

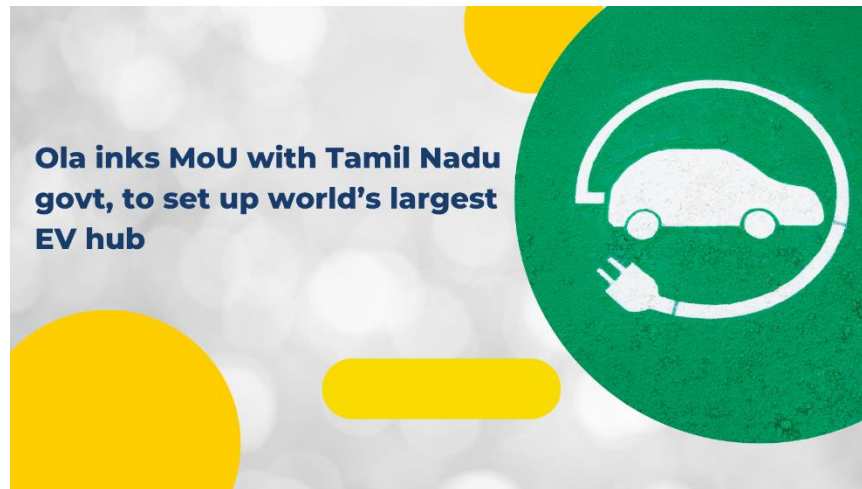
February - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 393rd birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was organised in the Diwan-e-Aam premises of the Agra Fort.
- ❖ Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed as National Ambassador of UNICEF India.

TAMIL NADU

World's biggest EV hub

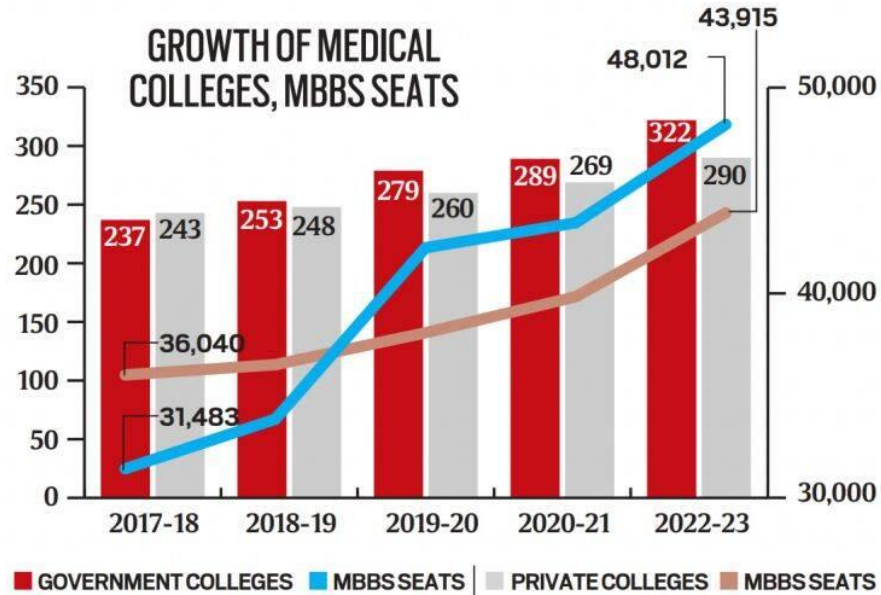


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ola Electric Mobility Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ Ola will set up the world's largest EV hub with integrated two-wheeler, car and lithium cell giga factories in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The project also, comprises an electric vehicle cell plant and an electric four-wheeler plant is to be set up on the SIPCOT premises in Bargur, Krishnagiri.

Highest number of MBBS seats

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is at the top of the list with the highest number of 11,275 MBBS seats.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka having 10,995 seats.
- ❖ Maharashtra was ranked 3rd rank with 10,295 and Uttar Pradesh was at 4th with 9,203 MBBS seats.

- ❖ Altogether, 1,00,163 MBBS seats are available at present in over 655 medical colleges in the country.
- ❖ As per the Health Ministry's statement, a total of 65,335 PG medical seats are available at present.
- ❖ The maximum number of seats in the state of Karnataka with 6,006 seats, and is followed by Maharashtra with 5,765 and Tamil Nadu with 4,935 seats.



NATIONAL

North India's first nuclear plant

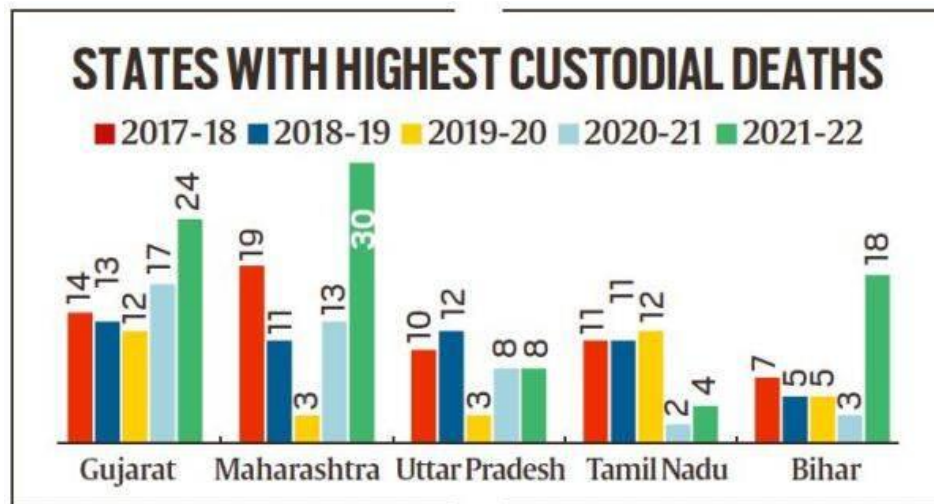
Haryana to get North India's first ever Nuclear power plant: To be one of India's largest and will have 10 reactors

150 km from Delhi, it is being built at a cost of ₹20,594 crore.



- ❖ North India's first nuclear power plant is coming up in Gorakhpur, Haryana.
- ❖ It will generate 2800 MW.
- ❖ Currently they confined mostly to the southern states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh or in the west in Maharashtra.

Custodial deaths data



- ❖ In the last five years, the highest number of custodial deaths have been reported in Gujarat at 80.
- ❖ This is followed by Maharashtra (76), Uttar Pradesh (41), Tamil Nadu (40) and Bihar (38).
- ❖ Among the nine Union Territories, the highest incidents of custodial deaths were reported from Delhi at 29 in the last five years.
- ❖ This is followed by Jammu and Kashmir at four.
- ❖ 146 cases of death in police custody were reported during 2017-2018, 136 in 2018-2019, 112 in 2019-2021, 100 in 2020-2021 and 175 in 2021-2022.

INTERNATIONAL

US Bill on Arunachal Pradesh LAC

- ❖ A resolution was passed in the US Senate "reaffirming" the country's recognition of Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India and not a disputed territory.
- ❖ It also condemned "China's military aggression to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)".

- ❖ It reaffirmed that the US recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The line was agreed to by Britain and Tibet as part of the 1914 Shimla Accord.



ECONOMY

49th meeting of the GST Council



- ❖ The 49th meeting of the GST Council was held at Delhi under the chairpersonship of the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ Council has reduced the GST rate on rab or liquid jaggery from 18% to 5% if sold pre-packaged and labelled and nil if sold otherwise.
- ❖ Rates on pencil sharpeners has been cut to 12 percent from 18 percent earlier.
- ❖ Rates on tax trackers has been cut to 12 percent from 18 percent but that is subject to conditions.

- ❖ Services provided by courts will be charged at Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM).

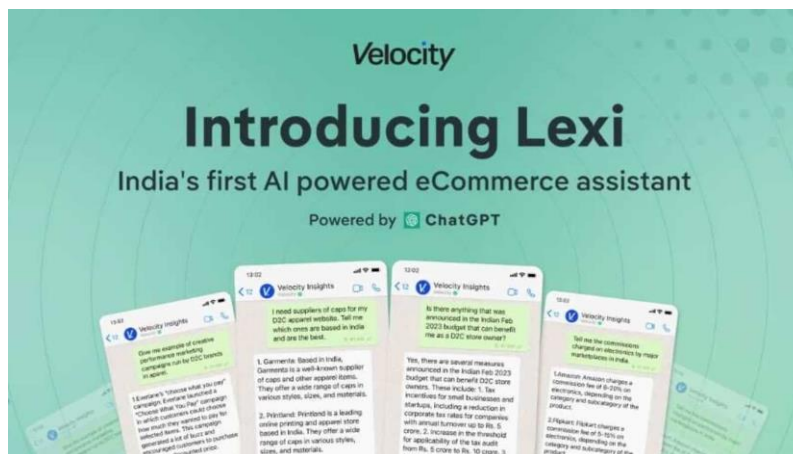
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first hybrid rocket

- ❖ India's first hybrid sounding rocket by private players was launched from Pattipulam village, Chengalpattu.
- ❖ Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission - 2023.
- ❖ The rocket can be used for research in weather, atmospheric conditions and radiations.



Lexi ChatGPT



- ❖ India has got its first ChatGPT called "Lexi"- launched by financial technology company Velocity.

- ❖ This chatbot helps e-Commerce founders by providing them with business insights in a simplified way.
- ❖ ChatGPT was made available to the public in November 2022.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Dadasaheb Phalke Awards

- ❖ Rishab Shetty, the actor-filmmaker of film Kantara, earned the award for the Most Promising Actor at the Dadasaheb Phalke Awards.
- ❖ Dulquer Salmaan won the award for Best Actor in a Negative Role, for his performance in the 'Chup: Revenge of the Artist'.
- ❖ SS Rajamouli's RRR won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the Film of The Year.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global tourism resilience day - February 17

- ❖ On 06th February 2023, to underline the importance of tourism resilience, the United Nations designated this day.
- ❖ Aim of Global tourism resilience day (GTRD) is to create greater consciousness about tourism resilience.
- ❖ The first GTRD observed on 17 February this year.

- ❖ Tourism resilience refers to the ability of a tourist destination to cope with such crises and to quickly recover from them.
- ❖ In 2019, tourism employed 333 million people worldwide.
- ❖ In 2020, tourism and hospitality sector contribute 6.8% to India's GDP and gave 8% of the total jobs.



World Pangolin Day - February 18



- ❖ World Pangolin Day is observed annually on the third Saturday in February and takes place on February 18 this year.
- ❖ The day aims to celebrate pangolins, raise awareness and recommit international N.G.O.s to the fight against the global capturing of pangolins in Africa and Asia.
- ❖ The main reason for its population decline is their medicinal value.
- ❖ Pangolin scales have several medicinal properties.

- ❖ In India, Odisha had the highest seizures of pangolins.
- ❖ Maharashtra has the second-highest seizure incidents.
- ❖ Pangolins are categorized as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red list.

8th Soil Health Card Day - February 19

- ❖ Soil Health Card Day was launched on February 19, 2020.
- ❖ It raises awareness about the importance of maintaining healthy soil and encourages farmers to adopt practices that promote soil health.
- ❖ The Soil Health Card Scheme was launched on February 19, 2015.
- ❖ It was introduced to issue soil health cards every two years.
- ❖ The aim of the scheme is to promote soil test in order to promote nutrient management.
- ❖ This led to decrease in use of fertilizer application by 8 to 10% and the overall yield of crops increased by 5%.

