

### Bluebird Satellite

ISRO to launch a US satellite to enable voice calls via smartphones from Space.

#### Key Points

- ❖ The **Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO)** is all set to launch a **massive American communications satellite**, enabling phone calls via direct connectivity from space.
- ❖ This will be the **first time a US company (AST SpaceMobile)** launches a massive communications satellite in an Indian rocket. Until now, India has only launched small satellites manufactured by American companies.
- ❖ The **satellite named Bluebird** is expected to be launched by a company named **AST SpaceMobile** (a Texas-based company) from Sriharikota.
- ❖ As per the **AST SpaceMobile** one can use any smartphone to make voice calls. Most other current satellite-based Internet and voice call companies need consumers to purchase specific handsets or use special terminals, such as Starlink.
- ❖ It would use the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)** to launch a single **Block 2** of the Bluebird satellite.
- ❖ **Dimensions:** The Bluebird satellite will weigh approximately **6,000 kg**. It will feature a massive 64 square-meter antenna, roughly half the size of a football field.

#### Purpose

- ❖ It **aims to close the global connectivity gap** and provide affordable 5G broadband services to billions worldwide.
- ❖ This satellite will enable voice communication on mobile phones, allowing users to make calls directly from space using their smartphones.

### Savitribai Phule

On 3rd January 2025, PM of India paid tributes to Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary.

#### About Savitribai Phule

- ❖ She was a social reformer, notable educationalist and a poet from Maharashtra.
- ❖ She was born on **January 3, 1831**, in a family of farmers in Naigaon village in **Satara district, Maharashtra**.
- ❖ She was married to Jyotirao Phule also a social reformer who taught her to read and write.
- ❖ **Education:** She started teaching girls in Maharwada in Pune with Sagunabai, a revolutionary feminist and Jyotirao's mentor. Soon, Savitribai, Jyotirao and Sagunabai started their school at Bhide Wada.
  - In support of her husband, she established India's first school for girls in Pune in **1848**.
- ❖ In 1852, the British government honoured the Phule family for their contribution towards education and named Savitribai as the best teacher.
- ❖ **Mahila Seva Mandal:** A staunch feminist, Savitribai, in 1852, started Mahila Seva Mandal to educate women about their rights, dignity and social issues.
- ❖ **Satyashodhak Samaj:** In 1873, Jyotirao founded a social reform society called Satyashodhak Samaj and Savitribai was its active member.
  - The community included Muslims, non-Brahmins, Brahmins and government officials. It aimed to free women and other less privileged people from caste and gender oppressions.



- ❖ **Books written:** She wrote two books Kavya Phule in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892 which are a compilation of her poems.
- ❖ Savitribai died on March 10, 1897, battling bubonic plague.
- ❖ To honour her contributions to women's education and social equality, Savitribai's birthday is celebrated as **Women's Education Day**.

### Commissioning of Warship

On 15 Jan 25 Indian Navy will commission three frontline combatants Nilgiri, Surat and Vaghsheer at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

#### Key Points

- ❖ All three platforms have been designed and constructed entirely at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai**, a testament to India's growing self-reliance in the critical domain of defense production.
- ❖ The successful commissioning of these advanced warships and submarines highlights the rapid progress made in warship design and construction, cementing India's position as a global leader in defense manufacturing.

<b>Nilgiri</b>	It is the lead ship of the Project 17A stealth frigate class
<b>Surat</b>	It is the fourth and final ship of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class
<b>Vaghsheer</b>	It is the sixth and final submarine of the Scorpene-class project

### Islands Development Agency

On 3rd January 2024, the Union Home Minister chaired the 7th meeting of the Islands Development Agency (IDA) in New Delhi.

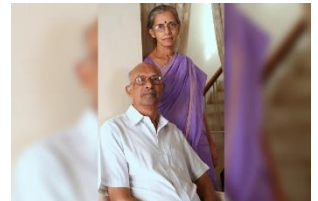
#### Key Points

- ❖ The meeting was attended by Andaman and Nicobar Lieutenant Governor Devendra Kumar Joshi, Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Patel, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and other senior officials.
- ❖ The IDA was set up in **2017**.
- ❖ It focuses on the **holistic development of Islands in the country**.

### Person In News- Obituary

#### Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal

- ❖ He was an **eminent botanist and Padmashree awardee** who passed away on 1st January, 2024.
- ❖ He was a former head of the Department of Botany at the University of Calicut.
- ❖ He was celebrated for translating the ancient Latin text **"Hortus Malabaricus"** into English and Malayalam.



### Important News- Other States

#### Haryana

- ❖ Blinkit started a **10-Minute Emergency Ambulance Service** in Gurgaon.

#### New Delhi

- ❖ Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal launched the registration for **Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana**.

- ❖ Under this the priests of temples and the 'granthis' of the Gurudwara will receive an honorarium of about Rs 18,000 per month. He further stated that this scheme would be implemented once the AAP from the government wins in the upcoming polls in the national capital.

#### Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand develops **"Mahabharat Vatika" for Plant Conservation**. An ethnobotanical garden covering one acre has been established in **Haldwani** by the **Uttarakhand forest department** to show the ecological and environmental knowledge of the Mahabharata. The garden has 37 plant species that are cited in the epic.

#### Important News- Worldwide

##### Vanuatu

- ❖ On 2nd January 2024, India announced assistance of **USD 500,000 to the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu** to help it deal with the destruction caused by a **7.4 magnitude earthquake** in December 2024.

- ❖ Vanuatu is a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, consisting of a chain of 13 principal and many smaller islands located about 800 km west of Fiji and 1,770 km east of Australia.
- ❖ **Port Vila is the capital of Vanuatu.**

#### Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Lokpal of India will celebrate its inaugural Lokpal Day on 16th January 2025.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) marked its 67th Foundation Day on January 2, 2025. It was founded in 1958.

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