

### ❖ **Vijay Diwas**

- The Nation is celebrating Vijay Diwas on December 16 to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war.
- On December 16, 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, along with 93 thousand troops, had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of Indian Army and
- Mukti Bahini, led by Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora in Dhaka after their defeat in the Liberation war.
- The war resulted in the birth of Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan.
- The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos', marking the country's formal independence from Pakistan.
- India had also held 93,000 prisoners-of-war by the end of war on December 16.
- Eight months after the war, in August 1972, India and Pakistan settled the Shimla agreement.
- Under the agreement, India agreed to release the 93,000 Pakistani prisoners-of-war.

### ❖ **UN ranks 'Namami Gange' project among world's top 10 initiatives**

- India's 'Namami Gange'- river Ganga rejuvenation project- has been recognised as one among world's 10 most "ground-breaking" initiatives for restoration of natural ecosystems, according to a report released during the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15).
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has won the "Public Water Agency of the Year" award at the Global Water Awards, 2019 by Global Water Intelligence.

➤ The award was received by G Ashok Kumar, Director General, Namami Gange, at the 15th Conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada on 14 December 2022.

➤ Namami Gange was selected from over 150 such initiatives from 70 countries across the globe.

➤ Namami Gange was approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Central Government in June 2014.

### ❖ Assam's 'Gamosa' gets GI tag

➤ The Assamese traditional scarf, "Gamosa", the identity of Assam, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications (GIs) Registry, five years after the claim was made by the state directorate of handloom and textiles.

➤ While gamosa became the 10th product or goods from Assam to get the GI tag, the total number of GI tags of India has gone up to 432.

➤ The top five states holding maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

➤ A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

### ❖ Iran expelled from UN women's rights group

➤ United Nations member states have removed Iran from a key UN women's rights group just months after it joined.

➤ Twenty-nine members of the UN's Economic and Social Council voted in favor of a resolution proposed by the United States to "remove with immediate effect the Islamic Republic of Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term."

➤ Eight member states voted against the resolution, and 16 abstained.

➤ The 45-member Commission on the Status of Women, the UN's premiere women's rights group, was founded in 1946 and meets in March of each year to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

### ❖ **India ranks fifth in top global 500 companies list**

➤ India has added nine new entities to take its tally to 20 in the list of top global 500 companies and moved up four places to the fifth rank in the Hurun Global 500 rankings.

➤ In 2021, as many as eight Indian companies were listed by Hurun Global 500, a list of the 500 most-valued, non-state controlled firms in the world.

➤ The list, released by the Hurun Research Institute, is a compilation of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world.

➤ Reliance Industries Limited is the top ranked Indian company. It has got 34th position. After this, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and HDFC Bank got the third position.

➤ The United States tops the list with 260 companies. It is followed by China with 35 companies and Japan with 28 companies.

### ❖ **World's first tobacco law passed**

➤ New Zealand became the world's first country to ban smoking for future generations.

➤ The country's Parliament passed an anti-smoking bill that bans the sale of tobacco to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

➤ The new law states that anyone who is born after 2008 will not be able to buy a packet of cigarettes or tobacco products.

➤ 40-year-olds won't be allowed to purchase cigarettes in 2050.

➤ Only Bhutan, which banned the sale of cigarettes in 2010, has strict anti-smoking laws.

### ❖ CCI inks MoU with Texprocil on certification of 'Kasturi Cotton India'

- The Cotton Corporation of India Limited and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) has entered into an agreement to promote the Kasturi cotton, an indigenous branded cotton, globally.
- The Kasturi cotton was launched in 2020 as a brand with a logo.
- TEXPROCIL is the apex body to promote exports of Indian Cotton textile products including raw cotton across the world and the Cotton Corporation of India Limited is a public sector organisation in the sector to facilitate cotton production and supply.
- In order to attain the objective of building image of Indian cotton at Global level, making India Aatmanirbhar and vocal for local in the field of cotton, Ministry of Textiles had announced the "Kasturi Cotton India" Brand of cotton on the eve of World Cotton Day on 7th October 2020 by which Indian cotton was endowed with a brand and a logo that represents Whiteness, Softness, Purity, Lusture and Indianness.

### ❖ Exercise - "Surya Kiran"

- Nepal and India are all set to conduct the 16th edition of 'Surya Kiran' from Friday, the joint military training exercise between the two South Asian nations.
- The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training exercise "Surya Kiran-XVI" between India and Nepal will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal).
- Nepal Army soldiers of the Shree Bhawani Baksh Battalion and Indian Army soldiers from the 5 GR will be participating in the exercise.
- The exercise aims to share experience gained by both armies in counter-terrorism and disaster relief operations.
- The 15th edition of Indo-Nepal joint military training exercise Surya Kiran was held on September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
- The 14th edition of the exercise took place in Saljhandi, Nepal, in 2019.

### ❖ Exercise “KAZIND-22”

- The 6th Edition of Indo – Kazakhstan joint training exercise “KAZIND-22” is conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15 to 28 December 2022.
- Joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018.

### ❖ India secures top rank in ‘International Junior Science Olympiad 2022’

- India secured the top rank at the 19th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) 2022 held in Bogota, Colombia by winning 6 gold medals.
- This was the last international Olympiad of 2022.
- Aritra Malhotra, Rajdeep Mishra, Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya, Banibrata Majee, and Avaneesh Bansal were the students who bagged gold medals at the IJSO 2022, Bogota.
- This is the third successive year and fourth overall that India has turned in an all-gold performance at IJSO and topped the medals tally.
- International Junior Science Olympiad was held from 2 to 12 December 2022.

### ❖ India Water Impact Summit 2022

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has inaugurated the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) on December 15, 2022 in the presence of Shri Bishweshwar Tudu, Minister of State for Jal Shakti.
- The theme of the summit this year is "Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin"
- The three-day-long summit will aim to give an insight into the potential causes for divergence and formulate a strategy to achieve convergence.
- Fifth Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) was held in December 2020.

## ❖ **Badminton World Tour 2022**

- World number one male badminton player Viktor Axelsen has won his eighth world title by winning the Badminton World Tour Finals title for 2022.
- Reigning world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan defeated Taiwanese powerhouse Tai Tzu Ying to claim the women's singles crown.
- With that, Yamaguchi became the first women's singles player since Ye Zhaoying in 1997 to claim the All England Open, World Championships and end-of-season finals all in the same year, as per the Badminton World Federation.
- In the mixed doubles final, China's Huang Yaqiong and Zheng Siwei won their 10th title of the year by defeating Thailand's Sapsiree Taerattanachai and Dechapol Puavaranukroh 21-19, 18-21, 21-13 in 62 minutes.

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