

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS FEBRUARY 2022

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted its approval to Bharat Biotech for the trials of its intranasal Covid booster dose in India.
- ❖ India and ASEAN nations have approved a work plan titled India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022.
 - This happened during the second ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting.
- ❖ Argentina defeated Chile to win its 6th women's field hockey championship title at the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup.
 - The 2022 Women's Pan American Cup was the sixth edition of the championship.
- ❖ South Korean electronics manufacturing giant, Samsung Electronics surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021.
 - This is according to a report released by research firm Counterpoint Technology Market Research.
- ❖ Scientists have recently discovered a coral reef along the coast of Tahiti, located in French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean.
 - The reef is two miles long and is unaffected by anthropogenic activities and climate change.
- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the elevation of Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari, Judge of Madras High Court as Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- ❖ The central government announced its decision to convert around 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' across 12 States.
 - These villages will be converted into Villages of Excellence, with technical assistance from the Israeli government.
- ❖ Social activists have built a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters' Smriti Vanam at the Municipal Park in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh.
 - This is to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters.
- ❖ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has identified a new carangid (Vatta) species from the Indian coast.
 - The fish, *Scomberoides pelagicus*, is a member of the 'queen fish' family and is locally known as 'pola vatta.'
- ❖ A Trilogy book series titled, 'India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution' is authored by J Sai Deepak and published by Bloomsbury India.



- It is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy highlights how colonialism changes the socio-religious culture, history, education, language, and racial patterns in India.
- ❖ The former secretary, Department of Sports, Ravi Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.
 - He will serve for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.
- ❖ The marine version of the Rafale fighter jet was recently tested on INS Vikrant.
 - The test conducted by the aircraft carrier was successful.
- ❖ Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and the Indian Army signed a contract to manufacture and supply Konkurs-M anti-tank guided missiles.
 - This contract will be executed in three years.
- ❖ The government of India has appointed Jawaharlal Nehru University Vice-Chancellor, M Jagadesh Kumar as the new Chairman of the University Grants Commission.
 - He has been appointed for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest.
- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed a law that reserves 75 percent of jobs for Haryanvi in private establishments across the state.
- ❖ Jason Holder became the first West Indies male cricketer to take a hat-trick wicket in T20I cricket.
 - He achieved this feat against the England team.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates will introduce a federal corporate tax on business profits starting for the first time.
 - The tax will be levied on all corporations and commercial activities in the country, except for the "extraction of natural resources".
- ❖ The International Cricket Council announced Pakistani pacer Shaheen Afridi as the recipient of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021.
- ❖ The United States has decided to designate Qatar as a major non-NATO ally.
 - This is to reflect the "importance of its bilateral relationship".
- ❖ A giant asteroid, estimated to be four times bigger than the Eiffel Tower, is heading towards the Earth and is likely to make a close pass in March.
 - NASA has defined the asteroid called 138971 (2001 CB21) as potentially hazardous, as it will come as close as 4.5 million km.
- ❖ Senegal has defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship.



- They won the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaounde, Cameroon.
- ❖ Scientist and launch vehicle specialist, Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair took charge as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
 - VSSC is a key space research center of the Indian Space Research Organisation and specializes in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
- ❖ Parliamentary Committee recently recommended increasing guaranteed days of work from 100 to 150 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
 - The Committee also asked the Rural Development Ministry to increase wage rates under the scheme.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decommissioned the INSAT-4B.
 - It is an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the Indian National Satellite System.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the 'JIVA program'.
 - This is to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programs in 11 states.
- ❖ India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modeled on the Aadhaar card.
 - The Rajapaksa government will "prioritize" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level program.
- ❖ India's Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project.
 - The vessel was named ICGS 'Saksham'.
- ❖ Abraham Lincoln's Birthday known as Abraham Lincoln Day or Lincoln Day is celebrated annually on February 12.
 - He was the 16th President of the United States of America.
- ❖ Parker Solar Probe captured the images of Venus Surface.
 - NASA's Parker Solar Probe took its first visible-light images of the surface of Venus from space.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu school education Department has declared February 26 to be Book Free Day or Bookless Day or No School Bag day in every school across Tamil Nadu.
 - For students in grades 6 to 8, Bookless Day will be observed on February 26.



- ❖ The Government of Telangana and the British Council, an international organization for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in education, English, and arts.
- ❖ Debashis Mitra has been elected as the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23.
 - Aniket Sunil Talati has been elected as Vice President of the institute.
- ❖ The German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly.
 - This is also the final term for Steinmeier.
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the first color souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra'.
 - It was launched on the occasion of the 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited.
- ❖ As part of the Maitri initiative, Australia has announced two new scholarship and cultural exchange programs for Indian students.
 - The two scholarships, Fulbright and Rhodes, will support 45 graduate and undergraduate Indian students planning to study in Australian universities.
- ❖ The Tata Group has appointed Ilker Ayci as Air India's Managing Director and CEO.
 - He is the former Turkish Airlines Chairman.
- ❖ A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' has been authored by Bill Gates which will be published this year in May 2022.
 - His last book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need", was released in February 2021.
- ❖ Ministry of Railways has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at Kishanganj, Delhi.
 - The wrestling academy will be the biggest in India.
- ❖ Under the Saubhagya scheme, Rajasthan has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system.
 - In hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had nil beneficiaries under the initiative.
- ❖ Karnataka High Court struck down the provisions of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, that had banned online games.
 - The division bench was headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Krishna S. Dixit.
- ❖ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is organizing a "Darkathon-2022" to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the darknet.



- As per NCB data there is a 300% rise in heroin capture in five years.
- ❖ India delivered medical supplies to Kiribati after the Pacific Island nation asked for help, for dealing with the first outbreak of COVID-19.
 - The consignment contained emergency Covid-19 medication, pulse oximeters, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.
- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO as 'voluntary' against 'mandatory' earlier.
- ❖ Pasuvula Panduga is a cattle festival that is observed annually during Kanuma (the 3rd day of the Sankranti Festival), to appease the gods for improving and protecting livestock.
 - This festival was recently held in the Rangampet village of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ US women have become the third person worldwide and the first woman, to be cured of HIV.
 - She received a stem cell transplant from a person with natural resistance to the Aids-causing virus.
- ❖ The first country to adopt India's UPI system will be Nepal.
 - This will aid in the modernization of Nepal's digital payment infrastructure and provide citizens with the convenience of digital payments.
- ❖ Bill Gates has been awarded the Hilal-e-Pakistan for his efforts to help eradicate polio in the country.
 - It is Pakistan's second-highest civilian honor.
- ❖ The Sixth European Union-African Union Summit was held recently.
 - This summit took place in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission achieved the significant milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts across the country.
 - Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh, has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' district.
- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting under the G20 Presidency of Indonesia.
 - The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in November this year in Bali, Indonesia.
- ❖ France and its allies in a European force have announced they will begin withdrawing troops from Mali after nearly 10 years.
 - The decision applies to both France's Barkhane force in the Sahel and the Takuba European force.



- ❖ The government of India will be promoting the 'Heal by India' initiative to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector.
 - Heal by India's initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off 100 Kisan drones in different cities and towns of India.
 - This is in order to help farmers in spraying pesticides on their farms.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organized a bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.
 - Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise.
- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the Corona Vaccine Biologicals E Ltd's Corbevax for children in the age group of 12 to 18 years.
 - Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being given to children aged 15 to 18 years from January 3.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is organizing a crafts exhibition-cum-fair in Delhi.
 - It is with the aim of popularising traditional Indian crafts among the diplomatic community.
- ❖ Indian Air Force will participate in a multi-nation air exercise named 'Exercise Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington, in the United Kingdom.
 - IAF Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas will participate in the exercise.
- ❖ Russian President, Vladimir Putin has recognized the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine.
 - It is divided into Donetsk and Luhansk.
- ❖ Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated "Nikarshan Sadan" – The Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Vishakhapatnam.
 - This museum displays models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.
- ❖ Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, Meenakashi Lekhi has released a signature tune for 'Vande Bharatam'.
 - The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs has identified four locations in Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Romania to evacuate Indians from Ukraine.
- ❖ In October 2019, Anoop Kumar Mendiratta became the first serving judge to be appointed as Union Law Secretary.



- On February 25, 2022, he became the first Union Law Secretary to be appointed as a judge in High Court.
- ❖ Delhi will get India's first e-waste eco-park.
 - This is to handle the increasing e-waste.
- ❖ Cyclone Emnati wreaked havoc on Madagascar.
 - It made landfall just north of the south-eastern district of Manakara.
- ❖ The National Policy Guidelines on Bio-Medical Innovation and Entrepreneurship was launched by Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi.
 - The aim of this policy is to develop an entrepreneurial environment in India that will be innovation-driven with the ultimate goal of improving human health and well-being.
- ❖ International Polar Bear Day is celebrated around the globe on February 27th.
 - The day is observed to raise awareness about the conservation of the polar bear.

TAMIL NADU

Excavations at seven places – TamilNadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that the State government will carry out excavations at archaeological sites across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The excavations will take place at seven places this year.
- ❖ The places are Keezhadi and its surrounding areas (Konthagai, Agaram, Manalur) in Sivaganga district (Phase VIII), Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district (Phase-III), Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district (Phase III), Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district (Phase-II), Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district, Thulukkarappatti in Tirunelveli district and Perumpalai in Dharmapuri district (Phase I).
- ❖ The Chief Minister also said that the archaeology department has proposed to conduct a reconnaissance survey in the sea off the coast of Korkai in Thoothukudi district, in association with the Indian Maritime University and National Institute of Ocean Technology.
- ❖ The survey will be undertaken near the estuary where the river Tamirabarani flows into the sea.



Draft policy for senior citizens

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has created a draft policy for senior citizens.
- ❖ Under the policy, the government plans to work with academic institutions, field experts, and civil society organizations.
- ❖ The policy has been created based on Article 41 of the constitution.
- ❖ The policy will focus on social security schemes, health and nutrition, income security, safety, livelihood, safety housing and environment, education, disaster management, and research and documentation.
- ❖ It aims to create a Directorate for the welfare of the senior citizens.

Note

- ❖ According to the report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, “Elderly in India, 2021”, 13.6% of the population in Tamil Nadu is senior citizens.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the second largest number of senior citizens in India next to Kerala.
- ❖ Also, it is predicted that the senior citizen population is to increase to 18.2% by 2031.

Pledge against Anti-Untouchability

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on January 30th administered the pledge against untouchability to Ministers, senior officials, and staff at the Secretariat in Fort St. George in Chennai.
- ❖ This is to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Vellalore Lake

- ❖ The green zone along the Vellalore Lake, with native trees and flowers, has turned the Lake into a butterfly hotspot.
- ❖ The lake is in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Blue Mormons have been sighted in great numbers.
- ❖ It is the fourth largest butterfly of India and State butterfly of Maharashtra.



DESH-Stack e-portal

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to set up “DESH-Stack e-portal”, during the Budget 2022 speech.
- ❖ DESH stands for “Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood”.
- ❖ This portal will be launched for empowering citizens to skill, upskill, or re-skill through online training.



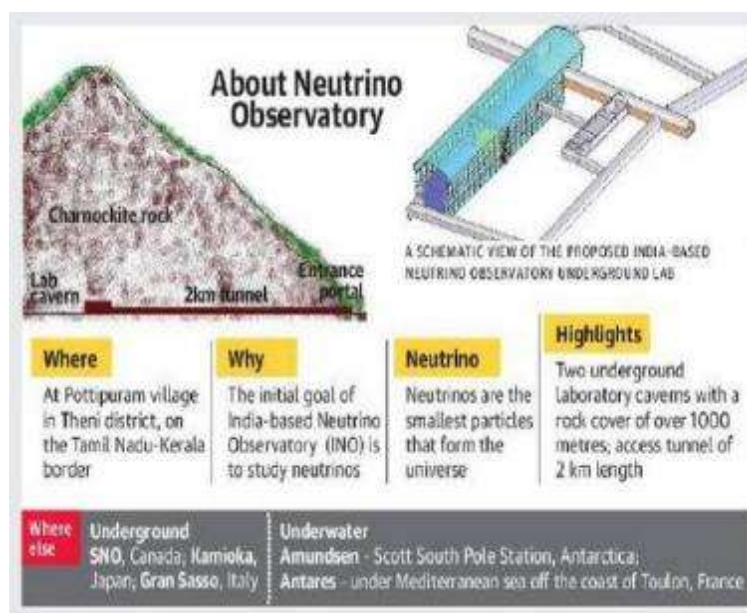
Tamil Nadu Assembly re-adopts Bill against NEET

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly made history on Tuesday, February 8, by unanimously re-adopting the Bill against NEET (National Eligibility Cum Entrance Exam) that was returned by Governor RN Ravi.
- ❖ Governor RN Ravi had recently returned the "Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill" to the Assembly.
- ❖ He said that it goes against the interests of students hailing from poor economic backgrounds.
- ❖ It is for the first time in its 70-year history that the Tamil Nadu Assembly is unanimously re-adopting the same draft of a bill without amendments.
- ❖ Now that the Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed the same Bill again, the Tamil Nadu Governor cannot reject it for the second time.
- ❖ The Governor has to give his assent and send it to the President.
- ❖ The Bill requires the President's assent before it can become a law.

Tamil Nadu poverty reduction

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is considered the best-administered State in terms of implementation of schemes.
- ❖ All the three editions of NITI Aayog had one common feature of Tamil Nadu finishing on top with regard to Goal 1 "No Poverty."

T.N. Neutrino Observatory



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has told the Supreme Court that it does not want the Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO) to be built in a vulnerable ecological zone in the Western Ghats, at the cost of wildlife and biodiversity, along with local opposition and public outcry against the project.
- ❖ The proposal for the observatory, according to the Tamil Nadu government, would create permanent damage to the Western Ghats.
- ❖ According to the State, this corridor connects the Periyar Tiger Reserve on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border and the Mathikettan Shola National Park.
- ❖ The project area also has ecological ties to the Srivilliputhur Meghamalai Tiger Reserve, which is located in the eastern habitats.

Marine Elite Force – Tamilnadu



- ❖ Two units of Marine Elite Force will be set up in the State.
- ❖ This is to combat marine wildlife crimes, including smuggling, prevention, and poaching of marine animals, particularly in the Gulf of Mannar biosphere and Palk Bay.
- ❖ The primary objective is to strengthen the protection and sustainable management of the marine areas and watch out for disasters affecting marine and coastal wildlife.

Panruti Cashews GI tag



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Cashew Processors and Exporters Association has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Panruti cashews.
- ❖ Panruti cashew is mainly cultivated in laterite, red and coastal sands.

NATIONAL

INS Khukri



- ❖ INS Khukri (P49) was handed over to the Daman and Diu Administration on January 26.
- ❖ It is the first indigenously built missile corvette of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The decommissioned Khukri is planned to be converted into a museum by the Diu Administration for public visits.
- ❖ INS Khukri will be India's 1st full warship museum; co-located with INS Khukri Memorial.

MK III aircraft

- ❖ The indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh at Port Blair, Andaman.
- ❖ The ALH MK III aircraft has been manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ❖ The ALH MK III helicopter is specifically suited for defense services, especially in high-altitude operations.





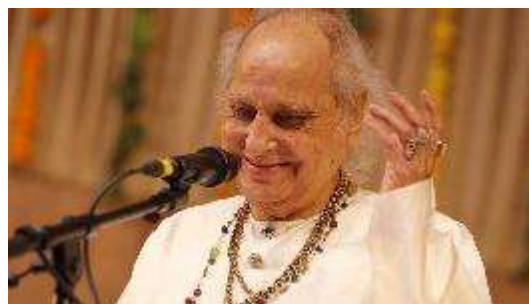
National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign

- ❖ The Union Agricultural Minister recently addressed the fourth National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign.
- ❖ The conference is also called the Zaid conference.
- ❖ This conference focused on summer crops.
- ❖ The conference mainly focused on increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds.

India's exports of Electronic Goods

- ❖ India's exports of electronic goods reached USD 1.67 Billion in December 2021.
- ❖ It registered a growth of 33.99%, as compared to export of USD 1.25 Bn in December 2020.
- ❖ During April-December 2021, the electronic sector registered an exports growth of 49%.
- ❖ This resulted in reaching USD 11.0 Billion against USD 7.4 Billion in the year 2020.
- ❖ In April-November 2021, the top 3 export destinations are:
 - USA (18%)
 - UAE (16.6%)
 - China (7.6%)
- ❖ Mobile phones hold a major chunk of India's Electronics Goods sector exports
- ❖ Overall exports of electronics goods in the financial year 2020-21 were USD 11.11 Billion.

Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation



- ❖ Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation was launched marking the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of late Indian classical vocalist, Pandit Jasraj.



- ❖ Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation has been founded by Pandit Jasraj's son, Shaarang Dev Pandit, and his daughter, Durga Jasraj.
- ❖ Foundation was launched with the objective of protecting, preserving, developing, and promoting the National Heritage, Art & Culture of India.

Death Penalty in India report

- ❖ According to the report, the number of prisoners on death row at the end of 2021 was 488.
- ❖ This number was the highest in 17 years.
- ❖ The year 2021 witnessed the highest number of prisoners on death row, since 2016.
- ❖ There was an increase of around 21% from 2020.
- ❖ This is the highest death row population since 2004 when it was 563.



Meta tie-up with FICCI



- ❖ The Social media giant Meta has partnered with industry body the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ This is to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India.



- ❖ Meta will undertake this initiative under its #SheMeansBusiness programme, in partnership with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%' initiative.
- ❖ The initiative will create a supportive ecosystem for women and inspire them to become contributors to the overall development of the country.

NIPER Research Portal

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches NIPER Research Portal

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)



- ❖ NIPER is the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER).
- ❖ The Ministry of Chemicals has recently launched NIPER Portal to facilitate innovation and research in the pharmaceutical sector.
- ❖ The portal will assist the researchers in contacting appropriate organizations.
- ❖ It will help in industry-academia collaboration.
- ❖ Also, the portal will benefit the MSMEs largely.

Swachhata Start-Up challenge

- ❖ Swachhata Start-Up challenge was launched to increase innovation in waste management.
- ❖ It was launched by the Agence Francaise de Developpment, AFD, and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, DPIIT.
- ❖ The AFD is a French public financial institution.
- ❖ The challenge is to be conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day



- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has addressed 30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022.
- ❖ The event was organized to celebrate the achievements of women in different fields.
- ❖ The theme of the programme was 'She The Change Maker'.
- ❖ The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India.
- ❖ NCW was set up on 31 January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

India's first geological park

- ❖ The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining.
- ❖ Geopark is a unified area, which advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable manner.
- ❖ It also promotes the economic well-being of the people living there.



Union Budget 2022-23-Highlights



- ❖ On February 1, 2022, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman presented the Union budget 2022-23.
- ❖ It is India second paperless budget.

Key highlights

- ❖ Digital Rupee is to be issued using blockchain technologies
- ❖ Issuance of E-Passports
- ❖ National Tele Mental Health programme is to be launched

- ❖ Zero Fossil Fuel policy to be introduced
- ❖ Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with a new act
- ❖ Sovereign green bonds are to be issued
- ❖ India growth: Estimated at 9.2%
- ❖ Scheme for oilseeds to be launched: To increase domestic oil production and reduce import
- ❖ The PM Gati Shakti Master plan is to be expanded to 25,000 km
- ❖ 400 new Vande Bharat trains are to be launched
- ❖ The central and state government employees' tax deduction limit is to be increased from 10% to 14%.

New Leprosy Cases in India 2020-21

- ❖ Though India was declared "leprosy-free" in 2005, it still accounts for around 60 percent of the world's new leprosy patients.
- ❖ According to data of 'National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)', Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand contributed around 76 percent of new leprosy.
- ❖ World Health Organization data shows that India accounted for 80 percent of the cases in southeast Asian countries.

Home Delivery of medicines under SeHAT scheme



- ❖ The Ministry of Defence had launched the Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT - Social Endeavor for Health and Telemedicine) medical teleconsultation service for all entitled armed forces personnel and their families in May 2021.
- ❖ To add further to this initiative, the Home Delivery or Self Pickup of Medicines to patients seeking consultation on SeHAT has been started w.e.f February 01, 2022.

Forest gain area – India

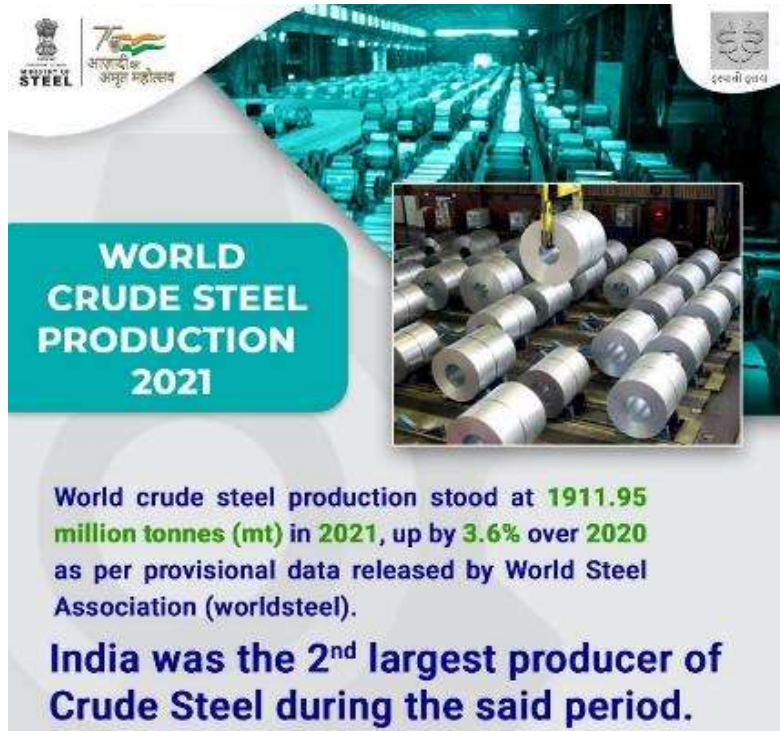
- ❖ India ranks third in the world in terms of forest gain area.
- ❖ India has added 2,66,000 hectares of forest area every year between 2010 and 2020.
- ❖ This is according to the Economic Survey released by the Department of Economic Affairs recently.
- ❖ 24% of the total geographical area of India is covered with forest.
- ❖ The Indian forests accounts to 2% of the forests in the world.
- ❖ According to the survey, the countries with maximum forest are Brazil, Congo, Peru, and Russia.
- ❖ In India, Madhya Pradesh had the highest forest cover.
- ❖ It was followed by Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The highest proportion of forest, that is, the area covered under forest as compared to the geographical area of the state is as follows:
 - Mizoram: 85%
 - Arunachal Pradesh: 79%
 - Meghalaya: 76%

Issuance of Formosa Bond – SBI



- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India INX GIFT IFSC.
- ❖ The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan.
- ❖ SBI was the first issuer whose Green bonds were dually listed in November 2021 on Luxembourg Stock Exchange through an MOU that has been entered into by both Exchanges.

India steel output



- ❖ India's crude steel production rose by nearly 18 percent to 118 million tonnes (MT) in 2021.
- ❖ India is the second-largest steel-producing nation.
- ❖ It is behind China with 1032.8 MT.

UPI Safety and Awareness initiative

UPI Safety Shield

Safety tips of the UPI Safety Shield

- Tip 1** Always verify the UPI ID of the person before making payment
- Tip 2** Enter UPI PIN on UPI PIN page only and never share it with anyone
- Tip 3** Entering UPI PIN means money getting deducted from your account. Scanning QR is for making payment, not for receiving money
- Tip 4** Check SMS when money is deducted
- Tip 5** Use UPI-Help for transaction related concerns

- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the UPI ecosystem (comprising of leading banks and fintechs) have announced this initiative.
- ❖ This is to create awareness amongst consumers.
- ❖ Under this initiative, NPCI and the UPI ecosystem will observe February 1-7 as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Week'.
- ❖ Also the whole of February will be observed as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Month'.

New banknote printing lines



- ❖ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has set up 'new banknote printing lines' at its Currency Note Press, Nashik, and Bank Note Press, Dewas.
- ❖ In India, four printing presses for printing and supply of Banknotes.
- ❖ These are at
 - Dewas in Madhya Pradesh,
 - Nasik in Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL),
 - Mysore in Karnataka, and
 - Salboni in West Bengal (owned by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited).

Non-Fuel Retail Store

- ❖ The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has marked its foray into the non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under the brand name HaPpyShop.
- ❖ The first retail store was launched by HPCL in September 2021 in Mumbai at Company's Retail Outlet located at Nepean Sea Road.
- ❖ The company has now announced the opening of two more Convenience Stores of 'HaPpyShop'.
- ❖ The two new stores are located at:

- Company's Auto Care Centre, Bandra West in Mumbai and
- Millennium Retail Outlet in Visakhapatnam
- ❖ In addition to this, HPCL has launched the platform in a purely online format by opening the Online Store at Madurai.
- ❖ HPCL is also marketing branded packaged drinking water at its Retail Outlets across the country under the name 'Paani@Club HP'.



Five river linking projects announced in Union Budget

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed a project to link five rivers in India in her budget speech.
- ❖ The rivers identified for linking are Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery, Damanganga-Pinjal, and Par-Tapi-Narmada.
- ❖ Krishna, the fourth largest river in India, originates in Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra and flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Cauvery originates in Kodagu and flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Penna originates in Chikkaballapura and flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The Godavari which is the third-largest river in India originates in Nashik and flows through Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Orissa.
- ❖ The Damanganga-Pinjal river linking aims to divert surplus water from the Damanganga basin to provide domestic water for Mumbai city.

- ❖ The Par-Tapi-Narmada project proposes to provide water to drought-prone regions of Kutch and Saurashtra by diverting excess water from seven reservoirs in the Western Ghats in North Maharashtra and south Gujarat.

Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala



- ❖ The Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebidu, and Somnath Pura in Karnataka will be nominated for World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023 from India.
- ❖ Hoysala dynasty existed in South India between 1110 A.D. and 1326 A.D.
- ❖ It was founded by Nripa Kama II or Sala.
- ❖ Its capital initially resided at Belur, but later moved to Halebidu.

Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy



- ❖ The Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy was recently launched at IIT Dharwad of Karnataka.

- ❖ The center will enhance the research in affordable and clean energy.
- ❖ The solutions will target on livelihoods of rural communities.
- ❖ The center is to be supported by CSR funds.
- ❖ The CSR funds are to come from Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation.

One Nation One Registration

- ❖ During the budget presentation, the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitaraman introduced the One Nation One Registration scheme.
- ❖ This will increase the easing of doing business and also will improve the ease of living.
- ❖ The scheme will bring upon uniform registration process throughout the country.
- ❖ No matter where the registration is being made, be it land registration or vehicle registration, or any other registration, the same process will be followed throughout the country.



DILRMP

- ❖ DILRMP is Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme.
- ❖ Under the programme, the Government of India has so far digitised 90% of land records in the country.
- ❖ This has been achieved in 24 states.
- ❖ It was launched in 2008 as National Land Records Modernization Programme.
- ❖ It was recently renamed by the Modi government as DILRMP.



India Press Freedom Report

- ❖ The India Press Freedom Report, 2021 was recently released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group.
- ❖ According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed.
- ❖ The highest number of journalist attacks was in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The second highest was in Uttar Pradesh.

Hydrogen into CGD network

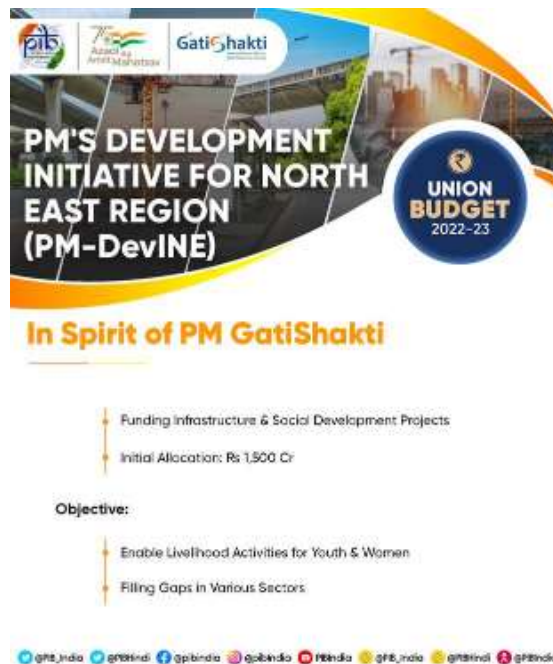


GAIL (India) Limited

- ❖ Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has started India's first-of-its-kind project to mix hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited.
- ❖ GAIL started the "hydrogen blending program" in line with National Hydrogen Mission.
- ❖ The hydrogen blending program was started as a pilot project to establish the techno-commercial feasibility of blending hydrogen in City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.

PM-DevINE Scheme

- ❖ In Union Budget 2022-23, a new “PM-DevINE scheme” was proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ The government announced the PM-DevINE scheme, with an initial allotment of Rs 1,500 crore.
- ❖ It stands for “Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North-East”.
- ❖ The scheme aims to fund infrastructure and need-based social development, including one-of-a-kind ‘Bamboo Link Roads’ in Mizoram.
- ❖ These roads will help in transporting bamboo from forests.



Renaming of three places in MP

- ❖ The central government has approved the proposal for the renaming of three places in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The proposals include renaming Hoshangabad Nagar as "Narmadapuram", Shivpuri as "Kundeshwar Dham" and Babai as "Makhan Nagar".
- ❖ Hoshangabad, which is located on the south bank of River Narmada, was named after Hoshang Shah, the first Malwa ruler, over 600 years ago.
- ❖ The center has, however, reportedly frozen the proposed name change of West Bengal to Bangla.
- ❖ It was saying that the proposed name sounds similar to the neighboring country of Bangladesh.

INS Vagir

- ❖ The Indian Navy's brand-new submarine - the fifth of the six French-designed Scorpene-class submarines - sailed out on its first sea trial.
- ❖ The submarine is designated "Yard 11879" during its construction by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with the Naval Group of France.
- ❖ It will be named "Vagir" after it is commissioned into service.



Ramsar sites



- ❖ The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention.

- ❖ With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49.
- ❖ Khijadiya has become the fourth wetland of Gujarat to get the Ramsar tag.
- ❖ Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary, and Wadhvana wetland are the other Ramsar sites in the state.

India's Diplomatic Boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs officially announced the diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics of India.
- ❖ Doordarshan will not telecast the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Winter Olympics.
- ❖ India will not send its envoy to the opening and closing ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics.
- ❖ However, India will send an athlete to attend the ceremonies.



Note:

- ❖ China has chosen the army officer Qi Fabao as the torch bearer.
- ❖ Qi Fabao was involved in the Galwan valley clashes between India and China in 2020.

Millets in Mid-Day Meal Scheme

- ❖ The Government of India is to include millets in the mid-day meal scheme.
- ❖ This includes bajra, ragi, jowar.
- ❖ This is being done to enhance nutrition in children.
- ❖ The announcement was made by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ It is to be implemented by the PM POSHAN scheme.

Republic Day Parade 2022 winners



- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh state tableau was adjudged as the best state tableau of Republic Day Parade 2022,
- ❖ Maharashtra state tableau was selected as the best in the popular choice category.
- ❖ The CISF was adjudged as the best marching contingent among the CAPF.
- ❖ Indian Navy was selected as the best marching contingent among the Services.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force contingent won in the popular choice category.
- ❖ The tableau of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Civil Aviation was declared as the best tableau among Ministries.
- ❖ The Ministry of Education's Tableau 2022 was titled "Vedas to Metaverse".

Punaura Dham





- ❖ As per the request received from the State Government of Bihar, the Ministry of Tourism has included Punaura Dham in the Ramayana Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- ❖ The destination of Punaura Dham has been recently included under the PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ Punaura Dham is considered to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita.

Aravalli Biodiversity Park

- ❖ The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.
- ❖ This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest, and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- ❖ The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.

Square Kilometre Array Observatory



- ❖ India inked an interim agreement to confirm its commitment to working on a mega-science project called "Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)".
- ❖ The agreement will be valid for one year.
- ❖ SKAO is proposed to be the world's largest radio telescope.
- ❖ This project will facilitate India in making its first monetary contribution towards the construction phase of SKA.
- ❖ SKA will be built in Australia and South Africa.
- ❖ It is headquartered in the United Kingdom.

Saffron Bowl Project

- ❖ North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) under the Saffron Bowl project has identified a few locations in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya for saffron cultivation.
- ❖ The saffron bowl of India, so far confined to parts of Kashmir, has now spread its wings to parts of the North East.

ICRISAT's 50th-anniversary celebrations



- ❖ The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi visited the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad, and kickstarted the 50th Anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.
- ❖ He inaugurated Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility and also launched a commemorative stamp issued in Hyderabad.

Scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

- ❖ The Central Government has decided to continue the Scheme of “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, RYSK for another five years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26.
- ❖ The decision was taken with a view to achieving the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and engaging them in nation-building activities.



ZyCov-D



- ❖ ZyCov-D, India's first needleless vaccine for Covid-19 has been launched in Bihar's Patna.
- ❖ ZyCov-D is India's second indigenous Covid-19 vaccine after Covaxin.
- ❖ This is a needleless vaccine unique in nature because it has been developed on a plasmid DNA platform.
- ❖ ZyCov-D is India's second indigenous Covid-19 vaccine after Covaxin.
- ❖ ZyCov-D has already received approval for administration in kids aged 12-15.
- ❖ However, it will first be given to adults in India.

Assam Leopard census

- ❖ The forest department officials have rescued a leopard from Sishugram Red Cross society near IIT Guwahati recently.
- ❖ Also for the first time, the North Kamrup Forest Division has initiated an exclusive leopard counting census in Assam's Forest and non-forest areas.
- ❖ Leopard counting census has been initiated in leopard density areas of Amingaon in Kamrup district.

Chilika Lake Annual survey



- ❖ The Chilika Development Authority recently held the annual survey at the Chilika lake recently.
- ❖ The survey was all about the flora and fauna in the lake.
- ❖ According to the survey, the lake has more than 33% of the seagrass area of the country.
- ❖ Seagrass is an underwater plant.
- ❖ They live in or close to the sea.
- ❖ Five species of seagrass were witnessed.
- ❖ They are Halophila beckari, Halophila ovate, Halophila ovalis, Halodule pinifolia, Holodule uninervis.

Statue of Equality



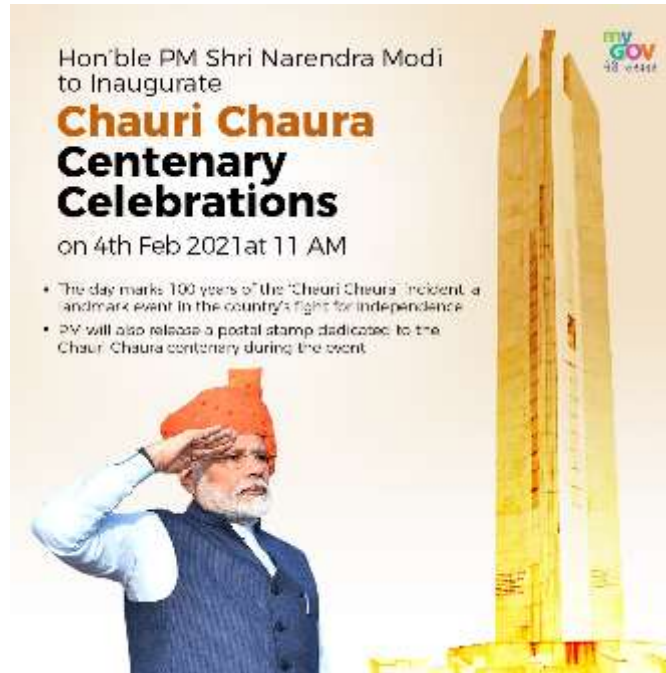


- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation 216-feet tall Statue of Equality in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The statue has been conceptualized by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram.
- ❖ The inauguration of the statue is a part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing 1000th birth anniversary celebrations of the Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya.
- ❖ The statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals.
- ❖ They are gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- ❖ It is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.
- ❖ The 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality statue is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, called 'Bhadra Vedi'.

ITS in Mumbai - Nagpur expressway

- ❖ ITS' is an Intelligent Transportation System.
- ❖ It is a Korean technology.
- ❖ The technology is to be used to monitor Mumbai – Nagpur Expressway.
- ❖ It is the fastest and longest expressway in the country.
- ❖ It is an eight-lane expressway.
- ❖ Vehicles can run at a maximum speed of 150 km per hour.
- ❖ The technology will help to prevent accidents.

100 years of Chauri Chaura incident



- ❖ Chauri Chaura is located in Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhiji called off the non – cooperation movement due to the incident that occurred in Chauri Chaura.
- ❖ The people set up a fire to the police station.
- ❖ The incident occurred on February 4, 1922.
- ❖ India recently celebrated the 100 years of the Chauri Chaura incident.

India's Unemployment Rate

- ❖ The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy recently released the unemployment report.
- ❖ According to the report, unemployment in India was at 6.57% in January 2022.
- ❖ This is the lowest since March 2021.
- ❖ The unemployment in the urban regions was 8.16%.
- ❖ It was 5.84% in rural areas.
- ❖ In December 2021, the unemployment rate in the country was 7.91%.
- ❖ It was 9.3% in urban and 7.28% in rural.
- ❖ Telangana had the lowest unemployment rate in January 2022.
- ❖ Haryana had the highest unemployment rate.



Sonali Singh

- ❖ The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ She is serving as the Additional Controller General of Accounts since October 2019.
- ❖ Prior to that, she had also served as Additional Secretary at Central Vigilance Commission.

“Khadi Emporium” license

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has canceled the “Khadi Certification” of its oldest Khadi Institution named Mumbai Khadi & Village Industries Association (MKVIA).
- ❖ This MKVIA was running the popular “Khadi Emporium” at Metropolitan Insurance House, Mumbai since 1954.
- ❖ KVIC has canceled the license of MKVIA as it had started selling fake Khadi products.

Swarajability

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) has launched the beta version of ‘Swarajability’.
- ❖ It is a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs.
- ❖ The institute has developed the platform in association with Youth4Jobs, Visual Quest, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

Cricket stadium in Jaipur

- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the world’s third-largest cricket stadium in Jaipur.
- ❖ The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world.
- ❖ The new international stadium will be built by the Rajasthan Cricket Academy (RCA) on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass.
- ❖ Currently, Narendra Modi Stadium (former Motera Stadium) in Ahmedabad is the world’s largest stadium.

- ❖ The second-largest stadium is Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground.



Sputnik Light

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India recently granted Emergency Use Permission to Sputnik light COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The expert panel of the central drug authority had recommended this.
- ❖ With this sputnik light becomes the ninth COVID – 19 vaccine in the country.
- ❖ It is a booster shot.



Sariska Tiger Reserve

- ❖ The Habitat management was launched in Sariska Tiger Reserve around June 2020.
- ❖ This has increased the number of tigers in the region.
- ❖ The tiger population in the reserve has increased to 25.
- ❖ Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- ❖ It was made a tiger reserve in 1978.



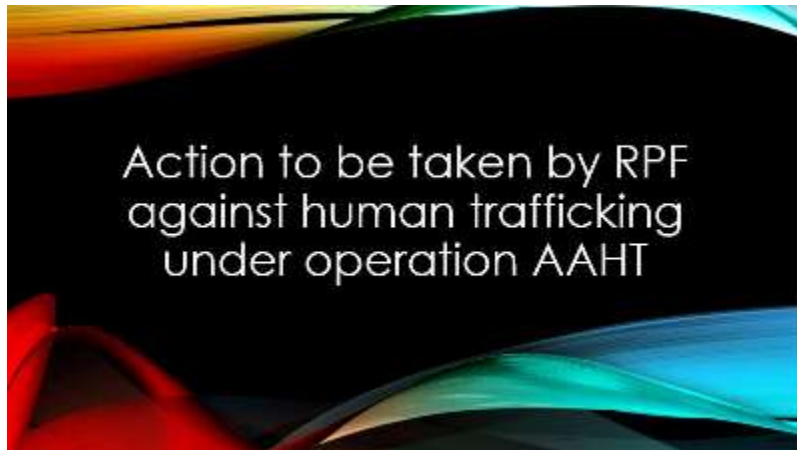
Powerthon - 2022



- ❖ Power Minister R K Singh launched Powerthon-2022.
- ❖ It is a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution.
- ❖ It is also to ensure quality and reliable power supply.

Operation AAHT

- ❖ It is a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking.
- ❖ It was launched by the Railway Protection Force.
- ❖ As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.



JNU - First Woman Vice-Chancellor


- ❖ Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit will be the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- ❖ Ms. Pandit is currently the Vice-Chancellor of Savitribai Phule University in Maharashtra.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the appointment for a period of five years.



Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0

- ❖ Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0.
- ❖ The IMI 4.0 will have three rounds and it will be conducted across 416 districts across 33 states, and UTs.
- ❖ It also includes 75 districts identified for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ❖ This program will immensely contribute to filling the gaps as well as making lasting gains for universal immunization.

- ❖ It will ensure that Routine Immunisation (RI) services reach unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children & pregnant women.



INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH

- 3.86 crore children & 96.8 lakh pregnant women vaccinated across 701 districts during ten phases of Mission Indradhanush
- Full Immunization Coverage among children aged 12-23 months increased from 62% (NFHS-4) to 76.4% (NFHS-5)

Be Wise! Get your child fully immunized

Largest igloo café



- ❖ An igloo cafe was recently opened in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is now the largest igloo cafe in the world.
- ❖ The name of the Cafe is Snowglu.
- ❖ It was built by Wasim Shah, the owner.

Kawal Tiger Reserve - Bird Walk



- ❖ The Kawal Tiger Reserve is going to host its first-ever 'Bird Walk' on February 12 and 13.
- ❖ Kawal is home to a rich diversity in flora and fauna with more than 300 species of birds and over 600 tree species.
- ❖ Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram Mandal of Mancherial District (Old Adilabad district) in the Telangana state of India.

Global Summit on Reimagining Museums in India



- ❖ The Ministry of Culture is to organize a Global Summit on reimagining museums in India.
- ❖ The summit is the first of its kind.
- ❖ The summit is to be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Culture Shri Kishan Reddy.

- ❖ The summit is to focus on developing museums in India.
- ❖ The main intention is to cultivate new practices and strategies to develop Indian museums.
- ❖ The summit is organized as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ❖ It is a program to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian independence.
- ❖ The summit is organized by the ministry along with Bloomberg.

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme



The infographic features a brown leather-textured background. At the top, a yellow banner reads 'Modi Govt Extends'. Below it, the title 'Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme 2021-26' is displayed in large white letters. A small '75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' logo is in the top right. On the right side, there is an image of a grey and white sneaker. The central section, titled 'Objective of the Scheme', lists four points with corresponding icons: a leather patch for 'Boost to the development of infrastructure for the leather sector', a factory and people for 'Employment generation especially for women', a graduation cap for 'Enable sector specific skill/education in leather clusters', and a gold coin for 'Financial outlay of ₹1,700 crore'. On the bottom right, there is a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his hands in a prayer position.

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce recently announced that the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) is to continue from 2021-22 till 2026.
- ❖ IFLDP will develop infrastructure for the leather sector.
- ❖ It will increase the production of leather goods.
- ❖ The Government of India will provide 50% financial assistance.
- ❖ The limit of the assistance is fixed at Rs 10 crores.

PMKSY till March 2026



- ❖ The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026.
- ❖ The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ❖ The scheme aims for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.
- ❖ In May 2017, the Central Government had launched SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters).
- ❖ The scheme was renamed PMKSY in August 2017.

SAMRIDH initiative

- ❖ Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development have announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.
- ❖ It aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.



Amazon India signed MoU with Karnataka

- ❖ Amazon India signed an MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend the benefits of the 'Saheli' Program.
- ❖ The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.

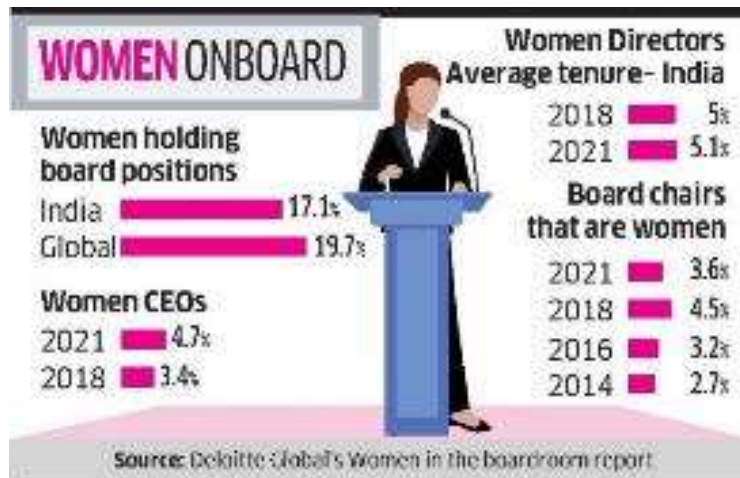
White-cheeked macaque



- ❖ The Scientists recently found white-cheeked macaque in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The White Cheeked macaque was first discovered in southeastern Tibet.
- ❖ These macaques are different from the other macaques mainly because of their white cheeks.
- ❖ Also, they have a longer tail, long and thick hairs in the neck area.
- ❖ With the discovery of White Cheeked macaque, the total mammal count has increased to 438.

Women in Boardroom report

- ❖ The Women in the Boardroom report was recently released by Deloitte Global.
- ❖ This is the seventh edition of the report.
- ❖ According to the report, women hold only 17.1% of board seats in India.
- ❖ The report said that only 3.6% of the chairpersons are women in the country.
- ❖ Around 4.7% of the CEOs in India were women in 2021.



Parvatmala



- ❖ The National Ropeways Development Programme - “Parvatmala” was announced recently.
- ❖ It was announced by the Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2022-23 to improve connectivity in hilly areas.
- ❖ This will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- ❖ The idea is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.
- ❖ This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) will have responsibility for its development.

PM CARES Fund



- ❖ The total corpus under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21 was Rs 10,990.17 crore.
- ❖ It triples in FY 2020-21.
- ❖ While Rs 3,976.17 crore was spent from the fund in 2020-21, according to the latest audited statement of PM CARES Funds.
- ❖ As of March 31, 2021, the Fund had an unspent balance of Rs 7,013.99 crore.
- ❖ The government has used a part of the money to buy medical equipment, including ventilators, to boost the battle against the COVID-19 and has also provided relief to migrants.

Light House Tourism

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is to develop five lighthouses in the state of Odisha.
- ❖ The Four districts have been identified.
- ❖ The Odisha Lighthouse tourism being developed is a part of Marine aids to Navigation 2021.
- ❖ Under the aid, the development was to be brought in the states of Gujarat, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Andaman, and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The aid will help develop the lighthouses into tourism destinations.
- ❖ It will preserve the historical and traditional values of the lighthouses.

Life Insurance Corporation



- ❖ According to a brand valuation report by London-based Brand Finance, LIC is India's strongest and the largest brand in the country.
- ❖ With this, it also becomes the third-strongest insurance brand globally after Poste Italiane of Italy, and Mapfre of Spain at 1st and 2nd rank respectively.
- ❖ It is also the world's 10th most valuable insurance brand.

Asia's richest person

- ❖ Adani Group founder and billionaire Gautam Adani has become Asia's richest person.
- ❖ He ranks 10th among the wealthiest people in the world.
- ❖ This is as per Bloomberg Billionaires Index on February 8, 2022.

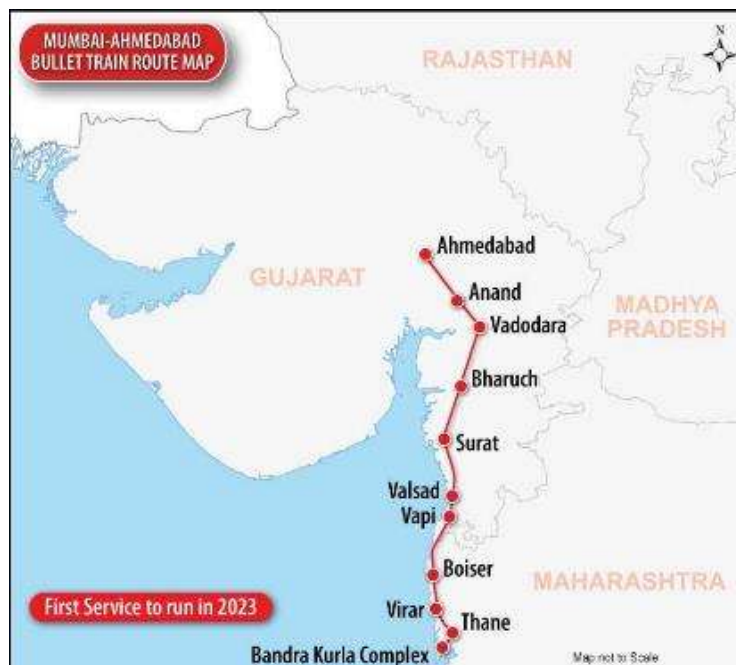
Rank	Name	Total Net Worth	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$235B	US
2	Jeff Bezos	\$183B	US
3	Bernard Arnault	\$168B	France
10	Gautam Adani	\$88.5B	India
11	Mukesh Ambani	\$87.9B	India
38	Azim Premji	\$33.8B	India

Biomass-based hydrogen plant

- ❖ India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.
- ❖ The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy.
- ❖ The company owns the technology for a 'thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor' that can produce hydrogen, methane, and biochar from biomass.

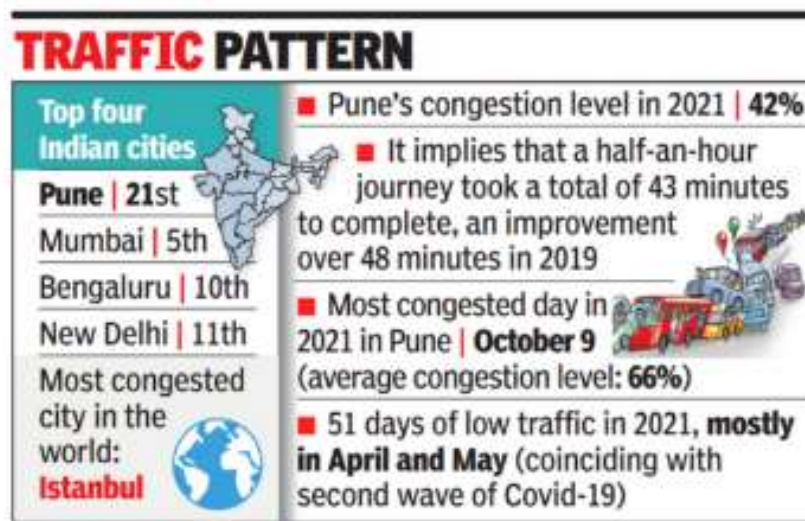


India's first bullet train route



- ❖ The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will be India's first bullet train route.
- ❖ While Surat city will get India's first bullet train station.
- ❖ Of the 508.17-kilometer Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, 155.76 km is in Maharashtra, 384.04 km in Gujarat, and 4.3 km in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021



- ❖ As per the ranking, Mumbai has been ranked at 5th, Bengaluru at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021.
- ❖ Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries.
- ❖ Istanbul, Turkey has been declared as the most congested city in the world as per the ranking.

100th textile express

- ❖ Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway achieved a milestone of loading the "100th textile train" from Chalthan in the Surat area to Sankrail in Kharagpur Division, South East Railways.
- ❖ The first train was flagged off on September 1, 2021, by Minister of State for Railways and Textiles, Darshana Jardosh.
- ❖ It was flagged off from Udhna.



Atal Tunnel



- ❖ Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'.
- ❖ It connects Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley.
- ❖ It is 9.02 km long, strategically significant, and runs under the 'Rohtang Pass'.

National Crime Records Bureau data

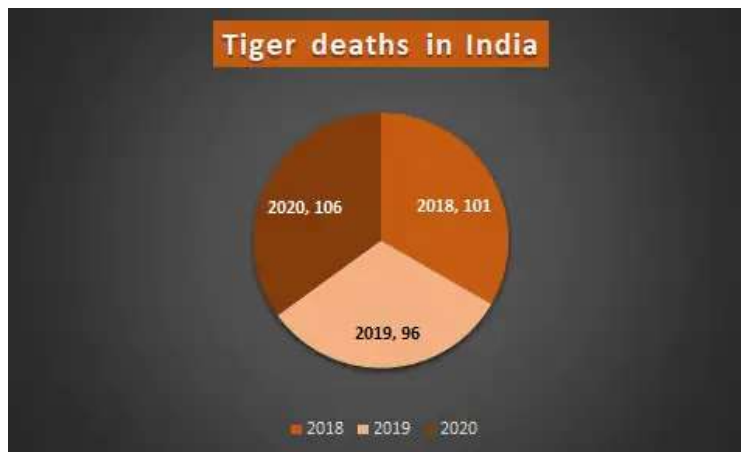
- ❖ As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the first pandemic year, 2020, witnessed the highest number of suicides among the unemployed in the recent past.

- ❖ The suicide toll has crossed 3,000-mark for the first time.
- ❖ 3548 people died by suicide.



- ❖ As per NCRB data, in 2020, the highest number of suicides among the unemployed was reported from Karnataka.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (336), Assam, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ While in suicides due to indebtedness or bankruptcy, Maharashtra topped the list with 1341 deaths.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu (524).
- ❖ Except for Tamil Nadu, other states usually account for most farmer suicides.

Tiger deaths in 2021



- ❖ Tiger deaths increased to 127 last year from 106 deaths in the previous year.
- ❖ The number of tiger deaths in 2019 stood at 96.
- ❖ A maximum of 42 deaths were reported in Madhya Pradesh, followed by 27 in Maharashtra, 15 in Karnataka, and nine deaths in Uttar Pradesh.

Unification of existing services - Railways

- ❖ The Central Government has issued a gazette notification announcing the unification of 8 Existing Services of IRMS under one banner of IRMS - Indian Railways Management Service.
- ❖ This formalizes the formation of a new Group 'A' Central service known as the Indian Railway Management Service.
- ❖ This is being done to end 'departmentalism' in railways.
- ❖ Following this exercise, it would be left only two departments i.e.
 - Railway Protection Force and
 - Medical Service Department



NITI Aayog Report: Reimagining Healthcare in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog released this report recently.
- ❖ In its report, NITI Aayog highlighted that India's healthcare spending is the least among BRICS countries.
- ❖ The report highlights that around 65 percent of hospital beds in India cater to almost 50 percent of the population in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, and Kerala.

- ❖ The other 50 percent of India's population living in the rest of 21 states and 8 Union Territories (UTs) has access to 35 percent of hospital beds.
- ❖ It noted that the number of beds must be increased by at least 30 percent.
- ❖ The hospital sector in India accounts for 80 percent of the total healthcare market.



21 judges per million people - India

- ❖ The judge to population ratio (judge per million population) with respect to sanctioned strength of judges is 21.03 as of December 31, 2021.
- ❖ The sanctioned strength of the apex court is 34 while it is 1098 for the 25 high courts.
- ❖ The law ministry uses the population as per Census 2011.

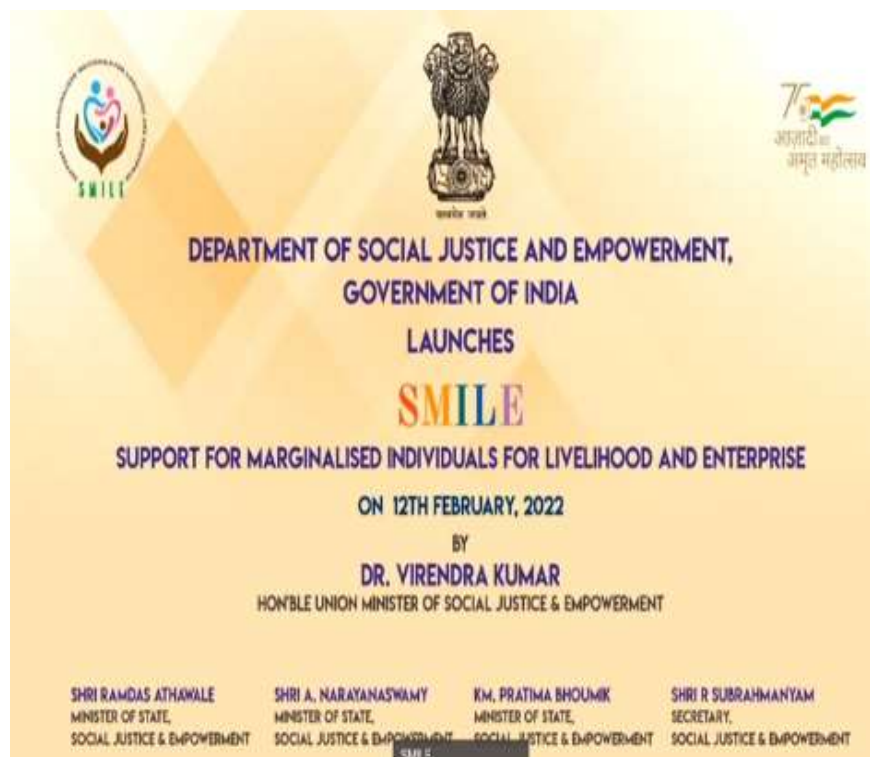


EIU's Democracy Index



- ❖ India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.
- ❖ With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.
- ❖ India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the list.

SMILE Scheme



- ❖ The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” scheme.
- ❖ SMILE is a Central Sector scheme.
- ❖ The scheme has been designed for providing welfare measures to Transgender community and people engaged in begging.

Voice of Customer Recognition 2021

- ❖ Seven AAI airports have been selected for “Voice of Customer Recognition” under the “World Voice of Customer Initiative” of Airports Council International (ACI).
- ❖ AAI airports namely, Chennai, Goa, Kolkata, Patna, Pune, Chandigarh, and Bhubaneswar participated in ACI-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) survey in 2021.
- ❖ The “voice of customer initiative” was initiated by ‘Airports Council International’.
- ❖ This is for recognizing airports that are committed to ensure their voice was heard and continued to prioritize their customers, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022

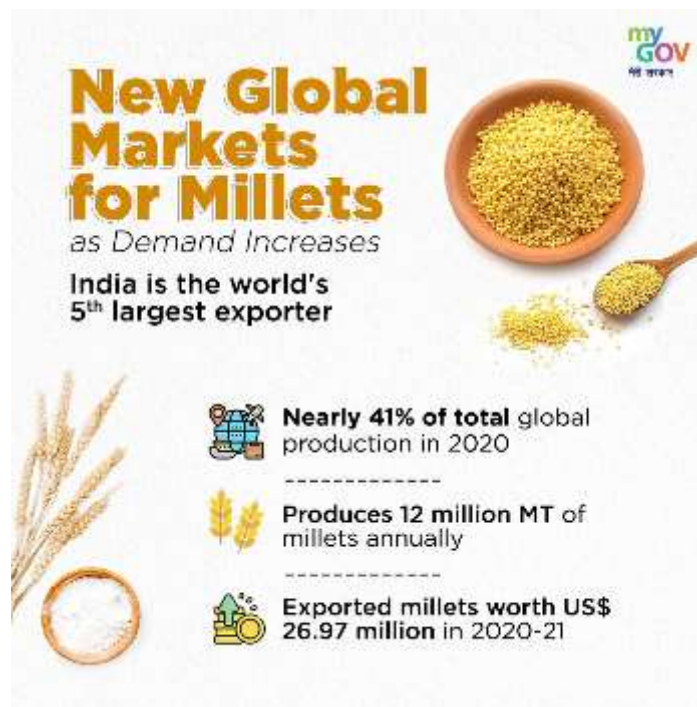
- ❖ India scored the highest place in Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index, 2022.
- ❖ The index was created comparing 19 countries.
- ❖ The index was calculated based on the readiness of the citizens in learning new digital skills and employee sentiments.
- ❖ Of all the countries, India had the highest readiness score.
- ❖ India scored 63 out of 100.



The target for Renewable Energy in Agriculture Sector

- ❖ The central government has set the target to replace diesel with renewable energy in the agricultural sector by 2024.
- ❖ This target was set in line with the Government's commitment to increasing the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and becoming a net-zero emitter by 2070.
- ❖ Through KUSUM Scheme, the central government is also running a scheme to solarise agriculture.
- ❖ This would help in installing solar-run irrigation systems.

Millets export from India



- ❖ India is the fifth largest exporter of millets in the world, according to 2020 data.
- ❖ Globally, major exporters of millets are the USA, Russian Federation, Ukraine, India, China, Netherlands, France, Poland and Argentina.
- ❖ The top three importers of millets from India in 2020-21 were Nepal, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The other seven destinations in the top-ten list of India's millet export are Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, the UK, Yemen, Oman and Algeria.
- ❖ India is the world leader in the production of millets with a share of around 41 per cent of total world production in 2020.
- ❖ India produces around 12 million MT of millets annually.

Delimitation Commission in Kashmir



- ❖ The erstwhile J&K State had an 87-member assembly, with 37 constituencies in the Jammu region and 46 in the Kashmir division and four in Ladakh.
- ❖ Besides, 24 seats are reserved and vacant for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ❖ The commission has given the mandate granted under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019
- ❖ The Commission has added seven assembly constituencies to J&K, increasing its strength from 87 to 90.
- ❖ It proposes an increase of six seats for the Jammu province, taking the number of constituencies to 43.
- ❖ It added one seat in the Kashmir province, taking the seat strength to 47.
- ❖ Its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.

Char Dham Project

- ❖ Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High-Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project.
- ❖ The project involves developing and widening nearly 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand state.

Proposed Char Dham highway



Quota in promotions

- ❖ The Supreme Court has turned down the Union government's plea to do away with the requirement of collecting quantifiable data by the Centre and states.
- ❖ That data is to determine the representation of people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) while implementing reservation in promotion.
- ❖ State is obligated to collect quantifiable data as per the court's judgment in M Nagaraj (2006) and Jarnail Singh (2018).
- ❖ Collection of data has to be for each category of posts for the entire service.
- ❖ The Central government must determine a time period to revisit the reservation policy after ascertaining the percentage of posts occupied by SCs/STs.
- ❖ Assessment on the inadequacy of representation of the reserved categories in promotional posts should be left to the states.
- ❖ With the recognition of 'cadre' as the unit for collection of quantifiable data, the court has also set aside its earlier judgment in the B.K. Pavithra case of 2019.
- ❖ The 2019 judgment by the Supreme Court in BK Pavitra case upheld the validity of the 2018 Reservation Act that introduced consequential seniority for SC/STs in Karnataka public employment.

Meaning of cadre

- ❖ The term 'cadre' means the strength of a service or part of a service sanctioned as a separate unit.

- ❖ It is the choice of a State to constitute cadres.
- ❖ The entire service cannot be considered to be a cadre for the purpose of promotion from one post to a higher post in a different grade.
- ❖ The entire exercise of reservation in promotions would be rendered meaningless if data pertaining to the representation of SCs and STs is done with reference to the entire service.

India and World Food Programme (WFP)



- ❖ India signed an agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme for the distribution of 50,000 Million Tonnes of wheat.
- ❖ India is sending this to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ According to this MoU, the wheat will be taken through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar.

Anti-Smuggling Day



- ❖ The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken the initiative to launch Anti-Smuggling Day.
- ❖ This will be marked on 11 February every year.
- ❖ The inaugural Anti-Smuggling Day was observed on February 11, 2022.

ISRO PSLV-C52

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) recently launched the PSLV – C52 rocket successfully.
- ❖ The rocket carried two small satellites and EOS - 04.
- ❖ The two small satellites were Inspiresat - 1 and INS - 2TD.
- ❖ This is the first launch of 2022.
- ❖ And it is the first launch since the failure of the EOS - 03 mission.
- ❖ The EOS - 03 failed as the cryogenic upper stage did not ignite.
- ❖ INS - 2TD is a joint satellite of India and Bhutan.



Sainya Ranakshetram



- ❖ The Indian army has conducted a first-of-its-kind Hackathon named “Sainya Ranakshetram”.
- ❖ The hackathon was conducted in the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla-based Army Training Command.
- ❖ Shimla-based Army Training Command is one of the seven commands of the Indian Army.

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report

- ❖ India is among the top five easiest places to start a new business.
- ❖ This is according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2021/2022 report.
- ❖ India is placed fourth globally.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is at the top place and then followed by Netherlands & Sweden.



Modernization of State Police Forces Scheme

- ❖ The Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70.

- ❖ The objective of the scheme is to gradually reduce the dependence of the State Governments on the Army and the Central Armed Police Forces to control internal security and law and order situations.
- ❖ This will be achieved by equipping the State Police Forces adequately and strengthening their training infrastructure.



Cut in Tax on crude palm oil imports

- ❖ The Central Government cut tax on imports of crude palm oil (CPO), from 7.5 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ Reduction in the tax is also known as “agriculture infrastructure and development cess (AIDC)”.
- ❖ It will widen the gap between refined palm oil import duties and CPO.
- ❖ The tax reduction is effectively making it cheaper for Indian refiners to import CPO.

India's biggest bank fraud

- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked ABG Shipyard for an alleged Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud.
- ❖ ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group.

- ❖ It has cheated a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions of Rs. 22,842 crore.
- ❖ This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI.



Integration of Caste Census Databases

- ❖ The National Health Authority has started an exercise to integrate beneficiary databases under several schemes for upgrading its own database.
- ❖ This is in a bid to implement the scheme in a better manner.
- ❖ Aadhaar is a common identity across the majority of Government databases.
- ❖ It will enable the integration of caste census databases.
- ❖ Aadhaar also ensures certainty on the identification of beneficiaries through e-KYC.



Plea for including madrasas, Vedic schools under RTE

- ❖ The Supreme Court has refused to intervene in a petition challenging sections of the Right to Education Act of 2009 which exclude Vedic pathshalas, madrasas, and institutions imparting religious education from its ambit.

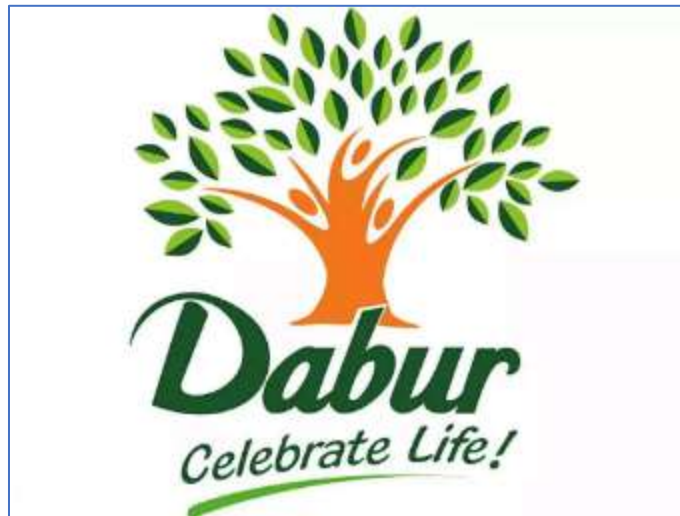
- ❖ The Court observed that the exclusion of these institutions was specifically inserted into the 2009 Act by an amendment of August 2012 and since then there has never been any controversy in the past decade.

Issue

- ❖ The petitioner said, Right of a child should not be restricted only to free education but must be extended to have equal quality education without discrimination on the ground of a child's social-economic, and cultural background.

Dabur India

- ❖ The Packaged goods company Dabur India Ltd., has become a plastic waste neutral company.
- ❖ It has achieved this feat after collecting, processing, and recycling around 27,000 metric tons of post-consumer plastic waste in the current financial year.



Secretariat For India's G20 Presidency

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for implementing overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.
- ❖ India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023,
- ❖ It will be culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- ❖ G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.



SECRETARIAT FOR INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY APPROVED

Cabinet Decision >>

- > India to hold Presidency of G20 from 1 December 2022 - 30 November 2023, culminating with G20 Summit in India in 2023
- > G20 Secretariat being established to handle implementation of policy decisions and arrangements
- > Coordination Committee to be set up to oversee G20 preparations

Vedanta to manufacture semiconductors in India



- ❖ The Indian mining major Vedanta has tied up with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Hon Hai Technology Group (better known as Foxconn) to form a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing semiconductors in India.
- ❖ This is the first JV in the electronics manufacturing sector after the government announced a Rs 76,000 crore production-linked incentive scheme for semiconductor and display manufacturing.
- ❖ Vedanta will be the majority shareholder in the JV while Foxconn will hold minority share.

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs



- ❖ The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)”.
- ❖ The scheme will be launched for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Communities (DNCs) at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

World Sustainable Development Summit



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute’s (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit.
- ❖ It is the annual event of TERI.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit will include discussion over a wide range of issues including sustainable development, sustainable production, climate change, global commons, energy transitions, and resource security.
- ❖ The World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 is held in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is ‘Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future’.

Saudi Land Forces Commander - historic visit to India



- ❖ The Commander of Royal Saudi Land Forces, Lieutenant General Fahd Bin Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mutair arrived in India on February 14, 2022, in a historic first.
- ❖ The three-day visit is the first-ever visit to India by a serving Royal Saudi Land Forces Commander.
- ❖ It is a testament to the growing bilateral defense ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

National Maritime Security Coordinator



- ❖ Following the 26/11 terrorist attack (2008 Mumbai Attack), India has been consistently trying to augment the nation's maritime security.
- ❖ In regard to this, the government has appointed Vice Admiral (retd) G Ashok Kumar as the nation's first national maritime security coordinator.

- ❖ This move has been made with the aim of ensuring cohesion among the various defense stakeholders of the nation with the primary aim of securing the country's interest.
- ❖ The National Maritime Security Coordinator works in tandem with the National Security Council which is headed by Ajit Doval (NSA).

India-Australia Energy Dialogue



- ❖ The 4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh, and Australian Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor.
- ❖ Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue.
- ❖ Both the Energy Ministers discussed energy transition activities in their respective countries with a focus on renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining, etc.
- ❖ The need for Climate Finance was also highlighted by India for meeting the Energy Transition goals of developing countries.
- ❖ Both the countries signed a Letter of Intent for working towards reducing the cost of new and renewable energy technologies and scaling up their deployment to reduce global emissions.

Solar Waste Handling in India

- ❖ While India's solar power capacity is increasing, the country does not have a proper policy on managing the waste that is being generated from solar panels and its manufacturing process.

- ❖ In India, solar waste is sold as scrap.
- ❖ It can lead to the increase of solar e-waste if proper recycling is not done.
- ❖ In Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu, a private firm facility has been set up for the purpose of recovering solar e-waste recycling and recovery.

Power point

India faces a major solar e-waste threat as it plans to tap the sun in a big way using photovoltaic (PV) cells to generate electricity



What constitute solar e-waste?

- Photovoltaic cells that have reached their life cycle and haven't been recycled
- They contain potentially hazardous chromium, silicon tetrachloride, cadmium, selenium, and sulfur hexafluoride

What is the threat perception?

- Globally, limited facilities exist to recycle solar cells
- India's PV waste volume is estimated to grow to 200,000 tonnes by 2030
- The PV volume may rise to as much as 1.8 million tonnes by 2050

Helmet must for children under four

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has notified a new set of rules according to which children under the age of 4 must wear a helmet and safety vest when riding a two-wheeled vehicle.
- ❖ According to the new rules, the speed of motorcycles carrying children under the age of 4 has been limited to 40 km / h.
- ❖ Under the new regulations, the harnesses must be lightweight, durable, made of nylon, and able to support a weight of up to 30 kg.

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

- ❖ India and the United Arab Emirates are set to firm up a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement during a virtual summit.
- ❖ The virtual Summit will be held between Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Note

- ❖ At a time when UAE is marking the 50th anniversary of its foundation and India is celebrating 75 years of its independence.



Waste to wealth creation



- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- ❖ In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales.
- ❖ This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.

Fintech Open Month

- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind initiative that brings together the Fintech professionals & enthusiasts, regulators, industry leaders, start-up community, and developers on a common platform.
- ❖ On this common platform, profession, leaders, and start-up communities collaborate, exchange ideas, and innovate.

- ❖ It was started by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ A key highlight of the Fintech Open Month summit will be India's biggest fintech hackathon ever.
- ❖ It will provide an opportunity to present breakthrough ideas to individual developers and start-up communities with the potential to solve real-world problems.
- ❖ The overarching theme of Fintech Month of NITI Aayog is 'OPEN'.



Extension of INSACOG Network



- ❖ Recently, India announced to extend its “SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium network” (INSACOG) to neighboring countries, to fight against Covid-19.
- ❖ INSACOG is a network of laboratories for genomic sequencing and surveillance.
- ❖ India will also work for the implementation of the “TRIPS waiver”.
- ❖ It is co-sponsored with South Africa for diversifying its local manufacturing in regional markets.
- ❖ India has supplied more than 162 million vaccine doses across 97 countries and 2 UN organizations.
- ❖ It also includes humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and Afghanistan.
- ❖ India is also collaborating with Quad partners for the delivery of doses in the Indo-Pacific region in 2022.

Mumbai Water Taxi



- ❖ The water taxi service between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- ❖ This project was funded under the Sagarmala program.
- ❖ It is India's first such project.
- ❖ The newly inaugurated waterway will connect the water taxi service, with Belapur, Nerul, and Elephanta Islands.
- ❖ For the first time, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai will be linked by dependable and fast transportation services, which will help to cut travel time.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link



- ❖ Indian Railways connected the main and longest tunnel of T-49, under the Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- ❖ The T-49 tunnel is in between the Sumber and Arpinchala station of the Katra-Banihal section of the USBRL project.
- ❖ It is a 12.758-Km-long tunnel.
- ❖ It is going to be the longest tunnel by Indian Railway.
- ❖ It has surpassed the Peer Panjal Tunnel of 11.2 Km length, which was constructed by USBRL on the Banihal-Qazigund section.

New India Literacy Programme



- ❖ Ministry of Education has approved a new scheme named “New India Literacy Programme” for the period FYs 2022-2027.
- ❖ The scheme aims to align Adult Education with all aspects of National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.
- ❖ The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs in the country.
- ❖ The government has now replaced the term “Adult Education” with ‘Education for All’ in the country.

Asia’s largest Bio-CNG plant

- ❖ Asia’s largest Bio-CNG plant will virtually be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Indore.
- ❖ Indore is considered one of the cleanest cities in India.

- ❖ With the inauguration of the bio-CNG plant, it will set another high standard in cleanliness.
- ❖ The Bio-CNG plant will be operated using 100 percent wet waste.



India tourism vision document 2035

- ❖ Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has released the FAITH 2035 vision document.
- ❖ It contains goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035.
- ❖ The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence.
- ❖ It aims to position tourism as a 'Social-Economic Job and Infrastructure creator for India' as well as 'to be a role model for creating Sustainable and Inclusive Ecosystem'.



Indian Army's Bent-Toed Gecko

- ❖ A team of researchers recently discovered a new species of bent-toed gecko or lizard, from Umroi Military station in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- ❖ The new species of Gecko or lizard belongs to the family of *Cyrtodactylus exercitus* ('exercitus' means army, in Latin).
- ❖ It has been named to honor the valor of the Indian Army for its services to India.



Green Ammonia Policy



Green Hydrogen & Green Ammonia Policy

Step 1 of National Hydrogen Mission

Hydrogen and Ammonia: The Future Fuels To Replace Fossil Fuels Using Renewable Energy

OBJECTIVES

- ↑ Clean fuel to common people
- ↑ Reduce dependence on fossil fuel
- ↑ Reduce crude oil imports
- ↑ Emerge as export hub for Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia
- ↑ Produce 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030



**India On Its Mission Of
Environmentally Sustainable Energy Security Of Nation**



- ❖ The Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy.
- ❖ The policy aims to boost green hydrogen and ammonia.
- ❖ Hydrogen and Ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels.
- ❖ The Production of these fuels by using power from renewable energy is termed green hydrogen and green ammonia.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is created by the electrolysis of water.
- ❖ It is a technique for separating water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ Ammonia is a gas used in the production of agricultural fertilizers.
- ❖ Green ammonia is produced by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and nitrogen from the air.

Soyoil Import

- ❖ Due to limited supply from drought-stricken South America, Indian exporters have arranged to import a record 100,000 tonnes of soyoil from the United States.
- ❖ India is the world's largest edible oil importer.
- ❖ It generally buys soyoil from Brazil and Argentina.
- ❖ But this year's low bean output in these two leading producer countries has forced India to sign a contract with the producers from the United States for import of the oil.

Foodgrains production



- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for the year 2021-22.
- ❖ The Record foodgrains production of 316.06 million tonnes is estimated.

Guidelines on EPR for Plastic Packaging



- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has issued guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) on plastic packaging.
- ❖ It was issued under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- ❖ The guidelines will help in the formalization and growth of the plastic waste management industry.

Great Backyard Bird Count

- ❖ It is a four-day global event.
- ❖ The first day of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) began on a high note with citizens recording 251 bird species across Karnataka.
- ❖ It is an online citizen science or community science project.
- ❖ It was first launched in 1998 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society.
- ❖ The importance of the event is that it helps the scientists better understand the global bird population before one of their annual migrations.
- ❖ The data is entered into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project.



BrahMos supersonic cruise missile



- ❖ Indian Naval warship INS Visakhapatnam test-fired naval variant of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the western seaboard.
- ❖ INS Visakhapatnam is the Indian Navy's newest indigenously built stealth guided-missile destroyer.
- ❖ BrahMos is the main weapon system of the Indian Navy warships.

Watershed management program

- ❖ The Government of India (GoI), and the World Bank signed loan agreements of USD 115 million.
- ❖ This is to implement the "Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development" (REWARD) Project in the states of Karnataka and Odisha.
- ❖ This project is an initiative of the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and the World Bank.
- ❖ It is proposed as a 6 years project, from 2021 to 2026.
- ❖ It is one of the largest watershed management programs in the world.
- ❖ It will be funded in 70:30 proportion, 70% assistance will be provided by the World Bank and 30% by the State Governments.

Smart Card Arms License



- ❖ The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'Smart Card Arms License' and 'Shastra App' of the Delhi Police.
- ❖ It was launched on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police.
- ❖ With this, the Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to introduce such a smart card service.

Meri Policy Mere Hath

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare will launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath'.
- ❖ It is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- ❖ The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware of all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim, and grievance redressal under PMFBY.
- ❖ PMFBY aims to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities.
- ❖ PMFBY has completed 6 years of its implementation.
- ❖ It was launched by PM Modi on 18th February 2016 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.



Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report



- ❖ The Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change
- ❖ This is as per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact'.
- ❖ The report was released by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL).
- ❖ DTTL is also known as Deloitte Global.
- ❖ The report examines business leaders' and companies' concerns and actions related to climate change and sustainability.
- ❖ The report also explores the disconnect between company ambition and impact, as well as steps CxOs can take to start to bridge the gap.

RUSA scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Education approved the continuation of the 'Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme' till 2026.
- ❖ RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- ❖ It was launched to fund state government universities and colleges for achieving the aims of equity, excellence, and access.

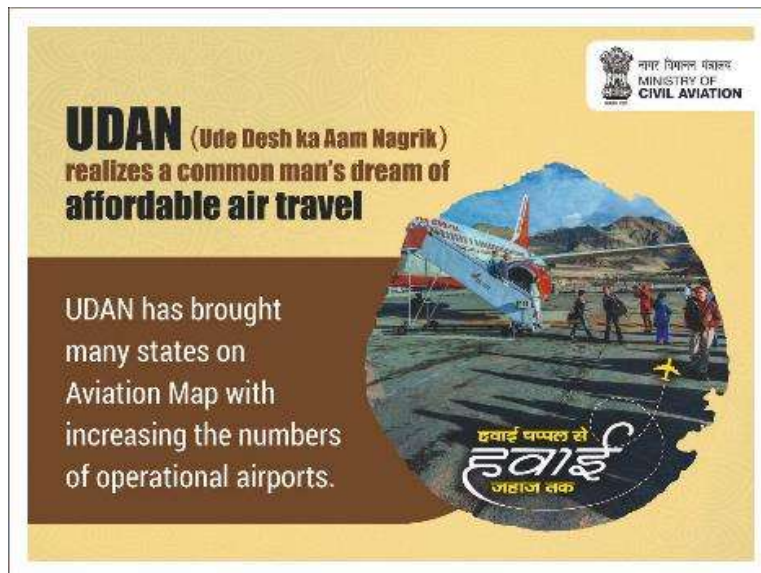


Rashtriya
Uchchatar
Shiksha
Abhiyan

Star Campaigners

- ❖ The Election Commission of India restored the maximum limit on the number of star campaigners a party can field in the ongoing Assembly elections in 5 States.
- ❖ In 2020, the commission had reduced the number of star campaigners for recognized national and State parties from 40 to 30 and unrecognized parties from 20 to 15.
- ❖ This reduction was done in order to prevent large crowds from gathering during campaigning.
- ❖ The commission said it had decided to restore the maximum limit of star campaigners, citing the fall in COVID-19 cases in the country.

RCS UDAN - First flight between Delhi-Khajuraho



- ❖ The Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M.Scindia recently flagged off the first direct flight between Delhi and the heritage city of Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ With the start of this flight, a total of 405 routes would be operationalized under the UDAN-RCS scheme.
- ❖ under the RCS-UDAN 3.0, SpiceJet was awarded the Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route.
- ❖ SpiceJet is the largest regional carrier and strongest supporter of the scheme.

Cable-Stayed Rail Bridge



- ❖ The Indian Railways has shared new images of the country's first cable-stayed bridge on the Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.
- ❖ The under-construction Anji Khad bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- ❖ It will connect Katra and Reasi areas through rail links.
- ❖ The bridge will stand at a height of 331 meters above the river bed.
- ❖ The total length of the bridge is 473.25 meters.
- ❖ It is supported by 96 cables.

Eat Right Campus

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently certified four police stations of New Delhi district as 'Eat Right Campus'.
- ❖ Premises in Delhi are recognized as "Eat Right Campus" under the "Sehatmand Delhi Programme".
- ❖ Sejarmand Delhi Programme was launched as a part of "Eat Right India".

- ❖ Eat Right India initiative was launched with the aim of ensuring that the citizens in India get safe and nutritious food.



New COVID Vaccine



- ❖ The government of India will partner with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and pharma company Panacea Biotec, for developing a new Covid Vaccine.
- ❖ They will develop vaccine candidates to provide broad protection against SARS-COV-2 variants as well as other beta coronaviruses.

Vigyan Sarvatra Pujuryate programme

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujuryate programme'.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Science and Technology has selected three institutions in Madhya Pradesh to organise this programme.
- ❖ It is a week-long, nationwide programme of competitions and lectures for school students and collegians.
- ❖ The Vigyan Sarvatra Pujuryate programme was launched with the aim of attracting students to scientific knowledge of articles of daily use.
- ❖ The programme also aims to propagate scientific theories.



National Digital University

- ❖ National Digital University is to be set up to solve India's seat scarcity problem in educational institutions.
- ❖ The digital university will provide access to high-quality higher education in several languages while also complying with the National Education Policy 2020.
- ❖ SWAYAM, ePG-Pathshala, SWAYAM-Prabha, National Digital Library, eGyan Kosh, and Virtual Labs are examples of the existing resources that can be integrated into the digital university.

Biosafety mobile laboratory

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar has inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This becomes India's first Biosafety Level-3 mobile laboratory.
- ❖ The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections.



Offshore wind projects



- ❖ Tata Power has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore the potential for joint development of offshore wind projects in India.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited and RWE.
- ❖ This is in line with the Government of India's announcement of achieving 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind installations by 2030.

Roadmap on Blue Economy



- ❖ India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance.

- ❖ The partnership will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade.

Harvard study reports

- ❖ Mansukh Mandviya released Harvard study reports on India's COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- ❖ These reports are COVID-19-India's Vaccine Development Story and India's COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Journey.
- ❖ These reports highlight the crucial aspects that have contributed to the success of the country's COVID-19 vaccines' development and administration efforts.
- ❖ The reports focus on manufacturing indigenous vaccines and timely procedures that ensured the safe administration of vaccination across the various age groups.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship



- ❖ The continuation of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) has been approved by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ It has approved it till 2025-26 with minimum changes in the eligibility criteria like increasing the income ceiling from the present Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum.
- ❖ The scheme's objective is to provide scholarships to the meritorious students belonging from the economically weaker sections so that they do not drop out at class 8 and to encourage them to continue their education
- ❖ Under this scheme scholarships of Rs 12,000 per annum per student are awarded to all those selected students of class 9 every year.
- ❖ In the year 2008-09, this scheme was launched by the government.

Financial Stability and Development Council - 25th Meeting

- ❖ It was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ This meeting was held under the chair of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ The council discussed the different mandates of the FSDC as well as important macro-financial concerns that have arisen as a result of certain domestic and global developments.



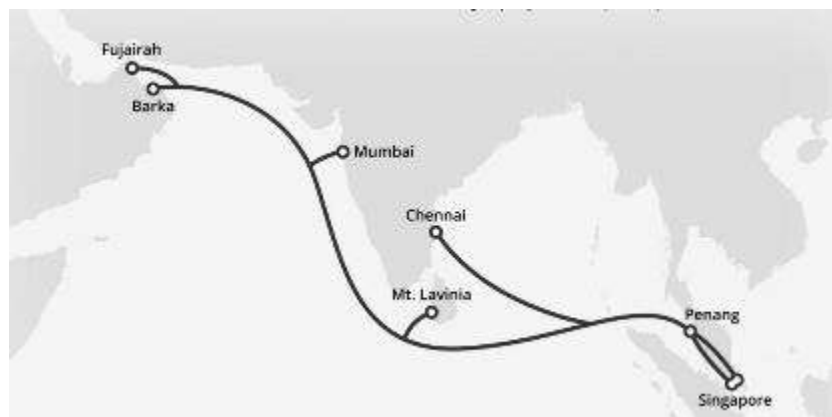
IIT in UAE



- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology will establish its first branch outside India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the India-UAE trade deal signed.
- ❖ The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.

Reliance Jio's New Subsea Cable

- ❖ Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives.
- ❖ The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with World's major internet hubs in India and Singapore.
- ❖ On the other hand, the India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) system connects Mumbai to Milan, landing in Savona, Italy.
- ❖ It includes additional landings in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean.



India's Aid to Afghanistan



- ❖ India sent the first tranche of 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan, loaded in 50 trucks.
- ❖ The first convoy would hand over the consignment to World Food Programme (WFP) at Jalalabad in Afghanistan.
- ❖ Each bag is stamped with the text “Gift from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan” in English, Dari and Pashto languages.

J&K Delimitation Commission

- ❖ The Central Government, for the second time, has extended Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission’s term.
- ❖ This commission was given the task of redrawing the Union Territories’ assembly constituencies.
- ❖ The term of this commission has been extended for two months and will end on May 6.
- ❖ The election process is to be held in the Union Territory after the completion of the Delimitation process.
- ❖ The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.



‘Milan’ Multilateral Naval Exercise

- ❖ ‘Milan’ is the name of the multilateral naval exercise which is hosted by the Indian Navy.
- ❖ This is a biennial exercise.
- ❖ This exercise was started in the year 1995.
- ❖ All editions of Milan were held in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- ❖ This year’s Milan exercise will be held for the first time in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The theme for this year’s exercise is ‘Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration’.

Rural Connectivity GIS Data



- ❖ Union Minister Giriraj Singh has released the Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain.
- ❖ This data includes the GIS data for more than 8 lakh rural facilities which have been collected and digitized using the GIS platform developed for the PM-GSY scheme.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a scheme that was launched in the year 2000.
- ❖ It was launched with an objective to provide all-weather road connectivity to all the unconnected habitations throughout the nation which lie under the eligibility criteria.

Sanjeev Sanyal

- ❖ Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor, Sanjeev Sanyal has been inducted as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ❖ The appointment is for a tenure of two years.
- ❖ The EAC-PM is an independent body constituted by the Union government to advise the prime minister on economic matters.



OCEANS 2022 conference

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park in association with the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) hosted the “OCEANS 2022 conference”.
- ❖ OCEANS conference is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers.
- ❖ It was hosted in India, for the first time.
- ❖ Department of Ocean Engineering is coordinating the OCEANS 2022 conference, on behalf of the Marine Technology Society and Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society.
- ❖ The theme of the “OCEANS 2022” conference was “inspire-innovate-sustain”.



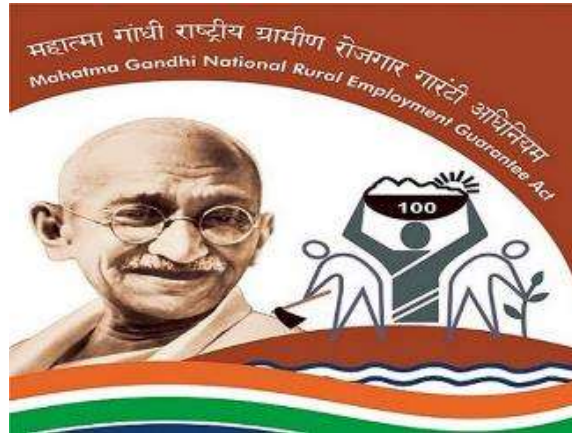
PM-Kisan 3rd Anniversary



- ❖ About 11.78 crore farmers as of February 22, 2022, have been benefitted under the PM Kisan scheme.

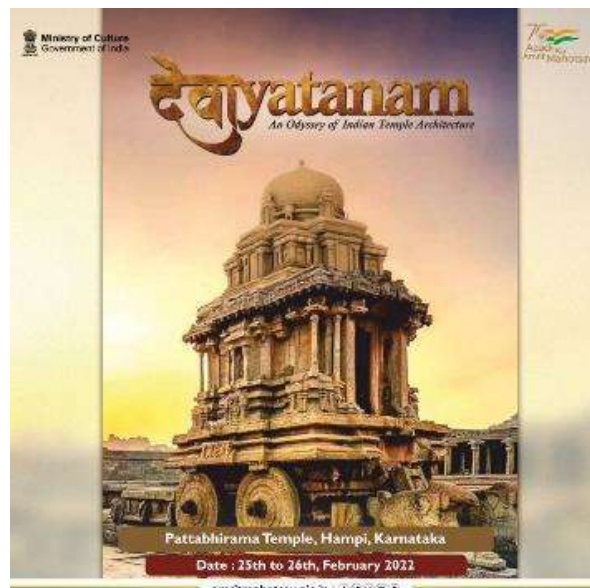
- ❖ The amount worth Rs1.82 lakh crore has been disbursed to eligible beneficiaries across India in various intervals.
- ❖ PM-KISAN is a center sector scheme that was launched on 24th February 2019.
- ❖ It was launched to substitute the monetary needs of landholding farmers.

Ombudsperson App



- ❖ Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh has launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
- ❖ Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources.

Devayatanam



- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India of Ministry of Culture, Government of India is organizing a two-day international conference Devayatanam - An odyssey of Indian temple architecture.
- ❖ It is organized at Hampi, Karnataka.
- ❖ Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates the conference.
- ❖ The conference aims to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temple.

EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

- ❖ The third edition of the joint military exercise “EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022” between India and Japan is conducted at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.
- ❖ It is a 12-day long joint exercise.
- ❖ The 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and the 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces are participating.
- ❖ The military exercise will focus on operations in Jungle & Semi-Urban/Urban terrains.



Health Star Rating

- ❖ According to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), packaged food goods will soon display a 'health star' as part of the new system.
- ❖ The packaged foods will have the number of stars displayed on them which will indicate whether the item is healthy or unhealthy.

- ❖ The amount of fat, sugar, and salt in the food item will be used to determine the rating.



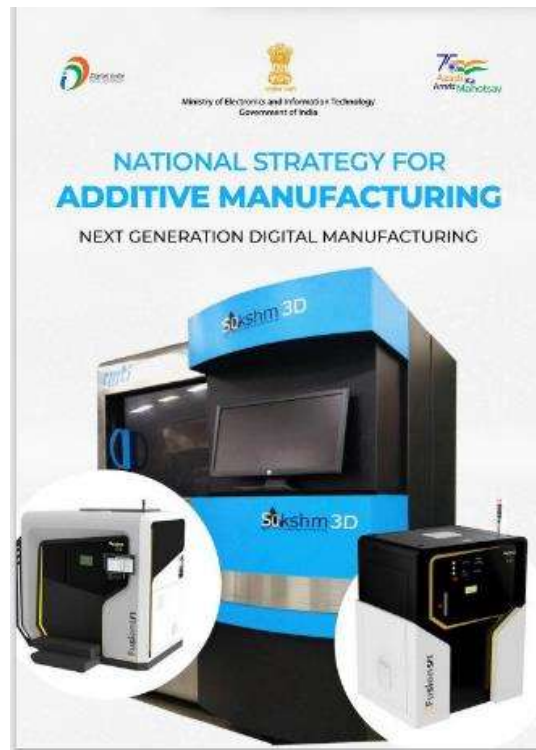
**FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing

- ❖ National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing is announced to cater to the next generation of digital manufacturing.
- ❖ It also aims to mitigate the immediate disabilities which are being faced by the local industries.
- ❖ Through this India is aiming to reach certain goals by 2025, which include 50 India-specific technologies for machines, materials, and software, 100 new additive manufacturing firm start-ups, and 500 new products.
- ❖ 3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, is a method of creating prototypes or models of products.





International IP Index 2022

- ❖ India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 percent to 38.6 percent.
- ❖ The country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index 2022.
- ❖ This index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Rank 1- United States
Rank 2- United Kingdom
Rank 3- Germany
Rank 4- Sweden
Rank 5- France

Euphlyctis jaladhara

- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India, Pune, has discovered a new frog species.
- ❖ They grow in the freshwater regions along all the states spanning the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India, the National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, tied up on the discovery.
- ❖ The common name of this frog is Jaladhara skittering frog and Euphlyctis jaladhara is the scientific name.
- ❖ This species was first discovered in freshwater bodies located near the Thattekad Bird Sanctuary in Ernakulam District of Kerala.

Reports on India's COVID-19 Vaccine Development

- ❖ Two reports, from the Institute for Competitiveness on India's Covid-19 vaccine development and administration journey, were released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ❖ This report focused on how coordination at the central, state, and district levels helped the massive adult vaccination drive succeed.
- ❖ The two vaccines whose maximum number of doses were used in India are the indigenously developed Covaxin by Bharat Biotech and Covishield which was developed by Serum Institute of India in association with Oxford/AstraZeneca.

P-8I Aircraft

- ❖ Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the 12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ This completes the follow-on clause for four additional P-8I aircraft contracted in 2016.
- ❖ P-8I Aircraft is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft.



Indian Railway's First Solar Power Plant

- ❖ A 1.7-megawatt solar photovoltaic plant has been commissioned by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. at Bina, Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways.
- ❖ Power to the traction systems of Indian Railways will be fed directly through this plant.
- ❖ This is the first such Solar Power Plant commissioned on the Indian Railways network to directly feed Traction Power.





INTERNATIONAL

Digital rights and principles

- ❖ The European Union is the first in the world to propose digital rights.
- ❖ The rights aim to support democracy and support people's rights.
- ❖ It ensures a safe online environment.
- ❖ The rights aim to provide affordable digital connectivity to all its member countries.
- ❖ Also, it aims to increase the speed of the internet.
- ❖ The rights will make the classrooms well equipped and will hire digitally skilled teachers.



China's Lithuania Blockade

- ❖ The Chinese Government recently launched import sanctions on Lithuania.
- ❖ This means the Chinese companies should not import goods or raw materials from Lithuania.
- ❖ Earlier in 2021, Lithuania had recognized Taiwan as an independent state and had opened a Taiwan office on its soil.
- ❖ According to China, Taiwan is its integral part.
- ❖ The Chinese are doing this to block the global supply chain and also as a counter move to Lithuanian actions.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - January 30th

- ❖ The day is annually observed across the globe to create awareness about the Neglected Tropical Diseases(NTD) and to focus on strengthening the interventions to promote equitable health services for all.
- ❖ This year marks the observance of the 3rd WNTD.
- ❖ The theme of World NTD Day 2022 is Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases.



Hydrogen powered flying boat

- ❖ World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai.
- ❖ Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'.



70 year reign of Queen Elizabeth

- ❖ Queen Elizabeth of England is to celebrate 70 years of throne on February 6, 2022.
- ❖ She is 95 years old.
- ❖ The queen ascended to the throne on February 8, 1952 officially.



50 years of bloody Sunday



- ❖ On 30 January 1972, the British soldiers killed a group of unarmed civilians.
- ❖ These civilians were protesting in the Bogside area of Derry.
- ❖ This incident is referred to as bloody Sunday.
- ❖ In 2022, the people of Northern Ireland marked fifty years of Bloody Sunday.
- ❖ A group of innocent civilians protested against the internment without trial.
- ❖ Internment means jailing someone without any court trials.

Lunar New Year

- ❖ Lunar New Year is commonly known as Chinese New Year and it is celebrated on February 1st.
- ❖ Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year marks the transition between zodiac signs.

- ❖ Therefore, 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, and 2021 was the Year of the Ox.



Uganda Oil Deal

- ❖ The Chinese and French oil giants have signed an agreement to build a huge oil pipeline in Uganda.
- ❖ The companies are to exploit the oil resources of the country.
- ❖ The drilling is to be done near the Murchison waterfalls.
- ❖ It is the largest national park in the country.
- ❖ The pipeline project will displace thousands of people.
- ❖ This has fumed the environmentalists.

International Space Station Transition Plan

- ❖ Recently, NASA announced that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease operations in 2031.
- ❖ In 2031, the spacecraft will fall out of orbit and into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ NASA published the transition plan for the ISS.
- ❖ The ISS is entering its third and most productive decade as a ground-breaking scientific platform in microgravity.

WHO Report on Health Care Waste

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently raised concerns against the extra medical waste created by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The pandemic has put immense strain on medical waste management systems in the world.

- ❖ The WHO report says that 30% of health care facilities are not equipped to handle medical waste.
- ❖ 60% of them are in the least developed countries.



Kosk

- ❖ A South Korean company has rolled out an anti-virus mask called Kosk.
- ❖ It covers only the nose.
- ❖ It can be worn while eating and drinking.
- ❖ The “kosk” is a combination of ko (the Korean word for nose) and mask,
- ❖ It has been released by the company called Atman.



New HIV variant

- ❖ The researchers of the Netherlands have discovered a new HIV variant.
- ❖ It has been named the VB variant.
- ❖ The variant causes 3.5 times to 5.5 times higher levels of infection.

- ❖ However, there is no cause of alarm because of modern treatments.
- ❖ The variant emerged between 1980 and 1990 in the Netherlands.
- ❖ However, it began to decline in 2010.



UNEP

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022.
- ❖ It was founded in 1972 following the landmark UN Conference on the Human Environment.
- ❖ Major Reports of UNEP are Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.
- ❖ Major Campaigns of UNEP are Beat Pollution, UN75, World Environment Day, Wild for Life.



African Union summit

- ❖ The 35th African Union summit was held at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.
- ❖ Security and pandemic were given the top priority at the summit.

- ❖ The countries discussed the unavailability of COVID vaccines to many African countries.
- ❖ The summit announced that only 11% of Africans are fully vaccinated.

Endurance22 Expedition



- ❖ The Endurance22 Expedition was recently departed on schedule from Cape Town of South Africa.
- ❖ It is headed for the Weddell Sea in Antarctica.
- ❖ Endurance22 Expedition was departed by Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust.
- ❖ It aims to locate, survey, and film the lost ship of renowned polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, the wreck of Endurance.

Cyclone Batsirai

- ❖ Cyclone Batsirai made landfall on the coast of Madagascar, killing at least six people.
- ❖ It was an intense tropical cyclone.
- ❖ Cyclone Batsirai is the second major storm, hitting the island nation.
- ❖ In January 2022, Storm Ana caused widespread destruction.

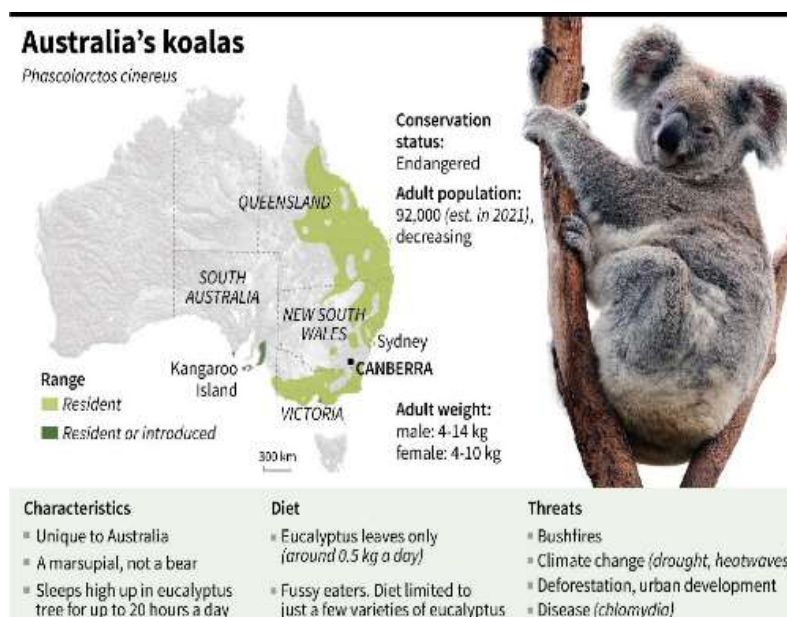


One Ocean Summit



- ❖ The One Ocean summit was organized by France and Brest in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit.
- ❖ The high-level segment of the summit will also be addressed by several other heads of states and governments including Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, and Canada.
- ❖ The objective of the summit is to mobilize the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

Koalas





- ❖ Australia designated the koala as an endangered species amid pressure on the marsupials' eucalyptus tree habitats in the eastern states of Australia.
- ❖ The species was classed as vulnerable 10 years also in Queensland, New South Wales, and Australian Capital Territory.
- ❖ Now, there would be increased protection for the animal.

Quad Ministerial meeting

- ❖ Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan recently noted that, QUAD is cooperating on sharing intelligence information on threats in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Ministers called for justice for the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai (2008) as well as Pathankot airbase attack in 2016.
- ❖ They also announced plans for a Quad summit including PM Modi, Australian PM Morrison and U.S. President Biden.
- ❖ The summit would be hosted in first half of 2022, by Japan's PM Kishida in Tokyo.

High Ambition Coalition (HAC) on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

- ❖ On the last day of One Ocean Summit, this declaration was introduced.
- ❖ The One Ocean Summit was organised under the leadership of French President.
- ❖ The BBNJ Treaty are also known as "Treaty of the High Seas".
- ❖ It is an international agreement on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- ❖ Areas beyond national jurisdiction consists of 95% of the ocean.
- ❖ BBNJ Treaty provides an opportunity to fill gaps and address weaknesses in ocean governance.
- ❖ It is currently under negotiation at the United Nations.
- ❖ As of February 11, countries like Australia, Chile, Canada, Comoros, Colombia, India, Monaco, Egypt, Peru, Morocco, Norway, Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Singapore, Togo, the United Kingdom and EU & its 27 Member States have joined the coalition.

SWIFT

- ❖ Russia is being threatened with exclusion from the services of SWIFT.
- ❖ Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is an international messaging network
- ❖ It is used by banks and financial institutions worldwide to facilitate smooth money transactions globally.
- ❖ It was Established in 1973 at Belgium.
- ❖ SWIFT is only a platform that sends messages and neither holds any securities or money, nor manages external client accounts.



Singapore Air Show 2022



- ❖ The 44-member contingents of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have reached the Changi International Airport in Singapore to participate in the 'Singapore Air Show-2022'.
- ❖ The IAF will showcase its indigenous Tejas MK-I during the event.
- ❖ Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.



Drone flights - Israel

- ❖ Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace.
- ❖ The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems.
- ❖ The UAVs will be used for the benefit of agriculture, the environment, public welfare, economic activity, and they will be used against crime.

Emergencies Act - Canada

- ❖ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked rarely-used emergency powers.
- ❖ This is to support provinces in ending the blockades and public disorder by the protesters in the so-called “Freedom Convoy”.
- ❖ The Freedom Convoy is a series of protests and blockades, ongoing in Canada.
- ❖ It was started by truckers against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and restrictions.

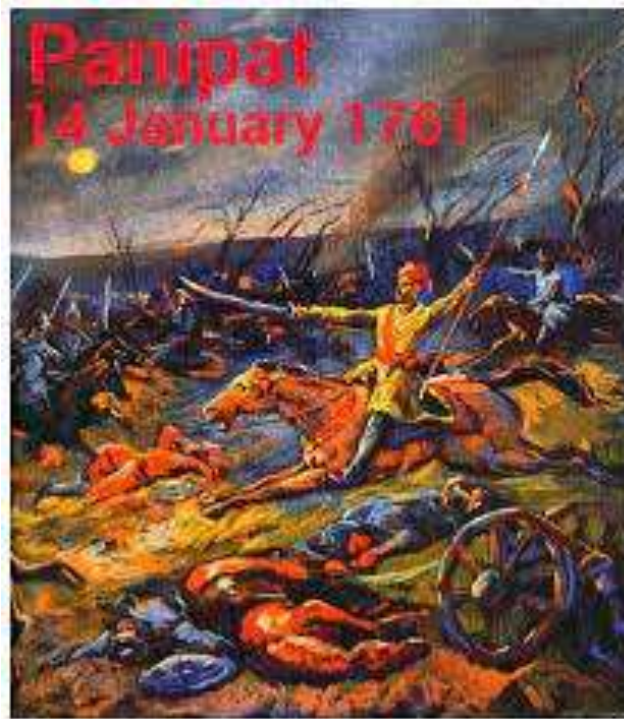


US Green Building Council ranking



- ❖ The US Green Building Council has released the 9th annual ranking of the top 10 countries outside of the United States for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021.
- ❖ According to this ranking, India ranked 3rd with 146 projects.
- ❖ The ranking has been topped by China.
- ❖ It is followed by Canada at 2nd position.

Panipat operational unit – Nangarhar



- ❖ The Taliban have announced the formation of a new military unit called the 'Panipat operational unit'.
- ❖ The new unit will be deployed in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, bordering Pakistan.
- ❖ Panipat in Haryana was the place where three battles were fought between foreign invaders and Indian rulers.
- ❖ In Afghanistan, these battles, especially the third one fought between Ahmad Shah Abdali and the Marathas on January 14, 1761, often come up for discussion.
- ❖ Abdali is widely regarded as the founder of present-day Afghanistan.
- ❖ Afghans cherish his victory over the Maratha forces as perhaps his greatest achievement against odds.



Quit Tobacco App

- ❖ World Health Organization South-East Asia Region has launched a 'Quit Tobacco App'.
- ❖ This application helps people to give up the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products.
- ❖ The App was launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign.

Munich Security Conference



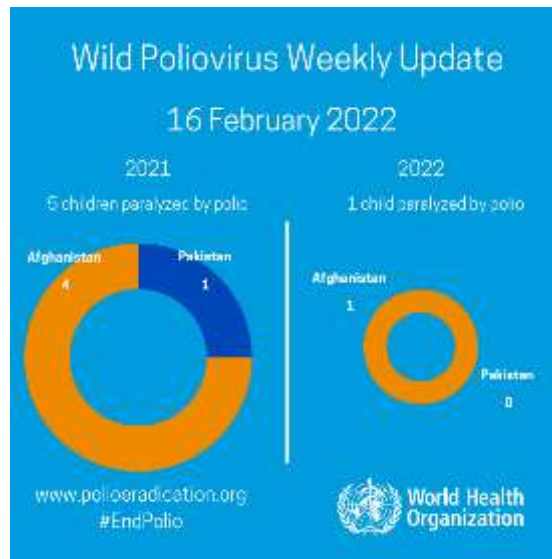
- ❖ Since 1963, the Munich Security Conference has been held in Munich, Germany, as an annual conference on international security policy.
- ❖ It is the largest meeting of its kind in the world.
- ❖ External Affairs minister, S. Jaishankar will be representing India at this conference.

Study on Greater Maldivé Ridge



- ❖ Recently, researchers traced the tectonic evolution of “Greater Maldives Ridge (GMR)” which is a geodynamic feature in the western Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The tectonic evolution can help in reconstructing the original Gondwanaland fracture.
- ❖ This feature led to the present-day configuration of continents, continental fragments, as well as the formation of ocean basins in the Indian Ocean.

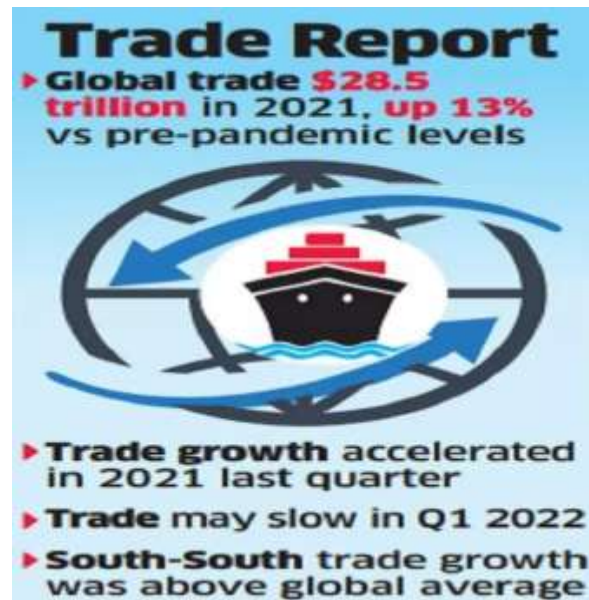
Malawi Wild Polio Case



- ❖ Malawi announced a wild polio outbreak after a case of wild polio was discovered in a three-year-old child.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind in Africa in more than five years.
- ❖ In the year 2020, the continent was declared free of all kinds of wild polio.
- ❖ Only two nations in the world still have wild polio: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

UNCTAD's Global Trade Update

- ❖ According to this, the global trade in goods continued strong in 2021, and trade in services finally returned to the levels of pre-COVID-19.
- ❖ Global trade touched \$28.5 trillion which is a record level in 2021.
- ❖ This shows a 25% increase over 2020 and a 13% increase over 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic started.
- ❖ Exports of underdeveloped countries increased by roughly 30% compared to the same period in 2020, compared to 15% for wealthy nations.



UNEP Frontiers Report



- ❖ The Frontiers Report is released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ The latest report is named “Noise, Blazes, and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern.”
- ❖ This report focuses on rising public health problems that are disrupting natural life cycles and causing environmental impacts around the world.
- ❖ Noise pollution, deadly wildfires, and various environmental threats which are looming could cause environmental damage.

mRNA Vaccine Production

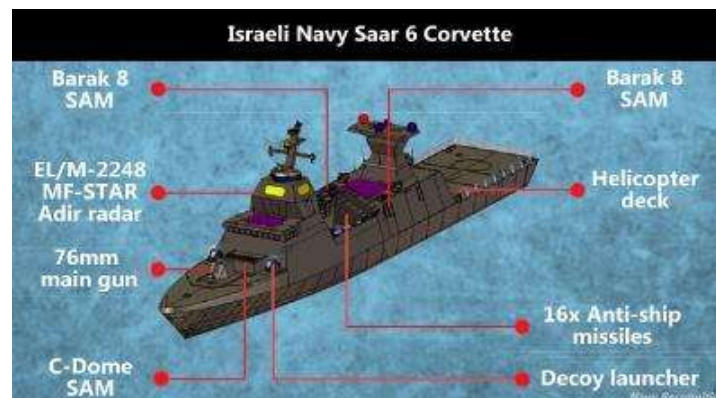
- ❖ Six African countries have been chosen to establish their own mRNA vaccine production.
- ❖ Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia were selected.
- ❖ It is a push to ensure Africa can make its own jabs to fight the Covid and other diseases.

Pakistan's New Cybercrime Law

- ❖ Pakistani authorities announced a new law that will help them in combating false news on social media.
- ❖ The law raised the maximum sentence for defamation of people or institutions from three to five years in prison and restricts suspected offenders' access to bail.
- ❖ Spreading false news will be classified as a nonbailable offense punishable by up to six months in prison.
- ❖ The Pakistan Human Rights Commission (HRCP) has described the new law to be undemocratic.

C-Dome

- ❖ Israel successfully tested a new naval air defense system "C-Dome".
- ❖ It is to be used on the Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes.
- ❖ C-Dome is the naval version of the Iron Dome from the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ The successful test further strengthens the missile defense systems of the Israeli Navy to safeguard the maritime assets of the State of Israel.



9000-year-old Shrine

- ❖ At a remote Neolithic site in Jordan's eastern desert, a team of Jordanian and French archaeologists discovered a 9,000-year-old shrine.
- ❖ The ritual complex was discovered beside large structures which are known as desert kites or mass traps.
- ❖ These traps were thought to have been used to gather wild gazelles for killing in a Neolithic campground.



Nord Stream 2 Pipeline



- ❖ This is a 1,200-km pipeline that runs from Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ It will carry 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year.
- ❖ It was decided to build this pipeline in 2015.
- ❖ Nord Stream 1 system is already completed.

- ❖ Together with NS2P, it will supply 110 billion cubic meters of gas a year to Germany.
- ❖ Germany has taken steps to halt the process of certifying the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia after Russia announced that it will recognize the independence of eastern Ukraine's separatist republics, Donetsk and Lugansk territories.

Fire Ready Formula

New "Fire Ready Formula"	
Budget Item	% share of the total on wildfire management recommended
Planning	1%
Prevention	32%
Preparedness	13%
Response	34%
Recovery	20%

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its report on wildfire called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula'.
- ❖ The "Fire Ready Formula" was recommended by the UNEP as it warned that the incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.
- ❖ This formula envisages that 66% (two-third) of spending must be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery.
- ❖ The remaining 34% (one-third) can be spent on response.

Russian-Ukraine Crisis UNSC Draft Resolution

- ❖ India abstained from a United Nations Security Council resolution sponsored by the United States that strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine.
- ❖ India stated that discussion is the only way to resolve differences and issues, and expressed regret that diplomacy was abandoned.
- ❖ Russia, chaired the meeting as it holds the presidency for the month of February vetoed the resolution.
- ❖ China along with United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also abstained.
- ❖ As Russia vetoed this resolution, even though the other members voted for it, the resolution did not pass.



PR/Amb T S Tirumurti
@ambtstirumurti

In UN Security Council meeting on [#Ukraine](#) today,
India abstained on the vote on draft resolution.

Our Explanation of Vote

UNSC Adoption of Resolution on the situation in Ukraine
[25 February 2022; 1500 hrs]
Statement by Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

- India is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine.
- We urge that all efforts are made for the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities.
- No solution can ever be arrived at, at the cost of human lives.
- We are also deeply concerned about the welfare and security of the Indian community, including a large number of Indian students, in Ukraine.
- The contemporary global order has been built on the UN Charter, international law, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.
- All member states need to honour these principles in finding a constructive way forward.
- Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment.
- It is a matter of regret that the path of diplomacy was given up. We must return to it.
- For all these reasons, India has chosen to abstain on this resolution.

ECONOMY

World Gold Demand Trends

- ❖ The report titled “World Gold Demand Trends” has been released by the World Gold Council.
- ❖ As per the report, Gold purchases by central banks of various countries declined sharply in 2020.
- ❖ It fell by nearly 60% to 272.9 tonnes.
- ❖ The decline in the purchase was most particular in Q2 of the FY 2020-21.

Economic Survey 2022

- ❖ Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has presented Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament on 31st January 2022.
- ❖ The pre-Budget Economic Survey is authored by a team led by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).
- ❖ Days before the presentation, the Centre appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the new CEA.
- ❖ The government sees the Indian economy growing at 8-8.5 percent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23).
- ❖ The GDP growth rate for the ongoing financial year 2021-22 (FY22) is estimated at 9.2 percent.
- ❖ In order to achieve USD 5 trillion GDP by FY'25, India needs to spend about USD 1.4 trillion over this period on infrastructure, according to the Economic Survey.
- ❖ The theme of Economic Survey 2021-22 is the "Agile approach".



Digital Rupee

- ❖ Union Finance Minister has announced the launch of the Digital Rupee 2022-2023 onwards.
- ❖ Digital Rupee is the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) of India.
- ❖ This CBDC will be launched by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ The underlying technology that will be powering the Digital Rupee will be Blockchain.



NSO First Revised GDP estimates

- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for the financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ According to the estimates, the GDP contracted by 6.6%.
- ❖ Earlier, the GDP had contracted by 7.3%.
- ❖ The contraction is mainly due to the COVID pandemic and the lockdown imposed.

National Land Monetisation Corporation

- ❖ According to Economic Survey, the government of India is setting up the National Land Monetisation Corporation.
- ❖ This is to carry out the monetization of the land and other non-core assets.
- ❖ It is being set up in accordance with the Budget announcement.
- ❖ It is being set up as a 100 percent Government of India-owned entity.

India's top trade partner 2021

- ❖ The United States was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion.
- ❖ The US is followed by China on second.
- ❖ The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion.
- ❖ In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank.
- ❖ In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.



Redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to prematurely redeem sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), which were issued in 2016 at a price of Rs 4,813 per unit of SGB.
- ❖ Under central government rules, premature redemption is permitted after the fifth year from the date of issue of such gold bonds on the date on which interest is payable.

2nd largest gold buyer - RBI

- ❖ The largest buyer, the Central Bank of Thailand, bought 90 metric tonnes of gold in 2021.
- ❖ RBI is the second-largest buyer of gold in 2021 (77.5 metric tonnes).
- ❖ This took the total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes
- ❖ As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is the ninth-largest in the world.
- ❖ Goldhub is the official website of the World Gold Council.
- ❖ It maintains all the data regarding precious metals.

RBI Monetary Policy Update

- ❖ RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept key interest rates unchanged.
- ❖ It retained the accommodative stance in its first policy after Union Budget 2022.
- ❖ This is the tenth consecutive time that MPC has maintained the status quo.
- ❖ MPC kept the repo rate as well as the reverse repo rate unchanged, respectively at 4 percent and 3.35 percent.
- ❖ It continued with the 'accommodative' stance in the backdrop of high inflation.
- ❖ RBI projected GDP growth for Financial Year 2023 at 7.8 percent.
- ❖ Real GDP growth of 9.2 percent in Financial Year 2022 (FY 2022) will take the economy above the pre-pandemic level.
- ❖ CPI inflation forecast for FY 2022 has been kept at 5.3 percent.
- ❖ The current account deficit was below 2 percent of GDP in FY22.
- ❖ It proposed to increase the Cap of e-vouchers, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

GDP Deflator Forecast

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that, for 2022-23, the Centre's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator projection is 3 to 3.5 percent.
- ❖ The government's own real GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2022-23 is in the range of 7.6-8.1 percent.
- ❖ While Union Budget assumes a nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1 percent for the fiscal year 2023.
- ❖ GDP Deflator is also known as 'implicit price deflator'.
- ❖ It is a measure of general price inflation.
- ❖ It is defined as the 'difference between nominal GDP and real GDP'.
- ❖ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) comes out with the GDP deflator.

Initial Public Offering – LIC



- ❖ The Government of India is planning to sell 5% of its share in LIC.
- ❖ With this, the government is trying to raise Rs 65,000 crores.
- ❖ 10% of the shares are being reserved for eligible policyholders.
- ❖ The plan is to sell 316.25 million shares.
- ❖ This is 5% of the total equity base.
- ❖ The total equity base of LIC is 6.32 billion shares.
- ❖ 35% of the shares are to be reserved for retail investors.

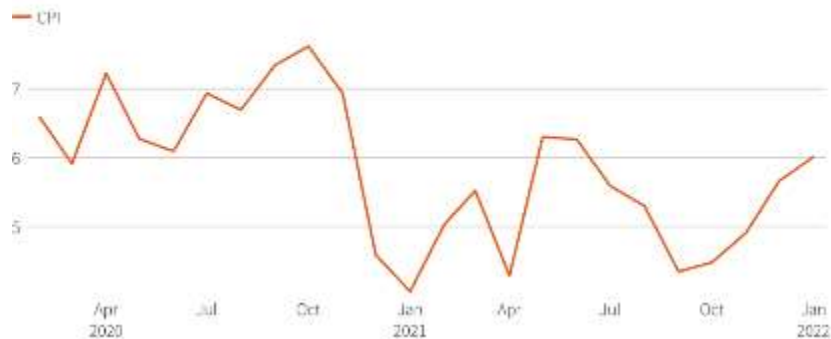
India's retail inflation

- ❖ India's retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated to 6.01% in the month of January, breaching the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tolerance band of 6%, albeit marginally.

- ❖ The surge in inflation print was driven by higher consumer goods and telecom prices along with a comparatively low rate a year ago.
- ❖ Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.66% in the preceding month of December.
- ❖ The Central bank's monetary policy has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4% until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%.

India's inflation rises above central bank's tolerance level

Geo-political Issues driving prices in India



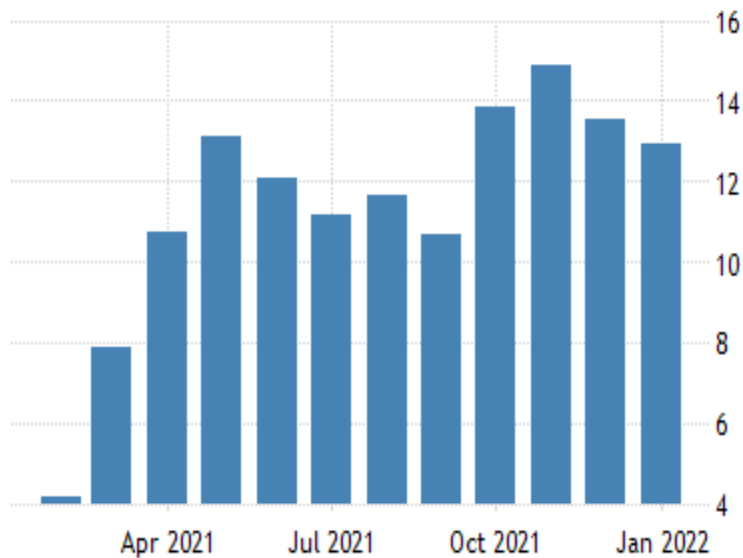
Hurun Report on Dollar Millionaires

- ❖ According to the Hurun Report, the rich families in India have grown by 11 percent in the year 2021.
- ❖ According to the Hurun report, the number of wealthy households will increase by 30% to 6,00,000 in the next five years.
- ❖ Mumbai currently leads the list of cities with the biggest number of dollar-millionaire households, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.





India's wholesale inflation



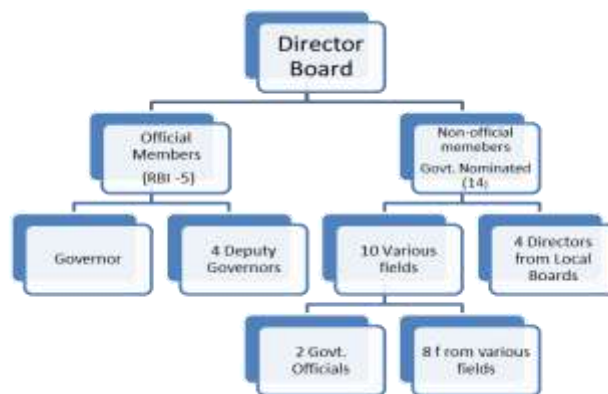
- ❖ India's wholesale inflation has eased to 12.96 % in January from 13.56 % in the previous month.
- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation has declined consistently in recent months.
- ❖ It fell from 14.87 % in November 2021 to 13.56 % in December 2021 and further to 12.96 % in January 2022.

Subscription to the shares of IDRCL

Name of Bank	Stake acquired	Reduces stake by March 31, 2022
State Bank of India (SBI)	12.3%	5%
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	11.18%	5%
Union Bank of India (UBI)	12.3%	10%
Canara Bank	14.9%	5%
Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)	6.21%	4%
Bank of Baroda (BoB)	12.3%	9.9%

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) have announced their subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- ❖ Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public FIs will hold a maximum of 49% in stake of IDRCL.
- ❖ The remaining stake will be with private-sector lenders.
- ❖ The NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act.
- ❖ The public sector banks will hold 51 percent in NARCL.

Director of Central Board of RBI



- ❖ The Centre government has nominated Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ Prior to his appointment as DFS Secretary, Malhotra was the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd.
- ❖ He succeeded Debashish Panda.

Dollar/rupee two-year sell-buy swap auction

Swap Amount (USD Billion)	Auction date	Auction Time	Near Leg/Spot Date	Far Leg Date
5	March 08, 2022	10.30 AM- 11.30 AM	March 10, 2022	March 11, 2024



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a US Dollar/Rupee two-year sell-buy swap auction.
- ❖ This is with a view of elongating the maturity profile of its forward book and smoothening the receivables relating to forwarding assets.
- ❖ The Central bank will undertake a sell/buy swap auction of \$5 billion, which will enable access to a wider set of market participants.
- ❖ Under the swap auction, a bank sells US dollars to the RBI.

Core financial services solution

- ❖ The RBI asked the non-banking financial companies (NBFC) to implement Core Financial Services Solution by September 30, 2025.
- ❖ The upper & middle layer NBFCs, which have 10 or more fixed point services delivery units should implement it by Sept 2025.

India's FDI Inflow - April to Dec 2021



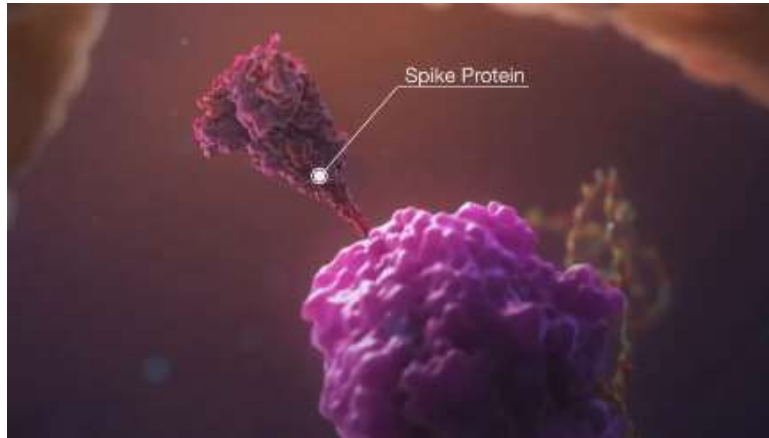
- ❖ India's Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows contracted by 16 percent to USD 43.17 billion.
- ❖ This is according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), during April-December 2021.
- ❖ During the same time period the previous year, inflows stood at USD 51.47 billion.
- ❖ The highest inflows were in the hardware and computer software sector.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Oral Cancer Detection

- ❖ The researchers from the Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences in West Bengal have created a new method to detect oral cancers.
- ❖ It differentiates the cancerous stages and precancerous stages.
- ❖ The differentiation is done through high-standard biopsy reports.
- ❖ The team has created a new imaging device.
- ❖ The device screens the cancerous stage by measuring the blood flow rate in the tissues.

Molecular-level analysis of Omicron



- ❖ University of British Columbia researchers are the first in the world to conduct a molecular-level structural analysis of the Omicron variant spike protein.
- ❖ The analysis was done using a cryo-electron microscope.
- ❖ It revealed how the heavily mutated variant infects human cells and is highly evasive of immunity.

Water on Mars

- ❖ The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) of NASA has found that Mars had water two billion years ago.
- ❖ But today all the water in the planet are evaporated.
- ❖ This was confirmed by MRO with the help of salt deposits on the surface of the planet.



Humbertium covidum



- ❖ The Scientists recently discovered Humbertium covidum.
- ❖ These are new flatworm species.
- ❖ The new species were found hunting snails in Italy and France.
- ❖ They have been named after COVID pandemic.

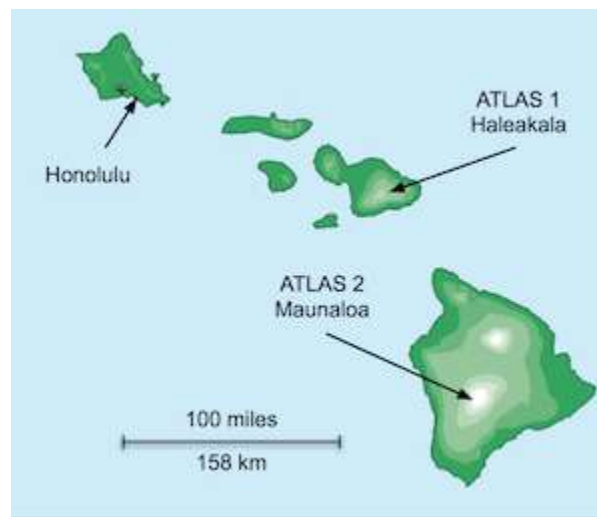
Supercomputer Param Pravega

- ❖ Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has commissioned one of the most powerful supercomputers, called “Param Pravega” in India.
- ❖ Param Pravega supercomputer has a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops.
- ❖ It is the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution.

- ❖ The supercomputer has been designed and developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.



ATLAS Asteroid Tracking System



- ❖ The NASA-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) has become the first survey capable of searching the entire dark sky for near-Earth objects (NEOs), every 24 hours.
- ❖ ATLAS is a state-of-the-art asteroid detection system.
- ❖ ATLAS has recently expanded its reach to the southern hemisphere by including two additional observatories in Chile and South Africa.

- ❖ It now comprises four telescopes.
- ❖ It has two existing northern-hemisphere telescopes on Haleakala and Maunaloa in Hawaii.

Hack-proof quantum communication

WHAT WAS THE EXPERIMENT ?

Isro-SAC held a live videoconference using quantum-key-encrypted signals between two buildings 300 metres apart within their Jodhpur Tekra campus

ISRO'S NEXT LEAP: QUANTUM SATELLITES:
Isro will soon demonstrate Satellite Based Quantum Communication (SBQC) between two Indian ground stations

ISRO'S FEAT

- The experiment was performed at night to ensure no interference of direct sunlight
- Most of mission critical technologies were built by ISRO in-house
- Critical to the experiment were NAVIC receiver for time synchronization between the transmitter and receiver modules,
- A special gimbal mechanism instead of large-aperture telescopes was used for optical alignment

CHINA'S CHALLENGE

2016 | China launched the world's first quantum communication satellite QUESS(Mozi/Micius) and achieved QKD with two ground stations 2,600km apart

2017 | An over 2,000-km-long optical fibre network was completed for QKD between Beijing and Shanghai

2021 | The world's first integrated quantum communication network was built combining over 700 optical fibres on the ground with two ground-to-satellite links. This achieved a QKD over a total distance of 4.6K km

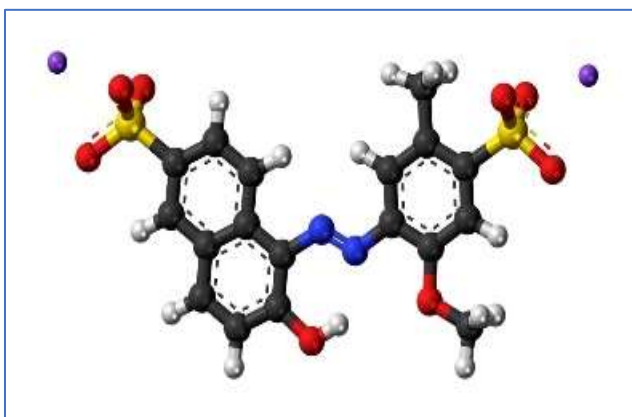


- ❖ The scientists from the Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre and Physical Research Laboratory successfully demonstrated quantum entanglement.
- ❖ Using real-time Quantum Key Distribution, they conducted hack-proof communication between two places separated by 300 meters.
- ❖ Quantum communication is one of the safest ways of connecting two places with high levels of code and quantum cryptography that cannot be decrypted or broken by an external entity.
- ❖ If a hacker tries to crack the message in quantum communication, it changes its form in such a manner that would alert the sender and would cause the message to be altered or deleted.

Moons Make Planets Habitable

- ❖ A new study has examined the moon formations and concluded that only certain types of planets can form moons that are large in respect to their host planets.
- ❖ The moon controls the length of the day and ocean tides, which affect the biological cycles of life forms on our planet.
- ❖ The moon also contributes to Earth's climate by stabilizing Earth's spin axis, offering an ideal environment for life to develop and evolve.
- ❖ Because the moon is so important to live on Earth, scientists conjecture that a moon may be a potentially beneficial feature in harboring life on other planets.

Research on Ring-Shaped Molecules



- ❖ MIT chemical engineers' team has created a new material, which is stronger than steel and lighter as plastic.
- ❖ The material can be easily manufactured in large quantities.
- ❖ Their study was published in 'Nature Journal'.
- ❖ It can self-assemble into sheets, unlike all other polymers.

X-particles in Quark-gluon Plasma

- ❖ A mysterious "X" particle comprising four quarks and first seen in 2003, has been found in the quark-gluon plasma produced in heavy-ion collisions at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).
- ❖ The observation was made by physicists working on CERN's Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment.
- ❖ Further studies of the particle could help explain how familiar hadrons such as protons and neutrons formed from the quark-gluon plasma believed to have been present in the early universe.



AI-based Chest X-Ray

- ❖ An Artificial Intelligence (AI) based chest X-Ray technique was recently developed by researchers from the Indian Institutes of Technology Jodhpur (IIT-J).
- ❖ This chest X-Ray technique will be used for Covid-19A screening.
- ❖ The team of researchers has proposed a deep learning-based algorithm called COMiT-Net.
- ❖ This algorithm will learn the abnormalities present in chest X-Ray images for differentiating non-covid affected lung from Covid affected lung.

Giant Magellan Telescope

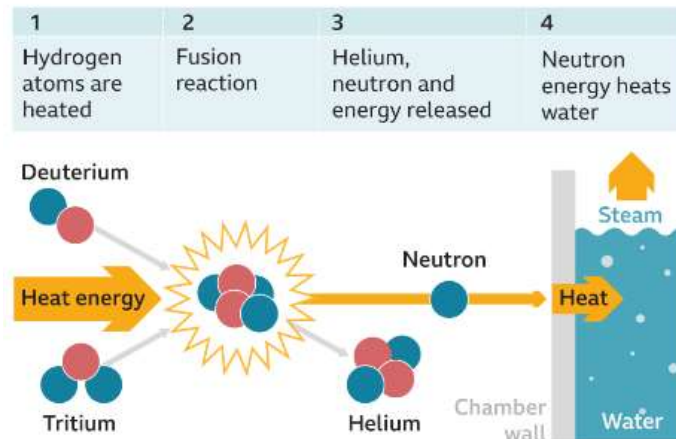


- ❖ The Giant Magellan Telescope is under construction.
- ❖ It will have resolving powers ten times the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ❖ Giant Magellan Telescope is an extremely large telescope.

- ❖ The telescope is to be located in Las Campanas Observatory, Chile.
- ❖ The project is US-led.
- ❖ The partners are Brazil, Australia, and South Korea.
- ❖ Chile is the host country.

New Record in Nuclear Fusion energy

How nuclear fusion works



- ❖ The UK-based JET laboratory recently produced 59 megajoules of energy from a fusion reaction.
- ❖ The reaction was conducted for five seconds.
- ❖ With this, the company has smashed its own world record.
- ❖ With this, the company has become capable of creating a mini star and holding it there for five seconds.

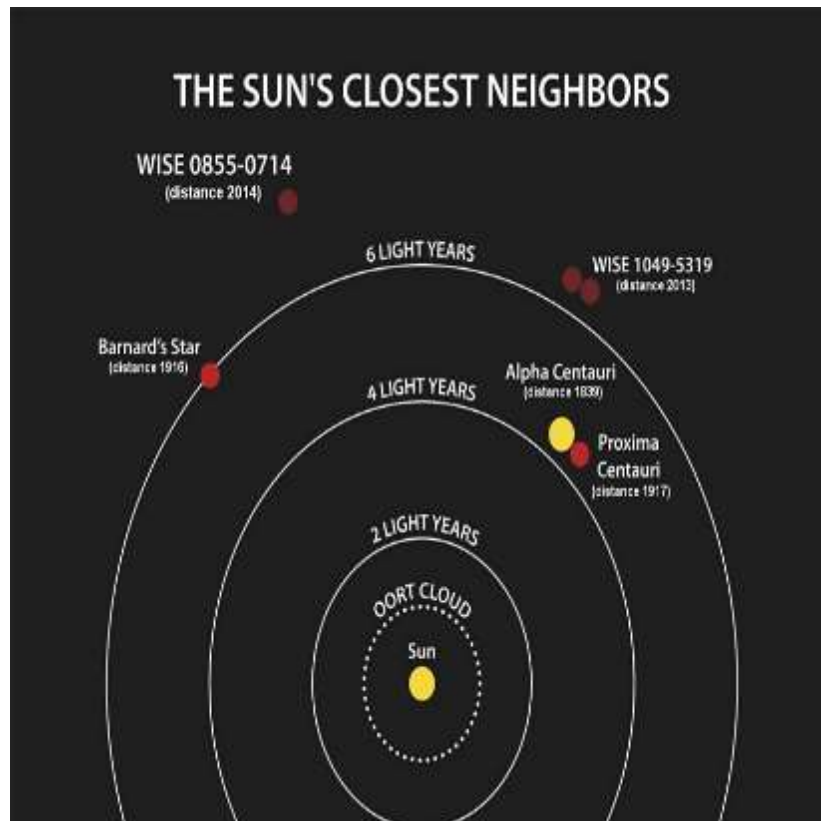
MUSE and HelioSwarm Projects

- ❖ NASA selected two science missions namely, Multi-slit Solar Explorer (MUSE) and HelioSwarm, for improving our understanding of dynamics of the Sun, constantly changing space environment, and Sun-Earth connection.
- ❖ Both the mission will provide deeper insights into the universe as well as offer critical information, for protecting astronauts, satellites, and communications signals like GPS.
- ❖ Missions will provide new and deeper insight into the solar atmosphere and space
- ❖ The MUSE Mission will help the scientists in understanding the driving forces of the Sun's corona heating.
- ❖ HelioSwarm mission is a constellation or the "swarm" of nine spacecraft.

Habitable Planets

- ❖ Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics have developed a new way to identify potentially habitable planets, with a high probability.
- ❖ Astronomers developed this new way in association with astronomers from BITS Pilani, Goa campus.
- ❖ They used an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based algorithm for this.
- ❖ 60 potentially habitable planets have been found out of 5,000 known planets by using this.
- ❖ The new AI-based method is named "Multi-Stage Memetic Binary Tree Anomaly Identifier".

Planet Proxima d



- ❖ The European Southern Observatory has detected a new planet 'Proxima d' around Proxima Centauri.
- ❖ Proxima Centauri is the closest star to our Solar System, lying just over four light-years away.
- ❖ It is part of the Alpha Centauri star system.

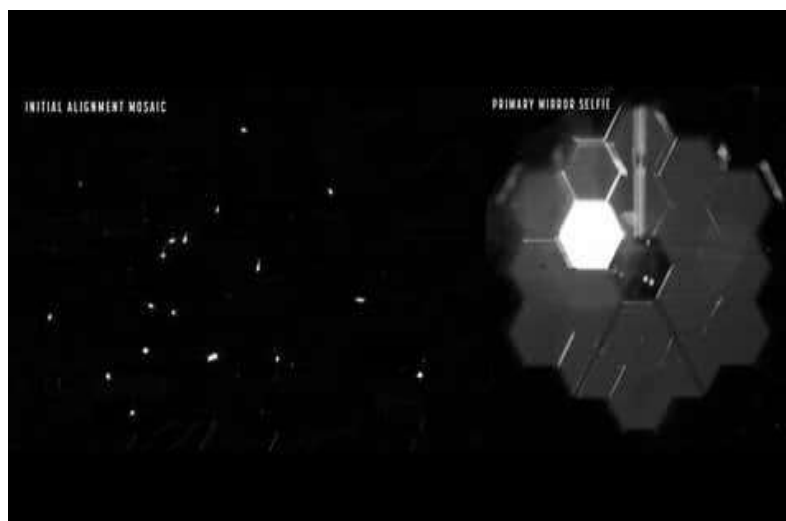


INSPIRESat-1

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a satellite called “INSPIRESat-1”.
- ❖ INSPIRESat-1 has jointly been developed by a team of international researchers including from universities of India, US, Taiwan, and Singapore.
- ❖ INSPIRESat-1 stands for International Research & Teaching Satellite Project satellite one.
- ❖ This satellite has been developed by the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST) in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric & Space Physics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
- ❖ It was launched onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52.



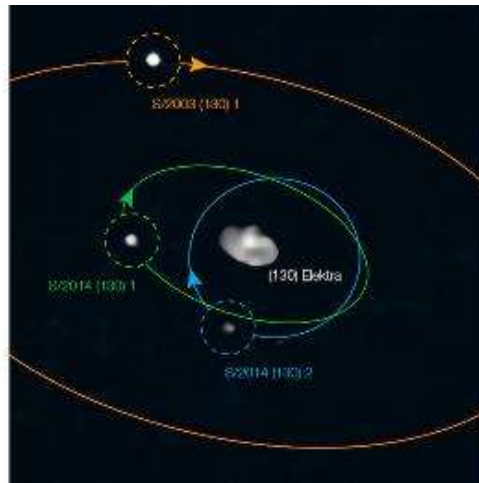
First images from James Webb Space Telescope



- ❖ NASA has unveiled the first images captured by the James Webb Space Telescope.
- ❖ This image mosaic was created by pointing the telescope at a bright, isolated star in the constellation Ursa Major known as HD 84406.

Third Moon of Elektra

- ❖ Astronomers discovered a third moon orbiting the main-belt asteroid (130) Elektra.
- ❖ This is the first quadruple asteroid ever found.
- ❖ Elektra was first discovered by Litchfield Observatory astronomer Christian Peters.
- ❖ The first moon of Elektra was discovered in 2003 by Dr. William Merline and his team.
- ❖ The second moon of Elektra is designated as S/2014 (130) 1 or S2.
- ❖ Astronomers have now discovered the third moon, orbiting Elekta.
- ❖ It is designated as S/2014 (130) 2 or S3.

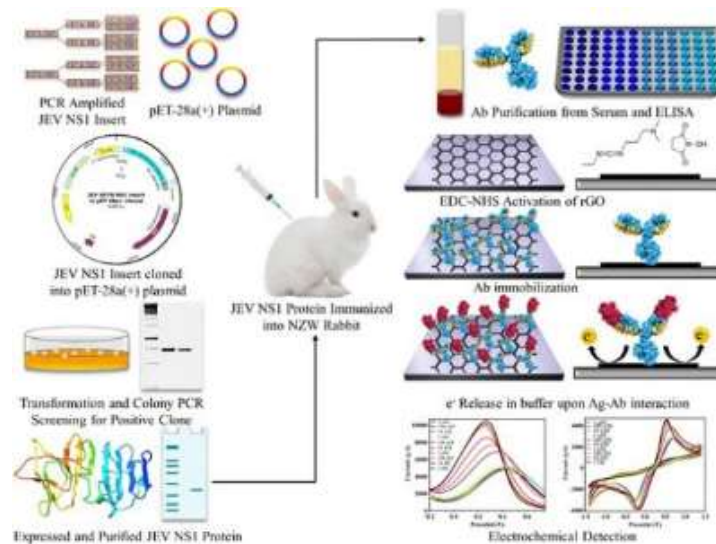


JPMorgan - first bank to enter the metaverse

- ❖ JPMorgan has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse.
- ❖ The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland.
- ❖ Metaverse is a virtual universe.
- ❖ Here users can do multiple activities like socializing, shopping, or even attending events through their avatar.



Detection Method of Japanese Encephalitis Virus



- ❖ The National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, has developed the “Fluorine Doped Tin Oxide (FTO) electrode fabricated with reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO)” to detect the Japanese Encephalitis Virus.
- ❖ Japanese Encephalitis Virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne encephalitis in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia.
- ❖ It is often misdiagnosed as Dengue.
- ❖ There is no cure available for JEV.
- ❖ Thus, its early detection is essential in order to mitigate a breakout.

Recent Study on Pollination of Moths

- ❖ A study has revealed that moths are essential for pollination in northeast India’s Himalayan environment.
- ❖ The study established that 91 species of moths are pollinators of 21 different species of plants in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in the north-eastern Himalayas.

- ❖ Erebididae (tiger moths, erebid moths, lichen moths, etc) and Geometridae (geometer moths) were found to be the Himalayan region's most important families of moths for pollen transportation.
- ❖ The results are significant as most pollination research focused on daytime pollinators such as butterflies and bees.
- ❖ While the contribution of nocturnal pollinators received less scientific attention.



Undersea cable consortium



- ❖ Telecom operator, Bharti Airtel Ltd has announced that it has joined South East Asia–Middle East–Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE-6) undersea cable consortium.
- ❖ This is in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity and serve India's fast-growing digital economy.
- ❖ It shall be anchoring 20 percent of the overall investment in the cable system.
- ❖ Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will be able to add 100 TBps capacity to its global network.
- ❖ The telco will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

Alcyoneus Galaxy



- ❖ This galaxy was discovered using the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) telescope and the Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) network.
- ❖ It is the largest discovered galaxy in the universe.
- ❖ It is located around 3 billion light-years away in the Lynx constellation.

Evidence of First Ear Surgery

- ❖ A group of archaeologists has found the 5,300-year-old skull in a Spanish tomb,
- ❖ That shows possibly the oldest evidence of ear surgery.
- ❖ Researchers concluded in an article published in “Scientific Reports” that, this evidence point to a mastoidectomy.
- ❖ Mastoidectomy is a surgical procedure, that was performed to relieve the pain of the prehistoric individual, who may have suffered because of otitis media and mastoiditis.



Detection of Solar Proton Events

- ❖ 'Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS)', the payload of Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, detected solar proton events recently.
- ❖ The Solar Proton Events significantly increase the radiation exposure to humans in space.
- ❖ CLASS Payload also recorded coronal mass ejections recently.

New Species of Pterosaur



- ❖ Researchers have discovered new species of Pterosaurs, who were the first vertebrates to evolve flight.
- ❖ The species include the largest flying animals in the history of Earth.
- ❖ The newly-discovered species is named "Dearc sgiathanach".
- ❖ It is the largest Jurassic Pterosaur known.

Two Prehistoric Bird Species

- ❖ In China, researchers have discovered specimens of two Prehistoric Bird Species.
- ❖ It was namely, Meemannavis ductrix and Brevidentavis zhangii.
- ❖ The specimens were discovered from Changma locality in northwestern China.
- ❖ It is an important place for paleontologists, to study bird evolution.
- ❖ It is the second-richest Mesozoic fossil bird site worldwide.
- ❖ However, more than half of the fossils found there belong to Gansus yumenensis.
- ❖ Gansus Yumenensis is a species of aquatic bird.

Plant-Derived COVID Vaccine



- ❖ The first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine is Canada.
- ❖ Plants are used as living factories by Medicago.
- ❖ These plants are used to grow virus-like particles that mimic the coronavirus spike protein.
- ❖ Medicago is located in Quebec City.
- ❖ It is developing various types of plant-based vaccines against multiple types of diseases.

ENVIRONMENT

Protection of Great Barrier Reef



- ❖ The government of Australia has announced a billion-dollar package to protect the natural wonder Great Barrier Reef.
- ❖ The reef, as of now, is under the threat of the climate crisis.
- ❖ The reef contributes to the world's 85 percent of corals.
- ❖ Now UNESCO has put it on its "in danger" list.

NASA Ocean Melting Greenland Mission





- ❖ The Ocean Melting Greenland mission, generally referred to as the OMG mission was launched by NASA.
- ❖ It was a five-year mission.
- ❖ It ended on December 31, 2021.
- ❖ The mission mainly measured the ice loss in Green land.
- ❖ The study conducted by the mission says that if all the Greenland ice melts, then the global ocean level will increase by 7.4 meters.
- ❖ The ice in Greenland is melting five times faster than they were 25 years ago.

Melting on Mount Everest

- ❖ Recently scientists found that the highest glacier on Mount Everest is melting at a faster rate.
- ❖ It is the South Col glacier.
- ❖ The glacier has lost 54 meters of thickness in the last 25 years.
- ❖ The South Col glacier is located at a height of 7,906 meters.

STATES

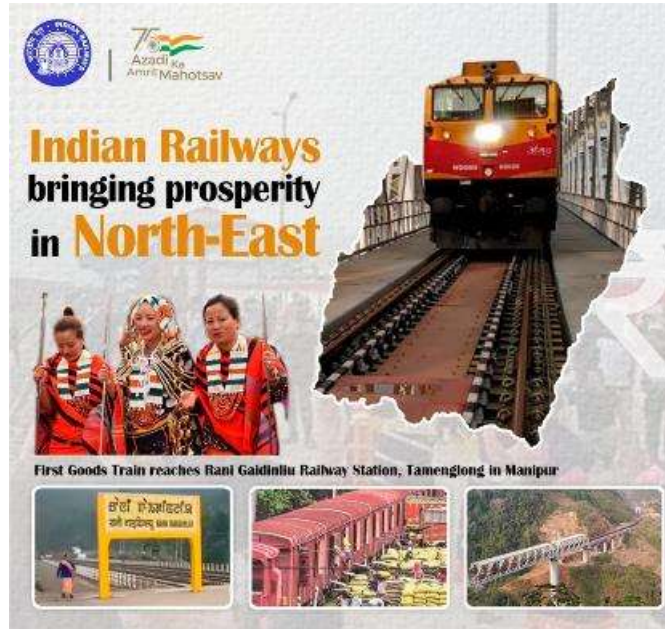
Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act

- ❖ The Act provides 75% reservation for local youth in private sector jobs that offer a salary of less than ₹30,000 a month.
- ❖ The law will be applicable for a period of 10 years.

Freight Train - Manipur

- ❖ The first goods train reached the Rani Gaidinliu station of Manipur.
- ❖ This is the first freight train to enter Manipur after 75 years.
- ❖ Manipur is a hilly state.
- ❖ Because of this reason, it was difficult to build railway lines in this region.
- ❖ The new railway line built in the state is 111 km long.
- ❖ It runs from Jiribam to Imphal.
- ❖ The Jiribam railway station is 17 km from the Assam – Manipur border.
- ❖ The Railway department is to construct 46 tunnels along the new rail line.

- ❖ Also, it includes 153 bridges.
- ❖ The world's tallest bridge is in this line.
- ❖ It is in Noney district.
- ❖ The bridge is 141 meters high.



Spituk Gustor Festival



- ❖ Spituk Gustor Festival is a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory.
- ❖ The devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colorful mask dance locally called “Chams”.

Torgya Festival



- ❖ The three days long Torgya Festival of the Monpa tribal community of Arunachal Pradesh is celebrated at Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The main attraction of the festival is the 'Sha-na Cham'.
- ❖ It is the ritual dance performed by monks to showcase the Choe-Gyal Yap & Yum Tsa-Munde deity.

One Nation One Ration Card

- ❖ The One Nation One Ration card plan was recently enabled in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ With this, the One Nation One Ration card scheme has become operational in 35 states and union territories.
- ❖ It is now covering 96.8% of the population included in the National Food Security Act.

104 ft tall National Flag

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu hoisted a 104 ft tall National Flag at Ngangpa Natme (Buddha Park) in Tawang.
- ❖ The state of Arunachal Pradesh now has the second-highest national flag in the country.
- ❖ Belagavi or Belgaum Fort in Kote Kere, Karnataka, has the tallest Indian flagpoles measuring 361 ft.



Craft Map of Manipur

- ❖ The craft map of Manipur was prepared on the basis of a field survey by an expert team in 2018-19.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind, prepared with the objective of providing equal, concentrated attention to all art forms.
- ❖ It provides the details of Manipur's handloom and handicraft traditions.
- ❖ This map recently came into the limelight, when Konsam Ibomcha Singh received the 2022 Padma Shri for the doll-making craft.



Third Border Haat - Tripura

- ❖ Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb laid the foundation stone for the Kamalpur-Kurmaghat border haat between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The border haat will be constructed in the Dhalai district.
- ❖ This project will further boost trade relations between both countries.
- ❖ It will strengthen the cultural and emotional ties between both.

New species of spider and millipede - Kerala

- ❖ Researchers of the Department of Zoology from Christ College, Irinjalakuda, discovered a new species of spider from Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and new species of millipede from the campus of the University of Calicut, Tenhipalam.
- ❖ *Carrhotus tholpettyensis* was the new species of spider that was discovered from the moist deciduous forest of Tholpetty range of wildlife sanctuary in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The researchers also discovered a new species of millipede from the campus of Calicut University.
- ❖ This new species has been named *Delarthrum anomalans*.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Paradoxosomatidae.

Kanchoth festival – Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ Recently, the people of Bhaderwah celebrated the ancient Kanchoth festival.
- ❖ It is a symbol of ancient Nag culture.
- ❖ Nag followers believe that, on this day of Gouri Tritiya, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati got married.



J&K in National Single Window System



- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir have become the first union territory (UT) to be integrated with National Single Window System.
- ❖ More than 130 industrial services have been made online on the system.
- ❖ 160 more are to be added.
- ❖ With this, global investors can apply for their business approvals in online mode.

Haryana Anti-conversion Bill

- ❖ The bill is being brought in the state of Haryana to prevent unlawful religious conversions.
- ❖ Haryana is a BJP ruled state.
- ❖ The other BJP ruled states that brought this bill were Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.

Majhi Vasundhara' Campaign

- ❖ The United Nation Environment Programme has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign.
- ❖ It is an initiative towards sustainable use of energy and environmental development.
- ❖ The literal meaning of 'Majhi Vasundhara' is 'My Earth'.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra.



Rail-cum-Road Bridge over River Ganga

- ❖ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometer long 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' in Bihar.
- ❖ The much-awaited bridge is constructed over the River Ganga on NH 333B in Bihar's Munger region.



Hope Express - Maharashtra

- ❖ Maharashtra's Health Minister, Rajesh Tope has announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer.
- ❖ This is the first such machine in India.
- ❖ He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur.

FM radio channel in Central Jail

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the Central Jail of Indore has started its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77'.
- ❖ Through this radio channel, the jail inmates will get to know about the happening in the world.
- ❖ The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health and social issues.

Chintamani Padya Natakam

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has banned a 100-year-old play named 'Chintamani Padya Natakam'.
- ❖ The play was written in 1920 by playwright Kallakuri Narayana Rao, who was also a social reformer.
- ❖ The play is about Chintamani, a courtesan and a devotee of Lord Krishna, who finds salvation by singing bhajans.
- ❖ The original play had a social message, but over the years, it has been modified purely for entertainment.
- ❖ The Arya Vysya community has been petitioning governments for several years to ban the play, saying it portrays them in a negative light.



Maru Mahotsav

- ❖ The renowned Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City was celebrated from 13 to 16 February 2022 at Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions.

- ❖ It is a four-day-long annual event.
- ❖ Regional folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair were performed.



Medaram Jathara 2022

- ❖ Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana - the Koya tribes.
- ❖ Jathara was declared a State Festival in 1996.
- ❖ The Jatara is also known as Sammakka Saralamma Jatara.
- ❖ It is a tribal festival honoring the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- ❖ Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary.



Attukal Pongala

- ❖ Attukal Pongala is one of the famous Malayala festivals, which is celebrated at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala annually.
- ❖ The event starts on the Karthigai star of the Malayalam month of Makaram or Kumbham and ends with the Kuruthitharpanam at night which refers to a sacrificial offering.
- ❖ This event is a 10-day event.
- ❖ As per beliefs, the temple is the incarnation of Kannaki, the central character of the Tamil epic 'Silappathikaaram'.



Kunsnyom scheme

- ❖ Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh has launched Kunsnyoms scheme for differently-abled persons.
- ❖ Kunsnyoms meant Equal for All, Fair for All, aims inclusive and accessible Ladakh.
- ❖ Under the new scheme, the Leh Hill council is providing assistive devices, technologies to needy people at a 90 percent subsidy.

Bihar Shahid Diwas

- ❖ Recently, Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar announced that February 15 would now be commemorated as “Shahid Diwas”.
- ❖ February 15 would be commemorated as Shahid Diwas, in the honor of 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police 90 years ago, in Tarapur town in Munger district of Bihar.
- ❖ This incident took place on February 15, 1932, when a group of young freedom fighters had planned to hoist the “Indian national flag” at Thana Bhavan in Tarapur.

Kerala's first Caravan park

- ❖ Kerala's first Caravan park is all set to come up in Vagamon, a scenic hill station located in the Idukki district.
- ❖ The park, as part of the state government's new Caravan Tourism policy, would be thrown open to travelers.
- ❖ Caravan Tourism was introduced by the state Tourism department as a safe means for holidaying at a time when people are unable to step out or travel due to the outbreak of COVID-19.



Haryana private sector quota law

- ❖ The Supreme Court has set aside Punjab & Haryana High Court order staying the Haryana govt's law on providing 75% reservation in private sector jobs for local candidates.
- ❖ The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, was passed in November last year.
- ❖ It applies to jobs offering a maximum gross monthly salary or wages of ₹ 30,000.

Khajuraho Dance Festival

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad organizes the Khajuraho Dance Festival.
- ❖ It is a one-week classical dance festival held annually beside the Khajuraho temples located in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This year's Khajuraho Dance Festival is the 48th edition of this festival.
- ❖ In this festival, the Madhya Pradesh State Rupankar Kala Award and National Kalidas Award for dance will be presented to the various artists.



Manipur Flag-hoisting Tradition

- ❖ With elections in Manipur being scheduled from 27th February to 3rd March, the candidates are holding a unique flag hoisting ceremony.
- ❖ They hoist the flag in their constituencies before embarking on campaigning to the people of the state.
- ❖ This ritual is unique to Manipur.
- ❖ It is practiced by people of all races, political parties, religions, and communities.

Lavender Cultivation – Ramban



- ❖ The central government was planning to start the 'Purple Revolution' in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The purple revolution will be planned by encouraging lavender cultivation under CSIR-IIIM's Aroma Mission through the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Himachal Pradesh - first biodiversity park

- ❖ This is to make its contribution towards the conservation of the endangered Himalayan herbs.
- ❖ This park is set to come up at Mandi's Bhulah valley.
- ❖ The biodiversity park is set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP's forest department.

India's First Night Navigation Mobile App

- ❖ Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- ❖ The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.

Lavender and Doda district

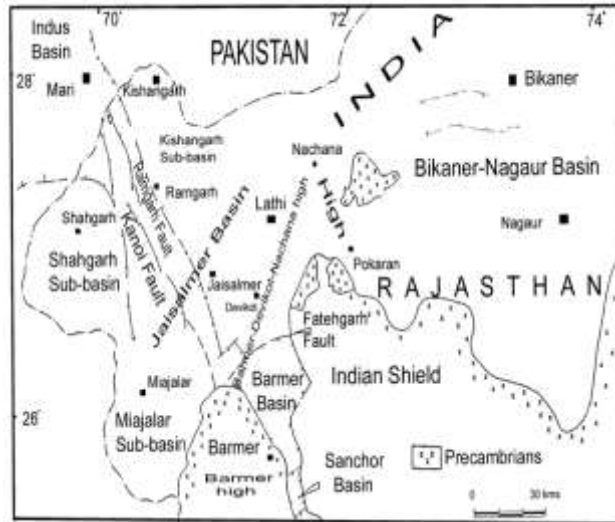


- ❖ The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, chaired the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meetings of several districts in Jammu & Kashmir recently.
- ❖ A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as a Doda brand product.
- ❖ This is to promote lavender under the 'One District, One Product' initiative.
- ❖ Doda district in J&K is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution or the cultivation of Lavender.
- ❖ Purple Revolution (Lavender cultivation) was launched under the Aroma Mission of the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ❖ The AROMA mission is implemented by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) through its Jammu-based laboratory, the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM).

Oil Discovery in Rajasthan

- ❖ Vedanta Ltd. Cairn Oil & Gas has discovered oil in the Barmer district of Rajasthan.

- ❖ The company has notified the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) about this discovery.
- ❖ The Block RJ-ONHP-2017/1 is located in Chohtan and Gudamalani Tehsil of the district of Barmer.
- ❖ 'Durga' is the name given to this discovery.



Manipur Meitei Community



- ❖ Demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the majority Meitei community, has become a huge election issue in Manipur.
- ❖ Demand for ST status is not because the Meitei community wants jobs in the Central sector.
- ❖ But because they can't buy land in hill areas.

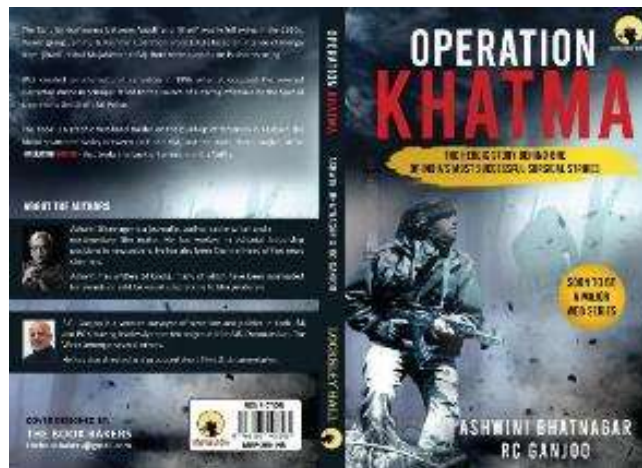


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Telugu short film

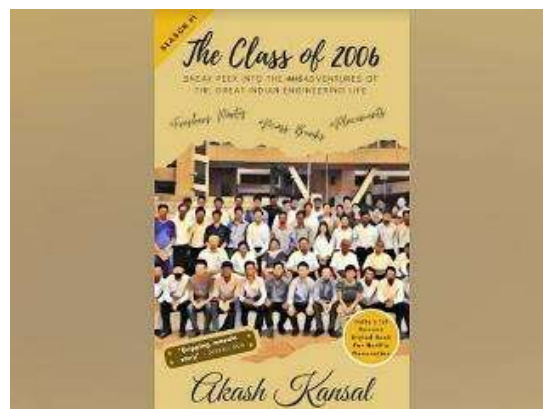
- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission India has selected 'Street Student' by Mr. Akula Sandeep for its seventh prestigious Short Film Award Competition.
- ❖ The film shows the story of a street urchin to send across a strong message on the Right to Education and how society needs to support it.

Operation Khatma



- ❖ A book titled 'Operation Khatma' has been released which is authored by journalists RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar.
- ❖ The book is based upon the operation of the Special Operations Group of Jammu & Kashmir Police which led to the killing of 22 terrorists of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front.

Book by Akash Kansal



- ❖ India's first-ever season style book titled 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', written by Akash Kansal.
- ❖ "The Class of 2006" consists of 18 different episodes that recall the times spent in College.

Lata Mangeshkar

- ❖ Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has passed away at the age of 92 at Mumbai.
- ❖ She born at Indore.
- ❖ Lata Mangeshkar was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1990.
- ❖ For her contribution to Indian music, she also was bestowed with Padma Bhushan in 1969 and Bharat Ratna in 2001.



Book by Subhash Garg



- ❖ The former finance secretary of India, Subhash Chandra Garg has announced his debut book named "The \$10 Trillion Dream".
- ❖ The new book explores the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s.
- ❖ It is published by Penguin Random House India.

Chandupatla Janga Reddy



- ❖ Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Chandupatla Janga Reddy has passed away in Hyderabad
- ❖ He was a native of Warangal and a former MLA in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ He is best known for his time as a Member of Parliament in the 8th Lok Sabha in 1984.
- ❖ This also marked the BJP's debut in the Lok Sabha, following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
- ❖ Reddy was one of the only two BJP MPs who got elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984 in 543 Parliament constituencies.
- ❖ The other one was A K Patel.

R Rajamohan

- ❖ Professor R Rajamohan, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away.
- ❖ He led the 1st Asteroid Discoveries In Independent India.
- ❖ He is best known for his Kalki Project.
- ❖ The project aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India.
- ❖ This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.

Ibrahim Sutar

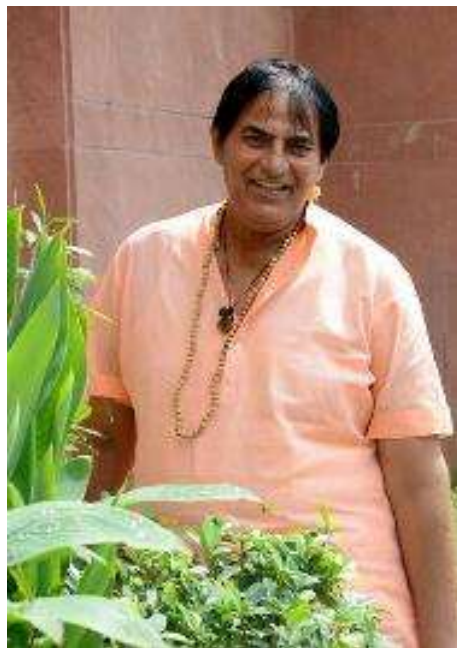
- ❖ Padma Shri awardee and social worker, Ibrahim Sutar has passed away.
- ❖ He was fondly referred to as the “Kabir of Kannada”.
- ❖ Sutar was known for his work towards spreading social and communal harmony.

- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2018.



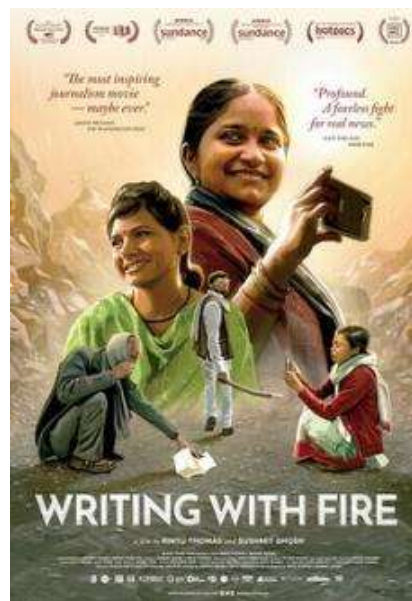
Praveen Kumar Sobti

- ❖ Actor-athlete Praveen Kumar Sobti passed away.
- ❖ He was best known for playing Bheem in the TV series “Mahabharat” and for winning an Asian Games gold medal.
- ❖ He represented the country across various athletic events in hammer and discus throw.
- ❖ He won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.
- ❖ Praveen Kumar Sobti also won a silver medal in Hammer Throw during the 1966 Commonwealth Games.



Indian documentary - Oscars 2022

- ❖ The Indian documentary 'Writing with Fire' has won an Oscar nomination in the Best Documentary Feature category
- ❖ Directed and produced by Indian filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, the film has made it to the 94th Academy Awards nominations.
- ❖ It is the first-ever Indian nominee in this category.
- ❖ The film documents the journey of women journalists.
- ❖ Previously, two documentaries set in India have won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short - 'Smile Pinki' and 'Period. End Of Sentence'.



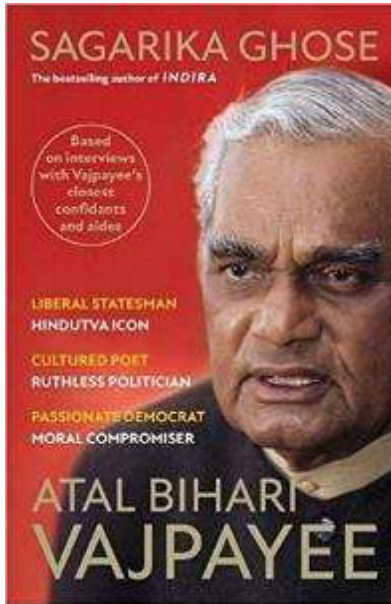
18th Late Madhavrao Limaye Award



- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.

- ❖ This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanik Vachanalay.
- ❖ Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.

Book by Sagarika Ghose



- ❖ A book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee” authored by Sagarika Ghose has been launched.
- ❖ It is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ Sagarika Ghose is a journalist.
- ❖ She has also authored a book titled “Indira: India’s Most Powerful Prime Minister”.

RailTel

- ❖ RailTel has won the ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the year 2020-21 in the Public Sector Entities Category.
- ❖ RailTel is a Miniratna Central Government PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ The company was named winner in the category "plaque".
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a premier accounting body of India.
- ❖ It has been holding the annual competition for the awards since 1958.



Luc Montagnier

- ❖ He, who recently passed away, was at 89.
- ❖ He is a French virologist who shared a Nobel Prize in 2008 for discovering the virus that causes AIDS.
- ❖ The discovery of H.I.V. began in Paris on Jan. 3, 1983.



Chairman of Tata Sons



- ❖ The board of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has approved the re-appointment of N Chandrasekaran as the Executive Chairman of the company for the second five years term.
- ❖ Chandrasekaran's current tenure as the chairman was to expire at the end of February 2022.
- ❖ He joined the board of Tata Sons in 2016 and took over the role of Chairman in 2017.

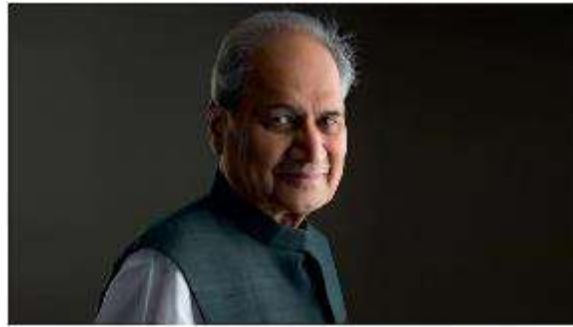
Zara Rutherford

- ❖ 19-year-old Zara Rutherford became the youngest woman to fly solo around the world.
- ❖ Her plane touched down in Kortrijk, Belgium, completing a globe-trotting trip that spanned five continents and 28,000 nautical miles.
- ❖ The youngest person to fly solo around the globe is Travis Ludlow of Great Britain, who was 18 when he did so in 2021.



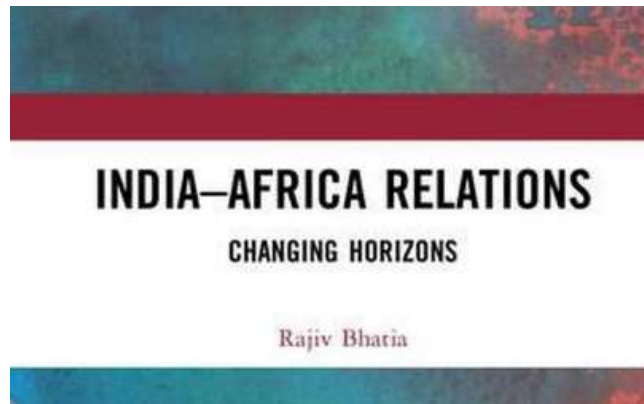
Rahul Bajaj (83)

- ❖ Industrialist and Business Icon Rahul Bajaj passed away at Pune.
- ❖ He born in 1938 at Calcutta.
- ❖ He was the former chairman of Bajaj Group Rahul Bajaj.
- ❖ The jingle 'Humara Bajaj' became a famous advertisement of its time.
- ❖ He was currently the Chairman Emeritus of the firm.



Rajiv Bhatia

- ❖ A new book titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons” is authored by Rajiv Bhatia.
- ❖ Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia is a distinguished Fellow, Foreign Studies Programme at Gateway House.
- ❖ Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations is a foreign policy think tank in Mumbai, India.



ESPNcricinfo awards



- ❖ In the 15th Edition of ESPNcricinfo Awards, India's wicketkeeper-batsman, Rishabh Pant wins the 'Test Batting' award.
- ❖ He helped India to win the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2021.
- ❖ New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged 'Captain of the Year'.

Business Standard Banker

- ❖ Sandeep Bakhshi is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
- ❖ He is the managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.
- ❖ He was honored for turning around the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years.

Chairman of CBSE

- ❖ IAS Vineet Joshi has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- ❖ He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

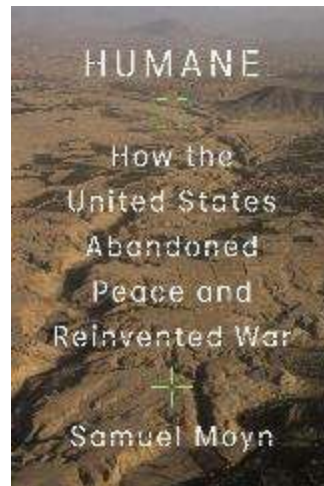


Bappi Lahiri

- ❖ Veteran singer and composer, Bappi Lahiri has passed away at the age of 69.
- ❖ He was lovingly called Bappi Da in the industry is known for delivering iconic songs.
- ❖ His real name was Alokesh Lahiri.
- ❖ His last Bollywood song was Bhankas for the 2020 film Baaghi 3.



Book by Samuel Moyn



- ❖ A new book titled “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War” authored by Samuel Moyn was released.
- ❖ Samuel Moyn is the Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School and a professor of History at Yale University.
- ❖ The book highlights the United States of America's strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.

Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021

- ❖ Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) has announced the IBA’s 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.
- ❖ In total, the South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event.
- ❖ This year’s IBA Awards celebrating “Next Gen Banking” has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.



The list of winners in different categories is given below:

Best Technology Bank of the Year
In Large Banks segment: Bank of Baroda
In Small Banks segment: The South Indian Bank
In Foreign Banks segment: Citibank N.A.
Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives
Large Banks: State Bank of India
Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Payments Initiatives
Public Banks: State Bank of India
Private Banks: ICICI Bank

Best Fintech Adoption
Large Banks: ICICI Bank
Medium Banks: Federal Bank
Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Karnataka Bank

- ❖ Karnataka Bank has bagged three awards at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards: 2020-21 Next-Gen Banking.
- ❖ It was instituted by Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- ❖ The bank has won awards for
 - Best Technology Bank of the Year,
 - Best Fintech Adoption and
 - Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics.
- ❖ It emerged second in all the above three categories.

Book by Ro Khanna

- ❖ A new book titled "Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us" authored by Ro Khanna was released recently.
- ❖ The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress.
- ❖ It also mentioned the digital divide as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.
- ❖ Ro Khanna is an Indian-American.



Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022



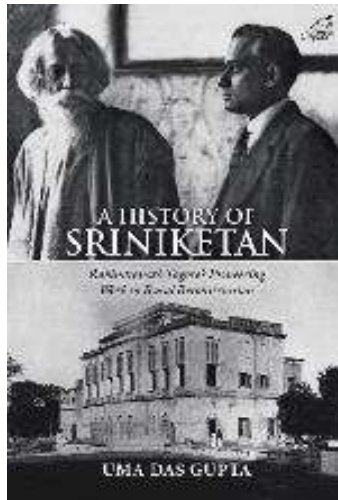
- ❖ This year Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 celebrated the opulence of Indian Cinema and also commemorated the 75 years of Independence or Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Awards

- Film of the Year Award - Pushpa: The Rise
- Best Film Award - Shershaah
- Best Actor Award - Ranveer Singh for film 83
- Best Actress Award - Kriti Sanon for film Mimi

Book by Uma Das Gupta

- ❖ The book titled “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” was released.
- ❖ It was authored by Uma Das Gupta.
- ❖ The book contains Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s work in ‘village reconstruction’ by setting up ‘Sriniketan’.
- ❖ It is a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922.
- ❖ It is situated in West Bengal.



India’s Most Trusted Public Sector Company award



Coal India Limited

A Maharatna Company

- ❖ Coal India Limited has been awarded the ‘India’s Most Trusted Public Sector Company’ award.
- ❖ Coal India received this honor at the “Energy Meet and Excellence Award” function in Kolkata.
- ❖ It was organized by Industry Chamber “ASSOCHAM”.

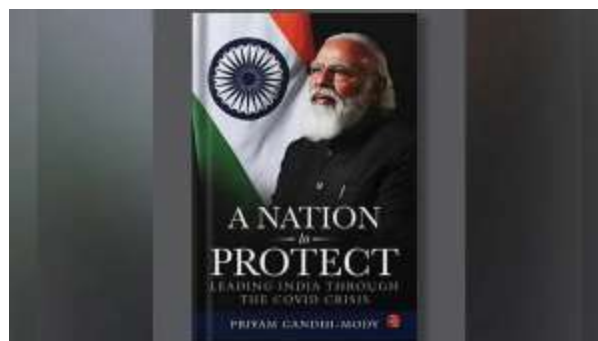
Shakuntala Choudhary

- ❖ Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, Shakuntala Choudhary has passed away.
- ❖ She was 102-year-old.
- ❖ She was popularly known as ‘Shakuntala Baideo’.
- ❖ She was felicitated with the Padma Shri award in 2022 by the Government of India.
- ❖ She hailed from Kamrup in Assam.
- ❖ She was known for her commitment and devotion to the popularization of the Gandhian way of life.
- ❖ She worked for the well-being of villagers, especially women and children.



Book by Priyam Gandhi Mody

- ❖ The book titled “A Nation To Protect” authored by Priyam Gandhi Mody was launched by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ❖ The book highlights the role of PM Narendra Modi during the Covid crisis in the past two years.
- ❖ The book documents the Centre’s leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.



Actress KPAC Lalitha

- ❖ Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, KPAC Lalitha has passed away at 74.
- ❖ She starred in over 550 films in Malayalam and Tamil.
- ❖ She was born as Maheswari Amma in Kayamkulam of Alappuzha.



Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians

- ❖ The Professor Neena Gupta has been conferred the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2021.
- ❖ Neena Gupta is a mathematician from Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.
- ❖ She conferred the award for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- ❖ The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians is a mathematics prize, that is awarded annually by the “International Centre for Theoretical Physics” in Italy.
- ❖ The prize was founded in 2004 and first awarded in 2005.



Book by Anirudh Suri

- ❖ Indian author, Anirudh Suri has come out with his new book titled “The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations.’
- ❖ It has been published by HarperCollins India.
- ❖ In this book, the author lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era.



Hemananda Biswal

- ❖ Odisha's first tribal chief minister as well as last Congress chief minister of the state, Hemananda Biswal recently passed away.
- ❖ He was 82.
- ❖ Biswal is a Bhuyan tribal from the Jharsuguda district.
- ❖ He served as the chief minister twice from 1989 to 1990 and 1999 to 2000.



SPORTS

Australian Open 2022

- ❖ Nadal won his second Australian Open, 13 years after his first in 2009.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal became the first man to win 21 Grand Slam titles.
- ❖ Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice.
- ❖ He is also the third-oldest man in the Open Era (since 1970) to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.



World Games Athlete of the Year award 2021

- ❖ Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh has won the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021.
- ❖ He is the second Indian after Rani Rampal to win this award.
- ❖ In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honor for her performances in 2019.



India's First Unicorn Sports Enterprise

- ❖ Chennai Super Kings (CSK), has become the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 crores.
- ❖ The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which won its fourth IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements.



2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament



- ❖ Indian teenager Unnati Hooda beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal to claim the women's singles title at the 2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament.
- ❖ The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the tournament.
- ❖ In men's singles, India's 21-year-old Kiran George beat Priyanshu Rajawat to emerge as the winner.

U19 World Cup 2022



- ❖ India defeated England by four wickets to clinch a record-extending fifth title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua, West Indies.
- ❖ India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018.
- ❖ Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand, and Prithvi Shaw.
- ❖ India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced as Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022 Final between India and England.

ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021

- ❖ New Zealand cricketer, Daryl Mitchell has been named the winner of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Spirit of Cricket Award 2021.
- ❖ He has become the 4th New Zealand player to win the award after Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum, and Kane Williamson.
- ❖ The ICC Spirit of Cricket Award is annually awarded by the ICC to recognize the player most notable for “upholding the ‘Spirit of the Game’”.



2028 Olympics



- ❖ The 2028 Olympics is to be held in Los Angeles.
- ❖ This is after the 2024 Olympics to be held in Paris.
- ❖ The 2022 Olympics was held in Tokyo.
- ❖ These are all the summer Olympics, the main Olympics.
- ❖ The one that is being held in China right now is Winter Olympics.
- ❖ 2028 Olympics includes surfing, climbing, and skateboarding.
- ❖ These are new sports.
- ❖ They were introduced in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

India's 1000th ODI match



- ❖ On February 6, 2022, India played its thousandth ODI match.
- ❖ The match was played against West Indies.
- ❖ Indian team played the match under the captainship of Rohit Sharma.
- ❖ And India won the match.
- ❖ The Indian Cricket team is the first in the world to complete 1000 ODI matches.

New sports at 2028 Olympics

- ❖ International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved a proposal to include Surfing, Skateboarding, and Sport Climbing for the 2028 Summer Olympics Games that will be organized in Los Angeles, United States.
- ❖ The 2028 Summer Olympics are officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, or Los Angeles 2028.
- ❖ The 2024 Summer Olympics Games will be organized in Paris, France.
- ❖ With this Paris becomes only the second city to host 3 Summer Olympic games.
- ❖ Surfing, Skateboarding, and Sport Climbing had made their Olympic debut in Tokyo Olympics 2021.



AFC Women`s Asian Cup India 2022



- ❖ China PR (People's Republic) defeated South Korea (Korea Republic) to win the AFC Women`s Asian Cup India 2022 final title.
- ❖ It took place at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women`s Asian Cup title won by China.
- ❖ China is now qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand.

Gujarat Titans

- ❖ Gujarat Titans is the official name of the new Ahmedabad franchise owned by CVC Capital.
- ❖ Hardik Pandya is all set to lead the franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022.
- ❖ The naming of the Ahmedabad franchise comes days after Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, announced its official name as Lucknow Super Giants.
- ❖ The Lucknow team will be led by KL Rahul.



Tata Open Tennis Maharashtra



- ❖ India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won their second ATP World Tour title together in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra at Pune
- ❖ They had beat Australia's Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith.
- ❖ Portugal's Joao Sousa won Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland.

Arif Khan

- ❖ Arif Khan, the Indian skier, is the first Indian to qualify for two events in the same Winter Olympic Games edition 2022.
- ❖ He led a small Indian contingent during the Winter Olympics 2022 opening ceremony in Beijing, China on February 4, 2022.

- ❖ He has qualified for the Slalom and Giant Slalom events.
- ❖ He is the only Indian competitor at the Beijing Winter Olympics.
- ❖ He was born in Kashmir.
- ❖ India officially announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022



2021 FIFA Club World Cup



- ❖ English club, Chelsea has defeated Brazilian club Palmeiras, to win the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final held at Abh Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time.
- ❖ Chelsea became the third English team to win the Club World Cup after Manchester United and Liverpool.

Senior National Volleyball Championship

- ❖ Haryana team defeated the Indian Railway 3-0, to win the Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22.

- ❖ In the women's category, the Kerala team defeated the Indian Railway 3-1, to lift the trophy.
- ❖ The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Sakibul Gani - Ranji Trophy

- ❖ India's Sakibul Gani became the first batter in world cricket to hit a triple century on his first-class debut.
- ❖ He made 341 in the Ranji Trophy tournament.
- ❖ He belongs to Bihar Team.



International Olympic Committee session 2023



- ❖ Mumbai, India will host the International Olympic Committee session in 2023.
- ❖ The IOC Session for 2023 will be held at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.
- ❖ The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi.
- ❖ In 2022, the IOC session was held in Beijing, China.
- ❖ Nita Ambani is the representative of India on this committee.

Beijing Winter Olympic Games



- ❖ The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, was held from 4 to 20 February 2022.
- ❖ The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 sports.
- ❖ The venues of the Games were distributed across three zones- Beijing, Yanqing, and Zhangjiakou.
- ❖ The Presidency of the Games was formally handed over to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy, to host the 2026 Winter Olympics.
- ❖ Norway has topped the medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of 37 medals.
- ❖ This is a new record for the most amount of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.
- ❖ Germany finished second.
- ❖ China finished third.
- ❖ The Indian team at the game was represented by one male alpine skier, Arif Khan.
- ❖ India could not win any medal at the games.

IOC Athletes' Commission



- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission re-elected ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland as its Chair.

- ❖ She will be the head of the Commission until the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- ❖ It has elected table tennis player Seung Min Ryu of the Republic of Korea as its First Vice-Chair.
- ❖ The commission also elected cyclist Sarah Walker of New Zealand as the second VC of the Commission.

Youngest ATP 500 winner

- ❖ The 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz has clinched the Rio Open tennis title after defeating Diego Schwartzman in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❖ He became the youngest ATP 500 champion since the category was created in 2009.



Victory of Praggnanandhaa

- ❖ India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa from Chennai has defeated the reigning world champion Norway's Magnus Carlsen.
- ❖ This win came in the eighth round of Airthings Masters chess tournament's preliminary stage being held online.



- ❖ The 16-year-old Praggnanandhaa is only the third Indian to have defeated Magnus Carlsen after Viswanathan Anand and Pentala Harikrishna.

- ❖ Magnus Carlsen is a five-time World Chess Champion and a Norwegian chess grandmaster.
- ❖ He has won the World Rapid Chess Championship three times and the World Blitz Chess Championship five times.

National Chess Championship



- ❖ In the 58th Senior National Chess Championship', the former champion Adhiban of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board was given the top billing.
- ❖ The tournament features a total of 184 players.
- ❖ This is the first time that 23 GMs and 30 IMs are taking part in a national championship.

Singapore Weightlifting International

- ❖ Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal in the 55kg weight category at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022.
- ❖ Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium.
- ❖ She was the 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Indian Coast Guard Raising Day – February 01

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on 01 Feb 2022.
- ❖ As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations in the Maritime Zones of India.
- ❖ The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977, by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Defence.



World Wetlands Day – February 2



- ❖ 2022 marks 51 years of the Convention on Wetlands.

- ❖ The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.

World Interfaith Harmony Week - February 1 to 7

- ❖ The World Interfaith Harmony Week was conceived to promote cultural peace and nonviolence.
- ❖ World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010.



International Day of Human Fraternity - February 04



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance; and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- ❖ The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021.
- ❖ The Day is a part of the 'World Interfaith Harmony Week', observed during the first week of February.

World Cancer Day - February 04

- ❖ It is observed every year globally by the Union for International Cancer Control.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Close the Care Gap".
- ❖ The day came into existence on February 4, 2000, during the World Cancer Conference for the New Millennium in Paris, France.



International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation - February 06

- ❖ This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- ❖ It was first introduced in 2003.
- ❖ This year's theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation.



International Safer Internet Day - February 08



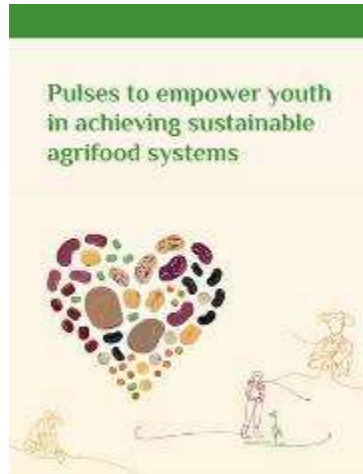
- ❖ It is an EU-wide initiative that is celebrated to promote a safer Internet for all users, mainly children, and young people.
- ❖ 2022 has been designated the European Year of the Youth.
- ❖ This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day.
- ❖ This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is "Together for a better internet".

Financial Literacy week 2022 - February 14 to 18



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has been conducting Financial Literacy Week every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
- ❖ The theme of Financial Literacy week 2022 is: "Go Digital, Go Secure".

World Pulses Day - February 10



- ❖ The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- ❖ This year World Pulses Day's theme is "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agri-food systems".

National Deworming Day - February 10



- ❖ The day was started as an initiative under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It aims to make every child between the ages of one and 19 years across the country free from intestinal worms.
- ❖ These intestinal worms are also referred to as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH).
- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are about 241 million children in India who are at risk of intestinal worms.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science - February 11



- ❖ It is the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, taking place this year.
- ❖ The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
- ❖ The 2022 theme of the Day is “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us”.

World Unani Day - February 11

- ❖ The day is observed every year to mark the birth anniversary of “Hakim Ajmal Khan”.
- ❖ He is an eminent Indian Unani physician.
- ❖ The first Unani Day was celebrated in 2017 at the Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad.
- ❖ The main objective is to spread the awareness in masses and action about healthcare delivery through the Unani system of medicine worldwide through its preventive and curative philosophy.

National Productivity Day - February 12

- ❖ The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- ❖ The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productive culture in India.
- ❖ The National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India is a premier institution for propagating productivity movement in India.

Darwin Day - February 12

- ❖ It is annually observed across the globe to commemorate the birth anniversary of the 19th-century British naturalist, Charles Darwin.
- ❖ He is well known for his work “The Theory of Natural Selection”.
- ❖ The day highlights the contributions of Charles Darwin and celebrates Science.
- ❖ It is to inspire people to follow their intellectual curiosities and to urge them to explore the truth through scientific means.



World Radio Day - February 13

- ❖ The day is observed to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- ❖ The day was Proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.

Indian National Women's Day - February 13

- ❖ This is to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ❖ This year Nation celebrates its 143rd Birth Anniversary.
- ❖ She was born on February 13, 1879.
- ❖ She was famous for her nickname ‘Nightingale of India’ or ‘Bharat Kokila’ because of her poems.
- ❖ Sarojini Naidu is well-known across the globe for her contributions to literature.



International Epilepsy Day 2022 - February 14

- ❖ International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on the Second Monday of February across the world.
- ❖ In 2022, International Epilepsy Day was observed on February 14.
- ❖ International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.

International Childhood Cancer Day - February 15

- ❖ The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors, and their families.
- ❖ This annual event was created in 2002.
- ❖ It was created by Childhood Cancer International, childhood cancer survivor associations, childhood cancer support groups, and cancer societies.

Soil Health Card Day - February 19

- ❖ Every year India observes the day to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.
- ❖ 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.



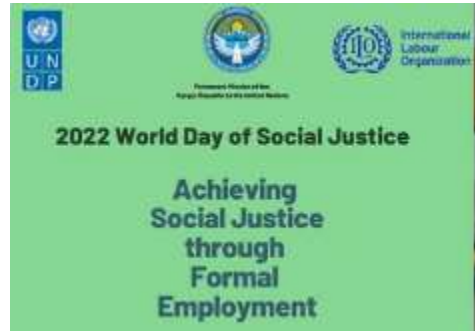
World Pangolin Day 2022 - February 19

- ❖ It is celebrated on the “Third Saturday of February” every year.
- ❖ In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on 19 February.
- ❖ It marks the 11th edition of the event.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts.
- ❖ Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.
- ❖ Pangolins are the only mammal to be covered in scales.



World Day of Social Justice - February 20

- ❖ The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008.
- ❖ Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".



Arunachal Pradesh Statehood Day - February 20



Mizoram And Arunachal Pradesh **Statehood Day - 20 February**

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987.
- ❖ Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
- ❖ It gained the Union Territory status on January 20, 1972, and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh.

Mizoram foundation day - February 20



- ❖ Mizoram was declared as a separate UT in 1972 under the Northeast Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.
- ❖ It became the 23rd state of India after the 53rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ Mizoram, as well as the state of Arunachal Pradesh, came into existence on 20 February 1987.

The International Mother Language Day - February 21



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- ❖ The 2022 theme is “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”.
- ❖ International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999.

- ❖ The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution of 2002.

World Scout Day - February 22

- ❖ It is the birth anniversary of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting.
- ❖ It is also his wife Olave Baden-Powell's birth anniversary.
- ❖ This day is also observed as World Thinking Day.



World Thinking Day - February 22

- ❖ It is celebrated by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide.
- ❖ The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding.
- ❖ The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future.



Central Excise Day - February 24

- ❖ The day is being celebrated to honor the service of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) to the country.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt act on 24 February 1944.

World NGO Day - February 27

- ❖ Non-Governmental Organizations or NGOs work in the upliftment of society.
- ❖ It is an international day to recognize, celebrate and honor non-government and non-profit organizations and also those who contribute their time and efforts in making society a better place to live in.

National Protein Day - February 27

- ❖ The day is celebrated to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include of this macronutrient in their diet.
- ❖ This year's theme of India Protein Day is 'Food Futurism'.
- ❖ The day was launched on February 27, 2020.

World Sustainable energy day - February 27

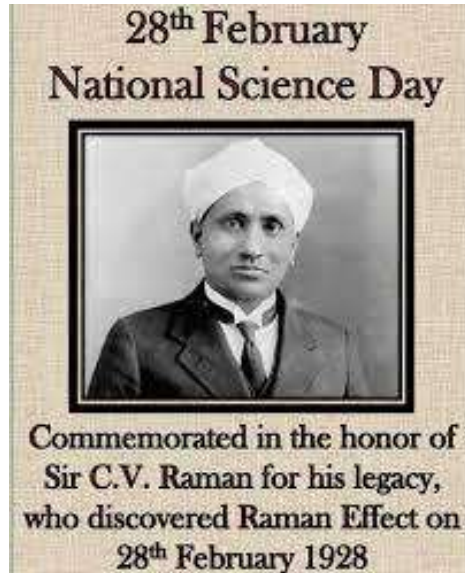
- ❖ The day hosts events centered on sustainable energy production and use, which covers energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings, industry, and transport.
- ❖ The theme of World Sustainable Energy is Energy transition - full speed ahead!



National Science Day - February 28

- ❖ On this day, Sir CV Raman had announced the discovery of the Raman Effect for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.

- ❖ The government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day in 1986.
- ❖ The theme of National Science Day 2022 is 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.



Rare Disease Day 2022 - February 28

- ❖ Rare Disease Day is an observance held on the last day of February.
- ❖ It is to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families.
- ❖ The European Organisation for Rare Diseases was established the day in 2008.

