

January - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Outgoing Trump government of USA declares China's atrocities against Uyghurs as 'genocide'.
 - Uyghurs are recognized one of China's 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities and native to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Northwest China.
- ❖ India will supply COVID-19 vaccines to six countries- Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, and Seychelles.
 - While Covaxin is an indigenous vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech In collaboration with ICMR, Covishield has been developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.
- ❖ The Semeru volcano located in Indonesia's East Java province erupted recently.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India said that SBI, ICICI and HDFC banks continue to be Domestic Systematically Important Banks.
- ❖ The book — 'Abdul Kalam-Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai' (immortal memories) — has been penned by A P J M Nazema Maraikayar, the niece of the late President.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government has renamed Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur as 'Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park.

TAMIL NADU

Covid vaccine drive in Tamilnadu






- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on January 16th inaugurated the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- ❖ It was started at the Government Rajaji Hospital at Madurai.
- ❖ The first shot of the Covishield vaccine was administered to Dr Senthil.
- ❖ He is the state president of the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association (TNGDA).

NATIONAL

India Innovation Index 2020

Best performers	Rank	Major States	Score
<p>Four of the five highest scoring major States in the India Innovation Index are from the south</p> 	1	Karnataka	42.5
	2	Maharashtra	38.03
	3	Tamil Nadu	37.91
	4	Telangana	33.23
	5	Kerala	30.58
	6	Haryana	25.81
	7	Andhra Pradesh	24.19
	8	Gujarat	23.63
	9	Uttar Pradesh	22.85
	10	Punjab	22.54

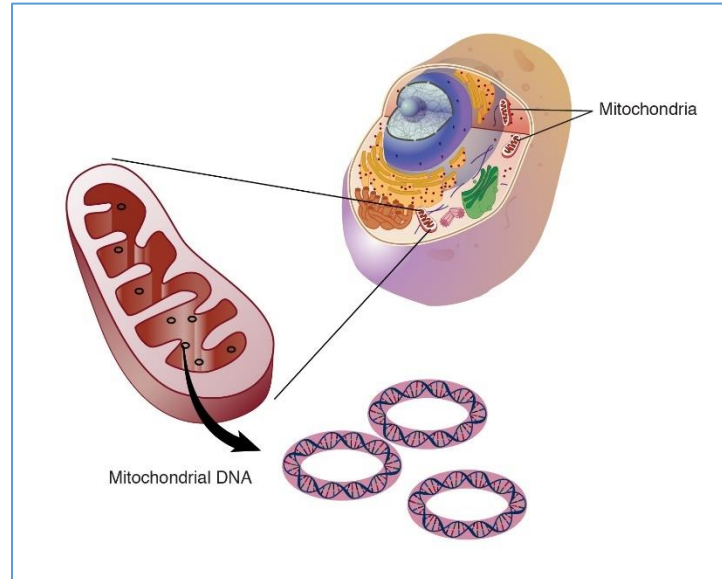
- ❖ It was released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The first edition of the index was released in October 2019.
- ❖ It was developed on the lines of Global Innovation Index.
- ❖ Under the index, the states and union territories have been divided into 17 Major States, 10 North-East and Hill States and 9 City States and Union Territories for effectively comparing their performance.
- ❖ Karnataka retained its position as the most innovative major state in the country.
- ❖ It was followed by Maharashtra at second place and Tamil Nadu at third place.
- ❖ Bihar was ranked the last in the index.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh topped among the North East/ Hilly states.
- ❖ Delhi tops among UT/ city states.

Question Hour

- ❖ It had been suspended by the government during the monsoon session in 2020.
- ❖ It will resume when Parliament meets for the Budget session from January 29.
- ❖ The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.
- ❖ It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
- ❖ The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.
- ❖ Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session.
- ❖ But there are two days when an exception is made
 - There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
 - Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

INTERNATIONAL

Mitochondrial DNA based COVID-19 test



- ❖ The United States scientists have developed a new rapid COVID-19 test to measure mitochondrial DNA in the blood sample of the COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ The mitochondrial DNA is a unique type of genetic material that normally resides inside the energy factories of the cells.
- ❖ The test will be highly helpful to identify people at the highest risk of the virus.

- ❖ The Mitochondrial DNA is located in the mitochondria of the body cells.
- ❖ Mitochondria converts chemical energy in food into Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP).
- ❖ The ATP provides energy for muscle contraction and nerve impulse propagation.
- ❖ The mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother.
- ❖ Apart from humans, the mitochondrial DNA is also found in algae and fungi.
- ❖ Mitochondria is called the power house of the cell.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RAKSHITA ambulance



- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a specially developed bike ambulance 'RAKSHITA'.
- ❖ The bike ambulance has been launched to attend to urgent evacuation needs of the security force personnel in the event of a medical emergency or battle injury in Naxal affected areas.
- ❖ The ambulances have been developed on Royal Enfield bikes.
- ❖ The red corridor is the region in eastern, central and southern parts of India where the Naxalite and Maoist activities are higher.

ENVIRONMENT

Great Green Wall Initiative

- ❖ The Great Green Wall for Sahel and Sahara Initiative recently received 14 billion USD funds at
- ❖ the recent One Planet Summit for Biodiversity.
- ❖ The Great Green Wall initiative aims to transform the lives of 100 million Africans by growing
- ❖ 8,000 kilo metre long and fifteen kilo metre wide mosaic of trees, vegetation, grasslands, plants.



- ❖ It is an African-led initiative.
- ❖ It will contribute fifteen of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The initiative aims to sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon and create ten million green jobs.
- ❖ The project aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ❖ Chad, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan, Senegal, Djibouti are the countries selected as intervention zones for this initiative.
- ❖ The main objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is to reach Land neutrality by 2030.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Army Day - January 15

- ❖ It is celebrated in recognition of Field Marshal KM. Cariappa's, the then a Lieutenant General.
- ❖ He took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher on 15 January 1949.
- ❖ Butcher was the last British Commander-in-Chief of India.
- ❖ Cariappa had led the Indian forces to victory in the 1947 war.
- ❖ He is one of only two Indian Army officers to hold the Five-star rank of Field Marshal.
- ❖ The other one was Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw.



Field Marshal **K.M. Cariappa**, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, was born on Jan 28, 1899

First Indian Army Chief

1942, was the first Indian Officer to be given command of a unit before Independence

1946, Colonel Ayub Khan, later Field Marshal and President of Pakistan, served under Cariappa

1947, handled the amicable division of the Army and sharing of its assets between India and Pakistan

Fondly known as Kipper, he is the only Indian to hold the highest rank of Field Marshal, along with Sam Manekshaw

