

January - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Government of India has appointed Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran as the new Chief Economic Adviser.
 - This post was lying vacant since December 17, 2021, when KV Subramanian left the office.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named 'Digital Sansad App'
 - This is to allow citizens to access live proceedings of the House, including the Union Budget 2022 live.
- ❖ World's largest desert, The Sahara Desert, witnessed snowfall recently.
 - Snowfall in the Sahara Desert is a rare event.
- ❖ China is the first country to host both summer and winter Olympic games.
 - China is creating artificial snowflakes for the winter Olympics to be held in 2022.
- ❖ Japan won the 2022 Hockey Women's Asia Cup in the finals against South Koreans at Muscat.
 - India won the bronze medal beating China.

TAMIL NADU

'Kalaigiar Porkizhi' Awards 2021

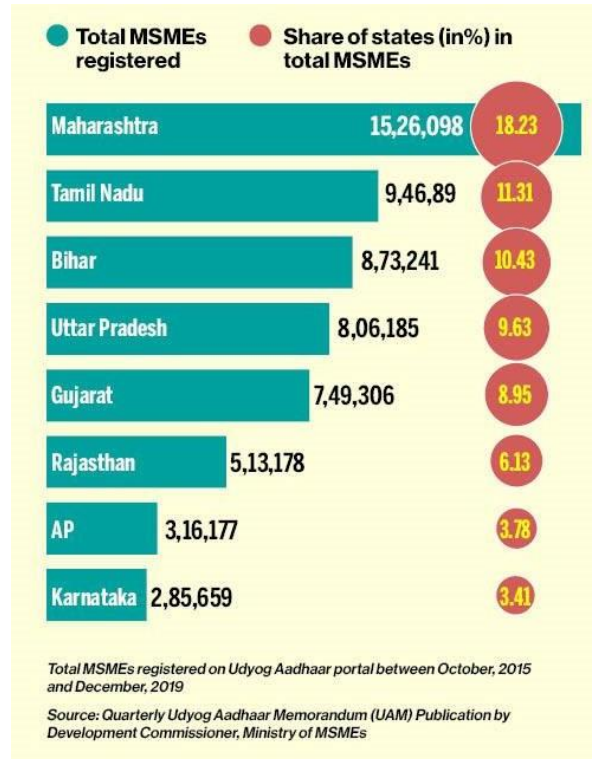
- ❖ The Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India's (BAPASI) 'Kalaigiar Porkizhi' Awards 2021 were awarded to
 - Journalist Samas for Prose
 - Prasanna Ramasamy for play
 - Aasaithambi for poem
 - A. Venilla for Novel
 - Paul Zacharias for Foreign Language Literature
 - Meena Kandasamy for English Literature
- ❖ Other awards announced include
 - Pathipaga Chemmal award for Best Publisher: S.M. Meenakshi Soma sundaram (Manivasakkar Publishing), Ravi Tamilvanan

- Pathipaga Chemmal C. Meiyappan award for Best Bookseller: Nadam Geetham Booksellers
- Azha. Valliyappa award for Best Children literature: Thiruvai Babu
- Paari Sellappanar Award for Best Tamil Scholar: Dr. Devira
- Amsaveni Periyanan Award for Best Female Writer: Bharathi Bhaskar
- Nellai S. Muthu Award for Children's Science: K. Y. Balasubramanian



NATIONAL

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)



- ❖ Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes.
- ❖ This is according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan occupy the second and third slots.
- ❖ Generally, the proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%.

SC quashes indefinite suspension of 12 BJP MLAs

- ❖ The Supreme Court has set aside the Maharashtra Assembly's decision to suspend 12 legislators of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a one-year period beginning July 5, 2021.
- ❖ The legislators were suspended for a year for allegedly misbehaving with the presiding officer in the Assembly.

Observations made by the Supreme Court

- ❖ Suspension beyond the remaining period of the session of the Assembly was 'non-est' in law, substantially unconstitutional and irrational.
- ❖ The resolution, therefore, is illegal and was "beyond the powers of the assembly".

India's largest EV charging station



- ❖ India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station, with a capacity of 100 charging points for 4 wheelers, was opened at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Previously, India's largest EV charging station was situated in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The new EV charging station has been developed by tech-piloting company Alektrify Private Limited.

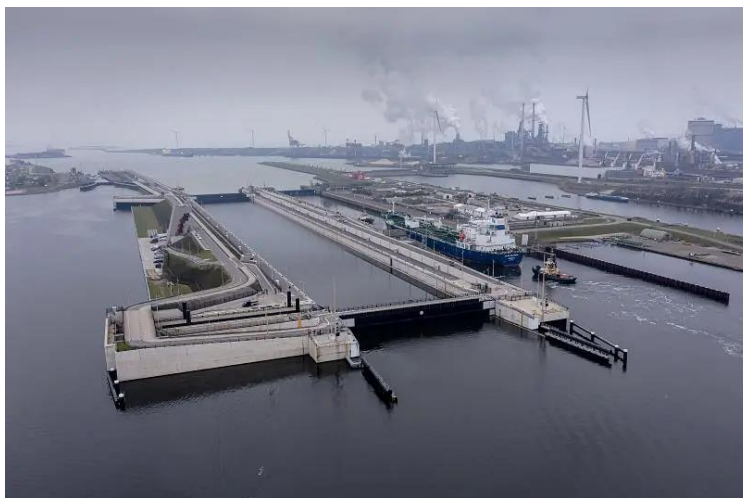
Conditional market approval



- ❖ The Drug regulator in India has granted conditional market approval for the covishield and covaxin vaccines.
- ❖ This means that the private hospitals shall administer the vaccines.
- ❖ However, the vaccines will not be available in retail medical stores.

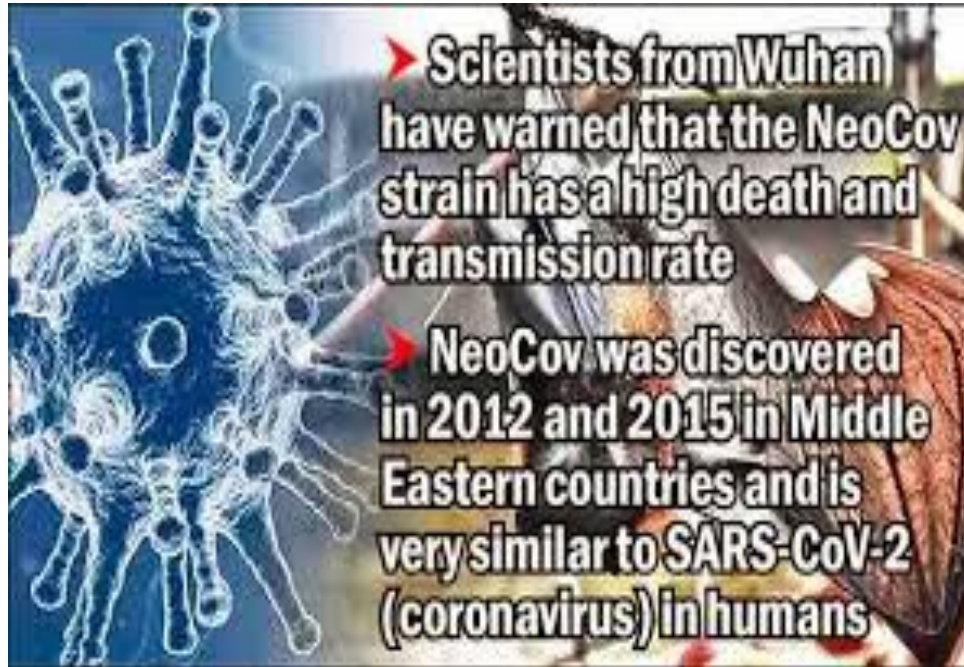
INTERNATIONAL

World's largest canal lock



- ❖ The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at Ijmuiden.
- ❖ It is a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- ❖ The sea lock was inaugurated by the Dutch King Willen-Alexander.

NeoCov Coronavirus



- ❖ According to Chinese researchers, a type of coronavirus called NeoCov, which spreads among bats in South Africa, is likely to pose threat to humans if it mutates further in the future.
- ❖ Study shows that NeoCov is closely associated with Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
- ❖ This is a viral disease first identified in 2012, in Saudi Arabia.

STATES

Brain Health Initiative

- ❖ Karnataka has launched the 'Brain Health Initiative' undertaken by NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) in association with NITI Aayog in the state.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind in the country.
- ❖ Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.

- ❖ The initiative is being rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur districts on a pilot basis.



Mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans



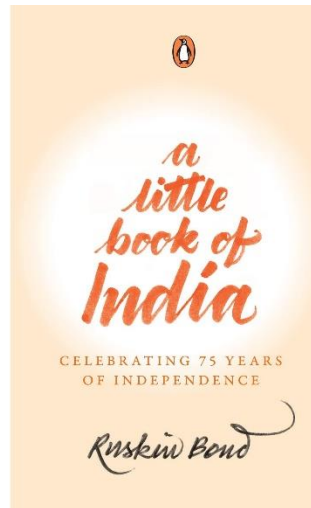


- ❖ Andhra Pradesh State Forest Department has approached experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII-Deharadun), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI-Kolkata).
- ❖ This is for preventing mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans in the Naupada swamp at Telineelapuram, Srikakulam district.
- ❖ Telineelapuram is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), where pelicans have been succumbing to 'Nematode infestation' since December 2021.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ruskin Bond's new book

- ❖ A new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence" authored by Ruskin Bond was released recently.
- ❖ The book is the blend of "physical and spiritual" attributes of India.
- ❖ It also highlights the last 75 years of India's progress as a nation.
- ❖ It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



SPORTS

Australian Open 2022

- ❖ Ash Barty ended Australia's 44-year wait for a home winner at the Australian Open.
- ❖ She won against American Danielle Collins to pick up her third Grand Slam title.

- ❖ Barty became the first Australian to win the event since Chris O'Neil captured the women's title in 1978.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Data Privacy Day - January 28

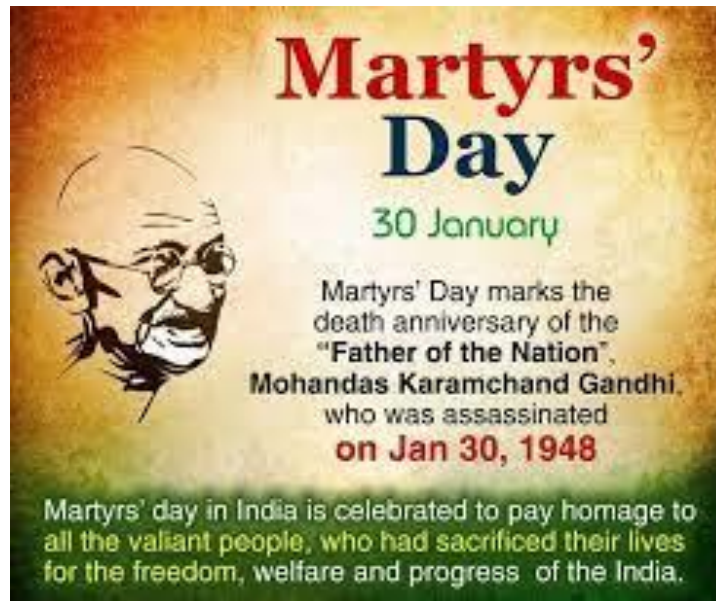
- ❖ The objective of the day is to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles.
- ❖ It encourages everyone to own their privacy responsibilities to create a culture of privacy.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Privacy Matters'.



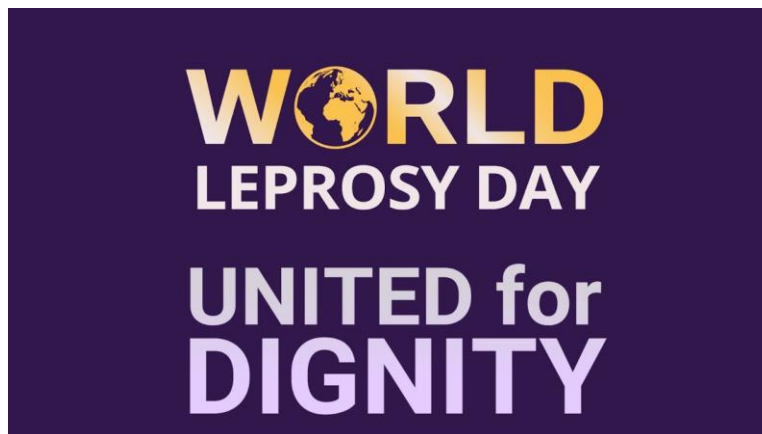
Martyrs' Day - January 30

- ❖ Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed every year on January 30 in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

- ❖ Gandhi was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House at Delhi by Nathuram Godse in 1948.
- ❖ This year nation observed 74th Martyrs' Day.
- ❖ The day is observed to remember the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence and to pay our respects to them.
- ❖ Notably, Martyrs' Day is also observed in India on March 23 to pay respect to Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar.
- ❖ They were hanged death on this day in 1931.



World Leprosy Day 2022 - January 30



- ❖ The day is observed on the last Sunday in the month of January.
- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about leprosy disease across the world.



- ❖ This year the day falls on January 30, 2022.
- ❖ It is also known as Hansen's disease.
- ❖ The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau who made people know about this ancient disease
- ❖ The theme for this year's World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity' and to create an environment for leprosy people to live a dignified life.

