

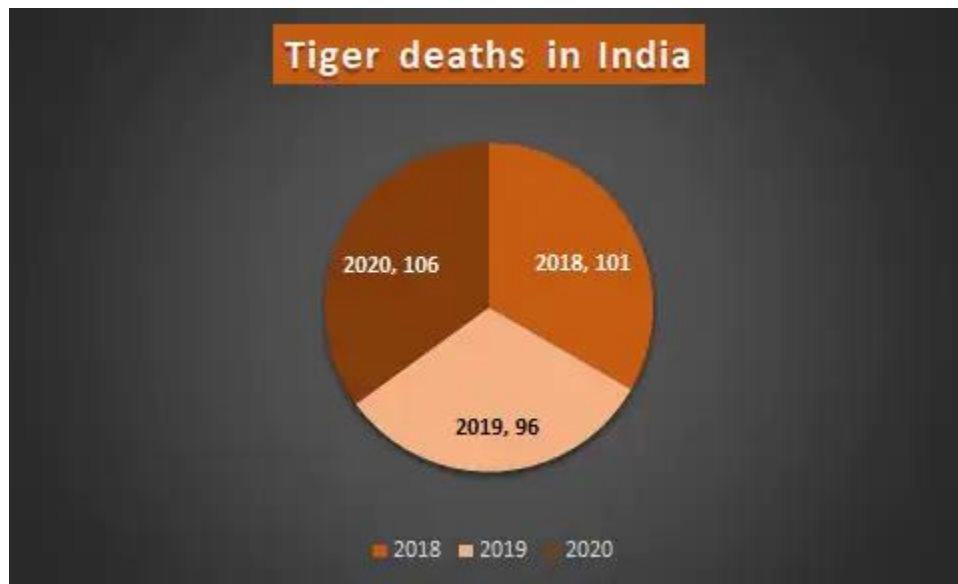
February - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the 'JIVA program'.
 - This is to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programs in 11 states.

NATIONAL

Tiger deaths in 2021



- ❖ Tiger deaths increased to 127 last year from 106 deaths in the previous year.
- ❖ The number of tiger deaths in 2019 stood at 96.
- ❖ A maximum of 42 deaths were reported in Madhya Pradesh, followed by 27 in Maharashtra, 15 in Karnataka, and nine deaths in Uttar Pradesh.

Unification of existing services - Railways

- ❖ The Central Government has issued a gazette notification announcing the unification of 8 Existing Services of IRMS under one banner of IRMS - Indian Railways Management Service.
- ❖ This formalizes the formation of a new Group 'A' Central service known as the Indian Railway Management Service.

- ❖ This is being done to end ‘departmentalism’ in railways.
- ❖ Following this exercise, it would be left only two departments i.e.
 - Railway Protection Force and
 - Medical Service Department



NITI Aayog Report: Reimagining Healthcare in India



- ❖ NITI Aayog released this report recently.
- ❖ In its report, NITI Aayog highlighted that India’s healthcare spending is the least among BRICS countries.
- ❖ The report highlights that around 65 percent of hospital beds in India cater to almost 50 percent of the population in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, and Kerala.

- ❖ The other 50 percent of India's population living in the rest of 21 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs) has access to 35 percent of hospital beds.
- ❖ It noted that the number of beds must be increased by at least 30 percent.
- ❖ The hospital sector in India accounts for 80 percent of the total healthcare market.

INTERNATIONAL

One Ocean Summit



- ❖ The One Ocean summit was organized by France and Brest in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.
- ❖ The high-level segment of the summit will also be addressed by several other heads of states and governments including Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, and Canada.
- ❖ The objective of the summit is to mobilize the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

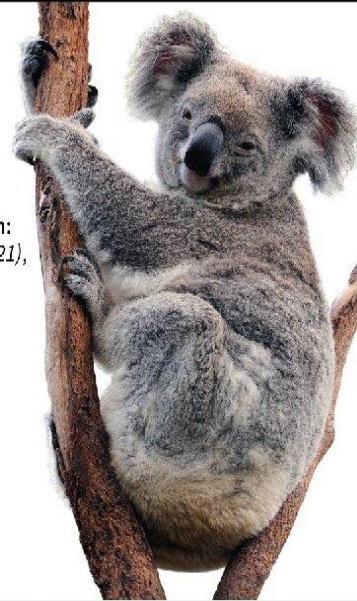
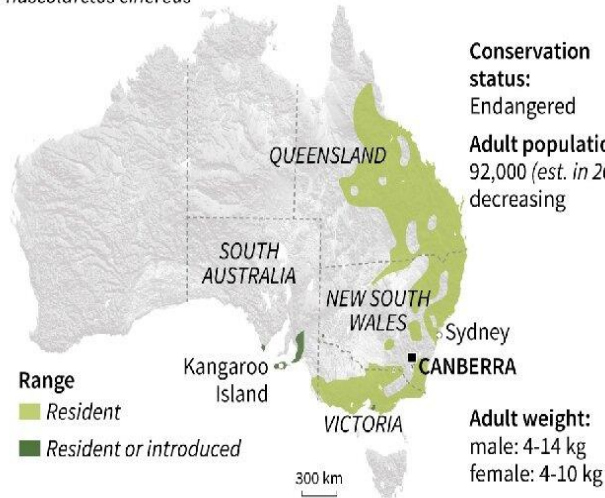
Koalas

- ❖ Australia designated the koala as an endangered species amid pressure on the marsupials' eucalyptus tree habitats in the eastern states of Australia.

- ❖ The species was classed as vulnerable 10 years ago also in Queensland, New South Wales, and Australian Capital Territory.
- ❖ Now, there would be increased protection for the animal.

Australia's koalas

Phascolarctos cinereus



Characteristics	Diet	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unique to Australia ▪ A marsupial, not a bear ▪ Sleeps high up in eucalyptus tree for up to 20 hours a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eucalyptus leaves only (around 0.5 kg a day) ▪ Fussy eaters. Diet limited to just a few varieties of eucalyptus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bushfires ▪ Climate change (drought, heatwaves) ▪ Deforestation, urban development ▪ Disease (<i>chlamydia</i>)

ECONOMY

RBI Monetary Policy Update

- ❖ RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept key interest rates unchanged.
- ❖ It retained the accommodative stance in its first policy after Union Budget 2022.
- ❖ This is the tenth consecutive time that MPC has maintained the status quo.
- ❖ MPC kept the repo rate as well as the reverse repo rate unchanged, respectively at 4 percent and 3.35 percent.
- ❖ It continued with the 'accommodative' stance in the backdrop of high inflation.
- ❖ RBI projected GDP growth for Financial Year 2023 at 7.8 percent.
- ❖ Real GDP growth of 9.2 percent in Financial Year 2022 (FY 2022) will take the economy above the pre-pandemic level.
- ❖ CPI inflation forecast for FY 2022 has been kept at 5.3 percent.
- ❖ The current account deficit was below 2 percent of GDP in FY22.



- ❖ It proposed to increase the Cap of e-vouchers, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

GDP Deflator Forecast

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that, for 2022-23, the Centre's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator projection is 3 to 3.5 percent.
- ❖ The government's own real GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2022-23 is in the range of 7.6-8.1 percent.
- ❖ While Union Budget assumes a nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1 percent for the fiscal year 2023.
- ❖ GDP Deflator is also known as 'implicit price deflator'.
- ❖ It is a measure of general price inflation.
- ❖ It is defined as the 'difference between nominal GDP and real GDP'.
- ❖ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) comes out with the GDP deflator.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MUSE and HelioSwarm Projects

- ❖ NASA selected two science missions namely, Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE) and HelioSwarm, for improving our understanding of dynamics of the Sun, constantly changing space environment, and Sun-Earth connection.
- ❖ Both the mission will provide deeper insights into the universe as well as offer critical information, for protecting astronauts, satellites, and communications signals like GPS.
- ❖ Missions will provide new and deeper insight into the solar atmosphere and space
- ❖ The MUSE Mission will help the scientists in understanding the driving forces of the Sun's corona heating.
- ❖ HelioSwarm mission is a constellation or the "swarm" of nine spacecraft.

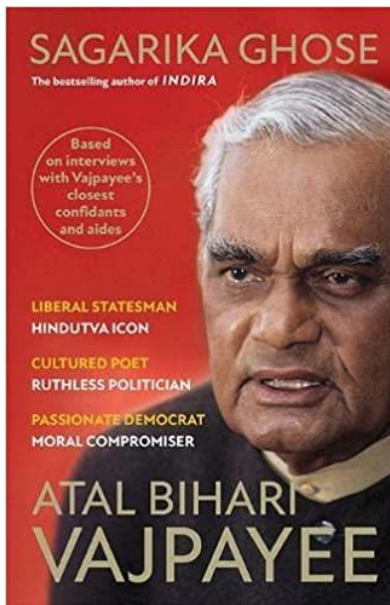
Habitable Planets

- ❖ Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics have developed a new way to identify potentially habitable planets, with a high probability.
- ❖ Astronomers developed this new way in association with astronomers from BITS Pilani, Goa campus.
- ❖ They used an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based algorithm for this.

- ❖ 60 potentially habitable planets have been found out of 5,000 known planets by using this.
- ❖ The new AI-based method is named "Multi-Stage Memetic Binary Tree Anomaly Identifier".

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Book by Sagarika Ghose



- ❖ A book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee" authored by Sagarika Ghose has been launched.
- ❖ It is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ Sagarika Ghose is a journalist.
- ❖ She has also authored a book titled "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister".

RailTel

- ❖ RailTel has won the ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year 2020-21 in the Public Sector Entities Category.
- ❖ RailTel is a Miniratna Central Government PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ The company was named winner in the category "plaque".
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a premier accounting body of India.

- ❖ It has been holding the annual competition for the awards since 1958.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Productivity Day - February 12



- ❖ The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- ❖ The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productive culture in India.
- ❖ The National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India is a premier institution for propagating productivity movement in India.

