

**21 January 2025**

## 40 huts, 6 tents gutted in fire at Maha Kumbh, no report of casualty

### Key Points:

- ❖ A massive fire broke out at Maha Kumbh Mela on Sunday evening leaving at least 40 thatched huts and six tents gutted.
- ❖ There was no report of any major casualty. "The fire has been extinguished, and there is no information about any casualty.
- ❖ The situation is under control," Prayagraj District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar said. According to a statement issued by the government, the fire broke out around 4:10 pm in the kitchen of the Geeta Press camp near Karpatriji's camp in Sector 19, situated between the old and new railway bridges in the Mahakumbh Mela area.



## Lokpal of India Commemorates First Foundation Day

### Key Points:

- ❖ On January 16, 2025, the Lokpal of India celebrated its inaugural Foundation Day at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, marking 11 years since its establishment on January 16, 2014, under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- ❖ The event was graced by Chief Justice of India, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who served as the Chief Guest. A Lokpal (Sanskrit: लोकपाल lokapāla, or "People's Friend") is an anti-corruption authority or body of ombudsman who represents the public interest in the Republic of India. The current Chairperson of Lokpal is Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar.



## Justice Arun Mishra: New Ombudsman of BCCI

- ❖ Justice Arun Mishra, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ❖ The announcement was made marking another significant milestone in his illustrious career. Justice Mishra's extensive legal expertise and leadership experience make him well-suited for the dual responsibilities of ensuring ethical practices and addressing disputes within the BCCI.



## Legendary Director David Lynch Dies at 78

### Key Points:

- ❖ Legendary American filmmaker David Lynch has died at the age of 78, it has been confirmed. The beloved director behind some of the most boundary-breaking works of cinema – from Blue Velvet and Mulholland Drive to Inland Empire – had previously announced a diagnosis of emphysema that left him unable to leave the house.



### India's FY25 Growth Forecast Cut to 6.5% by IMF

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday lowered India's growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current fiscal year (2024-25 or FY25) as against 7 per cent estimated in October. Meanwhile, it has maintained the growth projection for the next two fiscal years (2025-26 or FY26 and 2026-27 or FY27) at 6.5 per cent.



### Kho Kho World Cup: Indian women's team crowned champion

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Indian kho kho women's team became the first world champion on Sunday as they defeated Nepal in the final of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025 in New Delhi. The Priyanka Ingle-led Indian women's team defeated Nepal 78-40 in the final match at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium to become the world champion.



### India men also clinch first-ever Kho Kho World Cup title

- ❖ The Indian men's team followed in the footsteps of the women's team by winning the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, triumphing over Nepal on Sunday, January 19th. In a thrilling contest featuring both men's and women's matches, the Indian teams emerged victorious, securing both championships. The Men in Blue started strong, racing to a 26-0 lead in the first turn. Their solid defense kept Nepal to just 18 points in their attempts, leaving the score at 26-18 after the first two rounds.



### Donald Trump Will be Sworn in As USA President Today

#### Key Points:

- ❖ At noon on January 20 – 10.30 pm in India – Donald J. Trump will be sworn in as President of the United States for the second time.
- ❖ The ceremony will be held inside the United States Capitol Rotunda, the circular central space below the dome of the Capitol, which was overrun four years ago by rioters seeking to overturn Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election.
- ❖ The inauguration of the 47th President will mark a remarkable moment in American history, and one of the most extraordinary comebacks in modern politics anywhere. Trump is also only the second President in the 230-plus years of American democracy to have come to power, lost the re-election, and then returned to the White House.

- ❖ The other leader to have served nonconsecutive presidential terms was Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th President in the 1880s and 1890s.
- ❖ Presidential inauguration ceremonies have historically followed a set of rules that have evolved through tradition.
- ❖ Following an amendment to the US Constitution in 1933, the ceremony has been held every four years on January 20 – or January 21 if the 20th is a Sunday.
- ❖ The oath of office is administered to the President and Vice President at noon, with a series of official engagements scheduled before and after.
- ❖ That the inauguration takes place more than two months after Election Day allows for the peculiar, long drawn-out process of officially declaring the election result followed in the US.
- ❖ It also gives the outgoing administration time to wind down, and the incoming one to put in place personnel and agenda to ensure a seamless transition.
- ❖ Foreign dignitaries including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Vice President Han Zheng will attend.
- ❖ Invitations have been extended to former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, the leader of Britain's right-wing Reform UK party Nigel Farage, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.
- ❖ At the beginning of the day, Trump will attend the traditional service at St John's Episcopal Church, located across Lafayette Park from the White House. Thereafter, President Biden and the First Lady will host the incoming President and First Lady for tea.
- ❖ At the Capitol, there will be some musical performances and religious ceremonies. After the President and Vice President J D Vance are sworn in, Trump will give his Inaugural Address.

- ❖ There will be a formal farewell for President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, followed by the Signing Ceremony at the President's Room off the Senate chamber, where Trump will gather with aides and Members of Congress to sign nominations and maybe some memorandums, proclamations, or executive orders.
- ❖ The President and Vice President will attend the Inaugural Luncheon organised by the JCCIC. The most important part of the inauguration ceremony is the President's oath-taking; it is the only event of the day that is mentioned in the US Constitution. All other events have evolved through tradition.
- ❖ The text of the oath has remained the same since 1884: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."
- ❖ Trump and Vance will place their hands on the Bible, a ritual that has become an integral part of the oath.

### Entrepreneurship Development Conclave in Pune, Maharashtra

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), inaugurated the 'Entrepreneurship Development Conclave' at G.D. Madgulkar Natyagruha in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the MoFAHD with an aim to bring together key policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders from the livestock sector to boost innovation and accelerate growth.

- ❖ The theme of the event was “Empowering Entrepreneurs: Transforming Livestock Economies”.

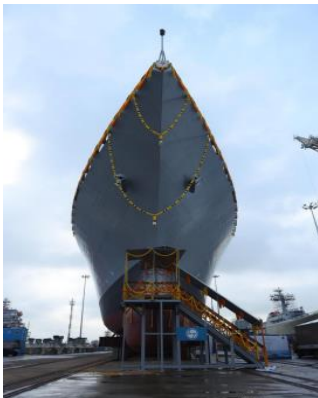


- ❖ During the event, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched a total of 40 projects. 20 projects each under the National Livestock Mission (NLM) and the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) with an outlay of Rs 545.04 crores. NLM – Entrepreneurship Development Programme(NLMEDP) Dashboard was launched to provide an organized summary of project information to the public.

### **L&T Launches Second Multi-Purpose Vessel ‘INS Utkarsh’ for INDIA**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ In January, 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Larsen & Toubro Limited(L&T) has launched the Indian Navy (IN)’s second Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), named ‘Indian Naval Ship (INS) Utkarsh’, from its shipyard in Kattupalli, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).



### **Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan App to Promote Battlefield Tourism**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence(MoD) launched “Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan” mobile application (app) and website to enable civilians to visit and explore significant battlefields along India’s borders.
- ❖ The app was launched on 15 January 2025, coinciding with Army Day. This app was developed by the MoD, Ministry of Tourism(MoT), and the Indian Army(IA).
- ❖ The app offers a comprehensive guide to tourists, which includes historical insights, battle accounts, stories of bravery, travel information, and applications for permission to enter restricted places.
- ❖ It includes detailed information of 77 battlefield sites and provides visitors an in-depth overview of some of the major military events.
- ❖ As part of their tour schedule, tourists can visit important locations like Siachen, the world’s highest battlefield, and Galwan, the site of the 2020 conflict between Indian and Chinese forces.
- ❖ Users can explore sites like the Dras War Memorial (Kargil War, 1999) in Ladakh, Walong War Memorial (Battle of Walong, 1962) in Arunachal Pradesh(AR), Tawang War Memorial in AR, Longewala War Memorial in Rajasthan, Operation Meghdoot War Memorial in Ladakh, Kibithoo and Bum-La in Arunachal Pradesh (AP), Rezang-La, and Pangong Tso in Ladakh and Cho-La conflict site in Sikkim, using the app’s virtual tours and interactive multimedia features.





**Nawaf Abdallah Salim Salam appointed as 53rd PM of Lebanon****Key Points:**

- ❖ In January 2025, Nawaf Abdallah Salim Salam was appointed as the 53rd Prime Minister (PM) of Lebanon. He was selected by the parliament by securing 78 votes out of 128 Members of the Parliament (MPs) and will replace incumbent PM Najib Azmi Mikati. Currently, he is serving as the President at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague, Netherlands.

**About Lebanon:**

- ❖ President– Joseph Khalil Aoun
- ❖ Capital– Beirut
- ❖ Currency– Lebanese Pound (LBP)

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