



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ 15 JANUARY, 2022 ≡

## 1. Monumental National Flag

### Why in news?

- The Monumental National Flag, which is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric, will be put to a grand public display along the India - Pakistan Border at Longewala in Jaisalmer to celebrate "Army Day".
- Longewala was the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.
- This will be the fifth public display of the National Flag since its unveiling in Leh on October 2, 2021.
- The Flag, which symbolizes the collective spirit of Indianness and the heritage artisanal craft of Khadi, has been conceptualized and prepared by Khadi and Village Industries Commission, KVIC, to celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' - 75 years of Independence.

- The Monumental National Flag measures 225 feet long, 150 feet wide and weighs around 1,400 kg. It took 49 days for 70 Khadi artisans to prepare this flag.
- The making of the Monumental National Flag required nearly 3,500 man hours of additional work for Khadi artisans and allied workers.
- KVIC has handed over the flag to the Defence forces for displaying the same at prominent places on historic occasions.

## 2. Welfare of ex-servicemen families

### News?

- Defence Ministry launched three new initiatives for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day today.
- Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare has allotted 320 crore rupees to Armed Forces Flag Day

Fund for the welfare veterans and their families.

- This will benefit over one lakh 66 thousand wards and widows of Ex-Servicemen.
- Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare also launched a dedicated Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal designed to speedily redress pension, including family pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen and their dependents.
- The portal [rakshapension.desw.gov.in](http://rakshapension.desw.gov.in) will enable processing of grievances.
- In a significant achievement, Directorate General of Resettlement has issued around seven thousand 900 job letters to freshly retired Ex-servicemen during the period of April to December 2021.

### 3. Kala Kumbh

#### Why in news?

- National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi has organized a unique art workshop Kala Kumbh for painting gigantic scrolls of approximately 750 meters in size, representing the tales of valor of unsung heroes of Indias freedom movement.

- These paintings on gigantic scrolls will form an integral part of the Republic day celebrations this year.
- Kala Kumbh organized under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav reflects the essence of unity in diversity.
- These gigantic scrolls when displayed at Rajpath will garner interest of everyone to delve deep into the history of unsung heroes of Indias freedom struggle

### 4. NATO-Russia Council

#### Why in news?

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Russia discussed the ongoing situation in Ukraine and its implications for security in Europe.
- The talks happened at the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) which took place at the NATO headquarters in Brussels.

#### About:

- NRC is a forum for consultation with Russia on security issues and cooperation.
- NATO was founded in 1949, and is meant to ensure collective

protection for its members — the United States, Canada, and American allies in Europe — against the threat of possible post-War communist expansion and aggression by the Soviet Union.

- Since April 2014, practical civil and military cooperation under the NRC with Russia has been suspended.
- This happened in response to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, which NATO allies do not recognise and have referred to as “illegal” and “illegitimate”.
- This was the first time since WWII that a European nation had annexed territory from another country. The region that Russia annexed in 2014 is now under Russian-backed separatists and even today fighting continues there.

## 5. Chinese foreign construction

### Why in news?

- China has built at least one more village on Bhutanese territory, near the tri-junction with India, taking the total number of such constructions to six, latest satellite

images have revealed.

- This construction was said to be on Bhutanese territory close to Doklam, the area that saw a stand-off between Indian and Chinese forces in 2017.
- The Chinese holding line in the contentious region is likely to become the working boundary between the two, sources had then said.

## 6. Defence land survey

### Why in news?

- In a first such comprehensive exercise since Independence, the government has surveyed 17.78 lakh acres of defence land using the latest technologies such as three-dimensional modelling, drone and satellite imageries.
- The mammoth exercise of surveying about 1.61 lakh acres of defence land inside cantonments and 16.17 lakh acres outside cantonments was started in October 2018 and is now completed.
- Modern survey technologies such as Electronic Total Station, Differential Global Positioning

System as well as drone and satellite imageries were used to ensure “reliable, robust and time-bound” outcomes.

- A Centre of Excellence (CoE) on land survey and GIS mapping has also been established in National Institute of Defence Estates Management for capacity building of Defence Estates officials in the field of latest survey technologies.

## 7. First export order for the BrahMos

### News?

- In the first export order for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system, Philippines has approved a \$374.96 million contract for the purchase of shore based anti-ship variant of the missile from India, while discussions are ongoing with few other South East Asian countries.
- It was included in its the Horizon 2 Priority Projects in 2020.
- While Philippines had raised a unit sometime to operate the missile system, the contract was delayed by couple of years due to the COVID pandemic and budgetary constraints.

### About:

- BrahMos is a joint collaboration between India and Russia and is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets and has been long inducted by the Indian armed forces.
- The range of the missile was originally capped at 290 kms as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- Following India's entry into the club in June 2016, officials said the range would be extended to 450 kms and to 600 kms at a later stage.

## 8. 10<sup>th</sup> century Indian idol returned by England

### News?

- An Indian idol dating back to the 10th century, which was illegally removed from a village temple in Uttar Pradesh over 40 years ago and discovered in a garden in England, was returned to India on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.
- The sculpture, which is part of a Yogini set from Lokhari Temple in Banda district of Bundelkhand,

will now be dispatched to the Archaeological Survey of India in New Delhi.

- Yoginis are a group of powerful female divinities associated with the Tantric mode of worship.
- They are worshipped as a group,

often 64, and are believed to possess infinite powers.

- The goat-headed Yogini went missing from Lokhari in the 1980s and had briefly surfaced in the art market in London in 1988.

