

February - 21

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first country to adopt India's UPI system will be Nepal.
  - This will aid in the modernization of Nepal's digital payment infrastructure and provide citizens with the convenience of digital payments.
- ❖ Bill Gates has been awarded the Hilal-e-Pakistan for his efforts to help eradicate polio in the country.
  - It is Pakistan's second-highest civilian honor.
- ❖ The Sixth European Union-African Union Summit was held recently.
  - This summit took place in Brussels, Belgium.

## NATIONAL

### Indian Army's Bent-Toed Gecko

- ❖ A team of researchers recently discovered a new species of bent-toed gecko or lizard, from Umroi Military station in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- ❖ The new species of Gecko or lizard belongs to the family of *Cyrtodactylus exercitus* ('exercitus' means army, in Latin).
- ❖ It has been named to honor the valor of the Indian Army for its services to India.



### Green Ammonia Policy

- ❖ The Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy.
- ❖ The policy aims to boost green hydrogen and ammonia.
- ❖ Hydrogen and Ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels.

- ❖ The Production of these fuels by using power from renewable energy is termed green hydrogen and green ammonia.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is created by the electrolysis of water.
- ❖ It is a technique for separating water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ Ammonia is a gas used in the production of agricultural fertilizers.
- ❖ Green ammonia is produced by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and nitrogen from the air.



## Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia Policy

### Step 1 of National Hydrogen Mission

**Hydrogen and Ammonia:** The Future Fuels To Replace Fossil Fuels Using Renewable Energy

#### OBJECTIVES

- ✦ Clean fuel to common people
- ✦ Reduce dependence on fossil fuel
- ✦ Reduce crude oil imports
- ✦ Emerge as export hub for Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia
- ✦ Produce 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030



**India On Its Mission Of  
Environmentally Sustainable Energy Security Of Nation**

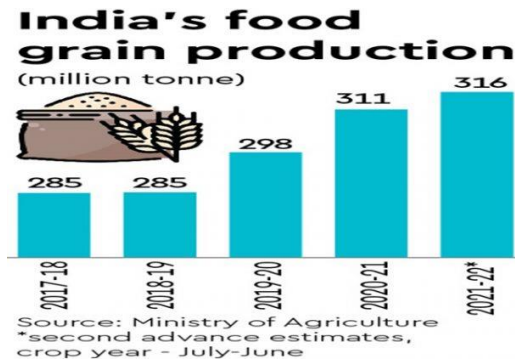
## Soyoil Import

- ❖ Due to limited supply from drought-stricken South America, Indian exporters have arranged to import a record 100,000 tonnes of soyoil from the United States.
- ❖ India is the world's largest edible oil importer.
- ❖ It generally buys soyoil from Brazil and Argentina.



- ❖ But this year's low bean output in these two leading producer countries has forced India to sign a contract with the producers from the United States for import of the oil.

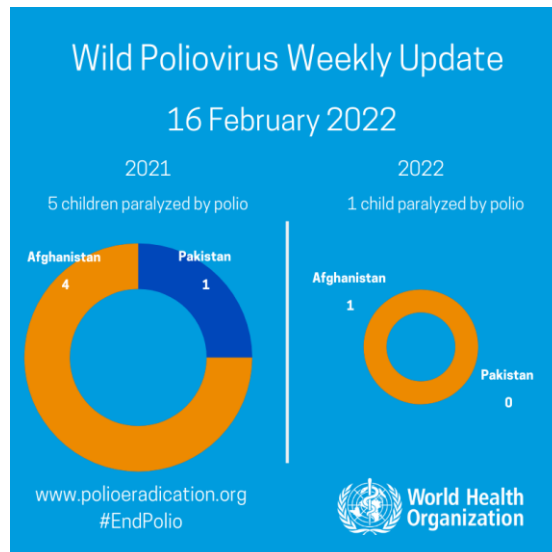
## Foodgrains production



- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for the year 2021-22.
- ❖ The Record foodgrains production of 316.06 million tonnes is estimated.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Malawi Wild Polio Case

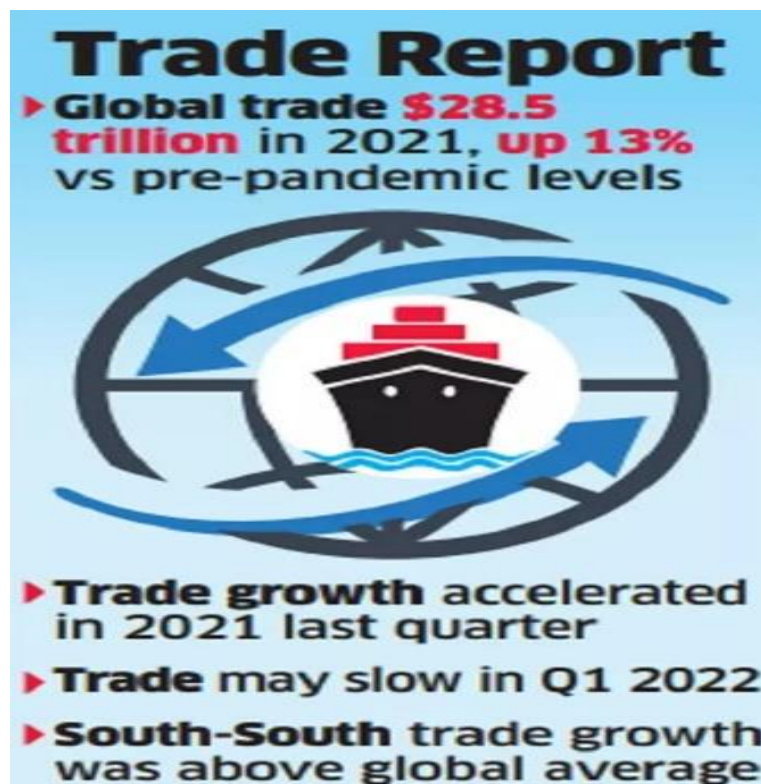


- ❖ Malawi announced a wild polio outbreak after a case of wild polio was discovered in a three-year-old child.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind in Africa in more than five years.

- ❖ In the year 2020, the continent was declared free of all kinds of wild polio.
- ❖ Only two nations in the world still have wild polio: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### **UNCTAD's Global Trade Update**

- ❖ According to this, the global trade in goods continued strong in 2021, and trade in services finally returned to the levels of pre-COVID-19.
- ❖ Global trade touched \$28.5 trillion which is a record level in 2021.
- ❖ This shows a 25% increase over 2020 and a 13% increase over 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic started.
- ❖ Exports of underdeveloped countries increased by roughly 30% compared to the same period in 2020, compared to 15% for wealthy nations.



## **ECONOMY**

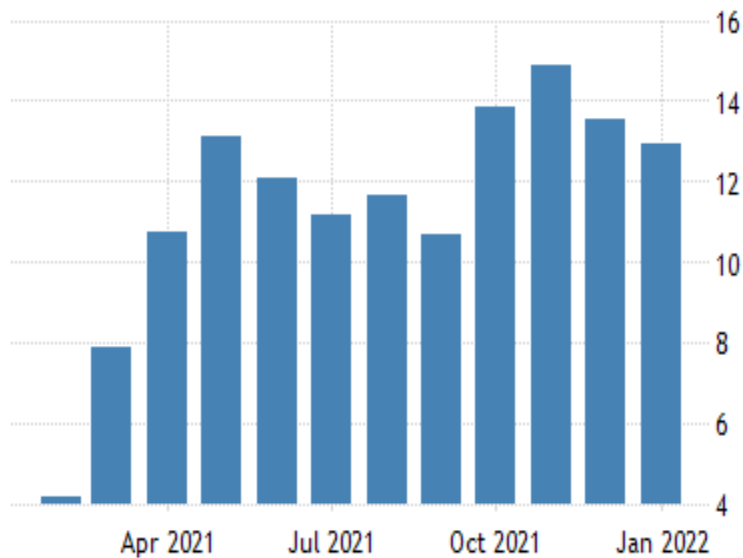
### **Hurun Report on Dollar Millionaires**

- ❖ According to the Hurun Report, the rich families in India have grown by 11 percent in the year 2021.

- ❖ According to the Hurun report, the number of wealthy households will increase by 30% to 6,00,000 in the next five years.
- ❖ Mumbai currently leads the list of cities with the biggest number of dollar-millionaire households, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.



### India's wholesale inflation



- ❖ India's wholesale inflation has eased to 12.96 % in January from 13.56 % in the previous month.
- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation has declined consistently in recent months.

- ❖ It fell from 14.87 % in November 2021 to 13.56 % in December 2021 and further to 12.96 % in January 2022.

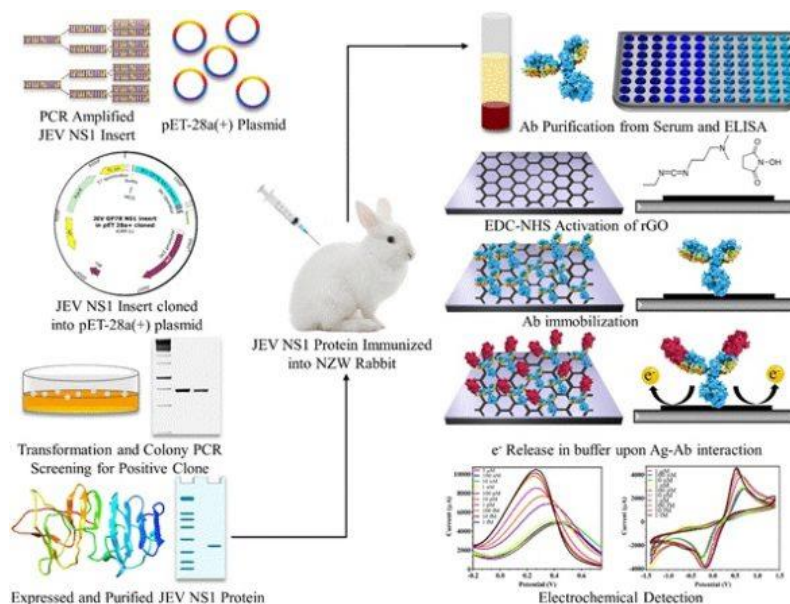
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### JPMorgan - first bank to enter the metaverse

- ❖ JPMorgan has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse.
- ❖ The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland.
- ❖ Metaverse is a virtual universe.
- ❖ Here users can do multiple activities like socializing, shopping, or even attending events through their avatar.



### Detection Method of Japanese Encephalitis Virus





- ❖ The National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, has developed the “Fluorine Doped Tin Oxide (FTO) electrode fabricated with reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO)” to detect the Japanese Encephalitis Virus.
- ❖ Japanese Encephalitis Virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne encephalitis in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia.
- ❖ It is often misdiagnosed as Dengue.
- ❖ There is no cure available for JEV.
- ❖ Thus, its early detection is essential in order to mitigate a breakout.

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

### **Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021**

The list of winners in different categories is given below:

**Best Technology Bank of the Year**

In Large Banks segment: Bank of Baroda

In Small Banks segment: The South Indian Bank

In Foreign Banks segment: Citibank N.A.

Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

**Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives**

Large Banks: State Bank of India

Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank

Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

**Best Payments Initiatives**

Public Banks: State Bank of India

Private Banks: ICICI Bank

**Best Fintech Adoption**

Large Banks: ICICI Bank

Medium Banks: Federal Bank

Small Banks: The South Indian Bank

Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

- ❖ Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) has announced the IBA’s 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.
- ❖ In total, the South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event.

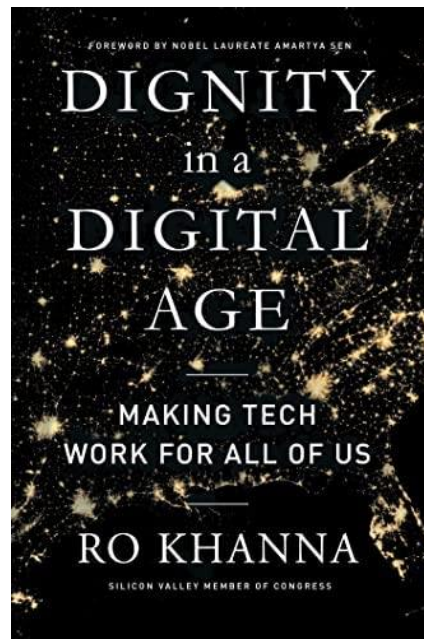


- ❖ This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.

### **Karnataka Bank**

- ❖ Karnataka Bank has bagged three awards at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards: 2020-21 Next-Gen Banking.
- ❖ It was instituted by Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- ❖ The bank has won awards for
  - Best Technology Bank of the Year,
  - Best Fintech Adoption and
  - Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics.
- ❖ It emerged second in all the above three categories.

### **Book by Ro Khanna**



- ❖ A new book titled "Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us" authored by Ro Khanna was released recently.
- ❖ The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress.
- ❖ It also mentioned the digital divide as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.



- ❖ Ro Khanna is an Indian-American.

## **SPORTS**

### **Senior National Volleyball Championship**

- ❖ Haryana team defeated the Indian Railway 3-0, to win the Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22.
- ❖ In the women's category, the Kerala team defeated the Indian Railway 3-1, to lift the trophy.
- ❖ The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

