

## Current Affairs:12.01.2022

### Union Minister Bhupender Yadav CHAIRS 19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav chaired the 19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on January 05, 2022. During the meeting, the minister informed that there are 51 Tiger Reserves in the country. Of these, 14 Tiger Reserves have been accredited under CATS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standards) and NTCA is working to bring other Tiger Reserves also under this accreditation. The minister also released a Water Atlas, that maps all the water bodies in the tiger bearing areas of India.

### Indian Railways launches Mission Amanat to track lost belongings of passengers

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Western Railways zone of Indian Railways has launched a new initiative called "Mission Amanat" to make it easier for the railway passengers to get back their lost luggage. Under Mission Amanat, the details of lost luggage and belongings along with photos will be uploaded on the official website of the zonal railway, <https://wr.indianrailways.gov.in/>. This will help the passengers in tracking and getting back their lost belongings as well as ensure the safety and security of passengers and their luggage and belongings.

### India successfully test-fires naval variant of advanced supersonic BrahMos cruise missile

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an extended range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on January 11, 2022 for the Indian Navy. This advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile was launched from INS Visakhapatnam, a stealth guided-missile destroyer of the Indian Navy. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is produced by BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture. The missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

### Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas appointed as next IMF's Chief Economist to succeed Gita Gopinath

French-born economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been named as the next chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Gourinchas will succeed Gita Gopinath, the first woman to serve as the Fund's chief economist. Gopinath will take over as first deputy managing director of IMF from January 21 2022. Initially, Gourinchas will join the IMF on a part-time basis from January 24, 2022. He will take up on role on full-time basis from April 1, 2022.

### Actress Harshaali Malhotra receives 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022

The 2015 film Bajrangi Bhaijaan fame actress Harshaali Malhotra has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022. She received the award from Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra, for her commendable performance in the movie and contribution in the field of Indian Cinema. The Government of Maharashtra organised the Bharat Ranta Dr Ambedkar national Awards 2022 ceremony in the memory of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar as a part of the upcoming 73rd Republic Day.

### South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris retires from all forms of cricket

South African all-rounder Chris Morris has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.



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Morris has played in four Tests, 42 ODIs and 23 T20Is for South Africa.

## **Bharath Subramaniyam becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster**

Bharath Subramaniyam from Chennai has become the 73rd Grandmaster of India on January 09, 2022.

To achieve the Grandmaster (GM) title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points. The 14-year-old teenager completed his third and final GM Norm and crossed the requisite 2500 rating at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.

## **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) adds 10 more athletes to TOPS, including 5 golfers**

The Mission Olympic Cell under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has added ten athletes to the list of athletes who would be provided support under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Of the total 10 new entrants, five athletes have been included in the Core group while five have been added to the Development group. With the 10 new addition, the total number of athletes under TOPS has increased to 301, which includes 107 in the Core group while 294 in Development group.

## **European Parliament President David Sassoli passes away at 65**

The European Parliament President David Sassoli has passed away due to health issues. He was 65.

Sassoli had served as the President of the European Parliament from July 2019 until his death in January 2022. He was first elected as a member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2009. Later in July 2014 Sassoli was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament. In the 2019 European Parliament election in Italy, he was elected as new president with 128,533 votes. European Parliament is one of the seven branches of the EU. Its headquarter is at Strasbourg, France.

## **National Youth Day: 12 January**

In India, the National Youth Day is celebrated on 12 January annually. Purpose: to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The day was declared by the Government of India in 1984.

The event was first celebrated in 1985. In 2022, we are observing 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand (12 January 1863). The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is 'YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka' (Youth- Excitement of New India)'.