



January - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Recently, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in Maryland hospital in the USA.
 - It was done for the first time in the history of medicine.
- ❖ Tata Group will replace Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League from 2022.
 - Vivo is a Chinese mobile manufacturer.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) formed as many as six academia-driven task forces under the Technology Innovation Group (TIG) on sixth-generation or 6G technology.
- ❖ China has shut down several supermarkets after coronavirus traces were found in fruits that were imported from Vietnam
 - The reports claim that coronavirus samples were found in dragon fruit.
- ❖ Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beat Jan-Krzysztof Duda to claim the World Blitz Chess Championship.

NATIONAL

India Skills 2021 competition

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

India's shining #SkillStars from all over the country!

State-wise medal tally

State / UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Odisha	10	18	9
Kerala	8	8	5
Maharashtra	8	4	7
Karnataka	7	8	4
Andhra Pradesh	7	4	1
Bihar	4	2	5
Haryana	3	4	1
Gujarat	3	1	2
Rajasthan	3	1	1
Tamil Nadu	2	8	8
Chandigarh	2	2	1
Punjab	1	4	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	2	-
West Bengal	1	1	1
Delhi	-	2	1
Jharkhand	-	2	1
Uttarakhand	-	2	-
Tripura	-	-	1
Assam	-	1	-
Goa	-	1	-
Mizoram	-	-	1
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	1

#IndiaKeSkillStar

- ❖ India Skills 2021 national competition concluded recently.
- ❖ As many as 270 winners of the Competition felicitated with 61 gold, 77 silver, 53 bronze, and 79 medallions of excellence.
- ❖ Odisha finished first out of 26 states and union territories of this year in the 'India Skills 2021' contest with 51 medals.
- ❖ Maharashtra remained in second place.
- ❖ Kerala took third place in this.
- ❖ The winners of the India Skills 2021 competition will also have the opportunity to compete in the World Skills International Competition in Shanghai, China, in October 2022.

Smart Cities and Academia Towards Action and Research (SAAR)

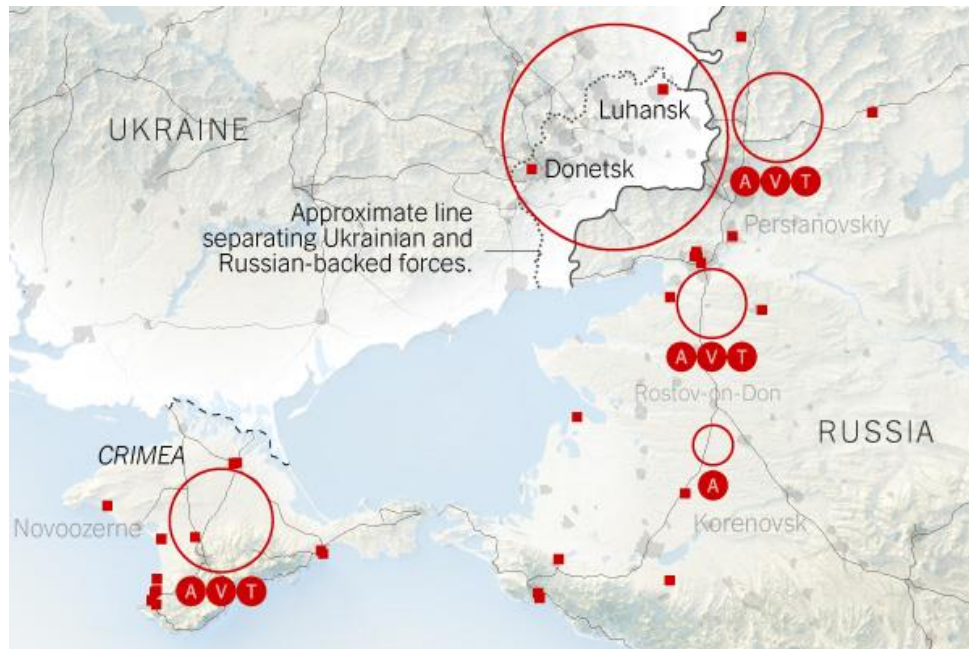


- ❖ SAAR was launched by the Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ SAAR will document the projects implemented by Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ It is a part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations.
- ❖ SAAR is mainly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The other institutes that join the ministry in implementing the project are the National Institute of Urban Affairs and other premier institutions in the country.
- ❖ This includes 15 premier architecture institutes.
- ❖ First, SAAR is to prepare a list of 75 urban projects.

- ❖ Varanasi, adopting several smart city measures and being the constituency of the PM, failed to enter SAAR.

INTERNATIONAL

US and Russia - Key Dialogue on Ukraine



- ❖ The US and Russian officials met in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ They are to discuss several issues including the tensions around Ukraine.
- ❖ The US and other western countries are under fear of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ Ukraine is supported by the US and other western countries.
- ❖ Ukraine was formed after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ Russia has stationed thousands of troops at the Ukraine border.
- ❖ This triggered a cold war between US and Russia.

Background

- ❖ The issue started when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014.
- ❖ Crimea is located in Ukraine.
- ❖ It holds the Strait of Kerch.
- ❖ This strait is the only route for Russia to reach the Mediterranean countries.
- ❖ The strait connects the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.

- ❖ It is a major trade route.
- ❖ The US and the western countries support Ukraine mainly to make shipping difficult for Russia.

Japan and Australia - Defense agreement

- ❖ The leaders of Japan and Australia signed a “landmark” defence agreement.
- ❖ This allows closer cooperation between their militaries and stands as a rebuke to China’s growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at a virtual summit to sign the Reciprocal Access Agreement.
- ❖ This is the first such defence pact signed by Japan with any country other than the United States.

Hub of world robotics innovation

- ❖ China has announced a five-year roadmap to achieve its goal of becoming a global robotics innovation hub by the year 2025.
- ❖ China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology revealed operating income from the country’s robotics industry is expected to grow by around 20% per year between 2021 and 2025.
- ❖ As per the 2021 World Robot Report, South Korea, Singapore, and Japan were the top three most automated countries in Asia-Pacific.

Uvariopsis dicaprio

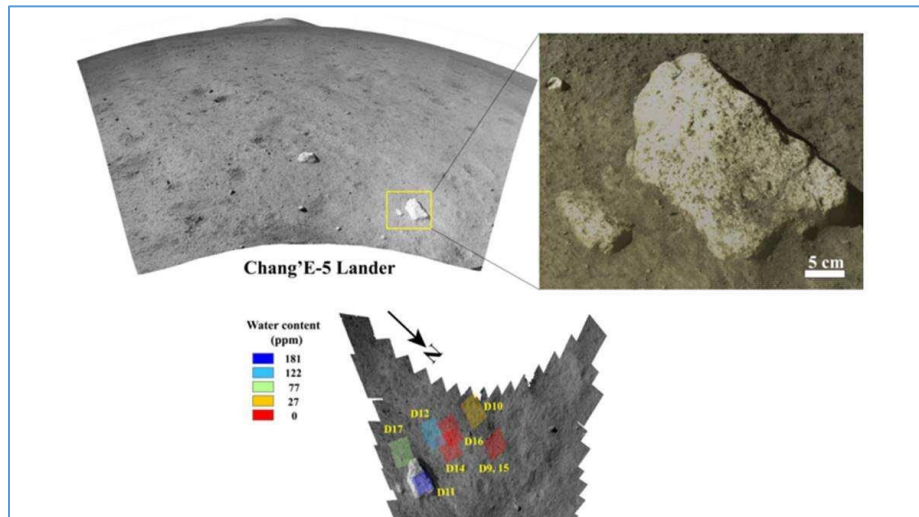


- ❖ Uvariopsis dicaprio is a newly identified tree species.
- ❖ It is the first new tree species to be described in 2022.

- ❖ It was discovered in the tropical Ebo forest of Cameroon and is native to the region.
- ❖ The yellow-green flowers of the tree grow directly on its trunk.
- ❖ The tree has been added to the Strange and Spectacular list of plant species.
- ❖ The tree has been classified as critically endangered.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Water on the surface of the moon

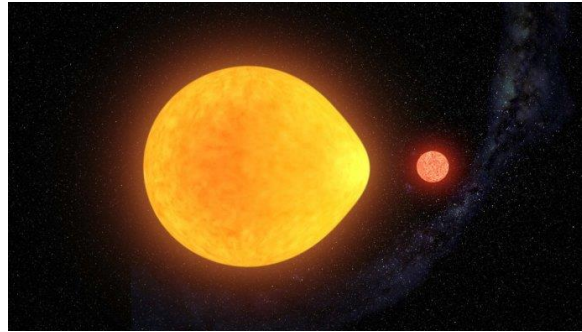


- ❖ China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon
- ❖ The study on this revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 grams of water per ton.
- ❖ A light, vesicular rock carries 180 ppm.

HD73619

- ❖ A group of Indian and international scientists has spotted a “peculiar binary star that shows heartbeat but no pulsations”.
- ❖ This is contrary to the norm of binary stars sporting both heartbeats as well as pulsations.
- ❖ This star called HD73619 is located in a cluster in the Cancer constellation.
- ❖ A team of 33 scientists, led by Santosh Joshi from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences carried out observations of HD73619.

- ❖ According to the Department of Science & Technology, a total of about 180 'heartbeat' stars are known to date.



ENVIRONMENT

Wolf Volcano



- ❖ This tallest mountain in the Galapagos Islands erupted recently.
- ❖ It spewed lava down its flanks and clouds of ash over the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The volcano last erupted in 2015.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UiPath Automation Excellence awards 2021

- ❖ The South Indian Bank (SIB) won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021.
- ❖ It was awarded for Best Automation under "Crisis for Business Continuity".
- ❖ The 2021 edition of the award recognizes the contribution of the individuals and organizations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal) for bringing change through transformative automation projects.

Champa

- ❖ The Prominent Kannada writer Chandrashekhar Patil, popularly known as “Champa”, passed away at the age of 82.
- ❖ He was a Kannada language activist, a poet, and a playwright.
- ❖ He also served as President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) and Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority.



SPORTS

2021 rapid chess championship

- ❖ Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan), won the World Rapid Chess Championship 2021.
- ❖ He defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tiebreaker and dethroned Magnus Carlsen, the current World Number 1.
- ❖ 2020 FIDE Championship was won by Magnus Carlsen.

