

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

11- Days Gala Festival Bargarh Dhanua Jatra Begins in Odisha

- World famous **11-day gala festival Bargarh Dhanua Jatra** began on 2 January 2017 in western **Odisha**.
- Dhanu Jatra is an annual drama-based open air theatrical performance celebrated in and around **Bargarh city** spanning over an area of **6 km radius**. It is considered to be the world's largest open air theatrical festival.

Portrait of Social Reformer 'Prabodhankar Thackeray at BMC

- **Keshav Sitaram Thackeray**, famously known as Prabodhankar was born in September 1885.
- He was a **social reformer, author and key leaders** of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti which successfully campaigned for the linguistic state of Maharashtra.

Mega Festival on 350th Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

- **350th Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti** was celebrated across the world on January 5, 2017
- Marking the occasion, a huge festival known as **Prakash Utsav** also known as Prakash Parv has been organized in **Patna, Bihar**
- A commemorative postage stamp to mark the occasion of 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh was released.

International Conference on "Yoga for Diabetes" Organised in New Delhi

- The conference aims to **generate discussions** on the **role of Yoga** in the **prevention and management of Diabetes** and draw up a roadmap to be adopted for the control of Diabetes through Yoga.

Reign of King Kansa kick starts largest open-air theatre fest in Odisha

- 11-day world's largest open air theatre festival '**Reign of King Kansa**' began in Bargarh, Odisha.
- The festival is a symbolic representation of the triumph of good over evil, and is a post-Independence phenomenon to mark the end of British rule.
- 75 artistes have been selected to play various characters in the Dhanu Yatra at Mathura while 45 artistes would perform at Gopapur and 3,000 artistes from 120 cultural troupes will perform at the Raj Durbar and Ranga Mahal.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Former NPCC President K V Pusa Passes Away

- **Former Minister of Nagaland** and **former President of Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC)** K V Pusa passed away in Kohima
- Pusa had won the election first time in 1993 as independent candidate from Southern **Angami** Assembly Constituency under Kohima district.
- He had served as the Nagaland Minister for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry from 1998-1999 and Minister for Roads and Bridges from 2000-2003.
- He was also the member of Nagaland Assembly in the opposition bench for two terms from 2003-08 and 2008-2013.

Former French skier Jean Vuarnet Dies

- Former **French Olympic skiing Gold Medallist, Jean Vuarnet**, died on January 2, 2017
- The Frenchman won Olympic gold in the downhill at the 1960 Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California.
- He was also credited with developing the “egg” position racers adopt for a better aerodynamic profile.

Pioneering Art Critic, John Berger Dies

- John Berger, the Booker-prize-winning novelist and visionary writer died of illness
- Berger won the **Booker Prize in 1972** for his novel ‘G’ and pledged to give half the prize money to the radical African-American movement.
- The Marxist intellectual also helped to transform the way a generation looked at and perceived art through his book Ways of Seeing.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Leap Second added to Indian Clock to Synchronize with Earth's Spin

- An **extra second** was added to the **Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours** at the **National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** on January 1, 2017 as the atomic clock was struck at 23:59:59 the previous night.
- The **‘leap second’** was added to the Indian clock to synchronize the Indian Standard Time (IST) with the Earth's Rotational Clock.
- The atomic clock was programmed to add an extra second to 2017 to compensate for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation.
- The NPL, one of the oldest laboratories in the country, has five atomic clocks and nearly 300 such pieces exist across the globe.

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Australian Cricketer Arthur Morris Inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

- Former Australian cricketer **Arthur Morris** was inducted into the **International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame**.
- Morris, who became the **82nd player** to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, was given the honor **posthumously**.