


January - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pankaj Kumar Singh, a former Director General of the Border Security Force, has been appointed as India's Deputy National Security Advisor.
- ❖ The three-day meeting of the first Health Working Group under India's G20 presidency held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad for establishing its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir becomes the first Indian Union Territory to completely shift to e-governance mode.
 - Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory of India to go completely digital.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared the whole Union Territory as “Free Area” for purposes of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.

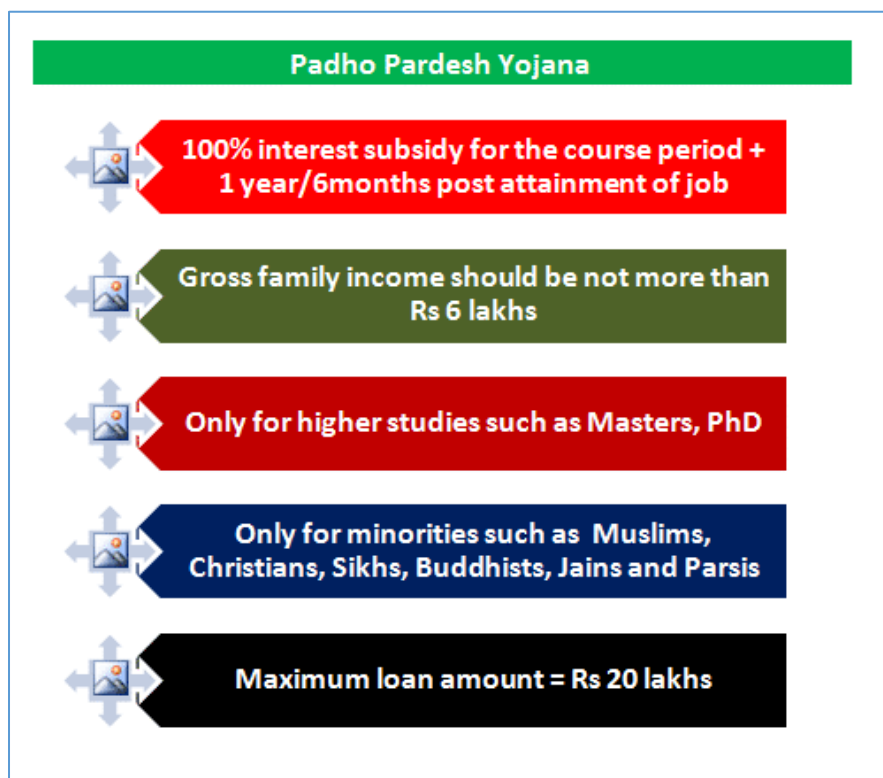
NATIONAL

Upper Siang hydroelectric project

COUNTER-CONTINGENCY PLAN	
<p>CHINESE DAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > China plans to construct a 60,000 MW hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo at Medog on Arunachal Pradesh's border ostensibly to push for carbon emission reduction & attain carbon neutrality by 2060 > Dams also to utilise the freshwater in water scarce southern China > It has also been reported that China plans to divert Brahmaputra water from the project to its northern arid region > Construction underway – 360 MW hydro project at Gyatsa & 560 MW hydro project at Jiexu > 3 more – 640 MW project at Dagu, 710 MW project at Bayu & 800 MW project at Zhongyu – in advance stage of planning 	 <p>CONCERNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Dam planned at Medog at Arunachal Pradesh border may adversely impact the lower riparian states, particularly India, including environmental consequences & creating artificial floods > Diversion of water could strain India's agricultural need in the northeast region > Mismanagement could lead to overflows and floods in India > Dams on Himalayan rivers before they reach India may cause losses & difficulties for India & Bangladesh

- ❖ National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the Central Electricity Authority of India for the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage'.
- ❖ It will be the India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Upper Siang project will act as a reservoir.
- ❖ The production of hydel power from the project is "simply a by-product".
- ❖ The concern is that China's proposed 60,000 MW dam in Medog could reduce the natural flow of water from the Brahmaputra
- ❖ In the event of a diversion of water by China, the massive reservoir will be able to feed Arunachal Pradesh and its irrigation requirements.
- ❖ For India, Brahmaputra accounts for 30 per cent of freshwater resources and 40 per cent of the total hydroelectric power potential of the country.

Padho Pardesh scheme discontinued

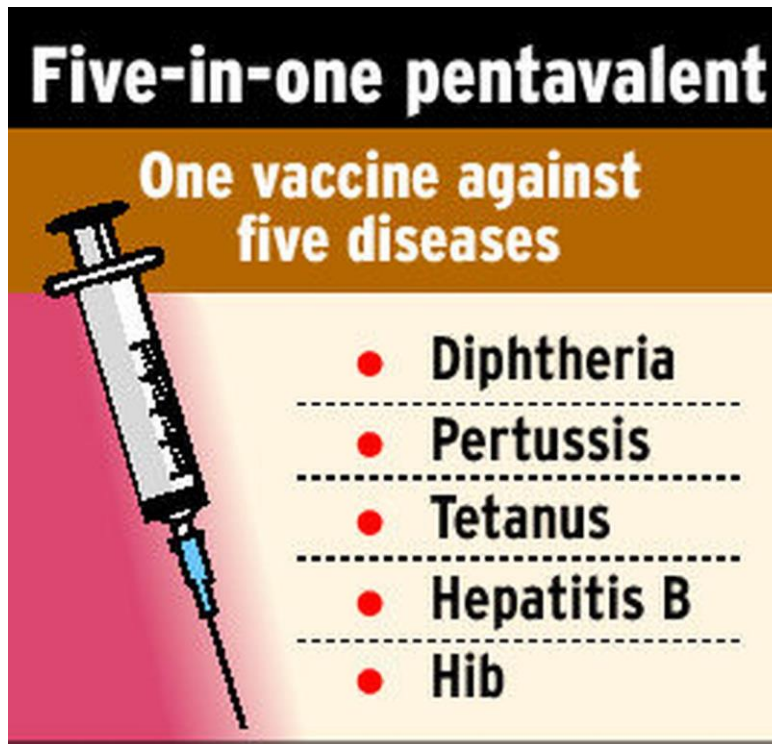


- ❖ The union Government announced that the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF Scheme) will not be available for Minority students this year.
- ❖ After the official decision, the Ministry of Minority Affairs discontinued the "Padho Pardesh Scheme" for all students belonging to minority sections in society.

- ❖ It was launched under the Prime Minister's 15-point programme in June 2006.
- ❖ It was part of implementing the Sachar Committee recommendations.
- ❖ It aims to grant interest subsidies to deserving students belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities so as to provide them with better opportunities for higher education abroad as well as enhance their employability rate.
- ❖ The Padho Pardesh scheme was being implemented through Canara Bank which is the appointed nodal bank for the scheme.

Pentavalent vaccines to Cuba

- ❖ India has announced a donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba.
- ❖ Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases –Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib.



INTERNATIONAL

South Asia's Weakest Economy

- ❖ As per the World Bank data, Pakistan is South Asia's weakest economy.

- ❖ The country's economic growth will slow further to 2 per cent during the ongoing year.
- ❖ This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimate.
- ❖ Floods in Pakistan in July last year was cited as the main reason for the uncertain economic situation in the country.
- ❖ Pakistan's forex reserves have hit a new low of USD 4.6 billion that would be barely adequate to pay for foreign bills for three weeks.
- ❖ Wheat prices have surged over 57 per cent, while the cost of wheat flour also saw an increase of 41 per cent.
- ❖ A 15kg flour bag is being sold for Rs 2,050 in Pakistan.



ENVIRONMENT

Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

- ❖ Spot Bellied Eagle Owl spotted in Seshachalam forest of Andhra Pradesh for the first time.
- ❖ The bird's habitat, found on large trees in thick forests, is spread across the Indian sub-continent.
- ❖ But it was sighted only twice in the State earlier, and both the times it was at Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The bird makes a strange scream similar to humans and it is hence called the 'Ghost of the Forest' in India and 'Devil Bird' in Sri Lanka".

- ❖ These eagle-owl species are distributed in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.



Rare dinosaur eggs



- ❖ Recent work in the Lameta Formation, located in the Narmada valley of Central India, uncovered 92 nesting sites belonging to titanosaurs.
- ❖ They were among the largest dinosaurs to have ever lived.
- ❖ They discovered more than 250 fossilised eggs that reveal crucial details about the lives of titanosaurs in the Indian subcontinent.

- ❖ The fossils were from the Late Cretaceous period.
- ❖ And the researchers have identified six different “oospecies,” or egg species.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Fire Power Index 2022

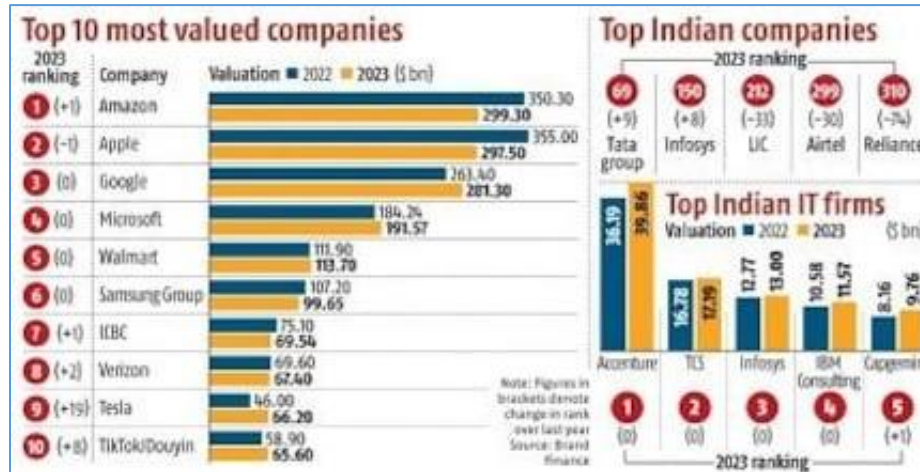
- ❖ The Global Firepower Index, 2022, puts the US at the top.
- ❖ US followed by Russia at the second spot, China at 3rd, and India at 4th.
- ❖ The Global Firepower Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength.
- ❖ The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns.
- ❖ Pakistan is placed in 7th rank.
- ❖ India was placed 6th in Combat Tank Fleet Strength and 8th in Navy Fleet Strength.
- ❖ This index does not take into account nuclear capabilities.

1	United States	↔
	PwrIndx: 0.0712	
2	Russia	↔
	PwrIndx: 0.0714	
3	China	↔
	PwrIndx: 0.0722	
4	India	↔
	PwrIndx: 0.1025	
5	United Kingdom	↑
	PwrIndx: 0.1435	

World's most valued brand

- ❖ According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance’s report, Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world’s most valuable brand.
- ❖ The report is named as “Global 500 2023”.
- ❖ Apple is ranked the world’s second most valuable brand and followed by Google.
- ❖ India’s Tata Group's brand value ranking went up to 69 from 78 last year.

- ❖ Among Indian IT services players, Infosys jumped to the 150th slot from 158 last year.



SPORTS

youngest batsman to hit double centuries

Year	Player	Score	Opposition	Venue
2023	Shubman Gill	208	New Zealand	Hyderabad
2022	Ishan Kishan	210	Bangladesh	Chattogram
2018	Fakhar Zaman	210*	Zimbabwe	Bulawayo
2017	Rohit Sharma	208*	Sri Lanka	Mohali
2015	Chris Gayle	215	Zimbabwe	Canberra
2015	Martin Guptill	237*	West Indies	Wellington
2014	Rohit Sharma	264	Sri Lanka	Eden Gardens
2013	Rohit Sharma	209	Australia	Bengaluru
2011	Virender Sehwag	219	West Indies	Indore
2010	Sachin Tendulkar	200*	South Africa	Gwalior

- ❖ Indian cricketer Shubman Gill stormed into the record books by smashing a magnificent double hundred in the first ODI against New Zealand.
- ❖ He also became the youngest player to attain the feat as he surpassed teammate Ishan Kishan (24 years 145 days).
- ❖ Gill is the fifth Indian men's batter overall to score an ODI double hundred.



- ❖ Rohit Sharma has three double hundreds in ODIs.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gayle, Fakhar Zaman and Martin Guptill have hit one double-century each.

