

January - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India and South Korea have set to achieve a bilateral trade target of 50 billion USD by 2030.
 - The target is to be achieved by giving fresh momentum to the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement).
- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Western Railways zone of Indian Railways has launched a new initiative called “Mission Amanat”.
 - It aims to make it easier for railway passengers to get back their lost luggage.
- ❖ Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
 - The primary aim and objective of the Indian Council of Historical Research is to promote and give directions to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history.

NATIONAL

Khadi Handmade Paper Slippers



- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently launched handmade use and throw paper slippers and also khadi baby wear slippers for the first time.
- ❖ For the first time, the KVIC has also introduced baby wear produce.
- ❖ It is made of hand-woven khadi cotton.
- ❖ As it is created using natural fibres, it is eco-friendly.

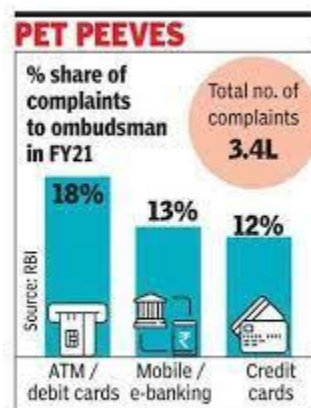
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Education has launched this one.
- ❖ It will help in recognising, inspiring and awarding the schools, that have undertaken exemplary work pertaining to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ❖ It is open to all categories of schools, ranging from Government, Government aided and Private schools across both rural and urban areas.

Rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its “Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21”.

- ❖ It highlights the rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints.
- ❖ Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi received the maximum number of complaints.

Napkin free panchayat

- ❖ Kumbalangi village in Cochin of Kerala is all set to become India's first sanitary napkin-free panchayat.
- ❖ The village has previously won acclaim as India's first model tourism village.

India Women Hockey Team for Asia Cup

- ❖ Savita Punia will captain an 18-member women Indian Hockey Team for Asia Cup 2022 in Muscat, Oman.
- ❖ Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand are the 7 other countries that will compete at the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022.
- ❖ India women are the defending champions of this cup.



Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) Scheme

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the High Courts of the country to provide an estimate of manpower required to create Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) scheme in their states within three months.
- ❖ This centre will create a safe environment to record the statements of the vulnerable victims.
- ❖ At least One VWDC centre should be established in one district.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has included the sexually assaulted victims in the vulnerable witnesses.

- ❖ Sexual assault victims are defined by Section 377 of Indian Penal Code.

The other vulnerable victims are as follows

- ❖ Gender neutral victims of sexual assault
- ❖ Witnesses under threat perception
- ❖ Witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in mental health care act
- ❖ Hearing impaired or speech impaired individuals
- ❖ Person suffering from other disabilities as defined by the courts.

Agreement with South Korea's POSCO



- ❖ Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore business opportunities in India.
- ❖ This includes the establishment of a green, environment-friendly integrated steel mill at Mundra, Gujarat.

MPATGM



- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- ❖ MPATGM will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited at its facility in Bhanoor, Telangana.

- ❖ MPATGM is an indigenously developed anti-tank missile, a low weight and a 'fire and forget' missile.
- ❖ It is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile.
- ❖ It has been derived from Nag ATGM.
- ❖ It can be launched from different platforms under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

INTERNATIONAL

Henley Passport Index 2022

- ❖ India has improved its position by seven places to rank at 83rd place among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index
- ❖ India ranked at the 90th spot among 116 countries in October 2021.
- ❖ The Indian passport has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide in Q1 of 2022.
- ❖ Oman and Armenia are the latest destinations where Indian passport holders can visit without obtaining a visa.
- ❖ Japan and Singapore have retained the joint top position with 192 destinations worldwide visa-free.
- ❖ Afghanistan has the world's least powerful with 26 destinations only.
- ❖ Henley is the London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm.



Clive Lloyd

- ❖ Clive Lloyd, the former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team, has been given the honour of knighthood.

- ❖ The investiture was performed by the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle at Berkshire in England.
- ❖ It was under Lloyd's Captaincy that West Indies lifted the trophies of 1975 and 1979 World Cup against Australia.



Kazakhstan unrest



- ❖ Russia-led peacekeepers to withdraw from Kazakhstan
- ❖ It was sent to manage the unrest after a request from Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for intervention from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

- ❖ CSTO is an alliance made up of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Prince Andrew

- ❖ Prince Andrew, Duke of York, has been stripped of all his military and royal titles.
- ❖ He is the ninth in line of succession to the British throne.
- ❖ He is the third child and second son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
- ❖ This means that the Duke of York will no longer be known as "His Royal Highness".



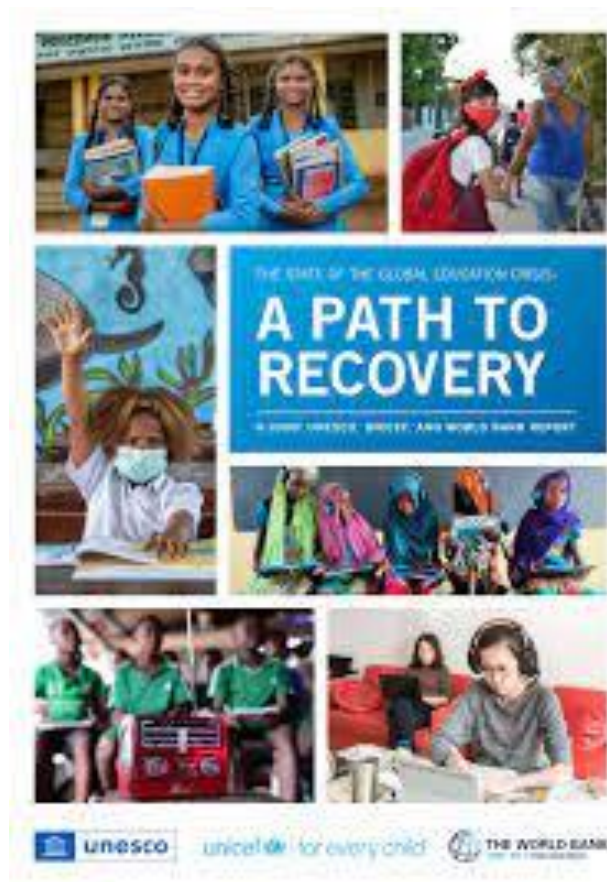
The State of inequalities report

- ❖ It has been prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The poorest, least-educated and rural subgroups tend to remain at a disadvantage across indicators regarding HIV, TB and malaria.
- ❖ It takes a look at 32 health indicators from 186 countries.
- ❖ The report also underlines the impact of getting rid of inequalities on the prevalence of TB, HIV and malaria
- ❖ India was among the countries that reported the “largest relative reductions in the annual notification of TB” at 25 per cent between 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ India is at 26.2 per cent of a total load of Tb cases in the World.

- ❖ India was also among the countries that reduced education-related inequalities in BCG immunisation against TB.

State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery

- ❖ It was a study report published jointly by the World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF.
- ❖ It projects that the impact caused by the pandemic could be more severe (\$ 17 trillion) than previously estimated and exceeds the \$10 trillion estimates.
- ❖ Countries such as Brazil, rural India, Pakistan, Mexico, South Africa, among many others have shown substantial losses in math and reading.



Developing Country Tag

- ❖ The World Trade Organization recently provided the “developing country” tag.
- ❖ The organization has officially not created any definitions for “Developed” or “developing” countries.
- ❖ However, when a tag is provided other countries can challenge the offering.



- ❖ Though WTO has not provided the definition, two-third of its members claim themselves as developing countries.
- ❖ As the members can themselves declare them as developing, China has taken advantage to declare itself as developing.
- ❖ Also, China is currently the world second-largest economy.
- ❖ It accounted for one-fourth of the global GDP in 2021.
- ❖ US, Australia and the European countries are opposing this.

Matter of choice

WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as "developed" or "developing". However, other members can challenge the decision of a country to be classified as "developing". Only the "least-developed countries" status is designated by the UN. Countries in the three lists:

Developing	Developed	Least-developed countries
India	U.S.	Afghanistan
China	European Union	Bangladesh
Russia	Japan	Bhutan
Brazil	Canada	Myanmar
South Africa	Australia	Nepal
South Korea	New Zealand	South Sudan

Global Private Banking Awards 2021



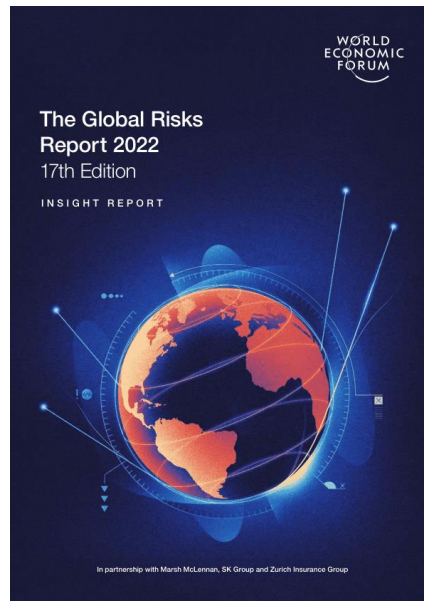
- ❖ HDFC Bank was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021'.
- ❖ It was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM).

First Coin featuring Black Woman



- ❖ Maya Angelou becomes the first black woman to appear on USA's coin.
- ❖ She is an African American.

The Global Risks Report 2022



- ❖ The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Risks Report 2022.

- ❖ In the past two years, during the pandemic, the world top 20% (the richest) has recovered their losses. On the other hand, the bottom 20% have lost 5% more.
- ❖ Environmental risks are to dominate for long term and short term.
- ❖ Climate action failure, extreme weather events and biodiversity loss were perceived by experts as the biggest threats for the global population over the next decade.
- ❖ Environmental factors like human environmental damage and natural resource crisis were also believed to be among the top 10 risks in the period.
- ❖ Cybersecurity, pandemic and space advancements are also the emerging risks to the global economy.

Global Economic Prospects Report



- ❖ It was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The report notes that Global economic growth will decrease sharply to 4.1% in 2022.
- ❖ It also flagged the risks posed by rising inflation and growing inequality
- ❖ However, India stands at a relatively bright spot.

- ❖ It projects India's annual growth to be 8.3% in the fiscal year 2021-2022

ECONOMY

Second Round of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

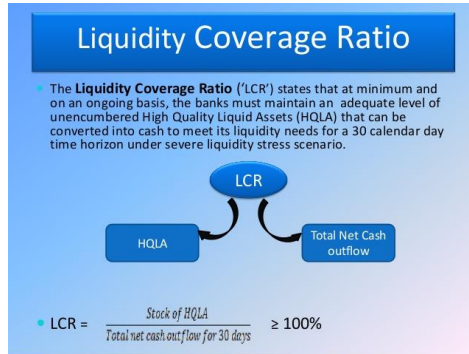


- ❖ The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently released this.
- ❖ According to the survey, nine sectors hired two lakh people.
- ❖ This accounted for 85% (3.10 crores) of the total employment of the country.
- ❖ The survey was for the period July to September 2021.
- ❖ The QES is a part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey.
- ❖ It focuses on the demand side.
- ❖ On the other hand, the labour force survey focuses on the supply side of the labour market.

LCR maintenance

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has increased the threshold limit for Banks to maintain the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).
- ❖ It will be on deposits and other 'extension of funds' received from non-financial small business customers from Rs 5 crore to Rs 7.5 crore.
- ❖ This is applicable on all Commercial Banks other than Regional Rural Banks, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks.
- ❖ It is to align RBI's guidelines with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standard and enable banks to manage liquidity risk more effectively.

- ❖ LCR promotes the short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions.
- ❖ It will ensure that they have sufficient high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days.



RBI and fintech



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has set up a separate internal department for fintech (Financial technology).
- ❖ It will not only promote innovation in the sector but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.

ENVIRONMENT

Orang in Assam

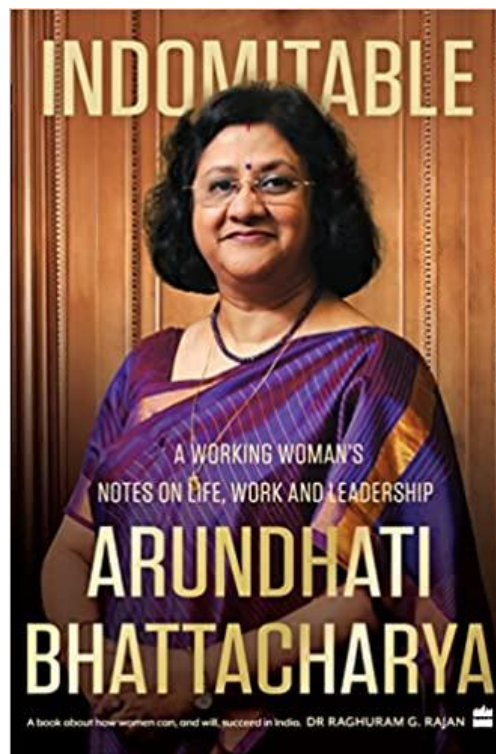
- ❖ The Assam Government has recently decided to increase the size of Orang National Park.
- ❖ Orang is a major rhino habitat.
- ❖ Orang region in the northern bank of Brahmaputra is essential to Kaziranga Orang Riverine Landscape.

- ❖ The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 says that the area comprised within the forest as decided by the State Government is declared as the wildlife sanctuary and National Parks.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Book on Arundhati Bhattacharya



- ❖ Harper Collins is set to publish “Indomitable: A Working Woman’s Notes on Life, Work and Leadership” the autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya.

- ❖ She was a retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India.

Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022



- ❖ Harshaali Malhotra has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.
- ❖ The Government of Maharashtra organised the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar national Awards 2022 ceremony.

