

16TH January 2024

Science and Technology

Nag Mk 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile



India successfully conducted field evaluation trials of the indigenously developed Nag Mk 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) at Pokhran's Field Firing Range in Rajasthan on 13 January

Key point

- ❖ Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile is part of India's Integrated Missile Development Program, designed to bolster the Indian Army's anti-tank warfare capabilities.
- ❖ The Nag Mk 2 is equipped with advanced infrared and fire-and-forget technology, making it a highly accurate and adaptable weapon system.
- ❖ This development marks a significant step towards enhancing India's defense capabilities in modern warfare.

Sports

India Open Super 750 badminton tournament



The India Open Super 750 badminton tournament has commenced at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, featuring over 200 elite players, including 36 from India.

Key point

- ❖ In the women's singles Round of 32, PV Sindhu will face Taiwan's Sung Shuo-Yun.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are determined to reclaim their 2022 title.

- ❖ Reigning champion Lakshya Sen is eager to perform in front of home fans. The event showcases top global talent, including Olympic champions, promising thrilling matches and a celebration of world-class badminton.

Conference

25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions



The 25th National Conference of the Chairpersons of PSCs held in Bengaluru on 11 January 2025

Key point

- ❖ The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has been designated as the coordinator for all legal issues concerning Public Service Commissions (PSCs) in India.
- ❖ TGPSC will also provide subject experts for various topics to assist PSCs across the country.
- ❖ The decision was made during the 25th National Conference of the Chairpersons of PSCs.
- ❖ **About SPSCs**
 - SPSCs are established under Articles 315-323 of the Indian Constitution (Part-XIV).
 - These articles define the structure, powers, and functions of Public Service Commissions at the Union and State levels.
 - The Governor appoints the members of the SPSC under Article 316.
 - Individuals who have previously served as members of an SPSC cannot be reappointed to the same position
 - Members serve for a term of 6 years or until the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

Person in News

Anju Bobby George



Anju Bobby George, the iconic long jumper and 2003 World Championships bronze medalist, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Athletes Commission.

Key point

- ❖ The newly formed commission includes nine prominent athletes, six of whom are women, highlighting a move towards gender equality within the AFI.
- ❖ Among the male members, Neeraj Chopra, a two-time Olympic medalist, stands out as a key figure.
- ❖ The commission's composition includes other distinguished athletes such as runner Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, discus thrower Krishna Poonia, and steeplechaser Sudha Singh.
- ❖ Anju Bobby George, also a Senior Vice-President of the AFI, is entrusted with leading the commission in promoting greater athlete representation, advocating for their rights, and ensuring their voices are heard.

Miscellaneous

National Turmeric Board



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi on 14 January.

Key point

- ❖ Palle Ganga Reddy was appointed as the first Chairperson of the Board
- ❖ Headquartered National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad.

- ❖ The Board will focus on key areas such as research and development, value addition to turmeric products, and promoting awareness of the spice's medicinal and essential properties. It will also work on improving turmeric yield, enhancing logistics and supply chains, and exploring new international markets for turmeric.
- ❖ India is responsible for over 70% of the world's turmeric production, with 30 varieties of turmeric being grown in the country.
- ❖ Turmeric, often referred to as the "Golden Spice," holds immense economic potential for Indian farmers, particularly those in 20 states including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya.
- ❖ In 2023-24, turmeric cultivation covered an area of 3.05 lakh hectares in India, with a yield of 10.74 lakh tonnes.

Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform



Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal unveiled the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform, an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors on 10 January at the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi.

Key point

- ❖ It is an initiative designed to enhance India's cleantech value chains in the solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage sectors.
- ❖ It will provide an opportunity for the Indian firms to collaborate, to co-innovate and will help provide a platform for financing, to share ideas, technologies and resources.

- ❖ This will help India become an attractive business case and a global leader in the sustainability and cleantech sector.

Short News

- ❖ The 10th Ajanta Verul International Film Festival starts on 15 January to celebrate global cinema and offers a unique platform for film enthusiasts in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assigned Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao to oversee the Monetary Policy and Economic Research Departments following the end of Deputy Governor Michael Patra's term on January 15, 2025.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has awarded the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month titles for December 2024 to Jasprit Bumrah of India and Annabel Sutherland of Australia, recognizing their exceptional performances in international cricket.
- ❖ The West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA) hosted its annual awards ceremony on January 13, 2025, at Priya Cinema, Kolkata, celebrating the excellence of Bengali cinema.
- ❖ Acclaimed filmmaker Aparna Sen is honored with the prestigious 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award' in recognition of her remarkable contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena has authorized the appointment of IAS officer Azimul Haque as the new CEO of the Delhi Waqf Board.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned three frontline naval combatants INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer – at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 16 January.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who among the following was appointed as the first Chairperson of the National Turmeric Board?

- A. Shri Piyush Goyal
- B. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar
- C. Shri Harsh Vardhan
- D. Shri Palle Ganga Reddy

Answer -D

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned three frontline naval combatants INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer – at Which of the following locations?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Visakhapatnam
- D. Chennai

Answer -A

