



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-12-2021

NATIONAL

MSP for Copra approved

- The **Cabinet committee on Economic affairs** has granted its approval for the **Minimum Support Price** for **Copra** during 2022 Season, This decision was made based on recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The MSP for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of milling copra has been increased from **Rs.10,335/-** per quintal in 2021 to **Rs10,590/-** per quintal for 2022 season.
- The MSP for ball copra has been increased from **Rs.10,600/-** per quintal in 2021 to **Rs.11,000/-** per quintal for 2022 season.
- This was made to ensure a return of **51.85%** for milling copra and **57.73%** for ball copra over the all India weighted average cost of production.
- It assures a minimum of **50%** as margin of profit, as one of the important and progressive steps towards making possible doubling of farmers' incomes by 2022.
- The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited** and **National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Limited** will continue to act as Central Nodal Agencies to undertake price support operations at the MSP in the coconut growing States.

Copra-It is a dried form of Coconut, used to extract coconut oil.

DRDO conducts maiden flight of Pralay

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted maiden flight test of indigenously developed **surface-to-surface** missile '**Pralay**'
- The new missile followed the desired quasi ballistic trajectory and reached the designated target with **high degree accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithms**. All the sub-systems performed satisfactorily.
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- The missile performed its maiden flight from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast

of Odisha.

- The Missile is powered with **solid propellant rocket motor** and many new technologies
- The missile has a range of **150-500 kilometre** and can be launched from a mobile launcher.
- The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.



Vernacular Innovation Programme conducted

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **NITI Aayog** has launched **Vernacular Innovation Programme(VIP)** aimed to empower innovators and entrepreneurs across the country.
- This will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in **22 scheduled languages** by the Government of India.
- To build the necessary capacity for the Vernacular Innovation Programme(VIP), Atal Innovation mission will be training a **Vernacular Task Force (VTF)** in each of the **22 scheduled languages**.
- Each task force comprises of vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional Atal Incubation Centers
- In order to train the Vernacular Task Force (VTF), Niti Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission will launch **train-the-trainer program** where it will collaborate with the **Design Department of IIT Delhi** to coach the VTF in design thinking and entrepreneurship and the adaptation of these subjects in the 22 languages and cultures.

MoU Signed between CCI and CCM

- The Cabinet has approved the signing of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** and **Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM)** for promotion and strengthening of co-operation in competition law and policy.
- The MoU aims to promote and strengthen cooperation in matters of competition law and policy through exchange of information, sharing of best practices and capacity building initiatives.
- It is aimed to promote mutual co-operation in the areas of technical co-operation, experience sharing and enforcement co-operation.
- The resultant outcomes would benefit consumers at large and promote equity and inclusiveness.

The MoU between CCI and CCM is expected to:

1. Address anticompetitive restraints that affect international trade
2. Improve enforcement of the Competition Act, 2002 by CCI
3. Promote understanding of competition policy
4. Capacity building
5. Bring diplomatic benefits.

Additional Fact- Competition Commission of India(CCI) is a **Statutory body** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, It is the chief national competition regulator in India and is responsible for enforcing **Competition Act, 2002**.

The Commission was established on **14th Oct 2003**.

CCI Chairman-**Ashok Kumar Gupta**.

INTERNATIONAL

France starts to inoculate Children

- The **France** Government has decided and started vaccinating the Children from the **age of five**, aimed to contain the new surge of Omicron Variant.
- French health workers began administering **Pfizer-BioNTech** jabs to children aged between **5 and 11** in the government's latest step to combat a fresh wave of cases.
- The move came just two days after the national health regulator, **the Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS)**, gave the green light to the vaccine elaborated by US-based Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech.

Covid Pill gets FDA approval

- The United States **Food and Drug Administration(FDA)** has approved and authorized the **Pfizer's COVID pill** for high risk people **aged 12 and above**.
- The treatment includes a combination of **two pills** taken over **5 days**.
- The trail conducted on **2,200** people showed result of **88%** people evading risk of hospitalization and deaths.

Fourth jab of Covid-19 is set to be administered

- Israel has announced that, It set to administer a fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to **medical personnel** and people who are **60 or older**.
- The announcement came after Israel's **Pandemic Treatment Staff**, a panel of medical experts, voted to recommend the fourth jab on the same day, according to The Times of Israel.

- Currently, Israel doesn't consider people fully vaccinated if they don't take a booster shot within six months of receiving their second jab.
Israel has also banned travel to 10 countries, including the US and Canada, over concerns of the Omicron variant.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Pre-Budget meetings held

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** headed the **pre-budget consultation** meetings for Budget 2022-23 held in virtual mode.
- More than **120 invitees** representing **7 stakeholder** groups participated in **8** meetings scheduled during this period.
- The stakeholder groups include representatives and experts from Agriculture and Agro Processing Industry; Industry, Infrastructure and Climate Change; Financial Sector and Capital Markets; Services and Trade; Social Sector; Trade Union & Labour Organization and Economists.
- The stakeholder groups made several suggestions on various issues that included increased R&D spending, infrastructure status for digital services, incentives to hydrogen storage and fuel cell development, rationalisation of income tax slabs, investments in online safety measures etc., among others.

33 Unicorns in One year

- India has added **33 unicorn companies** in a **single year**, moving to the **third place**, pushing United Kingdom to the **fourth Position**.
- Unicorn Companies- Unicorn Companies are **privately owned start ups** which has a value more than **\$1 billion**.
- The Top two position was occupied by **United States and China**
- **United states** has added **254** unicorn companies and now has totaled **487** companies in coveted list.
- **China** has added **74** unicorn in single year, taking its count to **301** companies.
- **India** has added **33** unicorns pushing its tally to **54** startups worth more than \$1 billion
- **United Kingdom** has added **15** unicorns in single year pusing its count to **39**.

SPORTS

India wins bronze

- **India** has bagged **Bronze** in the **Asian Championship Trophy men's hockey**, by defeating **Pakistan** in the match to secure third position.
- India has defeated Pakistan by scoring **4-3**, at the tournament held at **Dhaka**.
- **Harmanpreet Singh, Sumit, Varun Kumar** and **Akashdeep Singh** has scored the goals for India.
- **South Korea** won the **Gold** medal in the tournament and **Japan** scored the **silver** medal.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Dec 23rd is observed as the **National Farmers day**, celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, who has served as the **5th Prime Minister of India** and has worked towards the farmers welfare



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