

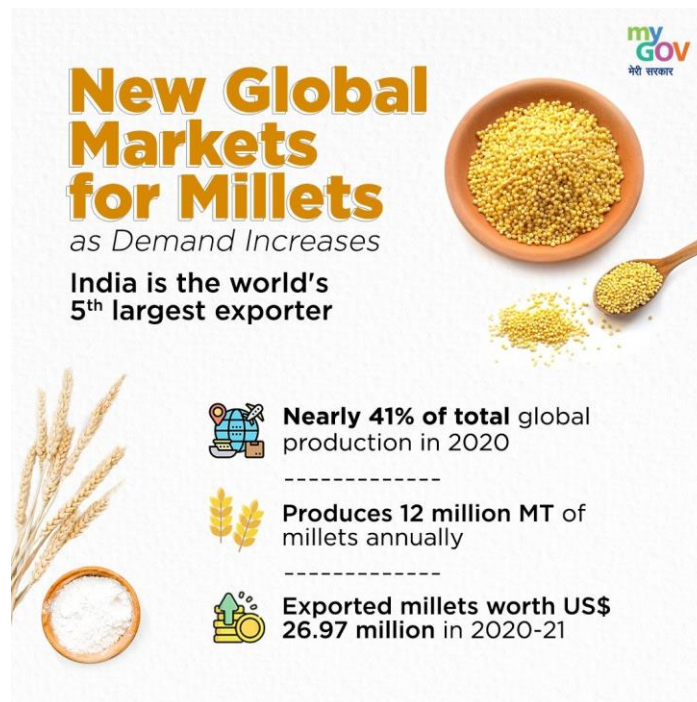
February - 15

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu school education Department has declared February 26 to be Book Free Day or Bookless Day or No School Bag day in every school across Tamil Nadu.
  - For students in grades 6 to 8, Bookless Day will be observed on February 26.
- ❖ The Government of Telangana and the British Council, an international organization for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in education, English, and arts.

## NATIONAL

### Millets export from India



- ❖ India is the fifth largest exporter of millets in the world, according to 2020 data.
- ❖ Globally, major exporters of millets are the USA, Russian Federation, Ukraine, India, China, Netherlands, France, Poland and Argentina.
- ❖ The top three importers of millets from India in 2020-21 were Nepal, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

- ❖ The other seven destinations in the top-ten list of India's millet export are Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, the UK, Yemen, Oman and Algeria.
- ❖ India is the world leader in the production of millets with a share of around 41 per cent of total world production in 2020.
- ❖ India produces around 12 million MT of millets annually.

### **Delimitation Commission in Kashmir**



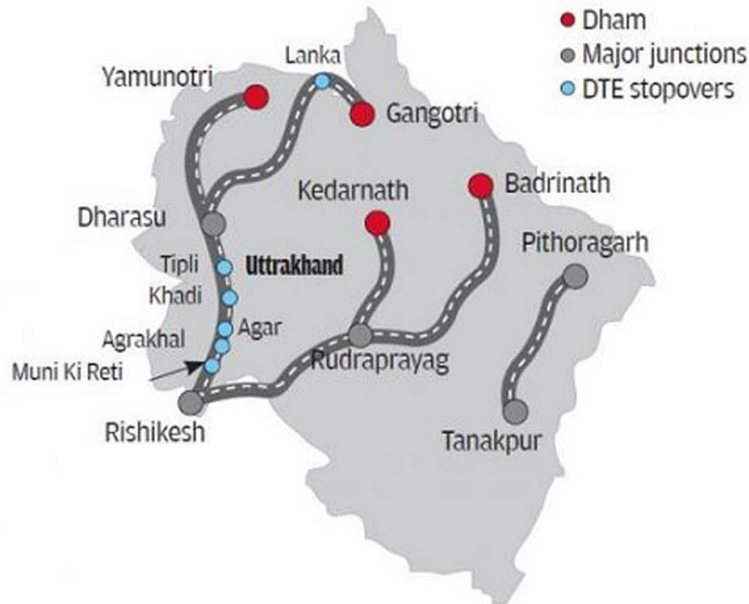
- ❖ The erstwhile J&K State had an 87-member assembly, with 37 constituencies in the Jammu region and 46 in the Kashmir division and four in Ladakh.
- ❖ Besides, 24 seats are reserved and vacant for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ❖ The commission has given the mandate granted under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019
- ❖ The Commission has added seven assembly constituencies to J&K, increasing its strength from 87 to 90.
- ❖ It proposes an increase of six seats for the Jammu province, taking the number of constituencies to 43.
- ❖ It added one seat in the Kashmir province, taking the seat strength to 47.
- ❖ Its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.

### **Char Dham Project**

- ❖ Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High-Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project.

- ❖ The project involves developing and widening nearly 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand state.

## Proposed Char Dham highway



### Quota in promotions

- ❖ The Supreme Court has turned down the Union government's plea to do away with the requirement of collecting quantifiable data by the Centre and states.
- ❖ That data is to determine the representation of people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) while implementing reservation in promotion.
- ❖ State is obligated to collect quantifiable data as per the court's judgment in M Nagaraj (2006) and Jarnail Singh (2018).
- ❖ Collection of data has to be for each category of posts for the entire service.
- ❖ The Central government must determine a time period to revisit the reservation policy after ascertaining the percentage of posts occupied by SCs/STs.
- ❖ Assessment on the inadequacy of representation of the reserved categories in promotional posts should be left to the states.
- ❖ With the recognition of 'cadre' as the unit for collection of quantifiable data, the court has also set aside its earlier judgment in the B.K. Pavithra case of 2019.



- ❖ The 2019 judgment by the Supreme Court in BK Pavitra case upheld the validity of the 2018 Reservation Act that introduced consequential seniority for SC/STs in Karnataka public employment.

### ***Meaning of cadre***

- ❖ The term 'cadre' means the strength of a service or part of a service sanctioned as a separate unit.
- ❖ It is the choice of a State to constitute cadres.
- ❖ The entire service cannot be considered to be a cadre for the purpose of promotion from one post to a higher post in a different grade.
- ❖ The entire exercise of reservation in promotions would be rendered meaningless if data pertaining to the representation of SCs and STs is done with reference to the entire service.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **High Ambition Coalition (HAC) on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**

- ❖ On the last day of One Ocean Summit, this declaration was introduced.
- ❖ The One Ocean Summit was organised under the leadership of French President.
- ❖ The BBNJ Treaty are also known as "Treaty of the High Seas".
- ❖ It is an international agreement on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- ❖ Areas beyond national jurisdiction consists of 95% of the ocean.
- ❖ BBNJ Treaty provides an opportunity to fill gaps and address weaknesses in ocean governance.
- ❖ It is currently under negotiation at the United Nations.
- ❖ As of February 11, countries like Australia, Chile, Canada, Comoros, Colombia, India, Monaco, Egypt, Peru, Morocco, Norway, Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Singapore, Togo, the United Kingdom and EU & its 27 Member States have joined the coalition.

### **SWIFT**

- ❖ Russia is being threatened with exclusion from the services of SWIFT.
- ❖ Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is an international messaging network

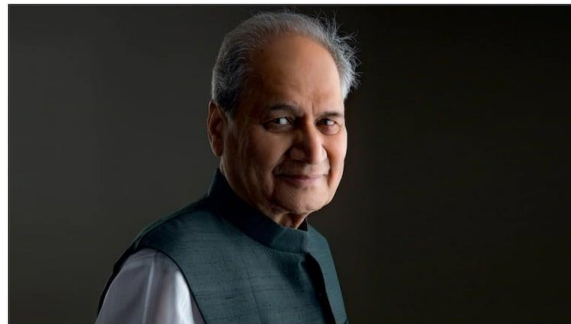
- ❖ It is used by banks and financial institutions worldwide to facilitate smooth money transactions globally.
- ❖ It was Established in 1973 at Belgium.
- ❖ SWIFT is only a platform that sends messages and neither holds any securities or money, nor manages external client accounts.



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

### **Rahul Bajaj (83)**

- ❖ Industrialist and Business Icon Rahul Bajaj passed away at Pune.
- ❖ He born in 1938 at Calcutta.
- ❖ He was the former chairman of Bajaj Group Rahul Bajaj.
- ❖ The jingle 'Humara Bajaj' became a famous advertisement of its time.
- ❖ He was currently the Chairman Emeritus of the firm.

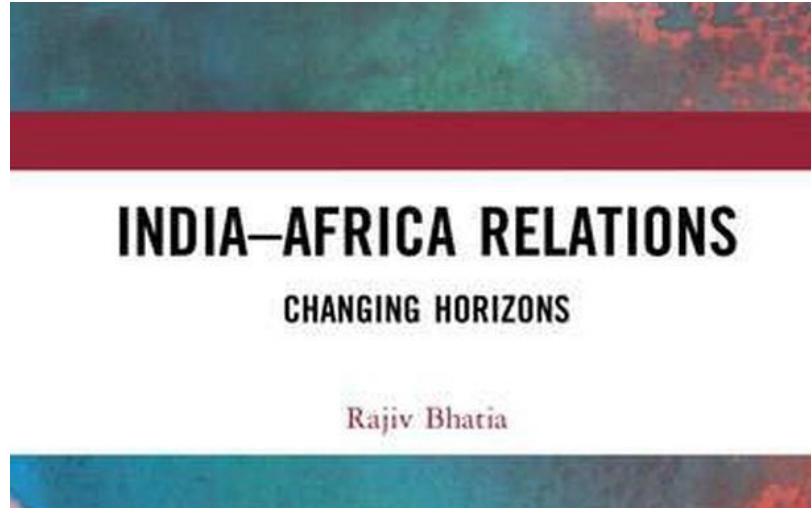


### **Rajiv Bhatia**

- ❖ A new book titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons” is authored by Rajiv Bhatia.
- ❖ Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia is a distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme at Gateway House.



- ❖ Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations is a foreign policy think tank in Mumbai, India.



## SPORTS

### **Tata Open Tennis Maharashtra**



- ❖ India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won their second ATP World Tour title together in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra at Pune
- ❖ They had beat Australia's Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith.



- ❖ Portugal's Joao Sousa won Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland.

### **Arif Khan**

- ❖ Arif Khan, the Indian skier, is the first Indian to qualify for two events in the same Winter Olympic Games edition 2022.
- ❖ He led a small Indian contingent during the Winter Olympics 2022 opening ceremony in Beijing, China on February 4, 2022.
- ❖ He has qualified for the Slalom and Giant Slalom events.
- ❖ He is the only Indian competitor at the Beijing Winter Olympics.
- ❖ He was born in Kashmir.
- ❖ India officially announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022

