

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

### **1. 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

### **2. 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.

**3. "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**

## **4. Israeli PM's historic visit to UAE ( Dec. 13, 2021 )**

- **Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett arrived in the United Arab Emirates for the first ever official visit by a Prime Minister of Israel to the UAE..**
- **The UAE last year became the third Arab nation to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel after Egypt and Jordan.**
- **Bahrain and Morocco then followed as part of a series of deals referred to as Abraham Accords brokered by former U.S. President Donald Trump.**
- Sudan also agreed to normalise ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords, but full relations have not yet materialised.
- For details of the Abraham accord refer to the 25 November post.

### **Israel**

- It was created in 1948 as a homeland of the Jews after partitioning the Arab dominated Palestine in West Asia..
- Capital : Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital but many countries including the United Nations do not accept it as its capital. Tel Aviv is accepted as the capital of Israel by many countries of the world.
- Currency : Shekel
- Parliament : Knesset

**UAE(United Arab Emirates)**

- **It gained its independence from Britain in 1971 .**
- **It is a federation of seven Emirates ,Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain.**
- **Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi**
- **Currency : UAE Dirham**

**5. New Caledonia votes to remain part of France ( Dec. 13, 2021 )**

- Voters in the French island territory of New Caledonia chose overwhelmingly to stay part of France, in a referendum held on 12 December which was boycotted by pro-independence forces.
- Official results showed 96% of those who took part chose to stay in France. However the overall turnout was less than 44%.
- The referendum held on 12 December was the third and last in a decades-long process aimed at settling tensions between native Kanaks seeking independence and those who want the territory to remain part of France.
- New Caledonia, colonized by Napoleon's nephew in the 19th century, is a vast archipelago of about 270,000 people east of Australia and hosts a French military base.

**Capital of New Caledonia** : Noumea.

**Currency:** CFP Franc

**6. Tigray rebels retake Ethiopian world heritage Lalibela ( Dec. 13, 2021 )**

Tigray rebels on 12th December recaptured the north Ethiopian town of Lalibela, home to a UNESCO world heritage site from the Ethiopian government forces..

**Ethiopian Civil War**

The conflict started on 4 November, when the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered a military offensive against the northern regional forces in Tigray.

The escalation came after months of feuding between Mr Abiy's government and leaders of Tigray's dominant political party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) .

For almost three decades, the party was at the centre of power, before it was sidelined by Mr Abiy, who took office in 2018 after anti-government protests.

Mr Abiy pursued reforms, but when Tigray resisted, the political crisis erupted into war.

**Lalibela**

Lalibela is a town in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. **It is famous for its rock-cut monolithic churches. It is a holy pilgrimage site for Christians. The Rock-Hewn Churches were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978**

**Ethiopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) -**

- A landlocked country in the **horn of Africa**.
- **Capital - Addis Ababa**
- **Currency - Birr**
- **Lake Tana in the North is the source of Blue Nile**

**Abiy Ahmed** - He is the **present prime minister of Ethiopia**. As the first Ethiopian and the first African head of state, **he won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in ending the 20-year post-war territorial stalemate between Ethiopia and Eritrea.**

**Horn of Africa**

- The Horn of Africa takes its name from the horn-shaped land formation that forms the easternmost point of the African continent, projecting into the Indian Ocean south of the Arabian Peninsula.
- The term is also used to refer to the greater region of adjacent countries located at the southern end of the Red Sea and on the Gulf of Aden: the Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and the landlocked Ethiopia.
- Located on the main shipping route for the transport of oil from the Persian Gulf to Europe and the United States, the Horn of Africa is considered one of the most strategically important regions in the world.

**7. Saudi Arabia bans Tablighi Jamaat ( Dec. 13, 2021 )**

Saudi Arabia has stunned the Islamic World by banning the Tablighi Jamaat, the Islamist proselytizing(conversion) movement.

The Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced the measure on its social media platform terming the Sunni Islamic organisation as "one of the gates of terrorism" and that Tablighi Jamaat poses "a danger to society".

**Tablighi Jamaat**

- Tablighi Jamaat , which literally means a society for spreading the faith, is a Sunni Islamic missionary movement. The proselytising movement aims to reach out to ordinary Muslims and revive their faith, particularly in matters of ritual, dress, and personal behaviour.
- **It was launched by Deoband cleric and prominent Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Khandhalaw in 1927 in Mewat, Haryana.**
- After Partition in 1947, a Pakistan chapter was started in the town of Raiwind, Lahore. Currently, Bangladesh has one of the largest chapters. The Tablighi Jamaat also has a significant base in the United States and Britain, which has a large Indian subcontinent diaspora. It also has a presence in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.
- Its roots lie in the Deobandi version of the Hanafi school of jurisprudence.
- Salafism, which is sometimes also referred to as Wahhabism which is practised in Saudi Arabia is a rival of the Deobandi school and this move of the Saudi is seen as a rivalry within the Sunni Islam.

**Saudi Arabia**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the largest state in West Asia and a major oil exporting country in the world.

Saudi Arabia claims to be the leader of the Islamic world as it is home to the two most holy mosques of Islam.

**Al-Masjid al-Haram mosque is in Mecca, which is also the world's largest mosque and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi in Medina.**

**The Organisation of Islamic Countries(OIC) headquarters is at Jeddah ,Saudi Arabia.**

Capital of Saudi Arabia : Riyadh

Currency :Saudi Riyal

**8. International News ( Dec. 12, 2021 )****1. Mount Semeru erupted in Indonesia**

- Mt Semeru (3676 m above sea level) is the biggest mountain on the island of Java.
- Semeru is one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia and a part of a chain of volcanic mountains stretching from northern Sumatra to the Lesser Sunda Islands.

**2. Suu Kyi sentenced to four years in prison**

The military junta ruling Myanmar has sentenced the deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi for four years for incitement against the military and breaching COVID-19 rules,

**3. US to diplomatic boycott Beijing winter olympics**



The US has announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China because of concerns about China's human rights record especially its treatment of Uighur muslim in Xinjiang provinces, a move that has been heavily criticised by Beijing.

- However American sports persons will participate in the winter olympic games.
- Following the US announcement, New Zealand and Australia also announced a diplomatic boycott of the games though their athletes will be participating in the games.
- **Canada will join the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia** in a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics over human rights concerns, **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on December 8.**

#### **4. ADB to provide loan to India**

Government of India and Asian Development Bank(ADB) has signed two agreement for loan to projects in India

- ADB will provide a \$125 million loan to improve access to safe and affordable drinking water supply and citywide inclusive sanitation services in Dehradun and Nainital cities in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It will also provide a \$150 million loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable housing for the urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu.

#### **5. India amongst the most unequal countries in the world**

As per the '**World Inequality Report 2022**' by **World Inequality Lab**, which aims to promote research on global inequality dynamics. India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and an 'affluent elite'.

- **Distribution of Wealth:** In India, the top 10% and top 1% hold 57% and 22% of the total national income respectively while the share of the bottom 50% has gone down to 13%.
- **Gender inequality:** The share of female labour income share in India is equal to 18% which is significantly lower than the average in Asia (21%, excluding China) & is among the lowest in the world. Although, the number is slightly higher than the average share in the Middle East (15%).

#### **6. Nicaragua cut its diplomatic relation with Taiwan**

- The Central American country Nicaragua has become the latest country to cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favour of China.
- The decision was praised by China, which demands that any country that wants diplomatic relations with it must cut existing ties with Taipei.
- However, Taiwan sees itself as a democratically-governed, independent country, though it has never formally declared independence from the mainland.
- Before Nicaragua, the Pacific Island nations of Kiribati and the Solomon Islands were the latest countries to cut ties with Taiwan in favour of China in 2019.

Capital of Nicaragua: **Managua**

President of Nicaragua: **Daniel Ortega**

Capital of Taiwan: **Taipei**

**7. UN General Assembly Grants Observer Status To International Solar Alliance**

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to International Solar Alliance (ISA), India's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations.
- A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly, including 74 Member Countries and 34 Observer and Prospective Countries, 23 Partner Organizations and 33 Special Invitee Organisations.

**9. India to supply medicines to the Afghan people ( Dec. 12, 2021 )**

- The Government of India has joined Qatar, the UAE, Turkmenistan and Pakistan that have sent humanitarian support to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.
- India has sent medical relief material to the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital in Kabul.
- This is the first time that India has sent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan after the Taliban took over Kabul by dislodging the government of President Ashraf Ghani in August.
- The medical relief material will be handed to the WHO (World Health Organisation ) in Kabul as the Indian does not recognise the Taliban government in Kabul led by Habitullah Akhunzada .
- The relief material was sent back by special Kam Air flights that had brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghan minority community members from Afghanistan to India.
- As part of the **Operation Devi Shakti**, which was launched in August to evacuate Indians and Afghan minority community members from the strife torn country, the Government has evacuated a total of 669 people from Afghanistan. This includes 448 Indians who were working on various projects and businesses and 206 Afghan nationals.

**10. G-7 Foreign and Development Ministers Meeting ( Dec. 12, 2021 )**

- The United Kingdom, which is currently the chairman of the Group of 7 countries, hosted the foreign ministers meeting of the member countries at Liverpool in England .
- It will be held on 11-12 December 2021.
- The meeting was held in the midst of concern that Russia is going to attack Ukraine which is denied by Russia.
- The Foreign Ministers of **India, European Union, Australia, South Korea, along with representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** will take part in G-7 foreign ministers as guests.

**G-7 or Group of Seven**

- It is a group of the wealthiest, industrialised and liberal democracies in the world.
- It includes United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States, Canada
- Russia was made a member of the group in 1998 but was expelled in 2014 after its occupation of Crimea ,which is a part of Ukraine.

**History of G-7**

- In 1975 France hosted the first summit meeting which was attended by 6 leaders of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Japan, Germany and the United States.
- In 1976 Canada was made the member of the group and it was converted into G-7
- Russia was made a member of the group in 1998 and it was converted into G-8 but Russia was expelled in 2014 after its occupation of Crimea ,which is a part of Ukraine.

**Forthcoming Summits**

- The current Chairman of the group is United Kingdom
- The 48th Summit meeting 2022 will be held in Germany
- The 49th Summit meeting 2023 will be held in Japan
- The 50th Summit meeting 2024 will be held in Italy