

February - 04

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The central government announced its decision to convert around 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' across 12 States.
  - These villages will be converted into Villages of Excellence, with technical assistance from the Israeli government.
- ❖ Social activists have built a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters' Smriti Vanam at the Municipal Park in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh.
  - This is to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

## TAMIL NADU

### Vellalore Lake

- ❖ The green zone along the Vellalore Lake, with native trees and flowers, has turned the Lake into a butterfly hotspot.
- ❖ The lake is in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Blue Mormons have been sighted in great numbers.
- ❖ It is the fourth largest butterfly of India and State butterfly of Maharashtra.



### DESH-Stack e-portal

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to set up "DESH-Stack e-portal", during the Budget 2022 speech.

- ❖ DESH stands for “Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood”.
- ❖ This portal will be launched for empowering citizens to skill, upskill, or re-skill through online training.



## NATIONAL

### India steel output



आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव



**WORLD  
CRUDE STEEL  
PRODUCTION  
2021**

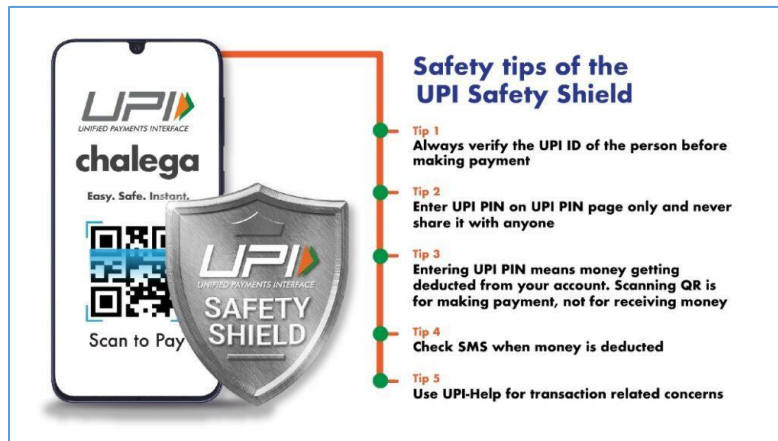
World crude steel production stood at **1911.95 million tonnes (mt)** in **2021**, up by **3.6%** over **2020** as per provisional data released by World Steel Association (worldsteel).

**India was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of Crude Steel during the said period.**

- ❖ India's crude steel production rose by nearly 18 percent to 118 million tonnes (MT) in 2021.
- ❖ India is the second-largest steel-producing nation.
- ❖ It is behind China with 1032.8 MT.

### **UPI Safety and Awareness initiative**

- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the UPI ecosystem (comprising of leading banks and fintechs) have announced this initiative.
- ❖ This is to create awareness amongst consumers.
- ❖ Under this initiative, NPCI and the UPI ecosystem will observe February 1-7 as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Week'.
- ❖ Also the whole of February will be observed as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Month'.



### **New banknote printing lines**



- ❖ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has set up 'new banknote printing lines' at its Currency Note Press, Nashik, and Bank Note Press, Dewas.
- ❖ In India, four printing presses for printing and supply of Banknotes.
- ❖ These are at
  - Dewas in Madhya Pradesh,
  - Nasik in Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL),
  - Mysore in Karnataka, and
  - Salboni in West Bengal (owned by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited).

### **Non-Fuel Retail Store**



- ❖ The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has marked its foray into the non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under the brand name HaPpyShop.
- ❖ The first retail store was launched by HPCL in September 2021 in Mumbai at Company's Retail Outlet located at Nepean Sea Road.
- ❖ The company has now announced the opening of two more Convenience Stores of 'HaPpyShop'.
- ❖ The two new stores are located at:
  - Company's Auto Care Centre, Bandra West in Mumbai and
  - Millennium Retail Outlet in Visakhapatnam



- ❖ In addition to this, HPCL has launched the platform in a purely online format by opening the Online Store at Madurai.
- ❖ HPCL is also marketing branded packaged drinking water at its Retail Outlets across the country under the name 'Paani@Club HP'.

### **Five river linking projects announced in Union Budget**

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed a project to link five rivers in India in her budget speech.
- ❖ The rivers identified for linking are Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery, Damanganga-Pinjal, and Par-Tapi-Narmada.
- ❖ Krishna, the fourth largest river in India, originates in Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Cauvery originates in Kodagu and flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Penna originates in Chikkaballapura and flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Godavari which is the third-largest river in India originates in Nashik and flows through Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Orissa.
- ❖ The Damanganga-Pinjal river linking aims to divert surplus water from the Damanganga basin to provide domestic water for Mumbai city.
- ❖ The Par-Tapi-Narmada project proposes to provide water to drought-prone regions of Kutch and Saurashtra by diverting excess water from seven reservoirs in the Western Ghats in North Maharashtra and south Gujarat.

### **Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala**



- ❖ The Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somnath Pura in Karnataka will be nominated for World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023 from India.
- ❖ Hoysala dynasty existed in South India between 1110 A.D. and 1326 A.D.
- ❖ It was founded by Nripa Kama II or Sala.
- ❖ Its capital initially resided at Belur, but later moved to Halebidu.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Hydrogen powered flying boat

- ❖ World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai.
- ❖ Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'.

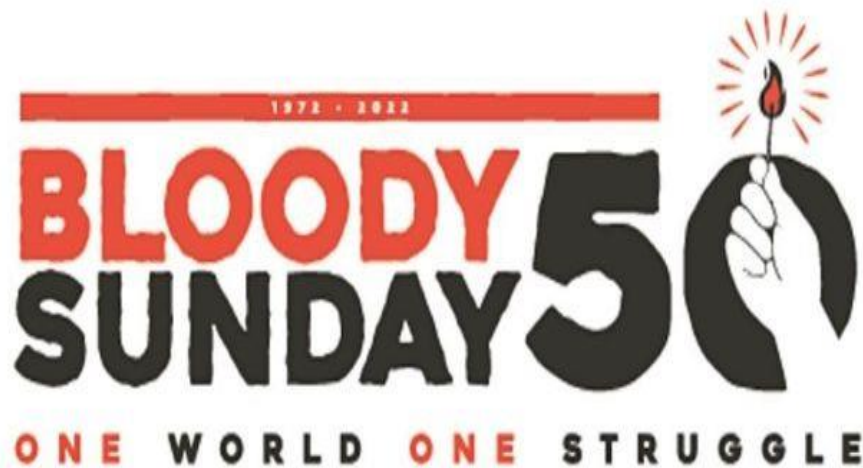


### 70 year reign of Queen Elizabeth



- ❖ Queen Elizabeth of England is to celebrate 70 years of throne on February 6, 2022.
- ❖ She is 95 years old.
- ❖ The queen ascended to the throne on February 8, 1952 officially.

### **50 years of bloody Sunday**



- ❖ On 30 January 1972, the British soldiers killed a group of unarmed civilians.
- ❖ These civilians were protesting in the Bogside area of Derry.
- ❖ This incident is referred to as bloody Sunday.
- ❖ In 2022, the people of Northern Ireland marked fifty years of Bloody Sunday.
- ❖ A group of innocent civilians protested against the internment without trial.
- ❖ Internment means jailing someone without any court trials.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Digital Rupee**

- ❖ Union Finance Minister has announced the launch of the Digital Rupee 2022-2023 onwards.

- ❖ Digital Rupee is the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) of India.
- ❖ This CBDC will be launched by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ The underlying technology that will be powering the Digital Rupee will be Blockchain.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Water on Mars



- ❖ The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) of NASA has found that Mars had water two billion years ago.
- ❖ But today all the water in the planet are evaporated.



- ❖ This was confirmed by MRO with the help of salt deposits on the surface of the planet.

### **Humbertium covidum**



- ❖ The Scientists recently discovered Humbertium covidum.
- ❖ These are new flatworm species.
- ❖ The new species were found hunting snails in Italy and France.
- ❖ They have been named after COVID pandemic.

## **STATES**

### **Spitik Gustor Festival**



- ❖ Spituk Gustor Festival is a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory.



- ❖ The devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colorful mask dance locally called “Chams”.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **World Interfaith Harmony Week - February 1 to 7**

- ❖ The World Interfaith Harmony Week was conceived to promote cultural peace and nonviolence.
- ❖ World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010.

### WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of February

