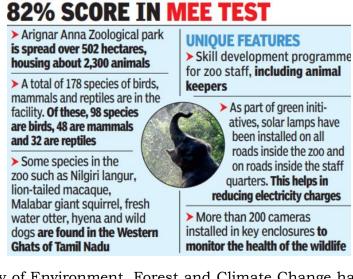# TNPSC BITS

- The 26th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was chaired by the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister.

- Linda Fruhvirtova ended in triumph at the Chennai Open to capture her first Hologic WTA Tour singles title.

- The first multiplex in Kashmir was opened in Srinagar by Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha after a three-decade gap.

  o Vikram Vedha and Ponniyin Selvan-I will be released in this.

- National Human Rights Commission of India chairperson justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra has been elected as a member of the Governance Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum.

NATIONAL

MEE-ZOO Report 2022

82% SCORE IN MEE TEST

> Arignar Anna Zoological park is spread over 502 hectares, housing about 2,300 animals

> A total of 178 species of birds, mammals and reptiles are in the facility. Of these, 98 species are birds, 48 are mammals and 32 are reptiles

> Some species in the zoo such as Nilgiri langur, lion-tailed macaque, Malabar giant squirrel, fresh water otter, hyena and wild dogs are found in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu

UNIQUE FEATURES

> Skill development programme for zoo staff, including animal keepers

> As part of green initiatives, solar lamps have been installed on all roads inside the zoo and on roads inside the staff quarters. This helps in reducing electricity charges

> More than 200 cameras installed in key enclosures to monitor the health of the wildlife

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had recently released the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE-ZOO) report 2022.

- It was created based on the survey of zoos across India.

- India currently has 147 recognized zoos.

- These are categorized as large (17), medium (23), small (33), mini-zoos (60) and rescue centres (14).

❖ The recent MEE-ZOO evaluated the 39 zoos under the categories large and medium.

❖ Vandalur Zoo was rated "Very Good" and it is the top performers of large zoo category.

❖ West Bengal's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is the Top performers of medium zoo category.

❖ Alipore Zoological Garden, National Zoological and Nawab and Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden is the Top performers in context element.

   o Top performer in planning element: Vandalur Zoo.

   o Top performers in Input element: Vandalur Zoo, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and Mysore Zoo.

   o Top performers in Process element: Kanpur Zoological Park and Mysore Zoo.

   o Top performers in Output element: Vandalur Zoo and Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

   o Top performer in Outcome element: Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

KRITAGYA 3.0

❖ KRITAGYA 3.0 was launched by ICAR to promote "speed breeding" for crop improvement.

❖ This initiative would give opportunities for students, faculties, entrepreneurs, innovators and others to demonstrate innovative approaches and technological solutions for the crop improvement.

❖ The KRITAGYA stands of KRI for Krishi, which means agriculture; TA for Taknik, meaning technology; and GYA for Gyan meaning knowledge.

ECONOMY

National Logistics Policy 2022

❖ The Government has launched a National Logistics Policy (NLP) 2022.

❖ It aims to achieve 'quick last-mile delivery', end transport-related challenges.

❖ The term "logistics" describes the total process of controlling the acquisition, storage, and delivery of resources to their intended location.

❖ The policy focuses on key areas such as process re-engineering, digitisation, and multi-modal transport.

❖ Logistics costs have to be cut by half to be near global benchmarks by 2030 by reducing the cost of logistics from 14-18% of GDP.
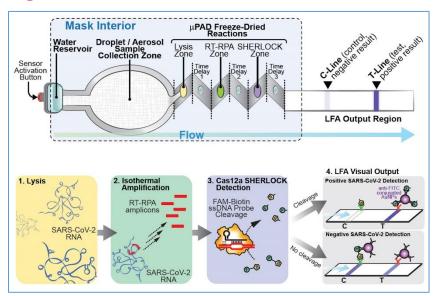
❖ The global best practices are 8% of GDP.

- ❖ Countries like the US, South Korea, Singapore, and certain European nations have such a low logistics cost-to-GDP ratio.

- ❖ The current cost is 16% of GDP.

- ❖ India aims to be among the top 10 in the LPI (Logistics Performance Index) by 2030.

- ❖ In 2018, India was ranked 44th in the LPI.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sova virus in India

- ❖ CERT-In has given warning on SOVA virus.

- ❖ It is a novel mobile banking "Trojan" virus that is currently targeting Indian customers.

- ❖ It is capable of stealthily encrypting an android phone for ransom.

- ❖ This malware is distributed through smishing (phishing via SMS) attacks

- ❖ It is a major threat to privacy and security of sensitive customer data and can cause large-scale financial frauds and cyberattacks.

Virus detecting mask

- ❖ Scientists have developed a face mask that can detect common respiratory viruses, such as influenza and Covid-19, in the air as droplets or aerosols.

- ❖ If specific viruses are present in the ambient air, the extremely sensitive mask may inform wearers via their mobile devices within 10 minutes.

❖ The sensor responded to as little as 0.3 microliters of liquid containing viral proteins, about 70 to 560 times less than the volume of liquid produced in one sneeze.

ENVIRONMENT

Congo Basin Forests – State of the Forests 2021

EARTH'S SECOND GREEN LUNG
The Congo Basin rainforest covers about 240 million hectares across 8 nations. Crucial to the climate, it absorbs the same annual amount of carbon as Africa emitted from fossil-fuel use each year in the 2010s. The forest supports hundreds of millions of people across Africa.

■ Closed-canopy forest and forest–agriculture mosaics   ■ Swamp forest

The forest generates rainfall as far away as the Ethiopian highlands.

NIGERIA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SOUTH SUDAN

CAMEROON

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Yangambi Research Station

Lopé Research Station

GABON

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

500 km

Africa

At the heart of the basin is the world's largest tropical peatland, a vast carbon store spanning 14 million hectares.

❖ It was released recently by the Central African Forests Commission.

❖ Increased investment and research are required for the protection of peatlands in central Congo basin.

❖ This area is are currently under threat because of hydrocarbon exploration, logging, palm oil plantation, hydroelectric dams and climate change.

❖ The conservation of these peatlands is critical as they are capable of storing around 30 giga tons of carbon in a peat.

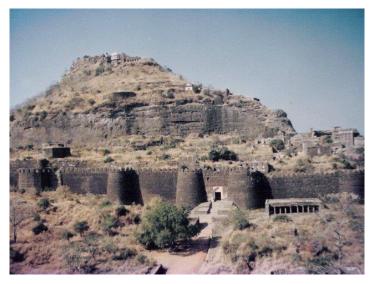❖ This is equal to the above-ground biomass of trees in the entire Congo basin forest.

❖ They are capable of storing carbon worth of about 20 years of fossil fuel emissions of the United States.

STATES

Renaming of Daulatabad Fort

❖ After renaming Aurangabad, Maharashtra government has now decided to rename Daulatabad Fort as Devgiri.

❖ Earlier Aurangabad was renamed as Sambhaji Nagar.

❖ It was earlier the capital of the Yadava Dynasty for a brief time the capital of the Delhi Sultanate.

❖ The fort was renamed Daulatabad by Mohammed Tughlaq in the 14th century.

❖ The fort was later known as Qubbatul Islam and coins were minted with this name.
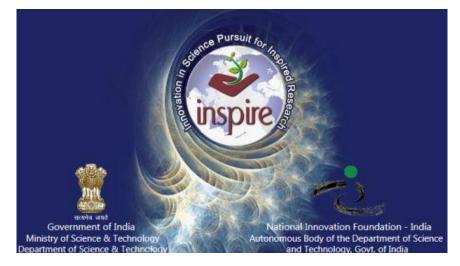

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

INSPIRE Awards

❖ Union Ministry of Science and Technology has recently provided financial aid to around 53,000 students under the INSPIRE Scheme.

❖ INSPIRE stands for The Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research.

❖ This has been implemented by Indian Government's Department of Science and Technology.

❖ It has three components

- o Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS)
- o Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) and
- o Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC).

❖ Government confers INSPIRE Award – MANAK every year under the SEAT Program.

❖ MANAK stands for Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge.

World's First Cloned Arctic Wolf

❖ China have successfully cloned wild Arctic Wolf for the first time.

❖ It aims to prevent the endangered species from going extinct.

❖ The newly cloned wolf was named Maya, which means good health.

❖ The donor cell of the wolf came from a skin sample of a wild female Arctic Wolf.

❖ Its oocyte was obtained from a female dog.

❖ The Arctic Wolf is also known as white wolf or polar wolf.

❖ It is native to the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands.

❖ It is a subspecies of the grey wolf.

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