



## 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 **Rs.10,590/-** 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 **14<sup>th</sup> 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 trial 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 23<sup>rd</sup> is observed as the **National Farmers day**, celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, who has served as the **5<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of India** and has worked towards the farmers welfare



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