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IMPORTANT DAYS**DRDO Celebrates 64th Foundation Day on 1st January 2022**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated **64th DRDO Day** on **January 1, 2022**.
- The DRDO was formed in **1958** from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- Over 175 transfers of technologies happened in 2021.
- Now DRDO is working rigorously to achieve hypersonic systems and also working on the fifth-generation advanced combat aircraft.

About DRDO:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh
- Chairman: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy
- It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories with the Defence Science Organisation.
- DRDO is **India's largest and most diverse research organisation**.
- With a network of **52 laboratories**, which are engaged in developing defence technologies covering various fields, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, land combat engineering, life sciences, materials, missiles, and naval systems.

World Braille Day- Jan 4

- **World Braille Day** is an international day on **4 January** and celebrates awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the **human rights for blind and visually impaired people**
- The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities.
- **Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809** in the town of Coupvray in northern France.

- Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols

World Day of War Orphans: January 6

- Every year on January 6, the World Day of War Orphans is recognized.
- The World Day of War Orphans 2022 reminds the world that caring for children in awful conditions is a duty, particularly in the face of a pandemic.
- Children who have been injured in a gunfight or separated from their families require particular care in order to heal the mental wounds of war, begin school, and restart normal life.
- World Day of War Orphans was started by the French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses, which aimed to help children affected by conflict.
- According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), an orphan is defined as a “child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death”.

17th Non-Resident Indian Day or Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas: January 9

- Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) or Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day is annually celebrated on 9th January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- This is 17th edition of or Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day.
- The 1st ever Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was celebrated on 9 January 2003.
- On the occasion of 2022 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD), Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will speak at a virtual youth PBD conference on the “role of Indian diaspora” in innovation and new technology.

About the Ministry of External Affairs:

- Union minister: S. Jaishankar (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat)

World Hindi Day- Jan 10:

- January 10 is celebrated as World Hindi Day every year to spread awareness about Hindi as an international language across the world.
- The day is especially observed by Indian embassies abroad.

- The day marks the anniversary of the **first World Hindi Conference** which was inaugurated on **January 10, 1975**, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.
- In the year 1975, the first-ever World Hindi Conference took place in Maharashtra's Nagpur on January 10.
- The conference was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and saw participation from a total of 30 countries.
- And in 2006, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh declared that January 10 will be observed as **World Hindi Day every year**.
- This was also the first time that the ministry of external affairs started celebrating the day abroad.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day- Jan 11

- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11** raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking.
- Though the entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, this day is specifically dedicated to **awareness and prevention of the illegal practice**.
- This holiday is also separate from the **World Day against Trafficking Persons, as established by the United Nations**.
- Since the **Senate established this day of observance in 2007**, it has drawn massive public support from individual donations to government-organized events.
- **In 2010, President Obama** dedicated the entire month of January to awareness and prevention of human trafficking.
- There are over 50 established organizations that globally combat this illegal practice, and more awareness has been raised than ever before.

National Youth Day- 12th Jan:

- **National Youth Day** is observed to honour the ideals and thoughts of Swamiji Vivekananda who had tremendous faith in youth.

- In India, the **National Youth Day** is celebrated on **12 January** annually to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**.
- Vivekananda always highlighted the role of youth in the process of nation-building and inspired them to have a confident attitude.
- In 2022, we are observing the **159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand** (12 January 1863).
- The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is **“It’s all in the mind.”**
- The decision to celebrate Vivekananda’s birthday as **National Youth Day** was taken in 1984, and **it was first marked on January 12, 1985**.
- The government had then said that the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked “could be a great source of inspiration” for the Indian youth.

6th Armed Forces Veterans Day: January 14, 2022

- On **January 14, 2022**, India observed **6th Armed Forces Veterans Day** to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation.
- In early it was called **Armistice Day** when initiated in 2017.
- It is observed as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by **Field Marshal KM Cariappa OBE**, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14 January 1953.
- Key Facts: Last year, **Admiral Karambir Singh** released the ‘**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**’ song dedicated to our brave and courageous soldiers of the 1971 war.

Indian Army Day- Jan 15:

- Every year **15 January** is observed as **Indian Army Day** because on this day in 1949 field Marshal **Kodandera M Cariappa** took over as the **first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army** from **General Sir Francis Butcher**, the last British Commander-in-Chief.
- This year marks the **74th Indian Army Day**.
- The Indian Army is one of the most powerful militaries of the world, competing with superpowers like the **US, Russia and China**.
- The motto of the Indian Army is ‘**service before self**’ and its mission is **to ensure national security**

and national unity, defend the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and maintain peace and security within its borders.

- Salute to the brave soldiers, who risk and sacrifice their lives to protect us.
- Even the Prime Minister of India Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1965 had given the slogan like “**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**”.

17th National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day: 19th January 2022

- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrates its Raising Day every year on **January 19** to mark the formation of **NDRF**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** on **19th January 2006**.
- This year India celebrates **17th NDRF Raising Day**.
- There are **12 NDRF battalions** located in different parts of the country and comprises as many as **13,000 NDRF personnel** who work to build a safer country.

About NDRF:

- Director General: **Atul Karwal**.
- Founder: **Government of India**
- Founded: **2006**
- Parent department: **Ministry of Home Affairs**

International Day of Education- Jan 24:

- The **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed **24 January** as **International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.
- The **theme of 4th International Day of Education** in 2022 is **Changing Course, Transforming Education**.
- The celebration is led by the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.
- The **first-ever International Day of Education** was celebrated on **24 January 2019** as per the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on **December 3rd 2018** to celebrate the role of education in development.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Anniversary: Jan 23

- India is celebrating **125th Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** on January 23.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary is also marked as "**Parakram Diwas**" (Courage Day), Modi government had announced in 2021.
- In order to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation, the government decided to celebrate his birthday on the 23rd day of January every year as **Parakram Diwas** to inspire people of this country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic favour.
- However, **Trinamool Congress** had announced to celebrate Bose's birth anniversary as '**Desh Nayak Diwas**'.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was **born on 23 January, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa**. He was one of the most prominent Indian freedom fighters.
- His army was known as **Indian National Army (INA) or Azad Hind Fauj**.
- He also led an Indian national force from abroad against the Western powers during World War II.

National Girl Child Day- Jan 24

- India is celebrating **National Girl Child Day** on January 24.
- National Girl Child Day is celebrated to **raise awareness among people regarding inequalities, discrimination, exploitation faced by the girls in society**.
- It is an initiative undertaken by the ministry of women and child development with an objective to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India.
- The day was observed for the **first time in 2008** as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.
- The day is in line with various campaigns and programmes of the Indian government including **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**, and Save the Girl Child.

12th National Voters Day to be celebrated on January 25, 2022

- The **National Voters' Day** is celebrated on **25 January** every year in India to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.

- 2022 marks the 12th National Voters' Day (NVD).
- The theme of 2022 NVD is, 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.

Objective:

- To spread awareness about the importance of voting in a democracy and it also educates people about their voting rights.

Participants:

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will be the Chief Guest for the event.
- Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijju will be the Guest of Honor.

Key Features:

- During the event, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practises for the year 2021-22 will be given to state and district level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different areas.
- On the other hand, the newly enrolled voters will be handed over the EPIC during the event.
- The Election Commission's Publication 'Leap of Faith: Journey of Indian Elections' will be released on the occasion.
- Publication 'Pledging to Vote – A Decadal Journey of The National Voters Day in India' will also be launched.
- A national voter awareness contest on social media- 'My Vote is my Future- Power of One Vote' will also be launched.

Note:

- Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated on 25th January every year, all across the country to mark the foundation day of the ECI on Jan 25, 1950.

About ECI:

- Formed: 25 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sushil Chandra

- Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar, Anup Chandra Pandey
- It is an autonomous body under the ownership of the Ministry of Law and Justice that aims to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

National Tourism Day 2022: January 25

- Every year, **25th January** is observed in **India** as the **National Tourism Day**, an incredible practice to spread awareness of the importance for traveling and protecting nature.

Aim of the day:

- To highlight the role of the tourism sector in the country's overall economy.
- The **theme** for National Tourism Day 2022 is “**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.**”
- The Indian government established the National Tourism Day for cultivating and creating awareness among the society globally on the significance of tourism, and it's social, political, financial and also cultural worth and value.
- India offers several forms of tourism such as cultural, nature, heritage, educational, business, sports, rural, medical, and eco-tourism.

About Ministry of Tourism:

- Cabinet Minister: G. Kishan Reddy
- Minister of State: Shripad Naik, Ajay Bhatt
- The Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency responsible to promote and manage tourism and various activities of tourism in the entire country.
- The Tourism department was established in 1958 under the Ministry of Tourism and Communication.
- It was headed by the Deputy General in the rank of Joint Secretary.

India's Republic Day 2022: January 26

- **India marks January 26 as its Republic Day every year.** In 2022, the country is celebrating its **73rd Republic Day.**
- On this day, the country's President hoists the flag at **Rajpath, New Delhi.**
- The ceremonious event also showcases India's cultural and social heritage, parades and airshows by the **Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.**
- While India gained independence from the **British Raj in 1947**, it wasn't until **January 26, 1950**, that the Indian Constitution came into effect, and India became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic.
- **Dr BR Ambedkar** headed the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.
- Additionally, Constitution Day is celebrated in India on November 26 every year, as on November 26, 1949, the **Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.**

26 January – International Customs Day

- **January 26** is celebrated as the **International Customs Day (ICD).**
- It is the day designated to honour the custom officials and agencies for their function in taking care of the flow of goods across the world borders.
- This year, the theme chosen by WCO for ICD is '**Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem**'.
- The day was instituted by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** to commemorate the day in **1953** when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in **Brussels, Belgium.**
- In 1994 the CCC was renamed **World Customs Organization (WCO).**