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27 January 2024

National & International News

75th Republic Day



Context:

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu to lead the **75th Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on January 26, 2024.**
- French President **Emmanuel Macron** to be the Chief Guest at the parade.

Key Points:

- **Twin themes: 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki Matruka'.**

Women Empowerment in Parade:

- Over 100 women artists herald the parade with Indian musical instruments.
- Maiden participation of an all-women Tri-Service contingent.
- Women pilots showcased Nari Shakti during the Fly-past.
- Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) contingents consisted of only women personnel.

Padma Awards:

- These awards are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day
- The 2024 list comprises **5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 110 Padma Shri Awards.**

PADMA VIBHUSHAN (5)

- Ms. Vyjayanthimala Bali - TN (Art)
- Ms. Padma Subramaniam - TN (Art)
- Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi - AP (Art)
- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu - AP (Public Affairs)
- Shri Bindeshwar Pathak (P) - Bihar (Social Work)

Gallantry Awards:

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 80 Armed Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous, on the eve of 75th Republic Day.
- They include **Param Vir Chakra** winners Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd) & Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar (Retd), and **Ashok Chakra** winners Major General CA Pithawalla (Retd), Colonel D Sreeram Kumar & Lt Col Jas Ram Singh (Retd).



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	<p>Do you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Param Vir Chakra is awarded for the most conspicuous act of bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of the enemy. In contrast, the Ashok Chakra is awarded for similar acts of valour and self-sacrifice but, other than, in the face of the enemy.
<p>India-France defence ties</p>	<p>Context: India-France Defence Industrial Roadmap and Cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• India and France announce a "defence industrial road map" for collaboration in defence production.• Emphasis on future cooperation in "co-design and co-development" of military hardware. <p>Key Agreements and Talks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron sealed several agreements during talks in Jaipur.• The agreements aim to bring parity with the India-U.S. defence production plan finalized last year. <p>Defence-Space Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new agreement for a defence-space partnership was signed, focusing on collaboration in "space situational awareness."• Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on coordinating satellite launches to enhance space cooperation. <p>Diverse Collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional agreements signed on energy, digital health, agriculture, and education partnerships.• No significant progress was announced on big-ticket government-to-government deals for fighter jets, engines, and submarines.• Airbus-TATA Joint Venture:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Despite no progress on major defence deals, a joint venture for local manufacture of civilian helicopters was agreed upon between Airbus and TATA.
<p>Rare golden tiger snapped in Kaziranga</p>	<p>Context: On National Tourism Day, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared a captivating photograph of a golden tiger, taken by wildlife photographer Gaurav Ramnarayanan.</p>



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Key Points:

Golden Tiger Population in Kaziranga

- Gaurav Ramnarayanan suggests that there may be more than one tiger with a golden coat in Kaziranga, but the exact count is unknown. A previously shared golden tiger photograph, dated 2019, features a different tiger.
- Professor Uma Ramakrishnan and her team from the **National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru**, are conducting a study on the golden phenotype of tigers in Kaziranga using scat samples.
- According to Professor Ramakrishnan, the golden coloration in the tiger is due to a genetic variant or mutation.
- The tiger lacks the typical black color, and even the orange hue appears faded, revealing a unique and captivating aspect of the tiger's genetics.

Union govt. makes it clear that the Aadhaar card has no proof of citizenship, or birth date



Context:

- Aadhaar cards and PDF versions emphasize they are "**proof of identity, not of citizenship or date of birth.**"
- The inclusion of explicit disclaimers signals caution to government departments and organizations against using Aadhaar for citizenship or date of birth verification.

Historical Context:

- The invalidity of Aadhaar for determining date of birth and citizenship has been established since 2018.
- A 2018 memorandum clarified that Aadhaar is not proof of date of birth per se, as it relies on a different document provided by applicants.
- A Bombay High Court judgment in the previous year reinforced this stance, cited in a December 2023 circular by UIDAI.

Key Points:

Aadhaar and Citizenship:

- Aadhaar has never served as **proof of citizenship**, as foreign nationals residing in India for **180 days** are also eligible to obtain it.
- Government departments, despite this, have accepted Aadhaar for purposes typically reserved for citizens or adults.

EPFO's Decision:

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has **stopped accepting Aadhaar as proof of date of birth.**



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPFO circular issued on January 16 removes Aadhaar from the list of acceptable documents for proving date of birth. <p>Recent Warning Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The warning initially only mentioned Aadhaar not being a proof of citizenship last year but now clarifies that it is not a proof of date of birth either.• The warning is now visibly imprinted on all Aadhaar cards and digital copies issued to Indian residents.
<p>Airbus, Tata to set up India's first private copter assembly line</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airbus Helicopters and Tata Group collaborate to establish a Final Assembly Line (FAL) for civil helicopters in India.• This marks India's first private-sector helicopter assembly facility, with a focus on Airbus' popular H125 single-engine civil helicopter. <p>Key Points:</p> <p>Key Details of the Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tata Advanced Systems Limited, a Tata Group subsidiary, will join forces with Airbus Helicopters to set up the assembly facility.• The facility's primary purpose is to manufacture the H125 helicopter for the Indian market and export to neighboring countries.• Airbus and Tata are concurrently working on a FAL in Vadodara for the C-295 military transport aircraft, part of a larger contract with the Indian Air Force.• Airbus specifies that the FAL in India will handle critical tasks such as the integration of major components, avionics, and mission systems.

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