

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

03 September 2022



## TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

# G7 agrees to implement price cap on Russian oil

The group plans to deny shipping to oil above the price cap

- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- ✓ The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- ✓ The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- ✓ All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- ✓ The G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat. The presidency, which rotates among member countries each year, is in charge of setting the agenda

## AGRICULTURE

# Paddy cultivation sees decline

5.62% decrease in the area covered this year compared to 2021, data show

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The trend of decrease in paddy sowing has continued even as the monsoon season in north India is in its last legs. According to the data released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Friday, the decrease in the area of paddy cultivation is 22.90 lakh hectares, 5.62% less than the area covered in 2021.

As of now, paddy has been cultivated in 383.99 lakh hectares of area and in the corresponding period of last year, it was 406.89 lakh hectares.

“Thus, 22.90 lakh hectares less area has been covered as compared to last year,” the Centre said.

States such as Jharkhand (decrease of 9.80 lakh hectares), Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectares), West Bengal (4.45 lakh hectares), Chhattisgarh (3.91 lakh hectares),



Paddy has been cultivated in 383.99 lakh hectares this year while the figure was 406.89 lakh hectares last year. ■PTI

Uttar Pradesh (2.61 lakh hectares) and Bihar (2.18 lakh hectares) are the major contributors for the decrease in the cultivated area of paddy in this kharif season.

Meanwhile, States such as Telangana (increase of 4.71 lakh hectares), Haryana (0.94 lakh hectares), Nagaland (0.78 lakh hectares) and Gujarat (0.55 lakh hectares) showed an increase in the area of cultivation of paddy.

Farmers' organisations have been maintaining that the higher input cost, particularly the increase in prices of fertilizers, is the main reason for the decrease in paddy cultivation apart from scarcity of water. The government is hopeful about a normal monsoon this year.

**Cultivation of pulses**  
The coverage of pulses too witnessed a marginal de-

crease. In this kharif season, the cultivation so far is in 129.55 lakh hectares compared to 135.46 lakh hectares in 2021. Increase in area in cultivation is reported from States such as Madhya Pradesh (4.08 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (0.22 lakh hectares) and Assam (0.11 lakh hectares) while Maharashtra (decrease of 3.23 lakh hectares), Telangana (1.70 lakh hectares), Jharkhand (1.33 lakh hectares) and Karnataka (0.94 lakh hectares).

Tur/arhar cultivation was down marginally at 44.86 lakh hectares as against 47.56 lakh hectares in 2021.

Oilseeds have been cultivated in 188.51 lakh hectares in the country, slightly less than 189.66 lakh hectares of 2021. In the case of sugarcane, the cultivation is 55.65 lakh hectares, a slight increase in the production as compared to 54.70 lakh hectares in 2021 kharif.



## TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

# India to host Quad senior officials' meeting next week

It comes ahead of PM's visit to SCO summit with Russia, China

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

New Delhi will host an official-level meeting of the Quad grouping with the U.S., Japan and Australia next week, the first such "senior officers meeting" (SOM) to be held since the recent escalation of tensions over the Taiwan Strait.

The Quad SOM meeting, scheduled for September 5-6, is one of a number of meetings with India's Indo-Pacific partners in the week, seen as part of the government's "balancing" moves ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan in mid-September. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the SCO summit along with leaders of Russia, China, Pakistan, Central Asia and Iran, the first such in-person summit since the COVID-19 pandemic and the beginning of the Ukraine war.

Ministry of External Af-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the leaders of U.S., Japan, Australia, during the Quad summit in Washington. ■ AP/FILE

fairs (MEA) officials will follow the Quad meeting with an India-U.S. 2+2 "inter-sessional" meeting, with U.S. Assistant Secretary of States for South and Central Asia Donald Lu leading the American delegation to discuss bilateral issues. Senior counterparts from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Deputy Secretary Justin Hay-

hurst, and the Director General of the Foreign Policy Bureau in Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Keiichi Ichikawa will attend the meetings on Monday and Tuesday, which will review progress in a number of Quad initiatives that were discussed during the Quad summit in Tokyo in May.

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- ✓ The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or QUAD Group is an informal strategic forum comprising India, Japan, Australia and the United States of America.

### India's Stand.

- ✓ QUAD is united by its democratic values and will remain an important pillar of stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ Called the meet an extension of the ancient Indian philosophy 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which regards the world as one family.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- ✓ SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- ✓ It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- ✓ It was created in 2001.
- ✓ The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- ✓ India and Pakistan became members in 2017.
- ✓ On 17th September, 2021, it was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.
- ✓ Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran.



## TOPIC:DEFENCE

# Vikrant is a reflection of self-reliant India, says Modi

Country's first indigenous aircraft carrier commissioned into the Navy

DINAKAR PERI  
KOCHI

Security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean had long been ignored, but today this area is a major defence priority of the country, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday as he commissioned *INS Vikrant*, the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier and the most complex warship ever built.

"*Vikrant* is a unique reflection of India becoming self-reliant," he said, adding that his government is working in every direction, from increasing the budget for the Indian Navy to increasing its capability.

The ship is christened after India's first aircraft carrier *Vikram*, which played a vital role in the 1971 war. From 2013 to 2017, the Navy had fielded two aircraft car-

riers – the erstwhile *Viraat* acquired from the U.K. and the *INS Vikramaditya* from Russia which is currently in service.

Once *INS Vikrant* becomes fully operational, Indian Navy will once again be able to deploy two full-fledged carrier groups significantly expanding its footprint across the Indo-Pacific.

"So far, such aircraft carriers were only made by developed countries. India has taken a step towards being a developed country by being part of the league," said Mr. Modi speaking at the formal commissioning ceremony which saw the presence of several naval veterans who commanded and served on the erstwhile *Vikram*.

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## Sentinel of the seas

A look at the 'floating airfield' *INS Vikrant*, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier

### TIME TRAVEL

**February 2009:**  
Keel of the ship is laid

**August 2013:**  
The ship is launched (first time in water)

**November 2020:**  
Basin trials completed

**July 2022:**  
Sea trials completed (five phases)

**July 2022:**  
Delivery (acceptance by Navy)

**September 2022:**  
Commissioning as *INS Vikrant*

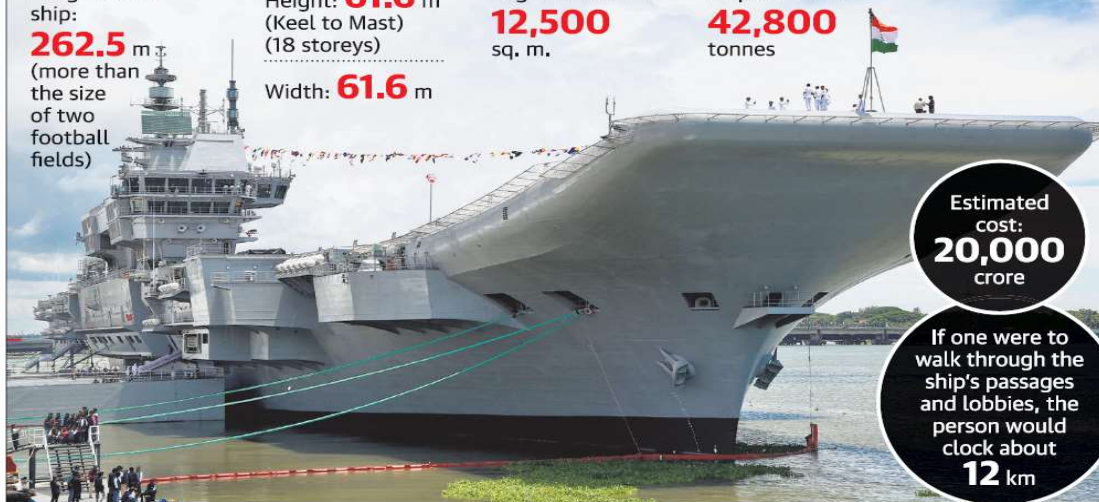
Length of the ship:  
**262.5 m**  
(more than the size of two football fields)

Height: **61.6 m**  
(Keel to Mast)  
(18 storeys)

Width: **61.6 m**

Flight deck area:  
**12,500**  
sq. m.

Displacement:  
**42,800**  
tonnes



Estimated cost:  
**20,000**  
crore

If one were to walk through the ship's passages and lobbies, the person would clock about  
**12 km**

### AHOY THERE! A LOOK AT SOME CARRIER STATS

Crew: **1,600**

Compartments:  
**2,300**

Max speed:  
**28** knots

Cruising speed:  
**18** knots

Endurance **7,500**  
nautical miles

■ Over **30** fighter aircraft and helicopters, including MiG 29Ks, Kamov and MH-60R choppers

■ Medium-range surface-to-air missiles

■ Close-in weapons systems

■ Fully functional hospital with a CT scan machine

■ Two operation theatres

## TOPIC: UNION EXECUTIVE

# A-G disallows contempt proceedings against Sibal

‘Remarks can be seen as fair comment’

- ✓ The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- ✓ Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.

### Appointment and Eligibility:

- ✓ AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
- ✓ S/he must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court
- ✓ Term of the Office: Not fixed by the Constitution.
- ✓ Removal: Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).



# Navy's ensign pays tribute to Shivaji

Design sees fourth change since 1950; twin octagonal borders draw inspiration from royal seal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

Moving away from the colonial past, the Indian Navy on Friday adopted a new ensign inspired by the seal of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji. It was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the commissioning of aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* here.

“The President of India has approved the introduction of the new designs of the naval ensign, as also the distinguishing flags, masthead pennants and car flags for the Indian Navy,” the Navy said in a statement. “Formations, ships and establishments of the Indian Navy would be adopting the new naval ensign, as also the new



**Flying high:** The new naval ensign on *INS Vikrant* in Kochi on Friday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

distinguishing flags, car flags and masthead pennants.”

## Devanagari script

This is the fourth time the naval ensign has been changed since 1950.

The earlier ensign had the

national flag in the upper left canton, red vertical and horizontal stripes and a golden-yellow National Emblem superimposed on the intersection of the red stripes. The national motto ‘*Satyamev Jayate*’ engraved in Devana-

gari script, was included underneath the emblem.

The statement said that resonant to the ongoing national endeavour to move away from the colonial past, the need was felt to transition to a new design that drew inspiration from the country’s history.

The white ensign identified nationwide with the Navy, now comprises two main constituents – the national flag in the upper left canton and a navy blue-gold octagon at the centre of the fly side (away from the staff), it stated.

The octagon is with twin golden octagonal borders encompassing the golden National Emblem (Lion Capital of Ashoka – under

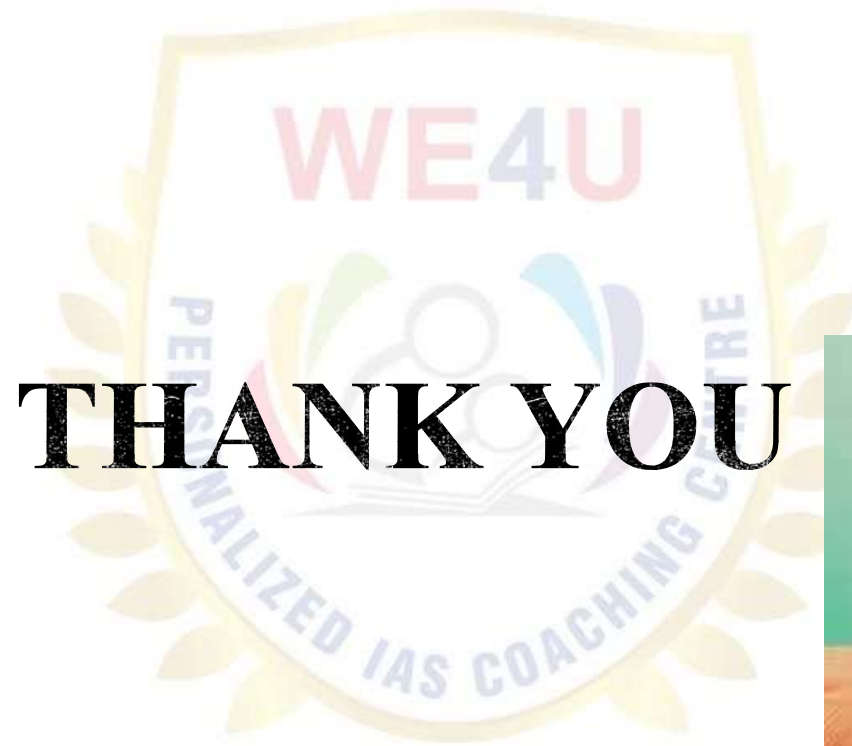
scribed with ‘*Satyamev Jayate*’ in blue Devanagari script) resting atop an anchor; and superimposed on a shield. Below the shield, within the octagon, in a golden-bordered ribbon on a navy blue background, is inscribed the motto of the Indian Navy ‘*Sam No Varunah*’ in golden Devanagari script.

“The twin octagonal borders draw their inspiration from Shivaji Maharaj’s *rajmudra* or the seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one of the prominent Indian kings with a visionary maritime outlook, who built a credible naval fleet that earned grudging admiration from European navies operating in the region at the time,” the Navy said.



## Chatrapati Shivaji

- ✓ He was crowned as the king of the Marathas on 6th June , 1674, at Raigad.
- ✓ He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
- ✓ The Maratha Kingdom founded by Shivaji grew larger over time and became the dominant Indian power in the early 18th century.
- ✓ The King was the supreme head of state who was assisted by a group of eight ministers known as the ‘Ashtapradhan’.



**THANK YOU**

