

ssMarch - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The second edition of 'Khelo India National Winter Games 2021' has been inaugurated in Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg district.

TAMIL NADU

Internal quota for Vanniyars

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu on February 26 passed a Bill temporarily providing an internal reservation of 10.5 per cent to the community under the category Most Backward Classes (V).
- ❖ It has received the assent of Governor on February 26th itself.
- ❖ It is shortly called Special Reservation Act of 2021.
- ❖ It has created two more groups — one covering 25 MBCs and 68 DNCs and another covering the remaining 22 MBCs.
- ❖ The Vanniya kula kshatriya community includes vanniyar, vanniya, vannia gounder, gounder, padayachi, palli and agnikula kshatriya.
- ❖ The Bill also provides an internal quota of 7% to Denotified Communities and the Most Backward Classes communities having similarity with Denotified Communities.
- ❖ Other Most Backward Classes, not included in the above category, are provided with 2.5% quota.
- ❖ This is only a temporary arrangement.
- ❖ Changes will be made after the Justice A Kulasekaran Commission make its recommendations
- ❖ It was set up to collect quantifiable data on castes, communities and tribes of Tamil Nadu.

Asia's largest Livestock Research centre

- ❖ TN Chief Minister inaugurated the Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS) near Thalaivasal at Salem.
- ❖ It is the largest facility in Asia.
- ❖ AIIRLAS has four wings such as
 - Livestock Farm Complex,

- Livestock Products Technology Complex,
- Extension education, Skill Training and Research complex and
- Veterinary College and Research Institute (VCRI).

E-Daakhil portal

- ❖ E-Daakhil portal for consumer grievance redressal is now operational in 15 states and Union Territories.
- ❖ A web application for e-filing of consumer complaints named 'edaakhil.nic.in' has been developed by the National Informatics centre (NIC) for the purpose.
- ❖ The E-filing was launched by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.
- ❖ Delhi was the first state to implement it on September 8, 2020.
- ❖ The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force from July 20, 2020.
- ❖ It has a provision for e-filing of consumer complaints in the consumer commissions and online payment of the fees for filing a complaint.

NATIONAL

No postal ballots for NRI

- ❖ The Election Commission of India announced that the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will not be able to vote by postal ballots for the upcoming elections in five states.
- ❖ It is a facility whereby a voter can cast their remotely.
- ❖ The user cast the vote by recording preference on the ballot paper.
- ❖ The Voter will send it back to the election officer before counting.
- ❖ The Section 60 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 provides for the person to be given a postal ballot facility.

City Innovation Exchange

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'City Innovation Exchange' platform.
- ❖ This platform will provide eco-system to connect innovators with cities at national level.
- ❖ It will create innovative solutions to the growing challenges of cities.

- ❖ It will facilitate the discovery, design and validation of solutions through a robust, transparent and user-centric process.
- ❖ Also, it will reduce barriers between innovators and cities to search for appropriate solutions.

Swachh Iconic Places phase IV

- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced the selection of twelve iconic sites under Phase IV of Swachh Iconic Places.
- ❖ The initiative aims at enhancing the experience of both domestic and foreign visitors by improving the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites.
- ❖ The new sites include

S No	Iconic Site	State
1.	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra
2.	Sanchi Stupa	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Kumbhalgarh Fort	Rajasthan
4.	Jaisalmer Fort	Rajasthan
5.	Ramdevra	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
6.	Golconda Fort	Hyderabad, Telangana
7.	Sun Temple	Konark, Odisha
8.	Rock Garden	Chandigarh
9.	Dal Lake	Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Banke Bihari Temple	Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
11.	Agra Fort	Agra, Uttar Pradesh
12.	Kalighat Temple	West Bengal

INTERNATIONAL

First nation to get COVAX vaccines

- ❖ Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative.
- ❖ 6,00,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine have been made by the Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ This was the first step in immunizing of that West African nation of 30 million.
- ❖ The vaccines are delivered by UNICEF.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PSLV-C51

- ❖ The 53rd mission of PSLV (PSLV-C51) launched Amazonia-1 of Brazil as primary satellite and 18 co-passenger payloads.
- ❖ For the first time, a Brazilian satellite was launched by an Indian rocket from Sriharikota.
- ❖ This also marked Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) first launch of 2021.
- ❖ These co-passenger satellites also include Satish Dhawan Sat (SD SAT) from Chennai based Space Kidz India (SKI).
- ❖ A photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been engraved on the top panel of this spacecraft.
- ❖ It is also sending up "Bhagavad Gita" in SD (secured digital) card.
- ❖ Amazonia-1 is also the first dedicated commercial mission of Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO's commercial arm New Space India Limited (NSIL).

Blazing a trail

ISRO's first launch of 2021 in numbers

- 19 satellites, including Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1, were carried by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C51
- 13 satellites were from the U.S.
- 5 satellites, including the Satish Dhawan Satellite from the Chennai-based Space Kidz India, were built by students
- 78th mission from Sriharikota

53rd flight of India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV

- It was the first dedicated launch by the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a PSU set up under the Department of Space in 2019

- ISRO has till date launched 342 foreign satellites from 34 countries
- Amazonia-1, with a mission life of four years, will monitor deforestation in the Amazon region
- The SDSAT has an engraving of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the top panel to show solidarity and gratitude for the *aatmanirbhar* initiative and space privatisation



Deep impact: PSLV-C51 lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, on Sunday. ■ PTI

MISCELLANEOUS

Plea against river linking project

- ❖ TN CM Edappadi Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the 262-km Cauvery vellaru - Vaigai – Gundar river interlinking project.
- ❖ Now the Karnataka Government has decided to approach the Supreme Court challenging Tamilnadu’s new scheme.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is trying to utilise the surplus 45 Tmc ft of water.
- ❖ But as per Karnataka govt, this project is not in accordance with the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
- ❖ According to that Act, the surplus water should also be adjudicated and the tribunal has to decide on it.

