

February - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is organizing a “Darkathon-2022” to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the darknet.
  - As per NCB data there is a 300% rise in heroin capture in five years.
- ❖ India delivered medical supplies to Kiribati after the Pacific Island nation asked for help, for dealing with the first outbreak of COVID-19.
  - The consignment contained emergency Covid-19 medication, pulse oximeters, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.

## NATIONAL

### Secretariat For India's G20 Presidency



The infographic features a blue and red background. At the top left, it includes the PIB logo and the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav logo. A 'Cabinet Decision >>' button is positioned above the main title. The title 'SECRETARIAT FOR INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY APPROVED' is in large, bold, blue letters. To the right is a circular photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other officials. Below the title, three bullet points are listed in a white box: India's G20 Presidency dates, the establishment of the G20 Secretariat, and the formation of a Coordination Committee.

**SECRETARIAT FOR INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY APPROVED**

Cabinet Decision >>

- > India to hold Presidency of G20 from 1 December 2022 - 30 November 2023, culminating with G20 Summit in India in 2023
- > G20 Secretariat being established to handle implementation of policy decisions and arrangements
- > Coordination Committee to be set up to oversee G20 preparations

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for implementing overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.

- ❖ India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023,
- ❖ It will be culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- ❖ G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.

### **Vedanta to manufacture semiconductors in India**



- ❖ The Indian mining major Vedanta has tied up with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Hon Hai Technology Group (better known as Foxconn) to form a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing semiconductors in India.
- ❖ This is the first JV in the electronics manufacturing sector after the government announced a Rs 76,000 crore production-linked incentive scheme for semiconductor and display manufacturing.
- ❖ Vedanta will be the majority shareholder in the JV while Foxconn will hold minority share.

### **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs**



- ❖ The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)”.

- ❖ The scheme will be launched for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Communities (DNCs) at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

### **World Sustainable Development Summit**



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit.
- ❖ It is the annual event of TERI.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit will include discussion over a wide range of issues including sustainable development, sustainable production, climate change, global commons, energy transitions, and resource security.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 is held in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.

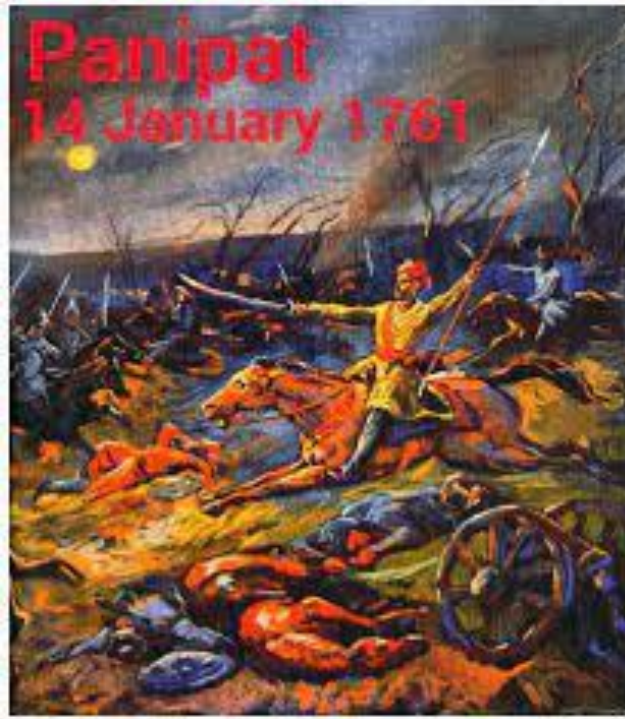
### **Saudi Land Forces Commander - historic visit to India**



- ❖ The Commander of Royal Saudi Land Forces, Lieutenant General Fahd Bin Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mutair arrived in India on February 14, 2022, in a historic first.
- ❖ The three-day visit is the first-ever visit to India by a serving Royal Saudi Land Forces Commander.
- ❖ It is a testament to the growing bilateral defense ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Panipat operational unit – Nangarhar**



- ❖ The Taliban have announced the formation of a new military unit called the 'Panipat operational unit'.
- ❖ The new unit will be deployed in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, bordering Pakistan.
- ❖ Panipat in Haryana was the place where three battles were fought between foreign invaders and Indian rulers.
- ❖ In Afghanistan, these battles, especially the third one fought between Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Marathas on January 14, 1761, often come up for discussion.
- ❖ Abdali is widely regarded as the founder of present-day Afghanistan.

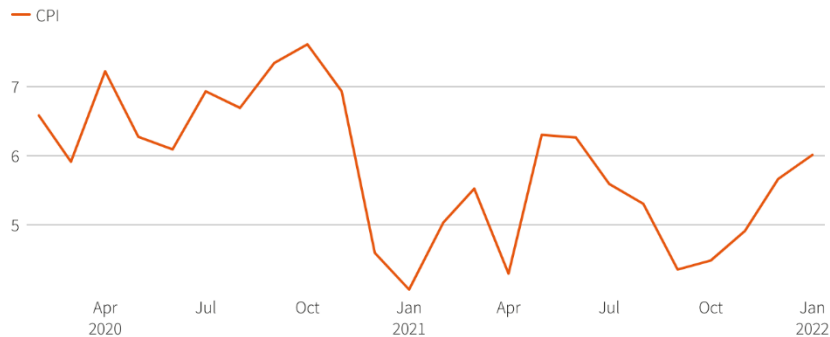
- ❖ Afghans cherish his victory over the Maratha forces as perhaps his greatest achievement against odds.

## ECONOMY

### India's retail inflation

#### India's inflation rises above central bank's tolerance level

Geo-political issues driving prices in India



- ❖ India's retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated to 6.01% in the month of January, breaching the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tolerance band of 6%, albeit marginally.
- ❖ The surge in inflation print was driven by higher consumer goods and telecom prices along with a comparatively low rate a year ago.
- ❖ Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.66% in the preceding month of December.
- ❖ The Central bank's monetary policy has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4% until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%.

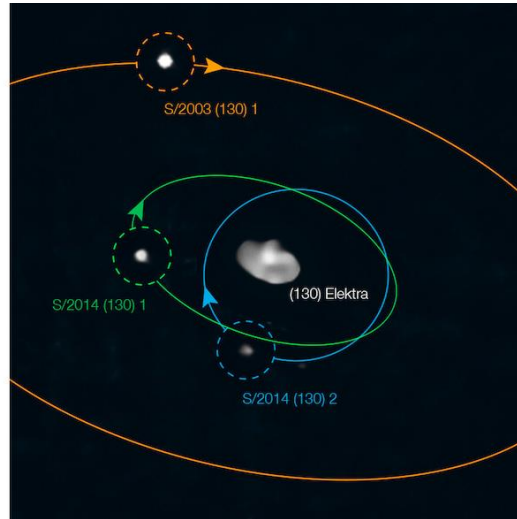
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Third Moon of Elektra

- ❖ Astronomers discovered a third moon orbiting the main-belt asteroid (130) Elektra.
- ❖ This is the first quadruple asteroid ever found.
- ❖ Elektra was first discovered by Litchfield Observatory astronomer Christian Peters.



- ❖ The first moon of Elektra was discovered in 2003 by Dr. William Merline and his team.
- ❖ The second moon of Elektra is designated as S/2014 (130) 1 or S2.
- ❖ Astronomers have now discovered the third moon, orbiting Elekta.
- ❖ It is designated as S/2014 (130) 2 or S3.



## STATES

### Maru Mahotsav



- ❖ The renowned Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City was celebrated from 13 to 16 February 2022 at Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

- ❖ It started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions.
- ❖ It is a four-day-long annual event.
- ❖ Regional folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair were performed.

### **Medaram Jathara 2022**

- ❖ Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana - the Koya tribes.
- ❖ Jathara was declared a State Festival in 1996.
- ❖ The Jatara is also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara.
- ❖ It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- ❖ Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary.



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

### **Chairman of CBSE**

- ❖ IAS Vineet Joshi has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

- ❖ He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.



### **Bappi Lahiri**

- ❖ Veteran singer and composer, Bappi Lahiri has passed away at the age of 69.
- ❖ He was lovingly called Bappi Da in the industry is known for delivering iconic songs.
- ❖ His real name was Alokesh Lahiri.
- ❖ His last Bollywood song was Bhankas for the 2020 film Baaghi 3.

