

January - 06

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Education Minister & Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched “National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0.”
  - It was launched as a single platform for providing the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students in India.

## NATIONAL

### Ayush Aahaar



- ❖ The project was launched by AYUSH Ministry.
- ❖ Ayush Aahaar is a healthy diet.
- ❖ The ministry is to make this diet available in its canteen.
- ❖ The project aims to promote healthy living through a nutritious diet.

### Unified Presentment Management System

- ❖ NPCI BillPay has introduced a unique functionality called “Unified Presentment Management System” (UPMS).
- ❖ This is with the aim of enriching and simplifying bill payments in India.
- ❖ UPMS will help the customers to set up standing instructions, for any mode and from any channel on their recurring bill payments.

- ❖ The Bills will be fetched automatically from the billers and will be presented to customers for their action, in terms of bill payment and auto-debit management.



#### **NBBL launches Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS) to simplify bill payments**

04/01/2022

With an aim to enrich and simplify bill payments in the country, NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'Unified Presentment Management System' (UPMS). NBBL through UPMS will enable the customers to set up standing instructions - from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments. The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.

With the UPMS launch, the intent is to enable all the Bharat BillPay Operating Units (BBPOU) to extend this facility to their customers/corporate clients with minimal effort through the centralized infrastructure and application support provided by Bharat BillPay Central Unit (BBPCU). UPMS will help in democratizing recurring bill payments and making them further convenient for customers.

### **Committee to examine bill on raising the legal age of marriage**

<b>TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS &amp; CUSTOMS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men</li> <li>➤ Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage — Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969</li> <li>➤ Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority</li> <li>➤ Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice</li> <li>➤ Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent</li> </ul>

- ❖ The parliamentary standing committee was constituted to examine “the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021”.
- ❖ Out of the total 31 members, TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the sole woman representative on the committee.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women in India from 18 to 21 to bring it at par with men.
- ❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the “Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006” and seven personal laws.
- ❖ They are,
  - Indian Christian Marriage Act

- Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act
- Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act
- Special Marriage Act
- Hindu Marriage Act
- and the Foreign Marriage Act.

## Naval Exercise Milan 2022



- ❖ India has invited a total of 46 friendly foreign countries to participate in the multinational naval exercise Milan in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion, and collaboration.
- ❖ This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies.

## ODF villages

No.	Name of the State	Total Villages	Total ODF Plus Villages	%
1	Telangana	14200	13737	96.74
2	Tamil Nadu	12525	4432	35.39
3	Karnataka	27044	1511	5.59
4	Uttarakhand	15473	1394	9.01
5	Madhya Pradesh	50228	1073	2.14
6	Andhra Pradesh	18841	673	4.63
7	U.P.	97040	649	0.67
8	Kerala	2027	401	19.78
9	Haryana	6908	397	5.75
10	Punjab	13707	304	2.22
11	Maharashtra	40543	299	0.74
12	Himachal Pradesh	15921	278	1.75
13	Rajasthan	42860	220	0.51
14	Meghalaya	6028	178	2.95
15	Chhattisgarh	26541	146	0.49
16	Odisha	46785	124	0.27
17	Gujarat	18261	83	0.45
18	Assam	25603	17	0.07
19	Sikkim	403	11	2.73
20	Arunchal Pradesh	5381	6	0.11
21	Manipur	2586	5	0.20
22	J & K	7263	0	0.00
23	Bihar	38691	0	0.00
24	West Bengal	41461	0	0.00
25	Nagaland	1451	0	0.00
26	Mizoram	696	0	0.00
27	Tripura	1178	0	0.00
28	Goa	365	0	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>582603</b>	<b>26138</b>	<b>4.48</b>

Source: <https://sbm.gov.in/phase2dashbboard>

- ❖ Telangana stood first in the country in the list of the highest number of open defecation-free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II program till December 31, 2021.



- ❖ This was followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

## 2021 Gold Import in India

- ❖ 2021 gold import bill got doubled the \$22 billion, which were spent in 2020.
- ❖ India reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021.
- ❖ It also surpassed the previous high set in 2011 (\$53.9 billion).
- ❖ Strict lockdown during the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic in 2020 had hit the gold demand.

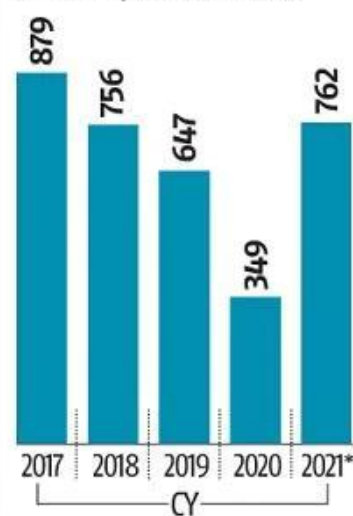
### DHANTERAS: RETURNS ON GOLD

Date	Standard Gold ₹/10 Gm	% Return
Nov 03, 2010	19,645	24.2
Oct 24, 2011	26,785	36.3
Nov 11, 2012	31,650	18.2
Nov 01, 2013	30,510	-3.6
Oct 21, 2014	27,400	-10.2
Nov 09, 2015	25,800	-5.8
Oct 28, 2016	29,995	16.3
Oct 17, 2017	29,615	-1.3
Nov 05, 2018	31,760	7.2
Oct 25, 2019	38,570	21.4
Nov 13, 2020	50,645	31.3
Nov 02, 2021	47,644	-5.9

Compiled by BS Research Bureau  
Source: IBJA / Zaveri Bazar

### INDIA GOLD IMPORTS

Gold Import (tonnes)



\*Upto Q3CY21 import 672 tonnes +  
Industry estimates 90 tonnes in  
Oct'21

Source: World Gold Council

## INTERNATIONAL

### UNSC statement on Nuclear War

- ❖ UNSC statement on Nuclear War was published by Kremlin (Russia).
- ❖ Five nuclear powers, namely Russia, China, Britain, the United States, and France, stated in a joint statement that further spread of nuclear arms and nuclear war should be avoided.



- ❖ These five nations further look to avoid war between nuclear states and reduce strategic risks.
- ❖ They also seek to work with all nations for creating an atmosphere of security.



### **Variant 'IHU'**



- ❖ Scientists and experts in France have reportedly identified a new variant of COVID-19 termed 'IHU'.
- ❖ The new variant is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron.
- ❖ The B.1.640.2 or IHU variant was first identified by the academics at the institute IHU Mediterranee Infection.
- ❖ It contains 46 mutations, which is more than Omicron.

### **New hypersonic Tsirkon missiles**

- ❖ Russia successfully test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and other two missiles from a submarine.

- ❖ The Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).



## EU Presidency



- ❖ France has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union with effect from January 01, 2022.
- ❖ The country will continue to hold the EU presidency for the next six months till June 30, 2022.
- ❖ This is the 13th time that France has taken over the rotating presidency.
- ❖ The motto of France as EU President is “recovery, strength, belonging.”

- ❖ Upon the completion of six months presidency, France will be replaced by the Czech Republic.

## ECONOMY

### Interest rates on Small Savings Schemes

Latest Post Office Interest Rates January - March 2022 (www.basunivesh.com)								
Sl No.	Scheme Name	Current Interest Rate	Revised Interest Rate	Frequency of Compounding	Effective Return	Minimum Deposit	Maximum Deposit	Tenure
1	Savings Deposit	4.00%	4.00%	NA	4%	Rs.20 for opening	No Limit	NA
2	Term Deposit 1 Yr	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.61%	Rs.200	No Limit	1 Yr
3	Term Deposit 2 Yrs	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.61%	Rs.200	No Limit	2 Yrs
4	Term Deposit 3 Yrs	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.61%	Rs.200	No Limit	3 Yrs
5	Term Deposit 5 Yrs	6.70%	6.70%	Qly	6.87%	Rs.200	No Limit	5 Yrs
6	RD-5 Yrs	5.80%	5.80%	Qly	5.92%	Rs.10 a month	No Limit	5 Yrs
7	NSC-5 Yrs	6.80%	6.80%	Yearly	6.80%	Rs.100	No Limit	5 Yrs
8	Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)	6.60%	6.60%	NA	6.60%	Rs.1,500	Rs.4.5 Lakh (Single) Rs.9 Lakh (Jointly)	5 Yrs
9	Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%	7.10%	Yearly	7.10%	Rs.500 per year	Rs.1.5 Lakh per year	15 Yrs
10	Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)	7.40%	7.40%	NA	7.40%	Rs.1,000	Rs.15 Lakh	5 Yrs
11	Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	6.90%	6.90%	Yearly	6.90%	Rs.1,000	No Limit	124 Months
12	Sukanya Samridhi Scheme	7.60%	7.60%	Yearly	7.60%	Rs.1,000	Rs.1.5 Lakh per year	21 Yrs

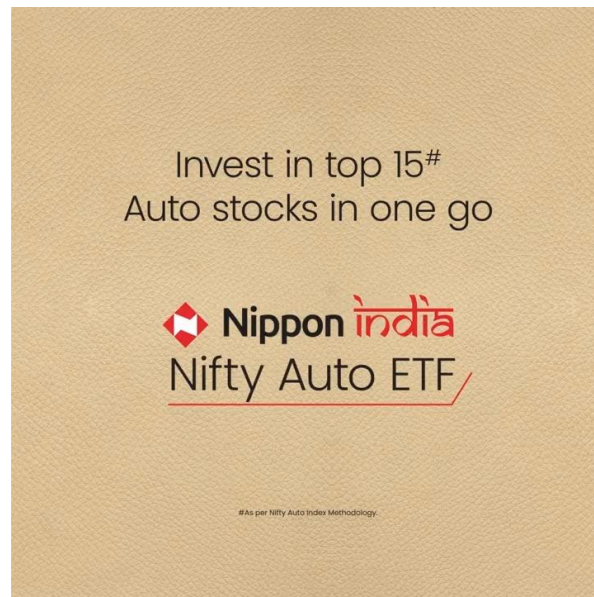
Note:- KVP will now double in 124 months.

- ❖ The interest rates on the small savings schemes will remain the same for the fourth quarter of 2021-2022 (January – February – March 2022).
- ❖ It will be the same as they were in the third quarter of 2021-22 (October-December 2021).
- ❖ It must be noted that West Bengal is the highest contributor to the small saving schemes.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the second top contributor.
- ❖ Also remember, the government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis.

### Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF

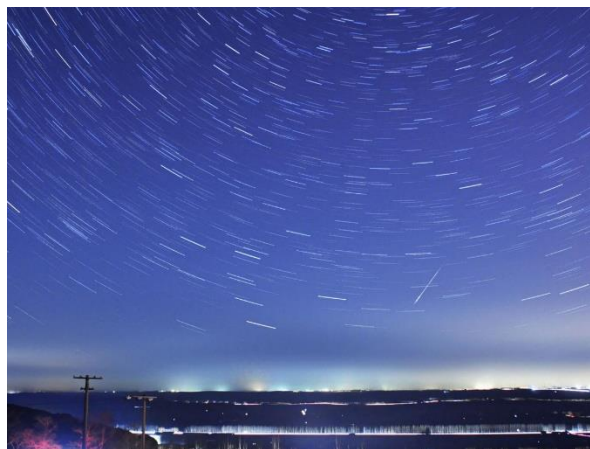
- ❖ Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited announced the launch of Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF.
- ❖ It is India's first of its kind in this regard.
- ❖ The New Fund Offer (NFO) was opened on 5 January 2022 and get closed on 14 January 2022.
- ❖ The minimum investment amount required is ₹1,000.

- ❖ Investors can add in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.
- ❖ The Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF (exchange-traded funds) is an open-ended scheme that will replicate the Nifty Auto Index.
- ❖ ETF will predominantly invest in stocks comprising the Nifty Auto Index in the same proportion as the index adding that it will provide exposure to top 15 (as per Nifty Auto Index methodology) companies.
- ❖ The company here represents auto-related sectors like automobiles 2,3 or 4 wheelers, auto ancillaries, and tires.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Quadrantid meteor shower



- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs in January every year.



- ❖ The radiant of the shower lies in the Bootes constellation.
- ❖ Meteor showers are caused due to debris or a trail of dust left by a comet.
- ❖ The Geminids meteor shower occurs in December.
- ❖ The Perseids meteor shower occurs in August.
- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower is not as bright as the Geminids and Perseids.
- ❖ This is because the duration of peak occurrence is comparatively less.

## STATES

### District-level Good Governance Index



- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is to get India's first district-level Good Governance Index.
- ❖ The index is modelled on the Good Governance Index 2021.
- ❖ It is to be calculated considering 58 indicators in ten different sectors.
- ❖ The index will help Jammu and Kashmir increase its district governance to the level of other best-administered districts in the country.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Ashok Elluswamy

- ❖ Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk have disclosed that Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy of Chennai was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.



- ❖ Before joining Tesla, Mr. Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.

