TNPSC BITS

❖ The next World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February 2024.

  o Next year, the UAE will also host COP28, the UN's Climate Change conference.
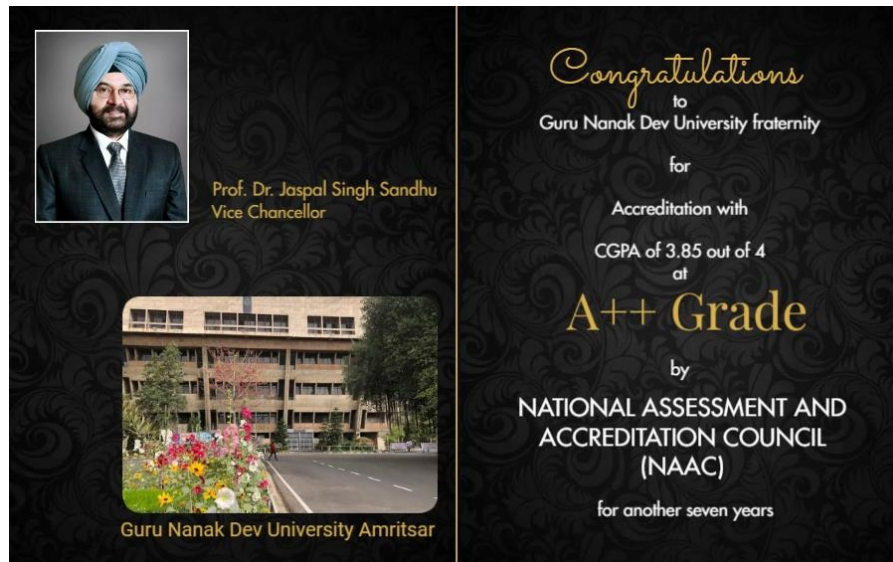
NATIONAL

Digital India Awards 2022

❖ The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon at the Digital India Awards 2022 for their effort "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities via Data".

❖ The prize was announced in the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category.

- ❖ The DataSmart Communities Initiative is an important step in developing a comprehensive data ecosystem that allows cities to make evidence-based decisions.
- ❖ It intends to use data to improve governance in India's 100 Smart Cities.

A grade university

Prof. Dr. Jaspal Singh Sandhu
Vice Chancellor

Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar

Congratulations
to
Guru Nanak Dev University fraternity
for
Accreditation with
CGPA of 3.85 out of 4
at
A++ Grade
by
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
(NAAC)
for another seven years

- ❖ The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, has received an A grade in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading.
- ❖ It is making it the first university in India to do so.

Vadnagar Town

- ❖ Three more sites from India have been added to the tentative list of UNCESO World Heritage Sites.

- ❖ Vadnagar town and the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera from Gujarat.
- ❖ The rock cut sculptures of Unakoti from Tripura
- ❖ Vadnagar is also known as the home town of PM Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The history of Vadnagar stretches back to nearly 8th century BCE.
- ❖ The UNESCO tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination.

Urban 20 Event

- ❖ Urban-20 2023 Event is organised by Ahmedabad under India's presidency of G20.
- ❖ Urban-20 (U20) is one of the Engagement Groups of G20.
- ❖ It provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to facilitate discussions on various important issues of urban development including climate change and social inclusion.
- ❖ Under the G20 presidency of India, Ahmedabad will host the U20 2023 cycle and organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ Besides G20 countries, the mayors and representatives of C40 (Climate 40), UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) member cities, and Observer Cities will participate in this.

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Rule 267 of RS Rule Book

- ❖ Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook has become a bone of contention in the Upper House.

- It was because, not a single notice under the rule moved by the Opposition has been accepted in the Winter Session.
- The Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook gives special power to a Rajya Sabha member to suspend the pre-decided agenda of the House, with the approval of the Chairman.
- No other form of discussion entails suspension of other business.
- If an issue is admitted under Rule 267, it signifies it's the most important national issue of the day.
- Also, the government will have to respond to the matter by replying during the discussions under Rule 267.
- The last instance was in 2016 when then Chairman Hamid Ansari allowed for a debate on the "demonetisation of currency".

CCTNS implementation

- Haryana Police was adjudged 1st among all major states in implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).
- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) is a scheme created in the light of a non-plan scheme namely – Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA).

❖ The system includes a nationwide online tracking system by integrating more than 14,000 police stations across the country.

❖ The project is being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau.

INTERNATIONAL

European Union Candidate status

❖ The European Union agrees to give Bosnia candidate status.

❖ It is the last step on the road to candidate status.

❖ Other EU candidates include Albania, Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

❖ The last country to be granted membership in the union was Croatia, which joined in 2013.

❖ Moldova's and Ukraine's candidacy were only confirmed last June, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INS Arnala

❖ It is the first ship of the ASW SWC Project.

❖ It was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai, by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, GRSE for the Indian Navy.

❖ The ship was called Arnala in honour of the strategic maritime importance bestowed by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, on the island of Arnala, located about 13 kilometres north of Vasai, Maharashtra.

'Vagir'

- The fifth Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy.
- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France.
- Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.
- This project envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system.
- Vagsheer, the 6th & last submarine, is likely to be delivered next year.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Social Progress Index

Top 3 Best-performing States		Top 3 Best-performing Districts
Puducherry	(SPI - 65.99)	Aizawl (Mizoram)
Lakshadweep	(SPI - 65.89)	Solan (Himachal Pradesh)
Goa	(SPI - 65.53)	Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

- The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for states and districts of India.
- It is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- It was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and the Social Progress Imperative.
- A special section of the report highlights progress made by the 112 aspirational districts in the country.
- The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across 3 critical dimensions of social progress.

3 Dimensions

- Basic Human Needs - Assesses the performance in terms of Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Water and Sanitation, Personal Safety and Shelter.
- Foundations of Wellbeing - Evaluates the progress across the components of Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information and Communication, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Quality.

- ❖ Opportunity - Focuses on aspects of Personal Rights, Personal Freedom and Choice, Inclusiveness, and Access to Advanced Education.

IMPORTANT DAYS

UN Arabic Language Day – December 18

- ❖ It was established by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.

- ❖ The date coincides with the day in 1973 that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization.

- ❖ It was seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization".

- ❖ In July 2022, UN Swahili Language Day (July 7) was created.

- ❖ Portuguese and Swahili are the only non-official UN languages to have a UN Language Day.

The Six Official Languages of the UN

✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮ ✮