

12th December, 2021 Current Affairs

1. Veteran journalist Vinod Dua passed away:

Key Highlights:

Recently, Veteran journalist Vinod Dua has passed away. He was one of the guides in Hindi broadcast journalism, operated with Doordarshan to show the youth programme Yuva Manch in the mid of 70s and later with many other popular television news channels.



About his Journey:

He was a fundamental part of NDTV's journey, where 'Zaika India Ka' saw him crisscrossing the country just for the best taste.

He was known for his political discourse in web shows for digital media platforms the Wire an Indian nonprofit news and opinion website and HW News a digital News channel which focuses on Social, Political & Economic scenario of India.

Awards won by Vinod Dua:

- Mr. Dua was honoured with various awards for his contribution to journalism.
- In 1996, he was the first electronic media journalist to win the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award.
- He was also rewarded the Padma Shri for Journalism in 2008 by the Government of India.
- In June 2017, for his lifetime achievement in journalism, Mumbai Press Club awarded him the RedInk Award, which was presented to him by the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

2. Prime Minister will open the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor on 13th December 2021:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi on 13th December 2021.



Salient Points:

This project was a long pending dream of PM for creating an easily approachable pathway between Kashi Vishwanath Temple and banks of Ganga River.

Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for the project on March 8, 2019.

About Kashi Vishwanath Corridor Project:

The project is rolled out across 5 lakh square feet area, comprising of more than 40 ancient temples restored and beautified. Under the project, 23 new buildings were constructed for providing various type of facilities to the devotees.

Essence on Environmental Protection:

The Kashi Vishwanath corridor also spread the message of environmental protection. The corridor has been beautify by Rudraksh, Parijat, Bael, Amla and Ashok trees. Special arrangements have been made to plant trees across the temple premises and mandir chowk.

Construction of three passenger facilitation centres:

Under this project, different buildings have been constructed to organise various religious functions. Three passenger facilitation centres have also been set up in Vishwanath Dham. The Project has also provided for facilities like lockers, shops selling puja items and ticket counters.

About Kashi Vishwanath Dham Prasad:

On the occasion, Varanasi district administration have mapped out to distribute laddoos to 8 lakh households in the city.

[About the Kashi Vishwanath Temple:](#)

This famous Hindu temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is situated in Vishwanath Gali of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. It is located on the western bank of River Ganga. The temple is among the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva Temples. Main deity of the temple is known by the names like Shri Vishwanath and Vishweshwara, which means Lord of the Universe.

3. [Flatbill flycatcher- New Species of Bird Discovered:](#)

Recently, in South America, a New Species of Bird named Flatbill flycatchers have been found.

[Salient Points:](#)

Flatbill flycatcher are members of genus Rhynchocyclus exclusively New World family Tyrannidae.

Four known species in this genus are distributed across southern Mexico to north-eastern Bolivia, Brazil and eastern Venezuela.



[About the four species of Genus Rhynchocyclus:](#)

Genus Rhynchocyclus currently comprises of four species:

1. Olivaceous flatbill (Rhynchocyclus olivaceus),
2. Eye-ringed flatbill (Rhynchocyclus brevirostris),
3. Pacific flatbill (Rhynchocyclus pacificus)and
4. Fulvous-breasted flatbill (Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus).

[About Cryptic flatbill:](#)

The newly discovered species has been named as cryptic flatbill (Rhynchocyclus cryptus) after its remarkable morphological cryptic nature, it strongly contrasts with its high levels of vocal and genetic differentiation.

4. India will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024:

Key Highlights:

- Because of the need of the alternative of the traditional energy, India would now **have 9 nuclear reactors by 2024.**
- A new nuclear project, the **first in northern India,** will come up in Gorakhpur of Haryana which is 150 kms away from Delhi.
- By 2024, India will have nine nuclear reactors plus **12 new additional ones,** which were authorised during the Covid with a range of **9000 MW.**
- Nuclear energy **would soon appear as one of the major** sources of alternative or clean energy for the country's increasing power demand.
- India is counting on its nuclear program to help meet its Paris climate pledges to reduce the **emissions concentration** of its economy by a third **from 2005 levels by 2030.**



ONLINE LEARNING WITH EXPERTS

5. World Malaria Report 2021 released by World Health Organisation (WHO):

Key Highlights:

In the released report, the WHO notes that **Global efforts to cope up with malaria suffered** because of novel coronavirus disease in 2020.

The report further warned that, if proper action is not



taken, the world will **witness the danger of seeing** an immediate resurgence of Malaria, particularly in Africa.

Deaths data due to Malaria:

- In 2020, there were an estimated **627,000 malaria deaths**. The number of deaths increase **by 12 % as compared to 2019**.
- **Around 47,000** (accounting for 68%) of the additional 69000 deaths were linked to disruptions in provision of malaria diagnosis, treatment and prevention **amid the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- 241 million malaria cases were reported in **85 malaria-endemic countries** in 2020. This figure has been increased **from 227 million in 2019**.
- Most of the increase in number of cases were reported from countries in the WHO African Region.

Cases in WHO African Region:

- The WHO African Region accounted for around **95 % of the cases**. It accounted for 228 million malaria cases in 2020.
- **Twenty-nine countries** were mainly responsible **for 96 per cent of malaria** cases across the world.
- **Six countries** namely Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Mozambique, Angola and Burkina Faso accounted for around 55 per cent of all cases worldwide.

Number of Malaria cases in India and WHO South-East Asia Region:

India is responsible for **83% of cases in WHO South-East Asia Region**.

But Sri Lanka was certified malaria-free in the year 2016 and it remains malaria-free.

Progress against Malaria across the globe:

Global progress against malaria had downgraded even before the covid-19 pandemic. Since 2015, around **24 countries have registered increases** in malaria mortality.

6. [Sunil Arora, former CEC joined the Advisory board of international democracy body:](#)

Former chief election commissioner (CEC) of India, **Sunil Arora**, has recently joined the board of advisers of the International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance (**IDEA**).



Salient Points:

Sunil Arora has been selected because he brought **rich leadership experience**, skills and knowledge to contribute significantly towards working of the international institute.

Sunil Arora was the **23rd chief election commissioner** of India. His tenure was from December 2, 2018 to April 12, 2021. He had joined as Election Commissioner in September 2017.

About IDEA:

IDEA is an inter-governmental organisation, **based in Stockholm.**

IDEA is assisted by a **15-member board of advisers** who are eminent **experts** or personalities from a wide variety of backgrounds.

It is aimed to support sustainable democracy across the world.

Presently it has **34 member countries, including** large, small, older and newer democracies from across the globe.

India was one among the **founding members of IDEA.**

The Chief Election Commissioner of India:

The Chief Election Commissioner is the head of Election Commission of India, which is **a constitutional body empowered to conduct free and fair elections** in India. CEC of India is a member of Indian Civil Service and mostly a member from the Indian Administrative Service. The removal of the Chief Election

Commissioner, once he is appointed by the president. This is so, because **two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are** required to present and vote against him for his conduct or improper actions.

About Election Commission of India:

Election commission conducts election to the national & state legislatures as well as of **President & Vice-President**. Election Commission gets power to conduct election from Article 324 of the Constitution of India.

7. India voted against UNSC resolution to securitise climate action:

Recently, **India voted against a** UN Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution to securitise climate change.

Salient Points:

The draft resolution linked climate change with **global security challenges**.

India proclaimed that; this move seeks to undermine the hard-won consensus which was reached at the **recent Glasgow Summit**.

The new climate agreement was accepted by the negotiators from around 200 countries, after the **COP26 summit**, which recognises India's intervention to "phase down" rather than **"phase out" the fossil fuels**.

Major points of Draft resolution:

The draft resolution was passed jointly **by Niger and Ireland**.

It called the **UN Secretary General Antonion Guterres to** "integrate climate-related security risk into comprehensive conflict-prevention strategies, as central component".

Russia had vetoed the resolution.



What is United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

UNSC is among six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). It is charged to ensure international peace and security. It also recommends on the admission of new UN members to the Assembly. It further approves any changes to the UN Charter. It is the only UN body, having the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

Major Powers of UNSC:

- Establishing peacekeeping operations.
- Enacting international sanctions.
- Authorizing military action.