

Current Affairs

31st January 2022



Today's Important News

Rafael Nadal Beats Daniil Medvedev
in Australian Open Final to Win
Record 21st Grand Slam Title.

1. Rafael Nadal Beats Daniil Medvedev in Australian Open Final to Win Record 21st Grand Slam Title

- Rafael Nadal has won Men's Single title at Australian Open 2022, after defeating Daniil Medvedev by 2-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne
- It was his record 21st Grand Slam title and first Grand Slam major since the 2020 French Open triumph.
- He created history by becoming the only player to win the most Grand Slam titles.
- He also become the third-oldest man to win Grand Slam title, after Ken Rosewall and Roger Federer.



Foot Notes:

About Australian Open:

Founded: 1905

Location: Melbourne (since 1972); Australia

2. Honduras gets its first woman President

- Leftist Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras.

- She vowed to reform the crime-and poverty-stricken nation into a “socialist and democratic state.”
- She replaces President Juan Orlando Hernández, who has held the position for 8 yrs and has been accused of corruption and drug trade ties.
- Castro is wife of former president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, who ruled Honduras between 2006 and 2009.



Foot Notes:

About Honduras:

Capital: Tegucigalpa

President: Xiomara Castro

Currency: Honduran lempira

3. Portugal’s ruling Socialist Party secures absolute majority in Parliament

- Portugal’s ruling Socialist Party has secured an absolute majority in Parliament.
- Country’s Interior Ministry released the data after 99% of the ballots had been counted.
- Led by Prime Minister Antonio Costa, PS got 42 per cent of the votes and won 117 out of the 230 mandates thus Costa will retain the post.
- The Social Democratic Party is second with around 28 per cent.
- The elections in Portugal were called by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.



Foot Notes:

About Portugal:

President: Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

Capital: Lisbon

Currency: Euro

4. LIC Chairman MR Kumar’s term extended by one more year

- The govt has extended the tenure of chairman of IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by one more year with a view to facilitate smooth listing of the insurance behemoth.
- Besides, the government has also extended the tenure of one of the managing directors, Raj Kumar, for one year.
- With the extension, MR Kumar will continue as chairman of LIC till March 2023.



- This is the second extension for the LIC chairman.
- The government owns a 100 per cent stake in LIC.

Foot Notes:

About LIC:

Chairperson: M R Kumar

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Government of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

5. Gandhi Mandiram, Smruthi Vanam at Srikakulam built in Andhra Pradesh

- Social activists have built a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters' Smrithi Vanam at the Municipal Park in Srikakulam, AP.
- Aim: to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters.
- Statues of freedom fighters and social activists were erected in the park with the help of donors.
- Arrangements have been made to unveil the Gandhi temple as well as Smrithi Vanam on the eve of Gandhiji's death anniversary.



Foot Notes:

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

6. Exports of marine products in India jumps by 35% during April-Dec 2021

- The exports of marine products registered a growth of 35% to \$ 6.1 bn during April to Dec 2021.
- The exports of Marine Products touched over \$ 720 mn, registering a growth of over 28 per cent.
- The overall exports of Marine Products in the last Financial Year was \$ 5.96 bn.
- Top 5 export destinations: USA, China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand.
- PM Modi had launched the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana in 2020 with an array of 100 diverse activities with a budget of over Rs 20,000 cr.



7. Kiran Bedi's new book "Fearless Governance" released

- 24th Lt Governor of Puducherry, Kiran Bedi has penned down her journey of governance in the book 'Fearless Governance'.
- It was launched by Indra Nooyi (former chairperson & CEO of PepsiCo) and Prof Debashis Chatterjee (director, IIM Kozhikode).
- The book captures Bedi's 'fearless' moments, administrative acumen and innovative initiatives in Puducherry.
- Published by Diamond Books, the book will be translated in all major Indian languages.



8. RBI imposes restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow.
- The regulator put a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals.
- The RBI has imposed above restriction in exercise of powers vested in it under sub-section (1) of Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS).
- The restrictions would remain in force for six months and are subject to review.



Foot Notes:

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: British Raj

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

9. Tata Steel to buy Neelachal Ispat Nigam for ₹12,100 crore

- The govt has approved the sale of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products.
- The CCEA have approved the highest bid of Tata Steel Long Products for 93.71% of shares NINL.
- The Bid Enterprise Value is ₹12,100 crore.
- NINL is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs – MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and 2 Odisha government PSUs – OMC and IPICOL.
- The government does not hold any equity in the company.



Foot Notes:

About Tata Steel:

Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur

CEO: T. V. Narendran

Founder: Jamsetji Tata

Headquarters: Mumbai

10. Akal Academies' founder Baba Iqbal Singh dies at 96


- Founder of Akal Academies and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh.
- He was an Indian socio-spiritual leader of the Sikh community and an educationalist.
- Baba Iqbal Singh had worked relentlessly in only one direction — imparting value-based education in rural India.
- He established Eternal University in 2008 and Akal University, Guru ki Kashi in 2015.



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