

January - 30

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for the year 2022.
  - India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.
- ❖ Police personnel from Jammu and Kashmir have been awarded 115 Police Medals for Gallantry, the highest number from any police force this year.
  - They are followed by CRPF with 30, Chhattisgarh Police with 10, Odisha Police with nine, and Maharashtra Police with seven.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi hosted the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit.
  - The meeting was attended by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

## TAMIL NADU

### Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

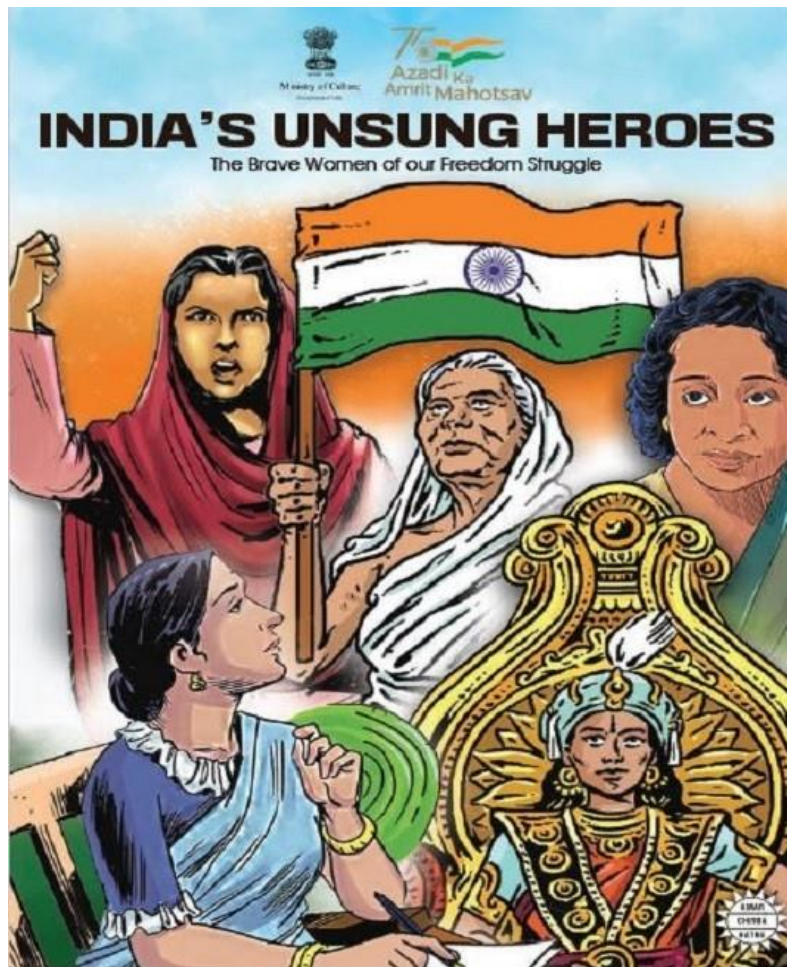


- ❖ Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode district, Tamil Nadu) has been given the prestigious TX2 award after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010.
- ❖ Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary was declared a tiger reserve in 2013.
- ❖ It is an important link between the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape.
- ❖ The Nilgiri biosphere landscape that this reserve is part of is currently the home to the largest tiger population in the world.

- ❖ TX2 award acknowledges the efforts by the State governments and the local communities which have played one of the most important roles to turn a relatively new tiger reserve into one of the source populations of tigers in India.
- ❖ Apart from the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the Bardia National Park in Nepal has won this year's TX2 award for doubling the population of wild tigers.

## NATIONAL

### India's Women Unsung Heroes



- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Culture, Meenakashi Lekhi has released a pictorial comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'.
- ❖ This is released as a tribute to the forgotten women freedom fighters of the country.
- ❖ The book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

- ❖ The book celebrates the lives of 75 unsung women freedom fighters of India, including Chakali Iamma, Padmaja Naidu, Durgabhai Deshmukh, among others.

### 5-year roadmap - 300 billion dollar electronics powerhouse

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document 2.0 for the electronics sector.
- ❖ The Vision Document 2.0 titled “\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026” has been prepared by MeitY in association with the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA).
- ❖ The first part of the document titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.
- ❖ This will help India to transform into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026, from the current US\$75 billion.

### Air India - Tata Group



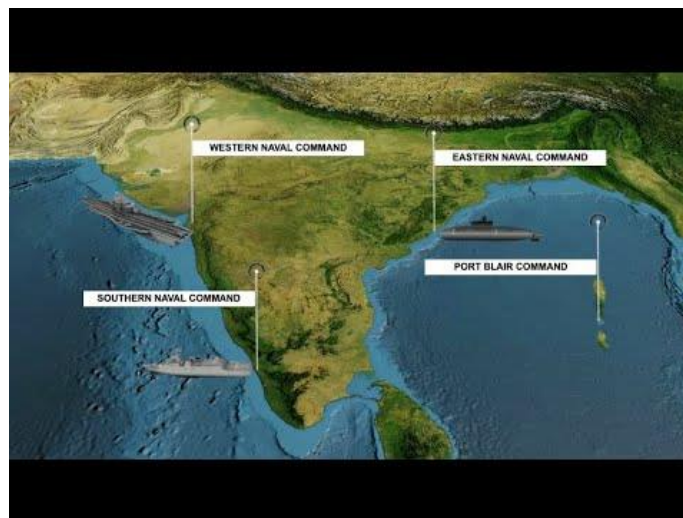


- ❖ The government of India officially handed over India's flag carrier, Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022.
- ❖ This is almost 69 years after acquiring the conglomerate.
- ❖ The total value of the deal is Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion).
- ❖ The strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India includes the transfer of a 100 percent stake of GoI in Air India to Tata Sons, along with management control.
- ❖ The transaction covers three entities namely, Air India, Air India Express, and Air India SATS (AI SATS).
- ❖ The airline was founded in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the inaugural flight between Karachi and Bombay.

### **Restrictions on Export of Human Hair**

- ❖ The Indian Government imposed restrictions on the export of human hair.
- ❖ This ban was imposed with the aim of curbing the alleged smuggling of products from India.
- ❖ With this decision, exporters would now require permission or license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to send shipments of hair outside India.

### **Exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)**



- ❖ The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy conducted a joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) off the West Coast which concluded.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Coast Guard.



- ❖ The Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai) is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The other two are Eastern Naval Command (HQ- Visakhapatnam) and Southern Naval Command (HQ- Kochi).

### Exercise CHIRU - 2Q22

- ❖ The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report

TOP 10 BRAND VALUE			
Brand	Rank 2022	2021	Value (\$)
Apple	1	1	355,080
Amazon	2	2	350,273
Google	3	3	263,425
Microsoft	4	4	184,245
Walmart	5	6	111,918
Samsung Group	6	5	107,284
Facebook	7	7	101,201
ICBC	8	8	75,119
Huawei	9	15	71,233
Verizon	10	9	69,639

Source: Brand Finance Global 500

- ❖ Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well.
- ❖ The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year.
- ❖ This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- ❖ TikTok (18th) has been named the world's fastest-growing brand on the list.
- ❖ Tech remained the most valuable industry in the list in terms of sector.
- ❖ This was followed by Retail, Banking, Media and Telecoms in top 5 respectively.

- ❖ The Indian conglomerate Tata Group has emerged as the most valuable brand from India and also in South Asia.
- ❖ It is the only brand from the country in the top 100.
- ❖ The Global Rank of Tata Group 78.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd**



- ❖ The Government of India has sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- ❖ This means all the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- ❖ The Unity Small Finance Bank Limited is promoted by Centrum Financial Services Limited along with Resilient Innovation Private Limited.

### **Rise in India's Bilateral Trade with China**

- ❖ As per Chinese government data, India's bilateral trade with China has increased to 43.3 percent in 2021.
- ❖ India's imports from China increased to USD 97.5 billion (46.1 percent increase) in the year 2021.

- ❖ India's exports to China also increased to a record high of USD 28.1 billion (34.9 percent) in 2021.
- ❖ India's total trade with China was USD 125.7 billion, in 2021.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Basal Stem Rot Disease



- ❖ The Researchers from Kerala have identified two new fungi species from the genus *Ganoderma* - *G. keralense* and *G. pseudoapplanatum* - that are associated with coconut stem rot.
- ❖ Butt rot or Basal Stem Rot (BSR) disease is one of the major obstacles in oil palm cultivation.
- ❖ The BSR disease of coconut is known by several names in different parts of India, like
  - *Ganoderma* wilt (Andhra Pradesh),
  - Anaberoga (Karnataka) and
  - Thanjavur wilt (Tamil Nadu) etc.

