


# Headlines at a Glance - 29th January 2022

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## CURRENT AFFAIR HEADLINES

### **India to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence'**

The Centre on Friday said it has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from the Israel government. Already, the Israel government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 States, which are producing more than 25 million vegetable plants, over 3,87,000 quality fruit plants and can train more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year. The 150 villages that are located around CoEs will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence.' "Out of which, 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence, where India and Israel will work together," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar conveyed in a meeting with new Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon on January 27 here.

**SOURCE:** *The Hindu*

### **India signs \$374 mn Brahmos missile deal with Philippines**

India's BrahMos Aerospace and the Philippines on Friday signed a deal worth almost \$375 million for the Philippine Marines to acquire three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile, a shot in the arm for New Delhi's efforts to emerge as an exporter of major defence hardware. Philippine defence secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who signed the contract with BrahMos Aerospace chief Atul Dinkar Rane, said the supersonic missiles will "certainly beef up the firepower of the Philippine Navy". The Indian envoy to Manila, Shambhu Kumaran, said the deal marked a decisive step forward in India's Indo-Pacific engagement and established the country as a trusted partner.

**SOURCE:** *Hindustan Times*

### **Govt appoints V Anantha Nageswaran as new Chief Economic Advisor**

The government has appointed Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran as its chief economic advisor (CEA) days before the tabling of the 2021-22 Economic Survey (on January 31) and the presentation of the 2022-23 Union Budget (on February 1).

Nageswaran assumed charge of his new role in the finance ministry on Friday, according to an official statement. He replaced Krishnamurthy Subramanian, who returned to academia in December after a three-year tenure as CEA. Nageswaran was till recently the dean of IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished visiting professor of economics at Krea University. He was also a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister from 2019 to 2021.

**SOURCE:** *Business Standard*

### **PM launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation virtually**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the World is entitled to benefit from Indian music like they have from Yoga. Mr Modi said that like Yoga, Indian music too has the capacity to stir the depth of human mind and the world is entitled to be benefited from it. The Prime Minister was addressing a function via video conferencing yesterday after launching the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation. Paying his tribute to Pandit Jasraj on the occasion of the Jayanti of the doyen of Indian Classical Music, Mr Modi lauded Durga Jasraj and Pandit Shaarang Dev for keeping alive the glorious legacy of the maestro. The Prime Minister praised Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation for their goal of preserving India's rich heritage of art and culture. Mr Modi dwelt on recent efforts to regenerate the centres of culture and art like Kashi.

**SOURCE:** *The Indian Express*