

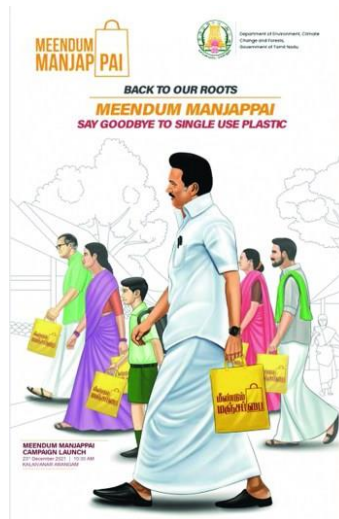
December - 25

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bank of Baroda has won the #1 position in overall digital transactions amongst large banks for FY20-21.
  - It has been conferred with Digi Dhan awards for FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 during the Digital Payments Utsav celebration.
- ❖ The longest in-country migration route of lesser floricans has been tracked for the first time from Rajasthan to Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district.
  - Lesser floricans are the endangered birds of the bustard group.
- ❖ O P Jindal Global University (JGU) has won the "Digital Innovation of the Year" award at the distinguished Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021.
  - JGU was the Only Indian University to be shortlisted for the "Digital Innovation of the Year".
- ❖ The Columbia Journalism School named The Hindu Group chairperson Malini Parthasarathy as one of its alumni award recipients for 2022.

## TAMIL NADU

### Meendum manjapai scheme



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched an environment-friendly initiative called Meendum Manjapai Vizhipunarvu Iyakkam.

- ❖ This awareness campaign on using 'yellow' cloth bag or 'manjapai' is aimed at encouraging people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.

## **NATIONAL**

### **NITI Aayog - UN WFP**



- ❖ NITI Aayog and United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) have agreed to diversify the food basket.
- ❖ The partnership between NITI Aayog and UN WFP focuses to mainstream the millets and supporting India in taking a lead internationally in knowledge exchange.
- ❖ The year 2023 is called the International Year of Millets.
- ❖ This partnership also aims to build resilient livelihoods for small farmers and adaptation capacities towards climate change as well as transforming food systems.
- ❖ The government of India had observed 2018 as a year of millets, to encourage and promote millet production.

### **GIS based water supply system**

- ❖ The GIS-based 'Automatic Water Supply System' for citizens of Cantonment Boards was recently launched.
- ❖ The module has been developed by the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics under the guidance of the Defence Secretary and Director General of Defence Estates, Delhi.
- ❖ It is completely automated which provides a facility to its citizen to identify the location of the water supply connection.
- ❖ It automatically determines the nearest water pipeline.
- ❖ This GIS system is the first of its kind in the country.

- ❖ It is based on 'minimum government'.
- ❖ It supports the concept of 'maximum governance' as there is no manual intervention for clearance or sanction of the water connection.

## Wizikey Report



- ❖ Reliance Industries topped the 2021 Wizikey News Score ranking as India's most-visible corporate in the media.
- ❖ State Bank of India is a close second on the ranking, followed by Bharti Airtel, Infosys, and Tata Motors.
- ❖ The highest-ranked state-owned firm is National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), at rank 13.
- ❖ On the global rankings chart for top Multinational Corporations (MNC), Facebook tops the index, followed by Google's Alphabet Inc.

## Pralay missile



- ❖ India successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously-developed, surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' off the Odisha coast.
- ❖ The solid fuel used here is based on Prithvi Defence Vehicle.
- ❖ It is a battlefield missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation.
- ❖ The missile, launched from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

### **Vodafone sells world's first SMS**

- ❖ Vodafone announced that it is auctioning the world's first SMS as a non-fungible token (NFT).
- ❖ Now, the company has announced that a bidder has paid 107,000 euros for the replica of the first communication protocol of a short message, perpetuated as an NFT.
- ❖ Vodafone will donate them to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, to support millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and persecution.



### **Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021**

- ❖ Jharkhand Assembly has passed this bill.
- ❖ This aims at providing “effective protection” of constitutional rights and the prevention of mob violence in the state.
- ❖ After including one amendment, the Bill was passed and sent to the Governor for his assent.



- ❖ Once notified, Jharkhand will become the fourth state to bring in such a law after West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Manipur.

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**

- ❖ The total number of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the 44-crore mark.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by Bihar.
- ❖ The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014.
- ❖ It aims to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.

**Expanding base**

Month & year	Number of beneficiaries (in crore)
December 2021	44.05
December 2020	41.43
December 2019	37.69
December 2018	33.45
December 2017	30.71

### **STATES**

#### **Free Smartphone Yojana**

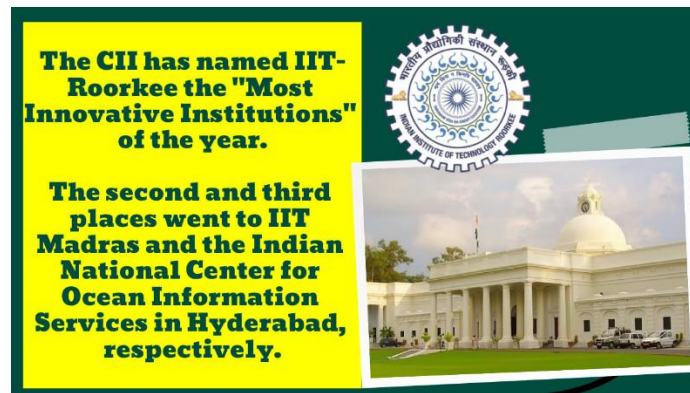
- ❖ The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is set to launch the Free Smartphone Yojana on December 25.
- ❖ December 25 is the birth anniversary of senior BJP leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- ❖ Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to final year students of graduation and above.

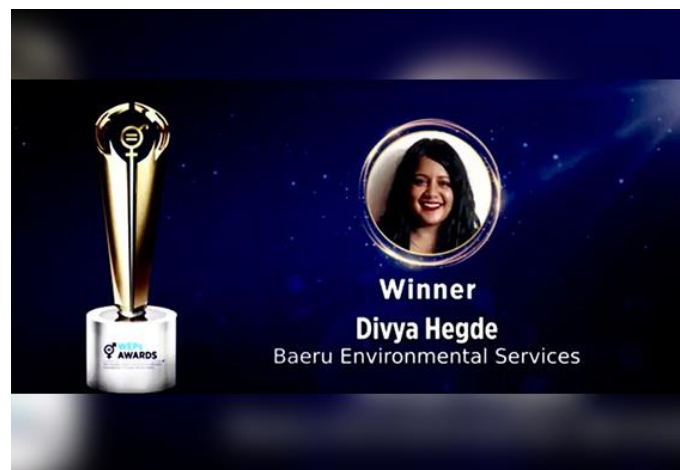
## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Most innovative institution

- ❖ IIT Roorkee has been selected by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the Industrial Innovation Awards.
- ❖ IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the Most Innovative Research Institutions category this year.
- ❖ Last year, IIT Roorkee was adjudged as 'The Most Innovative Institute of the Year' for its innovation quotient.



### UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment 2021



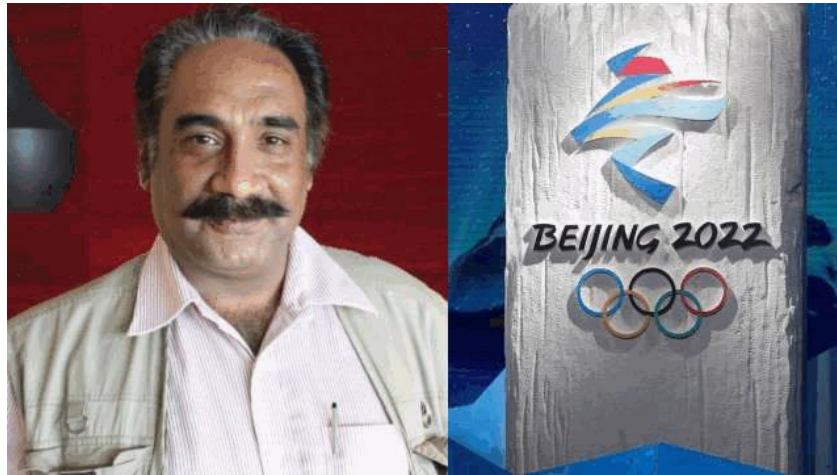
- ❖ Divya Hegde has won UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards Ceremony.
- ❖ She is an Indian Climate Action Entrepreneur from Udupi, Karnataka.



- ❖ She has been recognized for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts with her organization, Baeru Environmental Services.

## SPORTS

### Harjinder Singh



- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA) has appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef de Mission of the country's contingent for the upcoming 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.
- ❖ He is the Ice Hockey Association of India's general secretary.
- ❖ Singh was the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games too, which was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Kisan Diwas - December 23



- ❖ It is also called National Farmers' Day.



- ❖ It is celebrated across the nation on to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- ❖ He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers.
- ❖ He served the country as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.

