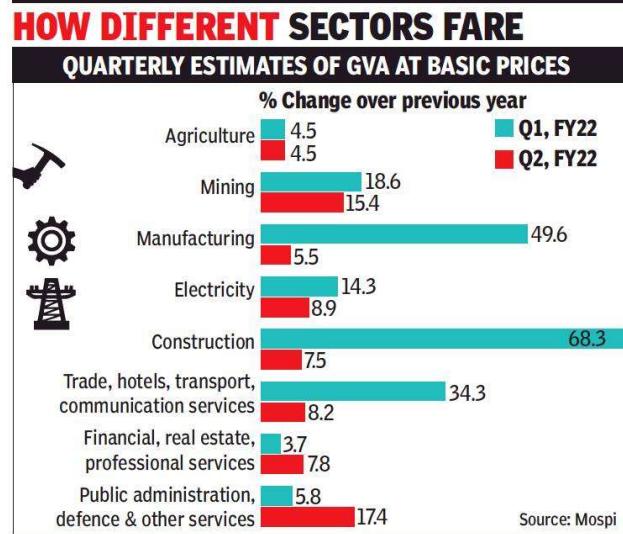
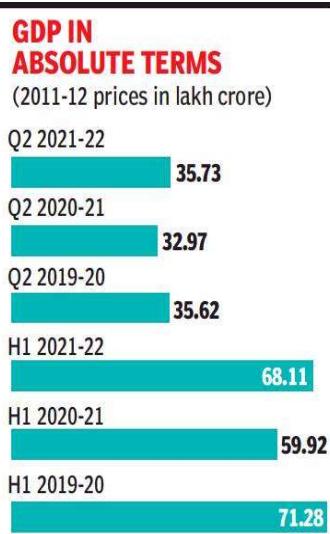
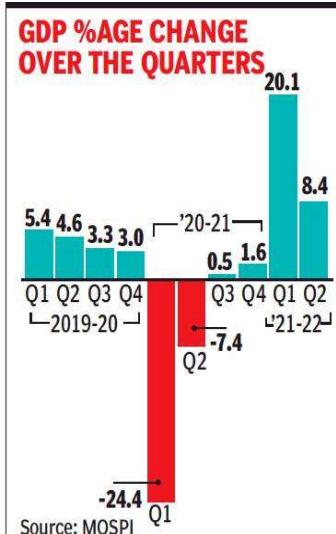


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 1, 2021

NATIONAL

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2021-22 - grew at 8.4%, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office on November 30
- ✓ The numbers mark a significant increase as compared to the second quarter of last fiscal year, when the GDP had declined by 7.4% due to the pandemic



- ✓ The manufacturing output increased at the rate of 5.5% during the second quarter, while construction segment grew 7.5%.
- ✓ Services that include hotels and transport segment registered a growth of 8.2% in the July-September period.
- ✓ The services sector rose 16.2% quarter on quarter and 10.2% year-on-year.
- ✓ In the first quarter of FY22, the Indian economy had grown at a record pace of 20.1%

- ✓ The Indian economy has recovered swiftly after the devastating impact of the Covid-19 induced lockdown in the first quarter of 2020-21, when it contracted at a record 24.4%.
- ✓ According to Chief economic adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the economy was likely to have double-digit growth in 2021-22, 6.5% next year and above 7% thereafter
- ✓ A State Bank of India research report said overall, the economy is still operating at 95.6% of pre-pandemic level
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has forecast annual growth of 9.5% in the current fiscal year, while Moody's predicted India's growth rate at 9.3% for FY22
- ✓ Meanwhile, S&P Global Ratings released on November 30 kept India's economic growth forecast in the fiscal year to March 2022 unchanged at 9.5%

- **On November 30, the National Statistics Office (NSO) - released the quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force survey**
- ✓ As per the report, the unemployment rate in urban areas in the January-March quarter of 2020-21 was 9.4%
- ✓ This is lower than the 10.3% recorded in the October-December quarter of the previous year
- ✓ The unemployment rate for females of all ages dropped to 11.8% in the January-March quarter from 13.1% in the October-December quarter.
- ✓ This remained at 10.5% in the January-March quarter of 2020.
- ✓ The overall unemployment rate for all ages was at 9.1% in the January-March quarter.
- ✓ The strict lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic pushed the overall unemployment rate to 20.9% in the April-June quarter of 2020
- ✓ The Periodic Labour Force survey is a key indicator of the measure of labour force participation rate, the worker population ratio and the unemployment rate.
- ✓ The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed in the labour force.
- ✓ The PLFS was launched by the NSO to estimate the employment and unemployment indicators in the short time interval of three months for urban areas only in the current weekly status.
- ✓ Under CWS, a person is considered as unemployed if he/she did not work even for one hour on any day during the reference week but sought or was available for work at least for one hour on any day during the week.
- ✓ The annual PLFS report covers both rural and urban areas whereas the quarterly bulletin is for urban centres.

COMMITTEES

- **The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports - submitted its report titled 'Reforms in the content and design of school textbooks' to the Rajya Sabha on November 30**

- ✓ The Committee, headed by BJP MP Vinay P Sahasrabuddhe, has recommended wide range of changes to school history textbooks.



- ✓ The committee has 10 Rajya Sabha members (with 4 members from BJP) and 21 Lok Sabha members (12 members from BJP)
- ✓ The reforms include studying “ancient wisdom and knowledge” from scriptures, reviewing how we mention freedom fighters, mentioning women leaders, and highlighting “national pride” without any ‘bias’
- ✓ The panel noted that the “exaggeration” of Mughal rulers should be removed and history of Sikh Gurus and their struggle should be added in the textbooks
- ✓ Before teaching Karl Marx to students, the panel wants the boards to make references to Guru Nanak’s message of spiritual socialism in the textbooks and the impact of Karl Marx and VI Lenin’s teachings had on Bhagat Singh.
- ✓ The panel also wants to give options to students to study either French Revolution or the Russian Revolution.
- ✓ The panel also demanded child-friendly textbooks with use of pictures, graphics, QR codes, and other audio-visual materials
- ✓ The panel wants NCERT and SCERT to incorporate the ancient wisdom, knowledge and teachings about life and society from Vedas and other texts in the school curriculum
- ✓ Contributions by leading women personalities such as Mahasweta Devi, Kalpana Chawla, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Kittur Chennamma, M S Subbulakshmi, and Savitribai Phule, among others were advised to be included in the textbooks
- ✓ The contributions of great Indian empires like that of Vikramaditya, Cholas, Chalukyas, Vijaynagar, Gondwana or that of Travancore and Ahoms of North-Eastern region were recommended for inclusion
- ✓ The committee noted that NCERT and SCERTs should primarily focus on providing core content through their textbooks and to maintain uniformity in educational standards of school students across the country
- ✓ It recommended to highlight in textbooks the lives of unknown men and women from different states and districts, who have positively influenced national history, honour and oneness
- ✓ The reforms will remove “unhistorical” facts and distortions from history as many historical figures and freedom fighters were “incorrectly” portrayed as “offenders”

- ✓ It also seeks to focus on adding histories of the empires of the Deccan and Maratha communities and the history of the Northeast
- ✓ The panel recommended that all NCERT textbooks be published in all Eighth Schedule languages, with further translations into local languages not included in the official list
- ✓ The panel also recommended that the Education Ministry set up a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all privately published books are in sync with the structure and content of the texts published by NCERT to avoid discrepancies.
- ✓ The report also stated that NCERT should relook at the guidelines for writing of history textbooks so that equal weightage is given to various periods.
- ✓ The panel received approximately 20,000 representations from experts, individuals and organisations, pointing to discrepancies/ omissions in school textbooks
- ✓ The key recommendations come as the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is set to be revised ahead of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation
- ✓ In September 2021, the Centre set up a 12-member steering committee under former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan to update the national framework in order to frame broad guidelines for changes in the NCERT curriculum.
- ✓ Based on the recommendations, the NCERT had previously included topics like Swachh Bharat, Digital India, demonetization, GST, “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” policies — in a bid to account for “post-independence” histories

APPOINTMENTS

- **Admiral R Hari Kumar - took over as the 25th chief of the Indian Navy on November 30**



- ✓ He succeeds Admiral Karambir Singh who retired after 41 years of military service
- ✓ Admiral Hari Kumar was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOCinC), Western Naval Command at Mumbai, prior taking over helm as the Chief of the Naval Staff
- ✓ The officer, a gunnery specialist, is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and was commissioned into the Navy on January 1, 1983

- ✓ In his 38-year career he has held several prestigious positions, including commanding the Coast Guard Ship C-01, Fleet Operations Officer and Fleet Gunnery Officer of Western Fleet, Executive Officer (EXO) of INS Vipul, Gunnery Officer (GO) of INS Ranjit, commissioning GO of INS Kuthar and commissioning crew of INS Ranvir.
- ✓ The warships commanded by Kumar in a career spanning 38 years include aircraft carrier INS Viraat (no longer in service), INS Ranvir, INS Nishank and INS Kora.
- ✓ Kumar's shore appointments include Command Gunnery Officer at HQ Western Naval Command, Naval Advisor to Government of Seychelles, UN Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM II) at Mogadishu and Training Commander, INS Dronacharya.
- ✓ He has attended courses at the Naval War College, US, Army War College, Mhow and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK.
- ✓ In one of his earlier appointments, he served as chief of integrated defence staff to the chairman, chiefs of staff committee
- ✓ He has been decorated with various medals, including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the Ati the Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal.

SPORTS

- Paris Saint-Germain forward and Argentina national team captain Lionel Messi - won his seventh Ballon d'Or on November 29
- ✓ Bayern Munich forward Robert Lewandowski and Chelsea midfielder Jorginho came in second and third respectively

ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Ballon d'Or: Lionel Messi (PSG, Argentina)

Women's Ballon d'Or: Alexia Putellas (Barcelona, Spain)

Club of the Year: Chelsea (England)

Kopa Trophy for Best Young Player: Pedri (Barcelona, Spain)

Yashin trophy for the Best Goalkeeper: Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG, Italy)

Best Striker: Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich, Poland)



Vote Count
613: Messi; 580: Lewandowski;
460: Jorginho



- ✓ Manchester United and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who holds the second-most Ballon d'Ors with five, finished sixth on the 2021 ballot.
- ✓ Cristiano Ronaldo finished outside the top three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2010.
- ✓ Between Messi and Ronaldo, both have won 12 of the last 13 editions with the exception coming in 2018 when Luka Modric claimed the prize.

- ✓ 34-year old Messi took Argentina's national team to its first Copa América victory since 1993 earlier this year, leading the tournament in both goals (4, tied with Colombia's Luis Díaz) and assists (5).
- ✓ Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski won the "Striker of the year" while Italy stopper Gianluigi Donnarumma clinched the best goalkeeper award.
- ✓ Chelsea, meanwhile, won the best club award.
- ✓ The 19-year-old Pedri of Barcelona was awarded the Kopa trophy for the best Under-21 player.
- ✓ Spanish Midfielder Alexia Putellas won the women's Ballon d'Or for the first time after helping Barcelona win the third title and scored 26 goals in 42 games overall.
- ✓ Alexia scored in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year.
- ✓ The only previous women's award winners are Norway striker Ada Hegerberg in 2018, and US forward Megan Rapinoe in 2019.
- ✓ The 2020 awards were canceled due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to the football season
- ✓ The last recipient of the Ballon d'Or Award was Lionel Messi.
- ✓ He won the prestigious award for a record of 6 times in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and in 2019
- ✓ Ballon d'Or is a prestigious annual soccer award given out by the French magazine 'France Football'

BARBADOS – A NEW REPUBLIC – A REPORT

Barbados becomes new republic

The Caribbean nation of Barbados becomes the world's newest republic after removing Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and swearing in its first ever Barbadian president





Sources: Reuters, BBC

Pictures: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS



Barbados newest nation to shake off the British crown

Almost 400 years after it became a British colony, Barbados is now the world's newest republic. The Caribbean island nation parted ways with Queen Elizabeth II as the head of state, and Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, 72, took over as the President with Prince Charles in attendance at the ceremony. However, Barbados, like India, will continue to be one of the 54 Commonwealth nations

What will change?

The country's flag, coat of arms, national pledge or the national anthem are likely to remain unchanged, as reported by The Guardian. But terms like "royal" and "crown" will be dropped from all official references. For instance, the Royal Barbados Police Force will now be known as the Barbados Police Force and crown lands will become state lands. The country will continue to celebrate its Independence Day on November 30.

The most recent country to remove the Queen as the head of state was Mauritius in 1992. Barbados' move is likely to push others to republicanism, particularly Jamaica, where the two main political parties are in favour of abandoning the monarchy. Currently, 15 other countries have the Queen as their head of state

Road to becoming a republic

Barbados gained its independence on November 30, 1966. Although the decision to become a republic was taken in 2020, the island nation has been thinking about it for decades

1979

Cox Commission set up to attest to the feasibility of the republican system

1998

Constitutional committee recommended the country adopts republican status

2003

Barbados changed its final court of appeal from the British Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to the Caribbean Court of Justice

2016

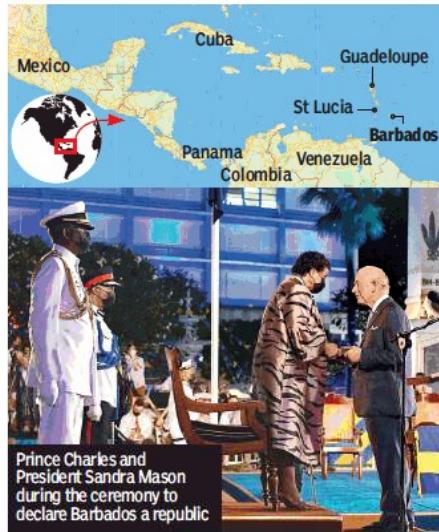
Then PM Freundel Stuart said it was time for the island to move from "a monarchical system to a republican form of government"

Oct 2021

Dame Sandra Prunella Mason becomes new head of the state

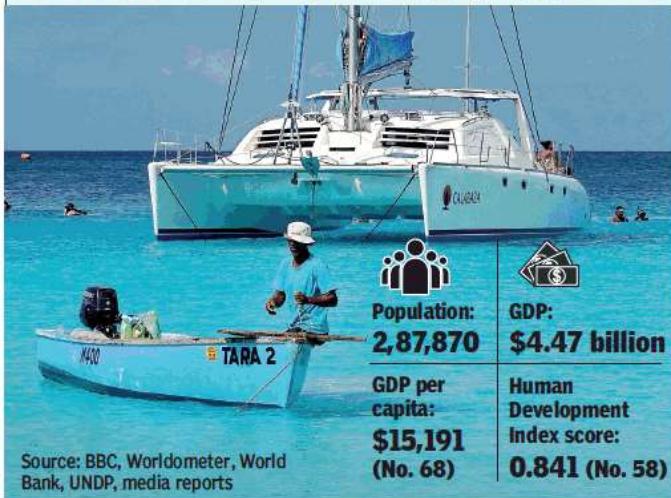
Nov 30

Barbados becomes a republic



Prince Charles and President Sandra Mason during the ceremony to declare Barbados a republic

Island paradise with a history rooted in slavery



► Historically, its economy has been reliant on sugarcane, which was introduced in the 1600s and cultivated by enslaved Africans

► But since the 1970s, its economy has diversified with the expansion of the manufacturing, tourism and offshore finance sectors. Tourism accounts for over 30% of its GDP

► Over 200 years of active slave trade, nearly 400,000 Africans were brought to the island. More than 90% of Barbados' population today is of African descent

► Pop star and Barbadian singer Rihanna has been named a national hero



► Other notable Barbadians include Cuba Gooding Jr, an Oscar-winning actor, and Sir Gary Sobers, who played cricket for West Indies and is considered one of the best all-rounders