DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 8-01-2022

NATIONAL

3rd National Water Awards

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** announced **3rd National Water Awards-2020**.
- To encourage individuals and organizations doing exemplary work in the field of water resources management, the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is giving **57 awards** to States, Organizations.
- The Awards are given in **11 different categories** such as- Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Media (Print & Electronic), Best School, Best Institution/RWA/Religious organization for Campus usage, Best Industry, Best NGO, Best Water User Association, and Best Industry for CSR Activity.
- In the Best State category, **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by **Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.**

List of Winners in various categories-

S.no	Category(With Zone)	Winners
1	Best State	Uttar Pradesh
2	Best District-North Zone	Muzaffarnagar-Uttar Pradesh
3	Best District-South Zone	Thiruvanathapuram-Kerala
4	Best District-West Zone	Indore-MP
5	Best District-East Zone	East Champaran-Bihar
6	Best District-North-East Zone	Goalpara-Assam
7	Best Village Panchayat-North Zone	Dashpad Almod-Uttarakhand
8	Best Village Panchayat-South Zone	Yelerampura-Karnataka
9	Best Village Panchayat-West Zone	Takhatgadh-Gujarat
10	Best Village Panchayat-East Zone	Telari Panchayat-Bihar
11	Best Village Panchayat-North-East Zone	Sialsir-Mizoram
12	Best Urban Local Body	Vapi Urban Local Body
13	Best Media	Mission Paani(Network 18)
14	Best School	Govt Girls Hr sec school, Kaveripattinam(Tamil Nadu)
15	Best Industry	Welspun India Textile ltd-Gujarat
16	Best Water Use Association	Panchagachiya MDTW(`West Bengal)

17	Best Industry for CSR activities	ITC limited Kolkatta(West Bengal)
18	Best NGO	Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell(Ahmedabad)
19	Best Institutions/RWA?/Relgious organization	Mato Vaishnavi Shrine(J&K)

Foundation stone of 10 National Highways laid

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari laid Foundation Stone of **10 National Highway Projects** for **336 kms** worth **Rs 14,169** Crore in **Mathura** in Uttar Pradesh virtually.
- The development of Mathura-Hathras-Budaun-Barielly Highway connectivity and traffic issues will be resolved at pilgrimage and tourist places.
- With the construction of a bypass connecting Agra Inner Ring Road and Yamuna Expressway, the city of Agra will get rid of traffic jams.
- The construction of **Agra - Jalesar - Etah road** will facilitate the traders of brass industry.
- Kosi Parikrama Marg of Braj will be declared as a new National Highway and will be included in **Bharatmala Project Phase-II.**
- This route will be made like the 84 Kosi Parikrama Marg of Ayodhya and will be connected to all the major pilgrimage sites in the vicinity. Apart from Mathura and will pass through the border areas of Rajasthan, Haryana.

Namsoong and Sonam Losoong festival celebrated

- **Bhutia's and Lepcha** people of **India, Bhutan and Nepal** has celebrated the **Namsoong** and **Lossong festival** which begins at end of annual harvest season.
- The Festival is celebrated on the **18th** day of ten month **Tibetian Lunar Calendar**, which falls on **December/January**.
- The God of the demon king **Laso Mung Punu** is set on fire at midnight, which marks his defeat at the hands of **Azor Bongthing**, who protected the Lepchas from **Mung Punu's** atrocities and the rituals begins when the chief priest offers the sacred alcohol **'Chi-Fut'** to the gods.
- Losoong celebrations include tribal dances and competitions depicting the symbolic victory of good spirits and gods over evil.
- The Bhutia people perform **black hat dance** and **Chaam dances** and conduct Archery contests also.
- Local liquor **Chhaang** which is brewed from rice or barley along with Sikkimese noodle **Guthuk** will be consumed during the celebrations.

Sikkim Capital-**Gangtok**

Sikkim Chief Minister-**Prem Singh Tameng**

Single Largest Ethinic groups of Sikkim- **Rai or Khambu** followed by **Chettris**

Sea Dragon-22 exercise begins

- India along with five **Indo Pacific** nations have started participating in the U.S led largest multi-lateral anti submarine warfare exercise named- **"Sea Dragon-22"** conducted at Gaum in the Western Pacific.
- The participating nations include- **Australia, Canada, India, Japan, South Korea** and **United States.**
- The Exercise is focussed on **anti-submarine warfare training**, where the nations will discuss on traditional maritime security challenges faced in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The exercise includes **270 hours** of in flight training and tracking targets and tracking US navy submarines.
- The Training process will have grades at each stages and the country scoring highest points will receive the **Dragon Belt Award**.
- The **P-8A Poseidon Swordsman** maritime patrol aircraft of U.S and **Trident** is set to join the forces from five nations.

Additional Data-

Last Year Dragon Belt Award winner-**Canada**

Other Quad Naval exercise in Indo Pacific-**Malabar Exercise**

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ ties for parking solution

- **Airtel Payments Bank** collaborated with **Park+** to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to commercial and residential properties in the country.
- The partnership aims to increase the distribution reach and digital payments stack of airtel Payments Bank to digitise the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle.
- Park+ operates in the area of automating parking spaces through FASTag and the majority of parking FASTag transactions in India are currently being processed through Park+ systems, It will offer its full suite of FASTag services including issuance, acquiring, recharge, and technology support to airtel Payments Bank.
- Park+ access control systems have been installed at more than 1,500 societies, over 30 malls, and more than 150 corporate parks across the country.
- Airtel Payments Bank is among the top five issuers of FASTag in the country and the customers can purchase a **FASTag** from the banking section of the **Airtel 'Thanks App'.**

Park+ CEO- **Amit Lakhotia**

Park+ Headquarters-**New Delhi**

Airtel Payments Bank CEO-**Anburata Biswas**

Airtel Payments Bank-**New Delhi**

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme subscription opened

- Government of India released Notification on **Sovereign Gold Bonds 2021-22**, which will be opened for subscription during the period **January 10-14, 2022** with Settlement date **January 18, 2022.**
- The issue price of the Bond during the subscription period shall be Rs 4,786 per gram.
- The Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount **of Rs 50 per gram** from the issue price to those investors who apply **online** and the payment is made through **digital mode**.
- For Digital investors the issue price of Gold Bond will be **Rs 4,736** per gram of gold.

SPORTS

India’s First multi-dimensional adventure sports flagged

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged India’s **first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition** conducted by **National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS)** in France.
- The expedition was conducted in November 2021 and the team was led by Director NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh, comprising 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The expedition team carried out over **250 kilometres** of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges, which included Tour De Mont Blanc trek covering the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.
- The **paragliding team** conducted 19 jumps/flights on the valley floor of the Alps from different mountain locations.
- It was followed by **975 kilometres** of cycling from Alps Mountain Ranges to English Channel near Dunkirk via France, Switzerland and Belgium.
- The cycling activity was carried out in extreme cold weather condition where the team cycled on an average of 09-10 hours/day without any logistic vehicle.
- The Multi-dimensional Expedition culminated with 12 deep scuba dives in the Mediterranean Sea.

National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS)- **Colonel Sarfaraz Singh**

APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

- **Maria Elisa**, from Chilean Constitutional assembly have been given the task to draft the new constitution for the **Republic of Chilie**.
- Chinese diplomat **Zhang Ming** has been appointed as the new secretary of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO).**