

December - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Covaxin manufacturer Bharat Biotech has received approval from DCGI for emergency use of its vaccine for children aged between 12-18 years
- ❖ The Haryana government amended its Excise Act recently.
  - It paves the way for lowering of the legal age for the consumption of liquor, its purchase or sale from the existing 25 years to 21 in the state.

## TAMIL NADU

### National Skating Championship

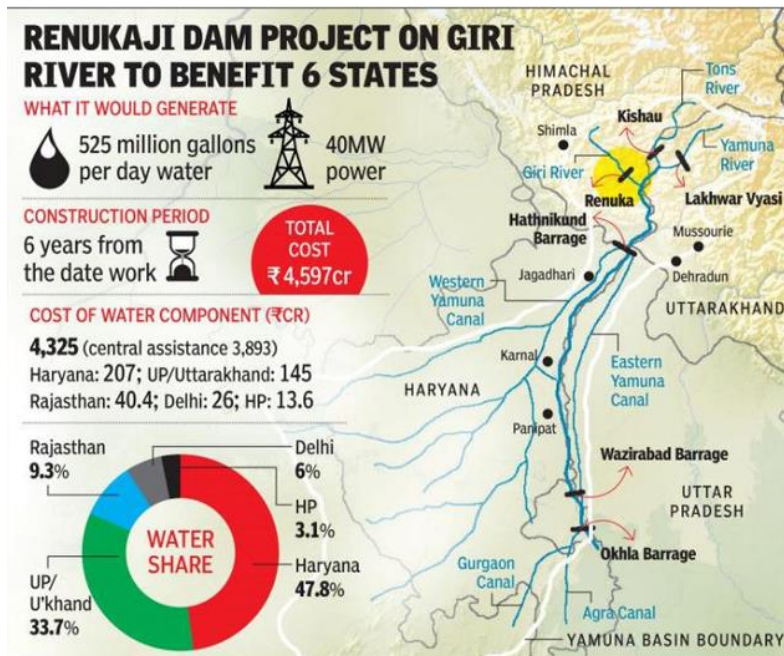


- ❖ Avik Shit Vijay Viswanath won 4 gold and 1 silver medal at the recent 59th National Skating Championships in Delhi.
- ❖ He is a student of Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in Arumbakkam, Chennai,

- ❖ His teammate Arya Vivek Viswanath also won 2 bronze medals in the sub-junior men's category for 11 to 14-year-olds.

## NATIONAL

### Himachal Pradesh's Renukaji Dam project

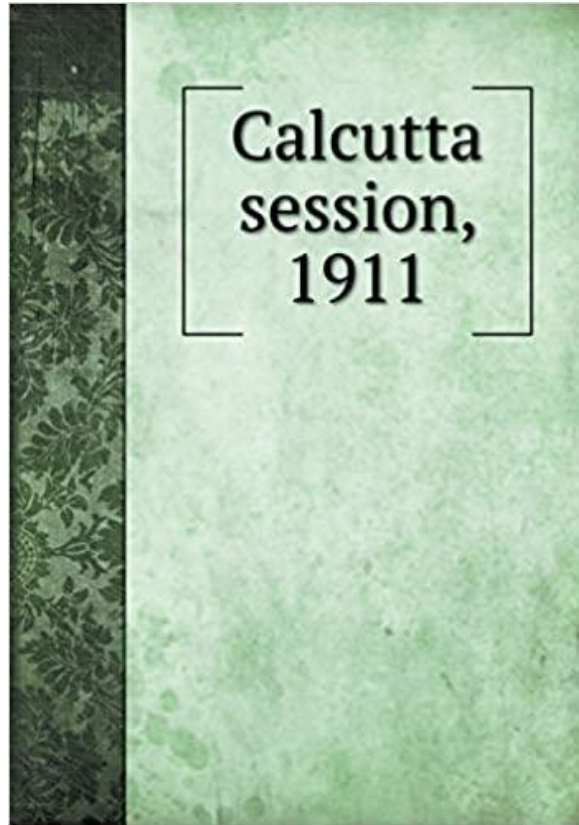


- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the foundation of the Renukaji Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project, once completed, is likely to generate 200 million units of energy in a surface powerhouse which have an installed capacity of 40 MW.
- ❖ The storage capacity of the dam will be 498 million cubic meters.
- ❖ It will fulfil around 40 percent of the drinking water requirement of Delhi.
- ❖ Giri river is a tributary of the Yamuna.

### Jana Gana Mana

- ❖ December 27 marks the 110th anniversary of the first time Jana Gana Mana, India's national anthem was sung publicly at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress in 1911.
- ❖ Jana Gana Mana was later adopted as the national anthem by India's Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.
- ❖ Rabindranath Tagore composed Bharata Bhagyo Bidhata.

- ❖ The first stanza of it, Jana Gana Mana, is now our national anthem.



### **3 big announcements by PM Modi for Covid-19 vaccine**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the Covid-19 vaccine for children and booster doses for Health workers and senior citizens, amid the Omicron scare.
- ❖ Children between the age group of 15 to 18 years will be getting the Covid vaccine from January 3, 2022.
- ❖ Senior citizens with comorbidities will receive booster doses from January 10, 2022.
- ❖ Citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidities will also have the option of a precautionary dose of the vaccine on the advice of their doctor.
- ❖ The healthcare and frontline workers will be given another ‘precaution dose’ [booster shot] starting from January 10.”

### **Good Governance Index 2021**

- ❖ The index was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day (December 25).



- ❖ It was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- ❖ The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.

### **Performance of various states**

- ❖ Gujarat has topped the composite ranking, followed by Maharashtra and Goa.
- ❖ Delhi has topped the union territories category composite ranking.
- ❖ Among the sectors, Uttar Pradesh secured the top position in the commerce and industry sector.
- ❖ Tamilnadu tops in the sector of Judicial & Public Security

Sectors	Group A	Group B	NE & Hill States	UTs
Agriculture & Allied Sector	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Mizoram	D & N Haveli
Commerce and Industry	Telangana	Uttar Pradesh	J & K	Daman & Diu
Human Resource Development	Punjab	Odisha	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
Public Health	Kerala	West Bengal	Mizoram	A & N Island
Public Infrastructure and Utilities	Goa	Bihar	Himachal Pradesh	A & N Island
Economic Governance	Gujarat	Odisha	Tripura	Delhi
Social Welfare and Development	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Sikkim	D & N Haveli
Judiciary and Public Safety	Tamil Nadu	Rajasthan	Nagaland	Chandigarh
Environment	Kerala	Rajasthan	Manipur	Daman & Diu
Citizen Centric Governance	Haryana	Rajasthan	Uttarakhand	Delhi
Composite	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Delhi

### **NITI Aayog Health Index 2021**

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the fourth edition of its state health index for 2019-20 on December 27, 2021.
- ❖ The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories based on their year-on-year incremental performance in health as well as their overall status.
- ❖ Kerala retained its top rank on the health index among the larger states while Uttar Pradesh was the worst.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks second with a score of 72.42
- ❖ Mizoram topped the health index among smaller states while Nagaland was ranked at the bottom.

- ❖ Among union territories, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was ranked at the top and Andaman & Nicobar was ranked at the bottom.

## SCORECARD

### Top 5

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	Kerala	Kerala
2	Andhra Pradesh	Tamil Nadu
3	Tamil Nadu	Telangana
4	Himachal Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
5	Maharashtra	Maharashtra

### Bottom 4\*\*

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	UP	UP
2	Bihar	Bihar
3	MP	MP
4	Jharkhand	Rajasthan

\*According to Reference Year  
\*\*In ascending order (Lowest first)  
Source: NITI Aayog Fourth Health Index

## Bill to raise marriage age for women to 21 years – Parliament Standing committee

TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men</li> <li>&gt; Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage – Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954</li> </ul>	<p>Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority</li> <li>&gt; Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice</li> <li>&gt; Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent</li> </ul>

- ❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to raise the marriage age for women from 18 to 21 years was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 21, 2021.
- ❖ The lower house voted to send the bill to a standing committee for further scrutiny after protests from the opposition parties.

- ❖ The opposition parties raised protest on the manner in which the bill was included in the legislative agenda at the last minute and urged that it should be sent to a standing committee.

## Winter Session - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

**House output** | A look at the Bills that were passed during the winter session

1	Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021	7	High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021
2	Dam Safety Bill, 2021	8	Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3	Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021	9	Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4	Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2021	10	Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021
5	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021	11	Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021
6	Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2021		



- ❖ Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on 22nd December, a day ahead of its original schedule.
- ❖ It was marking the end of the Winter Session of Parliament.
- ❖ The Winter Session in Lok Sabha had 18 sittings and witnessed the passage of key legislation such as the Farm Laws Repeal Bill and the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill.
- ❖ The Upper House witnessed several disruptions during the session following the suspension of 12 opposition party members for their "unruly" conduct in the previous session in August.
- ❖ The Winter Session, which started on November 29, was scheduled to conclude on December 23.

## Delmicron

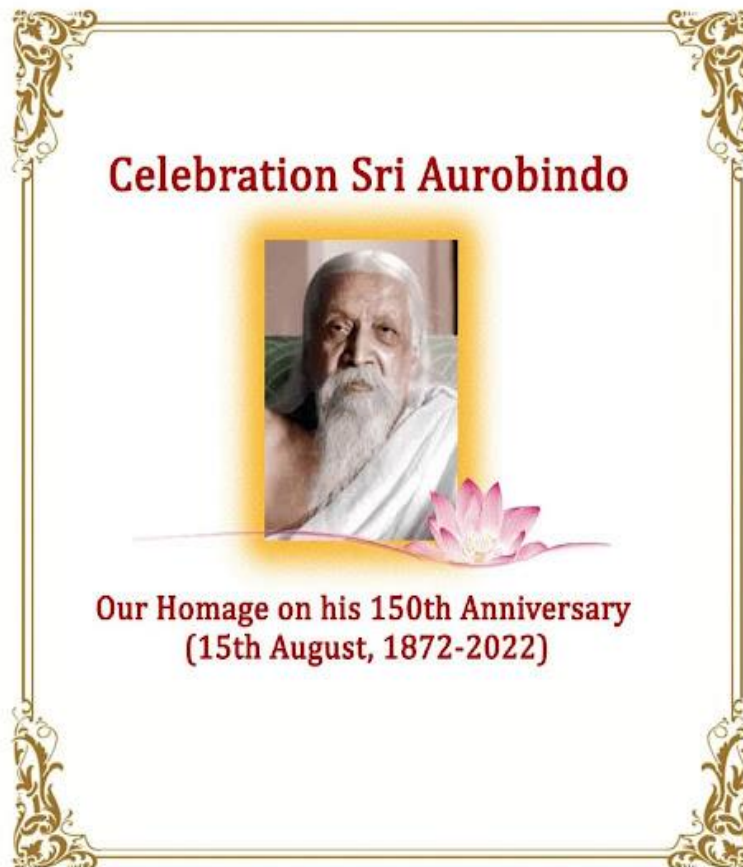
- ❖ As per scientists, there is no variant of a novel coronavirus called Delmicron.

- ❖ The fake reports talked about the alleged mixing of the genetic material of Omicron and Delta variants leading to the birth of “more dangerous” Delmicron.

### **REPORTS ON DELMICRON FROM INDIA**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ All reports on the alleged Delmicron emerged from India</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Scientists, however, dismissed the news as a mere figment of imagination</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ There have been no such reports from any other part of the world including Europe and the UK</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ If and when a new variant comes, it is the WHO that gives the name</li></ul>

### **150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo**

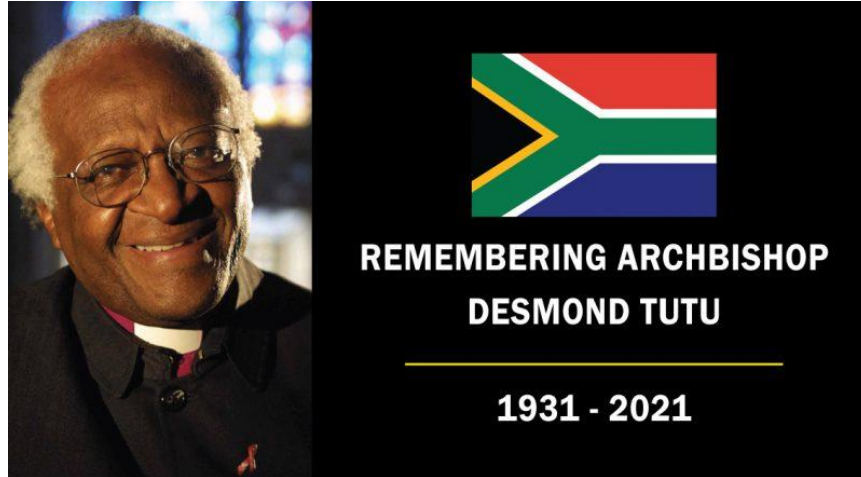


- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the first meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) which has been constituted to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

- ❖ The Prime Minister proposed to launch the commemoration celebrations of Sri Aurobindo from Puducherry coinciding with the celebration of National Youth Day.

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

### **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**



- ❖ South African anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu, described as the country's moral compass, died recently.
- ❖ He was remembered for his easy humour and characteristic smile — and above all his tireless fight against injustices of all colours.
- ❖ The Archbishop won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for combating white minority rule in South Africa.
- ❖ He coined the term “Rainbow Nation” to describe South Africa when Nelson Mandela became the country's first black President in 1994.
- ❖ Former U.S. President Barack Obama, the country's first black leader, hailed Tutu as a “moral compass”.

