

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. Supreme Court approves Bullock Cart Race in Maharashtra (Dec. 17, 2021)

Supreme Court has allowed the resumption of the traditional rural bull racing sport popular as **'bailgada', 'sharyat', 'chakkadi' and 'shankar path'**.

A 2-judge Supreme Court (SC) Bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar and Justice C.T.Ravikumar gave the nod to resume bullock cart races in Maharashtra that were prohibited since 2017, in response to an application filed by the Maharashtra government.

SC said the amended rules notified by the Maharashtra State under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 would apply to the conduct of the races until a final decision of SC's constitutional bench on the 2018 Jallikattu case arrives.

2. President Ramnath Kovind on a 3-day State Visit to Bangladesh (Dec. 16, 2021)

Indian President Ramnath Kovind is currently on a 3-day State visit to Bangladesh from December 15 to 17, 2021.

Bangladesh is observing the golden jubilee celebrations of its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Notably, President Kovind is the only foreign head of state invited to join the celebrations.

Highlights of his visit

- He visited the National Martyrs' Memorial and paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. **The Indian President also planted an 'Ashoka' sapling at the memorial garden.**
- Subsequently, he visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka where he paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the nation of Bangladesh.
- The President reiterated that Bangladesh has a special place in India's 'neighbourhood first' policy.
- **The President will also witness the Victory Day parade and attend the Victory Day reception hosted by the President of Bangladesh to mark the conclusion of the "Mujib Borsho (March 17, 2020, to December 16, 2021)" celebrations.**
- As part of the celebration, President Kovind is also scheduled to inaugurate the renovated **Sri Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka, which was completely destroyed by Pakistani forces during Operation Searchlight in 1971.**
- A 122-member **tri-services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces** will also participate in the celebration parade.

Bangladesh

Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka

Currency of Bangladesh: Taka

President of Bangladesh: Mr. Abdul Hamid

Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina

3. Government has given approval for 21 greenfield airport in India (Dec. 16, 2021)

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India has given approval to set up 21 greenfield airports in India.
- It will be set up in Mopain Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Bijapur, Hassan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Datia (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, Dagadarthi, Bhogapuram and Oravakal in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Out of which eight airports namely Durgapur, Shirdi, Sindhudurg, Pakyong, Kannur, Kalaburagi, Oravakal and Kushinagar have been operationalized.

Greenfield Airport means a new airport will be built in an area where there is no Airport.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya Scindia

4. National Helpline 14566 launched by the Government against atrocities on SCs/STs (Dec. 16, 2021)

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated a National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA), to prevent atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The Helpline is available round the clock on toll-free number **“14566”** across the country in Hindi, English and regional language of the State/UTs.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment: Virendra Kumar

5. Government approves policy to make India hub of global semiconductor and display maker manufacturing (Dec. 16, 2021)

- The government has approved a Rs 76,000 crore incentive plan to establish chip and display industries in India as it seeks to become an electronics manufacturing hub and cut reliance on supplies from China, which is the largest supplier of semiconductor chips in the world.

Highlights of the policy

- The production-linked incentives (PLI) will be offered to companies over six years. It expects to attract investments worth ₹1.70 trillion for more than 20 units.
- Two chipmakers and two display manufacturers are expected to set up units in the next four years under the plan, and each of them will invest ₹30,000-50,000 crore. Further, 20 companies, including chip packaging firms and compound semiconductor companies that make chips for the automotive sector, power equipment, etc., are expected to be operational in three years, with investments in the range of ₹3,000-5,000 crore.
- Under the scheme, the government will extend financial support of up to 50% of the project cost to firms selected to set up semiconductor and display fabs in India. It will also work closely with states to establish high-tech clusters with requisite infrastructure such as land, semiconductor-grade water, high-quality power, logistics and research ecosystems to house the fabs.
- The scheme will generate 35,000 direct and 100,000 indirect jobs,
- The government hopes the incentive plan will facilitate the production of critical components used in automobiles and mobile phones locally. In addition, incentives provided under the scheme will help design, fabricate, pack and test the semiconductor chips and develop a complete ecosystem.
- India seeks to reshape supply chains to cut its reliance on China amid a global chip shortage that has impacted the production of goods ranging from cars to computers.

6. India votes against UN draft resolution on climate change (Dec. 15, 2021)

- India **voted against a draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** linking climate to security. **This resolution was moved by Niger, which holds the UNSC presidency for December. It was also sponsored by Ireland.**
- **Niger organized a debate titled ‘Maintenance of international peace and security: security in the context of terrorism and climate change’.** One of the objectives of the debate was to examine how terrorism and security risks could be linked to climate change.
- The resolution was vetoed by Russia even though 12 countries voted in its favour with China abstaining from the vote and India voting against it.

India's views

Government of India's views was put forward by **India's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, T.S. Tirumurti. According to him**

- It was an attempt to shift climate talks from the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to the Security Council** and a “step backward” for collective action on the issue.
- **As per India, the reason countries were attempting to bring climate talks to the Security Council was that decisions could be taken as per the will of a few states who can veto any resolution without consensus or the involvement of most developing countries, which is clearly neither desirable nor acceptable.**
- The draft resolution, as per India, would undermine progress made at **Glasgow, where the latest round of talks under the UNFCCC, the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), concluded in November.**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- **It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN)**, charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter.
- Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action.
- **Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.**
- The Security Council consists of **fifteen members, of which five are permanent**:
 - The People's Republic of China,
 - The French Republic,
 - The Russian Federation,
 - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and
 - The United States of America.
- **Permanent members can veto any substantive resolution**
- **The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years.**
- **The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.**
 - The current temporary members are-
 - Estonia (2021)
 - India (2022)
 - Ireland (2022)
 - Kenya (2022)
 - Mexico (2022)
 - Niger (2021)
 - Norway (2022)
 - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2021)
 - Tunisia (2021)
 - Viet Nam (2021)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- UNFCCC established an international environmental treaty to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system", in part by stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. It is highly targeted towards sustainable development.
- It was signed by 154 states at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992.**
- The secretariat of the UNFCCC was established **in Geneva in 1992 and was later shifted to Bonn, Germany in 1995.**
- The Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in 1997, was the first implementation of measures under the UNFCCC to control the emission of greenhouse gases to deal with global warming.
- The Kyoto Protocol came into force in 2005 and it was replaced by the Paris Agreement of 2016.

Conference of Parties(COP)

- The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. It meets annually to assess the progress made by the member countries in dealing with climate change.
- The 26th COP was held at Glasgow, Scotland, UK from 31st October to 13th November 2021.
- The 27th COP 2022 will be held from 7th to 18th November 2022 at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

7. Supreme Court directed all States and UT's to issue ration cards to sex workers (Dec. 15, 2021)

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed States and Union Territories to immediately start the process of issuing voter ID cards, Aadhaar and ration cards to sex workers across the country.
- The Supreme Court observed that every person is guaranteed their fundamental rights irrespective of vocation (type of work or a way of life of an individual). Depriving any individual of availing the same is an abridgment of their fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.
- The court directed that authorities can take assistance from the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and State AIDS control societies, which would, in turn, prepare a list of sex workers after verifying the information provided to them by community-based organizations.

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)

- **NACO established in 1992 is a division of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** that provides leadership to HIV/AIDS control programs in India through 35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies, and is **"the nodal organization for the formulation of policy and implementation of programs for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in India."**
- Along with drug control authorities, NACO also provides joint surveillance of Blood Bank licensing, Blood Donation activities, and Transfusion Transmitted infection testing and reporting.
- **NACO also undertakes HIV estimations biennially (every 2 years) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).**
- **The first round of HIV estimation in India was done in 1998, while the last round was done in 2017.**

8. Border disputes between States and Union Territory (Dec. 15, 2021)

The Union Home Ministry has informed the Lok Sabha that 11 States and one Union Territory have boundary disputes between them arising out of demarcation of boundaries and claims and counterclaims over territories.

The following states and UT's are involved in border disputes-

- Andhra Pradesh-Odisha,
- Haryana-Himachal Pradesh,
- Union Territories of Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh,
- Maharashtra-Karnataka,
- Assam-Arunachal Pradesh,
- Assam-Nagaland,
- Assam-Meghalaya,
- Assam-Mizoram

Union Home Minister - Amit Shah

Union Home Secretary - Ajay Kumar Bhalla

9. Over half of UAPA detainees are under 30 age (Dec. 15, 2021)

The Union Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha that:

- **Nearly 53% of persons arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967, in 2018, 2019, and 2020 were below the age of 30.**
- UAPA has been amended in the past keeping in view the requirement and "presently no amendments in the UAPA are under consideration" by the government.
- **In 2020, the maximum number of arrests under UAPA of persons below 30 years of age was made in Uttar Pradesh (205) followed by Jammu and Kashmir (166), Manipur (113), and Jharkhand (35).**

10. "India" 4th Most Powerful Country in Asia (Dec. 14, 2021)

- In the **Asia Power Index for 2021** that ranks **26 nations and territories in Asia-Pacific**, prepared by the **Lowy Institute of Sydney**, India has been ranked **4th most powerful Asian country**.
- The Lowy Institute ranks the country's power on the basis of 8 indicators. It includes the country's **economic capability, military capability, resilience, cultural influence, economic influences, future resources, defence network, diplomatic influence**.

Rank of the powerful countries

1. United States 82.2 points
2. China 74.6
3. Japan 38.7
4. **India 37.7**
5. Russia 33.0

Highlights of the report:

- India lost **2.0 points (-5% change) in overall score in 2021** (compared to 2020).
- India performed better in **future resource measures** where it finished behind only the **United States and China**.
- India finishes in 4th place in four other measures, i.e. **Economic Capability, Military Capability (+0.5), Resilience (+1.7) and Cultural Influence**.
- India remains in the 7th place in its "Defence Networks", reflecting progress in its regional defence diplomacy - notably with the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** which includes: **Australia, Japan and the United States**.
- On the other hand, India has ***slipped into 8th position for economic relationships***, as it falls further behind in regional trade integration efforts.

Lowy Institute

The Lowy Institute is an independent think tank founded in **April 2003 by Frank Lowy** to conduct original, policy-relevant research about international political, strategic and economic issues from an Australian perspective.

Headquarters: **Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.**

Executive Director: **Michael Fullilove**