

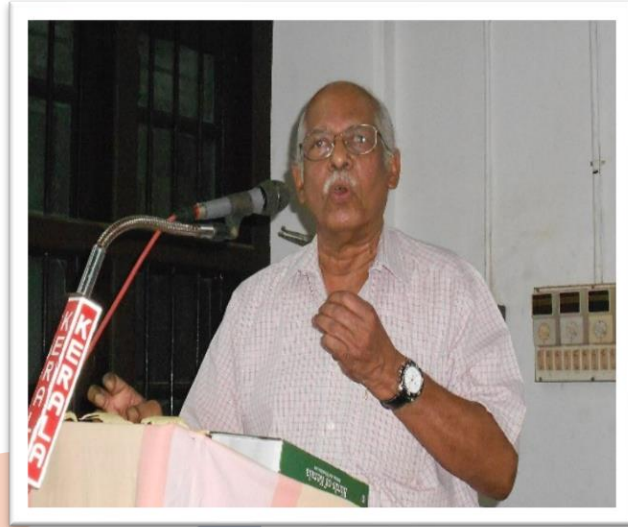
19 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. Roberta Metsola becomes EU Parliament's new president



- EU lawmakers have chosen centre-right Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, as only the third woman to head the European Parliament, despite controversy over her anti-abortion stance.
- Metsola - a member of the largest bloc, the European People's Party won a large majority with 458 votes to become the third woman to head the chamber after a deal between the leading political groupings.
- Elected on the day she turns 43, the politician from the European Union's smallest nation becomes the youngest president ever to run the chamber.
- She takes over at a time of mourning for the legislature as it marks the sudden death last week of its speaker David Sassoli.
- Metsola was eventually elected as an MEP on her third try, in 2013, on the ticket of Malta's Nationalist Party.

2. Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner M.K. Prasad passes away



- Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner Prof M K Prasad passed away recently.
- He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroots level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction.
- He had also led the popular science movement, '**Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath**'.
- Prof. Prasad, who had served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University, was in the forefront of environment protection activities in the State.

3. India & Japan conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise in Bay of Bengal



- A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19.
- The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt while JMSDF Ships Uruga and Hirado participated from the Japanese side.
- Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.

4. South Africa Launches 1st 'made In Africa' Satellites

- South Africa has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa.
- Three locally produced nanosatellites, which made up the country's first Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation, were launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States, as part of American aerospace company SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.
- Transporter-3, SpaceX's third dedicated rideshare mission, carried a total of 105 spacecraft for various organisations and governments,

including CubeSats, microsats, PocketQubes and orbital transfer vehicles.

5. MobiKwik launches 'ClickPay' in collaboration with NBBL



- MobiKwik, one of India's largest mobile wallets and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) Fintech companies launched 'ClickPay' for its customers, in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL).
- This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.

6. Axis Bank & CRMNEXT won IBSi Innovation Awards 2021



- Axis Bank & CRMNEXT Solution won the IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the “Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation”.
- It is one of the most prominent awards for global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants across the world.

7. A book titled “Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist” by Chandrachur Ghose

- A new biography titled “Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist” authored by Chandrachur Ghose will be released in February 2022.
- The book contains the thoughts and opinions of Subhas Chandra Bose about the development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics and political ideology.
- It also marked the untold and unknown stories of Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose).

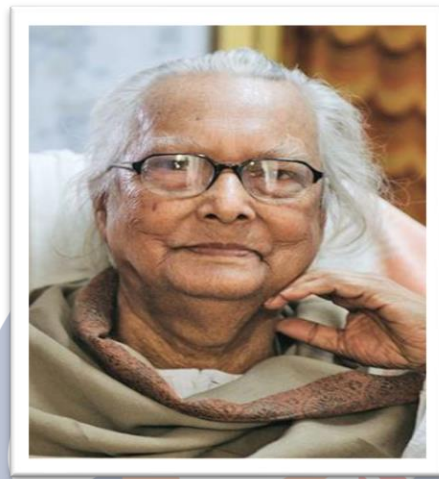
8. Dubai opens its Infinity Bridge for traffic for the first time



- Iconic ‘Infinity Bridge’ in Dubai, United Arab Emirates has been formally opened to traffic for the first time on 16th January 2022.

- Its design resembles a mathematical sign for infinity (∞).
- It represents the limitless, infinite goals of Dubai. It consists of six lanes in each direction and a combined 3-metre track for pedestrians and cyclists.
- It is 300 meters long and 22 meters wide.

9. **Legendary Bengali comics artist, writer and illustrator, Narayan Debnath passes away**



- Legendary Bengali comics artist, writer and illustrator, Narayan Debnath, has passed away after a prolonged illness.
- He was 97. The celebrated cartoonist was the creator of popular Bengali comic strips like Handa Bhonda (1962), Bantul the Great (1965) and Nonte Phonte (1969).
- He holds the record of longest-running comics by an individual artiste for the Handa Bhonda comics series which completed its continuous 60 years of running.
- In 2021, Debnath was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India.

10. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 announced



- The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held virtually in Zurich, Switzerland to crown outstanding players for excellent achievement in football.
- Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas and Poland/Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski were awarded the Best FIFA Players in women's and men's football respectively.
- Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020.

11. Shashank Goel appointed as Additional Secretary in Labor and Employment Ministry



- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shashank Goel, IAS of 90 batch as Additional Secretary in Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Shailesh Kumar Singh, IAS of 91 batch has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Manish Kumar Gupta who is presently Principal Commissioner, Delhi Development Authority, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been appointed as Vice-Chairman, Delhi Development Authority in the rank of Additional Secretary.
- Chanchal Kumar, IAS of 92 batch has been appointed as Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.