

20 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. India Tennis Star Sania Mirza to Retire After 2022 Season



- Sania Mirza, the most successful woman in Indian tennis history, has decided that she is bidding adieu to the sports at the end of 2022.
- The 35-year-old had already bowed out of singles competitions in 2013.
- Sania has six Grand Slam titles in women's doubles and mixed doubles to her name.
- Her last headline-grabbing win came with Chinese partner Shuai Zhang in women's doubles at the Ostrava Open on September 26, 2021.

Career-high doubles ranking: 1

Career-high singles ranking: 27

Titles: 43

2. Professional Mountaineer Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia Passed Away



- Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, professional mountaineer, and Padma Shri recipient Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia passed away.
- The well-known Professional mountaineer Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia passed away recently.
- Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia was the recipient of Arjuna Award-1965 Padma Shri-1965 Padma Bhushan-2002 and Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award for lifetime achievement in 2009.
- He has written over 13 books including his autobiography “Higher Than Everest”. Major Ahluwalia has also been a former president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and the Delhi Mountaineering Association.

3. The MoHUA Announced The Initiation Of The Open Data Week



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the initiation of the Open Data Week to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India’s urban ecosystem.
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the “Open Data Week” that will see participation from all the 100 smart cities, a move aimed at ensuring a collaborative effort towards making Indian cities “data smart”. The Open Data Week will be conducted during the third week of January from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.
- It is divided into two segments — first, uploading of datasets, visualisation, APIs and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal

from January 17 to January 20 and second, the celebration of a “Data Day” by all smart cities on January 21.

4. **Shri. S Somanath assumes charge as Secretary, Department of Space**



- Shri. Somanath assumed charge after a stint of four years as the Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram.
- He also served as the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, for two and half years.
- Shri. Somanath obtained B. Tech in Mechanical Engineering from TKM College of Engineering, Kollam, and Masters in Aerospace Engineering from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, specializing in Structures, Dynamics, and Control with a Gold Medal.
- He joined VSSC in 1985 and was a team leader for the Integration of PSLV during the early phases.
- Armed with a degree in engineering, he joined the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) the leading unit of ISRO for launch vehicles in 1985.

5. Renowned Bengali theatre personality Saoli Mitra passes away



- Renowned Bengali theatre personality Saoli Mitra has passed away.
- She had acted in Ritwik Ghatak's avant garde film Jukti Takko aar Gappo in 1974.
- She also wrote, directed and acted in the hugely popular Katha Amritsamman (Words that are like Nectar) another adaptation of the Mahabharata.
- Mitra was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012.

6. PM Modi, counterpart to jointly inaugurate India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will jointly inaugurate the India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius virtually.
- They will also launch the Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius that are being undertaken under India's development support.
- Mauritius is an Indian Ocean island nation.

Capital: Port Louis

7. SEBI launches Saarthi mobile app on investor education, will be helpful in accessing recent market developments



- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched Saarthi, a mobile app on investor education. The new app aims to empower investors with accurate knowledge about the securities market.
- Addressing the launch event in Mumbai, SEBI Chairman Ajai Tyagi said, the app will cater largely to individual investors, who have recently entered the markets and carry out trading via their mobile phones.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.