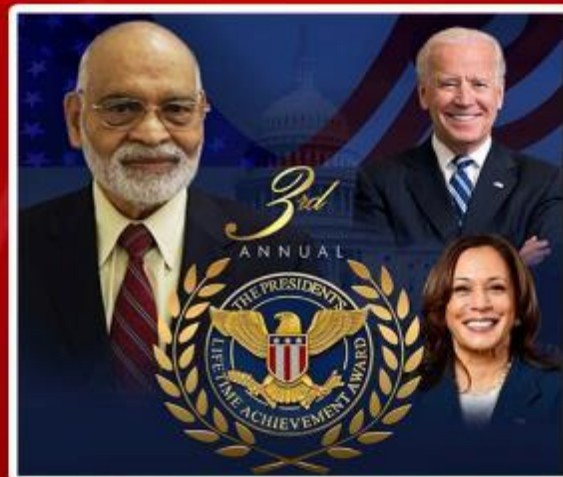
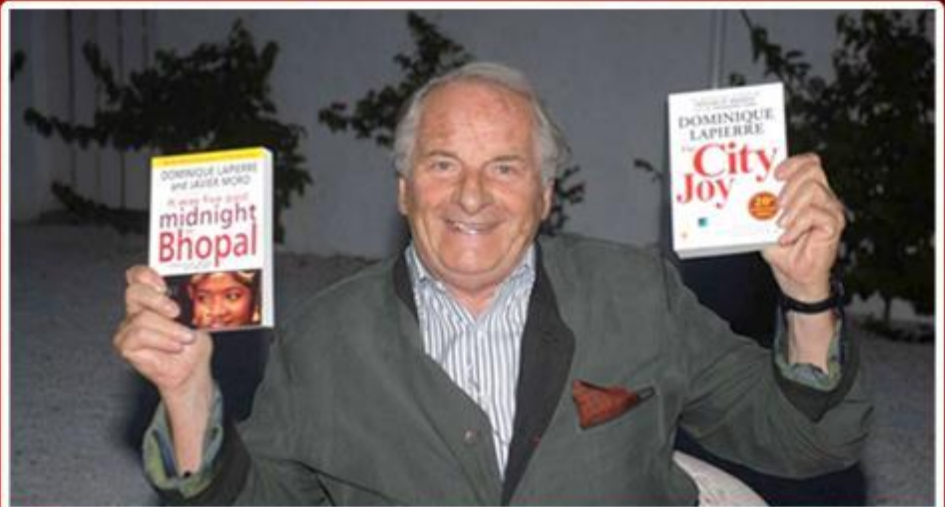


TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER 2022

www.tnpscthervupettagam.com



SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMY™
The Best IAS Academy in India

Plot No. 1742, I Floor, 18th Main Road,
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

Phone - 044-26216435, 4353 3445, Mobile: 9444166435

www.shankariasacademy.com

CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS	12
TAMIL NADU	17
Pathway for the disabled	17
Healthcare rankings	17
Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022.....	18
Tamilnadu climate change mission	18
Health center's expansion	18
Vanavil Mandram	19
First woman mace-bearer of Madurai Bench	19
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	20
Slender Loris and Dugong Conservation centers.....	20
TN Economic's Data	21
TrackD.....	22
Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme	22
Statue of 'Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar'	22
India Today's Best State.....	22
Friends of Library.....	23
Namma School Foundation.....	24
Mr World 2022	25
DGCA Approval for Kisan drones	25
Debris Free Gulf of Mannar.....	26
Nilgiri Tahr conservation Project.....	26
NATIONAL	27
IPR for 'Combat uniform'	27
Guest for Republic Day celebrations	28
Third Ship of Survey Vessel 'Ikshak'	28
Mortality rate reduction.....	29
First Sticker-based Debit Card.....	30
MGNREGA Review Committee	30
7 th edition of Global Technology Summit.....	31
NITI Aayog launches CCUS Policy Framework	31

Samanvay 2022.....	32
History of Indian Science and Technology Project.....	32
Data on Sale of Electoral Bonds.....	33
Kirit Parikh Committee.....	33
India Presidency at the UNSC.....	34
All-women bench.....	35
Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron.....	36
Inclusion Conclave.....	36
Tribal Winter Festival.....	37
President's Standard and Colour and the Indian Navy Crest	37
Constitution- a feminist document.....	37
Naval Exercise Sangam.....	38
Print and Digital Media Association.....	38
National Party Status – AAP	38
Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021.....	39
6th Vande Bharat train.....	40
Centre of excellence for 3D bioprinting.....	41
Approval for 21 Greenfield Airports	41
Daily wage payments in India.....	42
PM VIKAS Scheme.....	43
Project BOLD.....	43
Recognition for Namami Gange	44
20 Nuclear Power	44
First carbon-neutral power exchange.....	45
1st mass-produced Flex Fuel car	45
WHO GCTM	46
Surya Kiran Exercise XVI	46
PathoDetect Kit	47
Digital India Awards 2022	47
A grade university.....	48
Vadnagar Town.....	48
Urban 20 Event	49
Rule 267 of RS Rule Book	49
CCTNS implementation.....	50

First Green steel brand.....	50
Vice-chairman panel – PT Usha.....	50
Millets Promotion.....	51
New AERB chairperson	51
First Infantry Museum	52
Longest ‘escape tunnel’ – T49	52
AIM-UNDP Youth Co:Lab.....	53
Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal.....	53
Intranasal Covid vaccine	54
PMGKAY merged with NFSA	54
Audit of 'physical and functional access'	55
Encroached Centrally Protected Monuments.....	55
Project Vaani.....	56
National Mobile Monitoring System - MGREGS	56
AVGC Promotion Task Force Report.....	57
‘PRASAD’ project.....	58
Road Accidents in India 2021.....	58
Recognition to Esports.....	59
Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.....	59
INTERNATIONAL	60
Exercise ‘Naseem Al Bahr’	60
Exercise Agni Warrior.....	61
Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement.....	61
International Tax Cooperation Framework	61
NSA Meet with Central Asia.....	62
Iran’s Morality Police	62
IORA Council of Ministers’ Meeting.....	63
International Electrotechnical Commission	63
First China-Indian Ocean Region Forum.....	64
Chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).....	64
New Strategy to Combat Antimalarial Drug Resistance in Africa.....	65
APEC Summit 2022.....	66
New Zealand’s tobacco law	66
Group of Friends	67

First International Fleet Review of the Bangladesh Navy.....	67
European Union Candidate status	68
Kosovo in European Union	68
UN's Commission on the Status of Women.....	69
Artemis Accords for Space Exploration.....	70
Singapore Declaration	70
First-ever Resolution on Myanmar	70
New gender recognition Bill.....	71
Bomb Cyclone Winter Storm	71
Imprisonment for former president	72
ECONOMY	72
Vistara Merge with Air India.....	72
India's first private Agri mandi.....	73
Investment opportunities in space cooling.....	73
RBI retail digital rupee	74
India's First Passive Tax-Saving Fund	74
New Nifty Bharat Bond Index.....	74
\$100-billion remittance.....	75
India's first Gold ATM	75
8th largest ad market	75
Top oil supplier	76
Surety Bond Insurance	76
Income of Farmers	77
32 trillion dollar trade in 2022.....	78
Banknotes with women's signatures.....	78
Gas price index	79
CEBR Forecast on Indian Economy	79
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	80
PSLV-C54 rocket	80
India's first private space vehicle launchpad	81
New Name for Monkeypox	81
Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine.....	82
First Drug to Delay Type 1 Diabetes	83
Artificial Photosynthetic System.....	83

Hydrogen-Run Aircraft Engine.....	84
Steam-propelled spacecraft	84
Elaliite and Elkinstantonite	85
Baby wormhole.....	86
Nuclear Stealth Bomber.....	86
Ocean Wave Energy Converter.....	87
INS Mormugao.....	87
INS Arnala.....	88
‘Vagir’	88
Vainu Bappu Telescope.....	89
‘Pralay’ Ballistic Missile	90
BF.7	90
World’s First Commercial Moon Lander	91
“World-first” operation using stem cells	91
Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough	92
First global water survey satellite.....	93
Artificial Heart	93
ENVIRONMENT.....	94
Mauna Loa volcano.....	94
New species of Black Corals.....	94
List of World Heritage in Danger.....	95
Natovenator polydontus	95
Survey of birds in Chhattisgarh.....	96
Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture	96
Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	97
State of Finance for Nature 2022 Report	98
Melanochlamys bengalensis.....	99
Global status of black soils	99
Status of Southern White Rhinos	100
A list of threatened species	101
U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity - COP 15.....	102
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.....	102
Frozen Coral	103
Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.....	103

Report on “Climate Change and Land”	104
Decline of Polar Bear Population	105
Data on polluted rivers.....	106
Antarctica’s Emperor Penguins	106
Bar-headed Goose.....	106
REPORTS AND INDICES	107
GEURS – Survey	107
Global Prime Cities Index	108
Tribal Development Report 2022.....	108
State of Global Water Resources 2021	109
World Bank Migration and Development Brief	110
Social Hostilities Index	110
Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022.....	111
World’s 100 Most Powerful Women.....	112
Arton Capital Passport Index 2022	113
EIU Cost of Living Index 2022	114
Global Wage Report 2022-2023	114
New Energy Outlook report 2022.....	115
India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide	116
Top 100 defense companies list	116
Preventing Injuries and Violence: An Overview.....	117
Who is Financing Fossil Fuel Expansion in Africa?	118
UNDP Report on Forced Displacement.....	119
Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities.....	120
GLAAS Report on WASH	120
World Malaria Report 2022.....	121
2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI)	122
Social Progress Index	122
Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025.....	123
Hurun Global 500 rankings.....	124
2022 Social progress Index.....	125
Restoration Barometer Report 2022.....	125
International Debt Report 2022	126
The Wheebox India Skills Report 2023	126

STATES.....	127
India's First Integrated Rocket Facility.....	127
5G Services in all districts	128
First woman Police Commissioner.....	128
Retail Municipal Green Bond for Solar Plant.....	129
23rd Hornbill Festival	129
Open Loop Ticketing System.....	129
Gujrat Polling Booths	130
The first drone station	130
Divyang department.....	131
India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve.....	131
New Himachal Pradesh CM	131
Kochi-Muziris Biennale	132
New CM of Gujarat.....	132
Changing script of Newspapers - Manipur	133
All India Institute of Ayurveda	133
Award for best practices in controlling TB.....	133
India's First Carbon Neutral Farm	133
Largest Business Jet Terminal.....	133
Kerala's New GI Tags	134
Nupi Lal Day.....	134
50 years of North Eastern Council.....	135
Losar Festival.....	135
5-Star Rating for prison Food	135
Dhanu Yatra	136
First complete library constituency	136
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS	137
Winners of Akademi Puraskar.....	137
National Gopal Ratna Award	137
Silver Jubilee of Prasar Bharati	137
Cuttack Baliyatra - Guinness records	138
Australia's "Superstars of STEM"	138
Miss Earth 2022.....	139
India's 100 Richest 2022	139

International Lusophone Festival	140
Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022	140
NCBC chairperson	141
First G20 Sherpa meeting	141
Banker's Bank of the Year Award.....	141
World's First Disabled Astronaut	142
Former Union minister Yoginder K Alagh	142
City of Joy' author Dominique Lapierre.....	143
TIME Person of the Year 2022	144
BBC 100 Most Influential Women's List.....	144
Earthshot Prize 2022	145
SHE STEM 2022	145
Local Adaptation Champions Awards.....	146
3rd Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR.....	146
2022 Masters WGO Award	146
India Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022	146
7th India Water Impact Summit	147
National Energy Conservation Award.....	147
Safety Performer of the Year	148
World Athlete of the year 2022.....	148
The mission dearMoon	149
US Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award	149
Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2022	149
Mrs World 2022.....	150
H.R Keshava Murthy	150
2022 Sahitya Akademi award	151
Sahitya Akademi Best translation award	152
Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize	152
3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum	152
VinFuture special prize	152
First Rohini Nayyar prize	153
SPORTS.....	153
Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta.....	153
Youth World Boxing Championships.....	153

500 on Day 1 of a Test match.....	154
Fastest double century	154
65th National Shooting Championship Competitions	155
ICC player of month	156
Morocco in semifinal.....	156
FINA World Swimming Championships 2022	156
FIFA 2022 Special news	156
FIFA World Cup 2022	158
3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind 2022	159
Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022	159
9th Pro Kabaddi League title	159
IPL – decacorn.....	160
World's Highest Paid Female Athletes 2022 list	160
FIFA world rankings 2022	161
ICC Men's ODI Rankings 2022.....	161
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	162
Red Planet Day – November 28	162
International Jaguar Day – November 29	162
BSF 58th Raising Day - December 01	163
World AIDS Day - December 01.....	163
National Pollution Control Day - December 02.....	163
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - December 02	164
Assam Day - December 02	164
International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 03.....	165
Indian Navy Day - December 04.....	165
International Cheetah Day - December 04	166
International Day of Bank - December 04	166
World Soil Day - December 05	166
International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development - December 05	166
National Armed Forces Flag Day - December 07	167
International Civil Aviation Day - December 07.....	167
International Anti-Corruption Day - December 09	168

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - December 09	168
Human Rights Day - December 10	169
International Mountain Day - December 11	169
UNICEF Day - December 11	170
International Universal Health Coverage Day - December 12	171
International Day of Neutrality - December 12	171
National Energy Conservation Day - December 14	171
Vijay Diwas - December 16	171
International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers – December 17	172
National Minorities Rights – December 18	172
International Migrants Day – December 18	173
Goa Liberation Day – December 19	173
International Human Solidarity Day – December 20	173
UN Arabic Language Day – December 18	173
Good Governance Week 2022	174
National Mathematics Day – December 22	174
Indian National Farmers Day - December 23	175
National Consumer Rights Day - December 24	176
Good Governance Day - December 25	177
Veer Bal Diwas - December 26	177
International Day of Epidemic Preparedness - December 27	177
MISCELLANEOUS	178
Yak - food animal	178
First science documentary in Sanskrit	178
Zombie Virus in Russia	179
Word of the Year 2022	179
French baguettes	180
Naming Andaman & Nicobar Islands	181
Longest double-decker flyover	181
Cyclone Mandous	182
Oxford's 2022 Word of the Year	182
Google "Year in Search 2022" report	183
Bansilalpet Stepwell	183

Himalayan medicinal plants in IUCN Red List	184
Restoration of Angkor Wat temple.....	184
New GI tags	185
Grammar's greatest puzzle	185
Publication of scientific papers	186
Moa of Joynagar (West Bengal)	186
Global List of Best Cuisines	187
Great Workplace to Work.....	187
TB Research Funding Trends 2005-2021	188

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Army Chief General Manoj Pande received a Guard of Honour at the Les Invalides in Paris.
- ❖ India – Malaysia joint military Exercise “Harimau Shakti -2022” commenced at Malaysia.
- ❖ The bilateral training exercise “AUSTRA HIND 22” between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army begins in Rajasthan.
 - This is the first exercise in the series of AUSTRA HIND with participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies.
- ❖ e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the GOLD AWARD under the category “Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation” of the National Awards for e-Governance.
- ❖ Union Education & Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the book ‘India: The Mother of Democracy’ prepared and published by Indian Council of Historical Research in New Delhi.
- ❖ Playing for Maharashtra, Ruturaj Gaikwad smashed seven sixes in an over to create a List A cricket world record.
- ❖ P.T. Usha is set to become the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association.
- ❖ Tokyo 2020 Paralympics medal winner Avani Lekhara, was recognized as the Para Sports Person of the Year, while Shrey Kadyan was recognized as the Special Sportsperson of the Year.
- ❖ Portugal captain, Cristiano Ronaldo has now become the first player to score in five different editions of the FIFA Football world cup.
 - He has surpassed Lionel Messi to become the highest goal-scorer in the history of the FIFA World Cups.
- ❖ Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz has become the youngest year-end ATP Tennis World Number 1, and becomes the first teenager to achieve this feat.
- ❖ Former IAS officer Preeti Sudan took the oath of office and secrecy as a member of the Union Public Service Commission.
 - She was administered to her by the UPSC Chairman Dr Manoj Soni
- ❖ FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men’s’ World Cup match.

- ❖ The IPL 2022 final between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad was attended by 1,01,566 people, setting a new Guinness world record.
- ❖ India's biggest Yoga Centre has been constructed in village Mantalai in the Chenani Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur.
- ❖ World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on December 2 every year.
- ❖ Indian Army carried out the Sudarshan Prahar exercise in the deserts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Cricket Trophy, also known as Ranji One Day trophy.
- ❖ A book titled 'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History' by Vikram Sampath, an anthology of 15 stories of men and women and their indomitable spirit of freedom and courage, was launched in Delhi.
- ❖ Indian shooter Rudrankksh Patil has clinched the International Shooting Sport Federation President's Cup held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India hiked the policy repo rate - for a fifth consecutive time - by 35 basis points to 6.25 %.
- ❖ Deepika Padukone will be the first global actor to unveil the FIFA World Cup trophy during the finals, possibly the first in FIFA history.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister announced an increase in the monthly financial assistance to various categories of persons with disabilities from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500.
- ❖ Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu won silver at the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia.
- ❖ Aditya Mittal from Mumbai has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster during an ongoing tournament in Spain.
- ❖ IDFC Asset Management Company Limited will be renamed as Bandhan AMC and IDFC Mutual Fund is proposed to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund.
- ❖ Adani Green Energy Ltd has become the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer with the commissioning of its third wind-solar hybrid power plant in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.
- ❖ World No 3 Sukant Kadam from India smashed his way to a gold medal at the Peru Para-Badminton International.
 - India won 14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze).
- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Dr Jeremy Farrar will become its new Chief Scientist.

- ❖ Mukansanga from Rwanda became the first female African to officiate at the men's top football event on 22 November 2022.
- ❖ Airtel partners Tech Mahindra for India's first 5G-enabled auto manufacturing unit.
- ❖ Hyderabad Strikers has crowned as champions of 4th Tennis Premier League (TPL) 2022, held at Pune, Maharashtra, by beating Mumbai Leon Army.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded 1st prize in the category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation and 2nd prize in the category for Teleconsultation conducted.
- ❖ India has successfully conducted night trials of nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni V.
 - It is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 Km with very high degree of accuracy.
- ❖ Chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chair of B20 India, which represents the entire G20 business community.
- ❖ India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform was inaugurated at the Chennai manufacturing facility of Garuda Aerospace, a drone-based Startup of India.
- ❖ The World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya Expo 2022 was held in Goa.
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets – 2023 in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was named the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) at the opening ceremony of the World Diabetes Congress 2022 held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that all those who are eligible for benefits under various government schemes are required to submit proof of possession of an Aadhaar number.
- ❖ Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title.
 - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is an American animal rights non-profit organization.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw has been appointed as the Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, Gujarat.
 - He will be the first Chancellor of this institution.
- ❖ A book titled "The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times" was written by Michelle Obama.

- ❖ According to the World Athletics, Tokyo Olympics gold Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was the most written-about track and field athlete in 2022.
 - He is displacing Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt from the top of the list.
- ❖ The next World Trade Organization ministerial conference will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February 2024.
 - Next year, the UAE will also host COP28, the UN's Climate Change conference.
- ❖ A first-of-its-kind Tribal Winter Festival was held in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - People from the Kashmiri community, Gujjars and Bakerwals danced together to the beats of dhol (drum).
- ❖ India has declared its candidature for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the 2028-29 term.
 - India's 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, 2022.
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said note in circulation (NiC) has witnessed an annual growth of 7.98 per cent to Rs 31.92 lakh crore as of December 2, 2022.
 - Compared with the pre-demonetisation period, it has increased by a massive 72 per cent (in value and 45 % increase in volume) from Rs 17 lakh crore on November 4, 2016.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Viacom18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18) has secured the exclusive media rights to broadcast the Olympic Games Paris 2024, plus non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
 - In 2024 Olympics will be hosted by France in Paris, beginning from July 26 to August 11.
- ❖ The infectious popular song 'Naatu Naatu' from the hit Telugu film has been nominated for an Oscar in 2023.
 - As a result, Naatu Naatu has become the first Indian song to be nominated for an Oscar Academy Award.
- ❖ The former Supreme Court judge Hemant Gupta has been named head of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC).
 - The NDIAC was formed to develop an independent and autonomous framework for institutionalized arbitration.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for copra for 2023 season.

- The MSP for Fair Average Quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs. 10860/- per quintal and for ball copra at Rs. 11750/- per quintal.
- ❖ Sania Mirza, from Uttar Pradesh, might become India's first Muslim woman fighter pilot after she cleared the National Defence Academy (NDA) examination.
- ❖ NHPC Limited has been awarded as the winner of the 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India-Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector'.
- ❖ Beth Mead has been awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at Euro 2022.
- ❖ Dr Udaya Nath Jha, professor and head of Sahitya Department of Central Sanskrit University, Puri in Odisha chosen as the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022.
- ❖ Geta Sora of Arunachal Pradesh won the under-9 category of the Top Arena Junior International Badminton Championship in Malaysia.
- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has bagged a top data security award for best practices in the government sector.
- ❖ The UIDAI Headquarter in New Delhi has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022, a top national level Green Building Award.
- ❖ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has become the only Indian to be named in an international list of 50 greatest actors of all time by a prominent British magazine.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second-largest buyer of yellow metal after Central Bank of Thailand, among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivaraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Gwalior Gaurav Diwas is being celebrated on former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday.
- ❖ Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen have won gold medals at Women's National Boxing Championship 2022 in Bhopal.
- ❖ Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women's 100-metre breaststroke (1 minute, 13.13 seconds) at the FINA World Swimming Championships 2022 in Melbourne, Australia.
- ❖ Indian cyclist Swasti Singh has been honoured with the prestigious 30th Ekalabya Puraskar for the year 2022.
- ❖ The 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, C Rangarajan authored a book titled "Forks in the Road: My Days at RBI and Beyond".

TAMIL NADU

Pathway for the disabled

- ❖ An exclusive permanent pathway for persons with disabilities was inaugurated at the Marina beach, Chennai.
- ❖ This is India's first permanent ramp for persons with disabilities on a beach.



Healthcare rankings

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department has ranked State-run healthcare institutions.
- ❖ It rated districts based on 17 criteria including Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and out-patient treatment.
- ❖ This is the first time the State has ranked primary healthcare centres (PHCs), healthcare sub-centers, district headquarters hospitals, and medical college hospitals.
- ❖ Kancheepuram, Namakkal, and Thoothukudi districts have performed the best.
- ❖ Tenkasi, Tirupathur, and Dindigul are at the bottom of the list.

Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022

- ❖ The State government has kick started Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022 in Chennai.
- ❖ The CM launched initiatives such as climate smart villages, green schools and green temples.
- ❖ The Climate Summit addressed the three major missions of the state government - Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, and Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission.

Tamilnadu climate change mission

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM), has partnered with the Anna University's Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management to form 'Climate Studio'.
- ❖ It will be a single-source data point for all climate activities.
- ❖ The Green Climate Change Company formed as a special-purpose vehicle to steer Tamil Nadu to become a climate smart state.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Green Climate Change Company will focus on
 - Preparing decarbonisation pathways for various sectors,
 - Conceptualising and setting up finance models and a climate studio,
 - Climate budgeting and
 - Partnerships with local agencies.
- ❖ Increasing the State's green cover from 23.71 percent to 33 percent is the Green Tamil Nadu Mission's major goal.
- ❖ TNCCM will focus on bio fencing of coastal areas, green fellowship, climate smart villages, green rating of industries and buildings.
- ❖ The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state.

Health center's expansion

- ❖ DPHICON 2022, the conference of the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine held in Chennai to mark 100 years of service.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will set up another 200 to 250 primary health centres (PHC) and 2,000 to 2,500 more health sub-centres (HSC) on the basis of population.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had 2,286 primary health centres and urban health centres and 8,713 HSCs.

- ❖ As per norms, there should be one HSC for every 5,000 population.
- ❖ On the basis of population, the State may need at least 2,000 to 2,500 more HSCs.
- ❖ The State has 12,525 village panchayats.
- ❖ So, we will need more than 10,000 HSCs while we are having 8,713 HSCs.
- ❖ There should be one PHC for every 30,000 population in villages, 20,000 in hill areas and 50,000 in cities.
- ❖ The directorate will soon launch a YouTube channel Nalam 360 soon.

Vanavil Mandram

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Vanavil Mandram in Trichy.
- ❖ It is attempting to transition students of classes from VI to VIII State-wide from rote learning to activity-based assimilation of content.
- ❖ The activities of the forum (Vanavil Mandram) will be executed block-wise across the State in over 13,200 schools covering about 20 lakh students by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) facilitators.
- ❖ The facilitators have been equipped with 'mobile laboratory' kit.



First woman mace-bearer of Madurai Bench

- ❖ D. Lalitha, has been appointed as the first woman chobdar (mace-bearer) of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.
- ❖ She is the mace-bearer for Justice N. Mala.
- ❖ In the High Court, the mace-bearer walks in front of the judges so as to ensure free passage for them as they move from their chambers to the court halls.
- ❖ Earlier in June this year, the Madras High Court had got its first woman mace-bearer.



Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)

FACT SHEET | Special bulletin, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), census of India

India & Major States	MMR 2017-19	MMR 2018-2020
INDIA	103	97
Andhra Pradesh	58	45
Telangana	56	43
Karnataka	83	69
Kerala	30	19
Tamil Nadu	58	54
Maharashtra	38	33

- ❖ TN's MMR dropped to 54 per one lakh live births in 2018-20 from 58 in 2017-19.
- ❖ Tamilnadu conducts a death audit for every maternal death in the state at four levels (community, hospital, collectorate, and expert panel).
- ❖ Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) and pregnancy-induced hypertension are the main causes of maternal deaths in TN.
- ❖ Among southern states, Kerala has the lowest MMR with 19 deaths per one lakh births.
- ❖ It is followed by Telangana at 43, and Andhra Pradesh at 45, while Karnataka stayed behind TN with an MMR of 69.

Slender Loris and Dugong Conservation centers

- ❖ After declaring the nation's first Slender Loris Sanctuary and Dugong Conservation Reserve, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has plans to set up the conservation centres for both in two years.

- ❖ The Loris centre will come up in Ayyalur in Dindigul district.
- ❖ The Dugong centre will come up at Manora in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ The Dugong Conservation Centre will serve as the centre of attention of the whole project.
- ❖ There will be a marine museum, amphitheatre, marine exploration centre and a fishermen's cove.



TN Economic's Data

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's net market borrowings (after adjusting for repayments) have been down by about 30.3% till September in FY 2022-23.
- ❖ It is reduced to ₹24,403 crore from ₹35,000 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu borrows from the market through the issue of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDLs).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts stood at about ₹1.12 lakh crore in the first half of 2022-23, up from ₹85,209.74 crore last year.
- ❖ As on September 30, 2022, Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit stood at ₹18,726.32 crore and the revenue deficit at ₹4,184.10 crore.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Odisha have witnessed fiscal surpluses in the first half of fiscal 2023.
- ❖ Some large states like Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have posted very small deficits (less than 30% of budgeted estimates).
- ❖ Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have already breached their full-year targets in the first half of 2023.

TracKD

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu police have launched “TracKD” application.
- ❖ This application will help them in real-time monitoring of known delinquents across the State.
- ❖ Details of more than 30,000 habitual offenders belonging to all the 39 districts and nine Commissionerate in the State have been digitised.
- ❖ The application would classify the suspects based on the nature of offence, modus operandi and the gang involved which would be useful to investigators to narrow down on the criminals.

Sanitation Workers’ Development Scheme

- ❖ The Sanitation Workers’ Development Scheme was launched by Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ It aims to ensure the welfare of conservancy workers in the state.
- ❖ As part of this scheme, a mobile application was launched for the identification and census collection of sanitation workers.
- ❖ A survey will be conducted to identify sanitation workers and the collected data will be uploaded into the application.
- ❖ The first phase of this scheme will be implemented in five urban local bodies in the state.
- ❖ It will later be expanded to other local bodies.

Statue of ‘Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar’

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated a refurbished 'Bharathi Illam' in Varanasi.
- ❖ In the house, Bharathiyar lived in his age of 15 to 19 years.
- ❖ He also inaugurated a statue of Bharathiyar in the 'Bharathi Illam'.
- ❖ He had announced that the centenary of Bharathi’s death anniversary would be observed as Mahakavi Day (11th September).
- ❖ The memorial apart from the statue has a small library.

India Today’s Best State

- ❖ For the 5th year in a row, Tamil Nadu has topped India Today’s list of best performing states among India’s largest states.
- ❖ At the end of every year, India Today publishes a ranking list on the performance of states.

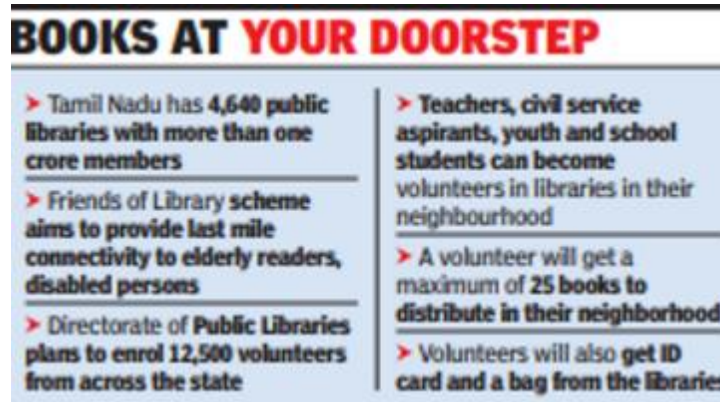
- ❖ The agency lists the states as large and small under the categories of economy, medicine, agriculture, education, infrastructure, law and order, tourism and environment.
- ❖ In the list for 2022, Tamil Nadu is at the top with 1303.5 points.
- ❖ In the years 2018, 19, 20, 21, Tamil Nadu was at the top.
- ❖ It is followed by Himachal Pradesh and Kerala.
- ❖ Gujarat, Punjab and Maharashtra are the 4th, 5th, and 6th states.
- ❖ Gujarat is the first state in terms of economic development.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, which was at the 4th position last year in that category, has moved up to the 2nd position this year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has moved up from 5th place to 3rd place last year in medicine and has also moved up from 7th place to 3rd place in health.
- ❖ It has improved from last year's 4th place to 3rd place in terms of best infrastructure.

BEST PERFORMING BIG STATES OVERALL					
STATE	SCORE OUT OF 2080	2021	2020	2019	2018
TAMIL NADU	1,303.5	1	1	1	1
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1,257.2	2	2	2	7
KERALA	1,252.5	3	4	5	3
GUJARAT	1,226.4	4	5	6	4
PUNJAB	1,223.4	5	3	4	5
ANDHRA PRADESH	1,214.6	6	7	8	10
TELANGANA	1,204.8	7	9	10	9
HARYANA	1,199.9	8	6	3	2
MAHARASHTRA	1,166.0	9	8	9	8
KARNATAKA	1,141.5	10	11	7	6

Friends of Library

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Friends of Library' programme to promote reading.
- ❖ Under this, books will be personally provided to those who are unable to visit state-run libraries.
- ❖ Accordingly, differently abled persons, senior citizens, children and hospital in-patients among others who cannot come to a library will benefit from the initiative.
- ❖ The service of volunteers will be used for this purpose.

- ❖ The aim of such an initiative was to promote a knowledge-based society.



Namma School Foundation

- ❖ Chief Minister M K Stalin launched this project in Chennai aimed at developing the government schools in the state with private participation.
- ❖ It aims to better equip government schools in terms of infrastructure and reputation.
- ❖ It will be the programme amongst educationalists and members of non-profit organisations (NGOs).



- ❖ Through this scheme, former students who have studied in government schools and are now holding high positions in various companies, former students who are businessmen and socially concerned organizations (NGOs) will adopt government schools through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, infrastructure of the schools,
- ❖ The scheme will be launched to improve basic facilities like perimeter wall, painting, internet facilities, sanitary toilets, laboratories, libraries etc.

- ❖ Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS Motors is the chairman for the Namma School Foundation while Vishwanathan Anand is the brand ambassador.
- ❖ Namma Oor Palli scheme is an extension of the same.
- ❖ Namma oor palli lays the foundation for bringing local students, alumni, industrial sector and expatriate Tamils living across the world.
- ❖ Earlier, the chief minister renamed the DPI complex of the state school education department as “Perasiriyar K Anbazhagan Education Complex”.

Mr World 2022



- ❖ Rajendran Mani from Tamilnadu won Mr World 2022, held at Thailand.
- ❖ He won this award for the 5th Term.

DGCA Approval for Kisan drones



- ❖ Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace Private Ltd has received Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ This is received for its indigenously-designed Kisan drones.
- ❖ Thus, it become India's first drone start-up to get these approvals.

- ❖ DGCA Type certification is provided on the basis of the quality check of the drones and is issued after a rigorous testing process.
- ❖ In India, the government introduced Type certification in August 2021 under Drone Rules.
- ❖ The Made in India 'Kisan' drones are particularly developed for agricultural purposes such as reducing crop loss, crop health monitoring, yield measurement, and crop loss mitigation with the latest manufacturing capacities.

Debris Free Gulf of Mannar

- ❖ The state forest department has joined hands with HCL Foundation (HCLF) to resolve the ghost net and marine debris problem in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Discarded or lost fishing gears is known as 'Ghost nets'.
- ❖ It poses a severe threat to coastal and marine habitats across the globe.
- ❖ A three-year action plan and 'Debris Free Gulf of Mannar' mass awareness campaigns for a larger citizen's action will also be conducted.



Nilgiri Tahr conservation Project

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched an initiative for the conservation of the State animal - Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ Under The project, the government plans
 - To develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population through surveys and radio telemetry studies;
 - To reintroduce the Tahr to their historical habitat and address proximate threats;
 - Also, to increase public awareness of the species.

- ❖ The project is to be implemented from 2022 to 2027.
- ❖ Furthermore, October 7 will be celebrated as 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' in honour of E.R.C. Davidar.
- ❖ He was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies of the species in 1975.
- ❖ It is an endangered species and the sole Caprinae species found in the tropical mountains of southern India.



NATIONAL

IPR for 'Combat uniform'

- ❖ Indian Army registered for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the new design and camouflage pattern uniform to establish the ownership.
- ❖ The new digital pattern combat uniform for Indian Army soldiers was unveiled on 15 January 2022 (Army Day).
- ❖ The improved uniform has a contemporary look and functional design.
- ❖ The fabric has been made lighter, stronger, breathable, quick-drying, and easier to maintain.



Guest for Republic Day celebrations

- ❖ Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi will be the chief guest at the Republic Day in January 2023.
- ❖ Mr. Sisi will be the first such guest since 2020, as plans for guests in 2021 and 2022 were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- ❖ This is the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day.
- ❖ Both countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.
- ❖ Also, Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.
- ❖ Leaders of friendly nations have graced the Republic Day celebrations since 1950.
- ❖ Then Indonesian President Sukarno was invited as the first chief guest in 1950.
- ❖ In 1952, 1953 and 1966, the Republic Day celebrations were held without a foreign leader as chief guest.
- ❖ Former U.S. President Barack Obama (2015), Russian President Vladimir Putin (2007) are the other special invitees in the past.
- ❖ In 2020, the then Brazil president Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest.



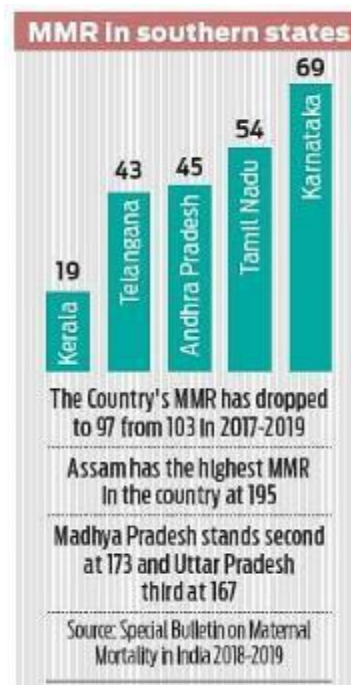
Third Ship of Survey Vessel 'Ikshak'

- ❖ Indian Navy's third Survey Vehicle 'Ikshak' has been launched in Chennai.
- ❖ This is the third of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project.
- ❖ The ship has been named 'Ikshak' which means 'Guide'.
- ❖ The ship has been named to signify the contribution of the Survey ships towards facilitating safe passage for Mariners at Sea.

- ❖ The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 05 Dec 21 at GRSE in Kolkata.

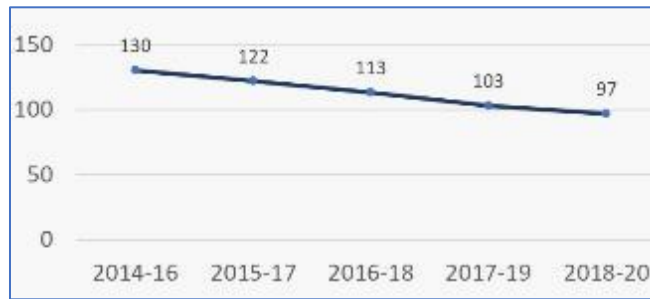


Mortality rate reduction



- ❖ India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for the year 2018-20 was at 97.
- ❖ In 2014-16, the MMR was 130, which has seen a steady decline since then.
- ❖ Maternal mortality in a region is a measure of the reproductive health of women in the area.
- ❖ It is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ❖ Among the states, Assam recorded the highest MMR at 195 followed by Madhya Pradesh (173) and Uttar Pradesh (167).
- ❖ Kerala has the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (19), and is followed by Maharashtra at 33 and Telangana at 43.

- ❖ Tamilnadu stands at Fourth (54).



First Sticker-based Debit Card

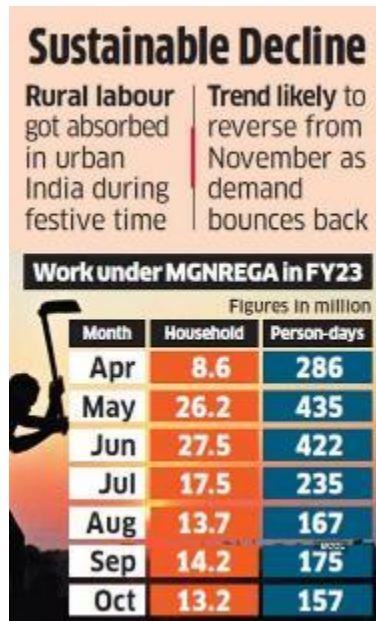


- ❖ IDFC First Bank along with NPCL recently launched FIRSTAP – India’s first sticker-based debit card.
- ❖ It allows the user to make transactions by simply tapping the sticker on near-field communication (NFC)-enabled point-of sale terminal.
- ❖ It can be used to tap and pay in stores, restaurants and other places without the need to carry a debit card.
- ❖ It enables transactions up to Rs.5,000 without a PIN and those beyond that requires the entry of PIN.

MGNREGA Review Committee

- ❖ The Centre has constituted a committee to study the performance of states and governance issues under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- ❖ The 9-member committee is headed by former rural development department secretary Amarjeet Sinha.
- ❖ The committee will examine various factors affecting demand for wage employment in the rural sector in different parts of the country.
- ❖ The MGNREGS was launched in 200 most-backward districts of the country in 2006.

- ❖ It was extended to 130 more districts during 2007-08 and to the entire country in 2008-09.
- ❖ It guarantees 100-day wage employment in a financial year to every rural household.
- ❖ As per the data available on the scheme portal, 7.55 crore families (11.19 crore persons) availed the scheme during 2020-21.
- ❖ In the current financial year 2022-23, 5.21 crore families (7.22 crore people) have availed the scheme till November 26, 2022.



7th edition of Global Technology Summit

- ❖ The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit is to be held in New Delhi in a hybrid format.
- ❖ It is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology.
- ❖ And it is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India.
- ❖ The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.

NITI Aayog launches CCUS Policy Framework

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has prepared a report on the policy framework for Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).
- ❖ India is the third largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US about 2.6 gigatonne per annum.

- ❖ So, carbon capture utilisation and storage are an essential imperative for India to reach its Decarbonisation Goals.
- ❖ CCUS is the process of capturing carbon dioxide emissions and either using them to make things such as building materials (utilization) or permanently storing those thousands of feet below the surface (storage).

Samanvay 2022

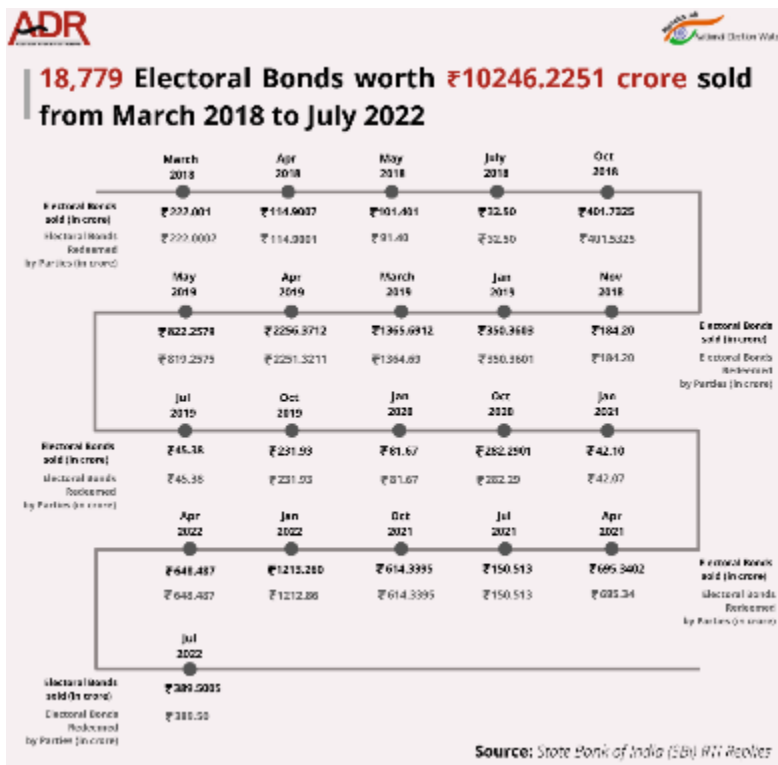
- ❖ The Indian Air Force is conducting the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' at Agra.
- ❖ It aims to assess the efficacy of institutional disaster management structures and contingency measure.
- ❖ Along with the involvement of various stakeholders from the country, the exercise witnessed participation by representatives from the ASEAN countries as well.

History of Indian Science and Technology Project



- ❖ The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and ISRO have signed a MoU to launch the project titled "History of Indian Science and Technology".
- ❖ Its goal is to establish India as a "Vishwa guru" (global leader) in various scientific domains.
- ❖ Similar project will be launched by the ICHR to trace the economic history of India.
- ❖ The ICHR will also launch another project in collaboration with the AYUSH Ministry to trace India's contributions in the field of medicine.

Data on Sale of Electoral Bonds



- ❖ Mumbai sold the highest number an electoral bond since the scheme launched.
- ❖ In terms of numbers and value, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad sold the most electoral bonds since the scheme was introduced in 2018.
- ❖ Mumbai accounted for 25.4 per cent of the total electoral bonds sold by value.
- ❖ Kolkata sold the second-highest number of electoral bonds.
- ❖ Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad sold the highest number of bonds of Rs.1 crore denomination.
- ❖ Not even a single electoral bond was sold in Gangtok, Ranchi and Srinagar.
- ❖ Electoral bond scheme was launched by the Central Government to create transparency in the donations to political parties.
- ❖ Electoral bonds under this scheme are sold four times a year for 10 days.
- ❖ They allow political parties to accept money from anonymous donors.
- ❖ SBI is the only authorized bank to sell and redeem these bonds.

Kirit Parikh Committee

- ❖ The Kirit Parikh panel recently submitted a report on gas pricing.
- ❖ It was recommending complete pricing freedom from January 1, 2026.

- ❖ The committee recommended that India should have completely free and market-determined pricing of natural gas extracted from legacy fields.
- ❖ It is account for over 70 per cent of the total natural gas produced in India.
- ❖ The panel also recommended increasing the ceiling rate for the gas from legacy fields by 0.5 per mm BTU (Metric Million British Thermal Unit).
- ❖ It recommended market-determined pricing for gas produced from legacy fields by January 1, 2027.
- ❖ It did not recommend any changes in the existing pricing formula for fields in difficult geology like KG-D6 of Reliance Industries.
- ❖ Currently, fields in deep sea, high temperature, high-pressure zones are governed by a different formula that includes an element of imported LNG cost.
- ❖ However, they are also subject to a price ceiling of 12.46 USD.



India Presidency at the UNSC

- ❖ On 1st December, India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ This is the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- ❖ India had earlier assumed UNSC presidency in August 2021.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will inaugurate a bust of MK Gandhi at the United Nations on December 14.
- ❖ This day marks the arrival of the Gandhi at UN's headquarters,
- ❖ The UNSC, with a mandate to maintain international peace and security, is the centrepiece of global multilateralism.
- ❖ The UNSC is composed of 15 members: 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.
- ❖ Ten non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

- ❖ India has served seven times in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member.
- ❖ In January 2021, India entered the UNSC for the eighth time.



All-women bench



- ❖ Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has constituted an all-women bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and Bela M. Trivedi.
- ❖ This bench will hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters.
- ❖ This is the third occasion in the history of the apex court that an all-women bench has been constituted.
- ❖ The first all-women bench was set up in 2013 when a bench of Justices Gyan Sudha Misra and Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted.
- ❖ The 2nd bench comprises Justices R. Banumathi and Indira Banerjee in 2018.
- ❖ In 2020, the Chief Justice of Madras High Court Amreshwar Pratap Sahi constituted its first-ever all-women full Bench (comprising three judges).

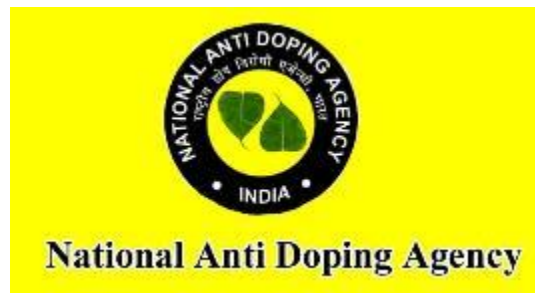
- ❖ There are three women judges in the supreme court at present including Justice Kohli, B.V. Nagarathna, and Justice Trivedi.
- ❖ Justice Nagarathna is also set to become first woman Chief Justice in 2027.
- ❖ The apex court currently has a strength of 27 judges including the CJI, against a sanctioned strength of 34.

Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron

- ❖ 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron was commissioned recently.
- ❖ The ALH Mk-III helicopters were indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ❖ It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of the Indian Coast Guard in the sensitive waters of Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.



Inclusion Conclave



- ❖ National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) hosts an Inclusion Conclave for the first time.
- ❖ It aims to sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities.

Tribal Winter Festival

- ❖ A first of its kind Tribal Winter Festival was held in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ People from the Kashmiri community, Gujjars and Bakerwals danced together to the beats of dhol (drum) in a unique portrayal of cultural unity in diversity.
- ❖ The 'gatka' was another attraction performed by two tribal communities.
- ❖ It was portraying the fighting spirit of the Gujjars amid all geographic, social and political odds.

President's Standard and Colour and the Indian Navy Crest

- ❖ The President of India has approved the introduction of a new design for the President's Standard and Colour and the Indian Navy Crest.
- ❖ This highlights India's glorious maritime heritage and also symbolises a powerful, courageous, confident and proud Indian Navy.
- ❖ The erstwhile design of the President's Standard and Colour for Navy was instituted on September 6, 2017.
- ❖ The Navy Crest has been amended to replace the foul anchor with a Clear Anchor.
- ❖ The Navy was the first among the three Services to be awarded the President's Colour on May 27, 1951 by the then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Constitution- a feminist document



- ❖ CJI D Y Chandrachud was delivering the 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture on the theme "Universal Adult Franchise: Translating India's Political Transformation into a Social Transformation".
- ❖ He mentioned that, the introduction of universal adult franchise was a revolutionary act at a time when such a right had only recently been extended to

women, people of colour, and the working-class in supposedly "mature" western democracies.

- ❖ In this sense, our Constitution was a feminist document, as well as an egalitarian socially transformative document.
- ❖ It was a break from the colonial and pre-colonial legacy, the boldest move adopted by the Constitution that was truly a product of Indian imagination.

Naval Exercise Sangam



- ❖ The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam commenced in Goa.
- ❖ It is a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs.
- ❖ Exercise Sangam was first conducted in 1994.
- ❖ And it is an important military and diplomatic initiative between the two nations.

Print and Digital Media Association

- ❖ Centre has approved the Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA) as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across India.
- ❖ PADMA is a self-regulatory body having 47 news publishers.
- ❖ This organization is responsible for looking into grievances related to digital media news content on its member publishers' platforms.
- ❖ It will be headed by former HC Judge Mool Chand Garg.
- ❖ It also includes part-time members.

National Party Status – AAP

- ❖ Aam Aadmi Party is set to join the elite club of national parties.
- ❖ Arvind Kejriwal launched the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in 2012.
- ❖ A national party needs to have two per cent of Lok Sabha seats in a minimum of three states. This means 11 seats.

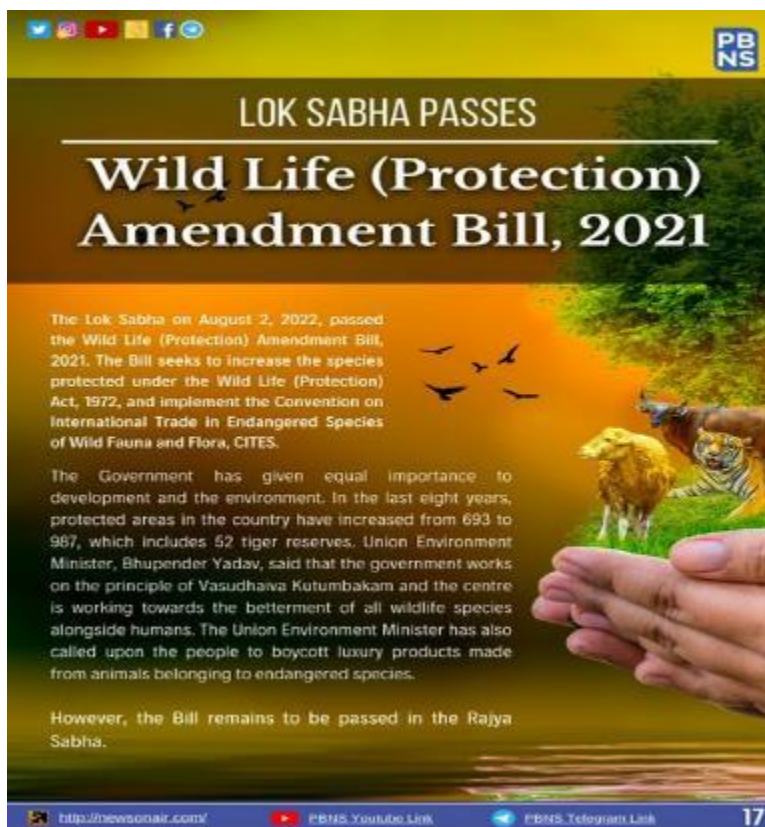
- ❖ AAP has zero Lok Sabha MPs.
- ❖ The other condition is that the aspirant must have state party recognition in four states.
- ❖ But it has governments in Delhi and Punjab with huge mandates.
- ❖ In Goa, the party meets the six per cent votes/two seats requirement.
- ❖ There are only eight national parties recognised by the Election Commission of India as of now.
- ❖ They are BJP, Congress, National People's Party, TMC, NCP, CPI, CPM, and BSP.
- ❖ Due to this status, AAP's election symbol (broom) will remain unchanged across India.
- ❖ National parties get broadcast and telecast bands on Akashvani and Doordarshan during general elections.
- ❖ They get government land to build party headquarters.
- ❖ Recognised 'state' and 'national' parties need only one proposer to file nomination.



Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021

- ❖ The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, was passed by the Rajya Sabha in the winter session of Parliament December 8, 2022.
- ❖ It is making significant amendments to the Wildlife (Protection Act (WLPA)-1972
- ❖ The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in August this year.
- ❖ The Bill aims to increase protection for species that are protected by law.
- ❖ It plans to do this by implementing the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the Act.

- ❖ One of the most important amendments has been made to Section 43.
- ❖ This is permitting elephants, Schedule I animals, to be used for 'religious or any other purpose'.
- ❖ This amendment received heavy criticism from wildlife activists and animal experts.
- ❖ Other Illegal animal trade regulation acts in India
 - Customs Act, 1962
 - Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992
 - Exim Policy and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



6th Vande Bharat train

- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off the 6th Vande Bharat Express train connecting Nagpur to Bilaspur.
- ❖ Vande Bharat trains have already been running between Delhi-Varanasi, Delhi-Shri Vaishno Devi Mata Katra, Gandhinagar to Mumbai, New Delhi to Amb Andaura, and Chennai-Mysuru.
- ❖ The first all-vegetarian Vande Bharat train was launched by the Indian Railways on the Delhi-Vaishno Devi, Katra route.



Centre of excellence for 3D bioprinting



- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) of Bengaluru inaugurated the country's first 3D bioprinting Center of Excellence.
- ❖ It will focus on providing researchers tools to advance discoveries in tissue engineering, regenerative medicine and drug discovery.
- ❖ It will provide access to 3D bioprinting systems, enabling researchers to accelerate their work across critical applications.

Approval for 21 Greenfield Airports

- ❖ The Central Government has recently accorded "In Principle" approval for setting up 21 greenfield airports across India.
- ❖ Of these 21 greenfield airports, nine have been operationalized.
- ❖ A greenfield airport is one that is built from scratch on undeveloped land, where no work has been done in the past.

- ❖ This airport is built to minimize the congestion at the existing airports.
- ❖ Usually, it is at a greater distance from the city and constructed in a way that special consideration is given to the environmental impact.

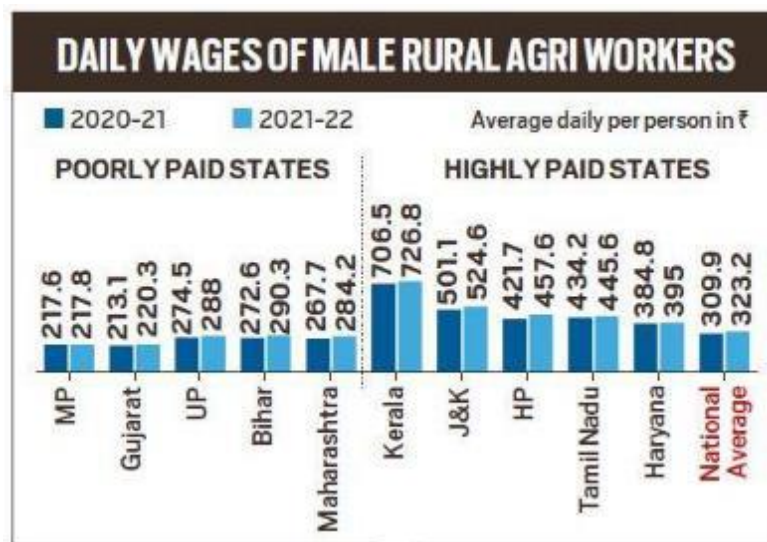
MoCA has already approved the creation of 21 Greenfield airports, and eight are already operational.

The Airports Authority of India has earmarked 25 airports for asset monetisation between 2022-2035 under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

The RCS UDAN scheme now encompasses 393 routes connecting 62 unserved and underserved airports, including two water aerodromes and six heliports.

Daily wage payments in India

- ❖ Daily wagers in Kerala earned way more than their counterparts in more industrialised states like Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ They also earned more than double (837.3) the national average of Rs 373.30.
- ❖ Construction workers' average daily wage in Kerala was more than three times of that in the lowest paying states Tripura and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The other two top states are Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu, where the wages were Rs 519 and Rs 478, respectively.
- ❖ Kerala leads in highly paid agricultural workers with an average wage of Rs 726.8 per worker.
- ❖ In Jammu & Kashmir, farm workers get an average wage of Rs 524.6, Himachal Pradesh Rs 457.6, and Tamil Nadu Rs 445.6 per person.



PM VIKAS Scheme



- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) now named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme”.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- ❖ It aims improve livelihoods of the minorities, particularly the artisan communities, using the components of skill development, education, women leadership & entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The scheme combines the following five existing schemes: Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.

Project BOLD



- ❖ Ministry of MSME, through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has launched a unique pilot project named “Project BOLD”.
- ❖ BOLD stands for Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought.
- ❖ The objective of this initiative is to scientifically harness the environmental benefits and economic potential of bamboo cultivation to protect environment and strengthen rural economy through various village industries.

- ❖ There is no budgetary provision for this project under KVIC.
- ❖ Bamboo saplings have been donated by an NGO that have been brought from Assam.
- ❖ No targets have been set for this project as it is a pilot project only.

Recognition for Namami Gange



- ❖ The United Nations has recognised the Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world.
- ❖ They were selected under the banner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- ❖ It is a global movement coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ Namami Gange Programme was started in 2014 by central government after recognising the need to rejuvenate River Ganga.

20 Nuclear Power

- ❖ India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by 2031.
- ❖ It is adding nearly 15,000 MW in power generating capacity.
- ❖ The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is expected to be commissioned in 2023 at Kakrapar, Gujarat.
- ❖ 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam is likely to be operational in 2024.
- ❖ It is followed by two 1,000 MW units at Kudankulam in 2025.



First carbon-neutral power exchange

- ❖ Energy trading platform Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) became the country's first carbon-neutral power exchange.
- ❖ It is using market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions.
- ❖ India has set a target to net zero emissions by 2070.

1st mass-produced Flex Fuel car



- ❖ Maruti Suzuki, has showcased the Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model in Delhi.
- ❖ It is marked as India's 1st mass segment Flex Fuel car.
- ❖ The car is designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20% (E20) and 85% (E85) fuel.
- ❖ The Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype vehicle has an upgraded engine designed specifically to use higher ethanol-blended petrol.

WHO GCTM

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

First and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe to be established in Jamnagar, Gujarat

Benefits:

- > To position AYUSH systems across the globe
- > To provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine
- > To ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use of traditional medicine
- > To develop norms in relevant technical areas
- > To develop specific capacity building and training programmes

CABINET DECISIONS 09-03-2022

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The WHO GCTM will be established in Jamnagar under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- ❖ This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.

Surya Kiran Exercise XVI



- ❖ Exercise Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between the armies of India and Nepal, held at Nepal.

- ❖ Its objectives include improving interoperability and sharing experiences and best practices on counter-insurgency operations.
- ❖ The inaugural edition of this bilateral exercise was held in Mizoram in 2011.

PathoDetect Kit

- ❖ Mylab Discovery Solutions' 'PathoDetect' kit claims to detect TB accurately.
- ❖ It completes automated testing of multiple samples within two hours.
- ❖ This kit will use the same technology – RT-PCR – as used in the Covid testing.
- ❖ It is a molecular kit, which extracts the DNA information and identifies if the genes are of TB-causing bacteria.

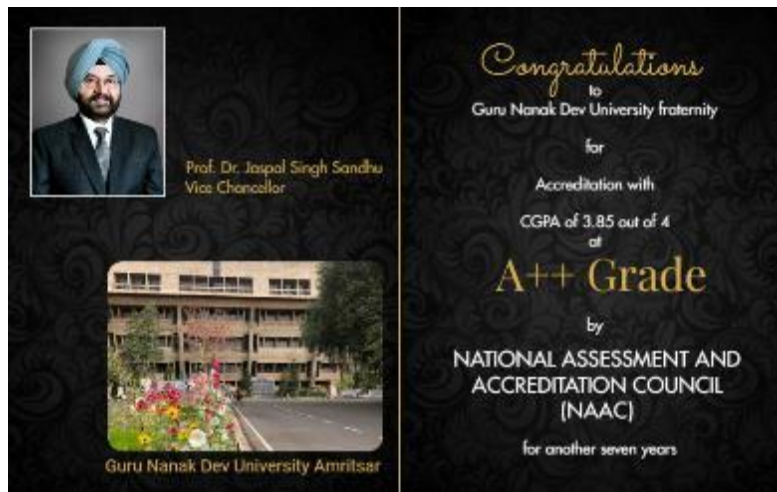


Digital India Awards 2022



- ❖ The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon at the Digital India Awards 2022 for their effort "DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities via Data".
- ❖ The prize was announced in the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category.
- ❖ The DataSmart Communities Initiative is an important step in developing a comprehensive data ecosystem that allows cities to make evidence-based decisions.
- ❖ It intends to use data to improve governance in India's 100 Smart Cities.

A grade university



- ❖ The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, has received an A grade in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading.
- ❖ It is making it the first university in India to do so.

Vadnagar Town

- ❖ Three more sites from India have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ❖ Vadnagar town and the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera from Gujarat.
- ❖ The rock cut sculptures of Unakoti from Tripura
- ❖ Vadnagar is also known as the home town of PM Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The history of Vadnagar stretches back to nearly 8th century BCE.
- ❖ The UNESCO tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination.



Urban 20 Event

- ❖ Urban-20 2023 Event is organised by Ahmedabad under India's presidency of G20.
- ❖ Urban-20 (U20) is one of the Engagement Groups of G20.
- ❖ It provides a platform for cities from G20 countries to facilitate discussions on various important issues of urban development including climate change and social inclusion.
- ❖ Under the G20 presidency of India, Ahmedabad will host the U20 2023 cycle and organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ Besides G20 countries, the mayors and representatives of C40 (Climate 40), UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) member cities, and Observer Cities will participate in this.



Rule 267 of RS Rule Book

- ❖ Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook has become a bone of contention in the Upper House.
- ❖ It was because, not a single notice under the rule moved by the Opposition has been accepted in the Winter Session.

- ❖ The Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook gives special power to a Rajya Sabha member to suspend the pre-decided agenda of the House, with the approval of the Chairman.
- ❖ No other form of discussion entails suspension of other business.
- ❖ If an issue is admitted under Rule 267, it signifies it's the most important national issue of the day.
- ❖ Also, the government will have to respond to the matter by replying during the discussions under Rule 267.
- ❖ The last instance was in 2016 when then Chairman Hamid Ansari allowed for a debate on the "demonetisation of currency".

CCTNS implementation

- ❖ Haryana Police was adjudged 1st among all major states in implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).
- ❖ Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) is a scheme created in the light of a non-plan scheme namely – Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA).
- ❖ The system includes a nationwide online tracking system by integrating more than 14,000 police stations across the country.
- ❖ The project is being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau.

First Green steel brand

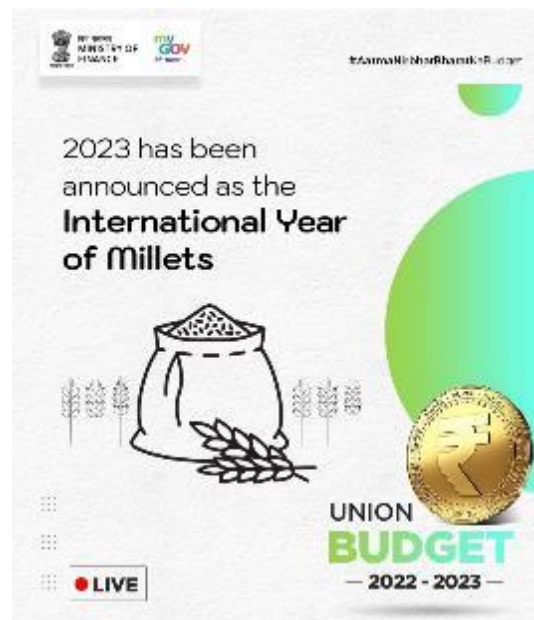
- ❖ The Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled KALYANI FeRRESTA, in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is India's first green steel brand.
- ❖ It was created by the Kalyani Group, a Pune-based steel manufacturer.
- ❖ It is utilizing renewable energy resources, leaving no carbon footprints in the environment.

Vice-chairman panel – PT Usha

- ❖ Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated legendary former athlete PT Usha to the panel of vice-chairperson in the upper house of the Parliament.
- ❖ PT Usha was also elected as the president of the Indian Olympic Association recently.
- ❖ She is often called the "Queen of Indian track and field".



Millets Promotion



- ❖ Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations organised the opening ceremony of the International Year of Millets – 2023 (IYOM 2023) in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) accepted the proposal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- ❖ To raise awareness about the importance of millet, the Agriculture Ministry is hosting a Millet food festival in Parliament for the members.

New AERB chairperson

- ❖ Senior nuclear scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a period of three years.
- ❖ He succeeds G Nageswara Rao.

- ❖ The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted in 1983 by the President of India by exercising the powers conferred by the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- ❖ It aims to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act.
- ❖ The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ The headquarters is in Mumbai.
- ❖ The mission of the Board is to ensure that the use of ionising radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to health and the environment.



First Infantry Museum

- ❖ The country's first Infantry Museum has been opened for the general public at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This museum is the first in the country and second in the world.
- ❖ Before this, such a museum has been built in America.
- ❖ The Infantry Museum covers the history of the Infantry from 1747 to 2020.

Longest 'escape tunnel' – T49



- ❖ India's longest escape tunnel, 12.89 km long, is constructed on Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It was completed by the Indian Railways.
- ❖ It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project.

AIM-UNDP Youth Co:Lab

- ❖ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India jointly launched the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab for Young Entrepreneurs
- ❖ It is the largest youth innovation movement in the Asia Pacific.
- ❖ It was co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Citi Foundation.
- ❖ Till date, the Youth Co:Lab initiative has been implemented in 28 countries and territories.
- ❖ It was launched in India in 2019 by the UNDP India in collaboration with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.



Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal

- ❖ The central government has unveiled a plan for the conservation of Asiatic lions in Gir, Titled "Lion@47: Vision for Amrutkal."
- ❖ The plan is part of Project Lion and aims to secure and restore habitats to manage the growing lion population.
- ❖ It also aims to generate livelihoods for local communities, establish a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment, and promote inclusive biodiversity conservation.

DECISIONS MADE

- No translocation outside Saurashtra
- Government to focus on natural dispersal of lions
- No increase in area of Gir National Park
- No shifting Maldharis from Gir Sanctuary
- Bardia Dungar, Bhavnagar and coastal areas of Saurashtra to be strengthened
- Facilitating more diverse breeding to strengthen the gene pools within Saurashtra
- Bardia to be taken up on priority
- Disease monitoring and research centre for lion research
- NTCA to play major role in the project and monitor lion counts





Royal ride for tourists

Project Lion includes the mission to develop tourism circuits in Saurashtra in which lion habitats will be important attractions, forest department officials said. For example, the Somnath-Dwarka circuit will include Devaliya, Sasan, and Porbandar.

Intranasal Covid vaccine

- ❖ Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine has been approved by the Union Health Ministry as a booster dose.
- ❖ It will be introduced on the Co-WIN platform for those above 18 years of age.
- ❖ The nasal vaccine -- BBV154 -- received approval of the Drugs Controller General of India.



PMGKAY merged with NFSA

- ❖ The Central Government has decided to merge the PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana) with the National food security Act (NFSA) and aims to provide free food grains for one year.
- ❖ PMGKAY was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 5 kg of wheat and rice is provided free of cost to 80 crore poor per month.

- ❖ Under the NFSA Act, each Antyodaya Anna Yojana household, is entitled to 35 kg of food grains per month.
- ❖ All other ration card holders are entitled to 5 kg of food grains per person per month.

WHY PMGKAY, NFSA WERE MERGED	
LOWER FOOD GRAIN STOCKS	HIGHER ECONOMIC COST
As on Nov 30, combined stock of rice (115.42 lakh metric tonne) and wheat (190.27 LMT) was at 305.69 LMT. This was lower than the figure of 591.56 LMT (rice 213.03 LMT, wheat 378.53 LMT) on Nov 30, 2021.	Economic cost for rice has increased to Rs 3,670.04 per quintal this year from Rs 3,597.17 last year. For wheat, it has gone up to Rs 2,588.70 per quintal from Rs 2,499.69 per quintal last year.

Audit of 'physical and functional access'

- ❖ Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has constituted a judge-led committee to conduct an audit of “physical and functional access”.
- ❖ It aims to make top court premises as disabled friendly.
- ❖ The ‘Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility’ was headed by Justice S Ravindra Bhat.

Encroached Centrally Protected Monuments

- ❖ India has a total of 3,695 Centrally Protected Monuments or Sites in the country.
- ❖ A total of 356 centrally protected monuments have been illegally encroached into across India.
- ❖ This is an increase from the 2019 figure of 321 protected monuments that have been infringed.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has the largest number (743) of centrally protected monuments
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the second-highest number (412) of centrally protected monuments.
- ❖ Same time, they have the high number of that have been illegally encroached viz. Uttar Pradesh (75) and Tamil Nadu (74).
- ❖ They are followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra with 48 and 46 monuments respectively.
- ❖ Centrally Protected Monuments are those that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

- ❖ Under amended Act 2010, construction activities are prohibited within 100 meters of a centrally protected monument.
- ❖ Construction within 100 - 200 meters of these structures is strictly regulated.



Project Vaani

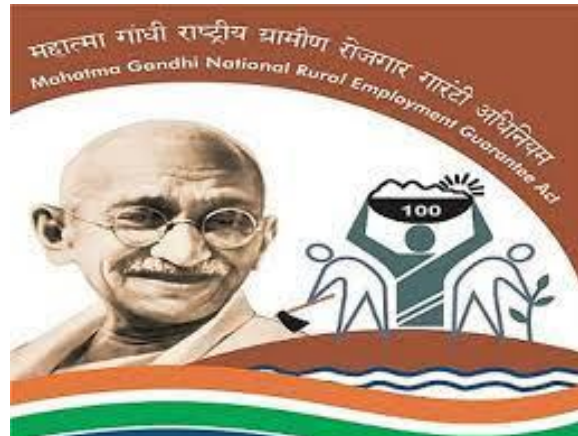
- ❖ Project Vaani will be implemented jointly by the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park), and Google.
- ❖ It aims to gather speech data from across India for the creation of an AI-based language model that can understand diverse Indian languages and dialects.



National Mobile Monitoring System - MGREGS

- ❖ Digitally capturing the attendance of workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGREGS) has been made universal by the Centre from January 1, 2023.

- ❖ From May 16, 2022, capturing attendance via the app was made compulsory for all worksites with 20 or more workers.
- ❖ This is required uploading two time-stamped and geotagged photographs of the workers.
- ❖ The job fell on the mates/supervisors, who are paid only marginally more than the unskilled workers.



AVGC Promotion Task Force Report

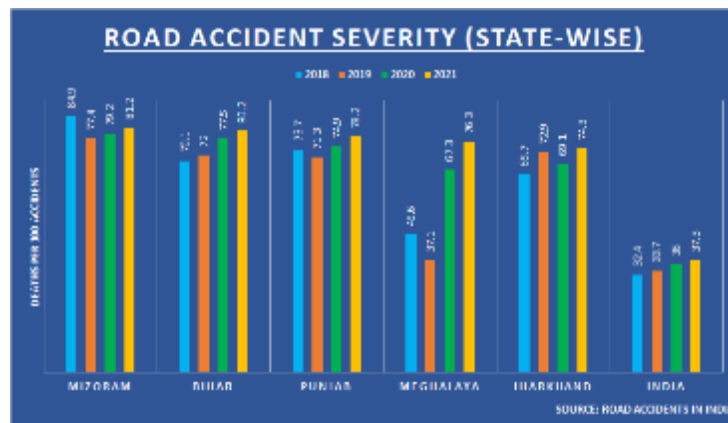


- ❖ Government has received the report of the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2022-23 announced the formation of an AVGC Promotion Task Force.
- ❖ This Force mandate to realise and develop – local capacity, and local and global demand, to widen the scope of the AVGC industry.

‘PRASAD’ project

- ❖ President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated ‘PRASAD’ project at the tourism facilitation centre in the pilgrim town of Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ PRASAD scheme is ‘Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive’.
- ❖ It is 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Tourism Ministry.
- ❖ This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.
- ❖ It aims to integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritized, planned, and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- ❖ The growth of domestic tourism hugely depends on pilgrimage tourism.

Road Accidents in India 2021



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has published its annual report ‘Road accidents in India 2021’.
- ❖ India witnessed as many as 4,12,432 road accidents in 2021.
- ❖ By these accidents 1,53,972 people were killed.
- ❖ Around 3,84,448 individuals were injured.
- ❖ Road accidents are increased by 12.6% y-o-y in 2021.

- ❖ The number of fatalities caused by road accidents has increased by 1.9 percent in 2021, when compared to the same period in 2019.

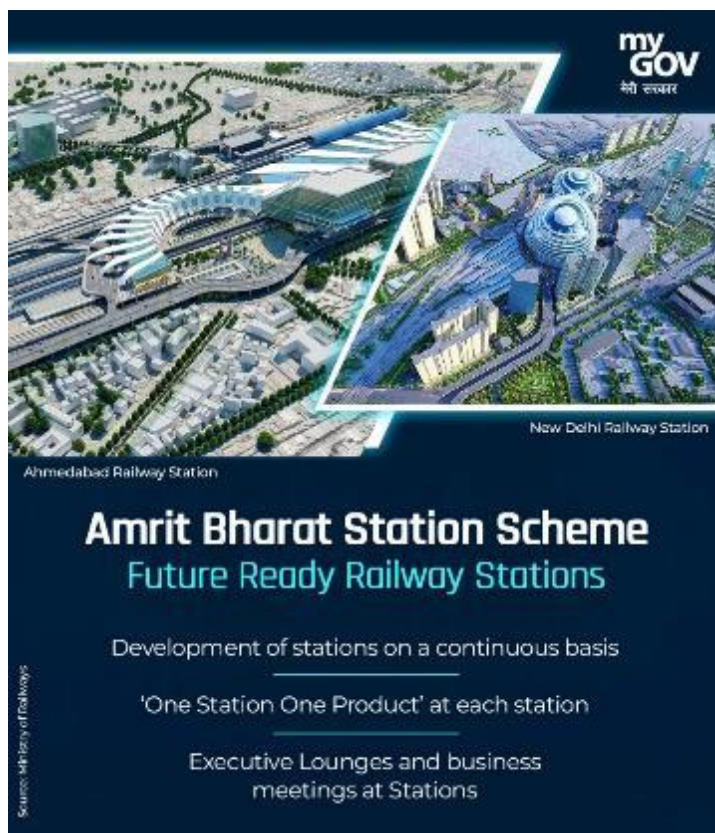
Recognition to Esports



- ❖ The Government of India integrating E-sports with mainline sports disciplines in the country.
- ❖ The President of India exercise the powers "conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution" amended the rules governing Esports.
- ❖ Now, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Sports Ministry can include "e-Sports as part of multi-sports events".
- ❖ e-Sports was included in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games as a demonstration sport.
- ❖ It means medals won in the sport were not counted in the official overall medals tally.
- ❖ IT Ministry will be the nodal agency for online gaming-related matters.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Railways has launched a new scheme called Amrit Bharat Station Scheme to modernize railway stations across India.
- ❖ It is to enhance the facilities beyond the minimum essential amenities and creating roof plazas and city centers at the station premises in the long-term.
- ❖ The scheme will cater to the upgradation and replacement of existing amenities as well as the introduction of new amenities.
- ❖ It includes, Platforms, Internet connectivity, multi-design furniture, Inclusivity, Sustainability and Enhancing user experience.



INTERNATIONAL

Exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr'

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikanth, INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier, participated in the 13th Edition of 'Naseem Al Bahr' at Oman.
- ❖ It is a bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO).



- ❖ It had three phases: harbour phase, sea phase and debrief.
- ❖ The first IN-RNO exercise was conducted in 1993.
- ❖ Year 2022 marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises.

Exercise Agni Warrior

- ❖ The 12th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior was a bilateral exercise between Singapore and India held at Devlali (Maharashtra).
- ❖ It involves joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Artillery Equipment.
- ❖ Indigenously manufactured Artillery guns and howitzers also participated in the final phase of the exercise.

Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement

- ❖ India will assume chairmanship of the plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement for a year on January 1, 2023.
- ❖ The 42-member voluntary export control regime that monitors transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods.
- ❖ India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 2017 as its 42nd participating state.

International Tax Cooperation Framework

- ❖ The UNGA unanimously adopted a resolution to develop an international tax cooperation framework or instrument based on a UN intergovernmental process.
- ❖ Nigeria submitted this resolution on behalf of a consortium of 54 African countries.
- ❖ It will put an end to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development's 60-year role as the regulator of taxations across the world.
- ❖ Similar framework has been proposed by the OECD.
- ❖ The proposed framework is expected to benefit developing countries in Africa and Asia.
- ❖ The "Two Pillar Solution", which was spearheaded by the OECD, aims to address the tax challenges that are occurring within the digital economy.

NSA Meet with Central Asia



- ❖ National Security Advisor (NSA) of India hosted a special meeting with his counterparts from Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ This was the first time that NSAs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were in Delhi for a high-level security meeting.
- ❖ The meeting coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and the Central Asian countries.
- ❖ India accorded the highest priority to Central Asia as it was “our extended neighbourhood”, and a “peaceful, secure, prosperous” Central Asia was in our common interest.

Iran's Morality Police



- ❖ Iran's Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri hinted at the suspension of the country's morality police after widespread protests.

- ❖ Iran's morality police are formally known as Gasht-e-Ershad (Guidance Patrol).
- ❖ It was established to "spread the culture of modesty and hijab", the mandatory female head covering.
- ❖ They began patrols in 2006.
- ❖ Under Sharia law – the Islamic law that governs Iran – women are required to cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothes.
- ❖ The hijab was made mandatory for women in 1983, a few years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

IORA Council of Ministers' Meeting

- ❖ India participated in the 22nd Council of Ministers' meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held at Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- ❖ The COM adopted the 'IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' (IOIP) which would guide enhancement of IORA's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The idea for IORA first surfaced during the late South African President Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India.
- ❖ IORA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ It has 23 Member States bordering the Indian Ocean and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- ❖ Bangladesh took over as Chair from November 2021 to November 2023.



International Electrotechnical Commission

- ❖ India has won the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term.
- ❖ IEC is an international standard-setting body that publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

- ❖ SMB is an apex governance body of the IEC responsible for technical policy matters.



First China-Indian Ocean Region Forum

- ❖ China organized the first high-level China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, with 19 countries from the region except for India.
- ❖ The forum was hosted by China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).
- ❖ China has proposed to establish a marine disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation mechanism between China and countries in the Indian Ocean region.



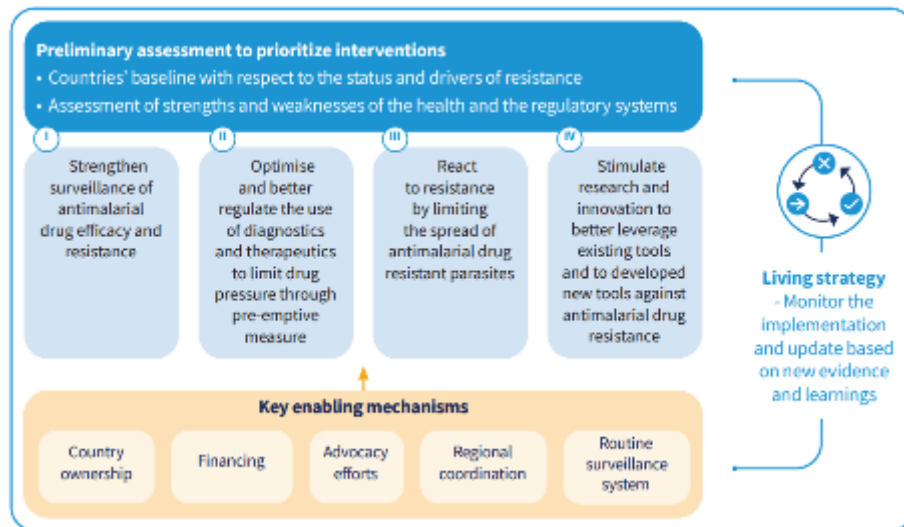
Chair of Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

- ❖ India took over the chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence for 2022-23 at the meeting of the body in Tokyo, from France.

- ❖ GPAI is an international initiative to promote the responsible use of AI that supports human-centric development and democratic values.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI.
- ❖ India joined GPAI in 2020 as a founding member.
- ❖ GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries, which includes the United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Canada, Australia, Italy, Denmark, and Singapore, among others.



New Strategy to Combat Antimalarial Drug Resistance in Africa



- ❖ World Health Organization unveiled a new strategy to combat antimalarial drug resistance in Africa.
- ❖ Africa is currently highly dependent on artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT).
- ❖ Resistance to artemisinin and the partner drug in ACT therapy result in an increase in treatment failure rates.

- ❖ This can cause a major hurdle in the global fight against malaria.
- ❖ The new WHO seeks to minimize consequences of antimalarial drug resistance in Africa through four pillars strategy.

APEC Summit 2022

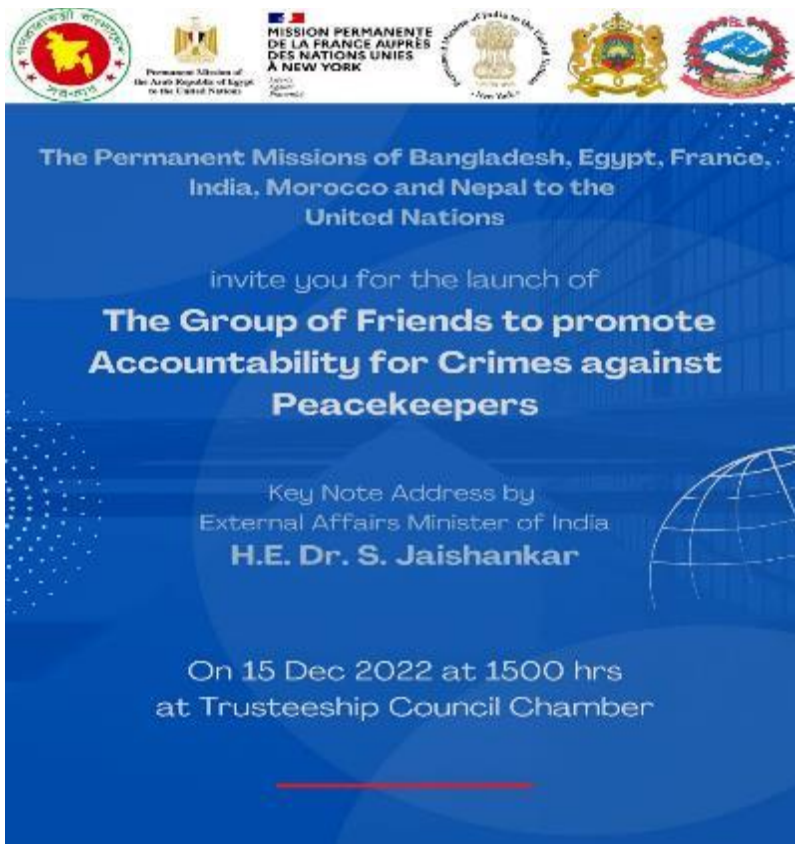
- ❖ The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit was hosted by Thailand.
- ❖ Leaders from around the Asia-Pacific called for an end to Russia's war on Ukraine and pledged to steer the region's economies toward sustainable growth.
- ❖ Kamala Harris (USA) received a "handover" in the form of a symbolic "chalom" bamboo basket from the APEC host Thailand.
- ❖ The U.S. will host next year's summit in San Francisco.
- ❖ APEC members account for nearly four of every 10 people and almost half of world trade.

New Zealand's tobacco law

- ❖ New Zealand has adopted a measure that will prohibit the sale of cigarettes to anybody born on or after January 1, 2009.
- ❖ The restrictions will take effect in 2023.
- ❖ It is World's first tobacco law to ban smoking.
- ❖ New Zealand is aiming to be "smoke-free" by 2025.
- ❖ It also, aims to bring down the number of retailers able to sell smoked tobacco products to 600 nationwide - down from 6,000.
- ❖ It also focuses on reducing the level of nicotine in products to make them less addictive.
- ❖ The smoking rate in New Zealand is extremely low, as only 8 per cent of adults are smoking on a daily basis.



Group of Friends



- ❖ India has launched a 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.
- ❖ It will soon have a database that will record all crimes against the Blue Helmets.
- ❖ India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal are co-chairs of the 'Group of Friends'.

First International Fleet Review of the Bangladesh Navy

- ❖ The Bangladesh Navy hosted the first-ever International Fleet Review.
- ❖ Naval commanders, ships from some 30 countries including the United States, China, India and the neighbouring Myanmar would participate in the international gathering.
- ❖ Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha will participate in this.
- ❖ The key purpose of hosting the IFR would be to deepen relations among the naval forces on the Indo-Pacific Ocean.

European Union Candidate status

- ❖ The European Union agrees to give Bosnia candidate status.
- ❖ It is the last step on the road to candidate status.
- ❖ Other EU candidates include Albania, Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- ❖ The last country to be granted membership in the union was Croatia, which joined in 2013.
- ❖ Moldova's and Ukraine's candidacy were only confirmed last June, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Kosovo in European Union

- ❖ Kosovo formally submitted an application for membership to the European Union.
- ❖ Kosovo is the last western Balkan country to apply for EU membership
- ❖ Kosovo is a mainly ethnic Albanian territory that declared independence from Serbia in 2008.
- ❖ But Serbia along with its key allies Russia and China still considers it a part of Serbia.
- ❖ So, Kosovo is not a member of the United Nations.
- ❖ Five EU members — Greece, Spain, Romania, Slovakia and Cyprus — also do not recognize Kosovo as an independent state.



UN's Commission on the Status of Women

- ❖ In an unprecedented move, Iran has been expelled from the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in a vote on which India abstained.
- ❖ The US proposal at the UN Economic and Social Council to remove Iran from the panel received 29 votes.
- ❖ There were eight votes against and 16 abstentions in the 54-member elected body.
- ❖ Iran has been rocked by protests since the September due to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died after being detained by the country's morality police.
- ❖ The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1946.
- ❖ It is the instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.



Artemis Accords for Space Exploration

- ❖ Nigeria and Rwanda have signed the Artemis Accords.
- ❖ They became the first countries from Africa to join the space exploration agreement.
- ❖ The Artemis Accords is a non-binding pact that is based on the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.
- ❖ This is the calls for peaceful and sustainable exploration of the Moon and outer space.
- ❖ It was launched by the US Department of State and NASA together with eight nations in 2020.

Singapore Declaration



- ❖ The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization adopted the “Singapore Declaration”.
- ❖ It aims to ensure social dialogue to address challenges associated with labour market and finding solutions for crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and economic uncertainty.
- ❖ It provides a shared vision of 10-point priorities of national action of members of the ILO to deal with issues like dwindling wages, inflation and unemployment.

First-ever Resolution on Myanmar

- ❖ The U.N. Security Council adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years.
- ❖ It demands an end to violence and urge the military regime to release all political prisoners, including overthrown leader Aung San Suu Kyi.
- ❖ Myanmar has been in crisis since the army took power from Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1, 2021.

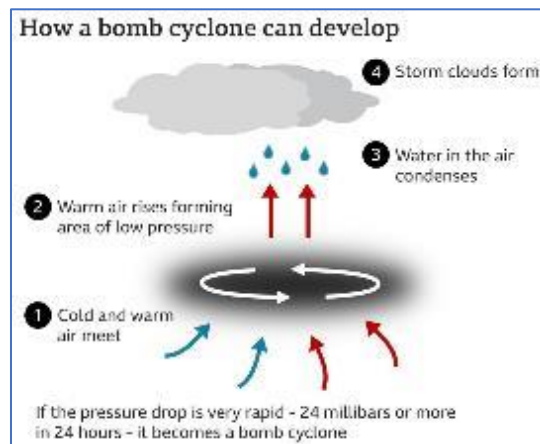
- ❖ China and Russia abstained from the vote, along with India.
- ❖ The remaining 12 members voted in favour.

New gender recognition Bill

- ❖ Scotland government passed the gender recognition law to introduce a self-identification system for people who want to change their gender.
- ❖ The law brings sweeping reforms to the system through which people obtain their gender recognition certificate (GRC).
- ❖ Currently, they have to apply to a UK gender recognition panel and must present two medical reports.
- ❖ Under the new gender recognition law, applications will be made to the Registrar General for Scotland instead of the UK panel.

Bomb Cyclone Winter Storm

- ❖ A wild winter storm hit much of the US and bringing blizzards, freezing rain, flooding and intense cold close to record lows.
- ❖ Storms can form when a mass of low-pressure air collides with a mass of high-pressure air.
- ❖ Winds are formed when air flows from high pressure to low pressure.
- ❖ A bomb cyclone is defined by how quickly the pressure in the low-pressure mass drops — at least 24 millibars in 24 hours.
- ❖ This rapidly increases the pressure difference, or gradient, between the two air masses, increasing the strength of the winds.
- ❖ This rapid intensification is known as bombogenesis.
- ❖ In the Northern Hemisphere, the direction is anticlockwise (when viewed from above).



Imprisonment for former president

- ❖ The Maldives criminal court sentenced former president Abdulla Yameen to 11 years in prison and fined him \$5 million.
- ❖ Court finding him guilty of corruption and money laundering charges related to receiving kickbacks from a private company.
- ❖ He lost power in 2018, but has been declared presidential candidate for the Progressive Party of the Maldives for an election due in 2023.



ECONOMY

Vistara Merge with Air India

- ❖ Vistara airlines will be merged with Tata-owned Air India by March 2024.
- ❖ At present, 51 per cent share in Vistara is with Tata, while Singapore Airlines owns the remaining 49 per cent in the joint venture set up in 2013.
- ❖ Tata bought Air India for ₹ 18,000 crore as part of a government disinvestment around a year ago



India's first private Agri mandi

- ❖ The Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company has bagged a license to set up a private agricultural mandi (market) at Dindori, in Nashik district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This is the first private agricultural mandi in the country.
- ❖ This market space integrated with world-class infrastructure, services from banking to storage, processing, and packaging under one roof, options for offline and online trading, legalisation of field trade, and ownership of farmers.



Investment opportunities in space cooling

- ❖ The World Bank released a report named, "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector."
- ❖ Market potential and investment opportunities in space cooling will be \$1.5 trillion by 2040 in India.
- ❖ The report suggests a sustainable roadmap for cooling that has the potential to reduce 300 million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2040."
- ❖ India is experiencing higher temperatures every year.
- ❖ By 2030, over 160-200 million people across the country could be exposed to lethal heat waves annually.
- ❖ Around 34 million people in India will face job losses due to heat stress related productivity decline."
- ❖ World Bank said the current food loss due to heat during transportation is close to \$13 billion annually.
- ❖ The report proposes a road map to support New Delhi's India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), 2019, through new investments in three major sectors: building construction, cold chains and refrigerants.

RBI retail digital rupee

- ❖ The retail pilot of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital currency went live on December 1, 2022.
- ❖ It is advertised as e-Rupee or digital rupee.
- ❖ The RBI's central bank digital currency (CBDC) is an electronic form of sovereign currency.
- ❖ Retail digital rupee can provide access to safe money for payment and settlement as it is a direct liability of the central bank.
- ❖ Eight banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in the retail pilot of the digital rupee in four cities across the country.
- ❖ In the first phase, four banks including State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, YES Bank, and IDFC First Bank will take part in the pilot launch.
- ❖ The pilot will initially cover four cities — Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar.



India's First Passive Tax-Saving Fund

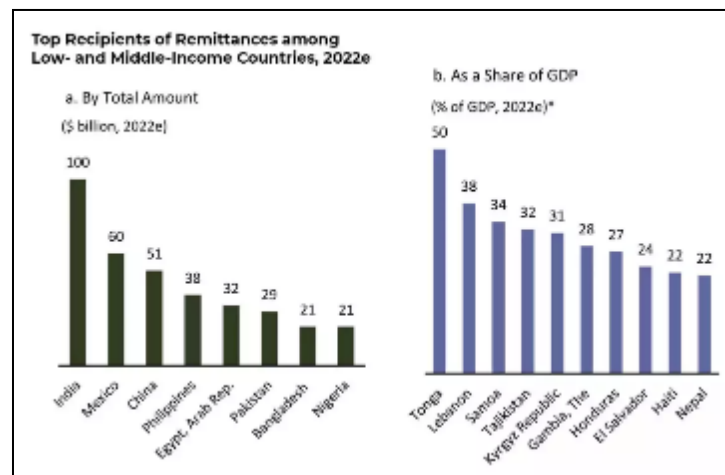
- ❖ IIFL Mutual Fund has launched India's first passive tax saver fund.
- ❖ It is an open-ended passive equity linked savings scheme (ELSS) fund.
- ❖ The scheme will try to mirror the Nifty 50 and generate returns in line with the movement in the index.

New Nifty Bharat Bond Index

- ❖ The National Stock Exchange's subsidiary NSE Indices has launched one more index under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series.
- ❖ The first Bharat Bond ETFs tracking the Nifty Bharat Bond indices were launched in December 2019.
- ❖ The launch of the new Bharat Bond index maturing in 2033 will provide more investment choices to fixed income investors.

\$100-billion remittance

- ❖ India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022.
- ❖ The World Bank has said India's remittance will grow 12 per cent from 7.5 per cent last year.
- ❖ It attributed the feat to the large share of Indian migrants earning relatively high salaries in the United States, United Kingdom and East Asia.
- ❖ India's remittance flows are expected to account for only 3 per cent of its GDP in 2022.
- ❖ The US has surpassed the UAE as the top source country.



India's first Gold ATM

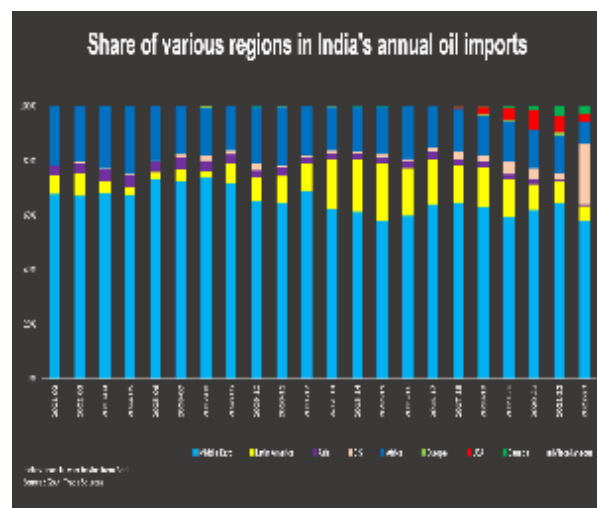
- ❖ Goldsikka Pvt Ltd's launched its first gold ATM in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The ATM machine dispenses coins ranging from 0.5 grams to 100 grams.
- ❖ People can insert their debit or credit cards into the machine and buy gold coins

8th largest ad market

- ❖ India is expected to overtake Brazil to become the eighth-largest advertising market in 2023.
- ❖ 'This Year, GroupM has ranked India as the ninth-largest advertising market globally.
- ❖ India's total advertising revenue in 2022 has grown by 15.8% to touch \$14.9 billion, led by growth in pure-play digital advertising.
- ❖ In 2023, it is expected to grow by 16.8%.



Top oil supplier



- ❖ Russia has for the first time emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq.
- ❖ India's oil imports from Russia rose for the fifth straight month.
- ❖ Russian oil accounted for about 23 per cent of India's overall import.
- ❖ Last month India's oil imports from Iraq declined to the lowest since September 2020.

Surety Bond Insurance

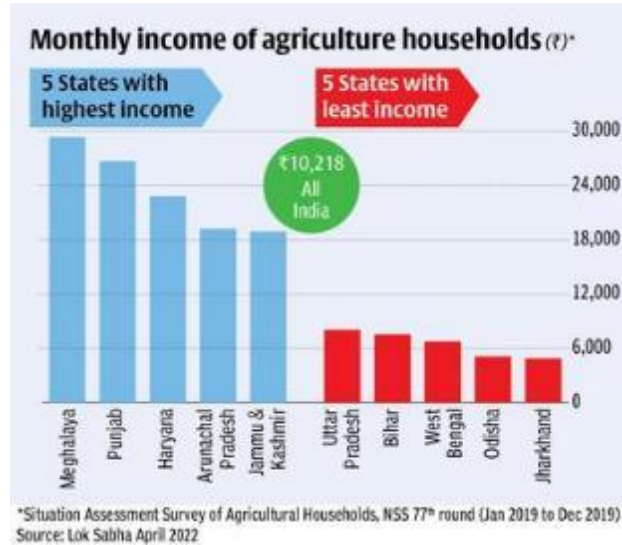
- ❖ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product from Bajaj Allianz.
- ❖ Surety bonds are guarantees of payment issued by general insurance companies on behalf of the contractor to the project awarding entity.
- ❖ The surety bond gives the principal a contract of guarantee in a mutually agreed terms.
- ❖ As a risk transfer tool for the principal, it shields the principal from the losses.

- ❖ Unlike a bank guarantee, the Surety Bond Insurance does not require large collateral from the contractor.



Income of Farmers

- ❖ The Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the rural areas of the country was conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- ❖ It was during 77th round (January 2019- December 2019) with reference to the agricultural year July 2018- June 2019.
- ❖ Farm Income includes income from wages, income from leasing out of land, net receipt from crop production, net receipt from farming of animals and net receipt from non-farm business.
- ❖ Meghalaya tops across the country with average monthly income per agricultural household (Rs 29,348).
- ❖ Punjab ranks second in the country in average monthly income per agricultural household.
- ❖ The prominent crops produced in Punjab include rice, wheat, maize, bajra, sugarcane, oilseeds, and cotton, but rice and wheat alone constitute 80 per cent of the total gross cropped area.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's income was 11,924 while All India average was 10,218.



32 trillion dollar trade in 2022

- ❖ The value of global trade is set to reach a new record this year.
- ❖ It is increasing by about 12 per cent to an estimated \$32 trillion.
- ❖ This is reported by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- ❖ Trade in merchandise goods ascended to \$25 trillion.
- ❖ It is an increase of about 10 per cent versus the prior year.
- ❖ Trade in services grew 15 per cent year-over-year to nearly \$7 trillion

Banknotes with women's signatures



- ❖ United States of America's Finance Ministry has printed the first US currency notes with two women's signatures.
- ❖ The new currency notes of \$1 and \$5 value carry the signature of the Secretary of Treasury (American Finance Minister) Janet Yellen and Lynn Malerba.
- ❖ The United States currency notes are popularly called as Greenback.

Gas price index



- ❖ Indian Gas Exchange launched India's first price index to reflect the benchmark natural gas price for India.
- ❖ Till now, the people were using other international benchmarks including JKM (Japan Korea Marker) and HH (Henry Hub) for gas in India.

CEBR Forecast on Indian Economy

Ranking out of 191	2007	2012	2017	2022	2023	2027	2032	2037
China	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
United States	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
India	12	11	6	5	5	4	3	3
Japan	2	3	3	3	4	3	4	4
Germany	4	4	4	4	3	5	5	5
United Kingdom	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
France	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Brazil	10	7	8	12	11	8	8	8

- ❖ The "World Economic League Table" is an annual publication of the CEBR (Centre for Economics and Business Research).
- ❖ This report tracks the macroeconomic trends at the global and national levels.
- ❖ It presents economic forecasts for 191 countries until 2037.
- ❖ India is expected to become the third economic superpower by 2037 and a 10 trillion USD economy by 2035.

- ❖ Over the next five years, India's GDP growth is expected to average 6.4 percent each year.
- ❖ After this, the GDP is expected to grow at an average of 6.5 percent in the subsequent 9 years.
- ❖ On the World Economic League Table, India will jump in the global ranking from the present 5th position in 2022 to 3rd place by 2037.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PSLV-C54 rocket

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed nine satellites in multiple orbits by its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54).
- ❖ It includes an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) and 8 nanosatellites.
- ❖ The eight nano satellites include ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand, Astrocast (four satellites), and two Thybolt satellites.
- ❖ EOS-6 is the Oceansat series' third-generation satellite.
- ❖ EOS-06 is envisaged to observe ocean colour data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data to use in oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications.



India's first private space vehicle launchpad

- ❖ Chennai-based space tech startup Agnikul Cosmos has launched India's first private launchpad and mission control centre at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ The facility has two parts—the Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control centre
- ❖ The launchpad was designed to accommodate and support liquid stage-controlled launches.
- ❖ The Chennai-based startup plans to launch its Agnibaan rocket from this launchpad.
- ❖ Agnibaan is a two-stage launch vehicle that is capable of taking payloads of up to 100 kilograms to a low-earth orbit around 700 kilometres
- ❖ The Agnibaan rocket will be powered by the company's 3D-printed Agnilet engines.
- ❖ The Agnilet rocket is a "semi-cryogenic" engine that uses a mixture of liquid kerosene and supercold liquid oxygen to propel itself.



New Name for Monkeypox

- ❖ The World Health Organisation recommended a new name for monkeypox.
- ❖ The disease will now be known as mpox, as a synonym for monkeypox.
- ❖ Both the names will be used simultaneously for one year while monkeypox is phased out.
- ❖ Human monkeypox was given its name in 1970.

- ❖ The naming of viruses is the responsibility of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).



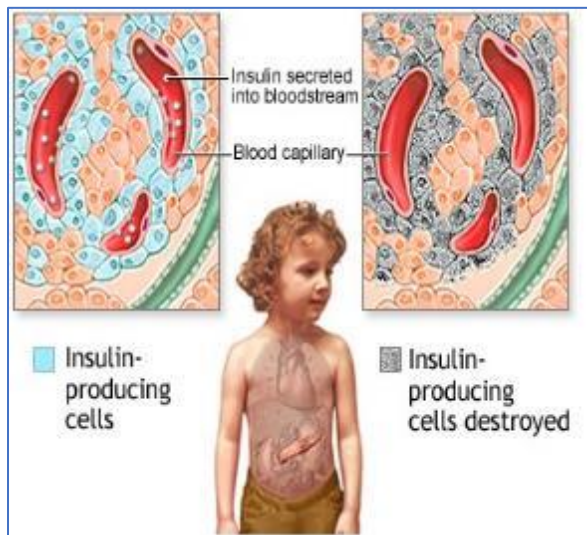
Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine



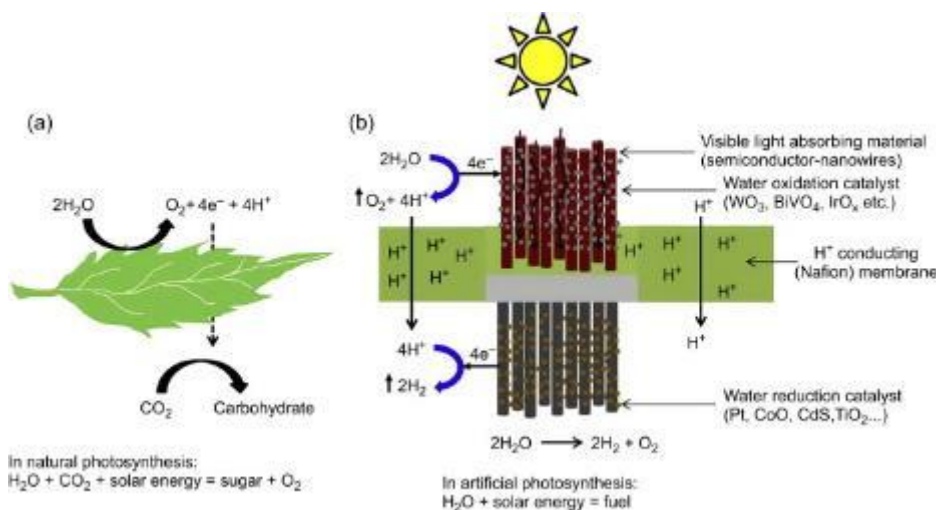
- ❖ Bharat Biotech's iNOVACC has become the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine to receive emergency use authorisation.
- ❖ It can be used as a primary vaccine as well as heterologous booster for those who have received two doses of another vaccine.
- ❖ iNOVACC is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

First Drug to Delay Type 1 Diabetes

- ❖ Biologic therapy that delays the onset of type 1 diabetes received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration
- ❖ It is the first therapy approved for prevention of type 1 diabetes.
- ❖ With type 1 diabetes, a person's immune system attacks cells called beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin.
- ❖ Insulin is a hormone that helps blood sugar enter cells, where it's used for energy.



Artificial Photosynthetic System



- ❖ IISER-Thiruvananthapuram and IIT-Indore have jointly developed an artificial light-harvesting system that will help capture solar energy.

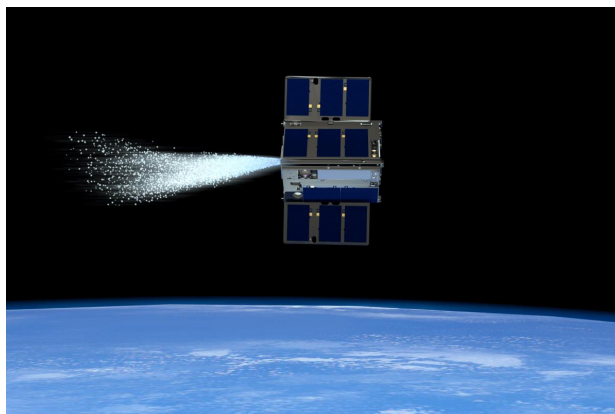
- ❖ This technology addresses various challenges faced while replicating the complex process of photosynthesis as well as the problems associated with light absorbers and transmitters.
- ❖ The new technology paves the way for designing of new light-harvesting materials that can improve the efficiency of solar cells and minimize the energy loss.

Hydrogen-Run Aircraft Engine



- ❖ Airline EasyJet and Aircraft Engine maker Rolls-Royce announced that they have successfully tested a hydrogen-powered aircraft engine.
- ❖ This is described as a world first for aviation.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is widely seen as better for the environment than jet fuel.
- ❖ The company tested a turboprop fan engine that is used on small regional flights aircrafts.
- ❖ Green hydrogen for the tests had been generated using tidal and wind energy from Scotland's Orkney Islands.

Steam-propelled spacecraft



- ❖ In a world first, Japan's space agency announced it successfully used steam to propel a spacecraft - EQUULEUS toward the Moon.
- ❖ It was launched as one of the payloads aboard Nasa's Orion spacecraft.
- ❖ As per JAXA, this is the world's first successful orbit control beyond low-Earth orbit using a water propellant propulsion system.
- ❖ It uses waste heat from the communication kit to convert the water into steam that is squirted out to produce thrust.
- ❖ The CubeSat is expected to reach the second Earth-Moon Lagrange point (EML2) in approximately one-and-a-half years.
- ❖ Lagrangian points are locations in space where the gravity of large objects, such as planets, are balanced out by the centrifugal force of a spacecraft, allowing for a very stable orbit.

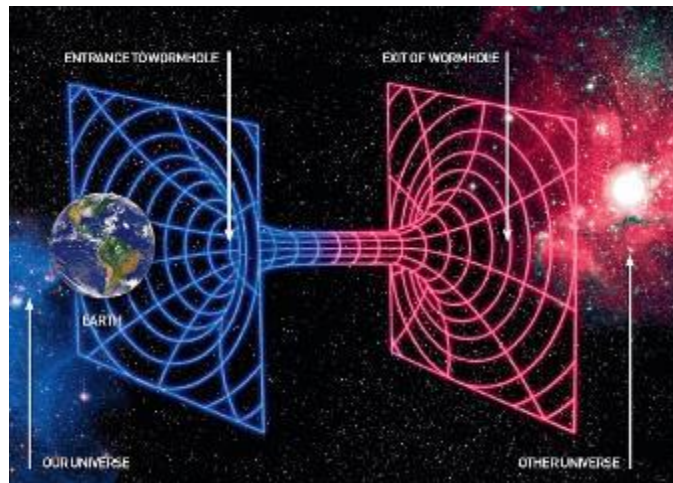
Elaliite and Elkinstantonite



- ❖ Researchers in Canada have discovered two new minerals in a meteorite that landed in Somalia.
- ❖ The minerals have been named "elaliite," after the town where the meteorite crashed, and "elkinstantonite," after planetary scientist Lindy Elkins-Tanton.
- ❖ Similar minerals had been synthetically created in a lab in the 1980s but never recorded as appearing in nature.
- ❖ The 15-tonne meteorite is the ninth largest recorded at over 2 metres wide, was unearthed in Somalia in 2020.
- ❖ The meteorite came from an asteroid in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Baby wormhole

- ❖ Wormholes are a very common topic in science fiction.
- ❖ The proper definition of a wormhole is 'a rupture in space and time' which is regarded as a 'bridge between two remote regions in the universe'.
- ❖ While they are not existent in physical space, a group of researchers claim that they have created a mini version.
- ❖ A simulation was performed with two small black holes in a quantum computer and they were able to send a message successfully through them.



Nuclear Stealth Bomber

- ❖ United States has unveiled its latest high-tech strategic bomber – the B-21 Raider.
- ❖ This is the first strategic bomber in more than three decades.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying a nuclear payload and can be flown without a crew on board.
- ❖ B-21 is capable of taking to the air without a pilot.



Ocean Wave Energy Converter

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed an 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' that can generate electricity from sea waves.
- ❖ This device targets generating 1MW of power from ocean waves in the next three years.
- ❖ The product has been named 'Sindhuja-I,' which means 'generated from the ocean.'



INS Mormugao

- ❖ It was commissioned by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the eve of the Goa Liberation Day 2022.
- ❖ It is the second ship of the Visakhapatnam-class stealth guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It was built under Project 15B.



- ❖ It was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), located in Mumbai.
- ❖ The vessel is made of 75 per cent of indigenous content.

- ❖ The purpose of the Indian Navy's Project 15B is to develop stealth destroyers having maximised indigenous inputs.
- ❖ The project's first vessel – INS Visakhapatnam – was commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 2021.
- ❖ It is the first of the Indian Navy's Visakhapatnam-class stealth guided-missile destroyers.

INS Arnala

- ❖ It is the first ship of the ASW SWC Project.
- ❖ It was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai, by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, GRSE for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The ship was called Arnala in honour of the strategic maritime importance bestowed by the great Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, on the island of Arnala, located about 13 kilometres north of Vasai, Maharashtra.



‘Vagir’

- ❖ The fifth Scorpène submarine, Vagir of Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with Naval Group, France.
- ❖ Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design.
- ❖ This project envisages indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system.

- ❖ Vagsheer, the 6th & last submarine, is likely to be delivered next year.



Vainu Bappu Telescope

- ❖ Recently it made the celebrations of 50 years of operations.
- ❖ This telescope was set up in 1972 by Professor Vainu Bappu at Kavalur, Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Kavalur is a village in the Jawadhu Hills in Vaniyambadi taluk, in Tirupathur district.
- ❖ The skies above Kavalur were excellent, and its southern location would allow it to see most of the northern and southern skies.
- ❖ It has played a significant role in astronomy with major discoveries like the presence of rings around the planet Uranus, a new satellite of Uranus, the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter.
- ❖ It also includes the discovery and study of many 'Be Stars', Lithium depletion in giant stars, optical variability in Blazars, and the dynamics of the famous supernova SN 1987A.



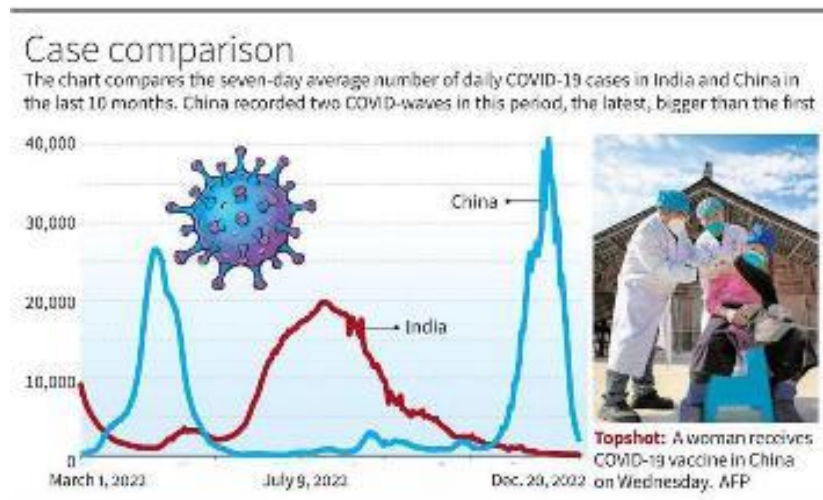
- ❖ Starting from the Cassegrain photometer and Echelle spectrograph in 1976, the new grating spectrograph in 1978, the fast-chopping polarimeter in 1988 with its

replacement in 2016, and the latest NIR photometer in 2021, the observatory has constantly been upgrading its facilities.

‘Pralay’ Ballistic Missile

- ❖ The Indian armed forces are now set to procure the ‘Pralay’ ballistic missile.
- ❖ It can hit the target from 150 to 500 km.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had successfully conducted the maiden flight test of this indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile ‘Pralay’.
- ❖ It was done from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha in December 2021.
- ❖ Pralay is powered with a solid propellant rocket motor.
- ❖ The new missile followed the desired quasi ballistic trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithm.

BF.7



- ❖ The New Covid Variant, BF.7 is the sub-variant of Omicron.
- ❖ The massive Covid rise in China is being caused by the BF.7 sub-variant of Omicron.
- ❖ In Gujarat and Odisha, the instances of BF.7 Covid Variant first came to light.
- ❖ The Omicron sub-lineage BA.5 and the BF.7 are identical.
- ❖ The BF.7 is also known as BA.5.2.1.7.

- ❖ The BF.7 sub-variant has a 4.4-fold higher neutralization resistance than the original D614G variant.
- ❖ This means that in a lab setting, antibodies from a vaccinated or infected individual were less likely to destroy BF.7 than the original Wuhan virus.
- ❖ Another Omicron sub-variant named BQ.1 had a more than 10-fold higher neutralization resistance than BF.7, which is not the most resilient sub-variant.

World's First Commercial Moon Lander

- ❖ Japan's space startup has successfully launched a spacecraft to the moon recently.
- ❖ This is a step toward what would be a first for the nation and for a private company.
- ❖ Japan's ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA.
- ❖ Till date, the national space agencies of the United States, Russia and China have achieved soft landings on moon.
- ❖ The M1 lander will deploy two robotic rovers, a two-wheeled, baseball-sized device from Japan's JAXA space agency and the four-wheeled Rashid Rover made by the United Arab Emirates.



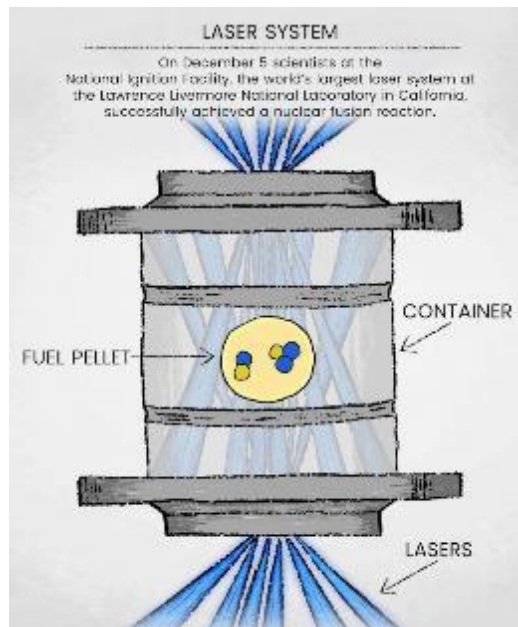
“World-first” operation using stem cells

- ❖ Heart surgeons in England has carried out a “world-first” operation using stem cells from the placentas.
- ❖ Stem cells are the body's raw materials.
- ❖ They are the cells from which all other cells with specialized functions are generated.
- ❖ Under the right conditions in the body or a laboratory, stem cells are divided to form more cells called daughter cells.



**World-first operation
using placenta stem
cells saves baby with
heart defect**

Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough



- ❖ The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) said it had used the world's largest laser to create, for the first time, a fusion reaction.
- ❖ This replicated the process that powers the sun and generated more energy than it took to produce.
- ❖ Nuclear fusion has been touted by its supporters as a clean, abundant and safe source of energy.
- ❖ Researchers used 192 ultra-powerful lasers to deliver 2.05 megajoules of energy and got 3.15 megajoules of fusion energy output

First global water survey satellite

- ❖ NASA launched Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ The satellite will take the first global survey of Earth's freshwater systems from space.
- ❖ SWOT is an advanced radar satellite that aims to provide scientists with a deeper understanding of the oceans and how climate change impacts them.
- ❖ The satellite will be able to measure the water levels of ocean features ten times more accurately than is currently possible.
- ❖ It will also be able to measure over a million lakes and rivers on Earth.
- ❖ Through its observations, the satellite will also be able to improve the accuracy of flood forecasts.



Artificial Heart

- ❖ IIT Kanpur has developed an artificial heart that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems.
- ❖ These Artificial hearts can be implanted in serious patients.
- ❖ After success in the trial, transplantation can be done in humans in the next two years.



ENVIRONMENT

Mauna Loa volcano

- ❖ The world's largest active volcano, Mauna Loa on Hawaii, is erupting for the first time in nearly 40 years.
- ❖ Mauna Loa rises 13,679 feet (4,169 meters) above the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is part of the chain of volcanoes that formed the islands of Hawaii.
- ❖ Previously, it erupted in March and April of 1984.



New species of Black Corals

- ❖ Researchers discovered five new species of black corals living as deep as 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the surface.
- ❖ It is found in the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea off the coast of Australia.
- ❖ Black corals can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres).
- ❖ Some individual corals can live for over 4,000 years.



List of World Heritage in Danger

- ❖ A joint report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) expressed concern about the status of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) in Australia.
- ❖ They recommended that it "be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger."
- ❖ It is located off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- ❖ The GBR is the world's largest coral reef system with over 2,900 individual reefs, 900 islands and an area covering approximately 344,400 square kilometres.
- ❖ It is one of the biggest biodiversity hotspots in the world as well as one of its largest carbon sinks.



Natovenator polydontus



- ❖ The dinosaur, called Natovenator polydontus, lived about 72 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period.
- ❖ It was built like a diving bird with a streamlined body.

- ❖ It was possessing a goose-like elongated neck and a long-flattened snout with a mouth bearing more than 100 small teeth.
- ❖ Its well-preserved remains, a skeleton about 70% complete - were unearthed in the Gobi Desert.

Survey of birds in Chhattisgarh

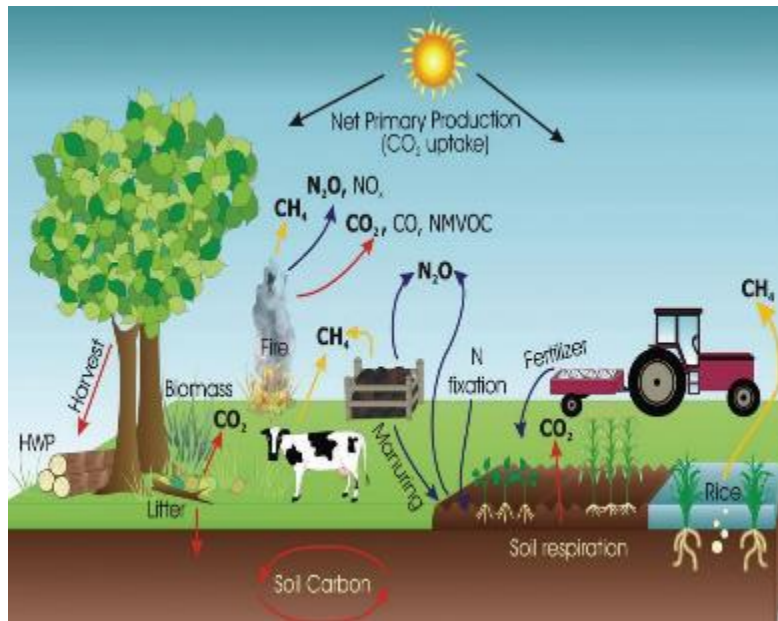
- ❖ Around 200 bird species were documented during the Kanger Valley Bird Survey in state's first-ever systematic inter-state bird survey.
- ❖ This survey was organised by the forest department of Kanger Valley National Park and birders from Chhattisgarh in collaboration with Birds and Wildlife of Chhattisgarh and Bird Count India.
- ❖ This was Kanger Valley's first such bird survey that involved forest personnel, bird guides and citizen birdwatchers of India.



Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- ❖ India opposed the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA).
- ❖ It is a landmark decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ❖ KJWA sought to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector.
- ❖ It aims to recognize the unique potential of the agriculture sector in addressing the climate change.
- ❖ It addresses 6 interrelated topics on soil, nutrient usage, livestock, water, methods for gauging adaptation and socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across the agriculture sector.
- ❖ India held that emissions from the agricultural sectors are not “luxury” emissions but “survival emissions” of the poor.
- ❖ India pointed out that developed countries owe the world a carbon debt of 790 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.

- ❖ It is worth about 79 trillion USD even at the modest pricing of 100 USD per tonne.
- ❖ South Asia's historic total carbon emissions from the pre-industrial period until 2019 are less than 4 per cent despite hosting a quarter of the global population.
- ❖ India's per capita yearly emissions are about one-third of the global average.
- ❖ If the entire world emits carbon at the same per capita level as India, climate crisis can be addressed.

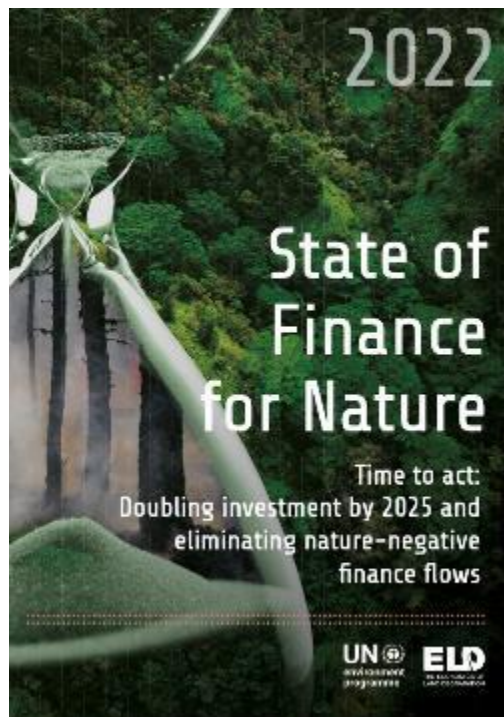


Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ Supreme Court exempted Maharashtra's Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary from mandating the creation of a 1 km eco-sensitive zones around the protected area.
- ❖ This is situated on a plateau east of Vasai and Virar in Maharashtra's Palghar district.
- ❖ It forms a corridor between the Borivali National Park and Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ Earlier, the Supreme Court had directed all protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuaries across India to have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone of a minimum of 1 km starting from their demarcated boundaries.
- ❖ The ESZs are set up around the protected areas as a "shock observer".
- ❖ They act as a transition zone from the areas with high protection to those having lesser protection.
- ❖ The Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary in Mumbai are exempted earlier.



State of Finance for Nature 2022 Report



- ❖ It is released by the UNEP along with the Economics of Land Degradation initiative of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the UNCCD, and the European Commission.
- ❖ It was released 10 days after the conclusion of the COP27 and a week before the start of the UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP15 CBD) in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ The current global investment in nature-based solutions (NbS) is 154 billion USD per annum.

- ❖ This needs to be increased to 384 billion USD by 2025.
- ❖ The investments in economic activities that are increasing GHG emissions are 3 to 7 times higher than the investments in NbS.
- ❖ Subsidies for economic activities that are harmful for the environment is highest in energy sector.
- ❖ In agriculture sector, the subsidies are estimated to be around 500 billion per annum.
- ❖ The report recommended the phasing out of these subsidies.

Melanochlamys bengalensis

- ❖ Zoologists has discovered a new species of head-shield sea slug from the coast of Bay of Bengal near Digha, Talasari-Udaypur and its adjoining places.
- ❖ It is named Melanochlamys bengalensis.
- ❖ The new species represents a distinct clade as compared to other species of the same genus.
- ❖ It is a small sea slug having a length up to 14 mm with shell inside body and no backbone (invertebrate).
- ❖ There are 17 species of this genus found around the globe.
- ❖ All these species are generally distributed in temperate regions of the Indo-Pacific Oceanic realm.
- ❖ This is the second truly tropical species after Melanochlamys papillata from the Gulf of Thailand.



Global status of black soils

- ❖ The report titled “Global Status of Black Soils” was released by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ Black soils are characterized by thick, dark-coloured soil horizon rich in organic matter.

- ❖ They are extremely fertile and capable of producing high agricultural yields because of their high moisture storing capacity.
- ❖ They account for 5.6 per cent of global soils and contain 8.2 per cent of the world's soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks.
- ❖ Black soils, which feed the global population, are threatened since most of them have lost at least 50 per cent of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks.
- ❖ Black soils are home to around 2.86 per cent of the global population.
- ❖ It supports over 17.36 per cent of cropland, 8.05 per cent of global SOC stock and 30.06 per cent SOC stock of global cropland.
- ❖ Despite representing only, a small portion of the world's soils, black soils play a major role in global food security and economic growth.
- ❖ Europe and Eurasia account for 70% of the black soils in the total cropland.
- ❖ North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia have 10 per cent each.

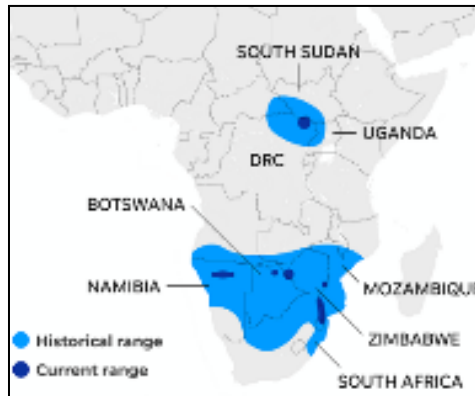
Table 2.1 Top ten countries with the largest black soil areas

Country	Black soil area (million hectare)	Country area (million hectare)	Black soil proportion (percentage)
Russian Federation	326.8	1700.2	19.22
Kazakhstan	107.7	283.9	37.93
China	50	934.6	5.35
Argentina	39.7	278.1	14.28
Mongolia	38.6	156.5	24.67
Ukraine	34.2	60	57.01
United States of America	31.2	950.1	3.28
Colombia	24.5	113.8	21.54
Canada	13	997.5	1.30
Mexico	11.9	196.4	6.04

Status of Southern White Rhinos

- ❖ CITES COP19 has recently accepted the proposal to downgrade the status of southern white rhinos from Appendix I to Appendix II.
- ❖ This proposal was made by Namibia and Botswana.
- ❖ Animals in Appendix II may not necessarily be on the brink of extinction but the trade of such species is regulated to protect their existence.
- ❖ It allows white rhinos to be relocated over long distances from one country to another.
- ❖ The southern white rhino is one of the two subspecies of white rhinos, with the other being the northern white rhino.
- ❖ It is one of the largest and heaviest animals in the world.

- ❖ It is among the most widespread and common subspecies of white rhinos.
- ❖ It is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN Red List.



A list of threatened species

- ❖ A list of threatened species was released at the COP15 to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ It has shown what overconsumption and unsustainable harvesting can do to plants and animals around us.
- ❖ As many as 44 per cent of all abalone shellfish species are now threatened with extinction.
- ❖ Dugong populations in east Africa and New Caledonia have entered the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered and Endangered respectively.
- ❖ The species remains Vulnerable globally.
- ❖ The pillar coral, found throughout the Caribbean from the Yucatan Peninsula and Florida to Trinidad and Tobago, has moved from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Global figures for the 2022-2 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species	
Total Species Assessed	150,388
Total threatened species	42,108
Extinct in the Wild	84
Extinct	902
Critically Endangered	9,251
Endangered	16,364
Vulnerable	16,493
Near Threatened	8,816
Lower Risk/conservation dependent	152
Least Concern	77,491
Data Deficient	20,835

U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity - COP 15



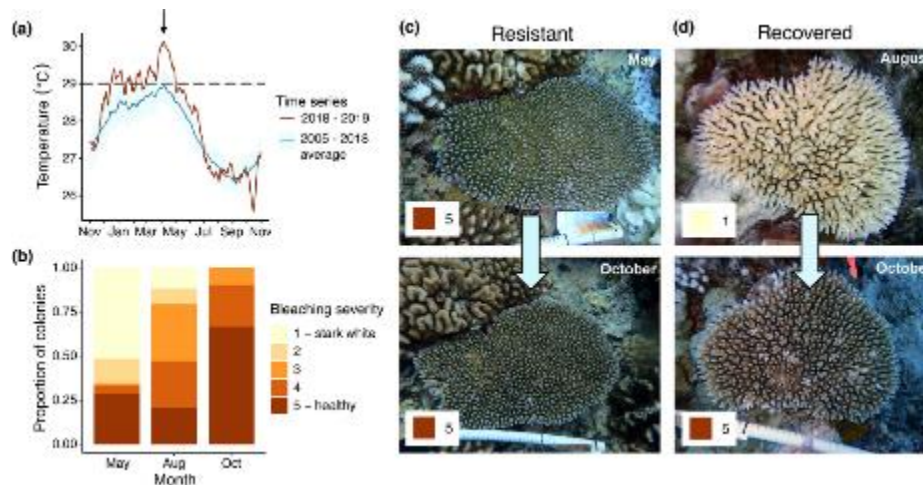
- ❖ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity COP-15 commenced in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ This is the second part of the COP15.
- ❖ The first part was hosted by China.
- ❖ India has rejected the concept of area-based targets for biodiversity conservation and have stated that the one-size-fits-all approach is unacceptable.
- ❖ India urged to create a new and dedicated fund to help developing countries successfully implement a post-2020 global framework to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- ❖ The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ China holds presidency in this conference.
- ❖ It adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- ❖ The GBF includes four goals and 23 targets to address the loss of biodiversity and restore natural ecosystems by 2030.
- ❖ It is an agreement to protect 30% of land and water considered important for biodiversity by 2030, known as 30 by 30.
- ❖ The targets of the GBF need to be achieved by 2030.
- ❖ To support the implementation of the GBF, the Global Environment Facility has been requested to establish a Special Trust Fund.
- ❖ As part of the GBF, countries have pledged to reduce harmful government subsidies worth USD500 billion annually and identify subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity by 2025

- ❖ The main targets are
 - Protecting at least 30% of the world's land, water, coastal, and marine areas
 - Restoring at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine ecosystems
 - Cutting global food waste in half and reducing overconsumption and waste
 - Reducing the use of pesticides and hazardous chemicals by half.

Frozen Coral

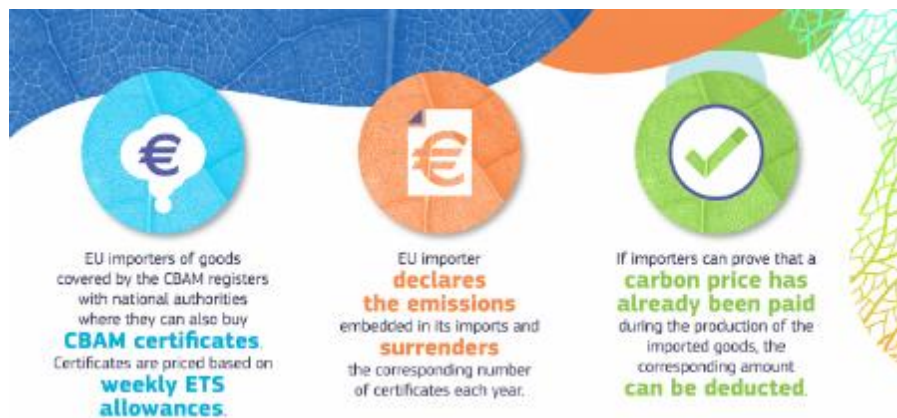


- ❖ The scientists successfully froze Australia's Great Barrier Reef coral in world-first trial.
- ❖ The Great Barrier Reef has suffered four bleaching events in the last seven years and scientists are scrambling to protect coral reefs.
- ❖ In the lab trial, the world's first with Great Barrier Reef coral, scientists used the cryomesh to freeze coral.
- ❖ Cryomesh is a specially fabricated mesh used as substrate in cryopreservation.
- ❖ The 'cryomesh' is lightweight and can be manufactured cheaply.
- ❖ It preserves coral in a better way and has the properties of cryoplates.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

- ❖ European Union announced a historic reform within the bloc's carbon market.
- ❖ This reform serves as the central plank in the EU's ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and invest in climate-friendly technologies.
- ❖ The deal includes provisions such as accelerated emission cuts, phased out of free allowances to industries.

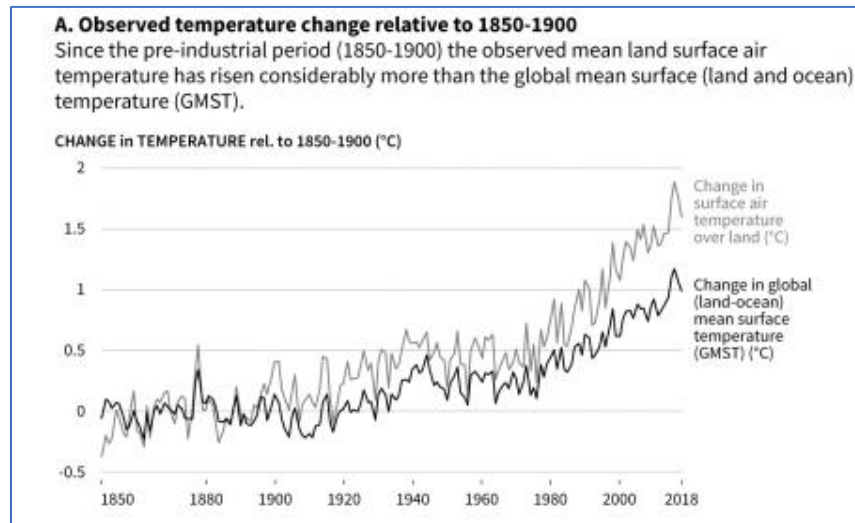
- ❖ The carbon border tax is the most unique initiative.
- ❖ It marks the world's first major step aimed at making the economy carbon-neutral by 2050.
- ❖ The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is also known as the Carbon Border Tax.
- ❖ It adds pollution values to certain EU imports.
- ❖ This measure makes it necessary for carbon-intensive industries to adhere to stringent emission standards.
- ❖ Carbon Border Tax is a duty levied on imports based on the amount of carbon emissions.



Report on “Climate Change and Land”

- ❖ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) released a Special report on Climate Change and Land.
- ❖ Human use directly affects more than 70% (likely 69–76%) of the global, ice-free land surface.
- ❖ The current intensive agriculture system has led to soil degradation and constant losses.
- ❖ There may not be enough soil to feed the world in next 50 years.
- ❖ Since the outbreak of the Second World War, we have recorded atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rising to 1.3 parts per million per year.
- ❖ This is four times faster than in the previous 100 years and 400 times faster than in the last 5,000 years.
- ❖ Despite our increasing knowledge about the environmental impact of our food, global meat consumption increased by 58% between 1998 and 2018.
- ❖ Vegetable oil consumption registered an approximately 30% increase since 2013.

- ❖ Rice consumption worldwide increase of 17% since 2008, and wheat recorded a 6% rise.



Decline of Polar Bear Population

- ❖ Western Hudson Bay polar bear population in Canada has declined by 27 percent in the past 5 years.
- ❖ There are 19 polar bear populations spread across Russia, Alaska, Norway, Greenland and Canada.
- ❖ The polar bear population in Western Hudson Bay is expected to be among the first to go extinct.
- ❖ The number of polar bears in the region has declined by 11 percent between 2011 and 2016.
- ❖ Currently there are only 618 polar bears remaining in 2021.
- ❖ This is roughly a 50 percent decline from the 1980s population figures.



Data on polluted rivers

- ❖ This report was released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- ❖ The number of polluted stretches in India's rivers has fallen from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022.
- ❖ Though the number of most polluted stretches is practically unchanged.
- ❖ No change/ slight change in the Priority I & II category of polluted river stretches.

Antarctica's Emperor Penguins



- ❖ Antarctica has a unique species of plants and animals that can survive the coldest, windiest, highest and driest continent on Earth.
- ❖ These species include 2 flowering plants, hardy moss and lichens, numerous microbes, invertebrates and breeding seabirds like emperor and Adélie penguins.
- ❖ These animals and plants are threatened because of global warming and climate crisis.
- ❖ If the current conservation efforts remain the same, the population of 97 percent of Antarctic terrestrial species and breeding seabirds could decline between now and 2100.
- ❖ At the best-case scenario, 37 percent of the species would decline.
- ❖ Emperor penguins are at the risk of going extinct by 2100 in the worst-case scenario.
- ❖ It is the only species in the study that is facing this destiny.

Bar-headed Goose

- ❖ The bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) is considered to be one of the world's highest-flying birds.
- ❖ They are Native to Central Asia.
- ❖ This species is capable of flying through the passes of high mountains at an altitude of 12,000 to 14,000 feet.

- ❖ It spends the winters in South Asia, as far south as peninsular India. It migrates south from Tibet, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia before crossing the Himalayas.
- ❖ The goose migrates more than 1,609 km in a single day.
- ❖ Over the past few days, around a thousand bar-headed geese flocked to the Odisha's Rushikulya river.



REPORTS AND INDICES

GEURS – Survey

- ❖ The Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS) was released by Times Higher Education (THE).
- ❖ It reveals the top 250 universities in the world that are producing employable graduates as per the recruiters.
- ❖ IIT Delhi was ranked among the top 50 in the list.
- ❖ At the global level, a total of 44 countries featured in the list.
- ❖ In the recently released edition, India is in the 13th position in terms of the number of institutions.
- ❖ It is ahead of countries like Sweden, Hong Kong, Italy and Singapore.
- ❖ IISc Bengaluru secured 58th rank, is the second-best performer in India.
- ❖ It has improved its ranking by three spots.
- ❖ It is followed by IIT Bombay at 72nd position, a raise from the 97th rank in 2021.
- ❖ Five Indian institutions are among the top 200 and a total of seven are in the top 250.
- ❖ IIM-Ahmedabad ranked 154 and IIT Kharagpur got 155th place.
- ❖ Four of the top five universities are in the US.

- ❖ A total of 55 US universities are in top 250.
- ❖ France and the United Kingdom have 18 and 14 universities in the top 250 respectively.

Global Prime Cities Index

THE KNIGHT FRANK PRIME GLOBAL CITIES INDEX Q3 2022					
Ranked by annual % change					
	CITY	WORLD REGION	12-MONTH % CHANGE (Q3 2021- Q3 2022)	6-MONTH % CHANGE (Q1 2022- Q3 2022)	3-MONTH % CHANGE (Q2 2022- Q3 2022)
1	Dubai	Middle East	88.8%	49.9%	29.3%
2	Miami ^{1,3}	North America	30.8%	15.2%	3.1%
3	Tokyo ³	Asia	17.0%	5.7%	10.6%
4	Los Angeles ^{1,3}	North America	13.6%	2.8%	-4.1%
5	Gold Coast	Australasia	11.3%	0.1%	-1.6%
6	Zurich	Europe	10.7%	6.1%	2.8%
7	Edinburgh	Europe	9.9%	5.3%	0.9%
8	Berlin	Europe	9.4%	4.3%	-0.9%
9	Seoul	Asia	8.9%	0.6%	-4.1%
10	Taipei	Asia	8.6%	3.3%	1.7%

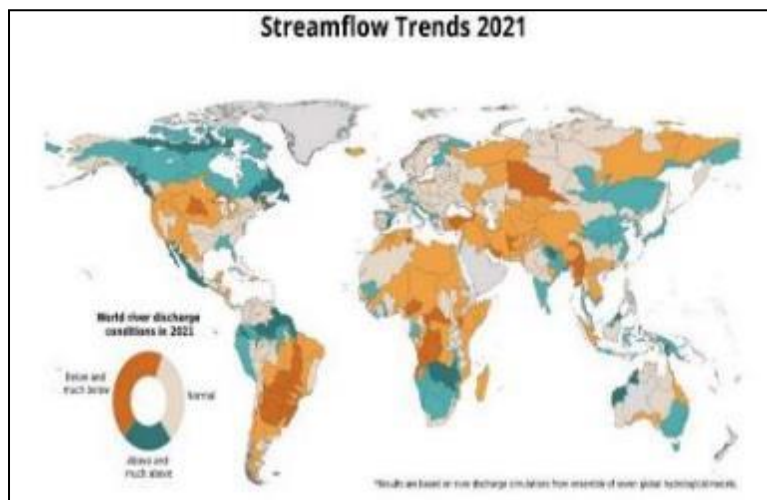
- ❖ London-based property consultant Knight Frank has ranked Mumbai in the 22nd position in a global Prime Cities index.
- ❖ This measures the annual price appreciation of premium residential properties.
- ❖ All three Indian cities - Mumbai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi saw an increase in average annual prices in the third quarter of 2022.
- ❖ Mumbai moved up to 22nd rank in the third quarter of 2022 from 39th rank in the year-ago period.
- ❖ Bengaluru's rank also moved up to 27th as against 41st.
- ❖ New Delhi's position improved to 36th rank from 38th rank.

Tribal Development Report 2022

- ❖ The Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation, released a first-of-its-kind Tribal Development Report-2022.
- ❖ It looks at the status of tribal communities at an all-India level and in central India.
- ❖ This analyses with respect to livelihoods, agriculture, natural resources, economy, migration, governance, human development, gender, health, education, art, and culture.

- ❖ India's tribal communities form 8.6% of the country's population according to the 2011 Census.
- ❖ Central India is home to 80% of the tribal communities in the country.
- ❖ Of the 257 Scheduled Tribe districts, 230 (90%) are either forested or hilly or dry.
- ❖ But they account for 80 % of India's tribal population.
- ❖ They have been pushed farther away from alluvial plains and fertile river basins into the harshest ecological regions of the country like hills, forests, and drylands.

State of Global Water Resources 2021



- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently released its first State of Global Water Resources Report.
- ❖ It aims to assess the impact of environmental, climatic and social changes on the world's water resources.
- ❖ Its objective is to support the monitoring and effective management of freshwater resources across the world at a time when the demand is high and supply is very limited.
- ❖ In 2021, rivers in Africa like Niger, Volta, Nile and Congo experienced less than normal discharge.
- ❖ Rivers in several parts of Russia, West Siberia and Central Asia also experienced lower-than-average discharge during the same period.
- ❖ Major flood events occurred in China, north India, western Europe.
- ❖ Countries affected by Tropical cyclones are like Mozambique, the Philippines and Indonesia.
- ❖ Countries like Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have experienced several consecutive years of below-average rainfall

- ❖ In 2021, places like the US' west coast, central part of South America and Patagonia, North Africa and Madagascar, Central Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan and North India had below-normal terrestrial water storage.
- ❖ In the long term, several places are expected to experience a negative trend in terrestrial water storage.
- ❖ These include Rio Sao Francisco basin in Brazil, Patagonia, the Ganges and Indus headwaters and the south-western US.
- ❖ The negative trends are stronger than the positive ones.

World Bank Migration and Development Brief

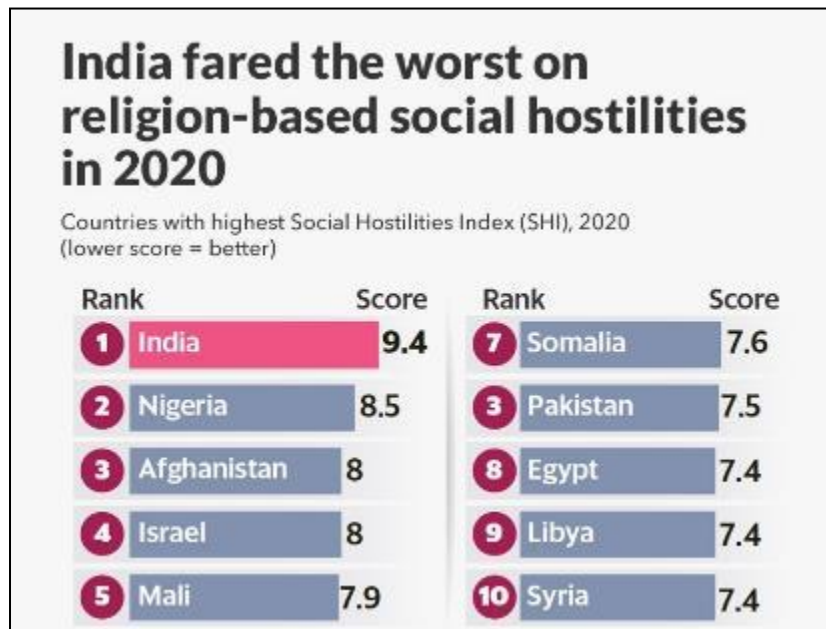
- ❖ The World Bank recently released its 37th Migration and Development Brief 2022.
- ❖ It is titled as 'Remittances Brave Global Headwinds, Special Focus: Climate Migration'.
- ❖ Remittances to low- and middle-income countries increased by nearly 5 per cent to around 626 billion USD in 2022.
- ❖ This is less than 10.2 per cent increase in 2021.
- ❖ This growth is expected to slow further to around 2 per cent in 2023.
- ❖ The top five countries to receive highest remittance inflow in 2022 are India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and Egypt.



Social Hostilities Index

- ❖ In 2020, India has been ranked first in the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) released by US think-tank Pew Research Center.
- ❖ India's SHI in 2020 was worse than neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan.

- ❖ This is also a further increase in its own index value for 2019.
- ❖ SHI measures act of religious hostility by private individuals, organisations or groups in society.
- ❖ The SHI measures act of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups.
- ❖ The index comprises 13 metrics, including religion-related armed conflict or terrorism and mob or sectarian violence.
- ❖ The Government Restrictions Index (GRI) looks at laws, policies and state actions restricting religious beliefs and practices.
- ❖ China was ranked the worst with a score of 9.3.
- ❖ India's 34th rank was enough to categorize it among countries with "high" levels of such government restrictions.
- ❖ The GRI comprises 20 measures, including efforts by governments to ban particular faiths, prohibit conversion, limit preaching or give preferential treatment to one or more religious groups.
- ❖ 2020 was not India's worst year on either index: 2016 was the worst with respect to social hostilities, and 2018 on government restrictions.



Global Aviation Safety Rankings 2022

- ❖ International aviation body ICAO has ranked India at 48th spot among the safest countries for aviation.
- ❖ India was earlier ranked at 102nd spot in 2018.

- ❖ Now it is among the top 50 countries with best aviation safety.
- ❖ The rankings are topped by Singapore.
- ❖ It is followed by the UAE and Republic of Korea.
- ❖ India's ranking was ahead of China (49).
- ❖ Neighbouring Pakistan is at the 100th spot.



World's 100 Most Powerful Women



- ❖ European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen topped Forbes' 2022 list of World's 100 most powerful women.
- ❖ Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was at the top of the list from 2006 to 2020, except in the year 2010.
- ❖ US First Lady Michelle Obama took the spot in 2010.

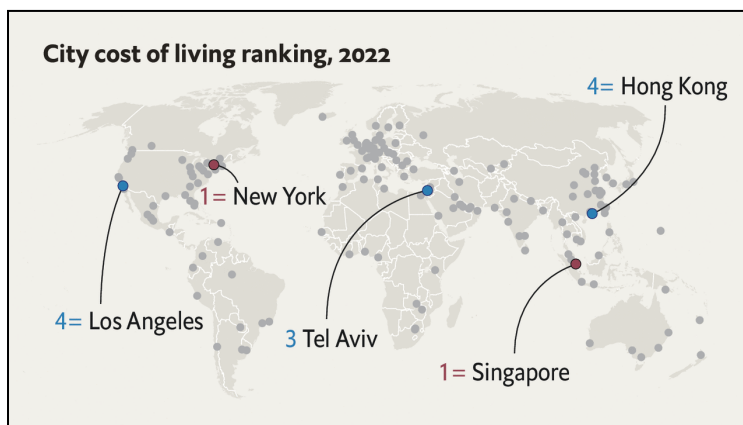
- ❖ The 100th position is held by Iran's Mahsa Amini.
- ❖ She is the first to be included in the list posthumously.
- ❖ Six Indian women featured on the 2022 list.
- ❖ These includes
 - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman,
 - Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw,
 - Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar,
 - HCL Tech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra,
 - SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and
 - Steel Authority of India Chairperson Soma Mondal.

Arton Capital Passport Index 2022



- ❖ It ranks the world's strongest and weakest passports.
- ❖ The rank of the passport is determined via a three-tier method.
- ❖ UNDP Human Development Index 2018 is used as a tie breaker.
- ❖ The UAE has the strongest passport in the world.
- ❖ Holders of this passport can travel visa-free or "visa on arrival" to 180 countries.
- ❖ Germany, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, and France are among the top 10 performers.
- ❖ India was ranked at 87th position in the world's strongest passport list.
- ❖ Countries with the weakest passports are Afghanistan (38) Syria (39), Iraq (40), Pakistan (44).

EIU Cost of Living Index 2022

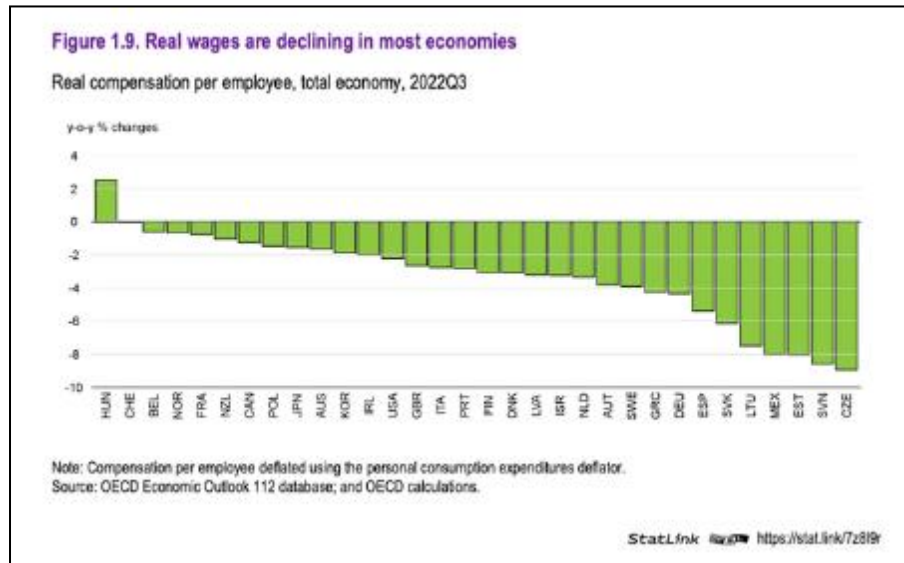


- ❖ The Worldwide Cost of Living 2022 report was released recently by the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ It compares prices of more than 200 goods and services in 172 countries across the globe.
- ❖ New York and Singapore have tied to take up the top rank because of high income and a strong US dollar.
- ❖ Tel Aviv, which stood at the top rank in 2021, fell to 3rd position.
- ❖ Los Angeles and Hong Kong tied to the 4th place.
- ❖ Moscow's ranking jumped from the 72nd in 2021 to the 37th in 2022.
- ❖ The capital of Ukraine -Kyiv is not in the 2022 list.
- ❖ Istanbul, Buenos Aires, and Tehran have recorded the highest increase in inflation.
- ❖ The highest rate of inflation was recorded in Caracas (Venezuela), where the cost of living increased by 132 per cent in the past year.

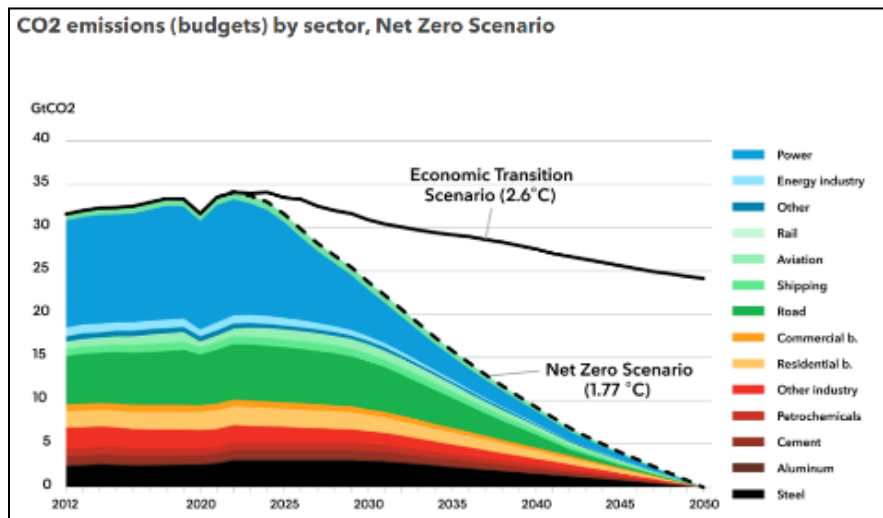
Global Wage Report 2022-2023

- ❖ The report titled the "Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The Impact of inflation and COVID-19 on wages and purchasing power" was released by ILO.
- ❖ Global wages declined in 2022 for the first time since the 2008 global financial crisis due to increasing living expenses.
- ❖ This is threatening to worsen inequality and trigger social unrest.
- ❖ The countries that witnessed a fall in minimum wages include Bulgaria, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ❖ The overall wages were lower in real terms in 2022 when compared with 2008 in countries like the UK, Italy, Japan and Mexico.

- ❖ The year 2022 recorded the biggest gap between real labour productivity growth and the real wage growth in high-income countries since 1999.
- ❖ There is a wide gap between the average level of real wages of the emerging G20 countries and that of the advanced G20 economies.



New Energy Outlook report 2022

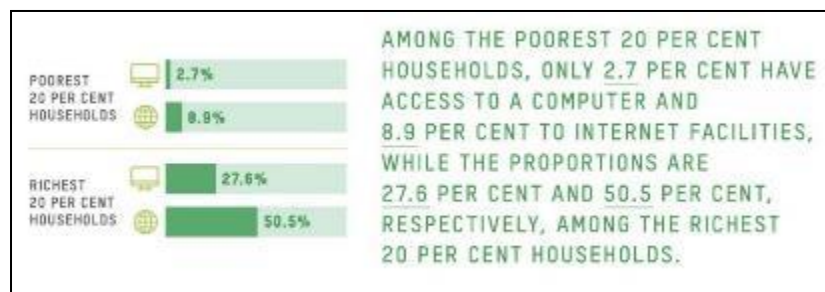


- ❖ The global, clean energy research provider BloombergNEF released New Energy Outlook Report 2022.
- ❖ The greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries, especially India, is expected to continue to increase until the end of 2030.
- ❖ The emissions will decline in these countries only in the early 2030s.
- ❖ Since emissions in Europe, the United States, Australia and Japan has already peaked in 2022, they are expected to decline rapidly in the following years.

- ❖ In China, the emissions are expected to peak in 2022 and stabilize for a while before they realign with developed countries' trajectories.
- ❖ Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C cannot be easily achieved.
- ❖ It is possible to maintain the global temperature increase to 1.77°C if pro-active actions are taken.
- ❖ However, investment in the clean energy sector must be three times higher than fossil fuels to achieve the Net Zero Target by 2050.
- ❖ Emissions need to decline by 30 per cent by the end of this decade and overall, by 6 per cent a year to 2040.

India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide

- ❖ Oxfam India's released 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' report.
- ❖ The percentage of men owning phones is as high as 61 per cent while only 31 per cent of women-owned phones in 2021.
- ❖ India's growing inequalities based on caste, religion, gender, class, and geographic location are being worryingly replicated in the digital space.
- ❖ The report revealed a digital divide based on employment status where 95 per cent of the salaried permanent workers have a phone.
- ❖ Only 50 per cent of the unemployed (willing and looking for a job) have a phone in 2021.
- ❖ Only 3 per cent of the rural population owned a computer.
- ❖ There are only 57.29 internet subscribers per 100 people in the country and that number is significantly lower in rural areas than urban.



Top 100 defense companies list

- ❖ Swedish think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a Top 100 defence companies list 2021.
- ❖ It has placed the HAL (42nd) and BEL (63rd) in the list of top 100 companies worldwide to supply arms, totalling to \$5.1 billion in 2021.

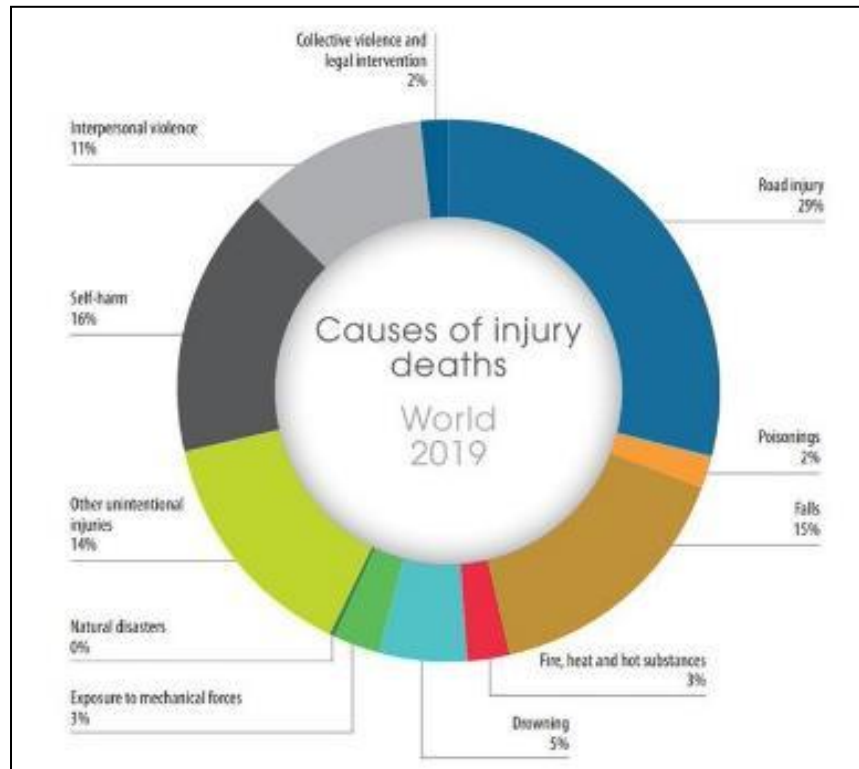
- ❖ SIPRI included a Taiwanese firm for the first time in the top 100.
- ❖ China has a total of eight companies listed in the top 100, and among them four companies are ranked among the top 10.
- ❖ It found that arms sales from the eight Chinese companies reached \$109 billion in 2021.
- ❖ The overall leader has been companies belonging to the US with a share of 51 per cent of the total arms sales.
- ❖ The US companies are followed by the Chinese companies.

Top 100 for 2022									
2022 Top 100 <small>Click headers to sort</small>									
This year's rank	Last Year's Rank	Company	Leadership	Country	2021 Defense Revenue (\$B)	2020 Defense Revenue (\$B)	% Defense Revenue Change	2021 Total Revenue (\$B)	Revenue From Defense
1	1	Lockheed Martin ¹	James D. Taiclet, Chairman, President and CEO	U.S.	\$84,488.03	\$82,562.80	2%	\$87,344.83	96%
2	2	Raytheon Technologies ¹	Gregory J. Hayes, Chairman and CEO	U.S.	\$44,852.23	\$42,008.80	3%	\$54,368.83	65%
3	3	Boeing	David Calhoun, President and CEO	U.S.	\$35,992.03	\$32,488.80	8%	\$82,288.83	58%
4	4	Molten	Kathy J. Warden, Chair, CEO and President	U.S.	\$21,425.03	\$21,408.80	0%	\$35,967.83	68%
5	5	General Dynamics	Philip Bonafant, Chairman and CEO	U.S.	\$19,808.03	\$19,568.80	1%	\$19,408.83	98%
6	6	Aviation Industry Corporation of China	Tan Ruiming, Chairman of the Board, and Tao Zhaoping, Director and General Manager ¹	China	\$23,158.22	\$25,488.59	93%	\$83,424.24	27%
7	7	BAE Systems ¹	Charles Woodburn, Group CEO	U.K.	\$25,215.28	\$25,562.80	90%	\$25,848.13	98%
8	10	China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited ²	Liu Fangfei, Chairman, and Yang Jinchao, Director and General Manager	China	\$18,917.22	\$19,017.52	99%	\$52,912.13	28%
9	8	China North Industries Group Corporation Limited	Lu Shiqian, Chairman, and Lu Yuhua, President ¹	China	\$17,711.93	\$16,248.27	98%	\$81,948.42	22%
10	9	United Technologies	Christopher E. Katsaris, Vice Chair and CEO ¹	U.S.	\$14,804.03	\$14,808.80	95%	\$17,814.83	84%

Preventing Injuries and Violence: An Overview

- ❖ The 14th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion held in Australia.
- ❖ The World Health Organization released a report titled “Preventing injuries and violence: An overview”.
- ❖ Of the 4.4 million injury-related deaths in 2019, unintentional injuries caused over 3.16 million deaths and violence-related injuries caused 1.25 million deaths.
- ❖ 1 in 3 of these deaths were because of road traffic crashes.
- ❖ 1 in 6 deaths was from suicide, 1 in 9 was because of homicide, and 1 in 61 was from war and conflict.
- ❖ In the age group 5 to 29 years, three of the top 5 causes of death are road traffic injuries, homicide, and suicide.
- ❖ Road traffic injuries were the leading cause of death among youth aged 15 to 29 years.
- ❖ Road traffic injuries are the second leading cause of death among children aging 5 to 14 years.

- ❖ Drowning is the 6th leading cause of death in the age group 5 to 14 years.
- ❖ Men are two times more vulnerable than women to deaths every year because of injuries and violence.
- ❖ The top causes of females dead are road traffic injuries, falls and suicides.



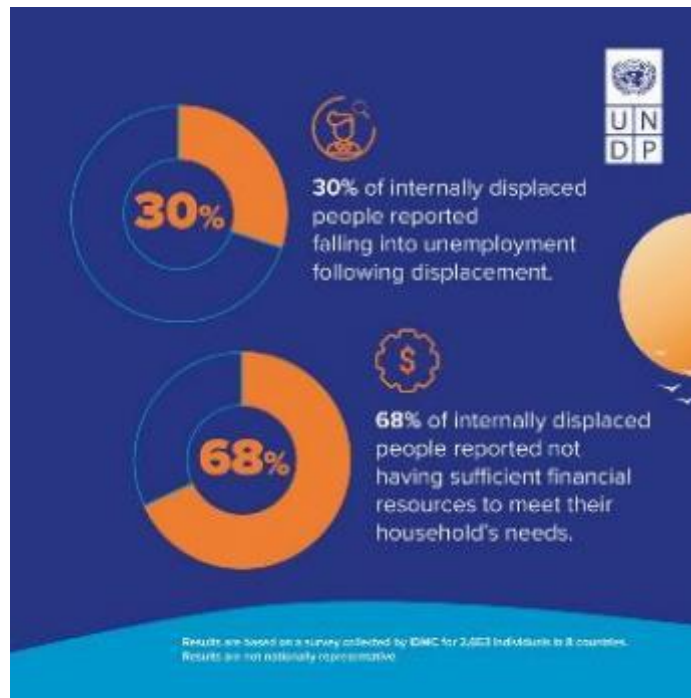
Who is Financing Fossil Fuel Expansion in Africa?

- ❖ The report titled “Who is Financing Fossil Fuel Expansion in Africa?” was released at the COP27, Egypt.
- ❖ Some 200 companies are currently exploring or developing new fossil fuel reserves or infrastructure in 48 of the 55 African countries.
- ❖ These include LNG terminals, pipelines, or gas and coal-fired power plants.
- ❖ 18 African countries are frontier countries having little to no existing oil or gas production.
- ❖ 13 of the top 20 oil and gas developers in Africa are foreign.
- ❖ The extraction and combustion of these new resources would result in the release of 8 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- ❖ In terms of country-wise bank funding for fossil fuel expansion in Africa, the top contributors are Europe (40 per cent), the United States (20 per cent) and India (3 per cent).

- ❖ Though these new projects are increasing the continent's fossil fuel capacity, only a small share of the electricity produced from these projects is used for domestic consumption.



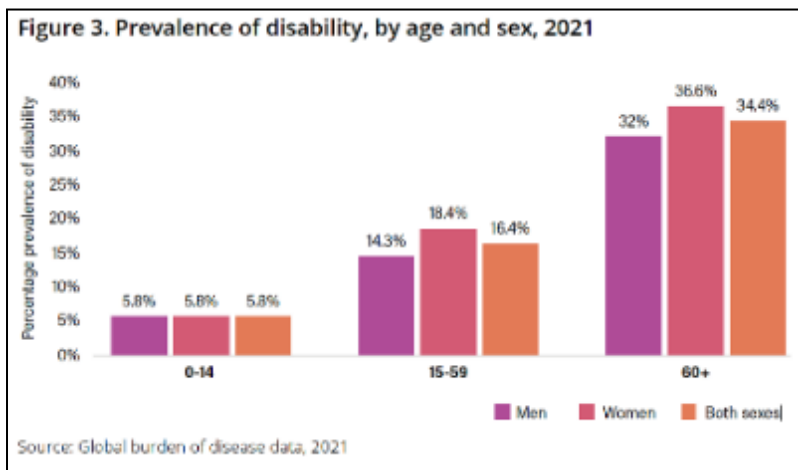
UNDP Report on Forced Displacement



- ❖ UNDP released a report named “Turning the tide on internal displacement: A development approach to solutions”.
- ❖ For the first time ever, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced in 2022, most of them within their own countries.
- ❖ At the end of 2021, there were over 59 million people forcibly displaced within their own countries due to conflict, violence, disasters and climate change.
- ❖ Before the war in Ukraine, 6.5 million people are estimated to have been internally displaced.

- ❖ By 2050, climate change may force more than an estimated 216 million people to move within their own countries.
- ❖ Disaster-related internal displacement is even more widespread, with new displacements recorded in over 130 countries and territories in 2021.
- ❖ Around 30% of professional lives became unemployed and 24% were not able to earn money the same way as before.
- ❖ 48% of the internally displaced households earned less money than before displacement.

Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities

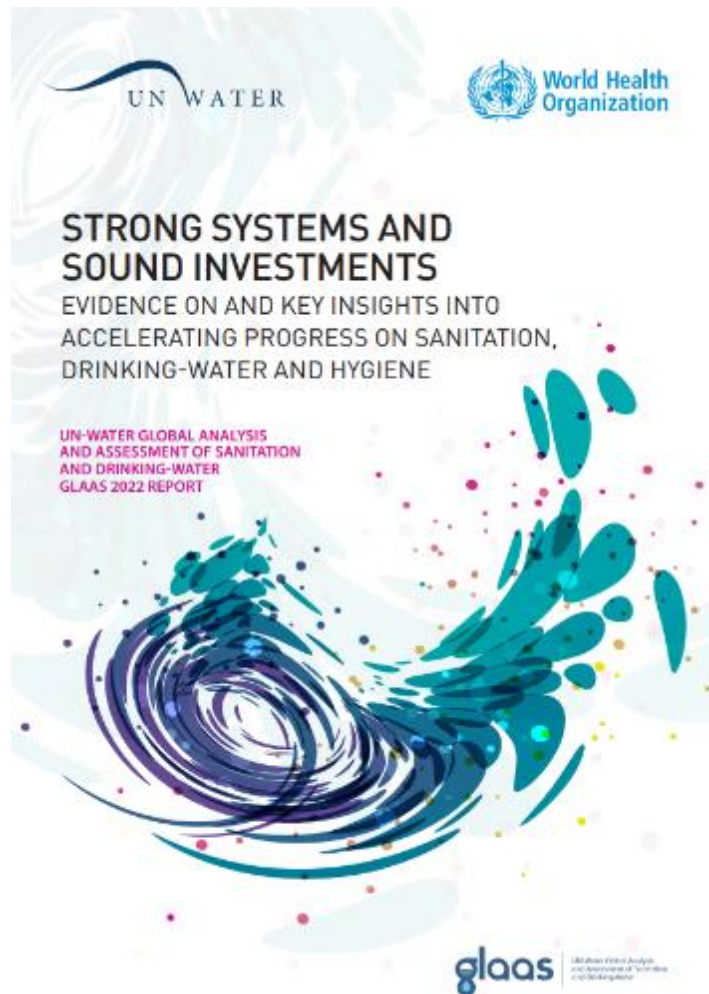


- ❖ WHO released the Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The persons with disabilities are at higher risk of premature death and illness when compared with others in the society.
- ❖ Due to systematic and persistent health inequalities, they are at higher risk of dying up to 20 years earlier than people without disabilities.
- ❖ They are at double the risk of developing chronic conditions like asthma, depression, diabetes, obesity, oral diseases and stroke.
- ❖ Currently, one in six people (1.3 billion) across the globe has significant disabilities.

GLAAS Report on WASH

- ❖ The Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) report was released by the WHO and UN-Water.
- ❖ This report compiles new data on drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) from 121 countries and territories and 23 External Support Agencies (ESAs).

- ❖ Less than one-third of countries reported maintaining enough human resources to manage essential Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) tasks.
- ❖ 45% of countries are on track to meet their drinking-water coverage targets, but only 25% are meeting their sanitation targets.
- ❖ Aid for water and sanitation decreased by 5.6% between 2017 and 2020, and the geographical targeting of the aid shifted.
- ❖ In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of WASH aid dropped from 32% to 23%.
- ❖ In Central and Southern Asia, it increased from 12% to 20%, and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, it increased from 11% to 20%.



World Malaria Report 2022

- ❖ World Malaria Report 2022 was released by the World Health Organization.
- ❖ The report highlights the progress towards the global targets and identifies opportunities and challenges for curbing and eliminating malaria.

- ❖ High-burden malaria countries witnessed the stabilization of malaria cases and deaths in 2021.
- ❖ The number of deaths has declined from 625,000 in 2020 to 619,000 in 2021.
- ❖ However, the number is higher than the pre-pandemic levels (568,000 deaths in 2019).
- ❖ Among the 11 high-burden countries, 5 (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Niger, and Tanzania) have recorded a decline in the number of deaths caused by malaria.
- ❖ The WHO Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030 sought to reduce malaria case incidence and mortality rate by at least 40 percent by 2020, at least 75 percent by 2025 and at least 90 percent by 2030 against a 2015 baseline.
- ❖ Malaria case incidence was 48 percent off track in 2021.
- ❖ During that year, 59 cases per 1,000 people were at risk, higher than the target of 31.
- ❖ Death incidence was also 48 percent off track (14.8 in 2021 against a target of 7.8).
- ❖ If this trend persists, the world will be 88 percent off target in its fight to eliminate malaria.

2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI)

- ❖ It is the 11th Global Food Security Index.
- ❖ It was released by the British weekly “The Economist”.
- ❖ Finland is topping the list, followed by Ireland and Norway.
- ❖ In this report, South Africa, at 59th Position, overtook Tunisia to become the most food-secure country in Africa.
- ❖ This is the first time that a country in Sub-Saharan Africa was the top performer in the continent.
- ❖ It shows a deterioration in the global food environment for the third year, threatening food security.
- ❖ Significant progress was made in global food security from 2012 to 2015.
- ❖ India is ranked at 68th position along with Algeria.

Social Progress Index

- ❖ The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for states and districts of India.

- ❖ It is a comprehensive tool intended to be a holistic measure of the Social Progress made by the country at the national and sub-national levels.
- ❖ It was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and the Social Progress Imperative.
- ❖ A special section of the report highlights progress made by the 112 aspirational districts in the country.
- ❖ The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across 3 critical dimensions of social progress.

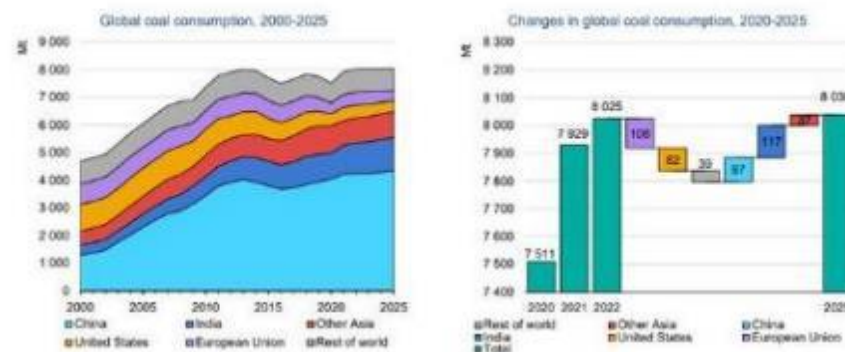
3 Dimensions

- ❖ Basic Human Needs - Assesses the performance in terms of Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Water and Sanitation, Personal Safety and Shelter.
- ❖ Foundations of Wellbeing - Evaluates the progress across the components of Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information and Communication, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Quality.
- ❖ Opportunity - Focuses on aspects of Personal Rights, Personal Freedom and Choice, Inclusiveness, and Access to Advanced Education.

Top 3 Best-performing States		Top 3 Best-performing Districts
Puducherry	(SPI - 65.99)	Aizawl (Mizoram)
Lakshadweep	(SPI - 65.89)	Solan (Himachal Pradesh)
Goa	(SPI - 65.53)	Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025

Global coal consumption set to plateau through 2025



- ❖ It was released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ It says coal is set to continue to be the growth engine of global coal demand.
- ❖ There is an absence of low-emissions alternatives that can replace coal at scale in the iron and steel sector in the near term.

- ❖ In 2022, the Global coal demand reached eight billion tonnes in a single for the first time.
- ❖ It was eclipsing the previous record set in 2013.
- ❖ India, along with China, is the world's largest coal producer, consumer, and importer.
- ❖ India's own coal production will surpass a billion tonnes by 2022.
- ❖ India's coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an annual growth rate of 6 per cent.
- ❖ India and China, are also the only two countries globally where there has been an uptick in investment in coal mine assets.

Hurun Global 500 rankings

5 GLOBALLY MOST VALUABLE COMPANIES			3 MOST VALUED INDIAN COS	
Apple	\$2.36 trillion	(Same position)	RIL	\$202 billion
Microsoft	\$1.8 trillion	(Same position)	TCS	\$139 billion
Alphabet	\$1.3 trillion	(Up one rank)	HDFC Bank	\$97 billion
Amazon	\$1.2 trillion	(Down one rank)		
Tesla	\$672 billion	(Up three ranks)		

- ❖ India has the 20 of the most valuable companies in the world.
- ❖ It has moved into the fifth position among countries that are home to the world's top 500 firms.
- ❖ Last year, it was ranked ninth with eight companies.
- ❖ The US continued to top the charts, China came in second with 35 companies, followed by Japan (28) and the UK (21).
- ❖ The list, released by the Hurun Research Institute, is a compilation of the 500 most valuable non-state-controlled companies in the world.
- ❖ Reliance Industries (RIL) topped the charts of Indian companies, while it ranked 34th in the world.
- ❖ It was followed by Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank.
- ❖ Globally, Apple retained the title of the most valuable company in the world.
- ❖ 50 per cent or 250 companies in the Hurun Global 500 companies have presence in India.

2022 Social progress Index

- ❖ The Social Progress Index for States and Districts of India was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Puducherry (65.99) scored the highest and topped in the list.
- ❖ Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar scored the lowest in India.
- ❖ Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh are the top four states in Basic Human Needs.
- ❖ Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Goa have emerged as the best-performing states for the Foundations of Wellbeing.
- ❖ Mizoram, Nagaland, and Meghalaya are the top three states in Environmental Quality.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has achieved the highest component score for Opportunity dimension.
- ❖ Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) have emerged as the top three best-performing districts.

UTs EMERGE AS TOP PERFORMERS					
Rank	State/ UTs	Score			
1	Puducherry	65.99	6	Tamil Nadu	63.33
2	Lakshadweep	65.89	7	Himachal Pradesh	63.28
3	Goa	65.53	8	Chandigarh	62.37
4	Sikkim	65.1	9	Kerala	62.05
5	Mizoram	64.19	10	Jammu & Kashmir	60.76

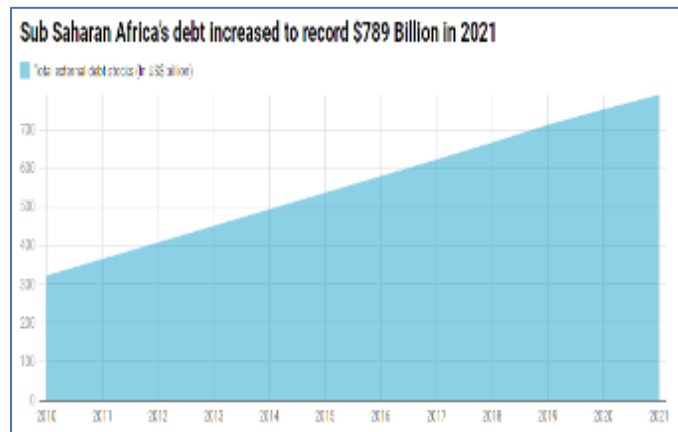
Source: Social Progress Index

Restoration Barometer Report 2022

- ❖ It is released by International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ❖ This report has highlighted the use of the 'Restoration Barometer tool' as the only tool currently used by governments to track progress on the implementation of restoration targets
- ❖ The tool was 1st launched in 2016 as the Bonn Challenge Barometer.
- ❖ It has highlighted that the investments of \$26bn across 18 countries have brought 14 million hectares of degraded landscapes under restoration.
- ❖ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of the world's degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030

International Debt Report 2022

- ❖ International Debt Report 2022 was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The debt of low- and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) increased to a record \$789 billion in 2021 from \$702 billion in 2020.
- ❖ This is the region's highest debt burden since 2010.
- ❖ In 2010, the region's debt stood at around \$305 billion.
- ❖ The total external debt of low- and middle-income countries at the end of 2021 was \$9 trillion.
- ❖ China, which is not a member of the Paris Club, has become the largest bilateral lender to low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Among other non-Paris Club members, Russia averaged \$6.1 billion in annual lending over this time, Saudi Arabia \$2.5 billion, and India \$2.4 billion.



The Wheebox India Skills Report 2023

- ❖ The Wheebox India Skills Report 2023 was compiled by trade bodies, companies, educational institutions, and others.
- ❖ The last one year witnessed an increase in the employability of Indians.
- ❖ The evaluation found that 50.3 percent of the candidates were employable.
- ❖ This is a significant increase from the last year's 46.2 percent.
- ❖ The 52.8 percent of women workforce are employable.
- ❖ This is higher than the 47.2 percent of employable men.
- ❖ The current share of women in Indian workforce is 33 percent.
- ❖ This is lesser than the of males at 67 percent.
- ❖ In countries situated in South America, Asia, and Africa, women account for 36 percent of the total workforce.

- ❖ Rajasthan has the highest percentage (53.5 percent) of employable females who are prepared for the workforce.
- ❖ Rajasthan is followed by Uttar Pradesh with 46.5%.



STATES

India's First Integrated Rocket Facility

- ❖ Telangana's will have the country's first integrated rocket Facility in Hyderabad by Skyroot Aerospace.
- ❖ It would help design, manufacturing and testing of Rockets.
- ❖ Skyroot Aerospace wants to build high-technology, low-cost, reliable launch vehicles.



5G Services in all districts



- ❖ Jio has rolled out its True 5G network in every headquarters of Gujarat's 33 districts.
- ❖ This making it the first state in India to get 100 percent coverage of 5G Services in the state.
- ❖ It will also launch a series of True 5 G-powered initiatives across health, education, agriculture, industry 4.0, and Internet of Things (IoT) sectors in Gujarat.

First woman Police Commissioner

- ❖ IPS Laxmi Singh Laxmi is a 2000-batch officer and has been appointed as the new Noida top cop.
- ❖ This makes her, the first woman officer to head a Police Commissionerate in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Laxmi has received the Police Medal in 2016, UP DGP's silver and gold medals in 2020 and 2021.



Retail Municipal Green Bond for Solar Plant

- ❖ Indore, Madhya Pradesh is planning to issue the nation's first local government bond.
- ❖ It targets individual investors, with proceeds used to fund a solar power project.
- ❖ The 60-megawatt (MW) solar facility would be built close to Indore at a cost of Rs. 3 billion.
- ❖ This will allow the city to save as much as Rs. 250 million per month on its power costs.
- ❖ Indore has won the award of India's cleanest city for six years in a row.

23rd Hornbill Festival

- ❖ 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 begins at Naga Heritage Village Kisama in Nagaland.
- ❖ It is also popularly known as the 'Festival of Festivals' and showcases Nagaland's rich culture.
- ❖ Hornbill is an Indian bird also known as the concave-casqued hornbill.
- ❖ It is one of the larger members of the hornbill family and is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The bird is an important part of tribal culture and is known for its size and colour.

Open Loop Ticketing System

- ❖ Haryana is set to launch the "Open Loop Ticketing System".
- ❖ This will make Haryana the first state to introduce the open-loop ticketing system for roadways buses.
- ❖ The open-loop ticketing system aims to help commuters to do away with buying physical tickets for roadways buses.



Gujrat Polling Booths



- ❖ The Election Commission of India has set up a polling booth for only one voter, Mahant Haridasji Udasin in Banej in the dense jungles of Gir.
- ❖ Voters in Shiyalbet village in Amreli district, which is surrounded by the Arabian Sea, and is reachable only by boat.
- ❖ Five polling stations have been set up on the island.
- ❖ One of the polling booths offered medical check-up.
- ❖ It was India's first Polling health booth in Junagadh district.

The first drone station

- ❖ The air delivery of 1.5 kg of medicines to a remote location marked the unveiling of India's first drone station for transporting drugs in Meghalaya.
- ❖ The drone, a certiplane X3 designed by a start-up, took 36 minutes to deliver the payload.
- ❖ Jengjal, 32 km from Tura, Meghalaya's largest urban centre after capital Shillong, was chosen as a strategic drone station for drug delivery.
- ❖ It is almost 2 hours less than the time taken by a semblance of a road.
- ❖ This drone has a capacity of flying with a payload of up to 4 kg.



Divyang department

- ❖ Maharashtra approved the formation of a separate government department for the divyang (differently abled).
- ❖ Maharashtra is the first state in India to set up a separate department for Divyang.
- ❖ This department is established to serve the physically and mentally disabled people in the state both educationally and professionally.
- ❖ It seeks to ensure the welfare of the Divyangs and effectively implement various government schemes targeting them.

India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve

- ❖ Ladakh is all set to have India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve at Hanle village in Changthang region.
- ❖ In about eighteen locations in Hanley, powerful telescopes will be installed for stargazing.
- ❖ Hanley is home for the second-highest optical telescope in the world.
- ❖ It was established in 2001 by Indian Institute of Astrophysics.



New Himachal Pradesh CM

- ❖ Congress's Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on December 11 took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Mr. Sukhu will be the first Congress leader from Lower Himachal to occupy the top post.
- ❖ He will be the second chief minister from Hamirpur district, after BJP's Prem Kumar Dhumal.
- ❖ The Congress party won 40 seats and BJP got 25 seats in the high-stakes electoral contest for the 68-member Legislative Assembly.



Kochi-Muziris Biennale

- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the fifth edition of Kochi Muziris Biennale.
- ❖ The Biennale will centre on the theme “In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire”.
- ❖ The four-month-long celebration of art is expected to attract tourists worldwide

New CM of Gujarat



- ❖ Bhupendra Patel sworn in as 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ❖ Patel took oath as chief minister for the second time in a row.
- ❖ He was chosen as the chief minister in September 2021.
- ❖ The ruling BJP won a record seventh term in the recently concluded Gujarat assembly election.
- ❖ They winning 156 of the total 182 seats of the legislative assembly.
- ❖ The Congress won 17 seats and AAP won five.

Changing script of Newspapers - Manipur

- ❖ Newspapers in Manipur are set to replacing the Bengali script that's currently in use with Meitei or the Manipuri script.
- ❖ The Meitei script was once patronised by Meitei rulers but which fell into disuse with the advent of Hinduism and eventually disappeared.
- ❖ The earliest epigraphic record of the script is a stone inscription from Khoibu village which was erected on the orders of Meidingu Kiyamba (1467-1508).
- ❖ With the advent of Hinduism, Bengali scripts became so popular that stone inscriptions in the 18th and 19th century were in Bengali script.

All India Institute of Ayurveda

- ❖ The Prime Minister virtually opened the All-India Institute of Ayurveda in Goa, the National Institute of Unani Medicine in Ghaziabad, and the National Institute of Homeopathy in Delhi.
- ❖ He delivered a speech at the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo.

Award for best practices in controlling TB

- ❖ The Meghalaya has adopted a 'Jan Andolan' (people's movement) against Tuberculosis.
- ❖ This movement received an award for best practices in controlling the disease that affects 2.6 million people in India every year.

India's First Carbon Neutral Farm

- ❖ A seed farm, located in Aluva of Kerala, declared as the first carbon neutral farm in the country.
- ❖ A significant reduction in carbon emission has helped the seed farm, achieve the carbon neutral status.
- ❖ The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, in the last one year was 43 tons but its overall procurement was 213 ton.

Largest Business Jet Terminal

- ❖ Kerala CM inaugurated the country's first chartered gateway, and a business jet terminal at the Cochin International Airport.
- ❖ With this, Cochin airport has become the fourth airport in the country to operate a private jet terminal.

- ❖ With two majestic domestic and international travel terminals, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is now home to the country's biggest Business Jet Terminal.

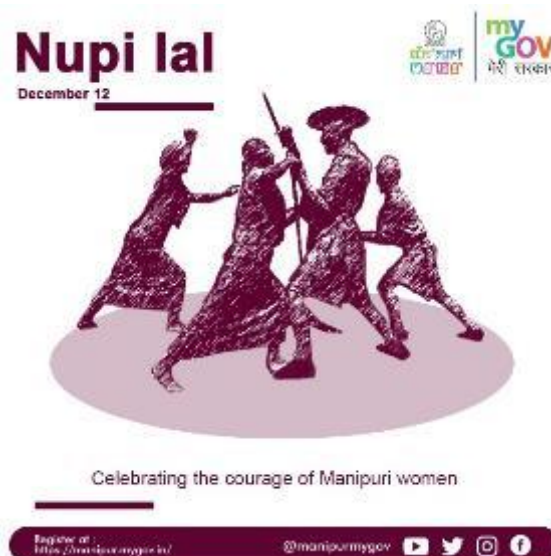
Kerala's New GI Tags

				
Attappady Attukombu Avara	Attappady Thuvvara	Onattukara Ellu	Kanthalloor -Vattavada Veluthulli	Kodungalloor Pottuvellar

- ❖ 5 Agricultural products from Kerala are given GI tags.
- ❖ These are Attappady Attukombu Avara, Attappady Thuvvara, Onattukara Ellu, Kanthalloor-Vattavada Veluthulli and Kodungalloor Pottuvellar.
- ❖ Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are states with the highest number of GI tags, followed by Kerala (35), Uttar Pradesh (34), and Maharashtra (31).

Nupi Lal Day

- ❖ The 83rd Nupi Lal Day was observed across Manipur on 12th December.
- ❖ The day is observed to honour women who participated in the first and second Nupi Lal (Women's War) uprising against the British rulers in 1904 and 1939 respectively.



50 years of North Eastern Council

- ❖ The golden jubilee celebration of the North East Council held in Shillong.
- ❖ The North Eastern Council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.
- ❖ It consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- ❖ The North Eastern Council was constituted in 1971 by an Act of Parliament.
- ❖ However, it was formally inaugurated on November 7, 1972.



Losar Festival

- ❖ Ladakh celebrated Losar Festival to mark the Ladakhi New Year.
- ❖ The Losar Festival or the Ladakhi New year is a major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated during winter.
- ❖ The Losar Festival will continue for nine days from the New Year.
- ❖ They will also dance and sing in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.

5-Star Rating for prison Food

- ❖ The Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh was awarded a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus' by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The District Jail was awarded the Excellent Certificate by rating Five stars.



Dhanu Yatra



- ❖ 'Dhanu Yatra', the World's largest open-air theatre festival began after a gap of two years, in Bargarh at the Odisha.
- ❖ The vibrant Dhanu Yatra Festival is associated with the culture of Odisha.
- ❖ The Dhanu Yatra was started after the harvesting season of the year 1947-48.
- ❖ The 11-day festival starts from the 5th day of 'Pousasukla' to end on 'Pousapurnima'.

First complete library constituency

- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency has achieved a new record recently.
- ❖ His constituency Dharmadam has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India.
- ❖ All 138 wards in the constituency now have libraries.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Winners of Akademi Puraskar

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi, announced 128 winners of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2019, 2020 and 2022.
- ❖ This is awarded for significant contribution to the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional/folk/tribal music/dance/theatre, puppetry and contribution / scholarship in the performing arts.
- ❖ The General Council of the Akademi also announced 10 eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows.
- ❖ Additionally, the Akademi also announced the names of 102 artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- ❖ These artists are below the age of 40 years.



National Gopal Ratna Award

- ❖ The award was conferred during the National Milk Day event.
- ❖ National Gopal Award is one of the highest National Awards in the livestock and dairy sector field.
- ❖ It recognizes and encourage all individuals like farmers rearing indigenous animals.
- ❖ Three categories of the Award
 - Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cattle/ Buffalo breeds.
 - Best Artificial Insemination Technician.
 - Best Dairy Cooperative/Milk Producer Company/Dairy Producer Organization.

Silver Jubilee of Prasar Bharati

- ❖ Prasar Bharati celebrated the silver jubilee or 25 years of its establishment on 23 November, 2022.

- ❖ In September 1990, the Parliament passed the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act.
- ❖ It was on this day in 1997, that it came into being as a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act.
- ❖ It comprises the Doordarshan and All India Radio.



Cuttack Baliyatra - Guinness records



- ❖ The famous Cuttack Baliyatra of Odisha etched its name in the Guinness Book of World Records at an event organised by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).
- ❖ More than 2,100 school students of 22 schools made over 22,000 paper boats in 35 minutes, creating the world record.
- ❖ The world record was attempted with an aim to attain global recognition for Cuttack's Baliyatra, the largest open-air trade fair of the state.

Australia's "Superstars of STEM"

- ❖ Three Indian-origin women are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM.

- ❖ The three Indian-origin women are - Neelima Kadiyala, Dr Ana Babu Ramani, and Dr Indrani Mukherjee.
- ❖ It is an initiative that aims to smash society's gender assumptions about scientists and increase the public visibility of females and non-binary people.



Miss Earth 2022

- ❖ South Korea's Mina Sue Choi was crowned as Miss Earth 2022.
- ❖ There were 86 Eco-warriors, and only three queens were awarded the pageant's three elements' titles.
 - Miss Fire 2022 - Andrea Aguilera of Columbia,
 - Miss Water 2022 - Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine, and
 - Miss Air 2022 - Sheridan Mortlock of Australia.



India's 100 Richest 2022

- ❖ Forbes has launched its annual list of the country's 100 richest billionaires.
- ❖ Gautam Adani topped in the list.
- ❖ He is followed by Mukesh Ambani and Radhakishan Damani.
- ❖ The O.P. Jindal Group's Chairperson Emeritus is Savitri Jindal is in the 6th position.

- ❖ She is the only billionaire woman and working politician among the top 10.

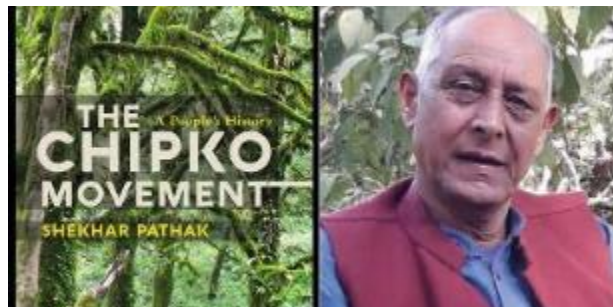


International Lusophone Festival

- ❖ India is hosting a four-day International Lusophone Festival held in Goa.
- ❖ The Lusophone world is spread in nine countries across four continents.
- ❖ Portuguese is the most widely-spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) or Lusophone Commonwealth, was founded in 1996 in Lisbon.
- ❖ Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe are the members.
- ❖ Timor Leste and Equatorial Guinea joined later.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022

- ❖ A book on the popular forest conservation campaign Chipko Movement, written by historian-activist Shekhar Pathak, was named the winner of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022.
- ❖ The award recognises and celebrates excellence in non-fiction writings on modern/ contemporary India by writers from all nationalities.



NCBC chairperson

- ❖ Former Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir has assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ❖ NCBC was initially constituted by the Central Govt by the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- ❖ Under the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018, NCBC became a constitutional body.
- ❖ It was established under Article 338B of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President
- ❖ The conditions of service and tenure of office shall be decided by President.

First G20 Sherpa meeting

- ❖ The first G20 Sherpa meeting under India's presidency begins in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant is leading the four-day meeting.
- ❖ Representatives from 19 countries including the European Union and nine special invitee countries participated in the discussion.
- ❖ Important conversations on some of the most pressing issues of recent times are discussed.
- ❖ India formally assumed the year-long Presidency of the G-20 on December 1, 2022.

Banker's Bank of the Year Award



- ❖ Canara Bank won the “Banker’s Bank of the Year Award 2022” for India segment at the Global Banking Summit held in London.
- ❖ The Bankers’ Bank of the year awards are considered to be like Oscar awards for the banking sector.
- ❖ The Banker’s magazine is a premier global banking and finance resource for more than 180 countries across the world.
- ❖ Canara Bank was established in 1906 at Mangalore by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.
- ❖ The bank also has offices in London, Dubai and New York.

World's First Disabled Astronaut



- ❖ The European Space Agency named the first ever "parastronaut".
- ❖ It is a major step towards allowing people with physical disabilities to work and live in space.
- ❖ It had appointed British Paralympic sprinter John McFall to take part in a feasibility study during astronaut training.
- ❖ This will assess the conditions needed for people with disabilities to take part in future missions.

Former Union minister Yoginder K Alagh

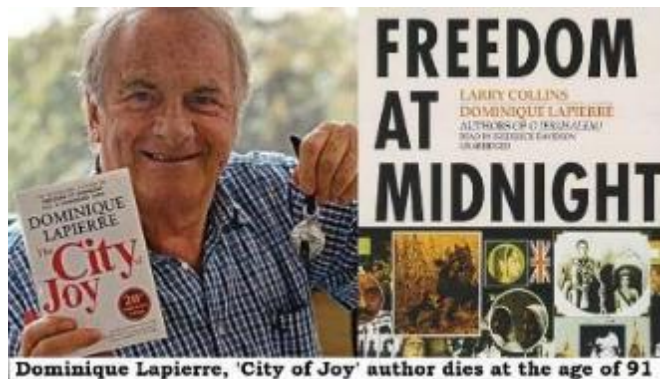
- ❖ Noted economist and former Union minister Yoginder K Alagh passed away.
- ❖ He was an emeritus professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in 1996 and remained a member of the Upper House till 2000.

- ❖ He served as the union minister of state for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and Power during 1996-98.
- ❖ He also served as the chairman of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) from 2006 to 2012.
- ❖ He was a Member of the Planning Commission and had also served as the chairman of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in the Ministry of Industry.



City of Joy' author Dominique Lapierre

- ❖ Freedom at Midnight author Dominique Lapierre has passed away.
- ❖ He is the author of the ode to Kolkata, 'City of Joy'.
- ❖ He is also collaborated with American Larry Collins to write six books that sold more than 50 million copies in over 30 languages.
- ❖ He was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2008.
- ❖ He founded the City of Joy Foundation to rescue children suffering from leprosy from the slums of Kolkata.
- ❖ Set up in 1981, it was supported by the royalties from his many literary successes.



TIME Person of the Year 2022



- ❖ Time magazine named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky 2022's "Person of the Year".
- ❖ He was inspired Ukrainians and won global accolades for his courage in resisting Russia's devastating invasion.
- ❖ Tesla Inc Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk was named Time's "Person of the Year" in 2021.
- ❖ Time began this tradition in 1927.

BBC 100 Most Influential Women's List



- ❖ The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has published the list of 100 most influential women in the world.
- ❖ It includes four Indians: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer and astronaut Sirisha Bandla, and social worker Sneha Jawale.
- ❖ The theme for '100 Women' in 2022 is progress.

Earthshot Prize 2022

- ❖ An Indian firm is among the five startups that have been announced as winners of Prince William's Earthshot Prize.
- ❖ This prize aims to reward projects that aim to save the planet.
- ❖ Kheyti, an Indian startup that designed the "greenhouse-in-a-box" for small hold farmers, won in the Protect and Restore Nature category.
- ❖ Last year, India-based project Takachar winning the prize for the Clean Our Air category.



SHE STEM 2022

- ❖ SHE STEM is the annual event to celebrate women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and sustainability.
- ❖ As part of the Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week, the event was successfully held for the third year in a row.
- ❖ The annual event is organised by the Sweden Embassy in India in partnership with the Atal Innovation Mission and the German Centre of Innovation and Research.

Local Adaptation Champions Awards

- ❖ Swayam Shikshan Prayog from Maharashtra has been awarded the Local Adaptation Champions Awards.
- ❖ It is organised by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) at the recent COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- ❖ It won the award in the 'Capacity and Knowledge' category.
- ❖ This is for their work in supporting women farmers to adopt more resilient and sustainable agricultural practices in Marathwada, Maharashtra.

3rd Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR

- ❖ The Third Global Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance concluded in Oman.
- ❖ The theme for the conference is 'The AMR Pandemic: From Policy to One Health Action'.
- ❖ The Muscat Manifesto was issued during this Conference.
- ❖ It aims to accelerate One Health actions on antimicrobial resistance to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

2022 Masters WGO Award

- ❖ The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has presented the 2022 Masters of the WGO award to Chennai-based gastroenterologist K. R. Palaniswamy.
- ❖ This is awarded for his contributions to the field of gastroenterology.
- ❖ The Masters of the WGO Award was the highest honour WGO.

India Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022



- ❖ The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a multi stakeholder platform, is held as a three-day hybrid event.
- ❖ It is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF).
- ❖ Theme for the event is 'Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat'.
- ❖ India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world with 800 million Indian users.

7th India Water Impact Summit

- ❖ 7th India Water Impact Summit is recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the event: Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin, with emphasis on the 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' – People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.



National Energy Conservation Award



- ❖ The National Energy Conservation Awards - 2022 was organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ❖ BEE has developed a Mobile Application to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public EV charger.
- ❖ Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd (KREDL) is the winner of the first prize in the State Designated Agency (SDA Group-1) sector.

Safety Performer of the Year



- ❖ SpiceJet has been awarded the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards.
- ❖ This is awarded for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines and as it has been able to reduce ground safety violations significantly.
- ❖ SpiceJet airline was the only scheduled Indian airline part of the audit conducted by ICAO recently.
- ❖ The audit of SpiceJet safety systems "helped India achieve" its highest-ever safety ranking in ICAO audit

World Athlete of the year 2022



- ❖ World champion American hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis won the World Athlete of the year awards.
- ❖ McLaughlin-Levrone broke the world women's 400m hurdles record twice.
- ❖ US-born Swede Duplantis claimed the award for the second time in three years with three world records in 2022.

The mission dearMoon



- ❖ Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa announced eight crew members who will join him for a journey around the Moon planned for 2023 on a SpaceX rocket.
- ❖ Indian actor Dev Joshi is also one of among the crew members.
- ❖ The mission, known as dearMoon, was first announced in 2018.
- ❖ The round trip would last almost six days and circumnavigate the Moon without landing.

US Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award



- ❖ US President Joe Biden has recognised Indian-American Krishna Vavilala, with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ It is the nation's highest honour for his contributions to his community and the country at large.
- ❖ This Awards led by AmeriCorps, is an annual event held to honour citizens, who exhibit outstanding character, worth ethic, and dedication to their communities.

Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2022

- ❖ The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation has announced the winners of the Jamnalal Bajaj award 2022.

- ❖ The Foundation gives 4 awards in different categories.
- ❖ Three are given to Indians and one award, and for promoting Gandhian values outside, is given to a foreigner.
- ❖ The winners are
 - For Constructive Works - Nilesh Desai of Madhya Pradesh
 - Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development - Mansukhbhai Prajapati of Gujarat
 - Award for Development and Welfare of Women and Children - Sophia Saik of Odisha
 - International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values outside India- Dr Ogirat Younan and Dr Walid Slyabi of Lebanon

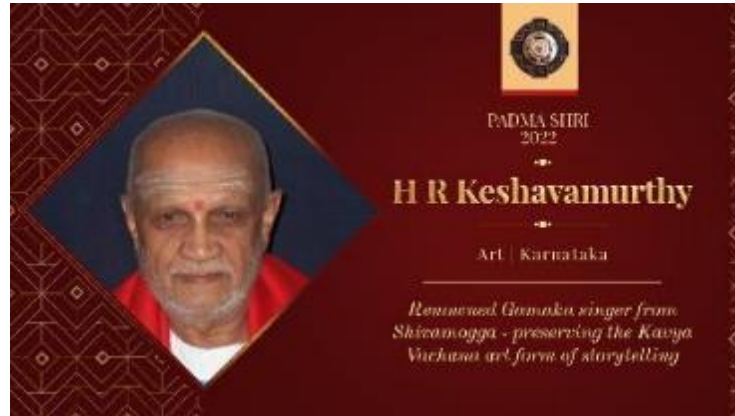
Mrs World 2022

- ❖ India's Sargam Koushal won the Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years at Las Vegas in USA.
- ❖ Sargam Koushal is originally from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Aditi Govitrikar became the first Indian woman to win the honour for India in 2001.



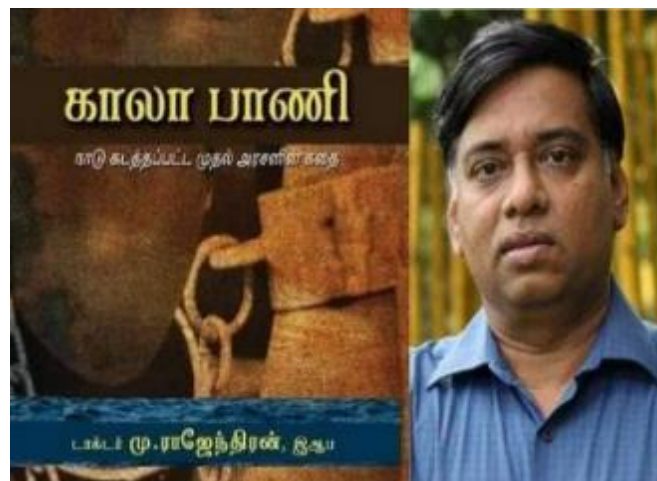
H.R Keshava Murthy

- ❖ H.R. Keshava Murthy, a senior gamaka exponent in Karnataka, passed away recently.
- ❖ Gamaka, also known as kaavya vaachana, is a form of storytelling by singing that originated in Karnataka.
- ❖ The singing itself is called gamaka and the singer a gamaki.
- ❖ The explanation of the rendering is called vyakyana.



2022 Sahitya Akademi award

- ❖ Former IAS Officer M. Rajendran's historical novel Kala Pani (Black Water) has won the Sahitya Akademi award for 2022.
- ❖ It depicts the defeat and exile of 72 persons, including Vengai Periya Udayanna Devar, ruler of Sivaganga, and Duraisamy, son of Chinna Marudu after the Kalayakoil war.
- ❖ The battle between the British and Marudu Brothers took place in the forests of Kalayarkoil for six months in 1801.
- ❖ After the defeat, the brothers were hanged at Tirupattur, south Tamil Nadu, on October 24, 1801.
- ❖ The exile of the 72 persons in the ship began on February 11, 1802 and they reached Penang after 62 days.
- ❖ Periya Udayanna Devar was separated from others and sent to Sumatra, where he lived for just four months.
- ❖ In 1820, 11 persons including Duraisamy, returned to India.



Sahitya Akademi Best translation award

- ❖ The prize for translation went to 'Poonachi', or the Story of Black Goat.
- ❖ It is penned by Tamil writer Perumal Murugan and translated into English by N. Kalyan Raman.
- ❖ 'Yad Vashem', a Kannada novel translated into Tamil by K. Nallathambi, also won the award.

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize

- ❖ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar.
- ❖ Sudeep awarded for his Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021).
- ❖ Shobhana awarded for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021).
- ❖ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments.

3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum

- ❖ The 3rd ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum as well as the second Government Meeting held in Cambodia.
- ❖ Shalini Kumari from Bihar received the first prize for her innovation 'Modified Walker with Adjustable Legs' at the grassroots innovation competition at this event.
- ❖ The second and third prizes were won by grassroots innovators from the Philippines and Myanmar, respectively.
- ❖ The first two forums were held in Indonesia (2018) and the Philippines (2019) respectively.

VinFuture special prize

- ❖ Indian scientist Professor Thalappil Pradeep from IIT-Madras received VinFuture special prize- 2022 in Hanoi Vietnam.
- ❖ He was awarded for innovation of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.
- ❖ He was earlier conferred with the Padma Shri in honour of his work to develop affordable and safe drinking water solutions using nanomaterials.

First Rohini Nayyar prize

- ❖ Sethrichem Sangtam was awarded the first Rohini Nayyar prize for outstanding contribution to rural development.
- ❖ He helped triple the incomes of 1,200 marginalised farmers in Eastern Nagaland through his organisation 'Better Life Foundation'.
- ❖ The prize awarded to an individual 40 years or under in age.
- ❖ The prize will be given out annually by the Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose, set up to contribute to the social and economic development in India.

SPORTS

Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta

- ❖ The Madras Boating Club women won the 81st Annual Madras-Colombo Rowing Regatta, which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ They were awarded the Adyar Trophy.
- ❖ The Men's category was bagged by Colombo Rowing Club, and they were awarded Deepam Trophy.



Youth World Boxing Championships

- ❖ This year's championships witnessed participation from close to 600 boxers from 73 countries.
- ❖ India's eight medals in the women's section is also the highest for any country.
- ❖ Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade clinched with gold medals.

- ❖ Bhawna Sharma bagged a silver medal in the women's 48kg category.
- ❖ Ashish (54kg) was the other Indian to finish with a silver medal.
- ❖ Four bronze medals coming from Tamanna (50kg), Kunjarani Devi Thongam (60kg), Muskan (75kg) and Lashu Yadav (70kg).
- ❖ With 11 medals, India topped in the ongoing edition of the event, followed by Uzbekistan (10), Ireland (7) and Kazakhstan (7).



500 on Day 1 of a Test match

- ❖ England scored 506-4 on the opening day of the first test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.
- ❖ It is the first time in test cricket that 500 runs have been scored on the first day.

TEAM	OPPOSITION	GROUND	YEAR	RUNS
England	Pakistan	Rawalpindi	2022	506
Australia	South Africa	Sydney	1910	494
Australia	South Africa	Adelaide	2012	482
England	Australia	The Oval	1934	475
England	India	The Oval	1936	471

Fastest double century

- ❖ India batter Ishan Kishan hit the fastest double century in one-day international history by smashing a sublime 210 in victory over Bangladesh.
- ❖ Kishan took just 126 balls to reach 200.
- ❖ He was breaking the previous record for men's and women's cricket held by New Zealand's Amelia Kerr.
- ❖ Kerr reached the mark off 134 balls against Ireland in 2018.

- ❖ West Indies opener Chris Gayle held the previous men's record, taking 138 deliveries against Zimbabwe in 2015.
- ❖ It is only the ninth time a batter has hit a double ton in men's ODIs, with Kishan's the joint-fifth highest score.
- ❖ The 24-year-old is also the youngest man to achieve the feat.



65th National Shooting Championship Competitions



- ❖ Karnataka shooter Divya has secured her first women's 10m air pistol national title at the Competitions in Bhopal.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker has won the junior women's air pistol event.
- ❖ Rhythm Sangwan has won the gold medal in the Youth category.

ICC player of month



- ❖ England's T20 World Cup-winning skipper Jos Buttler was awarded ICC Men's Player of the Month for the first time.
- ❖ Sidra Ameen of Pakistan has won the ICC Women's Player of the Month title for the second time in a row.

Morocco in semifinal

- ❖ Morocco became the first African team to qualify for the semifinal of the FIFA World Cup.
- ❖ The Moroccan side outdid Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002) and Ghana (2010) to enter the last four of the biggest footballing spectacles in the world.

FINA World Swimming Championships 2022

- ❖ Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women's 100-metre breaststroke at the FINA World Swimming Championships 2022 in Melbourne, Australia.
- ❖ FINA is the International Swimming Federation.
- ❖ Chahat Arora completed the 100-metre breaststroke race in 1 minute, 13.13 seconds.



FIFA 2022 Special news

- ❖ Italy, the four-time winners and reigning European champions, failed to qualify for a second successive World Cup for the first time in their history.
- ❖ Wales made their first appearance in 64 years – a record gap for a European team,

- ❖ Their only previous participation have been in 1958.



Year	Winners	Runners-up	Host country
1930	Uruguay	Argentina	Uruguay
1934	Italy	Czechia	Italy
1938	Italy	Hungary	France
1950	Uruguay	Brazil	Brazil
1954	Germany	Hungary	Switzerland
1958	Brazil	Sweden	Sweden
1962	Brazil	Czechia	Chile
1966	England	Germany	England
1970	Brazil	Italy	Mexico
1974	Germany	Netherlands	West Germany
1978	Argentina	Netherlands	Argentina
1982	Italy	Germany	Spain
1986	Argentina	Germany	Mexico
1990	Germany	Argentina	Italy
1994	Brazil	Italy	United States
1998	France	Brazil	France
2002	Brazil	Germany	South Korea, Japan
2006	Italy	France	Germany
2010	Spain	Netherlands	South Africa
2014	Germany	Argentina	Brazil
2018	France	Croatia	Russia
2022	Argentina	France	Qatar

- ❖ The previous World Cup hosts, Russia, were disqualified from competing due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ Egypt, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Iceland and Sweden, all of whom qualified for the 2018 World Cup, did not qualify for the 2022 tournament.
- ❖ Qatar is the only team making their debut in the FIFA World Cup.
- ❖ It became the first hosts to make their tournament debut since Italy in 1934.
- ❖ As a result, the 2022 tournament is the first World Cup in which none of the teams that earned a spot through qualification were making their debut.

- ❖ The Netherlands, Ecuador, Ghana, Cameroon and the United States returned to the tournament after missing the 2018 tournament.
- ❖ Canada returned after 36 years, their only prior appearance being in 1986.
- ❖ The 2026 World Cup will be held across three different countries, the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- ❖ Brazil is the country with the most titles and the only one to have competed in every competition.
- ❖ Brazil won five FIFA World Cup titles.
- ❖ Miroslav Klose, a German player who scored 16 goals in four seasons, owns the record for the most goals scored in FIFA World Cups (2002, 2006, 2010, 2014).
- ❖ Al Rihla is the first World Cup ball to be made exclusively with water-based inks and glues.
- ❖ Al Rihla was to be used in the event until the quarterfinals.
- ❖ Al Hilm' replaced Al Rihla FIFA WC 2022 semi-finals and final.
- ❖ Al Rihla means 'the journey', a reference to a travelogue written by Ibn Battuta, the 14th-century explorer.
- ❖ Pakistan produces more than 2/3rd of the world's footballs, with Sialkot being the hub of manufacturing.
- ❖ La'eeb was the Official Mascot for FIFA WC 2022.

FIFA World Cup 2022

• Top 4 team Rankings: Argentina (Winner), France (2nd), Croatia (3rd) and Morocco (4th)
• Golden Boot Award: Kylian Mbappe (France); (8 Goals)
• Golden Ball Award: Lionel Messi (Argentina); (7 goals and registering 3 assists)
• Golden Glove Award: Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
• FIFA Young Player Award: Enzo Fernandez (Argentina)
• FIFA Fair Play Award: England
• Silver Boot Award: Lionel Messi
• Bronze Boot Award: Olivier Giroud (France)
• Silver Ball Award: Kylian Mbappe
• Bronze Ball Award: Luka Modric (Croatia)

- ❖ The FIFA World Cup 2022 is won by Argentina beating France in Qatar.
- ❖ Argentina won its second championship in 1986 after first winning it in 1978, propelled by the late Diego Maradona.
- ❖ France won the FIFA World Cup 2018 held at Russia by beating Croatia.

- ❖ The winner receives \$42 million, or Rs 344 crore, while the runner-up receives \$30 million, or Rs 245 crore.
- ❖ The Golden Ball is presented to the player who has performed the best overall.
- ❖ While the Golden Gloves and Golden Boot are among the most prestigious of these honours.
- ❖ The Golden Boot is given to the player who scored the most goals during the competition.

3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind 2022

- ❖ India beat Bangladesh to claim third successive title.
- ❖ The final held at Bengaluru.
- ❖ India's Ajay was adjudged Man of the Series in the B2 category while Bangladesh's Mohammed Mahmud Rashid was the Man of the Series in the B1 category.

Women's FIH Nations Cup 2022



- ❖ The Indian women Hockey team beat Spain in the final to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup.
- ❖ India was led by Captain Savita Punia.
- ❖ It was played at Valencia, Spain.
- ❖ The Indian Women Hockey team won the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham earlier this year.

9th Pro Kabaddi League title

- ❖ Jaipur Pink Panthers won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 Final against Puneri Paltan.

- ❖ It was Jaipur's second PKL championship.
- ❖ The Jaipur team is owned by Abhishek Bachchan.
- ❖ After Patna, Jaipur Pink Panthers, the league's first-ever winners, are currently only the second team to win multiple titles.
- ❖ The tournament was played across Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad while the playoffs were played in Mumbai.

IPL – decacorn

VALUE OF IPL ECOSYSTEM		
Years	INR '000 Crore	USD billion
2014	19.5	3.2
2015	21.3	3.5
2016	27.5	4.2
2017	34.4	5.3
2018	41.8	6.3
2019	47.5	6.8
2020	45.8	6.2
2022	87.0	10.9

2014-2020 Data - IPL Valuation Report - Kroll

- ❖ The Indian Premier League's (IPL) total valuation has surpassed \$10 billion USD.
- ❖ It has evolved into a decacorn.
- ❖ In less than 15 years since its beginning in 2008, the IPL has reached the milestone.
- ❖ The IPL, is the second-biggest sports league worldwide in terms of money made from broadcasting fees every game.
- ❖ In terms of revenue per game, only the National Football League (NFL) earns more than the IPL.

World's Highest Paid Female Athletes 2022 list



- ❖ PV Sindhu has been ranked at number 12 in the World's Highest Paid Female Athletes 2022 list of Forbes.
- ❖ Sindhu is also the only Indian in the World's Highest Paid Female Athletes 2022 list.
- ❖ Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list.
- ❖ She is followed by Serena Williams.






FIFA world rankings 2022

Latest FIFA rankings December 2022			
Rank	Nation	Confederation	Last (Move)
1.	Brazil	CONMEBOL	—
2.	Argentina	CONMEBOL	3rd (+1)
3.	France	UEFA	4th (+1)
4.	Belgium	UEFA	2nd (-2)
5.	England	UEFA	—
6.	Netherlands	UEFA	8th (+2)
7.	Croatia	UEFA	12th (+5)
8.	Italy	UEFA	6th (-2)
9.	Portugal	UEFA	—
10.	Spain	UEFA	7th (-3)

- ❖ Brazil holds on to their No. 1 spot and 22nd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022 Champions Argentina ranked 2nd place.
- ❖ Morocco has improved from 22nd to 11th in the FIFA world ranking.
- ❖ India was placed on 106th place.

ICC Men's ODI Rankings 2022

- ❖ The ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings is an international One Day International (ODI) cricket rankings system of the ICC.
- ❖ New Zealand placed at the top of the points table.

RANK	TEAM	MATCHES	POINTS	RATING
1	 NEW ZEALAND	23	2670	116
2	 ENGLAND	30	3400	113
3	 AUSTRALIA	32	3572	112
4	 INDIA	36	3928	109
5	 PAKISTAN	22	2354	107

IMPORTANT DAYS

Red Planet Day – November 28

- ❖ On this day in 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course towards Mars.
- ❖ This was the first time that a spacecraft undertook the first flyby of the red planet.
- ❖ It flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.



International Jaguar Day – November 29

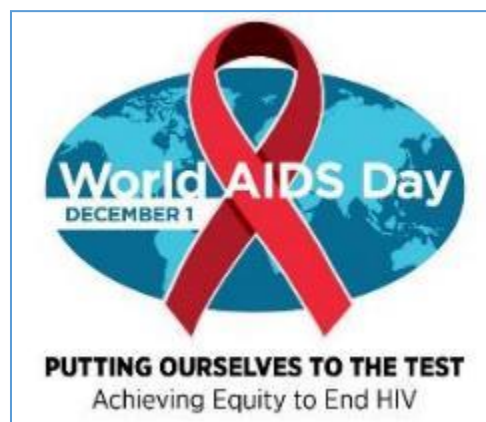
- ❖ This day was created to raise awareness about the increasing threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts.
- ❖ Jaguar is the largest carnivore and only big cat in Latin America.
- ❖ It is encompassing 18 countries from Mexico to Argentina.
- ❖ IUCN Conservation status for this is Near Threatened.
- ❖ It is extinct in El Salvador and Uruguay.



BSF 58th Raising Day - December 01

- ❖ India's first line of Defence, the Border Security Force (BSF) is celebrating its 58th Raising Day on December 1.
- ❖ This force was formed in 1965, and it defends the international border along with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The BSF is the only Central Armed Police Force in the country, aside from the Indian Army, to have a separate air wing, a capable artillery regiment, a dedicated marine division, and a special intelligence department.

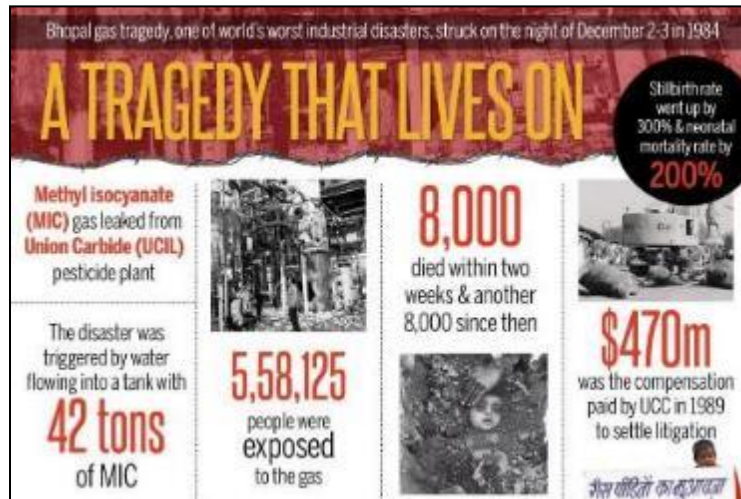
World AIDS Day - December 01



- ❖ The WHO founded World AIDS Day on December 1 in 1988.
- ❖ It aims to promote information sharing between local and national authorities, international organisations, and private citizens.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV."

National Pollution Control Day - December 02

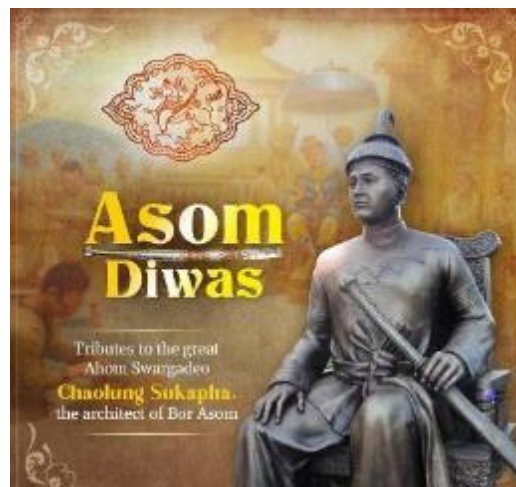
- ❖ It honours those who died in the Bhopal Gas catastrophe on December 2nd and 3rd in 1984.
- ❖ Approximately 45 tons of methyl isocyanate escaped from an insecticide plant to environment.
- ❖ The day is dedicated to encourage the adoption of pollution control acts to prevent the environmental pollution caused by human negligence and industrial emissions.
- ❖ In India, around 7 million people die due to air pollution each year, of which 4 million are killed by indoor air pollution.



International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - December 02

- ❖ The day marks the adoption of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- ❖ It also commemorates the brutal history of slavery practised by colonial rulers.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism.'

Assam Day - December 02



- ❖ Asom Divas or Assam Day is celebrated on 2nd December every year to mark the arrival of the first king of the Ahom kingdom Sukhapaa in Assam.
- ❖ The day is also celebrated as Sukaphaa Divas in honour of the founder of the Ahom kingdom.

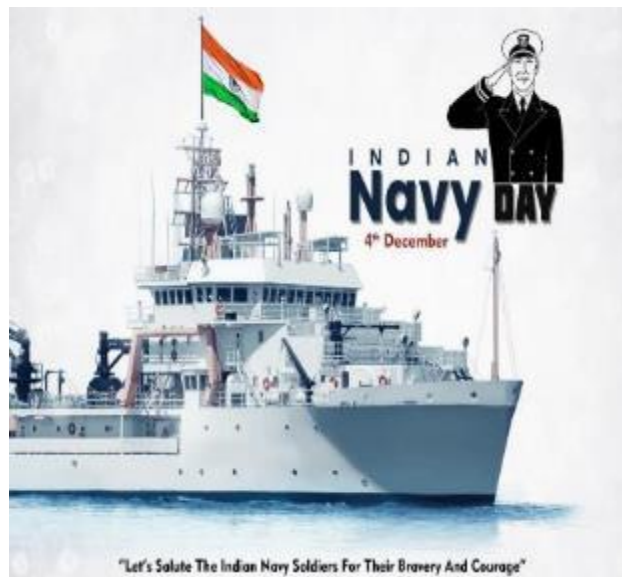
- ❖ He was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries. Contemporary scholars trace his roots to Burma.
- ❖ It was in Charaideo that Sukapha established his first small principality, sowing the seeds of further expansion of the Ahom kingdom.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 03

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.
- ❖ It also aims to raise awareness about the political, social and economic discrepancies faced by persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities began in 1992.
- ❖ This year theme is Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.

Indian Navy Day - December 04

- ❖ It aims to recognise the contributions and accomplishments of Indian Naval forces. Indian Navy Day
- ❖ The day also commemorates the launch of Operation Trident against Pakistan during the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971.
- ❖ The Indian Navy is a three-dimensional force that protects our country's interests above, on, and beneath the ocean's surface.
- ❖ Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle, considered as the "Father of the Indian Navy" created the country's naval force.



International Cheetah Day - December 04

- ❖ Every year, International Cheetah Day is celebrated on 4th December since 2010.
- ❖ Dr. Laurie Marker designated the day in remembrance of Khayam, a cheetah she raised from a cub at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon.
- ❖ Khayam was trained for the first research project in re-wilding and inspired her first trip to Namibia in 1977.
- ❖ International Cheetah Day coincides with the day for wildlife conservation.
- ❖ The cheetah is popularly known as the fastest animal on earth.
- ❖ It can reach a top speed of 70 mph in just three seconds.
- ❖ At present the majority of the animal is found in Namibia and South Africa.
- ❖ It was declared as an extinct animal in 1954 by the Indian government.
- ❖ The Government brought Cheetah from Namibia and settled in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

International Day of Bank - December 04

- ❖ It aims to recognise the importance of multilateral and international development banks in financing sustainable developments.
- ❖ In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated December 4 as the International Day of Banks.
- ❖ It is celebrated for the first time in 2020.

World Soil Day - December 05

- ❖ The event aims to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems.
- ❖ The day was first considered by the International Union of Soil Sciences in 2002.
- ❖ In December 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5th December as the World Soil Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 World Soil Day is 'Soils: Where Food Begins'.

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development - December 05

- ❖ It aims to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.
- ❖ The international observance was mandated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1985.

- ❖ The day commemorates 80 countries in the world.
- ❖ The UN Generally Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers.
- ❖ Theme of the event for this year is solidarity through volunteering.



National Armed Forces Flag Day - December 07

- ❖ During this day, Indian flags, batches, stickers, and other items are sold to raise funds for the betterment of the Armed Forces staff.
- ❖ The funds raised on Flag Day are also used for the rehabilitation of battle casualties.
- ❖ In honour of Indian soldiers, sailors, and airmen, this day has become a tradition over the years since 1949.
- ❖ On August 28, 1949, a committee was set up under the then Defence Minister of India and decided to observe a Flag Day annually on December 7.

International Civil Aviation Day - December 07



- ❖ Every year, this day is celebrated to promote awareness of the importance of international civil aviation organisations in international air travel.
- ❖ Safety standards in international aviation are maintained by the ICAO, an autonomous UN body.
- ❖ This Day was first celebrated in 1994 and UNGA recognised in 1996.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.
- ❖ The theme will remain the same until the year 2023.

International Anti-Corruption Day - December 09

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003.
- ❖ This year, the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) will also mark its twentieth anniversary.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption”.



International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - December 09

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about the greatest crime perpetrated by man against man, the violation of human rights and how it can be prevented in the future.
- ❖ On December 9, 1948, the United Nations adopted the first human rights treaty, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”).

- ❖ 2022 marks its 74th anniversary.
- ❖ The UNGA with a resolution in 2015 adopted this day.



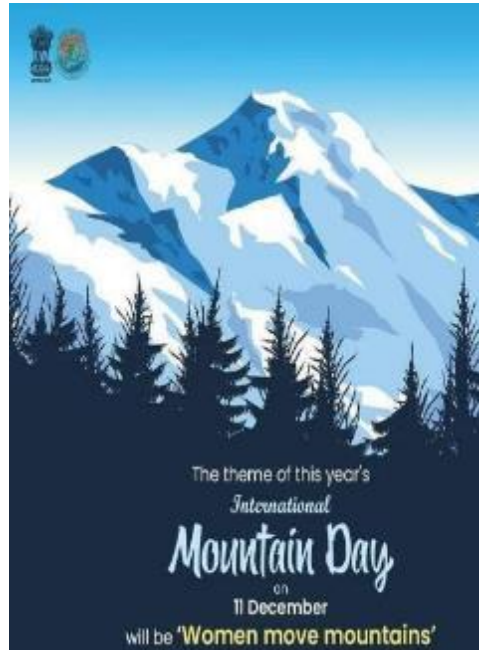
Human Rights Day - December 10



- ❖ It marks the day that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- ❖ This year marks the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR and the 72nd Human Rights Day.
- ❖ Theme of the year is “Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.”
- ❖ The Human Rights Act came into force in India on 28 September 1993.
- ❖ As per the act, in India, the National Human Rights Commission constituted on October 12, 1993.

International Mountain Day - December 11

- ❖ It aims to increase public awareness of the value of mountains to both life and climate.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established International Mountain Day to recognise the importance of mountains.
- ❖ The theme of this year is ‘Women Move Mountains.’
- ❖ The day came into existence in 2003.



UNICEF Day - December 11

- ❖ UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children Emergency Fund.
- ❖ It was established by the United Nations on 11 December 1946.
- ❖ It was mandated to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China.
- ❖ In 1953, it became a permanent part of the United Nations system and the name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund.
- ❖ 2022 Theme is Inclusion, for every child.



International Universal Health Coverage Day - December 12



- ❖ The day is marked to promote the importance of building robust, resilient, world-class healthcare systems globally.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Build the world we want: A healthy future for all".

International Day of Neutrality - December 12

- ❖ It is a day when people look at the possibility of a world free of armed and other types of conflicts.
- ❖ The day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017.
- ❖ Its focus was on advocating and campaigning for intra-state peaceful relations.
- ❖ It was proposed by Turkmenistan and UNGA established this day in 2017.
- ❖ Switzerland serves as the perfect example of neutrality.

National Energy Conservation Day - December 14

- ❖ On this day in 2001, the Energy Conservation Act was executed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of energy and the need of conserving energy by using less energy.
- ❖ The Ministry of Power is celebrating Energy Conservation Week from 9th to 14th December 2022 under BEE mass drive.

Vijay Diwas - December 16

- ❖ On December 3, the Indo-Pakistan war began in 1971 and lasted for 13 days.
- ❖ On December 4, 1971, Operation Trident was launched by India.

- ❖ On December 6, India formally recognised Bangladesh as an independent nation.
- ❖ Officially, the war ended on December 16 and Pakistan surrendered to India.
- ❖ It was marking the end of the 1971 Indo-Pak War and the liberation of Bangladesh.
- ❖ Pakistan Eastern Command Commander Lt Gen AAK Niazi signed the instrument of surrender.



International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers – December 17

- ❖ It is observed annually by sex workers, their advocates, friends, families and allies.
- ❖ The red umbrella is an important symbol for sex worker rights.

National Minorities Rights – December 18

- ❖ Its aim is to safeguard the individual rights of the religious, ethnic, racial, or linguistic minorities in the country.
- ❖ The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992.
- ❖ Following these five religious communities have been notified as minority communities in the Gazette of India by the Union Government all around the country.
- ❖ These religious communities are Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, and Zoroastrians.
- ❖ In 2014, Jains were also added to the list of religious communities considered as minority communities
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is centred around “All in 4 Minority Rights”.
- ❖ It was part of the commemoration of the 30-year anniversary of the UN Declaration being adopted.

- ❖ The United Nations on December 18, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.
- ❖ Minority Rights Day upholds the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the minorities in India and creates awareness about their rights.

International Migrants Day – December 18

- ❖ It is observed annually to bring attention to the social and economic realities of migrants around the world.
- ❖ On this day in 1990, the UNGA adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Goa Liberation Day – December 19

- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.
- ❖ Goa had been under Portuguese rule for roughly 450 years since 1510.
- ❖ After Portugal became part of the US-led Western military alliance NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) in 1949, Goa too became part of the anti-Soviet alliance by extension.
- ❖ Operation Vijay was launched to liberate the three Portuguese territories: Goa, Daman and Diu.
- ❖ It was supposedly the first tri-service operation of the Indian armed forces.

International Human Solidarity Day – December 20

- ❖ It is observed annually across the globe to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity.
- ❖ It highlights the goal of the United Nations and its member states to create awareness about poverty and the need to reduce poverty in independent nations.
- ❖ On December 20, 2002, the UN General Assembly introduced a World Solidarity Fund to help counter global poverty.

UN Arabic Language Day – December 18

- ❖ It was established by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.
- ❖ The date coincides with the day in 1973 that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization.

- ❖ It was seeking "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization".
- ❖ In July 2022, UN Swahili Language Day (July 7) was created.
- ❖ Portuguese and Swahili are the only non-official UN languages to have a UN Language Day.



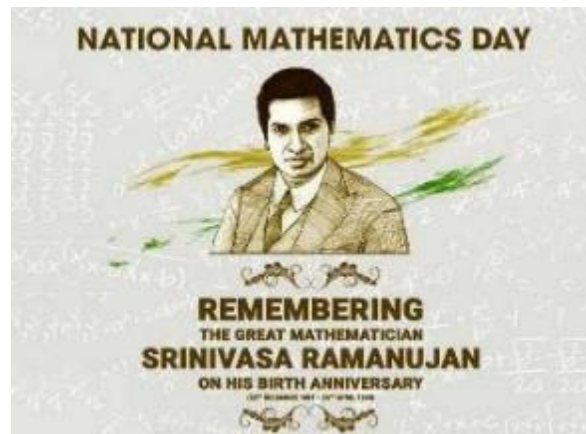
Good Governance Week 2022

- ❖ Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated Good Governance Week 2022 (from 19-25 December) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister also launched a five-day “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” a nationwide Campaign, to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ On the memory of India’s former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Good Governance Day (December 25) and Good Governance Week are celebrated.

National Mathematics Day – December 22

- ❖ It is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ He was born on this day in 1887 in Tamil Nadu’s Erode.
- ❖ The day was announced by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of this mathematical genius in 2012.
- ❖ 2012 was also observed as National Mathematics Year.

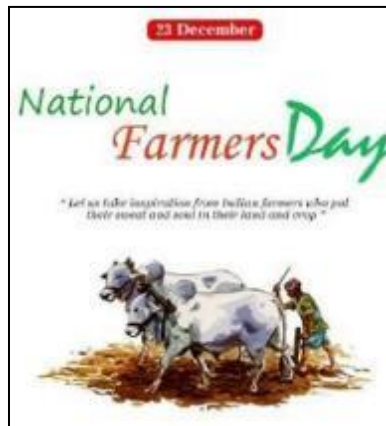
- ❖ He had developed a liking for mathematics at a very young age, mastering trigonometry at 12.
- ❖ Ramanujan was elected to the London Mathematical Society in 1917.
- ❖ Next year, he was elected to the prestigious Royal Society for his research on Elliptic Functions and theory of numbers.
- ❖ He was also the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of the Trinity College.
- ❖ His areas of work include infinite series, continued fractions, number theory and mathematical analysis, despite not receiving any formal training in pure maths.
- ❖ He also made notable contributions like the hypergeometric series, the Riemann series, the elliptic integrals, the theory of divergent series, and the functional equations of the zeta function.
- ❖ His biography 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' by Robert Kanigel depicts his life and journey to fame.
- ❖ 1729 is called Ramanujan number.
- ❖ It is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways.
- ❖ Because of this incident, 1729 is now known as the Ramanujan-Hardy number.



Indian National Farmers Day - December 23

- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness of the contributions of farmers to the socioeconomic development of the nation.
- ❖ This day was chosen to commemorate the birth anniversary of Choudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister.
- ❖ He introduced and implemented various schemes for the betterment of farmers and wrote several books highlighting the problems faced by the farmers of the nation along with giving the solution of the same.

- ❖ In celebration of Charan Singh's birth anniversary, the government celebrated Kisan Diwas in 2001.



National Consumer Rights Day - December 24



- ❖ In 1986, the Consumer Protection Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament.
- ❖ The bill received the assent of the President on December 24, 1986, and came into force.
- ❖ Thus, to commemorate the importance of the day, December 24 is marked as National Consumer Day.
- ❖ Further amendments were made to the Consumer Protection Act in 1991, 1993 and 2002 to make it more effective.
- ❖ In August 2019, the Parliament passed the Consumer Protection Act 2019, which replaced the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- ❖ The 2019 Act came into force in July 2020.

Good Governance Day - December 25

- ❖ This day marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924 in Gwalior, present-day Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ He became Prime Minister in 1996 (for 16 days).
- ❖ In 1998–1999, he was elected prime minister for a second term.
- ❖ On October 13, 1999, he was elected as the nation's prime minister for the third time.
- ❖ He was the first head of state to address the UN in Hindi.
- ❖ The "Bharat Ratna" award was given to him on March 27, 2015.

Veer Bal Diwas - December 26

- ❖ This day marks the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.
- ❖ They were killed by the Mughal forces in Sirhind, Punjab.



International Day of Epidemic Preparedness - December 27

- ❖ It aims to raise public awareness on epidemics on all levels and prepare for future outbreaks.
- ❖ This day was first commemorated on December 27, 2020 by WHO and UN.

MISCELLANEOUS

Yak - food animal

- ❖ The Himalayan yak has been accepted as a food animal by the scientific panel of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ The categorisation is expected to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine animal by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.
- ❖ Yaks are traditionally reared under a transhumance system which is primitive, unorganised and full of hardship.
- ❖ According to 2019 census, India has some 58,000 yaks.
- ❖ It is a drop of about 25% from the last livestock census conducted in 2012.
- ❖ Yak milk contains 78-82% water, 7.5-8.5% fat, 4.9-5.3% protein, 4.5-5.0% lactose and 12.3-13.4% solids-not-fat.
- ❖ Mostly consumed locally, yak meat is known to be lean.
- ❖ The meat contains 74.8% moisture, 21.7% protein, 1.5% crude fat and 1.2% ash.

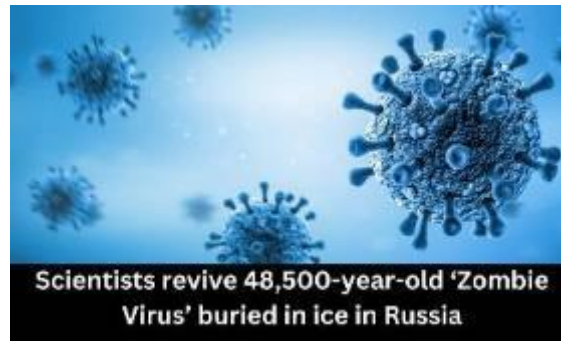


First science documentary in Sanskrit

- ❖ A non-feature film named 'Yaanam,' was screened under the Indian Panorama section at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival at Goa.
- ❖ The 45-minute documentary is a complete Sanskrit film by all means as the entire script and dialogues are in the ancient language.
- ❖ It is based on the autobiographical book "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission" by former space chairman Dr K. Radha Krishnan.
- ❖ This movie portrays India's dream project Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan).



Zombie Virus in Russia

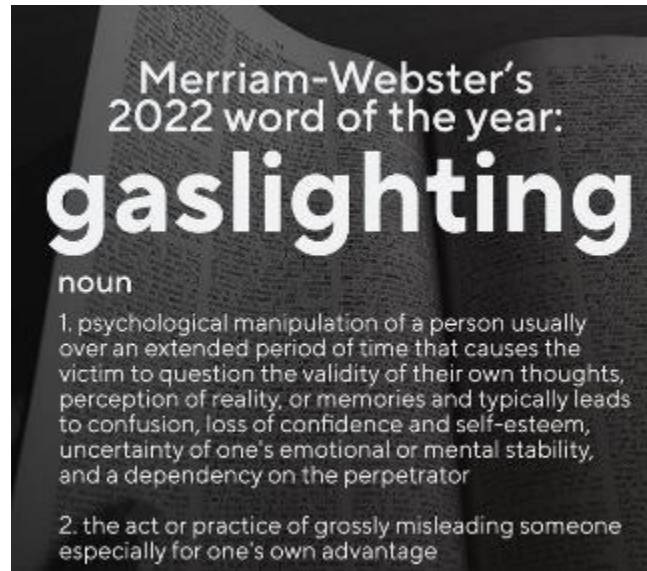


- ❖ European researchers examined ancient samples collected from permafrost in the Siberia region of Russia.
- ❖ They revived and characterized 13 new pathogens, what they termed “zombie viruses.”
- ❖ They found that they remained infectious despite spending many millennia trapped in the frozen ground.
- ❖ Among these 13, the oldest virus dubbed as Pandoravirus Yedoma, is known to be 48,500 years old.
- ❖ This virus breaks the previous record held by a 30,000-year-old virus that was uncovered by the same team in 2013.

Word of the Year 2022

- ❖ The US dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster announced that their 2022 word of the year is “gaslighting”.
- ❖ This word was defined as, “the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one’s own advantage.”

- ❖ Interest in the term was up by 1,740% over the previous year's according to searches of the online dictionary.
- ❖ The term itself came into existence 80 years ago in 1938 through the play-gas light.
- ❖ This play was written by Patrick Hamilton.



French baguettes



- ❖ The French baguette was given UNESCO heritage status.
- ❖ The baguette is a long and thin loaf made of flour, water, salt and yeast.
- ❖ And it is consumed as a staple in France.
- ❖ According to the National Federation of French Bakeries, more than six billion are baked every year in France.

- ❖ UNESCO, 'intangible cultural heritage' includes "oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts."

Naming Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- ❖ The government has named 21 uninhabited islands in the union territory of Andaman & Nicobar.
- ❖ They were after recipients of Param Vir Chakra, the country's highest wartime gallantry award.
- ❖ Out of the 21 islands, 16 are located in North and Middle Andaman district, while five islands are in South Andaman.
- ❖ The first uninhabited island numbered 'INAN370' in North and Middle Andaman was named after Major Somnath Sharma.
- ❖ Now 'INAN370' will be known as 'Somnath Dweep'.
- ❖ He was the first and the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra.



Longest double-decker flyover

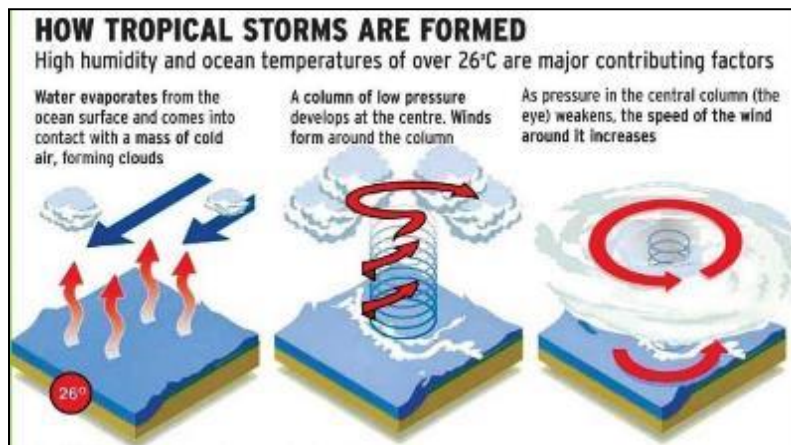
- ❖ Nagpur Metro has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the longest double-decker viaduct (metro) is 3,140 meters.
- ❖ The double-decker viaduct of 3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations – Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar.

- ❖ The project has already bagged records from Asia Book and India Book.



Cyclone Mandous

- ❖ Cyclonic storm Mandous recently formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It was named by the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ In Arabic, the word means a 'treasure box' and is pronounced as 'Man-Dous'.
- ❖ The cyclone made landfall near Mamallapuram on December 9.
- ❖ In the past 121 years (1891-2021), 12 cyclones have crossed the coast between Chennai and Puducherry.
- ❖ Cyclone Mandous is the 13th to make landfall in the region.

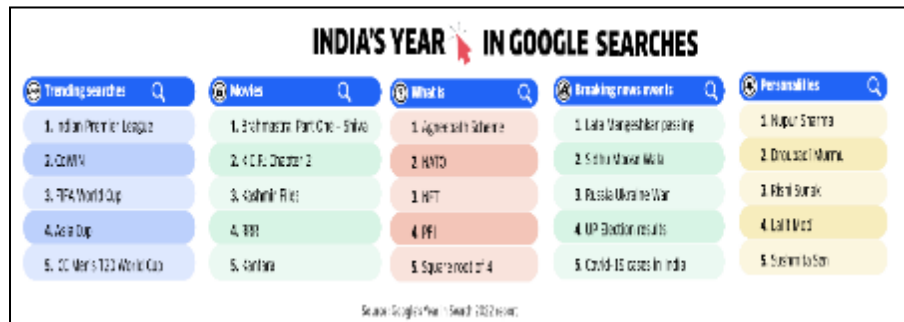


Oxford's 2022 Word of the Year

- ❖ "Goblin mode" has been chosen by the public as the 2022 Oxford word of the year.
- ❖ The first Oxford word of the year was to be chosen by public vote.

- ❖ The term stands for “a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations”.
- ❖ “Metaverse” was the second choice, followed by “#IStandWith”

Google "Year in Search 2022" report



- ❖ Google's annual list of top-trending searches is out for the year 2022.
- ❖ The annual Year in Search lists the most-popular searches of the year.
- ❖ The list includes news, personalities, how-to dos, recipes, 'near me' searches, 'what is' searches and more.
- ❖ The country's cricket league IPL topped the trending searches.
- ❖ It was followed by CoWIN and FIFA World Cup.

Bansilalpet Stepwell



- ❖ The Bansilalpet stepwell and precinct restoration project in Secunderabad (Telangana) received the prestigious Big 5 Construction Impact Award in Dubai.
- ❖ The seventeenth-century stepwell, which had turned into a dump yard over the last four decades.
- ❖ Over the last year, it was restored to its original glory.

Himalayan medicinal plants in IUCN Red List

- ❖ Three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have made it to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species following a recent assessment.
- ❖ *Meizotropis pellita* has been assessed as 'critically endangered', *Fritillaria cirrhosa* as 'vulnerable', and *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* as 'endangered'.
- ❖ *Meizotropis pellita*, commonly known as Patwa.
- ❖ It is a perennial shrub with restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand.
- ❖ *Fritillaria cirrhosa* (Himalayan fritillary) is a perennial bulbous herb.
- ❖ At least 30% of its population over the assessment period (22 to 26 years).
- ❖ According to the data shared by IUCN, 239 new species analysed in India have entered the list.
- ❖ Of these, 29 are threatened.



Restoration of Angkor Wat temple

- ❖ The Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia is being restored by India.
- ❖ Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and one of the largest religious monuments in the world.
- ❖ It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire.



- ❖ It was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.
- ❖ It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century in Yaśodharapura.

New GI tags



- ❖ Nine new items, including gamocha of Assam, Tandur red gram of Telangana, Raktsey Karpo apricot of Ladakh, and Alibag white onion of Maharashtra, have been given the coveted GI tag.
- ❖ Kerala has been awarded five GI tags for its agricultural produce.
- ❖ With this, the total number of GI tags in India comes to 432.
- ❖ The top five states holding the maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala.
- ❖ Of these, 401 are Indian-origin products, 31 foreign-origin.
- ❖ Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are states with the highest number of GI tags, followed by Kerala (35), Uttar Pradesh (34), and Maharashtra (31).

Grammar's greatest puzzle

- ❖ Cambridge scholar Dr Rishi Rajpopat claims to have solved Sanskrit's biggest puzzle.
- ❖ It is a grammar problem found in the 'Ashtadhyayi'; an ancient text written by the scholar Panini towards the end of the 4th century BC.
- ❖ It may allow Panini's grammar to be taught to computers for the first time.
- ❖ The 'Ashtadhyayi' is a linguistics text that set the standard for how Sanskrit was meant to be written and spoken.

Publication of scientific papers

- ❖ Union Minister for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh has revealed that India had jumped from 7th to 3rd in global scientific publications and scholarly output.
- ❖ China leads the world in the publication of the maximum number of scientific papers followed by The United States of America.
- ❖ India also ranks third globally in the number of PhDs produced annually.



Moa of Joynagar (West Bengal)

- ❖ The moa is a popped-rice ball held together with fresh date-palm jaggery.
- ❖ It was extracted from the beginning of December till the end of February.

TEST OF TASTE

265 | Total registered moa makers

2 | Moa makers, Shatadal Moa and Bakrahat Moa, who have the permission to use GI tag

₹400 | Price of authentic Joynagar Moa

10 | Moas in 500gm packet

Joynagar Moa won the GI tag on March 23, 2015

JOYNAGARER MOA

SWEET FORMULA

- GI-tagged moas will have to be made out of Kanakchur khoi
- There are specifications for khejur ras, cashew and raisins

The packet with the GI tag that will be available in market soon

- ❖ Its manufacture is so synonymous with Joynagar, a settlement on the outskirts of Kolkata.
- ❖ It is earned the Geographical Indication tag of Joynagar Moa in 2015.
- ❖ Now, the extension of recognition has come through for another 10 years.
- ❖ The sweet's makers and IIT researchers are now developing packaging material to increase shelf life from five days to two and a half months

Global List of Best Cuisines

1		Italy	4.72
2		Greece	4.68
3		Spain	4.59
4		Japan	4.59
5		India	4.54

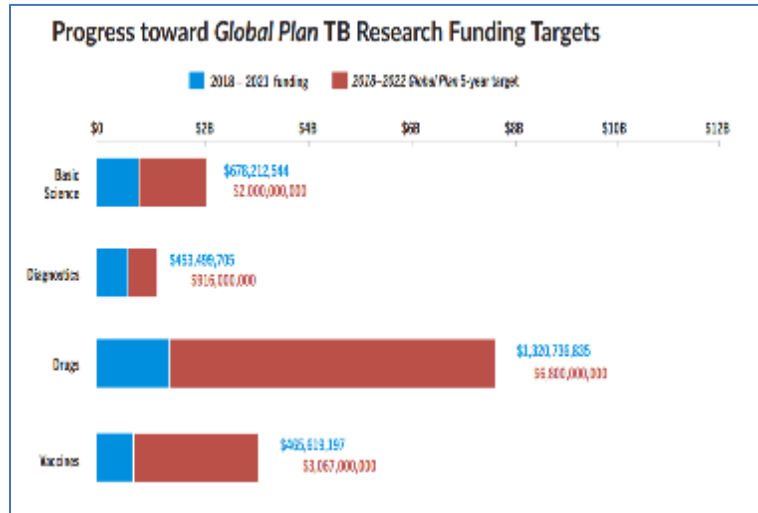
- ❖ India is ranked fifth on the global list of the best cuisines for 2022, according to Taste Atlas.
- ❖ The ranking is based on audience votes for ingredients, dishes, and beverages.
- ❖ Italy's food came in first place followed by Greece and Spain.

Great Workplace to Work

- ❖ Tata Steel has been certified as 'Great Place to Work' by Great Place to Work Institute for 2023.
- ❖ This is the sixth consecutive year that the Company has received the recognition.
- ❖ This reflects its efforts towards building an inclusive and sustainable organisation.



TB Research Funding Trends 2005-2021



- ❖ Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the Stop TB Partnership released the report called Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends, 2005–2021.
- ❖ For the first time in history, funding for tuberculosis (TB) research and development (R&D) hit a billion dollars worldwide in 2021.
- ❖ But, this funding for TB R&D is a mere fraction of what's needed to achieve the United Nations' sustainable development goal of ending TB as a pandemic by 2030.
- ❖ Every day, 4,400 people continue to die from TB, a treatable and curable airborne infectious disease.
- ❖ The United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018 set the target of \$2 billion per annum for R&D.
- ❖ The Stop TB Partnership's 'Global Plan to End TB, 2023–2030' estimates the funding need for TB R&D to have gone up to \$5 billion per annum.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★