



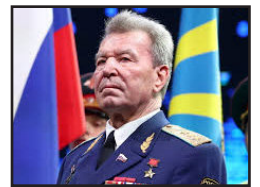
ERUDITE

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- **Harvey Phillip Spector**, popular as Phil Spector, was an American record producer, musician and songwriter who is regarded as one of the most influential figures in pop music history, and as the first auteur of the music industry for the unprecedented control he had over every phase of the recording process. After spending three decades in semi-retirement, in 2009, he was convicted for the 2003 murder of the actress Lana Clarkson and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison. In 1969, Spector returned to his career and subsequently produced the Beatles' album 'Let It Be'. In March 2013, Al Pacino played Spector in the movie Phil Spector about the famous record producer's murder trial and conviction. He passed away recently on January 16th, 2021.
- General **Nikolai Antoshkin** was the commander of a perilous helicopter firefighting operation in which he and other pilots braved radiation exposure to contain the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, passed away due to the coronavirus on January 17, aged 78. He was the leader of the 'liquidators', the hastily arranged teams of military and civilians sent to the nuclear disaster site. When the reactor at Chernobyl nuclear plant, north of Kyiv in Ukraine, exploded on April 26, 1986 spreading radioactive smoke all over the place and miles beyond, the firefighting and cleanup task began in secrecy. Gen. Antoshkin who was serving in a Soviet Air Force unit in Kyiv at this time, became the commanding pilot of this operation.



A Sukhoi fighter jet



Bruce Springsteen



Klete Keller



Donald Trump



Rakesh Jhunjhunwala @ Nazara

NEWS HEADLINES

- After Tejas, India set to buy 33 MiG, Sukhoi jets from Russia.
- Donald Trump impeached for a second time on January 13
- Tesla will commence India operations in early 2021, the Indian Union Minister Nitin Gadkari confirmed
- Prospects of organising the Tokyo Summer Olympics are getting bleaker
- Olympic swimmer, Klete Keller, faces federal charges for involvement in the Capitol Seige
- Bruce Springsteen and John Legend to perform at Biden Inauguration Event
- Nazara becomes first Indian gaming tech startup to seek IPO
- Delhi's air quality improves to 'very poor', AQI stands at 329
- Seropositivity for COVID 19 found to be lesser in smokers and vegetarians
- NASA finds FM signal coming from Jupiter's moon Ganymede

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING

- Australia recorded its hottest and driest year on record, with huge wildfires on its coasts. California recorded its worst fire season this fall, wrecking havoc in the lives of millions of Americans. In South America, a quarter of the world's wetlands were consumed by flames.
- Polar ice melted meanwhile and temperatures soared, recording the highest ever number of storms making landfall in the US in one year. India too has been hit by several cyclones- Amphan, Nisarga, Kyarr, Maha and Vayu to name a few.
- Floods have displaced thousands around the world in the last couple of months. In India recently, Tamil Nadu floods caused by Thambirbarani river, broke its banks and led to a havoc. Flash flooding has been witnessed in places like Turkey and Namibia too.
- Paleoclimatology is the study of changes in climate throughout Earth's history. It uses evidence found in tree rings, ocean sediments, coral reefs and layers of sedimentary rocks to determine climate for which direct measurements were not taken.



The Australian Forest Fires



Polar Ice Caps are melting

Did you know?

- Chris Pratt apparently stole his Star Lord costume from set, for the sole purpose of having it available so he could show up in costume to visit sick children in the hospital, who might want to meet Star Lord.
- Interpol is the popular name for International Criminal Police Organizations headquarters in Lyons, France.
- SAARC was founded in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- When in space, the astronauts' bulky gloves of the spacesuits cut off circulation, and the pressure on their fingertips causes them to lose their fingernails. This phenomenon is called fingernail delamination.
- If you could stand at the Martian equator, the temperature at your feet would be like warm spring, but at your head it would be freezing cold.
- An early predecessor of Wi-Fi, called ALOHAnet originated in Hawaii.
- Ed Sheeran's 'Shape Of You' released in January 2017, remains the most streamed track on Spotify till date.
- Slumdog Millionaire Director Danny Boyle placed the money to be paid to the three lead child actors in a trust that is to be released to them upon their completion of grade school at 16 years of age.
- Ranghar in Sibsagar, Assam is one of the oldest amphitheatres. It was built around 1744-1750 AD.