

15 January 2025

**Rajnath's message from Jammu: PoK nothing but foreign territory for Pakistan, being used to run terror camps**

### Key Points:

- ❖ Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir, the "crown jewel" of India, is incomplete without Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday warned Pakistan against allowing the region to be used for terror activity. Rajnath, who was speaking in Jammu's Akhnoor at a function to mark Armed Forces Veterans Day, said, "While Jammu and Kashmir is the crown jewel of India, and is incomplete without Pakistan occupied Kashmir, PoK is nothing more than a foreign territory for Pakistan." His comments are in line with the Parliament resolution of February 22, 1994, which had demanded that "Pakistan must vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which they have occupied through aggression".



**Mission Mausam launched by PM Modi**

### Key Points:

- ❖ Established in 1875, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will complete 150 years of service on Wednesday (January 15). To mark the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Mission Mausam on Tuesday (January 14).
- ❖ "We have launched Mission Mausam to make India weather ready and climate smart... Meteorology offers the most important support for the disaster

management capability of any country. To minimise the impact of natural disasters, we need to maximise the efficiency of meteorology," he said at the launch event in New Delhi.



- ❖ The mission will aim to upgrade the capabilities of India's weather department in forecasting, modelling, and dissemination. Mission Mausam will have a budget of Rs 2,000 crore for the first two years of its implementation.
- ❖ It will invest heavily in improving weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting to directly benefit key sectors — from agriculture, aviation and defence to disaster management, tourism and health, according to a statement by the government. Mission Mausam aims to cover all aspects of weather and forecasting services offered in the country. A similar boost to monsoon prediction took place in 2012, with the launch of Mission Monsoon. It had targeted the improvement of India's long-range forecasts.
- ❖ Currently, IMD forecasting of an extreme event such as heatwaves up to 24 hours in advance is about 97.99 per cent accurate. The accuracy for heavy rainfall forecasts, however, stands at only about 80 per cent.

### What else will Mission Mausam do?

- ❖ The mission will also 'manage' certain weather events, and on demand, enhance or suppress rainfall, hail, fog and, later, lightning strikes. For effective weather

modification, one of the most important areas is cloud physics, in which India will have to strengthen research. Towards this end, India is establishing a first-of-its-kind cloud chamber at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

### Iran's plan to move capital south faces major challenges

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Due to overpopulation, water scarcity and electricity shortages, Iran is considering a plan to relocate its capital city Tehran to the southern coastal region of Makran, a government spokeswoman has recently said.
- ❖ "The new capital will certainly be in the south, specifically in the Makran region," Fatemeh Mohajerani stated, as mentioned by Tehran Times. The Makran region, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province, offers strategic advantages due to its proximity to the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ This area is an untapped treasure for Iran, with the potential to transform into a significant commercial and maritime hub, enhancing Iran's trade capabilities and reducing the economic burden on Tehran.
- ❖ "Alongside sea-oriented development, the development of Makran is a priority for the current government," announced Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref.



#### Major Challenges In Tehran

- ❖ Tehran's population could grow by 20 million in the next 30 years, potentially making city management nearly impossible, according to a report from the Iranian presidency. Air pollution remains one of Tehran's biggest challenges, with

experts warning it has reached critical levels.

- ❖ The Health Ministry reported in 2022 that air pollution caused 20,800 deaths nationwide annually, with 6,400 in Tehran alone. Tehran is also located in a high-risk earthquake zone, surrounded by active fault lines.
- ❖ Experts warn that a major quake could threaten millions of lives. About 60% of the city's buildings do not comply with earthquake safety standards, according to Tehran municipality's statement in 2021.



- ❖ Moreover, scientists from Iran's Construction and Housing Research Center found that Tehran sinks by an average of 25 cm (10 inches) each year. The Center's 2018 study, based on satellite images from 2003 to 2017, showed the city center and northwest rural areas are affected.
- ❖ And Tehran faces significant water shortages due to climate change and mismanagement. Experts said the city's reservoirs are nearly empty, with Tehran consuming 25% of the country's drinking water.

### President Zoran Milanovic of Croatia reelected for a five year term

#### Key Points:

- ❖ President Zoran Milanovic has been reelected for a five-year term as the President of the European country of Croatia. According to the State Electoral Commission, President Zoran Milanovic, backed by the opposition Social

Democratic Party won over 74 % of the run-off vote. Zoran Milanovic was elected as the President of Croatia for the first time in 2020.

- ❖ He is a critic of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Croatia is a member of both the European Union and NATO. President Zoran Milanovic is seen as pro-Russian by his opponent which he denies.
- ❖ He has condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine but has also criticised the military support provided by the Western countries to Ukraine.



#### About Croatia

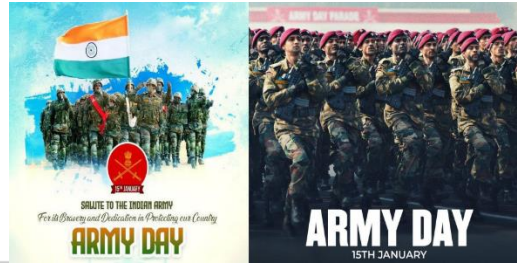
- ❖ Croatia is a European country located in the Balkan peninsula along the Adriatic Sea. After the Second World War, Croatia became a part of Yugoslavia.
- ❖ It gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 after a bloody civil war between Croats and Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.
- ❖ It joined the European Union in 2013 and became the 20th European Union member country to join the euro on 1 January 2023.
- ❖ Capital: Zagreb
- ❖ Currency: Euro
- ❖ President : Zoran Milanovic
- ❖ Prime Minister : Andrej Plenković

**Pune to host Army Day parade for first time on Jan 15, 2025**

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Pune, renowned for its rich military heritage, is set to host the prestigious Army Day Parade for the first time on 15 January

2025. The Army Day Parade commemorates Field Marshal K M Cariappa's appointment as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, symbolizing India's post-independence military leadership. Traditionally held in Delhi, the parade began rotating to different cities in 2023, starting with Bengaluru, followed by Lucknow in 2024. Pune's selection for the 2025 parade highlights the city's historic ties to the Armed Forces and its role as the headquarters of the Indian Army's Southern Command.



#### PARTH Yojana (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar)

##### Key Points:

- ❖ The PARTH Yojana (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar) is an innovative scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh with the objective of providing pre-recruitment training to the state's youth for entry into the Indian Army, Police, and ParaMilitary forces. Announced by CM Mohan Yadav during the State Level Youth Festival, the scheme emphasizes both physical and mental preparation while instilling patriotism and discipline among participants.
- ❖ To prepare youth for recruitment into Indian Army, Police, Para-Military forces, and related services.
- ❖ To foster patriotism and physical fitness in the state's youth.
- ❖ To enhance mental agility and personality development through targeted training.



### Kappad, Chal beaches get global Blue Flag certification

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Kerala's famed Kappad beach in Kozhikode and Chal beach in Kannur have been bestowed with the coveted Blue Flag certification by Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) for meeting stringent environmental and safety standards, said a statement from the Tourism department here on Thursday.
- ❖ The program was started in France in 1985 and was expanded to other European countries in 1987.
- ❖ In countries outside Europe, the program was started in 2001. The Blue Flag is an international environmental certification awarded to beaches, marinas, and yacht docks for their environmental, hygiene, safety, and sustainable management standards.
- ❖ The certification is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), an international organization based in Denmark.

- ❖ The purpose of the Blue Flag is to promote environmental protection and awareness, and provide an international guideline for ensuring high standards on beaches. Beaches and marinas must meet a total of 33 standards to receive the Blue Flag.

### BCCI Set New Guideline For Indian Cricketers

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The BCCI is considering a slew of disciplinary measures in the aftermath of India's disastrous tour of Australia, including limiting the presence of spouses on tours and barring managerial staff of coaches and players from the team bus.
- ❖ The steps which could be taken moving forward will limit the presence of wives and other family members on assignments to a maximum of two weeks if the tour is 45 days or more.
- ❖ If the duration is less than that, the presence of wives could be limited to a week. BCCI Set New Guidelines For Indian Cricketers In addition, all players might have to use the team bus and not any other vehicle when on assignments.
- ❖ Majority of the players follow this norm but at times, some of them and the support staff use other modes of transportation as well.

