

16 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. PM Narendra Modi declares January 16 as 'National Startup Day'



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has declared to mark **16th January** as '**National Start-up Day**'. The announcement was made by PM Modi on January 15, 2022, via video conferencing during a week-long event "**Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem**" as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Prime Minister interacted with more than 150 startups across different sectors, during the event.
- The startups, categorised under six groups, gave presentations to the Prime Minister on six themes — 'growing from roots', 'nudging the DNA', 'from local to global', 'technology of future', 'building champions in manufacturing' and 'sustainable development'.
- The Prime Minister was of the view Indian startups can easily make it to the global stage and reach other countries and told the young entrepreneurs: "**Don't just keep your dreams local, make them global**. Remember this mantra — let's Innovate for India, innovate from India".

2. World's largest Khadi National Flag displayed at Longewala



- The world's largest national flag, made of **Khadi fabric** was put to display to celebrate the "**Army Day**" on January 15, 2022. It was displayed at **Longewala**, along the **India – Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer**.
- Longewala was the centre stage of the historic battle of 1971 between India and Pakistan. It will be the fifth public display of the Khadi flag. 70 khadi artisans prepared this flag in 49 days. Its making has created about 3500 man-hours of additional work for Khadi artisans and allied workers.
- The Monumental National Flag is **225 feet long and 150 feet wide**. It is approximately **1400 kgs in weight**. **4500 meters** of hand-woven, hand-spun, Khadi cotton bunting has been used to make the flag. It covers an area of **33, 750 square feet**. The Ashok Chakra in the flag has a diameter of **30 feet**.

3. Kerala's Kumbalangi to be India's first sanitary-napkin free village



- **Kerala's Kumbalangi** is set to become the country's first sanitary **napkin-free panchayat**. This move is a part of the '**Avalkayi**' initiative, which is being implemented in the Ernakulam parliamentary constituency, in association with the "**Thingal Scheme**" of HLL Management Academy's and Indian Oil Corporation.
- Under this initiative, menstrual cups will be distributed to women aged 18 and above in Kumbalangi village. 5000 menstrual cups will be distributed under it. In the same event, Governor will also declare Kumbalangi village as a model village.
- The model village project is implemented as a part of '**Pradhan Mantri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (PM-SAGY)**'. A new tourist information centre will also be set up in the village.
- **Kumbalangi** is an island village, located in the outskirts of **Kochi city of Kerala**. It is a major tourist attraction and is famous for the Chinese fishing nets. It is situated amidst backwaters, about 12 km from the city centre. The village is also the first eco-tourism village in India.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.

4. Shersingh B Khyalia appointed as CEO of Adani Power



- The **Board of Directors of Adani Power Limited (APL)**, a subsidiary of Adani Group, approved the appointment of **Shersingh B Khyalia** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Adani Powers** with effect from 11th January 2022. He is a Chartered Accountant, who has served as the Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation.
- Earlier, Khyalia has worked as Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation, where he got experience of the Renewable Power Sector especially the development of **Ultra Mega Renewable Parks**.

5. RBI released Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21



- **Reserve Bank of India** has released the **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes** for 2020-21, which has been prepared for the 9-

month period (**July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021**) in alignment with the change in the Financial Year of RBI from 'July – June' to 'April – March' with effect from July 1, 2020.

- The Annual Report covers the activities under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BOS), the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 (OSNBFC) and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 (OSDT).
- The volume of complaints received under all the 3 Ombudsman Schemes increased by **22.27 percent** on an annualized basis and stood at 3,03,107.
- The complaints received at BOS from July 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, stood at 2,73,204
- The complaints received at OSNBFCs stood at 26,957 during July 1, 2020-March 31, 2021
- The number of complaints received at the OSDT rose to 2,946 during July 1, 2020-March 31, 2021.
- RBI data further highlights that, **Chandigarh** received the maximum complaints during the same period. Total number of complaints stand at 28019. It accounts for 10.26 per cent of the total complaints.
- Chandigarh is followed by **Kanpur** with 21,168 complaints and **New Delhi** with 18,767 complaints. Kanpur accounts for 7.75 per cent and Delhi accounts for 6.87 per cent of the total complaints.

6. Yes Mutual Fund renamed as White Oak Capital Mutual Fund



- The name of YES Asset Management has been rechristened as **WhiteOak Capital Asset Management** and therefore the name of **YES Mutual Fund** has been changed to **WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund**.
- The change in the names are effective from **January 12, 2022**. White Oak got the license to run a mutual fund. White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for equity assets of over **Rs 42,000 crore**.
- In November 2021, White Oak Capital Group, through its subsidiary, GPL Finance and Investments, acquired the mutual fund business, Yes Asset Management, of Yes Bank. The White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for Indian equity investors.

7. Defence Ministry sets up Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal



- The Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** has set up an online **Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal** to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents.
- The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)**, he stated on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- The minister also announced that the DESW has allotted **Rs 320 crore** to **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF)** to clear all backlog of pending applications for welfare schemes, especially education and marriage grants for widows or dependent children of ESM.
- The Minister also stated that the Directorate General of Resettlement has issued 22,278 job letters—including 7,898 job letters to freshly retired/first-time entrants—to civil life ESMs in the government sector/PSUs/banks and private sector during the year April 2021-December 2021.

8. Indian Navy and Russian Navy conducts PASSEX Exercise in Arabian Sea



- **Indian Navy and Russian Navy** undertook **PASSEX exercises** at the port of **Cochin**, in the **Arabian Sea**. The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, **INS Kochi**, took part in the exercise. Russian Federation Navy was represented by **RFS Admiral Tributs**.
- These exercises are aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and this will involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations, Navy officials said, adding that these exercises are conducted regularly with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea.

9. IMAI organises 16th India Digital Summit 2022



- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, **Piyush Goyal** virtually addressed the **16th India Digital Summit, 2022**. The two-day virtual event was organised on January 11 and 12, 2022 by the **Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**. The theme of the summit was **“Supercharging Startups”**.
- India Digital Summit is the oldest event of the digital industry in India. During the event, the Minister unveiled ‘LEAP’ as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem. LEAP stands for **“Leverage, Encourage, Access & Promote”**.

10. Former West Indies Cricketer Clive Lloyd Receives Knighthood



- Former West Indies **Captain Clive Lloyd** received **Knighthood** from **Prince William**, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket.
- On the same day, England's world cup-winning captain **Eoin Morgan** was awarded with **CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire)** by Prince William for his services towards the game of cricket.
- The CBE is the highest-ranking Order of the British Empire award, followed by OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) and then MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).
- A knighthood is a title that is given to a man by a British king or queen for his achievements or his service to his country. A man who has been given a knighthood can put 'Sir' in front of his name instead of 'Mr'.

11. Jitendra Singh launched AI-driven Start-Up for Water Purification by IIT alumni



- Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up by **Indian Institute Technology (IIT) alumni** for water purification through innovative technology with financial support from **Technology Development Board (TDB)**.

- The facility aims to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between TDB, a statutory body of the Department of S&T and Swajal Water Private Limited.
- The Gurugram based company's patented system, '**Clairvoyant**' uses artificial intelligence to optimise purification systems and predict future breakdowns.

12. Lakshya Sen defeats Loh Kean Yew to win maiden Super 500 title



- Indian badminton player **Lakshya Sen** has defeated World Champion **Loh Kean Yew** of Singapore, in the men's singles final of **India Open 2022** to secure his maiden **Super 500** title.
- The 20-year-old Sen gained victory over Yew in straight games 24-22, 21-17. The 2022 India Open (badminton), officially Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022, was held at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India, from 11 to 16 January 2022.

List of Winners of 2022 India Open (badminton):

Category	Winners
Men's Single	Lakshya Sen (India)
Women's Single	Busanan Ongbamrunghan (Thailand)
Men's Double	Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India)
Women's Double	Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand)
Mixed Double	Terry Hee and Tan Wei Han (Singapore)

13. Goalkeeper Savita Punia named captain of India Women's Hockey team



- Goalkeeper **Savita Punia** will lead India at the upcoming **women's Asia Cup** in **Muscat** as **Hockey India** named a strong 18-member squad for the event, including 16 players that featured at the Tokyo Olympics.

- Since regular skipper **Rani Rampal** is recovering from an injury in Bengaluru, Savita will lead the side in the tournament, which is scheduled to be held between January 21-28. Indian women are the defending champions.
- Seven other teams competing at the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 are **China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.**

14. **Tasnim Mir became the World No 1 in Badminton U-19 Girls Singles**



- **Tasnim Mir** became the **first Indian** to grab **World no 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles** category with 10,810 points in the latest **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings**. She is followed by **Mariia Golubeva** from Russia and **Lucia Rodriguez** from Spain.
- In 2021, she won 3 Junior International Tournaments held in Bulgaria, France and Belgium, which helped her climb up for No.1 position. The World No.1 position in Boy's Singles is shared by **Lakshya Sen, Siril Verma and Aditya Joshi.**

15. Kohli quits as India's Test captain after seven years 2022



- **Virat Kohli** has stepped down as the **Test captain of the Indian national cricket team** after seven years. He first led the national side in Test cricket in 2014 against Australia. He guided the team to an unprecedented back-to-back Test series wins Down Under.
- Kohli also thanked former head coach Ravi Shastri and former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni in his statement. In 2021, India also finished as the runners-up in the inaugural **ICC World Test Championship**.
- Kohli had recently stepped down as India's T20I captain and was subsequently removed as the ODI captain ahead of the South Africa tour. India also became a top-ranked Test side in the world.

16. Legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away



- Legendary Kathak dancer, **Pandit Birju Maharaj** has passed away at the age of 83. A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, **Padma Vibhushan**, he was fondly called Pandit-ji or Maharaj-ji by his disciples and legions of followers and was one of India's best-known artistes.
- Birju Maharaj was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers, which includes his two uncles, Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj, and his father and guru, Acchan Maharaj. Birju Maharaj was also a singer par excellence, having command over Thumri, Dadra, Bhajan and Ghazal.