

July - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Turkey has given the nod to NATO hopefuls Sweden and Finland after signing a trilateral memorandum that addressed Ankara's security concerns.
- ❖ The European Union approves a plan to end the sale of vehicles with combustion engines by 2035 in Europe, in a bid to reduce CO2 emissions.

TAMIL NADU

Ease of Doing Business' Ranking



- ❖ Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) of 2020 was recently released by the union finance ministry.
- ❖ The BRAP 2020 includes 301 reform points covering 15 business regulatory areas.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked among the top seven achievers based on the implementation of the business reform action plan (BRAP).
- ❖ TN's rank jumped to three from the earlier ranking of 14.
- ❖ Andhra was ranked top with 98%, followed by Gujarat at 97.7% and Tamil Nadu at 97%.

NATIONAL

GOAL Program



- ❖ Meta (formerly Facebook) with its collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the second phase of the 'Going Online as Leaders' (GOAL) program.
- ❖ GOAL is a digital literacy and mentorship initiative.
- ❖ It is an initiative of Facebook in partnership with Digital Empowerment Foundation (India).
- ❖ It aims to digitally upskill, connect and empower 10 lakh youth and women from the tribal communities of the country.

Forest (Conservation) Rules - 2022

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022.
- ❖ It is conferred by Section 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- ❖ Also, it is the supersession of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.

Provisions

- ❖ It aims to constitute an advisory committee, a regional empowered committee and a screening committee at the State/UT.

- ❖ It will examine all the linear projects (e.g., roads, highways, etc) involving land up to 40 hectares and the use of forest land up to 0.7 canopy density.
- ❖ A fixed time for quicker review of each project.
- ❖ States are given the responsibility of settling forest rights of forest dwellers (Forest Rights Act, 2006) and allowing diversion of forest land.
- ❖ For projects involving a larger area, the committee gets some more time — 120 days for non-mining projects involving more than 100 hectares and 150 days for mining projects.



INTERNATIONAL

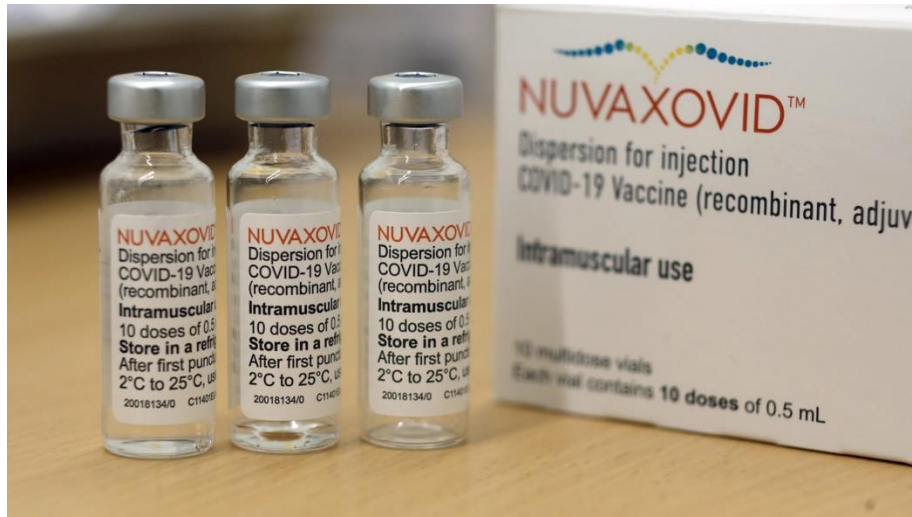
QS Best Student Cities Rankings

QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2022: Top Ten			
Rank 2022	Rank 2019	City	Location
1	1	London	UK
2	4	Munich	Germany
3=	10	Seoul	South Korea
3=	2	Tokyo	Japan
5	5	Berlin	Germany
6	3	Melbourne	Australia
7	8	Zurich	Switzerland
8	9	Sydney	Australia
9=	7	Paris	France
9=	6	Montreal	Canada
9=	13	Boston	US

- ❖ The QS Best Students Cities Rankings 2023 was published recently.
- ❖ In the ranking, London has been ranked as the best city.
- ❖ It is followed by Seoul and Munich at second and third place.

- ❖ India's highest-ranked student city is Mumbai.
- ❖ At global level, it has been ranked at 103rd.
- ❖ Mumbai is followed by Bengaluru at 114 ranks.
- ❖ Chennai and Delhi made their entries in the list and have been ranked at 125th and 129th ranks, respectively.

Covovax vaccine to US



- ❖ The government has allowed Serum Institute of India to supply 32.4 lakh doses of its COVID-19 jab Covovax under the brand name Nuvaxovid to the US.
- ❖ It will be the first vaccine to be exported to the country by any Indian manufacturer.
- ❖ On December 28, 2021, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults.

Lithium in Nigeria



- ❖ Recently, a High-grade Lithium has been discovered in Nigeria.



- ❖ Greenbushes mine in Western Australia is the largest hard-rock Lithium mine in the world.
- ❖ The largest importers of lithium are South Korea, China, Japan, US and Belgium.
- ❖ Lithium is an element and in nature tends to concentrate sufficiently in the two minerals, spodumene and lepidolite.

ECONOMY

Financial Services Institutions Bureau



- ❖ The Union government has transformed the “Banks Board Bureau (BBB)” into “Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)”.
- ❖ The ACC has approved the appointment of Bhanu Pratap Sharma as initial chairperson of FSIB.
- ❖ He has been appointed for two years.
- ❖ He was the former Chairman of BBB.
- ❖ The FSIB will make recommendations for appointments of full-time directors as well as non-executive chairman of banks and financial institutions.
- ❖ Guidelines to select general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies is also a part of FSIB now.

STATES

Largest floating Solar Power Project

- ❖ India’s largest floating solar power plant was made fully operational by NTPC at Ramagundam, Telangana.

- ❖ The capacity of solar plant is 100 MW.
- ❖ It is powered with advanced technology and environment friendly features.
- ❖ The presence of floating solar panels will reduce evaporation rate from water bodies.
- ❖ Thus, it will serve the purpose of water conservation.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

1st Black woman judge in US Supreme Court

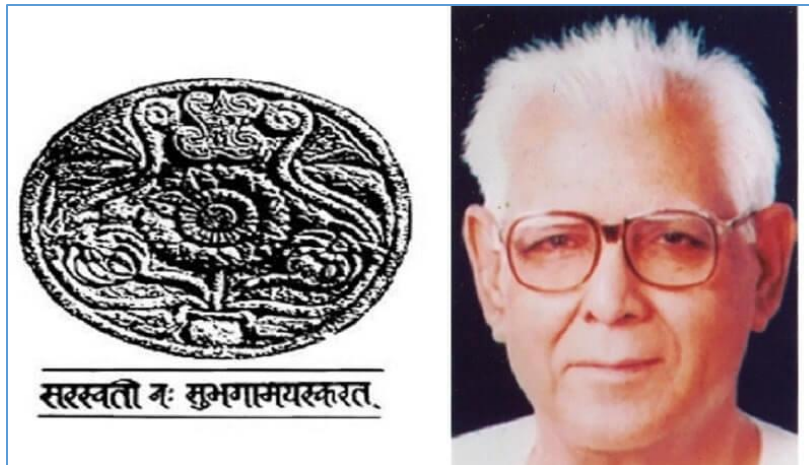


- ❖ Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black woman judge of the Supreme Court of America.
- ❖ She is also its first former public defender.

- ❖ This is the first time in the history of United States that a black woman has become a judge of the country's highest court.

Saraswati Samman 2021

- ❖ Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021.
- ❖ This is awarded for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.
- ❖ Saraswati Samman award was Instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- ❖ It is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.
- ❖ It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.



SPORTS

National record of Neeraj Chopra



- ❖ Neeraj Chopra created a new national record for the second time in a month with a throw of 89.94 metres at the Stockholm Diamond League, Sweden.
- ❖ Chopra finished second after Anderson Peters of Grenada, who threw 90.31 metres on his third attempt.
- ❖ Recently, Chopra broke his previous record by throwing at 89.30 metres.

MISCELLANEOUS

2022 Resilient Democracies Statement

- ❖ The “2022 Resilient Democracies Statement” was signed after Prime Minister attended a summit of the G7 countries.
- ❖ Apart from India, the signatories to the statement were Germany, Argentina, Canada, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Senegal, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union.
- ❖ The signatories said that democracies enable “open public debate, independent and pluralistic media” and the “free flow of information online and offline”, fostering legitimacy, transparency, responsibility and accountability for citizens and elected representatives alike.

