

December - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Rohit Sharma has been named as the new captain of the Indian ODI and T20I teams.
 - He is succeeding Virat Kohli.
- ❖ After 15 long months, the farmer leaders decided to suspend their agitation and vacated the protest sites at the Delhi border on December 11, 2021.
 - This comes after the protesting farmers received a letter from the government of India with promises of forming a committee on MSP and withdrawing cases against them immediately.
- ❖ The National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2020 was awarded recently.
 - The Para-swimmer Mohammad Shams Aalam Shaikh won the award for best sportsperson with a disability.
- ❖ The World No.1 Ashleigh Barty of Australia won the WTA Player of the Year honor for the second time.
 - US Open champion Emma Raducanu took the Newcomer of the Year.

TAMIL NADU

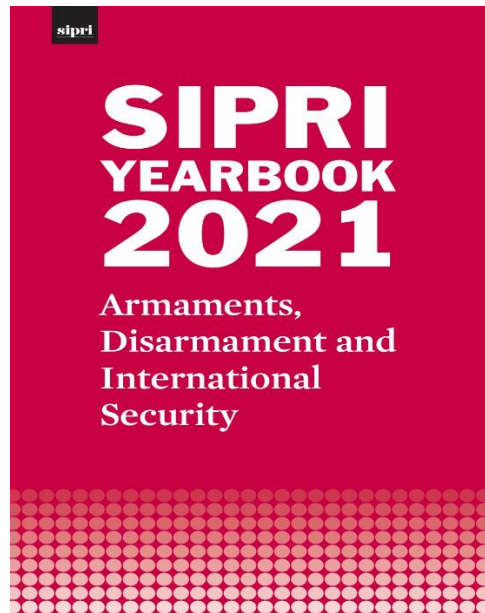
Eco park at Pallikaranai



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated an ecological park set up on 2.5 hectares of Pallikaranai marshland.
- ❖ A proposal has been sent to the Centre requesting it to declare Pallikaranai marsh as a wetland under the Ramsar Convention.

NATIONAL

Top 100 in arms sales - Three Indian companies



- ❖ Three Indian companies are among the world's top 100 for combined arms sales in 2020.
- ❖ This is according to the new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks global arms trade.
- ❖ The three are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Ordnance Factories, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ❖ Of these, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), which comprised the Indian Ordnance Factories, has been dissolved and seven new Public Sector Undertakings were created in its place.
- ❖ The three were ranked among the top 100 in arms sales in 2019 as well.

Extended Range Pinaka Rocket

- ❖ An Extended Range Pinaka (Pinaka-ER) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System has been successfully tested at Rajasthan's Pokhran Range.

- ❖ Pinaka-ER launcher system has been designed by DRDO Laboratory Armament Research and Development Establishment with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory in Pune.



Summit for Democracy



- ❖ US President Joe Biden hosted the first of two Summits for Democracy.
- ❖ India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the summit saying that 'democratic spirit' and 'pluralistic ethos' are ingrained in Indians.
- ❖ A total of 100 nations participated in this 'Summit for Democracy'.

India Skills Report 2022

- ❖ The 9th edition of the India Skills Report (ISR) 2022 was released by Wheebox.
- ❖ Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest pool of employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.
- ❖ The theme of ISR 2022 – 'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'.
- ❖ India Skills Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India.

- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand.
- ❖ Pune is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 percent.



Bills replacing ordinances

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021 together.
- ❖ These Bills seek to replace the two ordinances on the subject promulgated this year.
- ❖ The object of the amendments is to cap the tenure of the Directors of the CBI and the Enforcement at five years.

Observer Status to the ISA



- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly has conferred Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- ❖ ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India & France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- ❖ It was presented by the leaders of the 2 countries at the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris in 2015.

INTERNATIONAL

Reporters Without Borders report

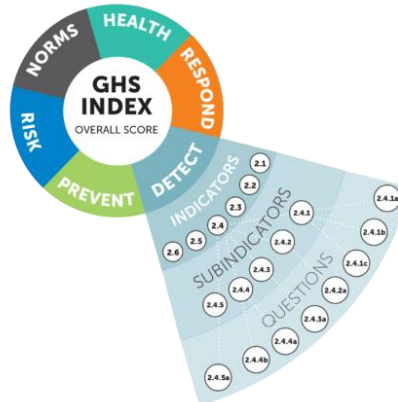


- ❖ At least 127 journalists are currently under detention in China for reporting on 'sensitive' topics.
- ❖ This is said by Reporters Without Borders.
- ❖ According to that, China is the world's biggest captor of journalists.
- ❖ The journalists have been detained for reporting and publishing content that has been deemed 'sensitive' by the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

Global Health Security Index 2021

- ❖ The Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 was jointly released by non-profits Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security.
- ❖ The GHS Index 2021 is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capacities of 195 countries to prepare for epidemics and pandemics.
- ❖ The world's overall performance on the GHS Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in 2019.
- ❖ This, even as infectious diseases are expected to have the greatest impact on the global economy in the next decade.
- ❖ The report showed that India has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.
- ❖ According to the GHS Index 2021, all countries remains unprepared for future epidemic and pandemic threats.

STRUCTURE OF THE INDEX



Anti-corruption Champions

1. Dorothy Bradley - Belize
2. Nikolay Staykov - Bulgaria
3. Alexandra Attalides - Cyprus
4. Carlos Giovanni Ruano Pineda- Guatemala
5. Gabriela Alejandra Castellanos - Honduras
6. Jamiliya Maricheva - Kazakhstan
7. Juris Juriss - Latvia
8. Riad Kobeissi - Lebanon
9. Martha Chizuma - Malawi
10. Denise Namburete - Mozambique
11. Dr. Torplus Yomnak - Thailand
12. Carlos Paparoni - Venezuela.

- ❖ The US State Department of State has named 12 new Anti-corruption Champions who have demonstrated leadership, courage, and impact in preventing, exposing, and combating corruption.
- ❖ The names were announced on the eve of International Anticorruption Day and the Summit for Democracy.

- ❖ The central theme of Summit for Democracy convened by US President Joe Biden was combating corruption.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer



- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a new X-Ray mission called the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE.
- ❖ This aims at unlocking the secrets of the black hole and other extreme cosmic objects.
- ❖ The ambitious mission is a collaboration between NASA of the USA and the Italian Space Agency.

STATES

Haiderpur Wetland



- ❖ The Haiderpur Wetland abutting the Madhya Ganga barrage has been recognized under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



- ❖ It is about 10 km from Bijnor in western Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is now home to 9 Ramsar wetlands.
- ❖ The wetland has also been identified under Namami Gange, a central flagship, as a model wetland along the Ganga.
- ❖ With this, there are now a total of 47 such designated areas in the country.

