

Daily Current Affairs 14/12/2021

1. India among most unequal nations; top 1% of population holds 22% of national income: World Inequality Report 2022



Why in News

- India is now among the most unequal countries in the world.
- The report, titled '**World Inequality Report 2022**', has been authored by Lucas Chancel, co-director of the World Inequality Lab, and coordinated by several experts, including French economist Thomas Piketty.

Key Points

- India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, with the top 1% of the population holding more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021 and the bottom half just 13%.
- The report pointed out that the average national income of the Indian adult population is ₹2,04,200. While the bottom 50% earns ₹53,610, the top 10% earns more than 20 times (₹1,166,520).
- While the top 10% and top 1% hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income, the bottom 50% share has gone down to 13%.
- Average household wealth in India stands at ₹983,010.
- It also said gender inequalities in India are very high.
- The female labour income share is equal to 18%.
- This is significantly lower than the average in Asia (21%, excluding China).

Related Reports:

- India Inequality Report 2021
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Source: The Hindu

2. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj releases 'Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' Report



Why in News

- Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh released the Report on **“Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions”**.

Key Points

- On this occasion, two dedicated Dashboards namely (i) Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Monitoring Dashboard on monitoring the progress of GPDP and (ii) Training Management Portal on Capacity Building and Training of Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions were launched.
- Handbook on Training Management Portal was also released.
- This informative report will serve as plan for action towards achieving the SDGs.

Background:

- India is a signatory of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is committed to the achievements of SDGs through the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme.
- The RGSA scheme mandates to capacitate elected representatives for good governance through attainment of SDGs through participatory local planning at Gram Panchayat level.

Source: PIB

3. SAMPANN project



सम्पन्न

सम्पन्न जीवन, निश्चिन्त जीवन

Comprehensive Pension Management System
An Initiative of Department of Telecommunications

Why in News

- More than One Lakh pensioners are currently being serviced by Principal Controller of Communication Accounts/ Controller of Communication Accounts offices all over India through **SAMPANN project**.
- It has ensured recurring monthly savings to the Government of India on account of Commission being paid to Banks/Post Offices for payment of Pension which approximately amounts to Rs. 11.5 Crores as of June, 2021.

Key Points

About SAMPANN – ‘System for Accounting and Management of Pension’:

- SAMPANN is an ambitious project of Government of India being implemented by the Controller General of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, the Ministry of Communications.
- It was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29th December, 2018.
- It is a seamless online pension processing and payment system for the Department of Telecommunications pensioners.
- It provides direct credit of pension into the bank accounts of pensioners.
- The system has helped the Department in faster settlement of pension cases, improved reconciliation/auditing and ease of accounting.

Source: PIB

4. Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021P



Why in News

- Rajya Sabha has passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021.
- The Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha.
- The Upper House also passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020 with amendments moved by the government.

Key Points

- The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021 provides for the regulation and supervision of the assisted reproductive technology clinics and the assisted reproductive technology banks.
- The Bill provides that every Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinic and bank must be registered under the National Registry of Banks and Clinics of India.
- The Legislation also envisages prevention of misuse, safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services for addressing the issues of reproductive health where assisted reproductive technology is required for becoming a parent or for freezing gametes, embryos, embryonic tissues for further use due to infertility, disease or social or medical concerns.

Source: newsonair

5. Pinaka-ER Range System



Why in News

- Successful tests of **Pinaka Extended Range (Pinaka-ER)**, Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuzes have been carried out at various test ranges.
- The Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System was successfully tested at Pokharan range.

Key Points

- The system is jointly designed by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.
- The DRDO, after establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range Pinaka, transferred the technology of the system to the industry. The Industry Partner has manufactured enhanced Pinaka Mk-1 rockets with DRDO's hand holding during the production and Quality Assurance.
- The Pinaka-ER is the upgraded version of the earlier Pinaka version which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade.

Source: PIB

6. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development for continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)** beyond March 2021 wherein financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of the remaining 155.75 lakh houses within total target of 2.95 crore houses.

Key Points

The details of the approval given by the Cabinet are as follows:

- Continuation of PMAY-G beyond **March 2021 till March 2024** as per the existing norms to complete remaining houses within a cumulative target of 2.95 crore houses.
- The total financial implication for construction of the remaining 155.75 lakh houses is Rs. 2,17,257 crore (Central Share Rs.1,25,106 crore and State Share Rs.73,475 crores) for achieving cumulative targets of 2.95 crore houses in rural areas under the

PMAY-G and an additional requirement of Rs.18,676 Crore towards the interest repayment to NABARD.

- Continuation of Program Management Unit (PMU) and National Technical Support Agency (NTSA) till FY 2023-24.

About Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G):

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana, previously Indira Awaas Yojana, is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India. A similar scheme for urban poor was launched in 2015 as Housing for All by 2022.

Source: PIB

7. India's Harnaaz Sandhu wins Miss Universe 2021



Why in News

- India's Harnaaz Sandhu has been crowned Miss Universe 2021.

Key Points

- Punjab-based Harnaaz Sandhu represented India at the 70th Miss Universe 2021, held in Eilat, Israel.
- Harnaaz was crowned Miss Universe 2021 as she beat Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira and South Africa's Lalela Mswane.
- Only two Indians have won the title of Miss Universe before Harnaaz Sandhu - actors Sushmita Sen in 1994 and Lara Dutta in 2000.
- A Chandigarh-based model, Harnaaz Sandhu has won several beauty pageants in the past.

- She has been crowned Miss Diva 2021 and Femina Miss India Punjab 2019.
- Harnaaz was also placed in the Top 12 at Femina Miss India 2019.

Source: India Today

8. Balkrishna Doshi honoured with the Royal Gold Medal 2022



Why in News

- Ahmedabad-based Balkrishna Doshi will receive the Royal Gold Medal 2022 by the UK's Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the world's highest honour for architecture.

Key Points

- At 94, Doshi is being recognised for his career spanning seven decades, with over 100 built projects, across India.
- The Royal Gold Medal is “approved personally by Her Majesty The Queen and is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture”.
- The award will be presented to Doshi at a special ceremony in 2022.
- Many of his iconic buildings include Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; Sangath, his studio in Ahmedabad; Ahmedabad School of Architecture – renamed CEPT University in 2002 – which promoted collaborative learning; and Aranya Low Cost Housing (1989), Indore, which won the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1995.

Source: Indian Express

9. Ashleigh Barty wins WTA Player of the Year award



Why in News

- The World No. 1 **Ashleigh Barty** won the **Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Player of the Year Award 2021**.

Key Points

- Australian Ashleigh Barty won the award for the second time.
- Barty, who won the title in 2019, won a tour-leading five tournaments this year including the second Grand Slam trophy of her career at Wimbledon where she beat Czech Karolina Pliskova in the final.
- British player Emma Raducanu won WTA Newcomer of the Year 2021.

Source: The Hindu