

4 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. **Russia, US, France, China and Britain adopt prevention of Nuclear Weapons**



- France, the US, China, Russia, and the United States have jointly agreed that further spread of nuclear war and arms must be avoided.
- As per the joint statement issued by five nuclear powers, the nations consider it their primary responsibility to avoid war between the nuclear states and reduction of statistical risks.
- The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister stated that the statement will help in increasing mutual trust and will replace the competition among major nuclear powers with cooperation and coordination.
- France also stated that the five powers will continue their bilateral and multilateral approaches to nuclear arms control.
- Punjab announces restrictions, night curfews amid surge in COVID-19 cases
- The Government of Punjab, amid the rising number of COVID-19 infections, announced a series of restrictions in the state. It included the imposition of the night curfew in all the towns, in effect till January 15, 2022.
- As per the order issued by the Government, the movement of individuals for all the non-essential activities will be prohibited between 10 pm to 5 am.

- The government has also directed that all the educational institutions, including colleges, schools, and coaching institutions will also remain close till January 15. However, nursing and medical colleges will continue to function.
- Cinema Halls, bars, malls, multiplexes, spas, etc. will be allowed to operate at 50% of their capacity, subject to all staff being fully vaccinated.

2. Launch of uncrewed flights under Gaganyaan before Independence Day



- The Indian Space and Research Organisation has been targeting the launch of the first of two planned uncrewed flights under the Gaganyaan Mission before Independence day in 2022.
- The Chairperson of ISRO Dr. K Sivan stated that the third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched by the middle of 2023.
- Sivan also informed that there is a directive to launch the first unmanned mission before the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, i.e. 15th August 2022 and all the stakeholders have been putting their best effort to meet the schedule.
- The launch of three Earth observation satellites, however, has been delayed for several months now.

3. Israel to offer 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine



- Israel has announced that it will start offering the 4th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to people aged 60 or above. It will become the first country in the world to widely disseminate the extra dose to fight off the Omicron variant.
- Prime Minister of Israel also informed that the fourth dose will be made available to the medical staff who had received their last jab at least 4 months ago.
- The vaccination campaigns in Israel have been ahead of the curve, with the country being the first to inoculate the majority of its population and also being the most aggressive in administering the booster dose.

4. Ladakh celebrated traditional New Year 'Losar Festival'



- The Losar Festival in Ladakh is celebrated at the onset of the New Year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan Buddhism.
- It is celebrated by the Buddhist Community in the Ladakh region.

- The Losar is a 15 days festival, from the start of the Tibetan Lunar calendar, marking the 1st day of the 11 months in the Tibetan Calendar.
- Losar is a Tibetan word that means 'New Year'.

5. **Zishaan A Latif won Ramnath Goenka Award in Photo journalism**



- Zishaan A Latif won Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photo Journalism category.
- He won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in The Caravan in October 2019.
- He documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and put a face to an untold human story.
- About a month after the NRC list was released, Latif made his way through four districts in Assam, documenting people's struggle for inclusion in the NRC.

6. Airtel Payments Bank receives scheduled bank status from RBI



- Airtel Payments Bank has been categorised as scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), paving the way for it to pitch for government business.
- Airtel Payments Bank has a base of 115 million users. The bank turned profitable in the quarter ended September'21.
- Anubrata Biswas is the current Managing Director & CEO, Airtel Payments Bank.

7. PM Modi to inaugurate 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry on Jan 12.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th National Youth Festival in the Union Territory of Puducherry on January 12 at the Pondicherry Central University campus.

- The Union Minister will oversee the preparations and logistics of the festival also.
- Around 7000 youth from across the country and 500 youth from Puducherry aged between 18 and 22 are expected to participate in the 5-day youth festival to be held from January 12 to 16.

