

10th December, 2021 Current Affairs

1. The Union Cabinet has authorized the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project:



Key Highlights:

- The aggregate cost of the Ken-Betwa link project has been projected at Rs. 44,605 crore at 2020-21 price levels.
- The Union Cabinet has authorized a total of Rs. 39,317 crore in central funding for the project, including a grant of Rs. 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs. 3,027 crore.

Administration:

- The project will be administered through the Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)."
- The project includes the construction of the Daudhan dam across the Betwa River from Ken and the transfer of water via a canal connecting the two rivers
- It also includes the Lower Orr project, the Kotha barrage, and the Bina complex multipurpose project.
- The project will irrigate 10.62 million hectares per year, provide potable water to 62 million people, and create 103 megawatts of electricity and 27 MW of solar power.

2. Google India revealed the results of its Year in Search 2021:



Key Highlights:

- The index manifests what Indians searched the most throughout the year across news, entertainment, sports, and other categories.
- The highest searches are Cricket and CoWin, and Cricket continued to be a notable search trend in 2021.
- Indian Premier League, Cowin and ICC T20 World Cup have inhabited the top three places in the overall index of search queries.
- Whereas the Euro Cup and Tokyo Olympics were at number four and five in the list.
- The Covid vaccine, Free Fire redeem code, Aryan Khan, Neeraj Chopra, and Copa America were other noteworthy searches made to the top ten list.

Sports & Bollywood celebrities:

- One of the popular search trends was the performance of Indian sportspersons at the Tokyo Olympics.
- It included Neeraj Chopra, who won the gold medal in Javelin through at Tokyo Olympics for India.
- People also searched about personalities like Aryan Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Shehnaaz Gill & Raj Kundra and Tesla CEO Elon Musk.
- Battle royale shooter game Free Fire was the only game entered in the trending list among games.

COWIN & Vaccination information:

- After the start of the [world's largest vaccination drive](#), inquiries for [COWIN and Covid Vaccine](#) were trending a lot as people pursued information on the vaccination's options and availability.

'Near me' searches:

- ['Near me' searches in the year 2021 revolved](#) broadly across services associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.
- People also searched for covid tests, vaccines, Covid hospitals, CT scans, and searches for oxygen cylinders at the time of the second wave of the pandemic.

3. Recently, Chile has declared a law allowing same-sex couples to marry:



Key Highlights:

- [President of Chile](#), Sebastian Pinera marked the adoption into law during an event observed by activists [for LGBT and more](#) human rights.
- The ceremony was [scheduled more than six months](#) after the conventional leader said he would pave the way for a long-pending marriage equivalency law in Congress.
- The new law will [permit all children with a father](#) and a mother, two fathers, or two mothers to have the same rights and protection.
- This step will [aid hundreds of children and adolescents](#) who have been unable to obtain legal protection from both parents.

Background of the declaration:

- In 1999, [Chile made sex between consenting](#) individuals of the same sex illegal.

- In the year 2012, it also made arbitrary discrimination illegal. President Michelle Bachelet signed legislation permitting gay civil unions in 2015.
- In 2017, he sponsored legislation to enable same-sex weddings, which was ratified by both chambers of Congress on 7 December 2021.
- Many Latin American countries have passed similar legislation in recent years.

4. Ropesh Goyal received the 'Young Geospatial Scientist award:



Recently, IIT-Kanpur's Ropesh Goyal has received the 'Young Geospatial Scientist award for his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computing tools.

Key Highlights:

- AS Kiran Kumar, a member of the Government of India's Space Commission and former Chairman of ISRO has given the award to Goyal during the Geospatial World's Digi Smart India 2021 conference.
- Since 2011, a gold medal and the 'Young Geospatial Scientist award have been given to young scientists under 35.
- The Geospatial World conducted the Digi Smart India 2021 conference event.
- This award is given in the memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi, a strategic analyst with a keen interest in geography geospatial studies.
- The Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Trust was established to assist and support students and young and bright individuals with innovative ideas and research projects in the field of geospatial sciences.

5. The Saryu Canal National Project will be launched in Uttar Pradesh:



Key Highlights:

- The Saryu Canal project is the biggest in Uttar Pradesh.
- It will benefit 25-30 lakh farmers over nine eastern UP districts.
- This canal will promote irrigation of 14.04 lakh hectares of land and reduce the risk of floods in many flood-prone areas.
- The irrigated site under the project will be 4.04 lakh hectares.
- For achieving this objective five Rivers, i.e. Ghagra, Rapti, Banganga, Saryu, and Rohini, have been connected.
- The canals have a total span of 6,600 kilometers and have been connected to the 318 km long central canal.

Previous story of this project:

- It was initiated on a smaller scale back in 1978 to provide irrigation facilities in two districts with a cost of Rs 78.68 crore.
- In 1982, it was extended to nine districts and changed to the Saryu Canal National Project.
- The cost of the project will expand to Rs 9,802 crore by 2021.

About the Saryu River:

- The Sarayu River originates at a ridge south of Nanda Kot mountain in Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand, India. It courses through Kapkot, Seraghand, and Bageshwar towns and finally ends at the Sharda River at Pancheshwar, in India—Nepal border.

- It then courses into the Ghaghara River in the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Lower Ghaghara is called the Saryu River when it flows through the city of Ayodhya.

6. [The Indian architect Bal Krishna Doshi will receive the 2022 Royal trophy:](#)



[Key Highlights:](#)

- The Royal Institute of [British Architects \(RIBA\) has](#) announced that Indian architect [Balkrishna Doshi will](#) be the recipient of the 2022 Royal Gold Medal.
- The excellence has approved by Her Majesty the Queen and awarded every year since 1848, is given to architects or practices to recognize a lifetime's work and, therefore, impact the evolution of the sector and the built atmosphere.

[About Balkrishna Doshi:](#)

- Balkrishna Doshi has had a significant impact [on developing India's architecture](#) through a pioneering interplay of modernism and vernacular that translated into structures that have lasted for over six decades, remembering local culture, context, and craft.
- One of the foremost [renowned Indian architects, the 2018 Pritzker Laureate,](#) has forged a definite architectural philosophy and expression, informed by modernist values and native traditions.
- His urban planning strategies and social housing projects brought [him international recognition, further solidified by his academic work as a professor at various universities worldwide.](#)
- His work spans a spread of programs and scales, including administrative and cultural buildings, educational facilities, housing developments, and residential buildings.

- His famous [projects include Shreyas composite school Campus](#), Ahmedabad School of Architecture, Indian Institute of Management in [Bangalore, Aranya Low-Cost Housing](#).

7. [In Uttarakhand 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' has been launched:](#)



[Key features of the scheme:](#)

- Recently, the CM of [Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami](#), has established the 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' in Dehradun.
- The scheme is intended to supply incentives benefiting around [53,000 people of Uttarakhand](#). The Government is targeting to spend INR [444.62 crore to open 500 milk sales centres](#) in Uttarakhand. It's an immediate Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme.
- The quantity under the scheme would go straight into the accounts of the legatees via their connected bank.
- In the [Dehradun district, milk-producing and consumption](#) are wholly contradictory. The Government is making many attempts to support milk production.
- All government shares of boosting products are proving to be unreal. Despite thousands of hours of labour, milk isn't produced by demand.

[The major attempts of the government:](#)

[Ganga Cow Scheme:](#) The Government has announced the scheme and encouragement [amount of Rs.3-4 per litre of milk](#) so that milk production might be promoted and consumption might be met in a while.

- **[Kamdhenu Scheme:](#)** The scheme was initiated in Uttarakhand on the lines of UP.

- Although there was a provision in Uttarakhand for a 25% subsidy for general farmers and a 33% subsidy for SC-ST on loans up to Rs.6 lakh for dairy under NABARD, farmers didn't cash in on it due to a scarcity of data.

8. International Mountain Day:



Recently, the International Mountain Day has been observed globally on 11 December.

Key Highlights:

- This day is widely known to raise awareness about the importance of mountains to life, spotlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development, and create alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments across the globe.
- The theme of this year's International Mountain Day (IMD) is “sustainable mountain tourism”.
- Sustainable tourism in the mountains can make additional and alternative livelihood options and promote poverty alleviation, social inclusion, and landscape and biodiversity conservation.
- It's how to preserve the natural, cultural and spiritual heritage, market local crafts and high-value products, and celebrate traditional practices like local festivals.
- The UN General Assembly established this day in 2003 to encourage the sustainable development of mountains.

- The United Nations had declared 2002 because of the UN International Year of Mountains.
- Mountains are home to fifteen percent of the world's population and host about half the world's biodiversity hotspots alone.
- They supply water for lifestyle to half humanity.
- Their conservation may be a key factor for sustainable development and a component of Goal 15 of the SDGs.