

December - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Dr Jeremy Farrar will become its new Chief Scientist.

TAMIL NADU

Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme



- ❖ The Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ It aims to ensure the welfare of conservancy workers in the state.
- ❖ As part of this scheme, a mobile application was launched for the identification and census collection of sanitation workers.
- ❖ A survey will be conducted to identify sanitation workers and the collected data will be uploaded into the application.
- ❖ The first phase of this scheme will be implemented in five urban local bodies in the state.
- ❖ It will later be expanded to other local bodies.

NATIONAL

National Party Status – AAP

- ❖ Aam Aadmi Party is set to join the elite club of national parties.
- ❖ Arvind Kejriwal launched the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in 2012.

- ❖ A national party needs to have two per cent of Lok Sabha seats in a minimum of three states. This means 11 seats.
- ❖ AAP has zero Lok Sabha MPs.
- ❖ The other condition is that the aspirant must have state party recognition in four states.
- ❖ But it has governments in Delhi and Punjab with huge mandates.
- ❖ In Goa, the party meets the six per cent votes/two seats requirement.
- ❖ There are only eight national parties recognised by the Election Commission of India as of now.
- ❖ They are BJP, Congress, National People's Party, TMC, NCP, CPI, CPM, and BSP.
- ❖ Due to this status, AAP's election symbol (broom) will remain unchanged across India.
- ❖ National parties get broadcast and telecast bands on Akashvani and Doordarshan during general elections.
- ❖ They get government land to build party headquarters.
- ❖ Recognised 'state' and 'national' parties need only one proposer to file nomination.



AAP'S PATH TO NATIONAL PARTY STATUS

FOR THE AAP TO BE RECOGNISED AS A NATIONAL PARTY, IT NEEDS TO FULFIL ANY ONE OF THESE CRITERIA

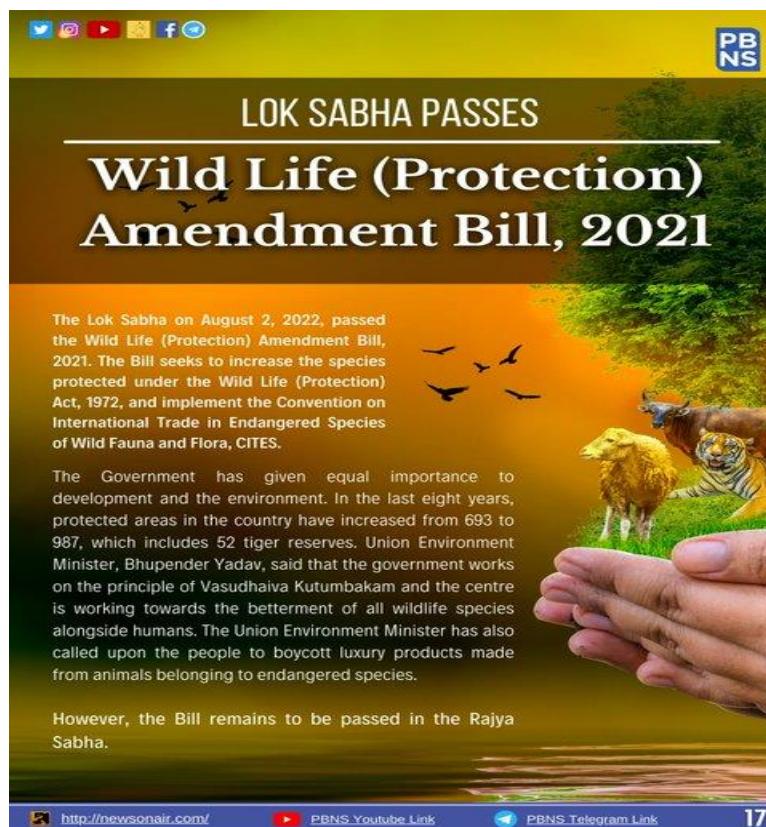
Secure six per cent of valid votes in an Assembly election + four Lok Sabha seats	Win two per cent seats to Lok Sabha (11 seats in current House of 543 members) with its candidates elected from three different states
	Recognition as a state party in four different states



Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021

- ❖ The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, was passed by the Rajya Sabha in the winter session of Parliament December 8, 2022.
- ❖ It is making significant amendments to the Wildlife (Protection Act (WLPA)-1972
- ❖ The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in August this year.
- ❖ The Bill aims to increase protection for species that are protected by law.

- ❖ It plans to do this by implementing the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the Act.
- ❖ One of the most important amendments has been made to Section 43.
- ❖ This is permitting elephants, Schedule I animals, to be used for 'religious or any other purpose'.
- ❖ This amendment received heavy criticism from wildlife activists and animal experts.
- ❖ Other Illegal animal trade regulation acts in India
 - Customs Act, 1962
 - Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992
 - Exim Policy and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



LOK SABHA PASSES
Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021

The Lok Sabha on August 2, 2022, passed the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021. The Bill seeks to increase the species protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES.

The Government has given equal importance to development and the environment. In the last eight years, protected areas in the country have increased from 693 to 987, which includes 52 tiger reserves. Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav, said that the government works on the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and the centre is working towards the betterment of all wildlife species alongside humans. The Union Environment Minister has also called upon the people to boycott luxury products made from animals belonging to endangered species.

However, the Bill remains to be passed in the Rajya Sabha.

<http://newsonair.com/> PBNS Youtube Link PBNS Telegram Link 17

ENVIRONMENT

A list of threatened species

- ❖ A list of threatened species was released at the COP15 to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.



- ❖ It has shown what overconsumption and unsustainable harvesting can do to plants and animals around us.
- ❖ As many as 44 per cent of all abalone shellfish species are now threatened with extinction.
- ❖ Dugong populations in east Africa and New Caledonia have entered the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered and Endangered respectively.
- ❖ The species remains Vulnerable globally.
- ❖ The pillar coral, found throughout the Caribbean from the Yucatan Peninsula and Florida to Trinidad and Tobago, has moved from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Global figures for the 2022-2 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species	
Total Species Assessed	150,388
Total threatened species	42,108
Extinct in the Wild	84
Extinct	902
Critically Endangered	9,251
Endangered	16,364
Vulnerable	16,493
Near Threatened	8,816
Lower Risk/conservation dependent	152
Least Concern	77,491
Data Deficient	20,835

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2022 Masters WGO Award

- ❖ The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has presented the 2022 Masters of the WGO award to Chennai-based gastroenterologist K. R. Palaniswamy.
- ❖ This is awarded for his contributions to the field of gastroenterology.

- ❖ The Masters of the WGO Award was the highest honour WGO.



IMPORTANT DAYS

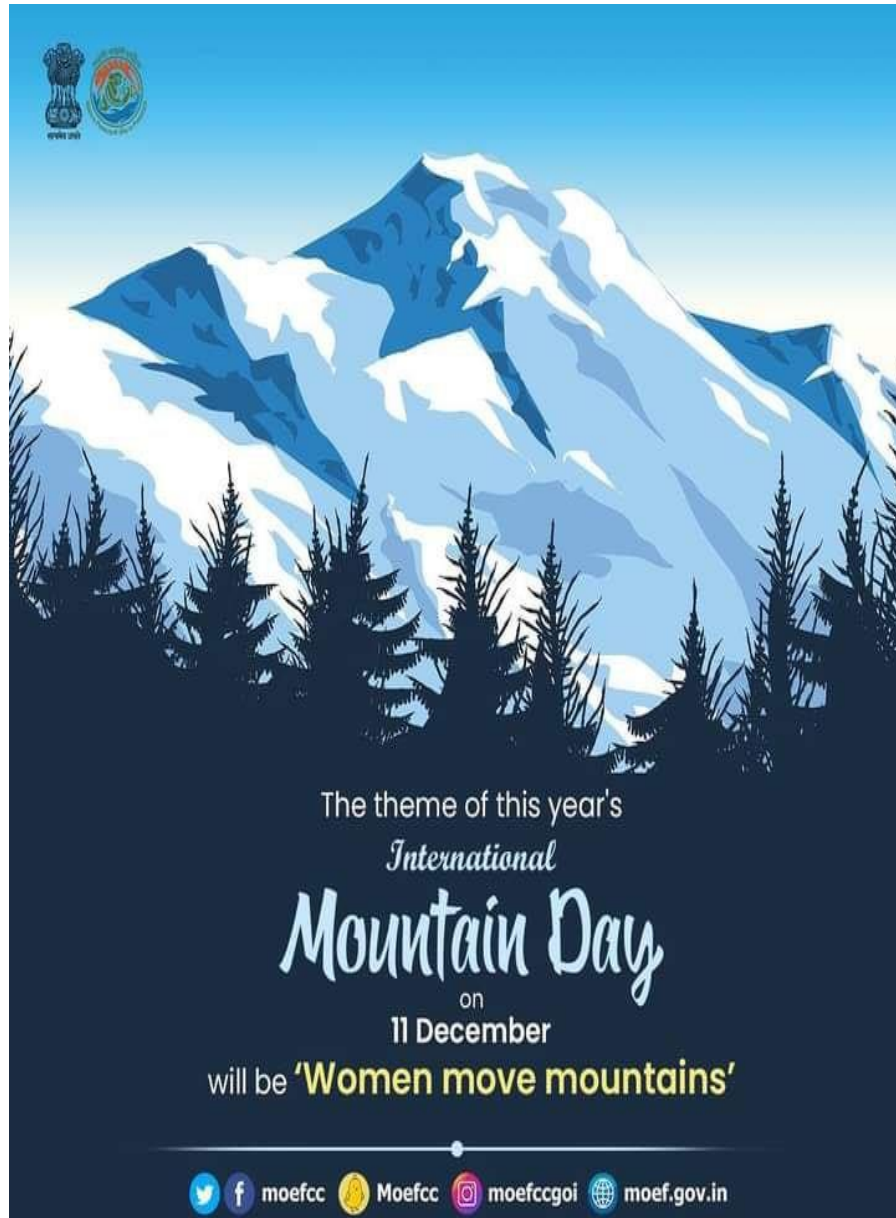
Human Rights Day - December 10



- ❖ It marks the day that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- ❖ This year marks the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR and the 72nd Human Rights Day.
- ❖ Theme of the year is “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.”
- ❖ The Human Rights Act came into force in India on 28 September 1993.

- ❖ As per the act, in India, the National Human Rights Commission constituted on October 12, 1993.

International Mountain Day - December 11



- ❖ It aims to increase public awareness of the value of mountains to both life and climate.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established International Mountain Day to recognise the importance of mountains.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Women Move Mountains.'

- ❖ The day came into existence in 2003.

UNICEF Day - December 11

- ❖ UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children Emergency Fund.
- ❖ It was established by the United Nations on 11 December 1946.
- ❖ It was mandated to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China.
- ❖ In 1953, it became a permanent part of the United Nations system and the name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund.
- ❖ 2022 Theme is Inclusion, for every child.



UNICEF DAY

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world.

INTERESTING FACTS

- 1946** - UNICEF is created on December 11 to help protect children after World War II.
- 1982** - UNICEF launches the Child Survival and Development Revolution - an initiative to save millions of children every year.
- 1985** - El Salvador's civil war ceases for three days of mass immunization of children due to the efforts of UNICEF.
- 1989** - 159 United Nations members sign a human rights treaty to protect children.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hima das was appointed as UNICEF India's first youth ambassador on 14 November 2018

Data from Various Sources

MISCELLANEOUS

Himalayan medicinal plants in IUCN Red List

- ❖ Three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have made it to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species following a recent assessment.
- ❖ Meizotropis pellita has been assessed as 'critically endangered', Fritilloria cirrhosa as 'vulnerable', and Dactylorhiza hatagirea as 'endangered'.
- ❖ Meizotropis pellita, commonly known as Patwa.

- ❖ It is a perennial shrub with restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand.
- ❖ *Fritillaria cirrhosa* (Himalayan fritillary) is a perennial bulbous herb.
- ❖ At least 30% of its population over the assessment period (22 to 26 years).
- ❖ According to the data shared by IUCN, 239 new species analysed in India have entered the list.
- ❖ Of these, 29 are threatened.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★