



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ 01 JANUARY, 2022 ≡

## 1. Padhe Bharat

### News?

- Education Minister will launch 100-day Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat' from tomorrow.
- The reading campaign aims to have participation of all stakeholders at national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community and educational administrators.

### About:

- The campaign marks an important step to improve learning levels of students as it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary and the ability to express both verbally and in writing.
- It will help children to relate to their surroundings and real life situation.
- Children studying in Balvatika to grade eight will be part of this campaign.

- During the campaign, one activity per week per group has been designed with the focus on making reading enjoyable and build lifelong association with the joy of reading.
- The activities can be done by children with the help of teachers, parents, siblings or other family members.
- The reading campaign will be organised till 10th of April next year.

## 2. Major Dhyan Chand Sports University

### Why in news?

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut on Sunday.

### About:

- The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of

Sardhana town in Meerut at an estimated cost of about 700 Crore rupees.

- The Sports University will be equipped with modern and state-of-the-art sports infrastructure including synthetic Hockey ground, Football ground, Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Kabaddi ground, Lawn tennis court, Gymnasium hall, Synthetic running stadium, Swimming pool, Multipurpose hall and a Cycling Velodrome.
- The University will also house facilities for Shooting, Squash, Gymnastics, Weightlifting, Archery, Canoeing and Kayaking, among other facilities.
- The University will have the capacity of training 1080 sportspersons, including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.

### Significance:

- One of the key areas of focus for the government is inculcating sporting culture and establishing world-class sporting infrastructure in all parts of the country.

- The establishment of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut will be a major step towards fulfilling this vision.

### 3. Digital transactions

#### News?

- Government has said that the compound annual growth rate of digital transaction has gone up by fifty per cent.
- Electronics and Information Technology Ministry said, the number of digital transactions has increased from one thousand 85 crore rupees in 2016-17 to five thousand 554 crore in 2020-21.
- Recognizing the importance of a cashless economy, the government announced setting up of DigiDhan Mission with a target of two thousand 500 crore digital payment transactions during the Financial Year 2017-18 through Unified Payment Interface, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, Aadhaar Pay, Immediate Payment Service and Debit cards.
- The Ministry said, as a result of

coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, the number of digital transactions has increased manifold as of now.

- In the last financial year, the mission was given a target of five thousand 500 crore digital payment transactions, which it has surpassed achieving five thousand 554 crore transactions.

#### **4. Status quo on GST rate on textile**

##### **News?**

- Textiles Ministry has said that the existing rates of five per cent in textiles sector will continue beyond 1st of January, 2022.
- Earlier, the Department of Revenue had notified Goods and Services Tax at 12 per cent on Man-made fibres, fabrics and apparel on 18th November this year, which was to come into force from 1st of January.
- The 46th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held in the national capital under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister.

- The meeting took place ahead of the Union Budget for 2022-23, which is scheduled to be presented in Parliament on February 1, 2022.

#### **5. Vinay Kumar Tripathi**

##### **Why in news?**

- He has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board.
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr Tripathi who is presently working as General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- Mr Tripathi belongs to 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.
- He played a key role in the commissioning of state of art three-phase locomotives and their indigenization, which are now the workhorse of Indian Railways.

#### **6. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana**

##### **Why in news?**

- The government has said that

more than 22 thousand 500 irrigation wells have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana - Har Khet Ko Pani. Jal Shakti Ministry said, as on November this year, nearly 36 thousand small and marginal farmers have been benefited under the scheme.

- The scheme was formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet Ko Pani' in a focused manner.
- The beneficiary under this scheme is small and marginal farmers only with priority to be given to SC and ST and Women farmers.
- 15 projects in 12 states amounting to one thousand 719 crore rupees were approved so far.

## 7. **Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missiles**

### **Why in news?**

- Russia test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and two more from a submarine,

Interfax news agency said today citing northern fleet.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has lauded the weapon as part of a new generation of unrivalled arms systems.
- Mr Putin has called the missile test, conducted last week, a big event in the country's life, adding that this was a substantial step in increasing Russia's defence capabilities.
- Some Western experts have questioned how advanced Russia's new generation of weapons is, while recognising that the combination of speed, manoeuvrability and altitude of hypersonic missiles makes them difficult to track and intercept.
- Mr Putin announced an array of new hypersonic weapons in 2018 in one of his most aggressive speeches in years, saying they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a U.S.-built missile shield.

