

December - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed Rajya Sabha that there was no official nomenclature such as martyrs.
- ❖ Canada will join the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia on diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics over human rights concerns.

## NATIONAL

### e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition



- ❖ The National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog launched the e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition.
- ❖ This was launched in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd and World Resources Institute, India, and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative.
- ❖ The objective of the initiative is to share knowledge of various stakeholders (Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers) on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.

### Nutrition Mission

- ❖ The Minister for Women & Child Development, Smriti Irani, noted in Parliament that, State Governments and Union Territories have used only 56% of the total funds released under Poshan Abhiyan or Nutrition Mission in the last three years.

- ❖ The five States & UTs where utilisation were lowest are
  - Arunachal Pradesh (25.14%)
  - Puducherry (28.03%)
  - Ladakh (31.2%)
  - Punjab (33.62%) and
  - Uttar Pradesh (33.73%).
- ❖ Five States & UTs that made the most uses of the funds are
  - Nagaland (98.34%)
  - Meghalaya (98.14%)
  - Mizoram (94.22%)
  - Sikkim (93.13%) and
  - Dadra & Nagar Haveli (88.2%).
- ❖ Poshan Abhiyan was launched in March 2018.
- ❖ It was launched with the aim of reducing stunting, low birth weight, undernutrition challenges by 2% per year.
- ❖ It also seeks to reduce anaemia among young children, women, and adolescents by 3% per year until 2022.



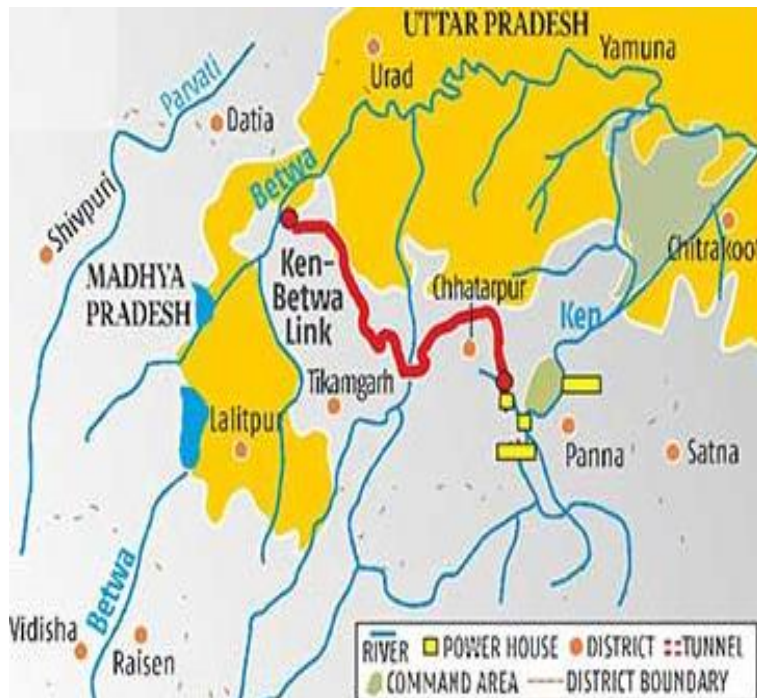
### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the flagship housing-for-all scheme named "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)" till March 2024.

- ❖ Financial assistance will be provided to construct 155.75 lakh houses remaining as of March 31, 2021.
- ❖ Extension of the scheme till March 2024 ensures that the remaining households within the target of 2.95 crore houses under PMAY-G will be aided construct pucca houses with basic amenities.
- ❖ This helps to achieve the objective of 'Housing for All' in rural areas.



### Ken-Betwa River interlinking project

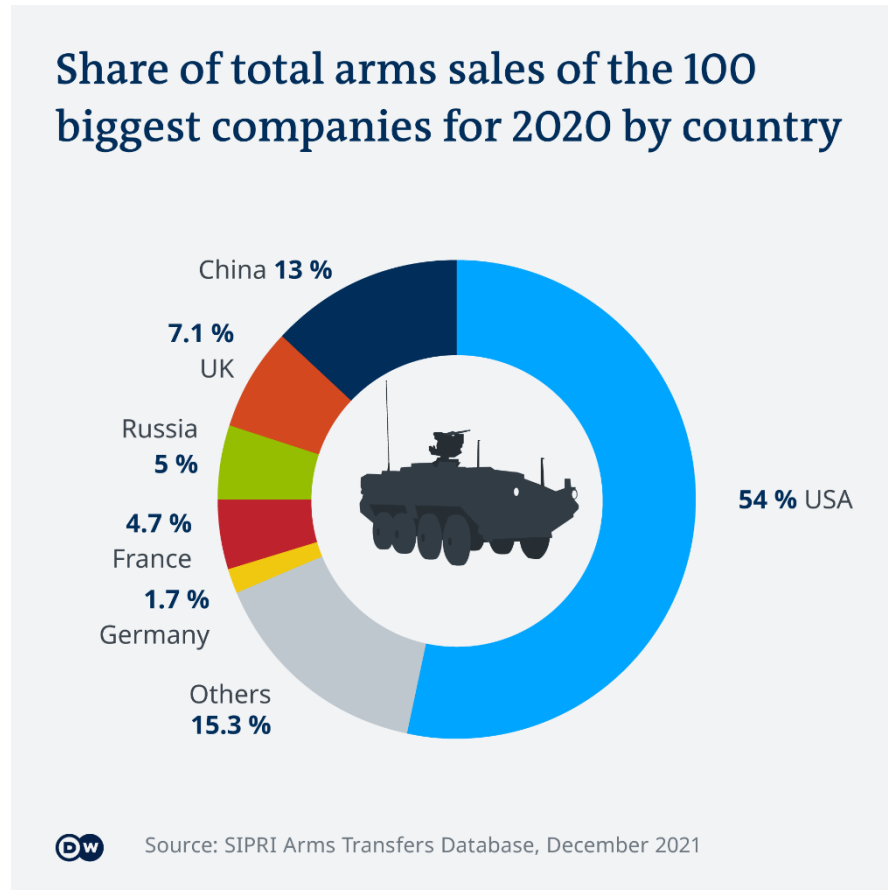


- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project.
- ❖ This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in the Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- ❖ This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Data on Arms Sales



- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released new data on Arms Sales.
- ❖ As per SIPRI data, the arms industry appears not to have been too highly affected due to the pandemic in 2020.
- ❖ The sale has increased by 1.3 percent as compared to 2019.
- ❖ As per SIPRI, 2020 marked the sixth consecutive year of growth in arms sales by 100 largest companies of the arms industry.
- ❖ It was because sales were 17 percent higher as compared to in 2015 when SIPRI first included data on Chinese firms.
- ❖ According to SIPRI, the United States has the highest number of companies featured among the top 100 in arms sales.

- ❖ The US is followed by the top Chinese firms.

### Asia Power Index 2021



- ❖ India has ranked 4th most powerful country in the Asia-Pacific region for comprehensive power out of 26 countries, with an overall score of 37.7 out of 100.
- ❖ This is according to Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021.
- ❖ India's overall score declined by 2 points compared to 2020.
- ❖ India is one of 18 countries in Asia to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.
- ❖ The top 3 countries for overall power in the Asia-Pacific region are
  - United States
  - China
  - Japan

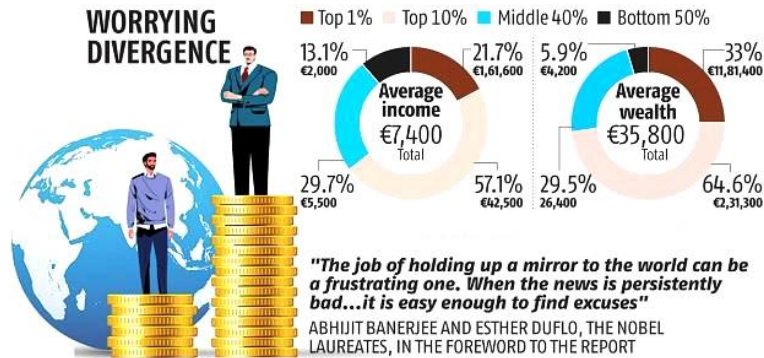
## ECONOMY

### World Inequality Report 2022

- ❖ France-based World Inequality Lab published this report.
- ❖ This report was authored by Lucas Chancel, who is the co-director of World Inequality Lab.
- ❖ It was coordinated by the famed French economist Thomas Piketty.
- ❖ The report notes that the top 1 % of India's population owns more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021.
- ❖ The bottom half of the population earns just 13.1 percent.
- ❖ It highlights that economic reforms and liberalization that India has adopted, have mostly benefited the top 1 percent.
- ❖ The report identifies India as a poor and unequal country, with an affluent elite.

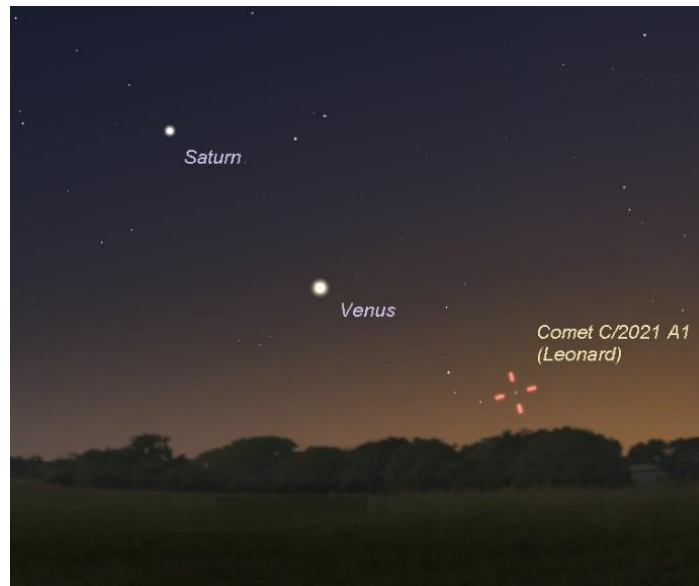


- ❖ 1 percent richest people in India hold 22% of the total national income in 2021, while the top 10 % own 57 percent of the income.
- ❖ The average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 204,200 in 2021, on the basis of purchasing power parity.
- ❖ However, the report clarified that the average national income of a country masks inequalities.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Comet A1 Leonard



- ❖ Comet A1 Leonard is a long-period comet.
- ❖ It was discovered by GJ Leonard in January 2021.
- ❖ It was the first comet to be discovered in 2021.
- ❖ The comet will pass near the earth on December 18, 2021.
- ❖ It is to make its closest approach to the sun in January 2022.

- ❖ long-period comet's range is greater than 200 years.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Forbes 2021 World's 100 Most Powerful Women List**

- ❖ Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked 37th on the Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021.
- ❖ This is the 18th Edition of Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.
- ❖ She has been featured on the list for the 3rd year in a row.
- ❖ She was ranked 41st on the list in 2020 and 34th in 2019.
- ❖ India's seventh woman billionaire Falguni Nayar ranked 88th on the list.
- ❖ Only 4 Indian Women were ranked in the List.
- ❖ MacKenzie Scott topped in this list.
- ❖ Kamala Harris ranked 2nd on the list.



### **Indian Institute of Human Brands (IIHB) Annual Survey**

- ❖ The Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani, and his wife Nita Ambani have topped the list of power couples.
- ❖ This is according to annual survey results, released by the Indian Institute of Human Brands.
- ❖ Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were ranked at Number 2.
- ❖ Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma occupied third place.

- ❖ For the first time, IHB included business couples in the list this year.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - December 09**



- ❖ This International Day is observed annually.





- ❖ The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as defined in the Convention, and to commemorate and honour its victims.

