

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. UN General Assembly Grants Observer Status To International Solar Alliance (Dec. 11, 2021)

- 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.
- The launch of the ISA was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and former French President Francois Hollande in November 2015, at the 21st session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Paris, France.
- In 6 years, the International Solar Alliance has become an example of positive global climate action through partnerships to benefit global energy growth and development.

Observer Status

Observer status is a privilege granted by some organizations to non-members to give them an ability to participate in the organization's activities. Observer status is often granted by intergovernmental organizations (IGO) to non-member parties and international nongovernmental organizations (INGO) that have an interest in the IGO's activities.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, serving as the main deliberative, **policymaking**, and **representative organ of the UN**.

Responsibilities of UNGA includes:

- preparing the UN budget
- appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council
- appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- receiving reports from other parts of the UN system
- making recommendations through resolutions.

It also establishes numerous subsidiary organs to advance or assist in its broad mandate.

Headquarters: **New York, United States**

President: **Abdulla Shahid**

Convened: **10 January 1946**

India's Permanent Ambassador to the UN, T S Tirumurti.

International Solar Alliance

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an *alliance of 124 countries initiated by India, most of them being the sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.*

The primary objective of the alliance:

- to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- to endorse clean energy, sustainable environment, public transport and climate

Formation: **30 November 2015**

Headquarters: **Gurugram, Haryana, India**

Director General: **Ajay Mathur**

2. PM Modi Addresses Democracy Summit (Dec. 11, 2021)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a virtual address on 10th December 2021 at the Summit for Democracy, hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden, that Democracies should jointly deal with social media and cryptocurrencies.

The PM further added that, we all need to constantly improve our democratic practices and systems. And, we all need to continuously enhance inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralization of power.

In this context, today's assembly provides a timely platform for furthering cooperation among democracies. India would be happy to share its expertise in holding free and fair elections, and in enhancing transparency in all areas of governance through innovative digital solutions. We must also jointly shape global norms for emerging technologies like social media and cryptocurrencies, so that they are used to empower democracy, not to undermine it.

For more information about the Democracy Summit, see news of 10th December.

3. Nicaragua cut its diplomatic relation with Taiwan (Dec. 11, 2021)

- 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.
- Beijing sees Taiwan as a breakaway province to be reunified with the mainland one day.
- However, Taiwan sees itself as a democratically-governed, independent country, though it has never formally declared independence from the mainland.
- Taiwan's list of international allies has dwindled from 21 down to 14 since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in May 2016.
- 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

4. Opening day of Summit for Democracy (Dec. 10, 2021)

Theme of the Summit: “combating authoritarianism, fighting corruption and promoting human rights”

It has been organised by the State Department of the United States.

While inaugurating the summit the US President Joe Biden said that

“Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to renew it with each generation,” in a message, which will bring together leaders of 100 countries, civil society and private sector representatives.

Sitting beside his Secretary of State **Antony Blinken**, and addressing over **50 Countries**, **Biden** said, “We have to stand for justice and the rule of law for free speech, free assembly, a free press, freedom of religion, for all the inherent human rights of every individual,”.

- Biden announced plans for the U.S. to spend up to \$424 millions around the world to support **Independent media, anti-corruption work and more.**

Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi also participated in the summit virtually .

The PM said that the “four pillars of Indian democratic governments” are “**sensitivity, accountability, participation and reform orientation**”.

Major countries like Russia, China, Saudi Arabia have not been invited to the summit.

Pakistan was invited to the summit but it chose to back off from the summit over the fear that it will offend its close ally China.

Summit for Democracy

This is a virtual summit hosted by the United States of America to “renew democracy at home and confront autocracy abroad”.

- 111 nations were invited to join this Summit Virtually.
- Dates : 9-10 December 2021

5. India amongst the most unequal countries in the world (Dec. 9, 2021)

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'.

Highlights of the report:

- **Distribution of Wealth:**
 - The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 2,04,200. Here, the bottom 50% earns Rs 53,610 while the top 10% earns Rs 11,66,520, over 20 times more. 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%.
 - The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are the most unequal regions in the world, whereas Europe has the lowest inequality levels.
- **Gender inequality:**
 - in India is also considerably on the higher end of the spectrum. 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%).
 - **Women's share of total incomes** from work (labour income) was about 30% in 1990 and is less than 35% now
- **Wealthy Countries Poor Governments:**
 - Countries across the world have become richer over the past 40 years, but their governments have become significantly poorer.

• Impact of COVID crisis:

- The Covid-19 pandemic and the economic crisis that followed hit all world regions, but it hit them with varying intensity.
- Europe, Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia recorded the largest drops in national income in 2020 (between -6% and -7.6%) while East Asia (where the pandemic began) succeeded in stabilizing its 2020 income at the level of 2019.

World Inequality Lab

- It is a research laboratory focusing on the study of inequality worldwide. The WIL hosts the World Inequality Database, the most extensive public database on global inequality dynamics.
- It gathers social scientists committed to helping everyone understand the drivers of inequality worldwide through evidence-based research.
- **Missions:**
 - The extension of the World Inequality Database.
 - The publication of working papers, reports and methodological handbooks.
 - The dissemination in academic circles and public debates.

6. UK, Canada joins diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Games (Dec. 9, 2021)

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.

Highlights:

- The United States was the first to announce the boycott, saying its government officials would not attend February's Beijing Olympics because of China's human rights "atrocities".

7. US to diplomatic boycott Beijing winter olympics (Dec. 8, 2021)

The US has announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China, a move that has been heavily criticised by Beijing.

The White House said no official delegation would be sent to the Games because of concerns about China's human rights record especially its treatment of Uighur muslim in Xinjinag provinces.

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 be participating in the games.

Winter Olympics Games

The winter olympics games are organised every four by the International Olympic Committee .

The games include sports which are played on snow and ice.

The Summer and Winter olympics were organised by the International Olympics Committee in the same year but in 1986 it was decided to hold the two games separately on separate four-year cycles in alternating even-numbered years.

So after the 1992 winter games next was the Winter games held in 1994 while the Summer Olympics was held in 1996 after 1992.

The first Winter Olympic Games was held in 1924 at Chamonix, France.

24th Games will be held in Beijing, China 2022.

25th games will be held in Milan–Cortina d'Ampezzo , Italy.

8. Suu Kyi sentenced to four years in prison (Dec. 7, 2021)

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,

Ms. Suu Kyi, 76, has been detained since the Generals staged a coup and ousted her Government on February 1, ending the Southeast Asian country's brief period of democracy.

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet on Monday denounced a four-year jail term handed down to Myanmar's ousted leader Suu Kyi after a "sham trial" and called for her immediate release.

Western countries have demanded Ms. Suu Kyi's release and condemned the violence since the coup in which some 1,300 people have been killed,

Myanmar was earlier called **Burma**.

Capital : **Naypyidaw**

Currency : **Myanmar Kyat**

President : **Military leader Min Aung Hlaing**

Aung San Suu Kyi

She is the youngest daughter of the Burmese Father of the Nation Aung Sang.

She studied in Delhi University and she rose to prominence for leading a democracy movement against the army rule in Myanmar.

Her Party **National League for Democracy(NLD)** won the 1990 election but she was jailed and put in house arrest for almost 15 years

She became the face of the Pro democracy movement in the world

She got the Nobel Peace Prize 1991.

Her Party won the 2015 General election and she became the State Counsellor(Prime Minister).

On 1 February 2021, Aung San Suu Kyi was arrested and deposed by the Myanmar military, along with other leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, after the Myanmar military declared the November 2020 general election results fraudulent.

9. Mount Semeru erupted in Indonesia (Dec. 6, 2021)

- **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
- The volcano is part of a chain of volcanic mountains stretching from northern Sumatra to the Lesser Sunda Islands.
- **Volcanism in Indonesia is mainly associated with the offshore subduction of the Australian Plate beneath the Sunda Plate.**
- The oldest record of an eruption of Mt Semeru was from 1818
- **Indonesia has more active volcanoes than any other country in the world..** Indonesia is one of many places located within the world's most volcanically, and seismically, active zone, known as the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **The Only active volcano in India is found at Barren Island in the Andaman and Nicobar islands.**

Volcano

A volcano is an opening in the earth's crust through which gases, molten rocks materials (lava), ash, steam etc. are emitted outward in the course of an eruption. Such vents or openings occur in those parts of the earth's crust where the rock strata are relatively weak. Volcanic activity is an example of an **endogenic** process.

10. International News (Dec. 5, 2021)

1. Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir to form the new government in Iceland

- Katrin Jakobsdottir has been chosen by the coalition parties in Iceland to be their leader and the Prime Minister of Iceland.
- She became the Prime minister of Iceland in 2017 for the first time.
- Capital of Iceland: **Reykjavík**

2. Barbados becomes a Republic

The Caribbean island nation of Barbados declared itself a republic on 30 November, a move that coincides with the 55th anniversary of its independence from Britain.

Barbados capital Bridgetown

Currency: Barbados Dollar

Prime Minister: Mia Mottley

3. EU announces BRI alternative

- European Union (EU) plans **300 Billion Euro Infrastructure Fund** to Counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by **2027**.
- **Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission** calls it **"The Global Gateway Plan"** and describes it as "roadmap for major investment in infrastructure development around the world"

4. Sri Lanka Finance Minister Visit to India

India has agreed to help Sri Lanka to deal with its food and energy crisis .

This was agreed by the visiting Sri Lankan Finance Minister Mr. Basil Rajapaksa and the Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs minister Mr. S. Jaishanker.

5. Russia warns US to stop NATO's Eastward Expansion

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that Moscow needed "long-term security guarantees" that would halt NATO's eastward expansion.

Mr. Lavrov and Mr. Blinken was in Stockholm for a meeting of the ministerial level meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.