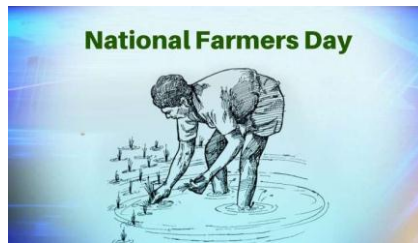


## Current Affairs Today –23.12.2020

Dear Readers, Daily **Current Affairs** News Updates about the National and International events were listed here. Read Current Affairs Today here and stay updated with current news. Candidates those who are preparing for IBPS/SBI/PO/Clerk exam and all other competitive exams can use this and try **Current Affairs Quiz** to test your knowledge level.

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS**

#### **National Farmers Day 2020: Observed on December 23**



- Kisan Diwas or **National Farmers Day** is observed on **December 23** across the country to praise the farmers as they are the spine of India.
- The day was chosen to honour the **birth anniversary** of the **fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh**. He was born on December 23, 1902.
- He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers
- The day was first celebrated in **2001**.

#### **Significance:**

- To promote awareness to help and reward farmers for their contribution to society Farmers day is celebrated every year.
- National Farmers Day is celebrated every year especially in those states which are actively engaged in farming such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh among others.

### **CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **Dharmendra Pradhan Dedicates Bengal's First Oil And Gas Reserve To Nation**



- **Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister**, dedicated **West Bengal's first oil and gas reserve, Bengal Basin**, to the nation.
- He stated production from the petroleum reserve in Ashoknagar, about 47 km from Kolkata, has started with the extracted oil being sent to Haldia refinery of **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.
- The Bengal Basin is explored and owned by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, and It is the **eight producing basin** of India by ONGC.

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- ONGC Limited commenced the production of crude oil from the Asokenagar-1 well, Bengal Basin in 24 Paragana district of the state on 20 December 2020.
- The **first proven reserve of oil and gas** in the state was discovered in **2018**.

**The other seven are :**

- Krishna-Godavari (KG),
- Mumbai Offshore,
- Assam Shelf,
- Rajasthan,
- Cauvery,
- Assam-Arakan Fold Belt
- Cambay

**About ONGC:**

- Headquarters : Delhi
- CEO : Shashi Shanker
- Founded : 14 August 1956

**Centre and WB sign USD 500 million project to build Green National Highway Corridors**



- The **Centre and the World Bank** signed a **USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project will also enhance the capacity of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

**About the Project :**

- The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support the Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 kilometres of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts and other bioengineering solutions.
- The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways.
- Dr C S Mohapatra, Additional Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance stated that this project will set new standards in the construction of safe motorable roads.
- The selected stretches in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh will also help improve connectivity and promote economic development.
- The Government of India has launched many investment programmes in road infrastructure to strengthen and improve logistics performance.

**About World Bank :**

- President : David Malpass
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Founded : July, 1944

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## Govt decides to constitute High Level Committee to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



- Government has decided to **constitute a High Level Committee** to **commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.**
- The Committee will decide on the activities for a one year long commemoration starting **23rd January, 2021.**
- The High Level Committee will be **headed by Home Minister Amit Shah.**
- The Commemoration is being held as a tribute and as a mark of gratitude to the colossal contribution Netaji made to India's freedom struggle.
- And also this Committee will include the members of experts, historians, authors, family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as well as eminent persons associated with Azad Hind Fauj-INA.

## IMD releases End of the Season Report for Southwest Monsoon 2020



- National Weather Forecasting Centre of the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, has released the **End of the Season Southwest Monsoon 2020 report.**

### Features :

- The report noted that seasonal (June-September) rainfall over the country as a whole was 109% of its **Long Period Average (LPA)** in 2020. It was the third highest after 112% of LPA in 1994 and 110 % of LPA in 2019.
- **Southwest monsoon current** reached the south Andaman Sea and Nicobar Islands on 17th May 2020 (5 days ahead of its normal date), but further advance was sluggish. It set in over Kerala on 1st June coinciding with its normal date for onset over Kerala; Monsoon covered the entire country on 26th June 2020; 12 days before its normal date (8th July).
- Monsoon started withdrawing from western parts of northwest India on 28th September 2020 against the normal date of 17th September 2020 with a delay of around 11 days. The Southwest Monsoon withdrew from the entire country on 28th October 2020.
- During the season, one Severe Cyclonic Storm **NISARGA** formed during 1st to 4th June.
- This year also witnessed absence of monsoon depression during the season.

### About Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) :

- It Comes Under Ministry Of Earth Science
- Founded : 1875
- Headquarters : New Delhi

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

### UN Women signs pact with Kerala govt's Gender Park



- On December 21, 2020 **UN Women**, the United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women, entered into an agreement with the Kerala government's **Gender Park** that has been **initiating gender equality activities**.
- UN Women will be offering project development and capacity building for the Gender Park for the empowerment of women in South Asia.
- Gender Park will be developed into a **South Asia hub** for gender-related activities.
- A Gender Data Centre at Kozhikode campus is one of the highlights of the tie-up with UN Women.
- UN Women Deputy Country Representative Nishtha Satyam and Gender Park Chief Executive Officer P T M Sunish signed the MoU in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Health and Social Justice Minister K K Shailaja.
- Satyam lauded various women empowerment initiatives of Kerala like She Taxi, jobs for transgender persons and stress management amid the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### About Gender Park :

- Gender Park, an initiative of the Department of women and child development, Government of Kerala was established in 2013.
- It is the first space of its kind in the world.
- Headquarters : Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Chairperson : K K Shailaja, Minister for health, Social Justice and Women & Child Development.

### MPEDA launches India's first aquaframers call centre



- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, headquartered in Kochi, has launched a **multilingual call centre for aquaframers at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh**.
- MPEDA will address their technical issues and impart knowledge about efficient farming methods.
- The call centre can also handle calls in English and Hindi.
- The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than **60 percent** of the country's marine products export basket.

#### About MPEDA :

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- Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala
- Director : Karthikeyan
- Chairman : K S Srinivas

## Haryana Government Signs MoU with India Accelerator to build Startup Ecosystem



- **Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication and Government of Haryana** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **India Accelerator (IA)** to build a **strong startup ecosystem in Haryana**.
- India Accelerator will provide support to the startups through Knowledge sharing & free of cost services to high potential startups.
- The MoU will help in bridging the gap between Industry & Startups.

### About DITECH :

- Special Secretary : Rajnarayan Kaushi
- Chief Technology Officer : Nitin Bansal

### About Haryana :

- Capital : Chandigarh
- Governor : Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Chief Minister : Manohar Lal Khattar

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCHEMES

### Prime Minister to launch SEHAT, health insurance scheme for Jammu-Kashmir on Dec 26



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will launch the **PMJAY - SEHAT** scheme on December 26 for Jammu and Kashmir.

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- The scheme will cover the remaining population which has not been covered under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- Under **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** eligible beneficiaries were covered under Health cover of **Rs 5 lakhs**.
- According to the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, SEHAT scheme stands for **Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine**, a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.
- Under PMJAY scheme, 30 lakh people are being covered in J&K. With the launch of 'SEHAT' Scheme by the Prime Minister on December 26, J&K will be among the first in the country to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
- Programmes will be organized across the UT and the distribution of Golden cards will be started on the same day. Around 16 Lakh registrations have been done as on date and the registrations for the rest of the beneficiaries is underway.

#### About J&K:

- Capital : Srinagar
- Governor : Manoj Sinha

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING & FINANCE

#### NCAER projects GDP contraction of 7.3% in Fiscal Year 21



- The **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** has revised upward its **gross domestic product (GDP)** projection for **FY21 to 7.3% contraction from the 12.6% dip** estimated in **September 2020**.
- The Delhi based economic think tank, released its mid-year review of the Indian economy virtually on 21 December 2020.

#### About National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) :

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was founded in 1956 as an independent, board-run body to give support to both the government and the private sector in empirical economic research.
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Founded : 1956

#### ICICI Bank Launches Online Portal Called Infinite India for foreign firms



- **ICICI Bank** has launched an online platform **Infinite India** to support foreign companies to establish or expand business in India.

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- The platform offers them banking solutions as well as value-added services such as incorporation of a business entity, corporate filings, licences and registrations, HR services, compliances and taxation among others.
- Through this initiative, ICICI bank **aims to strengthen** its position in the **multinational corporations (MNC)** segment.
- And also this initiative is part of our strategy to further strengthen our technology enabled offerings aimed to partner with foreign companies coming to india.

#### About ICICI Bank :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Founded : June 1994, Vadodara

#### ADB Announces To Give Rs 2100-Crore Loan To Tripura



- The **Asian Development Bank** has announced to provide **Rs 2,100 crore** loan to the **Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism** in the northeastern state that borders Bangladesh,
- From the total amount of Rs 2,100 crore expected to be provided by the ADB as loan, Rs 1600 crore will be for urban development and Rs 500 crore for the tourism sector.

#### About the Project:

- Under the loan arrangement, initially ADB would provide **Rs 40 crore** for engagement of project design and management consultants for urban and tourism sectors.
- Once the projects are prepared, ADB would provide **Rs 1,600 crore** for development works in urban areas and Rs 500 crore in tourism sector over the next three years.
- Under this, all **20 urban local bodies** in Tripura would be covered and in the tourism sector, all tourism destinations, roads leading to them and tourist facilities would be covered.
- The Tripura government has recently sent a Rs 40 crore project to the Union Tourism Ministry to sanction funds under the PRASHAD scheme for an all round development of the famous 520-year-old Tripura Sundari Temple in southern Tripura's Udaipur (60 kilometre south of state capital Agartala)
- The Union Tourism Ministry under the schemes -- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) and Integrated Development of Theme Based Tourist Circuit in the Country, Swadesh Darshan (SD) -- provides financial assistance for infrastructure development and beautification of tourist spots in various states and union territories.

#### About ADB:

- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Headquarters : Manila, Philippines
- Established : 9 th December 1966

### About Tripura:

- Capital : Agartala
- Governor : Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister : Biplab Kumar Deb

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: CONFERENCE

### 12th GRIHA Summit concludes with awards ceremony



- The **12th Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment Summit** was held virtually from **December 15-16, 2020**.
- It was inaugurated by Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** virtually.
- The theme is **Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats**
- It is the annual flagship event organized by **GRIHA Council** in association with 'key stakeholders in the construction industry' to discuss and deliberate on furtherance of Sustainable Habitat Development in India.
- The Summit provides a platform to deliberate on innovative technologies and solutions to help in creating robust mechanisms for developing sustainable and resilient solutions for the benefit of the entire community.

### About GRIHA Council:

- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council is an independent, not-for-profit society jointly setup by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India to promote and administer green buildings in India.
- GRIHA has been acknowledged as a tool to evaluate reduction in emission intensity through habitats, as part of mitigation strategy for combating climate change in INDIA's "Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDCs) submitted to UNFCCC.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARD

### US President confers Legion of Merit award to PM Modi



- US President **Donald Trump** presented the prestigious **Legion of Merit** to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for his leadership in elevating strategic partnership of the two countries and emergence of India as a global power.
- The award was received on behalf of the Prime Minister by the Ambassador of India to the United States **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** on 21st December 2020.

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## About Legion of Merit Medal

- The Legion of Merit Medal was established by the US Congress on **July 20, 1942**, and is a prestigious award conferred by the President of the United States, typically upon **Heads of State or Heads of Government of other countries**.
- It is a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.
- The Legion of Merit award was also presented to Australian PM Scott Morrison and former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe.

## Daily CA on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>

- **National Mathematics Day** is celebrated every year on **December 22** across the nation to **recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan**.
- Government Notifies **New Electricity Rights of Consumers Rules, 2020** to give consumers the right to **24x7 supply**.
- The **Union environment minister Shri Prakash Javadekar** released a report of the **Status of Leopard in India 2018**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has become the **first in India and South Asia** to launch the block chain-enabled **peer to peer (P2P) trading platform** for **rooftop solar power producers**.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Assam government to develop the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem** in the State.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the advanced **Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT)** test facility in **Hyderabad**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** hosted the **20th IORA Council of Ministers (COM)** Meeting on **17 December 2020**, virtually.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, **Nguyen Xuan Phuc**, jointly addressed the **India-Vietnam Virtual Summit**, held on **21 December 2020**, through video conferencing.
- The **Central Bank of India** has launched a unique variant of a contactless debit card under the name **RuPay Select**, in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- **Indian Navy** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** for sharing **ocean services data**.
- Formula 1 world champion **Lewis Hamilton** has been voted **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020**.
- The **Sports Ministry** has approved the inclusion of **four indigenous Games** to be a part of **Khelo India Youth Games 2021**, scheduled to be held in **Haryana** and The games include **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba**.
- **Indian boxers** bagged **nine medals including three golds, two silver and four bronze** at the **Cologne Boxing World Cup** held in **Koln, Germany**.
- **Veteran Congress** leader **Motilal Vora** died at the age of 93 from post-Covid complications.

## Daily CA on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Kisan Diwas or **National Farmers Day** is observed on **December 23** across the country to praise the farmers as they are the spine of India.

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- The **Centre and the World Bank** signed a **USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.
- Government has decided to **constitute a High Level Committee to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
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- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, headquartered in Kochi, has launched a **multilingual call centre for aquafarmers at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication and Government of Haryana** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **India Accelerator (IA)** to **build a strong startup ecosystem in Haryana**.
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