

International

India announces \$500,000 for quake-hit Vanuatu

About News:-



- ❖ After a 7.4 magnitude earthquake devastated Vanuatu on December 17, 2024, India pledged \$500,000 in relief assistance. The earthquake, centered near Vanuatu's coast in the South Pacific Ocean, caused significant destruction and loss of life.

Key Points:-

- ❖ India expressed condolences and supported Vanuatu's government and people for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.
- ❖ The massive earthquake struck near Vanuatu's capital Port Vila on December 17, triggering landslides, crushing cars, and destroying buildings. As many as 14 people were killed and more than 250 others sustained injuries.
- ❖ India has a history of supporting Vanuatu during natural disasters. This aid aligns with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which includes disaster risk reduction and management as a key element, and was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2019.

About Vanuatu:-

- ❖ Capital: Port-Vila
- ❖ Currency- Vatu
- ❖ Prime Minister -Charlot Salwai

National

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

About News:-



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 on Saturday at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Grameen Bharat Mahotsav will be held from January 4 to 9 with the theme 'Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047'.
- ❖ PM Modi also interacted with the artisans at Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 which is being organised at Bharat Mandapam.
- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was also present.
- ❖ PM Modi was also felicitated by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) chairperson Shaji KV.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Mahotsav, through various discussions, workshops, and masterclasses, aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and foster innovation within rural communities.
- ❖ Its objectives include promoting economic stability and financial security among rural populations, with a special focus on North-East India, by addressing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

- ❖ A significant focus of the Mahotsav will be to empower rural women through entrepreneurship; bring together government officials, thought leaders, rural entrepreneurs, artisans, and stakeholders from diverse sectors to build a roadmap for collaborative and collective rural transformation; encourage discussions around leveraging technology and innovative practices to enhance rural livelihoods; and showcase India's rich cultural heritage through vibrant performances and exhibitions.
- ❖ On Friday, PM Modi inaugurated the 1,675 newly constructed flats for the dwellers of JJ clusters and also handed over keys to eligible beneficiaries at Swabhiman Apartments in Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

Economic

State Bank of India unveils two new schemes to boost deposit mobilization

About News:-

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) – the country's largest lender – has unveiled two new schemes to boost deposit mobilisation at a time when most banks are facing challenges in raising resources.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The first is 'Har Ghar Lakhpati,' a pre-calculated recurring deposit (RD) scheme designed to help customers accumulate Rs 1,00,000 or multiples thereof and develop a savings habit.
- ❖ The other is 'SBI Patrons,' a specialised term deposit scheme tailored for senior citizens aged 80 years and above. This product offers enhanced interest rates, recognising the long-standing relationship many senior customers have with the bank. 'SBI Patrons' is available to both existing and new term deposit customers.

- ❖ "We aim to create goal-oriented deposit products that not only enhance financial returns but also align with our customers' aspirations," CS Setty, Chairman, of State Bank of India, said while announcing these new products.
- ❖ The sluggish deposit growth in recent years prompted the banking regulator to nudge lenders to focus on resource mobilisation with innovative products.
- ❖ As on September 30, SBI's deposit growth was at single digits, 9.13 percent, while loan growth was 14.93 percent, in line with industry trends. In the last few months, deposit and loan growth has converged, with both growing at 11.5 percent, the latest RBI data showed.
- ❖ SBI has a deposit book of Rs 51.17 trillion as of September 30, with a market share of about 23 percent.

About SBI:-

- ❖ State Bank Of India
- ❖ Founded:- 1 July 1955
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Chairman:- Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

Appointment

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai Appointed as DGCA Director General



About News:-

- ❖ Senior IAS officer Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has been appointed the new director general of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ Currently posted as additional secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kidwai is an IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre 1996- batch.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved several other appointments on Friday. Ashutosh Agnihotri, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed chairman and managing director of the Food Corporation of India.
- ❖ He currently serves as an additional secretary in the Department of Home under MHA.

Other Appointment:-

- ❖ Akash Tripathi, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the MP cadre, was transferred from his role as CEO of MyGov, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to additional secretary in the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ Kamal Kishore Soan, a 1998-batch Jharkhand cadre IAS officer, was appointed additional secretary and mission director of Jal Jeevan Mission in the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- ❖ Shubha Thakur, a Central Secretariat Service officer, was reassigned from the agriculture ministry to serve as additional secretary in the Inter-State Council Secretariat under MHA.

Science & Technology

India becomes world's third-largest Metro network, achieves milestone of 1000 kms

About News:-



- ❖ Metro systems have transformed travel in India. Covering over 1,000 km across 11 states and 23 cities, millions of people rely on them for quick, easy, and affordable travel.

- ❖ With this growth, India has become home to the third-largest metro network in the world.
- ❖ Metros are not just a way to get around—they are changing how we live and move in cities.

Key Points:-

- ❖ On January 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a giant leap in enhancing India's metro network, making it more powerful and advanced.
- ❖ He laid the foundation for multiple development projects worth over Rs 12,200 crore in Delhi, including the inauguration of the 13 km stretch of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namoo Bharat corridor, which will greatly ease travel between Delhi and Meerut.
- ❖ In addition, the PM launched a 2.8 km stretch of Delhi Metro Phase-IV, benefiting West Delhi, and laid the foundation for the 26.5 km Rithala-Kundli section, further strengthening connectivity between Delhi and Haryana.
- ❖ These projects represent a major milestone in transportation, as metro systems now cover greater distances and serve over 1 crore passengers daily. With this growth, India has surpassed Japan in Metro Rail Projects in 2022.
- ❖ Currently, India ranks third globally in operational Metro network length and is on track to become the 2nd largest Metro network in the world.

Book

Dr. AK Dwivedi Presents His New Book, Homeopathy for Anemia to Madhya Pradesh CM Dr. Mohan Yadav

About News:-



- ❖ Dr. AK Dwivedi, a renowned senior homeopathic physician and a prominent figure in the medical community, recently presented his new book, Homeopathy for Anemia, to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.
- ❖ The formal handover took place during an event in Indore, where Dr. Dwivedi shared insights from the book and discussed its potential impact on both patients and medical professionals.
- ❖ Dr. Dwivedi, who holds key positions such as a member of the Executive Council at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, and the Board of Studies for Homeopathy under the Madhya Pradesh Medical Science University, as well as the Central Homeopathy Research Council under the Ministry of AYUSH, emphasized the book's focus on successfully treating aplastic anemia—a severe condition often considered more critical than cancer—through homeopathy.
- ❖ The book covers remedies, dietary advice, and rapid results of 50 millesimal potency medicines.

Obituary

Veteran nuclear scientist Rajagopala Chidambaram passes away at 88

About News:-

- ❖ Veteran Indian nuclear scientist Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram, who was the architect of 'Operation Smiling Buddha' (India's first nuclear test in Pokhran in 1974) and 'Operation Shakti' (1998 nuclear tests), passed away in Mumbai at the age of 88 on Saturday.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Born in erstwhile Madras Province in 1936, Chidambaram, who was an alumnus of Presidency College, Chennai, and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, held several prestigious roles throughout his illustrious career, including being the principal scientific adviser to Union Govt (2001-2018), director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (1990-1993), chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, and secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (1993-2000).

- ❖ He was also the chairman of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and also served as a member of IAEA's Commission of Eminent Persons, contributing to the organisation's vision for 2020 and beyond.
- ❖ In 1974, when India secretly transported the plutonium used in the nuclear blast, Chidambaram sat on the protected chest carrying the 'plutonium ball' as it was transported from Mumbai to Pokhran. A firm believer in self-reliance, Chidambaram strongly opposed reliance on imported technology.
- ❖ In recognition of his exceptional contributions, the nuclear scientist was honoured with Padma Shri in 1975 and Padma Vibhushan in 1999.
- ❖ He received honorary doctorates from several universities and was a fellow of eminent Indian and international science academies.

Important Day

National Birds Day - 5 January 2025

About Day:-

- ❖ National Birds Day, observed annually on January 5, is a day dedicated to celebrating and protecting bird species. It raises awareness about the conservation of birds and their habitats, emphasizing the ecological importance of avian species. National Birds Day 2025 will focus on highlighting the threats faced by birds due to habitat destruction, climate change, and poaching.



History of National Bird Day

- ❖ National Bird Day was established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC). It coincides with the Christmas Bird Count, a long-standing U.S. tradition that monitors bird populations. The day aims to raise awareness about the threats birds face, such as illegal trade, climate change, and habitat destruction.
- ❖ Millions of birds are captured or bred for profit under poor conditions that disregard their welfare. National Bird Day educates the public about these issues and advocates for policies that promote bird conservation. In India, birds have held a significant cultural and ecological role since ancient times, reflected in mythology, art, and traditions.

The National Bird of India

- ❖ India's national bird is the Indian Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*). It is known for its vibrant plumage and majestic appearance, the peafowl symbolizes beauty, grace, and pride in Indian culture. It was declared the national bird of India in 1963 due to its widespread presence and cultural significance.



MPSC
WALLAH

