962, and 1965 Indo-Pak Wars.
- ❖ After retiring in October 1969, he was recalled during the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and served in the 11 JAT Battalion (25 Infantry Division) for an additional eight months before returning to civilian life.

Important Day

World Hindi Day - 10 January



About News:-

- ❖ World Hindi Day, observed annually on January 10, celebrates the global importance of the Hindi language.
- ❖ It was first commemorated in 2006 to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975 in Nagpur, India.
- ❖ This day aims to promote Hindi as a global language, foster cultural connections, and encourage its use in various spheres.

World Hindi Day History

- ❖ World Hindi Day was first celebrated on January 10, 2006, to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975 in Nagpur, India. T

- ❖ Conference brought together over 100 representatives from 30 countries to discuss the global promotion of Hindi.
- ❖ Following it, Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh declared January 10 as Vishwa Hindi Diwas to encourage non-resident Indians and foreigners to appreciate Hindi as a global language.
- ❖ Over the years, Hindi has become the third most spoken language globally, with over 600 million people using it for communication, business, and cultural exchange.

