



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ 21 DECEMBER, 2021 ≡

## 1. The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021

### Why in news?

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 was passed in the Lok Sabha.

### About :

- It provides linking of electoral rolls with Aadhar number to check duplication.
- The bill also seeks to give four opportunities to a voter to enroll in a calendar year upon attaining 18 years of age.
- Apart from this, the Bill has provisions of gender neutrality in regard with service voters and to enable the requisition of any premises for election purposes.
- Unlike earlier, now a person could get an opportunity to enroll as a voter four times in a year on the 1st Day of January, April, July and October.

## 2. Acquisition of Air India

### Why in news?

The Competition Commission of

India has approved acquisition of shareholding in Air India Limited, Air India Express Limited and Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited by Talace Private Limited.

### About:

The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100 per cent equity share capital of Air India Limited and Air India Express Limited, and 50 percent equity share capital of Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited by Talace Private Limited.

- Talace is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons.
- In October this year, the Government approved Air India disinvestment.
- The government had announced that Talace Private Limited a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons had won the bid to acquire the debt-laden airline.

## 3. Davos Meeting

### News:

World Economic Forum (WEF) has deferred its annual meeting in Davos

amid Omicron scare.

- The meeting of economically powerful nations and high-profile corporate leaders was scheduled to take place between January 17 and 21.

#### About :

- The World Economic Forum is an international non-governmental and lobbying organisation based in Cologny, canton of Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was founded on 24 January 1971 by Klaus Schwab.
- The WEF annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland) engages the world's top leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

#### 4. Automatic Water Supply System

##### Why in news?

The GIS based 'Automatic Water Supply System' for citizens of Cantonment Boards was recently launched by Defence Minister on the occasion of Defence Estates Day 2021.

##### About :

- The module of GIS based Water Supply system for Cantonment Boards has been developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics under the guidance of Defence Secretary and Director General of Defence Estates, Delhi.

- It is completely automated which provides facility to its citizen to identify the location of water supply connection.
- It automatically determines nearest water pipeline.
- This GIS system is first of its kind in the country.
- It is based on 'minimum government'.
- It supports the concept of 'maximum governance' as there is no manual intervention for clearance or sanction of the water connection.

#### 5. Chile

##### Why in news?

Gabriel Boric, 35 years old former student leader and Leftist will become country's youngest President after he won a presidential runoff election

##### About :

- Chile is a long, narrow country stretching along South America's western edge, with more than 6,000km of Pacific Ocean coastline.
- Santiago, its capital, sits in a valley surrounded by the Andes and Chilean Coast Range mountains.
- According to the Electoral Service of Chile, out of 99.95% of ballots counted, Boric won with 55.87% of the vote, securing victory over his right-

wing opponent, Jose Antonio Kast.

- A native of Punta Arenas, in Chile's far south, Boric as a student led the Federation of Students at the University of Chile in Santiago.
- He rose to prominence leading protests in 2011 demanding improved and cheaper education.
- By 2014, still in his 20s, he had joined the National Congress as a lower-house legislator, representing Chile's vast and sparsely populated southernmost region of Magallanes.
- Boric will be sworn in as President on March 11.

## 6. Hong Kong

### Why in news?

Hong Kong recorded low turnout for its first poll under new 'patriots only' rules.

- Only 30 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots for city lawmakers in the poll.
- The turnout is lowest since Hong Kong's first ever direct election of its legislature in 1991.

### About:

- Hong Kong is ruled under One Country Two Systems approach.
- As per the policy, the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, both former colonies, can

have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while being part of the People's Republic of China.

- Hong Kong returned to Chinese control on July 1, 1997, and Macau's sovereignty was transferred on December 20, 1999.
- The regions would have their own currencies, economic and legal systems, but defence and diplomacy would be decided by Beijing.
- Their mini-Constitutions would remain valid for 50 years — till 2047 for Hong Kong and 2049 for Macau. It is unclear what will happen after this term.

## 7. Semeru Volcano

### Why in news?

In Indonesia, the Semeru volcano on Java island erupted again spewing a two KM high ash column, prompting authorities to warn people to stay away from the eruption range.



## About:

- Semeru, or Mount Semeru, is an active volcano in East Java, Indonesia.
- It is located in a subduction zone, where the Indo-Australian plate subducts under the Eurasia plate.
- It is the highest mountain on the island of Java.

## 8 P15B

### Why in news?

Mormugao, Indian Navy's second indigenous stealth destroyer of the P15B class, planned to be commissioned in mid 2022, proceeded on her maiden sea sortie.

## About:

- Mormugao is being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the Project 15B destroyers. The ship incorporates several niche indigenous technologies and is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- She has provided thrust and impetus to the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Mormugao will add significantly to the Indian Navy's combat capabilities.
- With the recent commissioning in November 2021 of INS Visakhapatnam and the fourth P75 submarine INS Vela, commencement of sea trials of

Mormugao is testimony to the cutting-edge capabilities of MDSL and the strong indigenous shipbuilding tradition of a modern and vibrant India.

- Project 15B involves making ships which feature cutting edge advanced technology and are comparable to the best ships of similar class anywhere in the World.
- These ships have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design.

## 9. Booster dose

### Why in news?

Bharat Biotech has sought the Drug Controller General of India's approval to conduct phase-3 trials of its COVID-19 intranasal vaccine (BBV154) to use as booster dose.

## About:

- An intranasal vaccine as a booster dose would be easier to administer in mass vaccination campaigns and has the potential to prevent transmission.
- A booster dose is an extra administration of a vaccine after an earlier (primer) dose.
- After initial immunization, a booster provides a re-exposure to the immunizing antigen.
- It is intended to increase immunity

against that antigen back to protective levels after memory against that antigen has declined through time.

## 10. Delimitation Commission

### Why in news?

- The Delimitation Commission has proposed seven additional Assembly seats for Jammu and Kashmir — six in Jammu division and one in Kashmir valley.
- For the first time, the commission proposed reserving nine seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) on the basis of population.
- Seven seats are proposed for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.
- With the proposed addition, the total Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 90 — in Jammu, the number of seats has gone up to 43 from 37, and in Kashmir, by one seat to 47.

- An additional 24 seats are proposed to be reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

### About:

- Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.
- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
  - Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.

