

# Cross And Climb Academy

## Current Affairs 08/09.01.2022

### Election Commission raises expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly polls

The Election Commission has increased the existing election expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, due to the rise in inflation. The new limits will be applicable in all upcoming elections in the country. The previous major revision in the election expenditure limit was done in 2014. It was further increased by 10% in 2020

#### Parliamentary constituencies poll expenditure ceiling:

Bigger states (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka)- Increased to Rs 95 lakh from previous limit of Rs 70 lakh. Smaller states (Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and UTs) – Increased to 75 lakh from previous Rs 54 lakh. UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised to 95 lakhs.

#### Assembly constituencies poll expenditure limits:

- Bigger states: Increased to Rs 40 lakh from Rs 28 lakhs
- Smaller states: Increased to Rs 28 lakhs from Rs 20 lakhs

For Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs)	
Earlier expenditure limit (2014)	Enhanced expenditure limit now
Rs. 70 Lakh	Rs. 95 Lakh
Rs. 54 Lakh	Rs. 75 Lakh

For Assembly Constituencies (ACs)	
Earlier expenditure limit (2014)	Enhanced expenditure limit now
Rs. 28 Lakh	Rs. 40 Lakh
Rs. 20 Lakh	Rs. 28 Lakh

### Cabinet approves MoU with Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali river at Dharchula in Uttarakhand



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Nepal for the construction of a bridge over Mahakali River**, which forms the border between India and Nepal. The bridge will connect the twin town of **Dharchula in Uttarakhand with Dharchula in the territory of Nepal**. The construction of the bridge will be completed within three years. It will strengthen the relationship and further improve the diplomatic ties between the two countries.

### PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the second campus of **Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata, at Newtown, near Rajarhat**, on January 07, 2022. The new campus has been built at an estimated cost of over **Rs 530 crore**. Out of this, Rs 400 crores have been provided by the Union government and remaining by West Bengal government, in the ratio of 75:25. The 460-bedded second campus of CNCI has been built under the Union Ministry of Health, in line with

the prime minister's vision to expand and upgrade the health facilities in all parts of the country. The existing CNCI unit is located at Hazra More in Kolkata. It was inaugurated on January 02, 1950.

CNCI is an autonomous body under the Centre, and the only government-run cancer hospital in Bengal so far.

## Uttar Pradesh bags Best State award in 3rd National Water Awards for 2020



The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat declared the winners of the **third National Water Awards for the year 2020**, on January 07, 2022. **Uttar Pradesh** has been adjudged as the **Best State** in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020. It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectively. Overall 57 awards have been announced in 11 categories. These include: Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Media (Print & Electronic), Best School, Best Institution/RWA/Religious

organization for Campus usage, Best Industry, Best NGO, Best Water User Association, and Best Industry for CSR Activity. The award comes with a citation, trophy and cash prize. The National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018 to recognise and motivate individuals and organizations doing exemplary work in the field of water resources management.

## Puducherry to host 25th National Youth Festival in 2022



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has chosen **Puducherry** as the host for the **National Youth Festival 2022**. The **25th National Youth Festival** has been organised from January 12 to 16, 2022. The festival is being organised as part of the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav to mark the 75th year of India's Independence. Around 1000 youths from across the country are expected to participate in the festival. It NYF 2022 will showcase the rich cultural heritage and the unsung heroes of India's freedom movement who gave their life to it and many other such topics

## Antigua and Barbuda joins as 102nd member of ISA

**Antigua and Barbuda** has officially joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as a member country on January 05, 2022. With this, the Caribbean nation has become the **102nd country** to join the India-led global energy initiative, ISA. The framework agreement was formally signed by Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne in the presence of the Indian High Commissioner Dr KJ Srinivasa.

## UN World Food Programme tie up with The Akshaya Patra Foundation for PM-POSHAN Scheme

The **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India** has partnered with **The Akshaya Patra Foundation** to enhance the effectiveness of the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme**. The agreement in this regard was signed on January 03, 2022 between WFP India



country director Bishow Parajuli and Chanchalaphthi Dasa, Vice Chairman of The Akshaya Patra Foundation in New Delhi. **PM Poshan Scheme** was launched on **September 29, 2021** as a new meal scheme for government and government-aided schools for **five years (from 2021-22 to 2025-26)** with the financial outlay of **Rs 1.31 trillion**. The existing 'Mid Day Meal' scheme has been included in this programme. The WFP and Akshaya Patra will form a steering committee with representatives from both organisations to discuss various aspects of the tie-up. Finances to implement the programmes will be provided by

both organisations. Bengaluru-based The Akshaya Patra Foundation is a non-profit organisation that operates a school lunch programme.

## Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad



The Union Minister of Science and Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **24th National Conference on e-Governance in Hyderabad**, Telangana on January 07, 2022. The theme of the two-day Conference is **'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'**. The conference has been organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the State Government of Telangana.

## Ind-Ra lowers India's GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 9.3% in FY22



The ratings agency **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has downgraded the GDP of India for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022. Ind-Ra expects the GDP to clock a growth rate of **9.3% y-o-y in FY22**. Earlier this estimate was 9.4%. Meanwhile, **Brickworks Ratings** has also revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal (**FY22**) to **8.5-9%**. Earlier this was estimated at 10%. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant is the main driver to downgrade GDP growth projections.

## Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes charge as new Secretary-General of SCO



Veteran Chinese diplomat **Zhang Ming** has taken over as the new **Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** with effect from January 01, 2022. The 65-year-old Zhang replaces **Vladimir Norov**, a former diplomat from Uzbekistan who completed his term on December 31, 2021. Prior to joining SCO, Zhang served as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union for four years.

## Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates India's first open rock museum in Hyderabad



Union Minister of State for Science and Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad**, on January 06, 2022. The Open Rock Museum displays around 35 varieties of rocks from different parts of India. The ages of these rocks ranges from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history. Some of these rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 kms from the surface of the earth. This Museum will help in educating and enlightening the people about several lesser-known facts.

## KVIC launches Country's first 'Mobile Honey Processing Van' at Ghaziabad



**India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van** has been launched at **Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** on January 07, 2022 by KVIC. The Van was inaugurated by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman of **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**. Its has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary training centre, Panjokehra. The cost of developing the

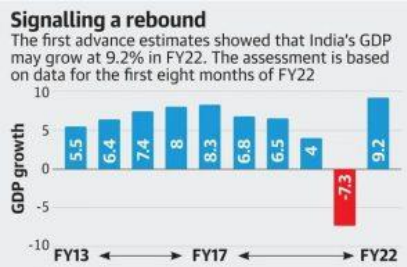
unit is around Rs 15 lakh. It can process about 300 kg of honey in 8 hours. The van also has a testing laboratory to instantly examine the quality of honey.

## MEA inks pact with TCS for Phase II of Passport Seva Programme



The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has signed an agreement with **Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS)** for the **second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-V2.0)**. TCS will be the service provider for the Passport Seva Project, which it has been for over 10 years. The PSP-V2.0 envisages rolling out chip-enabled e-passports, increasing data security and ensuring the next level of customer experience with the use of biometrics, artificial intelligence, advanced data analytics and auto-response.

## NSO projects Indian economy to grow 9.2% in FY22



The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has estimated India's GDP to grow at **9.2 percent** in the current fiscal, **2021-22**. NSO released its first advance estimates of economic output on January 07, 2022. The GDP estimate for 2020-21 fiscal was projected at a contraction of 7.3 percent by NSO. In terms of figures, real GDP in 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 147.54 lakh crore against the provisional estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 at Rs 135.13 lakh crore. Nominal GDP for 2021-22 is

estimated at Rs. 232.15 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 at Rs 197.46 lakh crore. Fiscal deficit target likely to be achieved is **6.8%**

## SBI General Insurance launches awareness campaign on tax saving #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao



The **SBI General Insurance** has launched an awareness campaign titled **#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao**. The campaign aims to increase awareness on how people can **save tax by buying health insurance**. #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao will also underline other benefits of opting for health insurance. The campaign consists of videos in a Vox Pop format featuring anchor Rudraksh Singh. Singh.

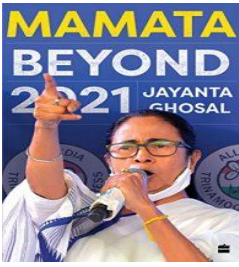
## India participates in US-led six nations Exercise Sea Dragon 22

**Six Indo-Pacific nations** are taking part in the multinational exercise **Sea Dragon 22** which began on January 05, 2022 at Andersen Air Force Base in **Guam in the Western Pacific**. The six nations navies that are participating in the exercise are the **Quad nations (United States, Australia, India and Japan), Canada and South Korea**. The Sea Dragon is a **US led multinational exercise** that focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training and excellence to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

## OPEC elects Kuwait's Haitham Al-Ghais as new secretary general

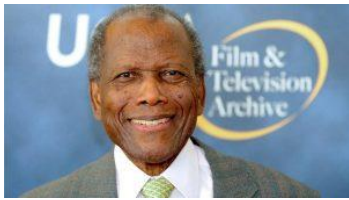
The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** has voted to appoint **Haitham Al-Ghais** as its new **secretary general**. Haitham Al-Ghais, a ?Kuwaiti candidate will take charge from **August 01 2022**, for a period of three years. He will replace Nigeria's Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, who is serving the post since August 01, 2016. Al-Ghais currently serves as deputy managing director for International Marketing at KPC. He was Kuwait's OPEC Governor from 2017 to June 2021.

## Book titled 'Mamata: Beyond 2021' to release on January 24, 2022



A new book titled '**Mamata Beyond 2021**', based on West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee will be released on January 24, 2022. The book has been written by **Jayanta Ghosal**, a political Journalist. It has been translated by Arunava Sinha, a fiction and non-fiction translator. The book will be published by **HarperCollins India**. The book narrates how Mamata worked tirelessly for the state's poor and disadvantaged and was successfully able to portray herself as the 'daughter of Bengal'.

## Sidney Poitier, first black actor to win Best Actor Oscars Award passes away at 94



Veteran Bahamian-American actor **Sidney Poitier** who created history by becoming the **first Black man to win the best actor award at the Oscars**, has passed away. He was 94. Poitier won the Academy Award for best lead performance in 1964 for his film *Lilies of the Field*.