

14 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. R K Singh dedicates Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation



- Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh dedicated Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation. This is expected to facilitate achieving the government's ambitious target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030.
- The AGC is being operated by Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) through National Load Despatch Centre. Through AGC, POSOCO sends signals to power plants every 4 seconds to maintain the frequency and reliability of the Power System.
- Speaking on the fifth POSOCO Day, Mr. Singh remarked that India is getting ready for integration of large-scale variable and intermittent renewable sources and one of the major tools for enabling the frequency control is AGC.
- Under the POSOCO's AGC project, till date 51 GW of generation capacity across all five regions is operational.
- On the country's march towards achieving the renewable energy capacity of 175 GW in 2022, an installed capacity of 150 GW of renewable energy have already been achieved, including large hydro projects.
- 63 GW of renewable energy capacity is under various phases of installation, which is expected to be completed by next year.

2. PM Modi lays foundation stone of 22 Developmental Projects worth over 4,800 crore rupees in Imphal



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Manipur has the gateway to the southeast Asian countries and strengthen the Atma Nirbhar Bharat and he also praised the women of Manipur and said that they make India proud in the world of Sports.
- He was speaking after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of 22 Developmental Projects worth over 4,800 crore rupees in Imphal.
- Prime Minister inaugurated 13 Projects worth around 1,850 crore rupees and laid the foundation stone of 9 projects worth around 2,950 crore rupees.
- These projects relate to diverse sectors such as Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban Development, Housing, Information Technology, Skill Development, Art, and Culture, among others.
- Prime Minister in his speech proudly recalled that Manipur is a place where many freedom fighters were born and Moirang city of Manipur is the place from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted tricolor for the first time.
- Five MPs from North East region are inducted into the council of Ministers in the Union Government. He also said that all the ministries are advised to give special attention to Manipur and for the development of the state with dedication.

- The country imports palm oil in huge quantity and the government has implemented palm oil missions at the cost of 11 thousand crore and most of the mission will be implemented in North East Region.
- Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar, Governor L Ganesan, Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of State for Education and External Affairs Dr. R.K. Ranjan and state ministers shared the dais with the Prime Minister.
- Later in the day Prime Minister is visiting Tripura to inaugurate the New Integrated Terminal Building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport and launch key initiatives - Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhi Yojana and Project Mission 100 of Vidyajyoti Schools.

3. ISRO targets launch of uncrewed flights under Gaganyaan mission before Independence Day

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is targeting the launch of first of the two planned uncrewed flights under the Gaganyaan mission before Independence Day this year.
- ISRO chairperson Dr K Sivan said the third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched by middle of the next year. In a letter encouraging the scientists at the organization, Dr Sivan said, launch of EOS-4 and EOS-6 onboard PSLV and launch of EOS-02 onboard maiden flight of SSLV are immediate tasks at hand this year.
- There is a directive to launch the first unmanned mission before the 75th anniversary of Country's independence i.e, August 15th this year and all the stakeholders are putting their best effort to meet the schedule.
- Dr. Sivan said, Chandrayaan-3 design changes incorporating and testing has seen huge progress and the mission could be launched by the middle of next year.
- The launch of the three earth observation satellites - EOS-02, EOS-04, and EOS-06 have been delayed for several months now. All big-ticket

scientific missions, including India's first solar mission Aditya-L1, which were to take place in 2021 were pushed when the launch schedule was revised after the second wave of the pandemic.

4. Dr. Jitendra Singh launches Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award

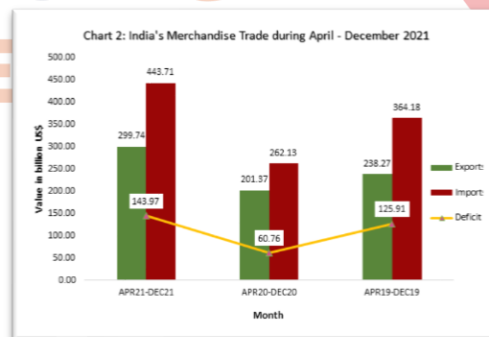


- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award. The registration for the Award began from 3 January 2022. Speaking after the launch, the Minister said, the entire concept and format of the PM's Excellence Award has undergone a revolutionary change since 2014. PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration portal for the year 2021-2022 is www.pmawards.gov.in.
- According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, India's governance model has become a Jan Andolan with people responding to the Prime Minister's call for Jan Bhagidari in major schemes.
- Officers must become a facilitator to bring the "Ease of Life" for the common man.
- The prize money was also doubled this year from 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees to the awarded District or Organization. He informed that it is now mandatory for all District Collectors to apply for the Award. At the same time, he noted with satisfaction that from 80 districts in 2015, for the last two three years all districts are participating in the award scheme.

5. Leaders of US, Russia, Britain, France, and China in a joint statement adopts prevention of nuclear weapons

- United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China have agreed that further spread of nuclear arms and nuclear war should be avoided.
- According to a joint statement by the five nuclear powers published by the Kremlin, the countries consider it their primary responsibility to avoid war between the nuclear states and should reduce strategic risks, with an aim to work with all countries to create an atmosphere of security.
- Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu said the joint statement could help to increase mutual trust and replace competition among major powers with coordination and cooperation. Zhaoxu added that China has a "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons.
- France also released the statement, underscoring that the five powers reiterated their determination for nuclear arms control and disarmament and they would continue bilateral and multilateral approaches to nuclear arms.

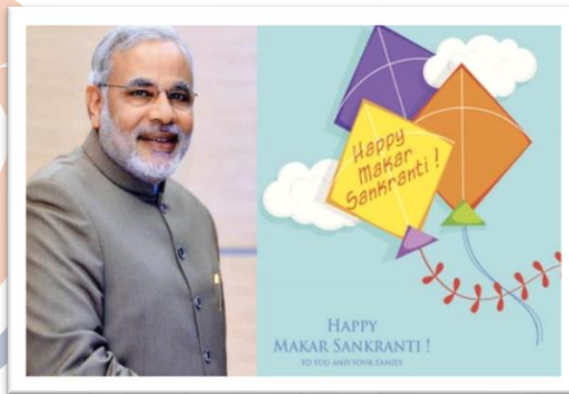
6. India achieves highest ever export of 37.29 billion dollars



- According to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, India's exports in December surged 37 percent on an annual basis to 37.29 billion US Dollars, which is highest-ever monthly figure.
- India's exports of goods will cross 400 billion dollars this fiscal. Imports in December too rose by 38 percent to 59.27 billion dollars on account

- of an increase in oil imports, which soared 65.17 percent to 15.9 billion dollars.
- Cumulatively, during April-December 2021-22 exports rose by 48.85 percent to 299.74 billion dollars.
 - Imports during the period increased by 69.27 percent to 443.71 billion dollars, leaving a trade deficit of 143.97 billion dollars.
 - Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President A Sakthivel said looking at the current trend, India will achieve the 400 billion dollar merchandise exports target for the current fiscal.

7. PM Modi greets people on Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu, Bhogi & Pongal



- Mr Modi hoped that the festival associated with the worship of nature will bring health and happiness in everyone's life. He said, across India we are marking different festivals which signify India's vibrant cultural diversity.
- Prime Minister hoped that Bhogi festival will enrich the spirit of happiness in our society. Mr Modi said, Pongal is synonymous with the vibrant culture of Tamil Nadu.
- On this special occasion, he prayed that our bond with nature and the spirit of brotherhood in the society are deepened.

8. AISCD gets approval to hold first World Deaf T20 Cricket championship 2023



- The All India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10-20, 2023.
- This championship was planned to be conducted in 2020-21 but due to the sudden outbreak of coronavirus, it was postponed first to 2022 & now fixed for 2023.
- A minimum of eight countries are expected to take part in the championship and this kind of international event is being held in India with the approval of the ICSD for the first time.”

9. ISFR Report: India's forest & tree cover rose by 2,261 sq km in last 2 years



- Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 17th edition of the biennial 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)' 2021.
- ISFR is released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), every two years since 1987 to assess the country's forest resources.
- India's forest and tree cover rose by 2,261 square kilometres in ISFR 2021 as compared to the assessment of 2019.
- This includes an increase of 1,540 square kilometres in forest cover and a 721 sq km increase in tree cover.

10. Raghuvendra Tanwar appointed chairman of ICHR



- Professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University, Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). Tanwar appointment is for a period of three years from the day

he assumes the office of the Chairman of the Council or until further order.

- The primary aim and objective of the Indian Council of Historical Research is to promote and give directions to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history. Enhancing the academic standard of the output of ICHR activities has been the foremost objective in it's agenda.
- **Indian Council of Historical Research Founded:** 27 March 1972
- **Indian Council of Historical Research Headquarters:** New Delhi

11. Cyprus detects new 'Deltacron' Covid variant



- Cyprus has detected a new variant dubbed as “Deltacron”, that has a similar genetic background to the Delta variant, coupled with 10 mutations from Omicron. The variant has already affected 25 people in Cyprus.
- According to Dr Leondios Kostrikis, the head of the laboratory of biotechnology and molecular virology at the University of Cyprus, of the 25 samples taken in Cyprus, 11 were hospitalised due to the virus, while 14 were from the general population.
- **Cyprus Capital:** Nicosia
- **Cyprus Continent:** Europe