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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Addressed 16<sup>th</sup> India Digital Summit, 2022 Unveiled 'LEAP' as the way forward for Startups

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, addressed the 16th edition of India Digital Summit (IDS), 2022 through a video conference. The 16th IDS organised by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) was held from 11th to 12th January 2022 with the theme "Supercharging Startups".

- ◆ He also unveiled 'LEAP' ("Leverage, Encourage, Access & Promote") as the way forward for Startups.

## KVIC launches India's 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Honey Processing Van in Ghaziabad, UP



Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has launched India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Sirora village in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP). This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300kg of honey in 8 hours.

The mobile van is designed by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokhra, UP at a cost of Rs 15 lakh.

- ◆ The van is equipped with a testing laboratory, which would instantly examine the honey's quality.
- ◆ The van will benefit the beekeepers in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan.

## ISRO Successfully Conducts Qualification Tests of Cryogenic Engine for 'Gaganyaan'

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the qualification test of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan programme for a duration of  $720$  seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

### About the Test :

The Qualification test ensures the reliability and robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan.

- ◆ This engine will undergo 4 more tests for a cumulative duration of 1,810 seconds.
- ◆ One more engine will undergo 2 short-duration tests and 1 long-duration test to complete the cryogenic engine qualification for Gaganyaan Programme.



## World's largest Khadi National Flag to be displayed on Army Day



The world's largest National Flag which is made of Khadi fabric will be displayed along the India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer to celebrate Army Day on January 15. The flag will be displayed at Longewala which was also the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.

## Bhupender Yadav Releases India State of Forest Report 2021 Prepared by FSI; Forest cover Rose by 2,261 sq km

On 13th January 2022 Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the biennial report of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which showed that the forest and tree cover in India has risen by 2,261 square Kilometers (sq km) in 2 years (compared to 2019).

- ◆ The total rise of 2,261 square Kilometers (sq km) includes an increase of 1540 sq km of a forest cover and 721 sq km of tree cover
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh has grown the maximum forest cover of 647 sq km

## Highlights:

- ◆ India's total forest and tree cover is now spread across 80.9 million hectares, which is 24.62 percent of India's geographical area.
- ◆ Total mangrove cover in the country is 4992 sq km an increase of 17 sq km as compared to 2019 report
- ◆ The total carbon stock in India's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes with an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of India as compared to the 2019

## Indian Railways launched 'Operation Mission Amanat' for Passengers to track & Get Back Lost Luggage

The Indian Railways launched a new 'Operation Mission Amanat' initiative to track lost luggage of the passengers.

- ◆ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Western Railway will help in getting back the lost luggage. It will ensure more safety and security of luggage and belongings of the passengers.
- ◆ Under the Operation Mission Amanat, the details of lost luggage and belongings along with photos are posted on the official website of the western railway.
- ◆ Web portal name- <https://wr.indianrailways.gov.in/> in the tab of divisions under the link "Mission Amanat - RPF.

## Note:

- ◆ Western Railway headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

## Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away



**L**egendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away on January 17, 2022 after suffering a heart attack. He was 83. Pandit Birju Maharaj's grandson Swaransh Mishra confirmed the unfortunate news. Pandit Birju Maharaj was also a renowned classical singer. He was honoured with India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan in 1986

## INS Kochi Undertakes PASSEX With Russia's Admiral Tributs in Arabian Sea

**I**ndian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS (Indian Navy Ship) Kochi, has undertaken the international PASSEX (Passage Exercise) with Russian Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs at the port of Cochin in the Arabian Sea.

- ◆ The Russian Federation Navy's ship, Admiral Tributs was accompanied by two other ships including missile cruiser Varyag and Russian tanker Boris Butoma for a two-day goodwill visit to India.

## DPIIT Organized the 1st-ever Startup India Innovation Week from January 10 to 16

**T**he Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has virtually organised the 1st-ever 'Startup India Innovation

Week' from 10th -16th of January 2022, to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Innovation Week.

## Philippines is the 1<sup>st</sup> Country to purchase \$374.96 Mn BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile System from India for its Navy



**T**he Philippines become the first country to buy the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system boosting India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware.

- ◆ The Philippines recently signed the 'notice of award' or the acceptance of India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd \$374.96 million (USD 374,962,800) proposal of supplying the missile system for the Philippine Navy's shore-based anti-ship missile acquisition project.
- ◆ As a part of approval, Philippines will acquire three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile; training for operators and maintainers; along with Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package.

## India's first Coal to Methanol plant launched at BHEL, Hyderabad



The union minister for the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first 'Coal to Methanol' (CTM) pilot plant in the Hyderabad unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

- ◆ It is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India, which converts high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route.
- ◆ The union minister also inaugurated an exhibition on Products Developed under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' organised at BHEL Hyderabad unit in Telangana.

## Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Released Commemorative Stamp to Mark 1 year of COVID-19 Vaccination Drive

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, along with Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State (MoS) for Health & Family Welfare and Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications has released the Commemorative Postal Stamp on completion of one year of the world's largest

COVID-19 vaccination program, which was launched on 16th January 2021. 16th January 2022 marks the 1st anniversary of the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

## Kumbalangi Village of Kerala Became India's 1st Sanitary Napkin-free Village



Aarif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala, declared Kumbalangi village (India's first eco-friendly tourist village) in the Ernakulam district of Kerala as the first-ever sanitary napkin-free village in India.

- ◆ Under the Aavakayi (for her) initiative led by Hibi Eden, Member of Parliament (MP) (Ernakulam), around 5,000 menstrual cups have been distributed to women aged 18 and above, and volunteers will train the women on how to use the menstrual cup and the advantages of using it.
- ◆ The partners of the project are HLL Management Academy through their "Thingal" scheme and Indian Oil Corporation.

## NeGD organizes 26th CISO Deep Dive Training Program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and



Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing a 6-day long 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative on January 17-22, 2022.

♦ It is for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOS) and frontline IT (Information Technology) officials from various Ministries & Departments, Government & SemiGovernment organizations from Central and State Governments, PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings), banks, among others.

### **Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates ' Madhavbaug's Power MAP' India's 1<sup>st</sup> Intelligent Chronic Disease Patients Habit Tracking System**

**O**n January 15, 2022, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) inaugurated Madhavbaug's (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd), Power MAP, during a virtual ceremony. It is India's first Intelligent Chronic Disease Patients Habit Tracking System.

### **NIRDPR & NCGG Signed MoU to Promote Good Governance Across All Programmes and Schemes**

**T**he National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi to promote inclusive good governance, strengthen local institutions and effective implementation of government programmes.

The MoU was signed in a virtual ceremony in the presence of Dr G Narendra Kumar, Director General of NIRDPR and V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public

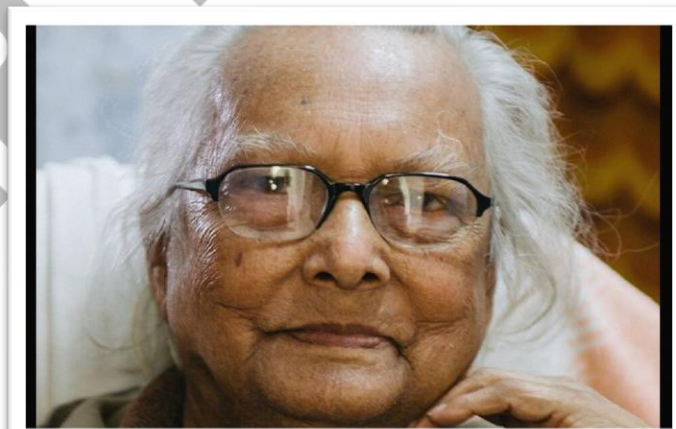
Grievances (DAR&PG), Government of India & Director General of NCGG along with teams of officials from NCGG and NIRDPR.

### **Indian Army Signs 1st Contract with Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd Under MakeII for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target**

**T**he Indian Army has signed its first contract with Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target, for Army Air Defence and Indian Air Force.

The contract worth Rs 96 crore is the first contract with the private sector aimed at Atmanirbhar Defence'.

### **Noted Bengali Cartoonist Padma Shri Narayan Debnath Passed Away**



**N**oted Bengali Cartoonist Padma Shri Narayan Debnath has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1925, in Howrah, Bengal Presidency British India

The Rabindranath Tagore University had honoured him with a D. Litt degree. He is the first and the only comic artist in India who has received a D.Litt degree.

## **MSDE signs MoU with IGNOU to link Vocational Education & Training with Higher Education**

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU) for further strengthening the vocational and technical training framework. The objective of this partnership is to link vocational education and training with higher education, thereby making India's youth employable through the creation of new avenues for them to access better work opportunities.

## **IMD Foundation Day: Launches India's 1st Climate Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas; 4 New Weather Radars**

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of earth Sciences celebrated its 147th Foundation Day on 14th January 2022.

- ◆ On the foundation day, the Minister of state (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh, launched India's 1st Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas based on the thirteen most hazardous meteorological events, which cause extensive damages and economic, human and animal losses.

## **IEA Report: India's Annual Power Consumption to Grow at 6.5% in 2022-24**

As per the January 2022 'Electricity Market Report' of International Energy Agency (IEA), power demand in India is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5 percent between 2022 and 2024 backed by rising consumption from residential and industrial segments.

- ◆ India clocked the highest 10 percent \$Y-o-Y\$ growth in power demand during the 2021 calendar year (CY).
- ◆ Global electricity demand grew by 6 percent in 2021. The majority of supply growth in 2021 to 2024 is expected in China, accounting for around half of the net total increase, followed by India 12%, Europe 7 % and the United States 41%.

## **India offers USD 500mn LOC to Sri Lanka for Purchase of Petroleum Products**

India on Tuesday announced a \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products as the island nation struggles with a massive fuel and energy crisis.

The Indian High Commission said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has agreed to offer critical support and the \$500 million credit line in a letter to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister G L Peiris.

## **SEBI launches 'Saa ₹thi' Mobile App for Investor Education & Awareness**



Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday launched "Saa ₹thi" – a mobile app on investor education in Mumbai. The new app aims to

create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.

Additionally, the app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc, the market regulator said in a press release.

### **MeitY initiated 'Digital Government Mission' to speed up Citizen Services Delivery**

As a next phase of e-governance, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) initiated a new project namely 'Digital Government Mission' to speed up citizen services delivery through the help of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).

- ◆ The reason behind this project is to offer government services to citizens without them having to apply or wait for it.

### **India Successfully Tests New Version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile in Chandipur Off Odisha Coast**

On January 20, 2022, India successfully test-fired a new version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile at Chandipur, off Odisha coast. The missile is equipped with new technological developments and precision. The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

### **Ind-Ra Estimates India's GDP Growth at 7.6% in FY 23**

On 20th January 2022, India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) estimated India's real

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY23 at 7.6 percent, which will be 9.1 percent higher than the FY20 (pre-COVID-19) level.

- ◆ The size of the Indian economy was expected to be 10.2 percent lower than the FY23 GDP trend value.

### **Dr Jitendra Singh Launches 1st of its Kind "Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory" for COVID-19 Testing for Northeast**

Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology launched the first of its kind Mobile Covid-19 testing facility, "Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (I-LAB)", which is capable of performing both RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction) and Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for Northeast.

The mobile facility was launched in Mizoram in the virtual presence of Pu Zoram Chief Minister (CM) of Mizoram.

- ◆ The lab was developed by AMTZ (Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone) with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

### **Indian Armed Force Selected 'Saab' for Supply of Anti-Armour Weapon AT4**

Swedish defence company 'Saab' had been selected by the Indian Armed Force through a competitive programme for the supply of single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4. AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

### **NITI Aayog, RMI & RMI India release report 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India'**

NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in collaboration with Rocky



Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India released a report titled 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India- A Blueprint for Inclusion of EVs in Priority Sector Lending Guidelines'.

It has proposed the government to include Electric Vehicle (EVs) in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) priority-sector lending (PSL) guidelines to boost retail lending for EVs and to support the decarbonization of road transport.

### **Himachal Pradesh and Haryana Govt Signs MoU for Construction of Adi badri Dam to Revive Saraswati Water**



**O**n 21st January 2022 the governments of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and Haryana signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the construction of a Adi Badri dam on 77 acres in HP near the Adi Badri area of Yamunanagar, Haryana for the revival of the Saraswati river.

- ◆ The MoU was signed at Panchkula by the Chief Secretaries of Himachal Pradesh (HP) & Haryana in the presence of Chief Ministers (CMs) Jai Ram Thakur (HP) and Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana).

### **Department of Food and Public Distribution Develops Roadmap for OSM**

**O**n 21st January 2022 India's Department of Food and Public Distribution (DoF&PD)

under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution with its principal agency, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has developed a roadmap for the development of Online Storage Management (OSM).

- ◆ The roadmap was presented in the meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food) and attended by Food Secretaries of all Decentralised Procurement (DCP) States, FCI.

#### **Aim :**

- ◆ To ensure a single source of information for the food grains stored in India for the central pool through integrating State portals with the central portal.

### **Assam Vaibhav Award**

**R**ecently, one of the country's most eminent industrialists, Mr. Ratan Tata, has been conferred its highest civilian honor 'Assam Baibhav Award' by the Government of Assam. It is the highest civilian award of the state of Assam. The award was officially announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the occasion of "Assam Divas". Under this award, a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh is given.

- ◆ Apart from this, the awardee can get the benefit of medical treatment at government expense for the rest of his life. An image of Japi is carved on the top of the award and the word "Assam Vaibhav" is inscribed in Assamese script on the leaf of the Hollong tree.

### **Spice Exchange Portal**

**R**ecently Spice Exchange Portal (Spice Xchange India) has been launched by Spices Board of India. The portal will act as a meeting

point between Indian spice exporters and buyers globally, which is the first of its kind in the country. This platform has been launched by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- ◆ Artificial Intelligence has been used in this portal to connect buyers and sellers. This will give a boost to value addition to the government's efforts to increase spice exports.

### India's First Geo Park



The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Approval for the park was given by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining. Park will be constructed with an investment of Rs 35 crores, over five-acre land. The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from a geological point of view. In 1928, William Henry Sleeman had discovered Dinosaur fossils from this area. UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as a geo heritage site.

### 74th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The 74th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated on 30 January. This day is also celebrated as Martyrs' Day. Mahatma

Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January in 1948. Gandhiji was assassinated by Nathuram Godse. Several dignitaries including President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by laying wreaths at his Samadhi at Raj Ghat in Delhi. All religion prayer meeting was also organized on this occasion. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi played an important role in the independence of India. He was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Bombay Presidency, British India.

### Indian Economy Contracts by 6.6% in 2020-21: NSO data

On 31 January 2022 The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for the financial year 2020-21

- ◆ The data showed that the Indian economy contracted by 6.6 percent in 2020-21 as against the earlier estimate of 7.3 percent in May 2021 .
- ◆ The NSO has also revised downward the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth number for 2019-20 to 3.7 percent as against the earlier estimate of 4 percent.

### RAMP program

In the Union Budget 2022-23, the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has announced to launch the RAMP program with an estimated cost of Rs.6,000 crore. The RAMP program will be implemented for a period of 5 years. RAMP whose full name is Raising and

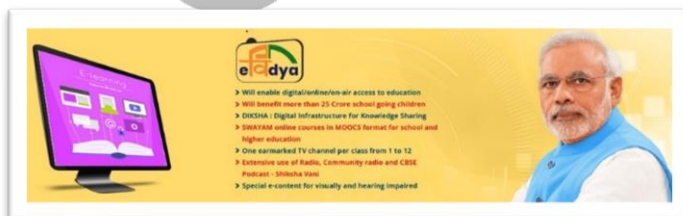
Accelerating MSME Performance is a recovery program aimed at improving the condition of MSMEs in India. The MSME sector has been badly affected by the lock down due to the COVID pandemic. It will provide better access to finance to MSMEs.

### Announcement of implementation of central bank digital currency 'Digital Rupee'



The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2022-23 in the Parliament, announced the implementation of Digital Rupee, which will be launched by the Reserve Bank of India from 2022-23. The Finance Minister said that the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will give a big boost to the digital economy. The Finance Minister said that a more efficient and cheaper currency management system will be seen through digital currency.

### PM E-VIDYA Scheme



The PM e-Vidya Yojana program has been started by the Central Government to conduct the academic year being affected due to the outbreak of Kovid-19 in a planned manner. Digital education system will be promoted in the country through Pradhan Mantri E-Vidya Yojana program, under which provision has been made to start community radio, educational channels, e-courses. Through the scheme, 12 new channels have been introduced to connect school education through online and digital medium.

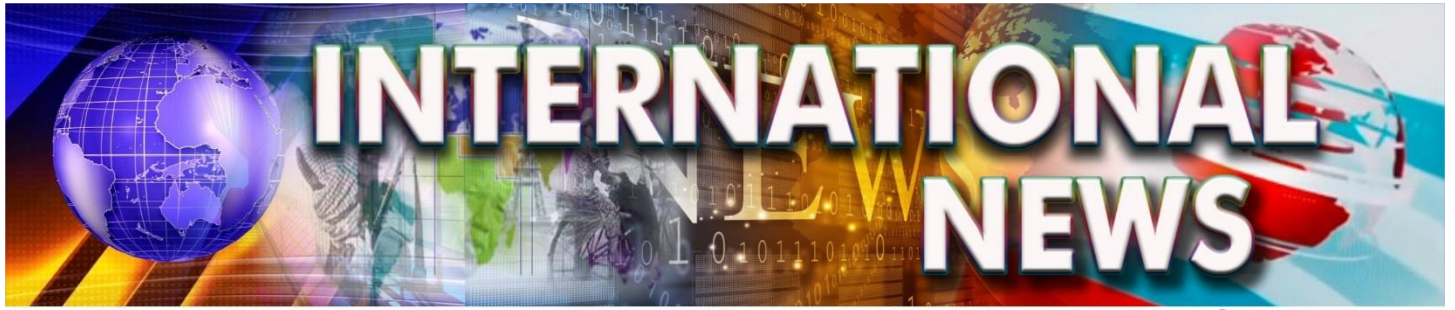
### Lata Mangeshkar passes away at 92, leaves behind rich musical legacy



India's nightingale, Lata Mangeshkar passed away on February 6, 2022. This was informed by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, who had gone to Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai earlier today.

Dr Pratit Samdani, who was treating her at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, released an official statement saying, "It is with profound grief that we announce the sad demise of #LataMangeshkar at 8:12am. She has died because of multi-organ failure after more than 28 days of hospitalisation post #COVID19."





### **US to distribute at-home, Rapid COVID-19 tests for free to all Americans**

**T**he Government of the United States has decided to expand the testing capacity by distributing rapid COVID-19 tests for free to Americans. The half-billion tests will be available for order from January 19, 2022, and will be mailed directly.

### **North Korea announces firing 2 train-borne guided missiles**

**N**orth Korea has announced that its railway-based missile regiment conducted a firing drill with two tactical guided missiles hitting a set target in the East Sea. It has marked North Korea's second known missile test using a railway launch platform since the last one on September 2021.

### **WEF Released 17th Edition of Global Risks Report 2022**

**W**orld Economic Forum (WEF) released the report titled "The Global Risks Report 2022: 17th Edition" prepared in partnership with Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group.

The 2022 report draws on the views of the 12,000 country-level leaders who identified critical short-term risks to their 124 countries gathered by the WEF's Executive Opinion Survey(EOS), conducted between May and September 2021.

- ◆ The report also features the results of the Global Risk Perception Survey(GRPS) 2021-2022, which has underpinned the report since 2006.
- ◆ The report states that Widespread Youth disillusionment and digital inequality are among the top 5 risks for India. Fracture of interstate relations; Debt crises in large economies; and Failure of technology governance are the other 3 risks for India.

### **About World Economic Forum (WEF):**

- ◆ Founder and Executive Chairman- Klaus Schwab
- ◆ Founded in- 1971
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

### **UK Launches Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India**

**O**n 13 January, 2022, the government of the United Kingdom (UK) launched free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with India. This negotiation was described as a "golden opportunity" to put British businesses at the "front of the queue" of the Indian economy.

### **South Africa Launches 1<sup>st</sup> Indigenously developed 1<sup>st</sup> Indigenously Satellite Constellation**

**S**outh Africa launched its first indigenously developed constellation of satellites called

Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation from Cape Canaveral in the United States (US) as part of SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.

### Highlights:

- ◆ The Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation consists of three nanosatellites and is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) of South Africa.
- ◆ The full MDASat constellation consists of nine cube satellites. It will help in detecting, identifying and monitoring vessels in real-time and provide maritime domain support
- ◆ The Transporter-3 mission is the third rideshare mission of SpaceXs. It carries a total of 105 spacecraft for various organisations and countries such as CubeSats, microsats, PocketQubes and orbital transfer vehicles.

### Former Japanese PM Toshiki Kaifu passed away



The former Prime Minister (PM) of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu passed away at the age of 91 years in Japan. He served as the PM from 1989 to 1991.

Toshiki Kaifu was a politician, born on 2 January 1931 in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan. ii.He is known for

sending the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the Persian Gulf in \$1991 .\$.

He dedicated his life to tackling many policy challenges of the country including the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War.

### India-Japan undertakes Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bay of Bengal

A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between Indian Navy (IN) and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19. The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmat while JMSDF Ships Uraga and Hirado the participated from Japanese side.

### Aim of the Exercise:

- ◆ Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.

### Mali's Former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta Passed Away

Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK), the former President of Mali died at the age of \$76 .\$. IBK was in the office for 7 years from 2013-2020, until he was overthrown by Special forces Commander Assimi Goita.

After his ousted, Military officers have extended the civil rule by five years. ii.IBK had also served as Prime Minister of Mali from 1994 to 2000

### Iran Launches Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket into Space

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched its first solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket into space that is made of a cost-efficient composite material instead of metal.

## **Global Unemployment to reach 207 million in 2022: ILO WESO Trends 2022**

The International Labour Organisation has projected global unemployment at 207 million in 2022, almost 21 million more than 2019 while the total hours worked in 2022 to be almost 2% below their pre-pandemic level or a deficit of 52 million full-time equivalent jobs.

## **North Macedonia Elects Kovacevski as New Prime Minister**

The North Macedonia's parliament on Sunday elected Dimitar Kovacevski, the president of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), as the country's new prime minister.

Kovacevski was appointed as deputy minister of finance, a position he still holds, by the previous government. He has been widely expected to be next prime minister since Zoran Zaev resigned after a defeat in 2021 local elections.

## **Russia's first newly-built Tu-160M 'White Swan' Strategic Bomber performs Debut Flight**



A completely new Tupolev Tu-160M strategic missile-carrying bomber nicknamed the 'White Swan' by Russian military pilots performed its debut flight, the press office of the state tech corporation Rostec announced on Wednesday.

## **India and Denmark Initiate Joint Research and Development on Green Fuels**

On 14th January 2022, India and Denmark signed an agreement to work together in joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen during the Joint Science and Technology (S & T) Committee meeting held virtually.

### **Chaired By :**

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. S. K. Varshney, Adviser & Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, and Dr. Stine Jørgensen, Deputy Director of the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science, Govt. of Denmark.

## **Indonesia Replaces Sinking Jakarta with new Capital City Nusantara**

The Indonesian Parliament has passed a law to relocate its capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo Island. The new capital city of the country will be called Nusantara, which is a symbol of the identity of the nation, and also a new centre of economic gravity.

- ♦ The new state capital law provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious approximately USD 32 billion megaproject.

## **15<sup>th</sup> BRICS STI Steering Committee Meeting: India to Host 5 Events in 2022; China Succeeded India as Chair for 2022**

On 17th January 2022, 15th meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee decides that India will host five events in 2022. During the meeting, India



handed over the chairmanship to China. China will be the Chair for 2022.

Theme for BRICS 2022 -"Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development".

### **New Rain Frog Species Named *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*; Named After Greta Thunberg**

The International team led by Abel Batista of Panama and Konrad Mebert of Switzerland has discovered a new species of rain frog, *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, named after the Swedish Climate Activist, Greta Thunberg. The paper identifying the new species is published in ZooKeys.

The researchers are associated with Rainforest Trust.

### **PM Modi Tops List of Most Popular World Leaders with 71% Rating**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped the global rating amongst world leaders with an approval rating of 71 per cent. On the list of the 13 world leaders, US president Joe Biden is ranked at number six with a 43 per cent rating.

### **Reliance Jio & Finland's University of Oulu signs Pact to Accelerate 6G Research**

Jio's Estonia arm and University of Oulu have signed an agreement to collaborate for development of 6G technology as well as to foster entrepreneurship.

The collaboration with the Estonia-based university is expected to extend Jio's 5G capabilities and will help explore use cases in the 6G era.

### **China Builds an 'Artificial Moon' in Xuzhou for gravity experiment**



Chinese scientists have built a research facility, "artificial moon", located in the city of Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, which will enable them to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism. The research facility will also provide valuable research for the lunar exportation activities of China.

#### **Features of the Artificial Moon:**

- ◆ The facility will use powerful magnetic fields inside a 2-foot-diameter ( 60 centimeters) vacuum chamber to make gravity "disappear." It will be officially launched in 2022.
- ◆ The chamber, filled with rocks and dust to imitate the lunar surface, is the "first of its kind in the world".
- ◆ The facility could maintain such low-gravity conditions for "as long as you want". The research facility is also expected to support in determining the possibility of human settlement on the lunar surface.

## **India to Surpass China as World's 3rd Largest Ethanol Consumer by 2026: IEA**

As per the statement of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the India is on course to surpass China as the world's 3rd largest ethanol consumer by 2026 .

- ◆ IEA stated that, ethanol demand in India tripled between 2017 and 2021 with consumption expected at 3 crore litres in 2021.
- ◆ In January 2021, India brought forward its 20 percent ethanol blending target with gasoline from 2030 to 2025, and is aiming to start selling 20 per cent blends in 2023.
- ◆ Being the world's 3rd largest oil importer and consumer, India imported petroleum products worth more than Rs 1.09 lakh crore in FY21.

## **PM Modi, Mauritian PM Jugnauth Virtually launched India-assisted Projects in Mauritius**

On January 20, 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and the PM of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth virtually inaugurated the India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius.

- ◆ The projects are being implemented as part of the development partnership between India and Mauritius.

## **Planet 'TOI-2180 b' spotted by NASA Citizen Scientist; PHA 1994 PC1 flies safely by Earth**

Citizen scientist Tom Jacobs of Bellevue, Washington (United States-US) has discovered a new gaseous planet called

'TOI-2180 b' from NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS. The finding was published in the Astronomical Journal.

- ◆ It is 379 light-years away. The planet is special because it is 261-day year is long compared to many known gas giants outside our solar system. Its average temperature is about 170 Degrees Fahrenheit is warmer than room temperature on Earth

## **G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 Report: 67 % of India's Youth consider Climate Change as Global emergency**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and University of Oxford has released the 'G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 report', which reveals that in India around 67 percent of the young population under the age of 18 years considers climate change a global emergency, compared to about 58 percent adults.

- ◆ From India, a sample size of 34,749 adults and 31,390 under 18 years was taken for the G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 Report by the UNDP and the Oxford University.
- ◆ UNDP India announced their partnership with the leading content creator and actress Prajakta Koli, and appointed her as UNDP India's 1st Youth Climate Champion.

## **Highlights of WEF's Virtual Davos Agenda Summit 2022**

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) five-day online Davos Agenda summit 2022 was held from 17 to 21 January 2022. The summit is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.

- ◆ The WEF has stated 'Davos Agenda 2022' to be the 1st global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022.

### Key Points :

- ◆ PM Narendra Modi addressed the Davos Agenda virtually and stated about COVID19, climate change, cryptocurrency.
- ◆ PM Modi introduced the 'P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement' that underlines India's climate change commitments at WEF's Davos Agenda 2022. The P3 movement will help India achieve its sustainable environmental goals.
- ◆ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a new European Chips Act to support a massive expansion of chip production in the European Union and said the European need for chips will double in the next decade.
- ◆ WEF announced that it has rescheduled to hold its 2022 annual meeting from May 22 to 26, 2022 (which was originally scheduled for January 17-21) in Davos Klosters, Switzerland under the theme, 'working Together, restoring Trust'. v. As per the report of Oxfam titled 'Inequality Kills' released on the WEF's Davos Agenda 2022 summit, inequality is contributing to the death of at least 21,000 people each day, or one person every 4 seconds.

## WEF's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022: Advances in Digitalization led to Increasing Cyber Incidents

The annual report titled 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022' which was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) during the virtual Davos Agenda summit 2022 revealed that advances in digitalization and their growth due to the COVID-19 have led to increasingly frequent, costly, and damaging cyber incidents.

- ◆ Background: The WEF's five-day online Davos Agenda summit 2022 was held from 17 to 21 January 2022. The summit is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'. [Click here to know more](#)

## Armenian President Armen Sarkissian resigns

The President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian has resigned from his presidential position because his office was unable to influence policy during times of national crisis. He became President in 2018.

- ◆ Armenia's political crisis followed the war between Armenia and its rival Azerbaijan for control of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

## Brookings' Study: India is among the Top 10 Global AI Adopters

India is among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence (AI), according to findings from a study published by the Brookings Institution.

- ◆ India ranks 6th in terms of spending and investments on AI made by the public,



governmental initiatives, as well as private institutions and organisations.

- ◆ In the list of top 10 AI adopters, United States, China, the United Kingdom, France, Japan and Germany are leading AI achievements ahead of India and Canada, South Korea and Italy are behind India.

### **India Pays \$ 29.9 Million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022**

India has paid USD 29,990,679 million in United Nations(UN) regular budget assessments for the year 2022. As of 21st January 2022, 24 Member States of the UN have paid their regular budget assessments in full.

#### **Key Points :**

- ◆ India has signed up to the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.
- ◆ The 24 Member states have paid their budget assessment in full within 30 days due to the period specified in Financial Regulation 3.5. (By 9th February 2022).

### **Transparency International's CPI 2021 - India Ranks 85th**

According to the 2021 edition of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released by Berlin-based non-profit organisation Transparency International, India has ranked 85th on the index (CPI score: 40) that ranks 180 countries and territories based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero to 100 (where 0 implies highly corrupt and 100 implies very clean).

- ◆ India's rank has slipped from 80 th in 2019 to 86 in 2020.
- ◆ Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score: 88) have shared the 1st rank followed by Norway (Score: 85) in the 4th rank.

### **Meta Built World's Fastest AI Supercomputer 'RSC'**

Meta's (erstwhile Facebook) CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Mark Zuckerberg has announced the development of an AI (Artificial Intelligence) supercomputer i.e. AI Research Supercluster (RSC) to train machine learning systems across company's businesses. It will be the world's fastest supercomputer once it is completed later in 2022.

### **Pakistan raised \$ 1 billion through Islamic bonds at a record interest rate**

Pakistan raised a loan of USD 1 billion through Sukuk bonds at a record 7.95% interest rate. This is the cost that Pakistan has agreed to pay on Islamic bonds. Pakistan has also agreed to pledge a portion of the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway in exchange for this loan. It has also extended loans to keep official foreign exchange reserves at their level before the repayment of some key foreign debt.

### **Russia conducts military exercise near Ukraine**

Russia recently conducted military exercises in the territory connected with Crimea. More than 6,000 soldiers participated in this exercise. Significantly, in the last few days, there has been an atmosphere of tension between Russia and Ukraine and Russia has already deployed one lakh soldiers on the Ukrainian border.

### **India's bilateral trade with China grew by 43%**

India's bilateral trade with China grew 43.3% in 2021, despite India's measures to reduce dependence on imports from China and emphasize self-reliance, according to Chinese government data. India's imports from China increased to \$97.5 billion in 2021. Imports stood at \$66.7 billion in 2020, which increased by 46.1 in 2021. Imports increased by 30.3% in 2021 as compared to 2019. India's exports to China also rose to a record high of \$28.1 billion in 2021. This has increased by 34.9% against 20.9 billion in 2020. India's exports to China were 56.5% higher in 2021 as compared to 2019. India's total trade with China stood at \$125.7 billion in 2021.

### **Approval of India-ASEAN Digital Action Plan-2022 in the second meeting of digital ministers of ASEAN countries**

The second meeting of digital ministers of ASEAN countries was held through virtual medium. India's Minister of State for Communications, Daewoosinh Chauhan, and Myanmar's Minister of Transport and Communications, Admiral Tin Aung San presided over the meeting. In this, the India-ASEAN Digital Action Plan-2022 was approved. The action plan includes combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets and creating a nationwide public Wi-Fi network interface system. It also provides for capacity building and information sharing about emerging technologies in the field of information and communication technologies such as Internet of Things, 5G, advanced satellite communication, cyber forensics, etc.

### **IMF tells El Salvador to remove bitcoin as its legal currency**

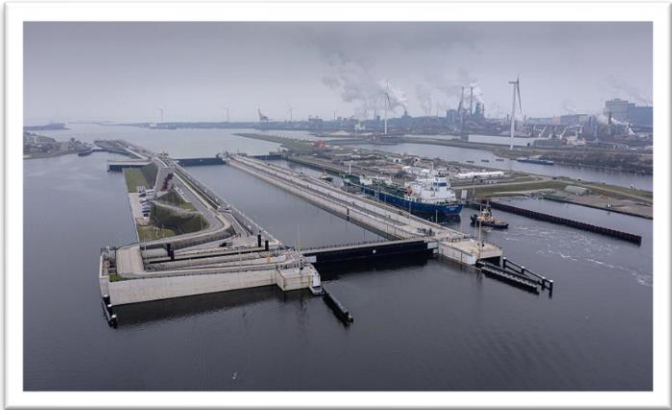


The International Monetary Fund recently asked El Salvador to remove the legal status of bitcoin. In September 2021, El Salvador became the first country to allow consumers to use crypto currencies. Fears spread across the country that bitcoin could bring inflation and instability to the country. The IMF has warned El Salvador that it will be difficult to obtain loans from the international organization if the Latin American country does not remove bitcoin's legal status. According to the IMF, El Salvador could face major consumer protection risks, financial instability by legalizing bitcoin. Also, the IMF is of the view that bitcoin is a controversial currency and can fluctuate widely.

### **Dubai to launch World's first Hydrogen-powered Flying Boat 'The Jet'**

On 31 January 2022, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). THE JET will have its inaugural flight during the COP28, which is scheduled to be held in Dubai, UAE in 2023.

## World's largest canal lock 'Zeesluis Ijmuiden' inaugurated in Ijmuiden, Netherlands



The world's largest canal lock namely 'Zeesluis Ijmuiden' has been inaugurated at Ijmuiden, a small port city in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, by the Dutch King Willem-Alexander. This 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide canal lock & Canal is 18 meter deep & canal has replaced the smaller, nearly 100-year-old Noordersluis (northern lock) at Ijmuiden which was built in 1929.

- ◆ The outlay of the newly built canal lock went over the initially planned budget by around \$€ 300\$ million (338 million).

### Discovery of ancient coral reefs in Tahiti

Recently a coral reef has been discovered by scientists along the coast of Tahiti. This reef is two miles long and is unaffected by anthropogenic activities and climate change. This coral reef has been discovered during a dive expedition. This campaign was supported by UNESCO.

Tahiti is the largest island of French Polynesia. It is located in the central Pacific Ocean. Tahiti was formed due to volcanic activities. Exploration of coral reefs from 100 feet to 210 feet depth

## NASA Plans to Deorbit ISS into Pacific Ocean in 2031

According to The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the International Space Station (ISS), launched in 1998 will deorbit in January 2031 that drops into the most remotest point in the Pacific Ocean in 2031 . ISS will continue its operations till 2030.

- ◆ NASA has also signed agreements with 3 private companies to launch commercial space stations for use by both private companies and government astronauts.

## Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022: India Leads in Digital Skills Readiness

Salesforce, a leading player in Customer Relationship Management (CRM), published the 2022 Global Digital Skills Index which highlights the growing global digital skills crisis and the need for action. India has scored 63 out of 100 , leads the digital skills readiness and has the highest readiness index among the 19 counties.

The average global readiness score was 33 out of 100.

### About 2022 Global Digital Skills Index :

- ◆ The 2022 Global Digital Skills Index, is based on a survey on around 23000 workers across 19 countries about digital skills, including their impact on the future of work, concerns about job readiness, and the significance of continuous learning.
- ◆ Three major skills gaps identified in the 2022 global index are: The everyday skills gap, The generational skills gap, and The leadership and workforce skills gap.





## Tasnim Mir becomes the World No 1 in Badminton U-19 Girls Singles



**T**asnim Mir became the first Indian to grab World no 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles category with 10,810 points in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings. She is followed by Mariia Golubeva from Russia and Lucia Rodriguez from Spain.

- ◆ In 2021, she won 3 Junior International Tournaments held in Bulgaria, France and Belgium, which helped her climb up for No.1 position.
- ◆ Tasnim Mir was trained under Edwin Iriawan, an Indonesian coach, at the Assam Badminton Academy in Guwahati, Assam.
- ◆ Achievements of Tasnim have never been accomplished by any Indian girl, including Olympic Gold medalist P.V Sindhu, who ranked No.2 during her U-19.
- ◆ She is currently ranked 602 in Women's Singles in BWF.

## Note :

The World No.1 position in Boy's Singles is shared by Lakshya Sen, Siril Verma and Aditya Joshi.

## Virat Kohli steps down as Test Captain after Indian team's defeat against South Africa



**V**irat Kohli stepped down as the Test Captain of the Indian Cricket team on January 15, 2022, after the series defeat in South Africa. Kohli announced his decision via a social media post. With 40 wins in 68 matches, Virat Kohli has ended his captaincy stint as the most successful Indian Test Captain.

## Former West Indies Cricketer Clive Lloyd Receives Knighthood

**T**he Former West Indies Captain Clive Lloyd received Knighthood from Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket.

### Achievements of Lloyd :

- ◆ Clive Lloyd led the West Indies to victory over Australia at Lords in the final of the inaugural Cricket World Cup tournament in 1975
- ◆ In 1979, he again led West Indies to the world title for the second time where they beat England at Lords.
- ◆ During his captaincy, Cricket West Indies (CWI) holds the record of 27 Test matches without defeat - which included 11 wins in a row.
- ◆ In 2009 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. Lloyd was also a former West Indies team manager and selector, and ICC (International Cricket Council) Match Referee.

### India Withdraw from Asian Under-22 Boxing Championship Amid Pandemic Threat

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) pulled out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women that is scheduled to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, citing COVID-19 pandemic.

### Key Points :

- ◆ The championship will be held from January 20 to 30, 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan organised by Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).
- ◆ The tournament will be held under 12 Women's and 13 Men's weight categories.
- ◆ BFI announced to participate in the tournament if it gets rescheduled till the pandemic ends.

### Padma Awardee Sania Mirza Announced Retirement at the End of 2022 Season

Padma Awardee Sania Mirza (35-year-old), an Indian professional tennis player, has announced that she will retire at the end of the 2022 season. She made the announcement following her defeat in the Australian Open Women's double first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine).

### Smriti Mandhana named in 2021 ICC T20I women's Team of the Year

On 19 January 2022, Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named in 2021 ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's T20I team of the year.

- ◆ No Other Indian Player named in Men's as well Women's List.

### ICC U-19 Asia Cup 2021: India Won its 8th U-19 Asia Cup defeating Sri Lanka

India under 19 (U-19) cricket Team, led by Yash Dhull has won the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U-19 Asia Cup 2021, a record eighth title, defeating Sri Lanka by 9 wickets at the match held at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The ACC U-19 Asia Cup is organised by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

- ◆ The ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021 is the 9th edition of the ACC Under-19 Cup was held in Dubai and Sharjah, UAE from 23rd December to 31st December 2021.
- ◆ UAE hosted the 50 over tournament for the 2nd time after the 2013-2014 edition.

## **ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2021: Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant Included**

**I**ndia opener Rohit Sharma, wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have been included in the ICC Men's Test team of the year for 2021.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has been given the charge of captaining the eleven which also has his countryman and Player of the Match in the inaugural World Test Championship final, Kyle Jamieson, as well.

## **Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022: India's PV Sindhu, Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto Wins Title**

**B**adminton World Federation (BWF) organised Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with the prize money of USD 150,000 from 18th - 23rd January 2022.

### **Winners:**

- ◆ PV Sindhu won the women's singles final whereas the men's singles final was declared as 'No match'.
- ◆ Man Wei Chong (Malaysia) & Kai Wun Tee (Malaysia) won the Men's Doubles championship and Anna Ching Yik Cheong & Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia) emerged as the women's doubles champions.
- ◆ The Indian duo of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto won Mixed doubles title

## **ICC Awards 2021**

**T**he International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the 2021 edition of ICC awards where India's Smriti Mandhana (25) won Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.

Pakistan's wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan (29) named ICC Men's T20I (Twenty 20 International) Cricketer of the Year 2021 while England's Tammy Beaumont (30) named the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year. She finished the year as the third highest run-getter in women's T20Is. Babar Azam (27) of Pakistan named ICC Men's ODI (One Day International) Cricketer of the Year while Lizelle Lee (29) of South Africa (SA) named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year.

### **World number one player Ashleigh Barty created history**

**W**orld number one player Ashleigh Barty has created history. He has won the Australian Open title for the first time. In the women's singles title match, she defeated Danielle Collins of America 6-3, 7-6 in straight sets. Barty's win-loss record at the Australian Open now stands at 24-8. Where he had to face defeat at the hands of American Sofia Kenin.

- ◆ The Australian Open is the first of the four Grand Slams of tennis to be held in a year (the other Grand Slams being the French Open, Wimbledon and American Open) It is held in the middle of the last fortnight of January.
- ◆ The Australian Open was started in the year 1905, from then till 1987 it was held on the grass court. Since 1988, it has been held on the hard courts of Melbourne Park.



## **Rafael Nadal won the men's singles title of Australian Open tennis**

**S**panish tennis player Rafael Nadal defeated Russian star Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a five-set clash in the final of the Australian Open. This is the second Australian Open title of Nadal's career and the 21st Grand Slam title overall. Nadal also became the man to win the most men's singles titles in the Grand Slam's 145-year history.

He surpassed Roger Federer of Switzerland and Novak Djokovic of Serbia. Both of them have 20-20 Grand Slam titles to their names. Ashleigh Barty defeated Daniel Collins of America in straight sets in the Australian Open women's singles final. Barty has won this Grand Slam title for Australia after 44 years. Before him, this title was won by Christine O'Neill in 1978.

## **Mithali Raj moves to second place in the ranking of batsmen in one-day women's cricket**

**M**ithali Raj has reached the second position in the ranking of batsmen in one day women's cricket. International Cricket Council-ICC Has released this ranking before the Women's Cricket World Cup 2022. Mithali Raj

has total 738 marks. Australia's Alyssa Haley is in the first place with 750 points. Apart from Mithali, India's opener Smriti Mandhana is among the top 10 players in the rankings.

## **Asian Games 2022 to feature 40 Sports; Cricket to be Back After 11 years**

**A**sian Games 2022(19th edition), the multi-sporting event which is set to take place from 10th to 25th September 2022 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China will feature 40 sports with a total of 61 disciplines including several Olympic Sports. Cricket (in T20 format ) is set to be featured in the Asian Games after 11 years.

- ◆ Following the approval from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), E-sports and breakdancing will debut in the 2022 Asian Games.
- ◆ India, a member of the South Asian Zone of the OCA, is one of the 7 countries that have competed in all the editions of the Asian Games.
- ◆ Sony Pictures Networks India, (SPN), has acquired the exclusive rights for the 2022 Asian Games from November 2021 to September 2023.



### **Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed as new ISRO Chairman**



The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of rocket scientist S Somanath as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and The Space Secretary, Department of Space (DoS). He will succeed K Sivan, who is set to retire on 14th January 2022.

Mr Somanath, will be the 10th Chairman of ISRO. Mr Somanath, the senior space scientist is also taking part in the Gaganyaan India's 1st Human spaceflight mission.

#### **Appointments of S Somanath :**

- ◆ Mr Somanath, is currently the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) since 2018
- ◆ Before becoming the director of VSSC, he served as the director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)

- ◆ Previously, he has also served as the Associate Director (Projects) of VSSC and also as the Project Director of GSLV Mk-III (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III) launch vehicle.
- ◆ Under his leadership the first experimental flight of the LVM3-X/CARE mission was successfully accomplished.

### **Senior Bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt Appointed as CMD of Air India**

Senior bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, an order issued by the personnel ministry said

### **IFFCO elects Dileep Sanghani as its 17th Chairman**

The board of Directors of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited has elected Dileep Sanghani, the former cabinet Minister of Gujarat as the 17th Chairman of IFFCO. He has been serving as the Vice-Chairman of IFFCO since 2019.

- ◆ The elections were held following the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai.

### **Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma appointed as Ambassador Universal Acceptance Steering Group**

**T**he Universal Acceptance Steering Group appointed Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of Paytm, as its UA Ambassador.

#### **Key Points :**

- ◆ Universal Acceptance Steering Group, is an international organization that works on developing and recommending standards for languages script which are not currently used for accessing the internet.
- ◆ The group is supported by the global internet body, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

### **Robert Metsola Elected as New President of EU Parliament**

**O**n 18 January 2022, Roberta Metsola from Malta was elected as the new President of the European Union (EU) Parliament, she is also the youngest-ever President & only the third woman to head the EU Parliament.

- ◆ She succeeded David Sassoli, who passed away at the age of 65.

### **RBI Approves Ex-CAG Vinod Rai as Independent Chairman of Unity SFB**

**O**n 20th January 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India Vinod Rai as independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB).

- ◆ Other appointed board members - Former central bank official Sandip Ghose; former chairman and managing director of Syndicate Bank and former deputy managing director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Basant Seth; and former RBL Bank chairman Subhash Kutte.

### **Raghuvendra Tanwar was Appointed as the Chairman of ICHR**



The government of India (GoI) has appointed Raghuvendra Tanwar, Professor emeritus of Kurukshetra University KU, as the chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for a period of 3 years from the day he assumes office or until further orders.

### **Prajakta Koli Named as UNDP India's 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Climate Champion**



**O**n 21 January 2022, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India named famous Indian Youtuber and actor Prajakta Koli as India's first ever 'Youth Climate Champion'.



## Highlights:

- ◆ The partnership will boost the youth participation in climate action and ensure a more sustainable future.
- ◆ Prajakta Koli, was selected for her immense contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through global social campaigns.

### **Portugal PM Antonio Costa Re-elected with Absolute Majority**

The Socialists party led by Antonio Costa, the current Prime Minister (PM) of Portugal, has secured 117 seats out of 230 seats in the country's Parliament, to secure an absolute majority victory in the recently concluded snap elections.

- ◆ His Socialists Party has received 42 percent of the vote out of around 99 percent of the votes counted till now.

### **Sergio Mattarella elected president of Italy for a second term**

During a joint session of parliament and the eighth round of voting, Italian President Sergio Mattarella was elected for a second term. Mattarella has been re-elected with a wide majority. He got 759 votes out of 983 MPs and regional representatives. Presidential re-election is rare in Italy. So far, only Giorgio Napolitano, Mattarella's predecessor, had served a second term. Italian presidential election of 2022 from January 24 to January 29.

### **Gol named Sonali Singh as Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on add. charge**

The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the

additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, with effect from February 01, 2022. She has been appointed in place of Dipak Dash, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.

### **Ravi Mittal named as new Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**

The former secretary, Department of Sports, Ravi Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. He is a 1986 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre. He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.

### **Lt Gen GAV Reddy named as new Defence Intelligence Agency Head**

Lieutenant General GAV Reddy has been appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency. General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon. Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon retired after serving in various strategic positions during his 39-year career in the Indian Army.

### **Gol appoints Anantha Nageswaran as chief economic advisor**

The Government of India has appointed Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as the new Chief Economic Adviser. The announcement came days ahead of the presentation of the 2022 Union Budget on February 1 and the tabling of the 2021-22 Economic Survey on January 31. This post was lying vacant since December 17, 2021,

when KV Subramanian left the office. He is a former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).

### **GoodDot ropes in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador**

**P**lant-based meat company GoodDot has roped in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador. With this association, the company wants to create awareness about the new category of plant-based meats. It also wants to send out a message that small changes in lifestyle and food choices can go a long way in making the world a better place.

### **IndiGo's co-founder Rahul Bhatia named as first MD of the company**

**T**he low-cost Indian airline, IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as the Managing Director (MD) of the company with immediate effect. He is the first-ever MD of Indigo, because before this the company never had a managing director. Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.

### **Lt Gen Manoj Pande Appointed as Next Army Vice Chief**

**G**eneral Pande would be the successor to Lt Gen CP Mohanty who is scheduled to superannuate on January 31. General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982. He was Director-General at Army Headquarters dealing with subjects of discipline, ceremonial and welfare.

### **Narendra Kumar Goenka named as new chairman of AEPC**

**N**arendra Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the new chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC. Former chairman Padma Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him. Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades. He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.

### **Robert Metsola takes over EU parliament presidency**

**R**oberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament. Her election comes a week after the shock death of outgoing parliament president David Sassoli, who was due to step down as part of a power-sharing pact. She is only the third woman elected to the post. she is the European Parliament's youngest president.

### **Govt appoints Vinodanand Jha as new chairperson to PMLA Adjudicating Authority**

**V**inodanand Jha has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, for a period of 5 years. Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer, who was serving as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune before this.

### **Narendra Kumar Goenka Took Charge as Chairman of AEPC; Succeeds Dr A Sakthivel**

**N**arendra Kumar Goenka has been appointed as the new chairman of

the Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC. Former chairman Padma Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him. Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades. He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.

### **Gita Mittal Appointed as Chairperson of Committee of Administrators to run TTFI**

The Delhi High Court has appointed former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal as the Chairperson of the Committee of Administrators which will run the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). The court ordered that all communications on behalf of TTFI with any sportsperson or international sports bodies, will now take place only through the Committee of Administrators and the existing office bearers shall no longer be entitled to discharge any functions.

### **Ilker Ayci Named as MD and CEO of Air India**

Ilker Ayci has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Air India. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1st April 2022. Ilker Ayci is a former chairman of Turkish Airlines. Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success during his tenure there.

### **Debashis Mitra takes over as President of ICAI**

Debashis Mitra has been elected as the President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23. Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years. Apart from being a Chartered Accountant, he is also a Cost Accountant and a Company Secretary. He holds a master's degree in commerce and is also a law graduate as well as a qualified Information Systems Auditor.





# List of Important Days National & International



## 6th Armed Forces Veteran Day observed on January 14 2022



On January 14, 2022, the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day was observed to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation.

- ◆ It was called Armistice Day when initiated in 2017
- ◆ The day honors the services rendered by Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa OBE, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Armed Forces. He led the Indian forces on the Western Front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947. He retired on January 14 in 1953.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Ever National Startup Day- January 16, 2022

India celebrated the first-ever National Startup Day on 16th January 2022, with an aim to support the startup culture spread across India.

- ◆ 16th January 2022 also marks the 6th anniversary of the Startup India initiative. Why January \$16 ?\$
- ◆ 16th January was chosen to mark the anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative.
- ◆ The Startup India initiative was launched on 16th January 2016.

## Open Data Week- 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

The Open Data Week was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The week is celebrated between January 17, 2022 and January 21, 2022. It encourages promoting innovation in the urban ecosystem of the country.

## NDRF celebrates its 17<sup>th</sup> Raising Day on 19 January 2022

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on January 19, since it came into existence on January 19, 2006. In 2022, the NDRF is observing its 17th 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.

## National Tourism Day 2022- January 25

The National Tourism Day is annually observed across India on 25 th January to create awareness of the importance of travelling and protecting nature. The day aims to highlight the role of the tourism sector in the overall economy of India.

The theme of National Tourism Day 2022 is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'. The Ministry of Tourism celebrates the National Tourism Day 2022 under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

## January 21: Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura

India every year on January 21 observes the Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya signifying the beauty of cultural diversity that India has. 50th Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya is also an opportunity to remember India of what it was and how we know it today.

## ECI celebrated 12<sup>th</sup> National Voters Day on 25 January 2022



On 25th January 2022, the Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated the 12th edition of National Voters' Day (NVD)

across India, to spread awareness about the importance of voting, and participating in the electoral process.

- ◆ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Chief Guest of the National level function on NVD, made his presence.
- ◆ Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju is the Guest of Honour for the function.

## World Leprosy Day 2022

World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. This time it was celebrated all over the world on January 30, 2022. The theme for this year is 'United for Dignity' and creating an environment for leprosy patients to lead a dignified life. This day was first started in the year 1954 by the French man 'Raul Follereau', who told people about this ancient disease.

Till now many people across the world are not aware of this disease and they do not get proper medical help and most of the people suffering from leprosy have to face some form of stigma and discrimination. Half of them suffer from mental health problems such as depression.

## International customs day

International Custom Day was celebrated across the world on 26 January 2022. This year the day was organized with the theme 'Enhancing Customs Digital Transformation by Adopting a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'. This day honors customs officers and agencies for their work of looking after the flow of goods and goods across borders around the world. Established by the World Customs Organization

(WCO), the day marks the beginning of the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) held in Brussels, Belgium in the year 1953. In 1994, the Customs Cooperation Council was renamed as the World Customs Organization (WCO). It is an independent intergovernmental body and currently has a total of 183 members.

### **PM Modi Addressed NCW's 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day-31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually addressed the programme organised on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW). The theme of the programme was "She - The Change Maker".

- ♦ The NCW was set up as a statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No.20 of 1990 of Govt. of India) to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- ♦ The First Commission was constituted on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1992 with Jayanti Patnaik as the Chairperson.

### **NPCI observes UPI Safety and Awareness Week on February 1-7, 2022**

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the observance of

'UPI Safety and Awareness Week' on February 1-7, 2022 and the whole of February as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Month'. UPI stands for Unified Payments Interface.

- ♦ Along with NPCI, it will also be observed by leading banks and fintechs.

### **Indian Coast Guard celebrates 46<sup>th</sup> Raising Day**

Indian Coast Guard Day is annually observed across India on 1<sup>st</sup> February to commemorate its Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), operating under the Ministry of Defence.

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 marks the observance of the 46<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard.

Indian Coast Guard is the 4<sup>th</sup> Largest Coast Guard in the World.

### **February 2: World Wetlands Day**

World Wetlands Day is organized every year on 02 February to raise global awareness about the important role of wetlands for our home (earth). On this day in the year 1971, the 'Convention on Wetlands of International Importance' (Ramsar Convention) was signed on the coast of Caspian Sea in Ramsar, Iran. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated on February 02, 1997 to mark the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ramsar Convention. world wetlands day





## Current Affairs Quiz - 1

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated an 'MSME Technology Centre' in which of the following UT?  
(a) Jammu and Kashmir  
(b) Puducherry  
(c) Lakshadweep  
(d) Delhi
2. LazyPay by PayU Finance, has partnered with which bank to launch LazyCard, a prepaid payment instrument backed by a credit line that works on the Visa payment network?  
(a) RBL Bank  
(b) DCB Bank  
(c) SBM Bank  
(d) Federal Bank
3. Which bank has partnered with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID?  
(a) HDFC Bank  
(b) Yes Bank  
(c) Kotak Mahindra Bank  
(d) Axis Bank
4. Which bank has been named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021'?  
(a) ICICI Bank  
(b) Axis Bank  
(c) HDFC Bank  
(d) RBL Bank
5. United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report projects India GDP at \_\_\_\_ in FY22.  
(a) 3.5%  
(b) 4.5%  
(c) 5.5%  
(d) 6.5%

6. Which country has become the first foreign country to place order for the purchase of BrahMos Shore-Based cruise Missile System for its navy?
- (a) Indonesia (b) Thailand  
(c) Philippines (d) Vietnam
7. As per the weekly Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the foreign exchange reserves of India declined by \$878 million to USD \_\_\_\_\_ billion in the week ended January 7, 2022.
- (a) 232.736 (b) 332.736  
(c) 432.736 (d) 632.736
8. How much amount of financial aid has been extended by India to Sri Lanka to over forex crisis?
- (a) USD 600 million (b) USD 700 million  
(c) USD 800 million (d) USD 900 million
9. José Daniel Ortega Saavedra has sworn in for 5th term as the president of which country?
- (a) Nicaragua (b) Guatemala  
(c) Mexico (d) Honduras
10. Which Payments Bank became the largest and fastest growing UPI beneficiary bank in India?
- (a) India Post Payments Bank (b) NSDL Payments Bank  
(c) Paytm Payments Bank (d) Fino Payments Bank
11. Name the DBT-BIRAC supported start-up, which has received World Bank Group and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards.
- (a) NIRAMAI Health Analytix (b) InnAccel Technologies  
(c) Operon Biotech and Healthcare (d) Both a & b
12. Who among the following launched 'North East on Wheels Expedition' to promote Culture of Northeastern States?
- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Meenakshi Lekhi  
(c) Amit Shah (d) Piyush Goyal
13. Which edition of Dhaka International Film Festival take place in January 2022?
- (a) 10<sup>th</sup> (b) 15<sup>th</sup>  
(c) 25<sup>th</sup> (d) 30<sup>th</sup>

14. With which of the following has Indifi Technologies collaborated to offer instant digital credit to small merchants?  
(a) State Bank of India (b) HDFC Bank  
(c) NPCI (d) Google Pay
15. India has successfully test-fired a new version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from the Balasore coast of which state?  
(a) Kerala (b) Odisha  
(c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Gujarat
16. Comics artist of which of the following language, Narayan Debnath has passed away recently?  
(a) Hindi (b) Urdu  
(c) Bengali (d) Tamil
17. CRMNEXT Solution and which bank has recently won the IBSi Innovation Awards 2021 for Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation"?  
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) Canara Bank  
(c) Yes Bank (d) Axis Bank
18. Eminent environmentalist and campaigner of which movement Prof MK Prasad has passed away recently  
(a) Civil Disobedience Movement (b) Non-cooperation Movement  
(c) Azad Hind Fauj (d) Save the Silent Valley
19. The Union Cabinet has recently approved investment of how many crores in IRDA?  
Rs 500 crore Rs 1500 crore  
Rs 2500 crore Rs 3500 crore
20. Which of the following country has recently completed successful flight test of Arrow-3?  
(a) Iraq (b) Iran  
(c) Israel (d) Japan
21. Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payment Index rose by \_\_\_\_\_ to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.  
(a) 25.54% (b) 26.70%  
(c) 30.74% (d) 39.64%



22. The Economic Survey 2021-22 has projected a growth rate of \_\_\_\_\_ % for the next financial year ending March 2023.  
(a) 6-5-6.9% (b) 7.0-7.5%  
(c) 8.0-8.5% (d) 9.8-10.3%
23. Who among the following is the author of the book titled 'Operation Khatma'?  
(a) R C Ganjoo (b) Ashwini Bhatnagar  
(c) Kiran Bedi (d) Both a & b
24. SeHAT scheme has been launched by which ministry?  
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs  
(b) Ministry of Defence  
(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(d) Ministry of AYUSH
25. Which country recently test fired its intermediate-range ballistic missile Hwasong-12?  
(a) China (b) Japan  
(c) Jordan (d) North Korea

### Current Affairs Quiz - 2

#### SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1. Deon Lendore passed away recently. He was a/an \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Hockey Player (b) Cricketer  
(c) Footballer (d) Athlete
2. First World Deaf T20 Cricket championship in 2023 will be held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Panaji, Goa (b) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala  
(c) Dispur, Assam (d) Patna, Bihar
3. In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on \_\_\_\_\_ since 2017.  
(a) 14 January (b) 13 January  
(c) 12 January (d) 11 January

4. Ittira Davis has been appointed as managing director & chief executive officer of (MD & CEO) of which bank?  
(a) ESAF Small Finance Bank (b) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank  
(c) AU Small Finance Bank (d) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
5. 2022 will mark which edition of the Army day in India?  
(a) 71<sup>st</sup> (b) 72<sup>nd</sup>  
(c) 73<sup>rd</sup> (d) 74<sup>th</sup>
6. Which of these Lieutenant Generals has been elected as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff?  
(a) Lieutenant General Sanjay Singh (b) Lieutenant General Sanjit Verma  
(c) Lieutenant General Vijay Singh (d) Lieutenant General Manoj Pandey
7. Which of the following country will host AFC Women's Football Asian Cup 2022?  
(a) Japan (b) China  
(c) America (d) India
8. Which of the following country's Christian Democrat Roberta Metsola has been recently elected President of the European Union Parliament?  
(a) Maldives (b) Japan  
(c) China (d) Malta
9. From India, who has been roped in as the Ambassador of ICANN-supported Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)?  
(a) Sachin Bansal (b) Falguni Nayar  
(c) Sunil Mittal (d) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
10. Which player has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's T20I team of the year for 2021?  
(a) Mohammad Rizwan (b) Aiden Markram  
(c) Babar Azam (d) Jos Buttler
11. Who has been roped in as the new Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) recently?  
(a) Prem Chandra Munshi (b) Mangi Lal Danga  
(c) Simachal Padhya (d) Dileep Sanghani

12. Kokborok Day, also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 16 January (b) 19 January  
(c) 21 January (d) 22 January
13. Name the winner of women's single title at the Syed Modi International badminton Tournament 2022  
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) Anupama Upadhyaya  
(c) Malvika Bansod (d) PV Sindhu
14. In India January 24 is marked as which of these days?  
(a) National Education Day (b) National Peace Day  
(c) National Daughter Day (d) National Girl Child Day
15. What is the theme of the International Day of Education in 2022?  
(a) Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation  
(b) Education: A Key Driver for Inclusion and Empowerment  
(c) Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers  
(d) Changing Course, Transforming Education
16. The National Voters' Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ in India.  
(a) 21st January (b) 22nd January  
(c) 23rd January (d) 25th January
17. The Government of India has declared which day to be observed as the National Tourism Day in the country?  
(a) 21 January (b) 23 January  
(c) 25 January (d) 22 January
18. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority?  
(a) Preeti Singh (b) Sunil Gaur  
(c) Amit Sahni (d) Vinodanand Jha



19. Which team has won the 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship in 2022 held in Himachal Pradesh?  
(a) Chandigarh (b) Indo-Tibetan Border Police  
(c) Delhi (d) Ladakh
20. Xiomara Castro sworn in as the first woman President of which of the following country?  
(a) Honduras (b) Guatemala  
(c) Mexico (d) Belize
21. PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 30th Foundation Day programme of National Commission for Women on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) January 27 (b) January 28  
(c) January 29 (d) January 31
22. Who has won the women's singles title at 2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament held in Cuttack, Odisha?  
(a) Unnati Hooda (b) Smit Toshniwal  
(c) Kiran George (d) Priyanshu Rajawa
23. Which month is being observed as UPI Safety and Awareness Month?  
(a) January (b) April  
(c) March (d) February
24. Name the winner of the World Games Athlete of the Year award 2021.  
(a) Harbir Singh Sandhu (b) PR Sreejesh  
(c) Rupinder Pal Singh (d) Dharamvir Singh
25. The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on which day?  
(a) First Wednesday of February (b) February 02  
(c) First Tuesday of February (d) February 01
-



# ANSWERS



## Current Affairs Quiz - 1

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.(b) Puducherry

**Exp.** PM Modi inaugurated MSME Technology Centre & Perunthalaivar Kamarajar animandapam in Puducherry.

2.(c) SBM Bank

**Exp.** LazyPay, a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution by PayU Finance, announced its partnership with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard, a prepaid payment instrument backed by a credit line that works on the Visa payment network.

3.(d) Axis Bank

**Exp.** Axis Bank has partnered with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords, and One-Time Passwords (OTPs).

4.(c) HDFC Bank

**Exp.** HDFC Bank was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021' which was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) in a virtual ceremony.

5.(d) 6.5%

**Exp.** The GDP growth forecast of India in fiscal 2022 is estimated to grow at 6.5 percent as per the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report. Earlier this was estimated at 8.4%.

6.(c) Philippines

**Exp.** Philippines has become the first foreign country to place order for the purchase of BrahMos Shore-Based cruise Missile System for its navy.

- 7.(d)** 632.736  
**Exp.** As per the weekly Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the foreign exchange reserves of India declined by \$878 million to USD 632.736 billion in the week ended January 7, 2022.
- 8.(d)** USD 900 million  
**Exp.** India has announced a financial assistance of USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to help the island nation in building up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.
- 9.(a)** Nicaragua  
**Exp.** Nicaraguan President José Daniel Ortega Saavedra, leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was sworn in for a new presidential term.
- 10.(c)** Paytm Payments Bank  
**Exp.** Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) became the largest and fastest growing UPI beneficiary bank in India.
- 11.(d)** Both a & b  
**Exp.** DBT-BIRAC supported start-ups, NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt Ltd and InnAccel Technologies Pvt Ltd have received World Bank Group and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards.
- 12.(b)** Meenakshi Lekhi  
**Exp.** Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi launched 'North East on Wheels Expedition' in New Delhi to promote the Culture of Northeastern States. The Bike Expedition is scheduled between 8th to 16th April 2022 to mark the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- 13.(c)** 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Exp.** The 20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) will take place between January 15-23 at multiple venues in Dhaka. The festival will showcase 225 films from 70 countries under 10 categories.
- 14.(d)** Google Pay  
**Exp.** Lending company Indifi Technologies has collaborated with Google Pay to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay platform. The borrowing process is entirely digital and eligible merchants on the Google Pay for Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi and submit an application online.



**15.(b)** Odisha

**Exp.** India has successfully test-fired a new variant of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile off the Balasore coast of Odisha. Whereas earlier on 11 January 2022, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's INS Visakhapatnam warship. The BrahMos missile is being manufactured by India and Russia under a joint venture.

**16.(c)** Bengali

**Exp.** Bengali-language comics artist and writer and painter Narayan Debnath has recently passed away at the age of 97. His Handa Bhonda (1962), Bantul the Great (1965) and Nonte Fonte (1969) became very popular. He holds the record for the longest-running comics by an individual artist for the Handa Bhonda comics series.

**17.(d)** Axis Bank

**Exp.** Axis Bank - CRMNEXT Solution and Axis Bank recently won the IBSi Innovation Awards 2021, one of the most prominent awards for global bankers and IT consultants. He has been given this award for "Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation"

**18.(d)** Save the Silent Valley

**Exp.** Famous environmentalist and campaigner of "Save Silent Valley" movement Prof MK Prasad has passed away recently. He also led the popular science movement "Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad". Prof. M.K. Prasad served as the Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University.

**19.(b)** Rs 1500 crore

**Exp.** The Union Cabinet has recently approved an investment of Rs 1500 crore in IRDA. This will help IRDA to create 10,200 jobs annually and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to about 7.49 million tonnes per annum.

**20.(c)** Israel

**Exp.** Israel Aerospace Industries of Israel recently completed successful flight test of Arrow-3 in central Israel. Was developed in a joint project between the Missile Defense Organization of the Ministry of Defense and the US Missile Defense Agency. Arrow 3 was first successfully tested in February 2018.

**21.(d)** 39.64%

**Exp.** The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payment Index rose by 39.64% to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.

**22.(c)** 8.0-8.5%

**Exp.** The Economic Survey has projected a growth rate of 8-8.5% for the next financial year ending March 2023.

**23.(d)** Both a and b

**Exp.** A book titled 'Operation Khatma' has been released which is authored by journalists RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar. It is an eyewitness account by them

**24.(b)** Ministry of Defence

**Exp.** Ministry of Defence had launched the Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) teleconsultation service for all entitled armed forces personnel and their families.

**25.(d)** North Korea

**Exp.** North Korea successfully tested its Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile on January 30, 2022 from the Jagang Province area.

### Current Affairs Quiz - 2

### SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

**1.(d)** Athlete

**Exp.** Olympic athlete Deon Lendore, who participated in the 400 meters race at the 2020 Olympics, passed away at the age 29 years due to a fatal car accident in Texas, United States (US).

**2.(b)** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

**Exp.** The All India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10-20, 2023. This championship was planned to be conducted in 2020-21 but due to the sudden outbreak of coronavirus it was postponed first to 2022 & now fixed for 2023. It will be held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

**3.(a)** 14 January

**Exp.** In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017. 2022 marks the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day.

**4.(b)** Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- Exp.** The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ittira Davis as managing director & chief executive officer of (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for a period of one year.
- 5.(d)** 74<sup>th</sup>
- Exp.** The Army Day in India is celebrated on 15 January every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens. 2022 marks the 74th Indian Army Day.
- 6.(d)** Lieutenant General Manoj Pandey
- Exp.** Lieutenant General Manoj Pandey has been recently elected as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff. He will succeed Lt Gen CP Mohanty, who is on 31 January. are about to retire. General Pandey was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982.
- 7.(d)** India
- Exp.** India will host the AFC Women's Football Asian Cup 2022 in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune. In this tournament 12 teams will compete for the trophy. Japan is the defending champion of the Women's Asian Cup, having won it in 2018. Hosts India are placed in Group A along with China, Chinese Taipei and Iran.
- 8.(d)** Malta
- Exp.** Malta's Christian Democrat Roberta Metsola has recently been elected President of the European Union Parliament. She is only the third woman to be elected to the position. She is the youngest President of the European Parliament. Metsola was the candidate for the largest group of parliaments.
- 9.(d)** Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- Exp.** Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been roped in as the Ambassador of Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), a community-based team of industry leaders supported by global internet body ICANN.
- 10.(c)** Babar Azam
- Exp.** Pakistani skipper Babar Azam has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's T20I team of the year for 2021.



**11.(d)** Dileep Sanghani

**Exp.** The board of directors of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has unanimously elected Dileep Sanghani as the 17th Chairman of the Cooperative on January 19, 2022.

**12.(b)** 19 January

**Exp.** Kokborok Day, also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on 19th January with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language.

**13.(d)** PV Sindhu

**Exp.** In badminton, ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu bagged the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament.

**14.(d)** National Girl Child Day

**Exp.** In India the National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is observed annually on January 24 since 2008.

**15.(d)** Changing Course, Transforming Education

**Exp.** The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education.

**16.(d)** 25<sup>th</sup> January

**Exp.** India observes "National Voters' Day" every year on January 25 to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.

**17.(c)** 25 January

**Exp.** In India, the National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on 25th January to promote tourism and raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.

**18.(d)** Vinodanand Jha

**18.** Vinodanand Jha has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, for a period of 5 years.

**19.(d)** Ladakh

**Exp.** The women's team from Ladakh has lifted the 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship in Himachal Pradesh.

**20.(a)** Honduras

**Exp.** Leftist Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras. She vowed to reform the crime-and poverty-stricken nation into a “socialist and democratic state.”

**21.(d)** January 31

**Exp.** PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 30th Foundation Day programme of National Commission for Women on January 31.

**22.(a)** Unnati Hooda

**Exp.** Teenager Unnati Hooda has won women’s singles title at 2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament by defeating compatriot Smit Toshniwal.

**23.(d)** February

**Exp.** Under this initiative, NPCI and the UPI ecosystem will observe February 1-7 as ‘UPI Safety and Awareness Week’ and the whole of February as ‘UPI Safety and Awareness Month’.Q10

**24.(b)** PR Sreejash

**Exp.** Indian men’s hockey player PR Sreejesh has won the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021

**25.(b)** February 02

**Exp.** The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 all over the world.

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