

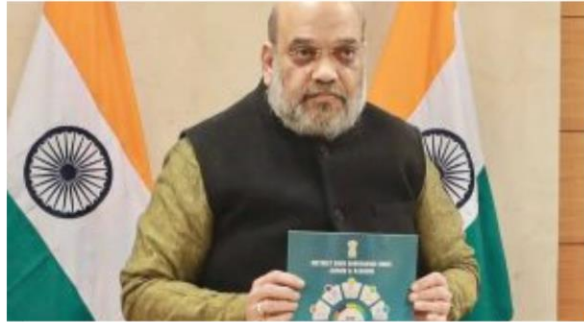
23 January, 2022 Current Affairs

1. PM Narendra Modi unveils hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has unveiled a hologram statue of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** at **India Gate on Parakram Divas**. The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width. A grand statue, which will be made of granite, will replace the hologram statue once it is completed.
- The statue is being installed on the **125th birth anniversary** as a tribute to the immense contribution of Netaji in the country's freedom struggle and would be a symbol of the country's indebtedness to him.
- The prime minister also conferred the '**Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**' for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 in the investiture ceremony. A total of seven awards were presented during the ceremony.
- **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category)** and **Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category)** have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** for their excellent work in Disaster Management for the year **2022**.

2. India's First "District Good Governance Index" launched



- The Union Minister of Home and Cooperation **Amit Shah** has virtually released India's First "**District Good Governance Index**" for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The top 5 districts in the District Good Governance Index" are **(1) Jammu, (2) Doda, (3) Samba, (4) Pulwama and (5) Srinagar.**
- This index has been prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The **District Good Governance Index (DGGI)** is a framework document comprising of performance under ten governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.

3. Govt announces 40-100 per cent subsidy to popularise drone in agriculture



- Union Agriculture Ministry has amended the guidelines of **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** to provide **40-100 per cent subsidy** until March 2023 in purchasing drones for farm mechanization. After the amendment, a grant for the purchase of drones up to 100 per cent of the cost of agriculture drones or **Rs 10 lakhs**, whichever is less, can be given.
- Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities- 100% subsidy- Rs 10 lakh maximum
- Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)= **50 per cent** subsidy up to **Rs 5 lakh**
- Existing CHCs or new ones, already or to be set up by a cooperative society of farmers, farmer producers organizations (FPOs) and rural entrepreneurs are entitled to receive= 40 per cent subsidy (maximum Rs 4 lakh).
- Union Minister of Agriculture: Narendra Singh Tomar.

4. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley wins second consecutive term



- **Barbados** Prime Minister **Mia Mottley** was sworn in for a second term in office on **20 January** 2022, following a landslide victory by her party in the 2022 election. She is serving as the Prime Minister of Barbados since 2018.

- She is the leader of the **Barbados Labour Party (BLP)** since 2008. She is the first woman prime minister of the country as well as first PM under a republic system.

- Barbados Capital: Bridgetown;
- Barbados Currency: Barbados Dollar.

5. NATO partners to hold maritime drills in Mediterranean Sea



- The **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)** member countries will be conducting a 12-day maritime exercise in the **Mediterranean Sea** from January 24, 2022. The name of the maritime exercise is “**Neptune Strike '22**”. The naval drill will end on February 04, 2022. The main purpose of this exercise will be to demonstrate and test NATO’s wide range of maritime capabilities.
 - The US announced the decision to hold NATO naval drills, which will involve the participation of the USS Harry Truman aircraft carrier, a day after Russia said it would demonstrate its own naval capabilities for two months, January and February, from the Pacific to the Atlantic Sea.
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

- NATO Chairman of the NATO Military Committee: Admiral Rob Bauer.
- Member countries of NATO: 30; Founded: 4 April 1949.

6. Himachal Pradesh CM launched 'Apna Kangra' app



- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, **Jai Ram Thakur** has launched the '**Apna Kangra**' app and hampers handcrafted by self-help groups (SHGs) at **Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The app aims to provide a hassle-free experience for tourists and to boost sales of local handicrafts. While the app is bound to provide a unique experience for tourists on the one hand, on the other it will serve as an e-marketing platform for SHG products from the district.
- The CM also virtually inaugurated Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary at Luthan in Jawalamukhi Vidhan Sabha area of Kangra. The govt of HP initiated the scheme 'Mukhya Mantri HIMCARE' to provide medical services to cattles.

- Himachal Pradesh Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Rajendra Arlekar;
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur.

7. Karnataka became India's first state to launch AVGC Center of Excellence



- The **government of Karnataka** has launched India's first AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE) (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in **Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- AVGC CoE was launched with pioneering high technology digital media hub under its Innovate Karnataka initiative. It is funded by the Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology. Karnataka became India's first state to set up such an AVGC CoE, it is also the biggest centre in Asia.
- The centre also has a finishing school that offers unique courses based on emerging technology such as virtual reality, digital compression, photogrammetry, gamification of education, real-time virtual production, and other emerging technologies.

- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru
- Karnataka Chief Minister: Basavaraj S Bommai
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

8. GoodDot ropes in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador



- Plant-based meat company **GoodDot** has roped in **Neeraj Chopra** as its brand ambassador. With this association, the company wants to create awareness about the new category of plant-based meats. It also wants to send out a message that small changes in lifestyle and food choices can go a long way in making the world a better place.
- The company provides alternatives to mutton, chicken and eggs and is a Direct-to-consumer (D2C) player so far and sells also through online marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, etc. It also sells in countries like **Canada, Singapore, Nepal, Dubai, South Africa, Mauritius, and Oman.**

9. Jio tie-up with Finland's University of Oulu to accelerate 6G research



- **Jio Platforms (JPL)** has signed a pact with the **University of Oulu, Finland**, to accelerate research and standardization in **6G technology**. JPL and the University of Oulu will collaborate in Research and Development (R&D) of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics.
- The collaboration will develop competency with 6G enabled products in the defence, automotive, white goods, industrial machinery, consumer goods, efficient manufacturing, novel personal smart device environments, and experiences such as urban computing and autonomous traffic settings.

10. Indian Armed Force selected 'Saab' for supply of Anti-Armour weapon



- Swedish defence company '**Saab**' had been selected by the **Indian Armed Force** through a competitive programme for the supply of **single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4**. AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The order includes the AT4CS AST, which can be fired from confined spaces such as from inside buildings, bunkers and other urban environments. Carl-Gustaf system of Saab is being already used by the Indian Armed Forces.
- AT4 will be operated by a single soldier and its single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures landing craft helicopters armoured vehicles and personnel. Its **84 mm calibre warhead** offers enhanced power and performance to the Indian armed forces.

- The weapon can be fired with a range of projectiles, such as high-explosive anti-tank rounds, anti-structure tandem-warheads, and high explosive rounds. It can penetrate more than **17.5 inches (44 centimetres) of armour**.
- The AT4 is equipped with an optical night sight for missions in low-light environments and has a minimum arming distance of 10 meters (32.8 feet), making it more accurate when hitting closer targets.

- Saab Founded: 1937
- Saab Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden
- Saab President and CEO: Micael Johansson

11. RBI Paper: Optimal hedge ratio for ECBs is at 63%



- According to a **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Working Paper**, the optimal hedge ratio for the **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** raised by firms in India is estimated at **63 per cent** for the periods of high volatility in the foreign exchange (forex/FX) market.
- An optimal hedge ratio is a ratio that implies the percentage of total asset or liability exposure that an entity ought to hedge against exchange rate fluctuations.

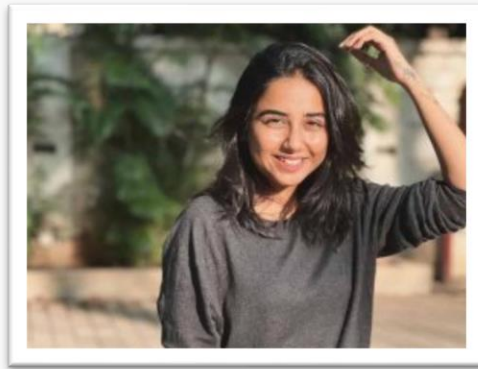
- According to the Paper, domestic economic activity and movements in the exchange rate of the Indian rupee are the two major factors influencing the ECBs issuance. Depreciation of the Indian rupee has an adverse impact on the issuance of ECBs in the short as well as long run.

12. Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe given Netaji Award 2022



- Former Japan Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** was conferred with the **Netaji Award 2022** by **Netaji Research Bureau**. Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honour on behalf of Mr. Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- Satoshi Suzuki, the Japanese Ambassador to India, addressed the program remotely from New Delhi. Abe is a tremendous admirer of Netaji, according to Sugata Bose, the famed liberation fighter's grand-nephew and Director of the Netaji Research Bureau. Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the **Padma Vibhushan** on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the country's second-highest civilian honour.

13. Youtuber Prajakta Koli become India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion



- **Prajakta Koli** has become **India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion**. She is a content creator on various online platforms like youtube, Instagram, etc.
- She has been conferred the title for her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.
- With this title, Prajakta will now have the responsibility to interact with the young generation to raise awareness around climate crisis, global warming and biodiversity loss and their impacts. She is also the global ambassador for YouTube's 'Creators For Change' initiative.

14. NITI Aayog & RMI India releases report 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India'



- **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**' on January 22, 2022, which outlines the need and importance of the inclusion of Electric Vehicles in RBI priority-sector lending guidelines.
- The report has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with **US-based non-profit organisations Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.**
- The report has indicated electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and commercial four-wheelers as early segments to prioritise under Priority Sector Lending. The suggestion has also been made to recognise Electric Vehicles as an infrastructure sub-sector by the Finance Ministry and the incorporation of electric vehicles as a separate reporting category under RBI.

15. ISRO Successfully Tests Vikas engine in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu



- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully test-fired the **Vikas engine** that would power **India's first human-carry rocket (Gaganyaan human space mission)**.
- This qualification test of the Vikas Engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission was conducted by ISRO at **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**. More such tests on Vikas Engine will be conducted in the future by ISRO.
- The test was carried out to verify the robustness of the engine by operating beyond its nominal operating conditions (fuel-oxidiser ratio and chamber pressure). The performance of the engine met the test objectives and the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test.

- Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr S Somanath
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969