

21st December, 2021 Current Affairs

1. Nadi Utsav 2021 celebrations:

Nadi Utsav 2021 was started on December 16, 2021 and will conclude on December 23, 2021.

About Nadi Utsav 2021:

- ☐ Nadi Utsav 2021 is celebrated all over the India. It was organised collectively by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Tradition, Ministry of Tourism and Nationwide Mission for Clear Ganga.
- ☐ Nadi Utsavs are organized to have fun of reminiscent of Indian Rivers like Brahmaputra, Indus, Sabarmati, Narmada, Krishna, Mahanadi, Godavari, Ganga, Cauvery, and Yamuna.
- ☐ The celebrations are organized under 4 following themes namely, Cleanliness, Nature & Ecology, Patriotism and Devotion & Spirituality.
- ☐ This year all celebrations are being held under the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav marketing campaign.
- ☐ Events are being held in 22 states and 170 districts in India.

Third day of Nadi Utsav:

- ☐ Third day of Nadi Utsav witnessed festivities in the whole nation, with more than 16 states and 41 districts organizing actions.
- ☐ The events include Ganga aartis, embody plantation drives, cleanathons, drawing & portray competitions, river marathon, slogan writings, nadipujans, storytelling periods, boat race etc.

Background of the festival:

On August 26, 2021 in his Mann ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked the nation to prepare and have fun during the river festivals every year.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

Nadi Utsav is celebrated by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) every year for strengthening Public – River Connection. NMCG is the implementing wing of National Ganga Council. It was constituted in

2016. It has replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA). NMCG has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on first day of Ganga Utsav 2021, for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour.

Why Nadi Utsav is celebrated?

Nadi Utsav is celebrated to mark the mystical and cultural river Ganga by storytelling, folklore, quizzes, and dialogues with esteemed personalities, dance & music performances, displaying traditional art forms, photo galleries and exhibitions. It highlights the significance of Jan Bhagidari in reviving Ganga.

2. CCI approved the acquisition of Air India stake by Tata sons:

Recently, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Air India, Air India SATS Airport and Air India Express by Talace, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons.

Key highlights:

Presently, Air India is fully owned by the government.

Air India, along with AIXL, is primarily engaged in business of providing domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, air cargo transport services and international scheduled air passenger transport service.

Air India SATS Airport Services is engaged in providing ground handling services at airports in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Thiruvananthapuram. It also provides cargo handling services at Bengaluru airport.

About the acquisition of Air India:

To purchase the stake of centre in national carrier Air India, Air India Express, and AISATS, Tata Group came into a share purchase agreement with Central government in October 2021. Following this, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued to Tata Group. After SPA, Tata Group had to fulfil the conditions precedent in the agreement before taking over Air India.

Tata's Bid:

Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace has emerged as the highest bidder for AIR India, under the divestment process. Talace had quoted an enterprise value of Rs. 18,000 crore for 100 per cent equity shareholding of Centre. Out of 18000 crores, Telace will retain Rs 15300 crore while rest will be paid to Central government as cash component.

About the Competition Commission of India (CCI):

CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India. It is a statutory body which works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 for promoting competition and prevent activities. CCI also deals with cases and investigate if it has negative impact on competition.

3. Odisha CM has inaugurated state's Longest Bridge over Mahanadi:

Recently, Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated T-Setu over River Mahanadi.

Key Points about T-Setu:

- ☐ T-Setu is Odisha's longest bridge, constructed over Mahanadi River in Cuttack district.
- ☐ It length is 3.4 km and width is 7.5 metre.
- ☐ The Bridge connects Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha, which is located in the middle of Mahanadi River.
- ☐ The Bridge has been constructed in the shape of English alphabet 'T'.
- ☐ Total cost of the bridge is Rs. 111 crore.
- ☐ T-Setu Bridge comprises of footpath on both sides. It is of 1.5 metre width.

Reduced distance:

- ☐ T-Setu will benefit people of Cuttack and Khurda by reducing the distance between Badamba and Baideswar by 45 km.
- ☐ The Bridge will facilitate communication for some five-lakh people from nearby localities.

- ☐ It will also improve agriculture, business and tourism activities in the area.
- ☐ It will benefit devotees, who are visiting Baba Singhanath's Bali Makar Jatra in Badamba block.

Background:

Chief Minister had laid foundation stone T-setu on February 28, 2014. But, due to some technical problems, construction work was delayed and started in 2018.

About River Mahanadi:

Mahanadi is a major river of East Central India, flowing through states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. It has a total length of 900 kilometres and drains an area of around 132,100 square kilometres. This river is also famous for Hirakud Dam.

4. WEF: Davos meeting deferred over Omicron:

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has decided to defer its annual meeting in Davos, because of continued unpredictability over the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

Key Highlights:

- ☐ The high-powered meeting was scheduled for January 17-21, 2022.
- ☐ It draws leading figures from business, politics and diplomacy.
- ☐ The meeting will instead be held in summer.
- ☐ 2021 edition of the meeting was also cancelled because of covid-19 pandemic.
- ☐ WEF will organise online "State of the World" sessions to talk with the global leaders.

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

WEF is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation. It is headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland. It was founded by Klaus Schwab on January 24, 1971. The foundation is mostly funded by its 1,000 member companies as well as public subsidies.

About the annual meeting of WEF:

The WEF held its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos annually. Meeting brings together around 3,000 paying members and selected participants including business leaders, investors, political leaders, economists, journalists and celebrities. Discussions are held for up to five days on global issues across 500 sessions.

About Davos:

Davos is an Alpine resort town and a municipality located in Davos Region of Switzerland. It has a permanent population of 10,832. It is situated on river Landwasser, in the Rhaetian Alps.

The Rhaetian Alps:

Rhaetian Alps are a mountain range of Eastern Alps.

About the Alps:

Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range system, located entirely in Europe. They stretch for approximately 1,200 km, across eight Alpine countries namely- France, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia (from West to East, in that order).

5. NASA has released noises captured near Jupiter's moon Ganymede:

NASA has recently released the noises captured by the Juno mission, near Jupiter's moon Ganymede.

Key Highlights:

- ☐ Juno beamed back data from its flyby across the biggest moon in the Solar System.
- ☐ Data comprising of sounds coming from lunar surface provides a dramatic ride-along into the territory of Ganymede.
- ☐ NASA released a 50-second audio track, which were picked by Juno's wave instrument.

- The wave instrument tunes into electric and magnetic radio waves which are produced in the magnetosphere of Jupiter.
- Scientists shifted the captured frequencies into audio range for making audio track.

Closest Approach of Spacecraft:

During the closest approach, Juno was within 1,038 kilometres of the Ganymede's surface. It travelled at a relative velocity of 67,000 kilometres per hour.

About Ganymede Moon:

Ganymede is a satellite (moon) of Jupiter. It is the largest and most massive moon. It is the ninth-largest object of the Solar System.

Ganymede is the largest moon without a substantial atmosphere. Its diameter is of 5,268 km and thus 26% larger as compared to planet Mercury by volume. It is the only moon that have a magnetic field.

Orbit around Jupiter:

Ganymede revolves around the Jupiter almost in seven days. It is in a 1:2:4 orbital resonance respectively with the moons Europa and Io.

About the Juno Mission:

Juno is a NASA space probe, covering planet Jupiter. It was built by Lockheed Martin. This spacecraft is operated by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It was launched in August 2011 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, as a part of New Frontiers program. The Spacecraft entered the polar orbit of Jupiter in July 2016, to start a scientific investigation of the Jupiter. When the mission will complete, Juno will be intentionally deorbited into atmosphere of Jupiter. Juno is the second spacecraft to orbit Jupiter. First spacecraft was nuclear powered Galileo orbiter, which was operation from 1995 to 2003.

6. **“MicroAge” Experiment:**

An experiment called “MicroAge” is set to be launched to International Space Station on SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Salient Points:

- ☐ MicroAge Experiment will help people in living a longer and healthier life.
- ☐ As the part of this experiment, human cells will be launched to space.
- ☐ Experiment will help in understanding what happens to the human cells and why?
- ☐ Experiment will be launched to space from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

How cells will be sent to space?

Human cells have been put into small 3D holders. These cells will be electrically stimulated, once they reach to space. The electrical stimulation will help in inducing contractions in muscle tissue. This experiment will help scientists in examining the cells closely.

Who will analyse these cells?

These cells will be analysed by Researchers from University of Liverpool. Research will be financially backed up by the UK Space Agency. UK Space Agency has provided £1.2 million in funds to conduct the experiment.

What led to this experiment?

It is said for a long time that astronauts in space tend to lose muscle rapidly. So, people have conjectured if that is an accelerated ageing phenomenon. Astronauts at the space station had an analogous problem. Each astronaut on space station exercises at least 2.5 hours each day. Despite this fact, they lose a significant amount of muscle. They face difficulties in walking for a while, after they return back to earth. Thus, this experiment will be conducted to study the ageing phenomenon.

About the MicroAge App:

Regular updates and details related to the experiment will be provided on this MicroAge App.

7. December 20: International Human Solidarity Day

The International Human Solidarity Day has been observed globally on December 20, to honour the “Unity in Diversity”.

Key Highlights:

- ☐ The day is observed annually on December 20 by United Nations.
- ☐ It acts as a reminder for governments across the world to respect their commitments towards international agreements.
- ☐ The day became a part of ‘Trust Fund of UN’s Development Program’ in February 2003.

Objective of the Day:

The International Human Solidarity Day is observed with the intention of raising public awareness on the importance of solidarity, encourage debate on the ways of promoting solidarity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals including the poverty eradication. The day focuses on new initiatives to eradicate poverty across the world.

Logo of the Day:

The logo for the day has been designed by considering its theme. Logo comprises of four humans surrounding the earth, with their arms outstretched. Different colours of the arms symbolises unity in diversity.

What is the history of the day?

Through a resolution on December 22, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly has identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values. The UN also noted that, promotion of solidarity culture and spirit of sharing is important to combat poverty. With the same resolution, UN announced to observe the International Human Solidarity Day on December 20.

Why this day is marked?

The International Human Solidarity Day is observed to promote the culture of cooperation, equality and social justice.

Theme:

The International Human Solidarity Day is observed under the same theme every year.

World Solidarity Fund:

With the launch of initiatives like establishment of World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and proclamation of International Human Solidarity Day, solidarity concept was promoted as significant in the fight against poverty.

8. UAE has announced to End Censorship in Cinematic releases:

Recently, United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced to end the censorship in cinematic releases.

Key Highlights:

- ☐ UAE administration has decided to end censorship, in a bid to attract foreigners.
- ☐ As per latest announcement, government will not cut sensitive scenes which distress the Islamic sentiments.
- ☐ Administration have also introduced a new 'above 21 years of age' category for viewers.
- ☐ Now, movies will be screened in cinemas as per their international version and their classification will be given on the basis of standards of media content in UAE.

Importance of the decision:

- ☐ The decision to end censorship is being interpreted as UAE's effort to become competitive in the Gulf region and appear broad-minded & liberal to foreigners.
- ☐ This step is important for country, as it tries to diversify its economy by attracting foreign investment and reducing dependence on oil.

What were the norms earlier?

Earlier, the scenes which have showed nudity and other inappropriate content, were removed from the movies in UAE. This sometimes affected the plot of movies.

Other decision by government to attract international workers:

Recently, government of UAE has made changes to the work week in country. This decision was taken as authorities have been trying to promote UAE to attract international workers. Government also reformed its Islamic legal code.