

Current Affairs



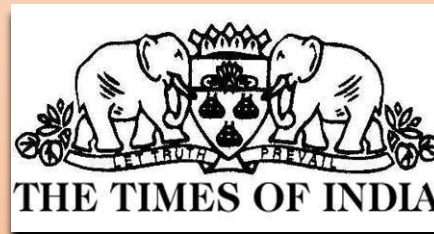
of The Day

18/01/2022



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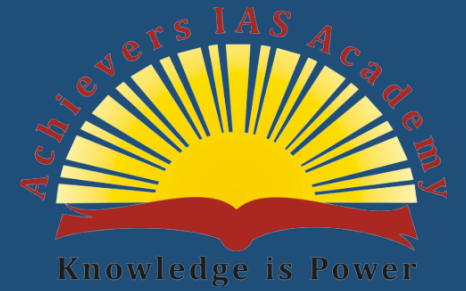
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• With 27,156 fresh new cases and 14 deaths, Karnataka still swims in deep water and the number of cases is on a steep incline however the positivity rate has gone down a little in the last 24 hours to 12.45% the health department although has predicted that the number will soon rise again during the last week of January. The total number of omicron variant cases is now at 766 cases, the Chief Minister of Karnataka Bisavaraj Bommai has instructed graded testing as per the ICMR norms and also announced a video conference will soon be held with district commissioners of areas that are lagging behind the vaccination drive. The Karnataka Revenue Minister R Ashoka stated that the state has decided to not enforce any lockdown despite the rising number of cases, the Minister also added that experts have compared trends in Delhi and Maharashtra where the number of cases has been on a decline in recent days and according to the calculations of the officials Karnataka may see a peak in the coming days or in the last week of January.

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• **INS Kochi** the Navy's indigenously built and designed guided-missile destroyer has undertaken the **PASSEX** exercise with Russian federation Navy's destroyer **Admiral Tributs** in the Arabian Sea. The **PASSEX** exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies, the exercise included tactical maneuvers, cross-deck helicopter operations, and other various activities. **PASSEX** exercise is done to ensure that two navies participating in the exercise are able to smoothly coordinate and communicate in times of disaster or war, the Russian federation ship **Admiral Tributs** was accompanied by two ships including missile cruiser **Varyag** and Russian tanker **Boris Butoma** for a two-day goodwill visit to the country.

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- The country undertakes maritime partnership exercises with Japan, the exercise between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force was held in the Bay of Bengal, INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatt represented India while JMSDF was represented by Uraga and Hirado. The aim of this exercise is to strengthen the bilateral relations and promote defense cooperation in times of disaster or war, the enhanced mutual understanding and interoperability improves the skills of both the countries and enables both navies to strengthen their strategic partnership, replenishment approaches, and tactical manoeuvres.

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• **Country's first coal to methanol plant launched at BHEL in Hyderabad, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated the country's first coal to methanol pilot plant in the Hyderabad unit of BHEL. The plant is a first-of-its-kind technology in the country that converts high-ash contain in Indian coal to methanol through a gasification process, the Union Minister also inaugurated an exhibition on products that are developed under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' organized at BHEL Hyderabad in Telangana. The plant is said to be designed, developed, and installed by BHEL and has a capacity of 0.25 tonnes per day, the methanol that is produced in the plant is of 99% purity and from high-ash contain in Indian coal.**

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- **Over \$900 million was loaned to Sri Lanka to tackle the Forex Crises, the RBI of the country funded Sri Lanka with this large sum of money to help overcome the forex crisis the country is experiencing and the shortage of almost all essential commodities due to shortage of dollars to pay for the imports. The funding will be utilized to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, Sri Lanka is struggling to repay a \$500 million international sovereign bond, power cuts are also imposed in the country at peak hours as the state power entity is unable to obtain fuel to run turbines, oil supplies have also been stopped by the state entity as the electricity board has large unpaid bills.**

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Who is the chairman of BHEL?

Ans. A. Nalin Singhal (ANS)

B. Uday Kotak

C. Ajay Singh

D. Rajiv Bajaj

Q2. Why did India take part in PASSEX with Russia?

Ans. INS Kochi the Navy's indigenously built and designed guided-missile destroyer has undertaken the PASSEX exercise with Russian federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs in the Arabian Sea. The PASSEX exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies, the exercise included tactical maneuvers, cross-deck helicopter operations, and other various activities. PASSEX exercise is done to ensure that two navies participating in the exercise are able to smoothly coordinate and communicate in times of disaster or war, the Russian federation ship Admiral Tributs was accompanied by two ships including missile cruiser Varyag and Russian tanker Boris Butoma for a two-day goodwill visit to the country.

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Q3. Where is the country's first coal to methane plant established?

Ans. Country's first coal to methanol plant launched at BHEL in Hyderabad, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated the country's first coal to methanol pilot plant in the Hyderabad unit of BHEL. The plant is a first-of-its-kind technology in the country that converts high-ash contain in Indian coal to methanol through a gasification process, the Union Minister also inaugurated an exhibition on products that are developed under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' organized at BHEL Hyderabad in Telangana. The plant is said to be designed, developed, and installed by BHEL and has a capacity of 0.25 tonnes per day, the methanol that is produced in the plant is of 99% purity and from high-ash contain in Indian coal.



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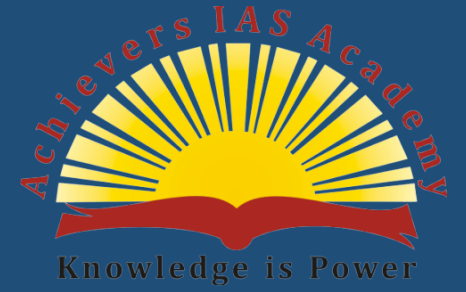
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