

8th JAN 2022 CURRENT AFFAIRS

International News

1. Which country officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 102nd member in January 2022?

- (a) Barbados
- (b) Antigua and Barbuda
- (c) Saint Kitts and Nevis
- (d) Dominica

Answer: (b) Antigua and Barbuda

Explanation: On January 5, 2022, Antigua and Barbuda became the 102nd member to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the ISA Framework Agreement. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Indian High Commissioner to Guyana. ISA is a global initiative led by India to promote solar energy and combat climate change.

2. Which two countries signed the "Reciprocal Access Agreement" (RAA) in January 2022 to strengthen defense ties and counter regional security challenges?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) Japan and Australia
- (c) UK and France
- (d) USA and Japan

Answer: (b) Japan and Australia

Explanation: Japan and Australia signed the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), a landmark defense treaty that allows their militaries to work more closely together. It is Japan's second such agreement after the one with the USA and is aimed at ensuring a "free and open Indo-Pacific."

National News

3. The "Losoong" (Namsong) festival, marking the beginning of the harvest season, was celebrated in which Indian state in January 2022?

- (a) Assam

- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (c) Sikkim

Explanation: Losoong is the Sikkimese New Year, celebrated by the Bhutia and Lepcha tribes. It marks the end of the harvest season. This year, the festivities began on January 3, 2022, and were widely reported during the first week of January.

4. The Ministry of Culture and CSC (Common Services Centres) launched India's first-ever cultural survey of villages titled what?

- (a) Gram Sanskriti
- (b) Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar
- (c) Bharat Darshan
- (d) Vikasit Bharat

Answer: (b) Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar

Explanation: The Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar initiative aims to document the cultural identity of over 6.5 lakh villages in India through a mobile application. It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Culture and Common Services Centres to preserve rural heritage.

Economics & Banking

5. The RBI recently increased the threshold limit for Banks to maintain the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) on deposits from non-financial small business customers to what amount?

- (a) ₹5 crore
- (b) ₹6.5 crore
- (c) ₹7.5 crore
- (d) ₹10 crore

Answer: (c) ₹7.5 crore

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the threshold limit for LCR from ₹5 crore to ₹7.5 crore. This adjustment helps banks manage

liquidity risk more effectively and aligns Indian banking standards with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

6. Which insurance regulator issued the "Surety Insurance Contracts Guidelines, 2022" to regulate the surety business in India?

- (a) SEBI
- (b) RBI
- (c) IRDAI
- (d) PFRDA

Answer: (c) IRDAI

Explanation: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced these guidelines to standardize the surety insurance market, which provides financial guarantees for projects, particularly in the infrastructure sector.

Sports

7. Who was appointed as the "Ambassador of the All Women Match Official Team" by Legends League Cricket (LLC)?

- (a) Mithali Raj
- (b) Jhulan Goswami
- (c) Harmanpreet Kaur
- (d) Smriti Mandhana

Answer: (b) Jhulan Goswami

Explanation: Jhulan Goswami, the legendary Indian pacer, was named the ambassador for the LLC's all-women officiating team. This initiative aims to promote women's empowerment in cricket and increase female participation in match officiating.

8. Which young player became the World Rapid Chess Champion of 2021 (dethroning Magnus Carlsen)?

- (a) Ian Nepomniachtchi

- (b) Nodirbek Abdusattorov
- (c) Nihal Sarin
- (d) Alireza Firouzja

Answer: (b) Nodirbek Abdusattorov

Explanation: 17-year-old Nodirbek Abdusattorov from Uzbekistan won the World Rapid Chess Championship by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tiebreaker. He became the youngest player to win the title.

Appointments

9. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for a 3-year term starting January 2022?

- (a) Vladimir Norov
- (b) Zhang Ming
- (c) Bolat Nurgaliyev
- (d) Rashid Alimov

Answer: (b) Zhang Ming

Explanation: Senior Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming took over as the Secretary General of the SCO, succeeding Vladimir Norov of Uzbekistan. He will hold the post for three years.

10. Who was appointed as the first female Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation)?

- (a) Soma Mondal
- (b) Nishi Vasudeva
- (c) Alka Mittal
- (d) Madhabi Puri Buch

Answer: (c) Alka Mittal

Explanation: Dr. Alka Mittal became the first woman to head India's largest oil and gas producer, ONGC. She was given the additional charge of CMD following the retirement of Subhash Kumar.

Awards & Honors

11. Which organization presented the "SKOCH Award" to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for its work in combating crime against women and children?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) SKOCH Group
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) NHRC

Answer: (b) SKOCH Group

Explanation: The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Delhi received the SKOCH Award (Silver) in January 2022 for its excellence in forensic service and contributions to civil security.

Books & Authors

12. Who is the author of the book "Mamata: Beyond 2021," which details the 2021 West Bengal assembly elections?

- (a) Jayanta Ghosal
- (b) Shashi Tharoor
- (c) Sagarika Ghose
- (d) Sanjaya Baru

Answer: (a) Jayanta Ghosal

Explanation: Political journalist Jayanta Ghosal authored the book "Mamata: Beyond 2021," translated by Arunava Sinha. The book analyzes the political strategy and rise of Mamata Banerjee in the 2021 elections.

Defense News

13. The DRDO recently successfully flight-tested the final deliverable configuration of which missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur?

- (a) Pralay
- (b) MPATGM (Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile)

- (c) Agni-P
- (d) BrahMos

Answer: (b) MPATGM

Explanation: The DRDO successfully tested the indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile. It is a low-weight, fire-and-forget missile equipped with an onboard infrared imaging seeker.

MOUs & Government Schemes

14. Under the "One District One Product" (ODOP) initiative, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) launched how many food products in early January 2022?

- (a) 4
- (b) 6
- (c) 8
- (d) 10

Answer: (b) 6

Explanation: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched six ODOP brands (Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies) to promote local micro-enterprises.

15. Under the "India Semiconductor Mission" (ISM), financial support is provided for a period of how many years from the date of approval?

- (a) 3 years
- (b) 5 years
- (c) 6 years
- (d) 10 years

Answer: (c) 6 years

Explanation: The India Semiconductor Mission offers financial support for six years to set up semiconductor and display fabs. The government approved up to 50% of the project cost as fiscal support.

Miscellaneous Categories

16. "World Braille Day" is observed every year on which date to raise awareness about the importance of Braille?

- (a) January 1
- (b) January 2
- (c) January 4
- (d) January 6

Answer: (c) January 4

Explanation: World Braille Day is observed on January 4 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of the reading and writing system for visually impaired people.

17. Which organization celebrated its 75th Foundation Day on January 6, 2022?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)
- (c) DRDO
- (d) CSIR

Answer: (b) BIS

Explanation: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 75th Foundation Day on January 6, 2022. It was originally established as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in 1947.

18. Which state's "Ganjam" district has declared itself Child Marriage Free, the first such district in the state?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (b) Odisha
Explanation: The Ganjam district of Odisha was declared child marriage free after two years of consistent efforts, including the "Nirbhaya Kadhi" program and tracking school dropouts.

19. Which company commissioned India's largest solar power project (600 MW) at a single location in Bikaner, Rajasthan?

- (a) Adani Power
- (b) Azure Power
- (c) ReNew Power
- (d) Tata Power

Answer: (b) Azure Power

Explanation: Azure Power fully commissioned its 600 MW solar project in Bikaner, Rajasthan. It is the largest solar plant at a single location in India to date.

20. Who was the head of the "Energy Transition Advisory Committee" set up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas?

- (a) Tarun Kapoor
- (b) Amitabh Kant
- (c) Ramesh Chand
- (d) V.K. Paul

Answer: (a) Tarun Kapoor

Explanation: Former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor was appointed to lead the committee to draft a roadmap for India's energy transition toward net-zero emissions by 2070.