

8 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. V K Bhawra is new Punjab DGP



- Senior IPS officer Viresh Kumar Bhawra has been appointed the director general of police of Punjab, according to an order.
- The Charanjit Singh Channi-led government selected the 1987 batch IPS officer out of a panel of three officers shortlisted by the Union Public Service Commission.
- The other two officers in the panel were senior IPS officers Dinkar Gupta and Prabodh Kumar.
- Bhawra's term shall be for a minimum period of two years from the date of assumption of office, said the order.
- At present, Siddharth Chattopadhyaya was the officiating DGP of the state.

2. Teachmint partners with Punjab govt to offer its teaching platform to over 500 schools



- According to Education infrastructure startup Teachmint, on 8 January 2022 has partnered with the Punjab government to provide its teaching platform to over 500 government schools in the state and enable them to run their classrooms efficiently.
- In the first phase of the partnership, schools in Pathankot will be able to digitise their operations and ensure their students have continuous access to teachers and digital content through Teachmint's proprietary platform, the company said in a statement.
- We are humbled to partner with the Punjab government to empower schools, educators and students in the region with tech-enabled education. We're delighted to start this in Pathankot.
- According to Teachmint Vice President - Business, Aditya Agrawal, "We believe that digitisation of education is critical in today's world and our platform is designed to enable education at the grass-root level".

3. ECI announces assembly polls schedule for Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand, UP



- Election Commission on 8 January 2022 announced the Assembly polls schedule for Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- Announcing the poll schedule, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said a total of 690 Assembly constituencies in Goa, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab will go to polls this time.
- The term of Goa Legislative Assembly is ending on 15th March this year, Manipur Assembly on 19th March, Uttarakhand and Punjab Legislative Assembly on 23rd March and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 14th May 2022.

- All polling stations will be equipped with COVID-mitigation facilities including sanitisers and masks. The number of booths have also been increased.
- At least one polling booth in each assembly constituency will be exclusively managed by women personnel to encourage women voters.

Full Schedule - Elections in 5 States to Start from Feb 10, Results on March 10

First Phase UP – 10th Feb

Second Phase: UP – 14th Feb, **Punjab** – 14th Feb, **Uttarakhand** – 14th Feb, **Goa** – 14th Feb

Third Phase UP – 20th Feb

Fourth Phase UP – 23rd Feb

Fifth Phase UP – 27th Feb, **Manipur** – 27th Feb

Sixth Phase UP – 3rd March, **Manipur** – 3rd March

Seventh Phase UP – 7th March

Results -10th March (5 States)

4. [Sea Dragon 2022 Exercise: India joins 'Sea Dragon' exercise](#)



- India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the

multinational exercise “Sea Dragon” 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.

- According to the US Indo Pacific Command, “Sea Dragon is a US led multi-national exercise designed to practice and discuss anti-submarine warfare tactics to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.”
- The exercise assumes significance in the face of strained relations that some countries have with China and the growing forays of the PLA-Navy into the Indian Ocean region. The Indian Navy has recently inducted two more Poseidon 8I maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, which would further boost its ability to keep an eye over the Chinese ships and submarines in the region.
- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.

5. Indian economy to grow 9.2 pc in 2021-22, surpass pre-Covid level: Govt data



- The Indian economy is estimated to grow at 9.2 per cent in the 2021-22 fiscal, surpassing pre-Covid level in actual terms mainly on account of improved performance especially in farm, mining and manufacturing sectors.
- The improvement in the economy comes over a GDP contraction of 7.3 per cent during 2020-21 due to the pandemic and resultant lockdown imposed to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

- As per the first advanced estimates of the national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), a growth is witnessed across sectors.
- As per NSO estimates, GDP in actual terms in 2021-22 will surpass the pre-COVID level of Rs 145.69 lakh crore in 2019-20.
- The pandemic hit the country in March 2020, resulting in a nationwide lockdown from March 25, 2020, which severely dented the economic growth in the 2020-21 fiscal.
- According to the statement, real GVA (gross value added) at Basic Prices is estimated at Rs 135.22 lakh crore in 2021-22, as against Rs 124.53 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.6 per cent.

6. Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy 2.0



- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0 which is aimed at financially supporting school students in innovation.
- He announced the policy, while inaugurating the two-day International Conference on Academic Institutions at Gujarat Science City in Ahmedabad.
- This policy has a provision of setting up active innovation and incubation centres across all universities in the state.
- It intends to cover 50 lakh students across One thousand higher education institutes and 10 thousand schools of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar

Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Gujarat Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

7. Union Steel Minister Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh lays Foundation Stone for new 5 MTPA Project at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works in Karnataka



- Union Steel Minister, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh laid the foundation stone for the new 5 MTPA project at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works integrated steel facility in Ballari, Karnataka.
- This brown-field expansion project is being undertaken through JSW Vijayanagar Metallics Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW Steel Ltd.
- The Company has earmarked a capex investment of Rs 15,000 crore for this expansion and is expected to be completed by FY24.
- The Foundation Stone laying ceremony was conducted in the presence of JSW Steel Chairman Shri Sajjan Jindal along with other government and company officials.