

# NEWS TODAY

## INDIA, OMAN TO HOLD 10TH JOINT MILITARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE (JMCC)

- JMCC is the **highest forum of defence engagement** that provides guidance to overall framework of defence exchanges between the two sides.
  - Diplomatic relations were established in 1955 and **relationship was upgraded to Strategic partnership in 2008.**
- **Major areas of cooperation**
  - **Defence:** Oman remains India's **closest defence partner in Gulf region** with three armed forces of India conducting regular bilateral exercises.
    - Oman also provides **critical operational support to Indian naval deployments** in Arabian sea for anti-piracy missions.
  - **Strategic:** India has secured **access to Oman's Port of Duqm for military use and logistical support** as part of its strategy to counter Chinese influence in the region.
    - Oman has been a **key pillar of India's West Asia Policy**
  - **Economic and commercial:** During 2019-20, bilateral trade was USD 5.93 billion. For Oman, India was 3rd largest source for its imports and 3rd largest market for Oman's crude oil exports in 2019.
  - **Cultural and people-to-people contact:** Both countries have had close cultural relations since the times of Indus Valley Civilisation. According to Mesopotamian texts, Oman was known as Magan.
    - Presently, there are over 6 lakhs Indians in Oman



## 2021 SAW 21% JUMP IN PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW TO 488

- According to a recent report, **2021 saw highest number of prisoners on death row since 2016** and also an increase of nearly 21% from 2020.
- Capital punishment or death penalty is the **execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction** by a court of law.
  - As per human rights organisation Amnesty International estimates, **142 countries have either abolished death penalty in law or in practice.**
- **Arguments in favor of capital punishment**
  - **Retribution:** It states that real justice requires people to suffer for their wrongdoing, and to suffer in a way appropriate for crime.
  - **Deterrence Effect:** On potentially violent offenders for whom threat of imprisonment is insufficient restraint.
  - **Closure and vindication:** It is often argued that death penalty provides closure for victims' families.
- **Arguments against**
  - Capital punishment is **vengeance rather than retribution** and, as such, is a morally dubious concept.
  - Human life is considered to be a valuable thing and even **offenders in their worst case should not be deprived of their right to life.**
  - Death penalty only **leads to brutalization of the society** as well as state's relation with its citizens.

### Important judgements/provisions related to Capital Punishment

- **Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab, 1980:** SC propounded the dictum of rarest of rare cases according to which death penalty is not to be awarded except in the rarest of rare cases when the alternative option is unquestionably foreclosed.
- **Kehar Singh v. Union of India, 1989:** Pardoning power of executive is subject to judicial review.
- **Bhagwan Das v. State, 2011:** Consideration of death penalty in cases of honour killings.
- **Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India, 2014:** Regarding delay in execution.
- **Law Commission (262nd Report)** recommended that **death penalty be abolished for all crimes other than terrorism related offences and waging war.**

## UKRAINE CRISIS: INDIA CALLS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

- India called for a peaceful resolution of situation **through sustained diplomatic efforts for long-term peace and stability in the region** and beyond.
- Tensions between Ukraine and Russia**, both former Soviet states, **escalated in late 2013** over a political and trade deal with European Union (EU).
  - In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea**, an autonomous peninsula in southern Ukraine.
- Recent tension began in December 2021 when Russia issued a set of demands** including a ban on Ukraine entering the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and a reduction of NATO troops and military equipment in eastern Europe.
  - U.S and other NATO allies rejected these demands.**
- Russia's and West's interests in Ukraine**
  - Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic and familial links. Shared heritage is an **emotional issue that has been exploited for electoral and military purposes.**
  - For US and EU, Ukraine is a crucial buffer between Russia and the West.
- India's stake in this**
  - With Russia:** Strong Defence ties with 60-70% supplies coming from Russia, key to India's engagement in Afghanistan, hostility with West may push Russia towards China.
  - With US and Europe:** Both are important partners from India's strategic calculus amid stand-off with China.



## MINISTER FOR PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS REVIEWED PROGRESS OF VARIOUS GREEN INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN UNDER MIV 2030

- Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 was formulated with the **objective of propelling India to the fore-front of Global Maritime Sector in the next decade.**
  - MIV 2030 **envisions an overall investment of INR 3,00,000 – 3,50,000 Cr** across ports, shipping, and in-land waterways categories.
  - Green port initiatives, under MIV, include** acquisition of equipments for monitoring environmental pollution, acquisition of dust suppression systems, setting up of sewage/ waste water treatment plants etc.

### Major themes of MIV are

- Develop best-in-class Port infra structure.**
- Enhance Logistics Efficiency** through Technology and Innovation.
- Enhance Global Share in Ship Building, Repair and Recycling**

MIV 2030 – Key targets

Key Performance Indicator		Current (2020)	Target (2030)
1	Major Ports with >300 MTPA cargo handling capacity	-	3
2	% of Indian cargo transshipment handled by Indian ports	25%	>75%
3	% of cargo handled at Major Ports by PPP/ other operators	51%	>85%
4	Average vessel turnaround time (containers)	25 hours	<20 hours
5	Average container dwell time	55 hours	<40 hours
6	Average ship daily output (gross tonnage)	16,500	>30,000
7	Global ranking in ship building and ship repair	20+	Top 10
8	Global ranking in ship recycling	2	1
9	Annual cruise passengers	4,68,000	>15,00,000
10	% share of Indian seafarers across globe	12%	>20%
11	% share of renewable energy at Major Ports	<10%	>60%

- Enhance Cargo and Passenger Movement** through Inland Waterways
- Promote Ocean, Coastal and River Cruise Sector
- Lead the World in **Safe, Sustainable & Green Maritime Sector**

### India's s maritime sector

- 95% of the country's trade volume** and 65% of the trade value is being undertaken through maritime transport.
- Over **5,000 km of navigable inland waterways** under development.
- Ranks **2nd in ship recycling** and 21st in ship building.
- Ranked amongst the **top 5 countries supplying trained manpower.**

## GOVERNMENT MOOTS PLAN TO LINK DIGITAL IDS

- It seeks to establish **Federated Digital Identities to optimise number of digital identities** that a citizen needs to have.
  - Plan is to **link various consumer identification data into a single unique ID** for digital transactions such as authentication and eKYC services.
  - At present Ministries and States are **required to create several identities for same citizen acting in different capacities** like student, teacher, farmer, land owner, entrepreneur, customer of a bank etc.
- Proposal is part of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) India Enterprise Architecture 2.0 (IndEA 2.0) framework.**
- InDEA framework, notified in 2018, **promotes the evolution of digital ecosystems.** It consists of a **set of principles and architectural patterns to enable development of large digital systems**, with a focus on public sector.
  - A digital ecosystem is a **distributed, adaptive, and open socio-technical system** with properties of self-organization, scalability, and sustainability.

- IndEA 2.0 framework aims to enable governments and private sector enterprises to design IT architectures that can span beyond organisational boundaries** for delivery of integrated services.

### Benefits of adopting IndEA framework

- Provide a ONE Government Experience** by offering integrated services through multiple channels.
- Enhance the efficiency** of delivery of services.
- Improve the effectiveness** of implementation of the developmental and welfare schemes.
- Enhance the productivity of employees** and agencies through easy access to information.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022

- It was **approved in 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting**, an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries.
- The **work plan includes**
  - > System for **combating use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets**,
  - > **WiFi Access network interface** for nationwide public internet,
  - > **Capacity building and knowledge sharing** in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.



### Reverse Repo normalisation

- Reverse repo is the **interest rate that RBI pays to the commercial banks** when they park their excess liquidity (money) with the RBI.
- **Normalisation means the reverse repo rate can be raised in one or two stages.** It is aimed at curbing inflation.
  - > It will incentivise commercial banks to park excess funds with RBI, thus **sucking some liquidity out of the system**.
  - > It **will also result in higher interest rates across the board**, thus reducing demand for money among consumers and making it costlier for businesses to borrow fresh loans.



### Forex reserves declined by \$678 million

- Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves are **assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies.** **RBI's Forex reserve comprises of:**
  - > **Foreign currency assets** (capital inflows to capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings),
  - > **Gold**,
  - > **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** of International Monetary Fund (IMF),
    - SDR is an artificial currency instrument used by IMF, and its **value is based on a basket of five currencies**-U.S. dollar (highest weightage), euro, China's Yuan, yen, and pound sterling (lowest weightage).
  - > **Reserve position in IMF.**



### Social Commerce

- Social commerce model is seeing a **surge in the number of non-traditional e-commerce companies** across the country.
- Social Commerce is the **process of selling products directly on social media.**
  - > It essentially **connects buyers and resellers.**
  - > People **use social media channels to aggregate demand.**
- Products listed on these platforms **typically include unbranded or lesser-known brands that are bought by resellers from these marketplaces** to get sold on their social channels to individual customers.
  - > In this, one only manufactures or source **after aggregating a minimum quantum of demand.**



### Bomb Cyclone

- **Eastern coast of U.S. was hit by a bomb cyclone** recently.
- Bomb cyclone is **created by formation of a rapidly strengthening weather system, called bombogenesis.**
- Bombogenesis occurs **when a mid-latitude cyclone rapidly intensifies, dropping at least 24 millibars over 24 hours** (A millibar measures atmospheric pressure).
- This can happen **when a cold air mass collides with a warm air mass**, such as air over warm ocean waters.



### Avascular Necrosis (AVN)

- With many patients being diagnosed with the long Post-COVID complications of AVN, **AIIMS has submitted a proposal to conduct a pan-India study** on it.
- Generally, a Covid-19 recovered patient experiences AVN symptoms after 4-5 months.
- **Also called Osteonecrosis**, AVN occurs due to the **restricted blood supply to the bone**, resulting in loss of its density and weight-bearing capacity.
- **AVN is not a new ailment.** Before COVID, it was found due to smoking, alcoholism, and steroid use linked to other conditions.





### Places in News

#### Burkina Faso (Capital Ouagadougou)

- Burkina Faso **witnessed a military takeover** recently.
- **Political boundaries:**
  - **Landlocked country** in western Africa.
  - **Neighbour countries:** Mali, Niger, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo.
  - It is a **former French colony** and gained independence as Upper Volta in 1960.
- **Geographical features:**
  - **Characterized by savanna** that is grassy in the north and sparse forests in the south.
  - **Longest river:** Black Volta
  - **Natural resources are limited** and include gold, manganese, limestone.



#### Honduras (Capital: Tegucigalpa)

- Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras.
- **Political boundaries**
  - A country of Central America, it is **situated between Guatemala and El Salvador** to the west and **Nicaragua** to the south and east.
  - **Major water bodies:** The Caribbean Sea in the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south.
- **Geographical features**
  - Roughly triangular in shape, Honduras is the **bend in Central America**.
  - **Highest Mountain:** Cerro Las Minas
  - **Major rivers:** Ulua, Patuca, Coco etc.



### Personality in news

#### Baba Iqbal Singh

- The noted **educationist, social worker and philanthropist** passed away recently.
- **Values and Ideals:** A selfless individual, he dedicated all his life for the dissemination of value-based modern education and rendering social service to all, irrespective of caste, community, and religion.
- **Contribution:** Kalgidhar Trust started by him has been active in social work on rural education, drug de-addiction and women empowerment.
- He was **awarded the Padma Shri Award** for social work.



### Grand Slam

- Rafael Nadal (Tennis Player) **won record 21st slam title with Australian open 2022 victory** over Daniil Medvedev.
- He **surpassed Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic** (both at 20 slams).
- In tennis, the term Grand Slam **refers to accomplishment of winning all four major championships**-the championships of Australia, France, Britain (Wimbledon), and United States-in the same calendar season.
- Grand Slam is **commonly misused to describe any one of the four major tournaments**.



8468022022, 9019066066



www.visionias.in



/c/VisionIASdelhi



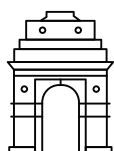
/Vision\_IAS



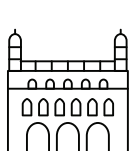
/visionias\_upsc



/VisionIAS\_UPSC



DELHI



LUCKNOW



JAIPUR



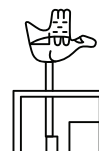
HYDERABAD



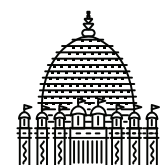
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI