

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2022

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IRS officer Nitin Gupta has been appointed as the new Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman.
- ❖ India International Centre's President is now former foreign secretary and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change Shyam Saran.
- ❖ Nasscom, an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group, claims that an integrated AI and data use plan could boost India's GDP by \$500 billion by 2025.
 - The Nasscom, in collaboration with EY and with backing from Microsoft, EXL, and Capgemini, has introduced an AI Adoption Index to track sectoral progress on AI adoption in the nation.
- ❖ The Iraqi official Mohammed Jalood was elected president of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
 - He is the first permanent president since Tamás Aján stepped down in 2020 after controlling the IWF for 44 years.
- ❖ India's Gurunaidu Sanapathi from Andhra Pradesh won Gold at International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Youth Weightlifting Championships held in Mexico.
 - He has become India's first weightlifter to win gold in this tournament.
- ❖ The four-day-long Ambubachi Mela has kickstarted at the famous Kamakhya temple atop the Nilachal Hills in Assam's Guwahati.
- ❖ South Korea sent its first satellite into orbit using a domestic Nuri rocket.
- ❖ The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor project.
 - The project aims to provide hassle-free and smooth access to the exhibition and convention centre being developed at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani has resigned from Reliance Jio.
 - His son Akash Ambani is announced as the Chairman of Reliance's telecom.
- ❖ The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on 28 June.
 - The Nicholas Barbon, an English economist, set up the first fire insurance company in 1666.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic of Serbia became the first player in the tennis history to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams.
- ❖ India gave the international community the reassurance that it will keep to its goal of protecting at least 30% of "our" lands, waters, and oceans by 2030



- ❖ The United Kingdom government has announced a partnership with leading businesses in India to offer 75 fully funded scholarships for Indian students to study in the UK from September, 2022.
- ❖ In the first Punjab budget, the Aam Aadmi Part govt announces 300 units of free electricity to every household every month from July, 2022.
- ❖ The Olympic gold medallist, Sydney McLaughlin of USA broke her own women's 400 metres hurdles world record at the U.S. championships in Eugene, Oregon, winning the final in 51.41 seconds.
- ❖ The Delhi-based leading Drone enterprise platform company IG Drones has been felicitated with the "Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category" by Airwards.
 - Airwards is the first panoptic global awards programme of its kind dedicated to identifying, recognising and championing the breadth of positive drone use cases from around the world.
- ❖ Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal in the 86 kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The daughter of Mukesh Ambani, Isha Ambani is set to be named chairman of the Reliance Retail Industries.
 - Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio are subsidiaries the Reliance Industries headed by Mukesh Ambani.
- ❖ The May month in India saw credit card spending reach an all-time high of \$1.14 trillion, indicating that the retail sector is doing well.
 - According to Reserve Bank of India data, the Credit card spending in India increased 118 percent annually.
- ❖ Yair Lapid has officially become the 14th Prime Minister of Israel after Naftali Bennett.
- ❖ Turkey has given the nod to NATO hopefuls Sweden and Finland after signing a trilateral memorandum that addressed Ankara's security concerns.
- ❖ The European Union approves a plan to end the sale of vehicles with combustion engines by 2035 in Europe, in a bid to reduce CO2 emissions.
- ❖ Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021.
- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided to permit foreign portfolio investors (FPI) to participate in the exchange-traded commodity derivatives market.
- ❖ The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised the "Suraksha Manthan 2022", on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at Jodhpur (Rajasthan).
- ❖ France and Costa Rica jointly bid to host the next UN Ocean Conference in 2025.



- ❖ Sini Shetty from Karnataka wins Femina Miss India 2022 tittle.
 - It was held at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Women and Child welfare representatives from six Indian States - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, were signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat trafficking in persons.
- ❖ Tunisia's Ons Jabeur is the First Arab Woman, also the North African Women, to Reach the Semi-Finals in a Grand Slam Single Tournament.
 - She reached this position in Wimbledon in 2022.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force Father and daughter pair, Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, and Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, made aviation history by flying in the same jet formation.
- ❖ R.Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been chosen as the Confederation of Indian Industry's President Designate for the years 2022–2023.
- ❖ Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant is set to become the country's Sherpa for the G20 months ahead of India assuming the presidency.
- ❖ India observed one day State Mourning on July 9th, throughout the country as a mark of respect for former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ The Indian boxer Alfiya Pathan and Gitika won gold medals in the Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has become the first captain in the history of cricket to win 13 successive T20 Internationals.
- ❖ Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh won the Gijon Chess Masters title at Gijon, Spain.
- ❖ The Senior bureaucrat R.K Gupta was appointed as the deputy election commissioner.
- ❖ In honour of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in Public Administration has been established.
- ❖ Ernakulam dairy plant is set to become nation's first fully solar powered plant.
- ❖ World Malala Day is observed on July 12 to honour the young woman Malala from Pakistan, who has been advocating for female education.
- ❖ Arjun Babuta of India won his first gold medal in shooting at the Changwon, South Korea in International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup event.
- ❖ The former CPM MLA from Piravom M.J. Jacob (82) has won two bronze medals in the 200-meter hurdles and 80-meter hurdles competitions at the World Masters Athletics Championship 2022 held at Tampere, Finland.



- ❖ Prime Minister unveils the centenary memorial pillar of the Bihar Assembly building to mark the conclusion of the one-year centennial celebration of the state legislature building.
- ❖ The Union home minister Amit Shah virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi has launched a book 'Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro' which celebrates 75 freedom fighters and shares the stories of the sacrifices made by them for the country
- ❖ The National Conference of State Agriculture & Horticulture Ministers was organised by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The Government has now launched the Open Acreage Licensing Programme Bid Round-VIII, offering 10 oil blocks, for International Competitive Bidding.
- ❖ Abhishek Verma, and Jyothi Surekha Vennam took home bronze at the World Archery Games 2022 in Birmingham, USA.
- ❖ The Western Railway opened longest skywalk (314m) from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus at Mumbai.
- ❖ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has appointed Spain's Alvaro Lario as new President for four-year term.
- ❖ Monty Norman, a British composer who wrote the theme tune for the James Bond films, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The first elevated urban expressway in India, Dwarka Expressway connecting Delhi to Haryana, will be operational in 2023.
- ❖ Union Minister and BJP MP Piyush Goyal was reappointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ South Korean rapper Psy's 'Gangnam Style' song became the first-ever video to cross one billion views of YouTube in 2012.
- ❖ A mobile-first credit card company-OneCard, raised \$100 million and became the 104th unicorn in India.
- ❖ India first underwater metro in Kolkata will be functional by the year 2023.
- ❖ Facebook owner Meta released its first annual human rights report.
- ❖ India has crossed the 200-Crore milestone in its cumulative COVID19 vaccination campaign.
- ❖ The nation's first 5G private network was successfully tested by Bharti Airtel at Bosch Automotive Electronics' plant in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open in Spain.



- ❖ Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa wins Paracin Open Chess title in Serbia.
- ❖ The Famous Ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh of Punjab passed away recently at Mumbai.
- ❖ Varanasi become the 1st “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative.
- ❖ Murali Sree Shankar from Kerala becomes first ever Indian to qualify for men's long jump final at the World Athletics Championships at USA.
- ❖ The Indian Bank has bagged the best performing bank award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under SHG Bank Linkage Programme category from NABARD.
- ❖ Rishabh Pant of India has created a new world record by becoming the first Asian-wicket keeper batsman to score a century in both ODI and Tests in England.
- ❖ INS Sindhudhvaj, acquired from Russia, was decommissioned from Navy after serving for 35 years at Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ L&T Technology Services has become the first tech company to express its interest in the government's direct allocation of spectrum for captive 5G networks.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the 296 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway in Uttar Pradesh recently.
- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran has taken over as the BCCI's ethics officer and ombudsman.
- ❖ Ashish Kumar Chauhan has appointed as the new managing director and CEO of National Stock Exchange.
- ❖ The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 for its overall performance.
- ❖ Filmmaker K.P. Kumaran has been chosen for the prestigious J.C. Daniel Award for 2021.
 - It is conferred by the Kerala government annually in recognition to an individual's contributions to Malayalam cinema.
- ❖ Elon Musk terminates the \$44 billion offer to buy Twitter after the company failed to provide enough information about the number of fake accounts.
- ❖ Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed its technical integration with the Income Tax department's e-filing portal.
 - This will allow the customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank to pay their direct taxes online through the e-pay tax page of the portal.
- ❖ EU gives Croatia final approval to adopt euro currency in 2023.



- Thus, Croatia will become the 20th country to join the eurozone on January 1, 2023.
- ❖ Each year National Mango Day is observed on July 22 to celebrate the fruit.
- ❖ Eldhose Paul becomes first Indian to qualify for triple jump final in World Athletics Championship 2022, held at USA.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra makes history by winning silver medal in the javelin throw for the first time ever at the World Athletics Championships 2022, held at USA.
 - He becomes first-ever Indian to win silver at World Athletics Championships.
- ❖ The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, will host an International Conference on Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials (CASM).
- ❖ Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first person from Bangladesh to climb the second-highest mountain peak K2.
- ❖ The first Khelo India Fencing Women's League will be hosted by Talkatora Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- ❖ NTPC has been recognized as one of the "Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022" in the premier edition, organized by Team Marksmen in association with India Today.
- ❖ Vodafone Idea has appointed Akshaya Moondra as its chief executive officer for a period of three years.
- ❖ Dinesh Gunawardena has been appointed as the new and 15th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, by President Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- ❖ AR Rahman unveils anthem 'Vanakkam Chennai' for 44th International Chess Olympiad.
- ❖ Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has launched "NIRMAN" Accelerator Programme.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council, inducted Mongolia, Switzerland, and Tajikistan as its new member countries at the ICC's 78th Annual General Meeting.
- ❖ The World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill as the chief economist and senior vice president for development economics.
 - Gill will be the second Indian, after Kaushik Basu, to become the chief economist of this international financial institution.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Rs. 1.64 lakh crore revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- ❖ TRAI has been testing the 5G network at four different sites – Bengaluru, Gujarat, New Delhi and Bhopal.



- ❖ India gave the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East USD 2.5 million.
- ❖ Wildfire near Yosemite National Park at USA burned out of control
 - It has grown into one of California's biggest blazes of the year.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Suraj Vashishth wins first-ever gold medal in the Greco-Roman U-17 World Championship in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ PV Sindhu and Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were on named the country's flagbearer for the opening ceremony of the upcoming Commonwealth Games held at Birmingham in England.

TAMIL NADU

Kalloori Kanavu

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Kalloori Kanavu (College Dreams) programme
- ❖ It was inaugurated under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' programme.
- ❖ It will offer higher-education guidance to students who have cleared Class 12
- ❖ The Naan Mudhalvan programme is a plan to further refine this and make Tamil Nadu the best in education.

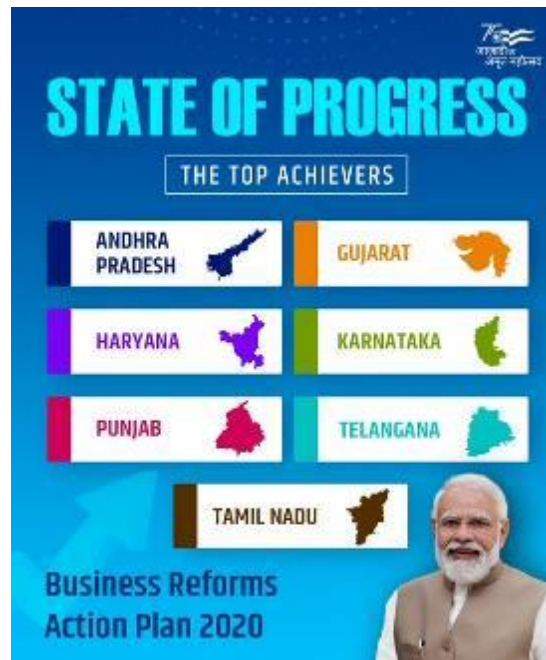
Project Suria

- ❖ The Singapore-based IGSS signs MoU with Tamilnadu to set up 300-acre semiconductor park in Tamil Nadu with an investment and grants of ₹25,600 crore.
- ❖ This hi-tech industrial park will come up near Chennai.
- ❖ IGSS Ventures will launch its semiconductor fab under the name 'Project Suria'.

Ease of Doing Business' Ranking

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

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



Solar manufacturing facility

- ❖ Tata Power signed a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs. 3000 crores in the construction of a new solar cell and module manufacturing facility in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ It aims to promote the switch to renewable energy and the creation of jobs in the state.

20 New colleges

- ❖ M K Stalin inaugurated 20 arts and science colleges, through video conference.
- ❖ Now all the 20 colleges will function in temporary buildings.
- ❖ After the buildings are constructed, the colleges will be shifted to permanent buildings.
- ❖ The announcement to establish 20 arts and science colleges in the State was made in the State Assembly by Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy.

- ❖ According to the announcement made in 2021-22, the State government had planned to establish 10 colleges.
- ❖ Later in the announcement made in 2022-23, the State government had planned to establish 10 more arts and sciences colleges.

India's first rocket engine factory

- ❖ Agnikul Cosmos has inaugurated India's first-ever factory to manufacture 3D-printed rocket engines in Chennai.
- ❖ It will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets.
- ❖ The manufacturing facility has a capacity to make two rocket engines per week and thereby one launch vehicle every month,
- ❖ It builds the number of engines required to launch Agnibaan.
- ❖ It is a customizable, 2-stage launch vehicle.
- ❖ It is capable of taking up to 100 kg payload to orbits around 700 km high (low Earth orbits)
- ❖ Also, it enables plug-and-play configuration.

TN colleges in NIRF ranking

4th year in a row, IIT-M best institution

Retains Position As Country's Top Engg College

Times News Network

New Delhi/Chennai: For the fourth year in a row, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has topped the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings in the overall category. It also retained its position as the country's best engineering institution, which it has held ever since the rankings began in 2016.

While Delhi's Miranda

HOW COLLEGES IN TN PERFORMED

| Name | NIRF 2021 | NIRF 2022 | 2 FROM CITY |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| ➤ IIT Madras | 1 | 1 | ➤ Presidency, Chennai Rank 3 |
| ➤ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham | 12 | 16 | ➤ Loyola, Chennai Rank 4 |
| ➤ Vellore Institute of Technology | 21 | 18 | ➤ PSGR Krishnammal College for Women Rank 6 |
| ➤ NIT Trichy | 23 | 21 | |
| ➤ Anna University | 25 | 22 | |
| ➤ Bharathiar University | 22 | 25 | |

House, IIT, Jawaharlal Nehru University, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) continued their good show, sought-after colleges such as St Stephen's, Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) and Lady Sri Ram (LSR) have dropped in the rankings. St Stephen's, for the first time, is not in the top 10.

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, topped in the university and research categories. Miranda House topped the list of arts and science colleges. Several government and private institutions in Tamil Nadu did well in the rankings. They include Anna University, which improved over its 2021 ranks in overall (22), engineering (17) and research (21) categories. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore (16), Vellore Institute of Technology (38), National Institute of Technology in Trichy (23), and Bharathiar University (24) made it to the top 25 engineering colleges this year.

➤ Dravidian model, P 6

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has been ranked the best higher education institution in the country in the overall category.
- ❖ As many as 38 institutions from the State feature among the top 200 institutions in the overall category.
- ❖ Presidency College reclaimed its position as the third best college.
- ❖ Loyola College is ranked fourth.



- ❖ The Madras Christian College is ranked 17.
- ❖ Four women's colleges — Queen Mary's (47), Ethiraj (65), Women's Christian (72) and Stella Maris (76) — are among the top 76 colleges.
- ❖ As many as 73 colleges in the State feature among the top 200 institutions in the country.
- ❖ Thirteen of the best engineering institutions in the country are in Chennai.
- ❖ The State is home to 11 best MBA programmes.

Smart City Fund utilization

- ❖ Tamil Nadu tops the list of states so far as utilisation of funds under the government's flagship Smart City Mission is concerned.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is in the second position.
- ❖ The Centre has released Rs 30,751.41 crore for 100 Smart Cities, out of which 90% has been utilised.
- ❖ The Central government launched the Smart Cities Mission on 25 June 2015.
- ❖ The Central government will provide financial support to the extent of Rs 48,000 crore over five years which is on an average Rs 100 crore per city per year.

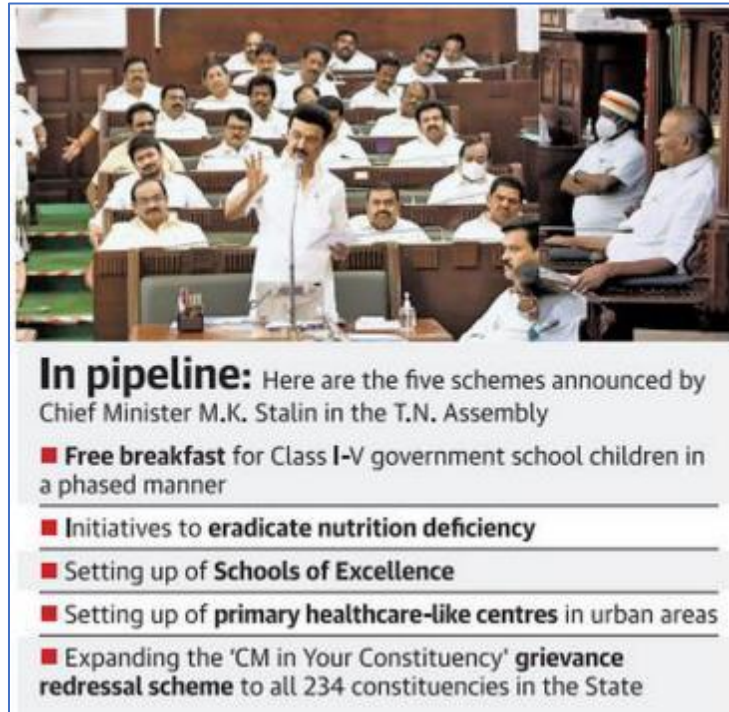
Chess Olympiad inauguration

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai.
- ❖ This is the first time the chess Olympiad is being held in India.
- ❖ It has the highest number of countries, number of teams, and number of female chess players participation.
- ❖ Originally this Olympiad was scheduled in Russia.
- ❖ But due to Russia- Ukraine conflict it was cancelled.
- ❖ Out of the 73 Indian grandmasters, 26 were from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Olympiad's veshti-clad mascot Thambi was a symbol of brotherhood.

Breakfast scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government on July 27 issued an Order to implement the first phase of the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme'.
- ❖ This is to be a "first-of-its-kind" in the country.
- ❖ Every student is to be provided a cooked meal of 150-500-gram breakfast with sambar with vegetables.

- ❖ This will be implemented at 1,545 government primary schools.
- ❖ It will benefit more than 1.14 lakh children in Classes I-V across the State during 2022-23.
- ❖ Total cost of the scheme for this year is ₹33.56 crore.



NATIONAL

Miss India Worldwide 2022

- ❖ Khushi Patel, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022.
- ❖ It is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India
- ❖ She is a biomedical student from the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Roshani Razack from Guyana was declared Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022.
- ❖ This year's pageant was held after a gap of three years with the last one being organised at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai in September 2019.



National Logistics Excellence Awards

- ❖ The First National Logistics Excellence Awards was hosted by Government of India in New Delhi.
- ❖ Union minister Piyush Goyal and minister of state for commerce and industry Som Parkash presented awards in 12 categories.
- ❖ It was instituted to provide due recognition to various players involved in logistics supply chain in India.

National Logistics Excellence Awards 2021 - List of Winners

- Best Cargo Airline & Terminal Operator – FedEx Express Transportation and Supply Chain Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Best Road Freight Service Provider – DHL Supply Chain India Pvt. Ltd.
- Best Rail Freight Service Provider – Adani Logistics Ltd.
- Best Shipping & NVOCC service Provider – Maersk India Pvt. Ltd.
- Best Port Service Provider – DP World
- Best Warehouse service provider – Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (Through TCI Supply Chain Solutions)
- Best Cold Chain/Refrigerated service provider - Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (Through TCI Supply Chain Solutions)
- Best Express Logistics Service Provider – Safe express Pvt. Ltd.
- Best Logistics infrastructure and service provider – Adani Logistics Ltd.
- Best Freight Forwarders – Kuehne + Nagel Pvt. Ltd.
- Best Customs House Agent/Customs broker – International Clearing & Shipping Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Industry Excellence Award – Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

One Nation, One Dialysis

- ❖ It will be launched by the Government under Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme under the National Health Mission.
- ❖ Under this Scheme, any patient in India can get a dialysis facility from anywhere in the country.
- ❖ With approximately 4,950 dialysis centres, largely in the private sector in India, the demand is less than half met with the existing infrastructure.

Pallonji Mistry

- ❖ Pallonji Mistry, Shapoorji Pallonji Group Chairman, passes away at 93 in Mumbai.
- ❖ Mistry's family controls the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, an Indian construction and real estate empire.
- ❖ It was established more than 150 years ago.
- ❖ And it employs more than 50,000 people in over 50 countries today.
- ❖ Some of the company's landmark projects include the Reserve Bank of India and the blue-and-gold Al Alam palace for the Sultan of Oman.
- ❖ Pallonji Mistry's son Cyrus Mistry was ousted as Tata Sons Chairman in 2016.

New Labour Codes in India

- ❖ A set of 4 New Labour codes in India will be introduced by the Central Government.
- ❖ They come into effect from July 1, 2022.
- ❖ The rules under the Four Labour Codes have been finalized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ The four broad rules of new labour code are on wages, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, health and working conditions.
- ❖ The regular working hours can become 12 hours in a day from 9 hours at present.
- ❖ The working days will have to be capped at 4 days a week with 3 mandatory offs.
- ❖ This means that the week's total working hours will remain unchanged at 48 hours.

 29 labour laws now amalgamated into 4 labour codes

 Wage security, social security & health security ensured for 50 crore workers

| Name of the Code | Number of amalgamated laws |
|---|----------------------------|
| Wage Code | 4 |
| Industrial Relation Code | 3 |
| Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code | 13 |
| Social Security Code | 9 |
| Total | 29 |

- ❖ The take-home salary of the employees will go down as the PF contributions of the employees and employers will increase.



- ❖ The Provident Fund contribution is required to be a proportion of 50 per cent of gross pay
- ❖ Earlier, the law required to have worked for a minimum of 240 working days in a year to ask for leave.
- ❖ It has now been reduced to 180 working days

Baal Swaraj Portal

- ❖ The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a “CiSS application” under the Baal Swaraj portal.
- ❖ It is to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS).
- ❖ It has been developed under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Bengaluru One Health Pilot Project

- ❖ The Ministry of dairying and animal husbandry launched ‘One Health’ pilot project in Bengaluru.
- ❖ It will be in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as implementation partners.
- ❖ It will bring stakeholders from human, animal, and environment health on single platform.
- ❖ It aims to formulate solutions for preventing outbreak of zoonotic disease like covid-19 pandemic in future.
- ❖ The department of animal husbandry & dairying is implementing the pilot projects in Uttarakhand, besides Karnataka.
- ❖ The department of animal husbandry and dairying would develop a national One Health roadmap.
- ❖ This will help in preventing future zoonotic disease outbreaks.

NITI Aayog on gig workforce

- ❖ NITI Aayog has recommended steps to provide social security for the country’s gig workforce.
- ❖ It is expected to grow to 2.35 crore by 2029-30.
- ❖ According to a study released by NITI Aayog, the number of gig workers is estimated to be 77 lakhs in 2020-21.
- ❖ The report broadly classified gig workers into Platform workers and non-platform gig workers.



- ❖ Platform workers are those whose work is based on online software applications or digital platforms.
- ❖ Non-platform gig workers are generally casual wage workers and own-account workers in the conventional sectors, working part-time or full-time.
- ❖ NITI Aayog recommended introducing a 'Platform India initiative' on the lines of the 'Startup India Initiative'.
- ❖ It proposed to provide incentives for companies having one-third of their workforce people with disabilities and women.

Uddhav Thackeray

- ❖ Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced his resignation from the Chief Minister post.
- ❖ He has also resigned from the Member of Legislative Council post.
- ❖ The announcement came right after the Supreme Court refused to order a stay on the floor test or majority proving test.
- ❖ The court has also allowed two jailed MLAs Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh to participate in the floor test.
- ❖ Since the two elected MLAs are in judicial custody in cases registered by Enforcement Directorate/CBI, both the agencies have been directed to escort them for the vote.
- ❖ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had earlier called for a special session of the Maharashtra State Assembly on June 30 to conduct trust vote against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

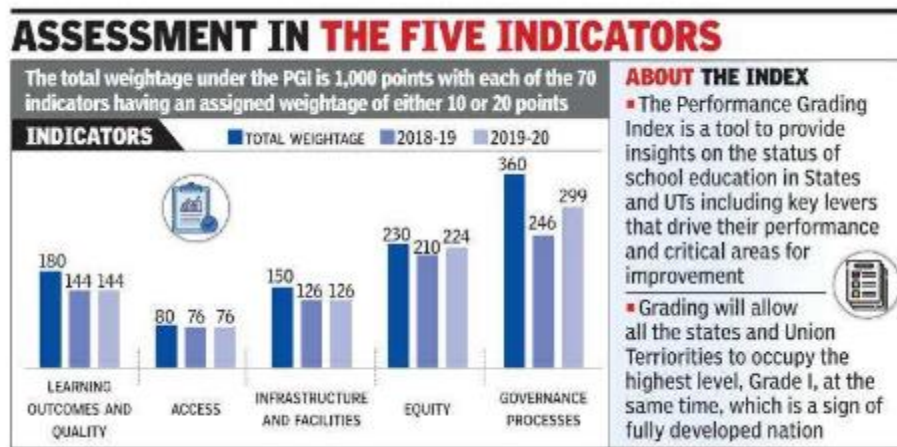
Attorney General of India

- ❖ KK Venugopal was appointed as the Attorney General of India in July 2017 in place of Mukul Rohatgi.
- ❖ Now, KK Venugopal's term was extended for 3 more months in 2022 June.

Performance Grading Index for Districts

- ❖ The Department of School Education and Literacy, under the Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index for Districts for the reference years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- ❖ As per the 2019-20 report, around 3 districts of Rajasthan have scored over 80 per cent in school education performance.

- ❖ These districts have achieved 'Utkarsh' grade (second highest grade).
- ❖ It assesses the performance of school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis.
- ❖ It comprises of total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators.
- ❖ These 83 indicators are grouped under 6 categories.
 - Outcomes
 - Effective Classroom Transaction
 - Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements
 - School Safety & Child Protection
 - Digital Learning
 - Governance Process



Uranium Mining – Rajasthan

- ❖ Rajasthan has entered the field of uranium mining in the country.
- ❖ The huge reserves of uranium have been found at Rohil in Khandela tehsil of Sikar district in Rajasthan.
- ❖ According to initial estimates, the reserves of about 12 million tonnes of uranium are likely to be in the region.
- ❖ Uranium is currently being excavated in the country in Jajagoda of Singhbhum in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The highest uranium production globally takes place in Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia.
- ❖ Uranium minerals have been found in Russia, Namibia, Uzbekistan, USA and Ukraine.

| Mines | States |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Coastal sands | Kerala |
| Doimasiat, Khasi hills | Meghalaya |
| Dilwara-Kirovali, Udaipur | Rajasthan |
| Rohil, Sikar | Rajasthan |
| Jadugoda, Turamdih, Narwapahar | Jharkhand |
| Tumallapalle | Andhra Pradesh |
| Lambapur pedagatu | Andhra Pradesh |
| Gogi | Karnataka |

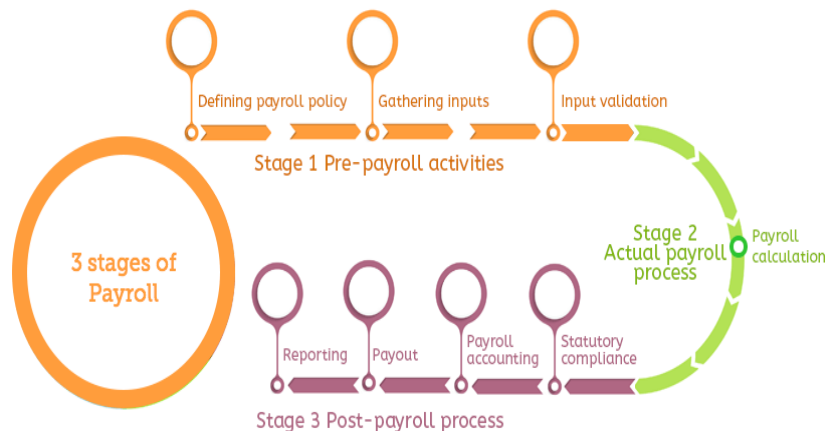
National Highways Excellence Awards 2021

- ❖ It was organised by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised under the theme “Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction”.

T-Hub

- ❖ Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the new facility of business incubator T-Hub, an innovation hub and ecosystem enabler, in Hyderabad.
- ❖ It has been constructed with total built-up area of more than 5.82 lakh square feet.
- ❖ It is considered the World’s largest innovation ecosystem.

PADMA





- ❖ The Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Rajnish Kumar, Ministry of Defence, inaugurated the “Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances” (PADMA).
- ❖ It is an automated Pay & Allowances module, launched for the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ This module has been developed under the Defense Accounts Department.
- ❖ The launch of PADMA is marked the start of Centralized Pay System (CPS).

Business Reform Action 2020

- ❖ It was presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ According to this, 7 states have been named as the top achievers.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu are the top achiever states.
- ❖ The survey also noted that the Achievers group includes Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The Aspirers category includes Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

New Chairperson of GAIL

- ❖ Sandeep Kumar Gupta of Indian Oil Corporation, has been picked to head India's largest gas utility Gas Authority of India Ltd or GAIL.
- ❖ He will replace Manoj Jain, who is scheduled to retire on August 31.
- ❖ The recommendation will be vetted by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ It will be done after the go-ahead of anti-corruption bodies such as the CVC and CBI.

GOAL Program

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



Forest (Conservation) Rules - 2022

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

Provisions

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

‘Harnessing Green Hydrogen’ Report

- ❖ The NITI Aayog published its report titled “Harnessing Green Hydrogen-Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India”.
- ❖ This report has been prepared in collaboration with Delhi-based think tank RMI India.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has recommended to reduce or exempt the GST & Custom duties on production of green hydrogen, in order to boost the production in India.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is hydrogen gas, which is produced through electrolysis of water.
- ❖ Electrolysis is an energy intensive process to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ As per this report, Hydrogen demand in India will grow over four-times by 2050, accounting for 10% of global hydrogen demand.
- ❖ In February 2022, Central government has notified the green hydrogen and green ammonia policy.
- ❖ This policy aims to increasing domestic production of green hydrogen to 5 million tonnes by 2030.

Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance scheme

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to scale up the implementation capacity and coverage of Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) in the states.
- ❖ Also, it impacts enhancement of existing MSME schemes.
- ❖ It will complement the Atma Nirbar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ He also inaugurated the
 - 'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' scheme and
 - New features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program' (PMEG).



Report on Take-Home Ration

- ❖ NITI Aayog recently launched a report titled 'Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories'.
- ❖ The World Food Programme also part of this survey.
- ❖ It presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain by the States and UTs.
- ❖ The Government of India provides Take Home Ration under the Supplementary Nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to fulfill the gap in nutrition among children as well as pregnant and lactating women (PLW).



Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- ❖ Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the categorization of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as an 'International Organization'.
- ❖ It also approved the signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges.
- ❖ It was done under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.
- ❖ This will provide CDRI an independent and international legal personality.
- ❖ So that it can efficiently and effectively carry out its functions internationally.
- ❖ CDRI was first proposed by Prime Minister during the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in New Delhi.

SBI Foundation Day

- ❖ The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, is celebrating its 67th year on 1st July.
- ❖ SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.
- ❖ The Bank of Madras merged into the bank of Calcutta and the bank of Bombay to form the Imperial Bank of India
- ❖ Later it became the SBI in 1955.
- ❖ The Bank of Madras was established on 2nd June 1806.
- ❖ The Bank of Bombay was incorporated on 15 April 1840.
- ❖ The Bank of Madras was incorporated on 1 July 1843.

Issue of Electoral Bonds

- ❖ The Union Government authorised the SBI for issue of and encashing Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches.
- ❖ The Electoral bonds are instruments through which anyone can donate money to political parties.
- ❖ Electoral Bonds are valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue.
- ❖ No payment is made to any payee Political Party, if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.
- ❖ The expired bonds values are deposited by the SBI into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
- ❖ The electoral bonds do not comprise of name of the donor.

- ❖ So, political party may not know about donor's identity.



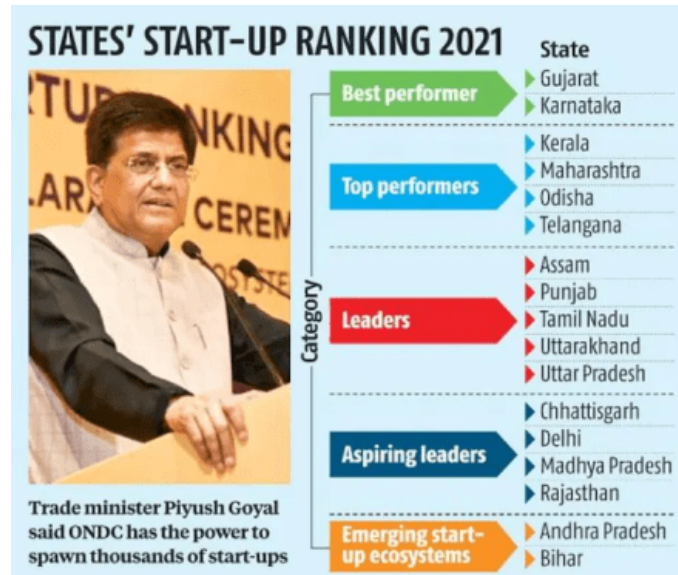
Fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave

- ❖ The Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC) at Mumbai.
- ❖ In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organised the fifth GFTC.
- ❖ It was organized with the subject “Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism.”

Start-up ranking 2021

- ❖ The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has announced the start-up rankings 2021.
- ❖ This study that included 24 states and 7 UTs in total, and ranked them in the categories of
 - Best performers
 - Top performers
 - Leaders
 - Aspiring leaders and
 - Developing start-ups
- ❖ Gujarat was recognised as having the best performance for the third time in a row.
- ❖ The top performing states included Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana.

- ❖ The leader's category includes Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Puducherry, and Nagaland are among the states and UTs that fall under the category of aspiring leaders.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Mizoram, and Ladakh are among the states in the category of developing start-up ecosystems.



National Air Quality Resource Framework (NARFI)

- ❖ The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has inaugurated the National Mission on National Air Quality Resource Framework of India.
- ❖ It has been developed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.
- ❖ It will enable knowledge creation, developing infrastructure and industrial structures and studying its effects on human health in the country.
- ❖ The NARFI will evolve around the following five modules:
 - Theme-1: Emission Inventory, Air Shed, and Mitigation
 - Theme-2: Impacts on Human Health and Agriculture
 - Theme-3: Integrated Monitoring, Forecasting and Advisory Framework
 - Theme-4: Outreach, Social Dimension, Transition Strategy and Policy
 - Theme-5: Solutions, Public-Industry Partnership, Stubble Burning & New Technologies.



Operation “NARCOS”

- ❖ The Railway Protection Force was launched an operation under code name of “NARCOS” in the month of June, 2022.
- ❖ It is a month-long pan India drive against smuggling of narcotics through rail.
- ❖ The RPF intensified its checks in trains and in identified black spots across the country.

Digital India Bhashini

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and IT conducted a brainstorming session with Researchers and Start-ups aimed to shape strategy for Digital India BHASHINI.
- ❖ BHASHINI stands for BHASHa INterface for India.
- ❖ It is India’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) led language translation platform.
- ❖ Bhashini Platform is a part of the National Language Translation Mission
- ❖ The mission aims to ensure that as more Indians connect to the internet, they are able to access global content in their own languages.

School for sustainable science and tech

- ❖ Greenko has joined hands with IIT-Hyderabad to set up an institution.
- ❖ The students will be educated towards sustainable goals like climate change mitigation, circular economy, energy transition among others.
- ❖ This institute is to be India’s first dedicated school for sustainable science and technology.

Ministerial Allocation

- ❖ Union Ministers Smriti Irani and Jyotiraditya Scindia have been assigned additional charges of Minority Affairs and Ministry of Steel respectively.
- ❖ The two Union Ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh resigned from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect.
- ❖ Post their resignations, the President of India Ram Nath Kovind, as advised by PM Modi, accepted the resignations.
- ❖ This is the first time two sitting ministers are out of both Houses of Parliament.

Nominated Members – Rajya Sabha

- ❖ The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has nominated four noted personalities from the southern states to the Rajya Sabha.



- ❖ Sports icon PT Usha, music maestro Ilaiyaraaja, spiritual leader Veerendra Heggade, and screenwriter KV Vijayendra Prasad were the four picks for the Rajya Sabha.

India's oldest Royal Bengal Tiger

- ❖ Raja, the oldest living tiger in the world in captivity died recently.
- ❖ It died at the South Khairbari rescue centre in Kolkata.
- ❖ Raja was 25 years and 10 months old.
- ❖ As against the normal life span of 18 years for tigers, Raja lived for 25 years.

Augmented reality screens

- ❖ The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai has become the first railway station in India to be equipped with augmented reality screens.
- ❖ Passengers at the station can now meet animals, witness snowfall, magic tricks and visit around the world virtually.
- ❖ It is aimed at generating revenue for the railways and offering commuters some fun and infotainment.
- ❖ Augmented reality (AR) is an enhanced version of the real physical world.
- ❖ It is achieved through the use of digital visual elements, sound, or other sensory stimuli delivered via technology.

Hariyali Mahotsav

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change organized “Hariyali Mahotsav” at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.
- ❖ Hariyali Mahotsav is the “Tree Festival”.
- ❖ It is being organized to create awareness about the importance of sustainable trees.

Animal Health Summit 2022

- ❖ India’s first ever “Animal Health Summit 2022” was organised in New Delhi.
- ❖ This summit was organised by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) in collaboration with the Agriculture Today Group.
- ❖ It is a two-day event and hosted many panel discussions on topics including
 - Animal Health policy initiatives
 - Business environment in Animal Health Sector
 - Investment opportunities in Animal Health sector.

Monument of National Importance

- ❖ The National Monuments Authority called for the Mangarh hilltop in Rajasthan to be designated as a national monument.
- ❖ The hillock is situated at the Gujarat-Rajasthan border.
- ❖ It is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913.
- ❖ The place is also known as the Adivasi Jallianwala, and there has been a demand to build a memorial.
- ❖ The National ancient Monuments are defined under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- ❖ The Central Government is authorised to maintain, protect and promote the monuments.
- ❖ Bhils are commonly referred to as Rajasthan's bowmen.
- ❖ They are South Asia's largest tribe.



Cloudburst at Amarnath shrine

- ❖ On July 8, 2022, a cloudburst took place near Amarnath shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ If there is a rainfall of 100 mm in one hour, then it is called as cloudburst.
- ❖ That particular day forecast for this area was on “yellow alert”.

Jute Mark India Logo

- ❖ The Central government launched “Jute Mark India logo”.
- ❖ It will act as “certification of authenticity” for jute products.
- ❖ It will help in strengthening domestic market and exports of jute products from India.

- ❖ Jute Mark label will be attached with the jute products.
- ❖ It will contain a unique QR code.
- ❖ Customers can get to know about producers by scanning the QR code.



Akshaya Patra Midday Meal Kitchen

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Akshaya Patra midday meal kitchen in Varanasi.
- ❖ The Akshaya Patra Foundation runs one of the world's largest school feeding programmes in collaboration with the government's Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme.
- ❖ The kitchen will feed over one lakh children in a bid to ensure that they don't miss out on education due to poverty.

Guidelines for Mission Vatsalya



- ❖ The central government issued guidelines to states about the Mission Vatsalya child protection scheme.

- ❖ States cannot change the original name of the scheme in order to gain access to funding granted by the central government.
- ❖ It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations.
- ❖ The Fund-sharing pattern is in a 60:40 ratio.
- ❖ For the eight Northeast states & Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir share will be 90:10.

Child health in India

- ❖ It was released in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report.
- ❖ The number of undernourished people in India has declined in the last 15 years to 224.3 million in 2019-2021.
- ❖ The number of children under 5 years of age who are stunted declined to 36.1 million in 2020 from 52.3 million in 2012.
- ❖ The number of children under five years of age who are overweight declined to 2.2 million in 2020 from three million in 2012.
- ❖ The number of children up to 5 months of age exclusively breastfed touched 14 million in 2020 from 11.2 million in 2012.
- ❖ The number of obese adults in India, which has a population of over 1.38 billion, grew to 34.3 million in 2016 from 25.2 million in 2012.
- ❖ The number of women aged 15 to 49 years affected by anaemia also grew to 187.3 million in 2019 from 171.5 million in 2012.

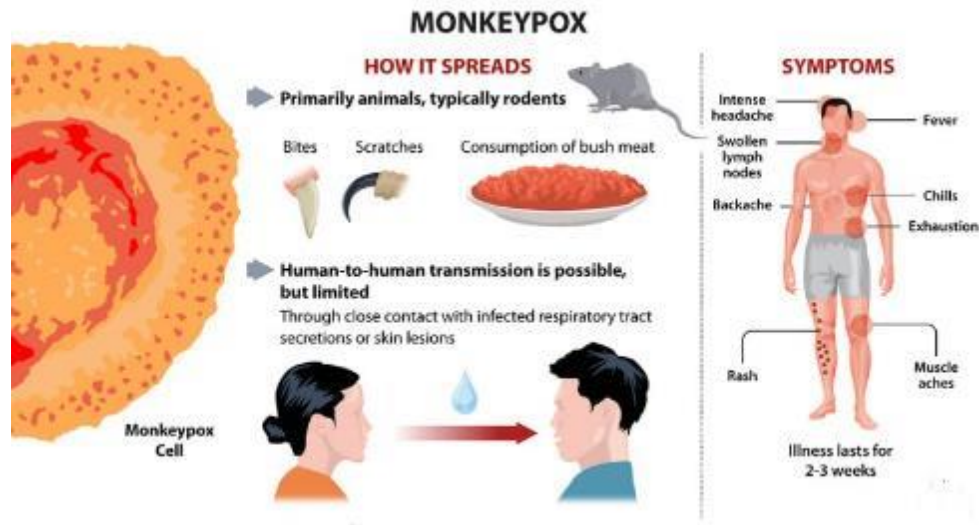


Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education

- ❖ PM inaugurated the “Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samaham” in Varanasi.
- ❖ The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samaham was held by Union Ministry of Education.

- ❖ During this 3-day conclave, “Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education” was adopted.

First Monkeypox Case



- ❖ India confirmed its first monkeypox case in Kerala.
- ❖ A majority of these cases have been reported from the European region (86 per cent) and the Americas (11 per cent).
- ❖ Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals).
- ❖ Its symptoms are similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients.
- ❖ With the eradication of smallpox in 1980 and the subsequent cessation of smallpox vaccination, monkeypox has emerged as the most important orthopoxvirus for public health.

Natural Farming Conclave

- ❖ The Natural Farming Conclave was organised in Surat, Gujarat.
- ❖ PM has asked at least 75 farmers from each village to switch to natural farming.
- ❖ Thus, under an initiative in Surat, 75 farmers were identified in every village panchayat and were trained to do natural farming.
- ❖ A Training was given in 90 different clusters.
- ❖ A total of 41000 farmers were trained across the district.
- ❖ Now, PM urged to adopt this “Surat Model of Natural farming” across India.

SVANidhi Mahotsav

- ❖ On the occasion of second anniversary of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the 'SVANidhi Mahotsav' was launched.
- ❖ The festival will be organized in 75 cities across all states and Union Territories, and showcase various cultural activities, digital training activities and loan melas.
- ❖ It will also have functions for felicitation of distinguished Street vendors.

6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals

- ❖ The 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ The highlights of the conclave were
 - The launch of three modules of the Mining Tenement System (MTS).
 - Awards for 5-Star rated mines for the years 2020–21, and
 - The National Geo Science Awards–2019.

Global Gender Gap Index

- ❖ World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022 was released recently.
- ❖ It ranks India 135 out of 146 countries.
- ❖ India ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- ❖ Only the performance of Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) was worse than India in South Asia.



- ❖ This report says that it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity.
- ❖ In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- ❖ India is the worst performer in the world in the “health and survival” sub-index in which it is ranked 146.
- ❖ Iceland is ranked 1 and Bangladesh is ranked 9 in Political Empowerment.
- ❖ India ranks 107th out of 146 in Educational Attainment.
- ❖ And its score has marginally worsened since last year.
- ❖ In 2021, India was ranked 114 out of 156.

Dragon Fruit Cultivation

- ❖ The Centre has decided to promote the cultivation of dragon fruit, known as a “super fruit” for its health benefits.
- ❖ The Gujarat Government recently renamed dragon fruit as kamlam (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.
- ❖ The Haryana Government also provides a grant for farmers who are ready to plant this exotic fruit variety.
- ❖ The fruit is usually grown in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Israel, and Vietnam.
- ❖ But is now slowly gaining traction in India.

Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road Rail line



- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of 116.65-km long Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road rail line.
- ❖ It will link two states and three religious places.

- ❖ The railway line will provide easy travel to Ambaji.
- ❖ The Taranga Hill have Ajitnath Jain Temple (one of the 24 Tirthankaras).
- ❖ It will pass through Sirohi district in Rajasthan and Sabarkantha, Mahesana & Banaskantha, districts in Gujarat.
- ❖ It will act as an alternative route to existing Ahmedabad-Abu Road railway line.

Agri Export Hub in North-East

- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development and Authority formulated a Strategy for the “promotion of Export of Agricultural and Horticulture products” from North-Eastern states of India.
- ❖ It has launched a platform in Assam, which will help the exporters to get products from producer group and processors, directly.
- ❖ This platform will be linked among the producers & processors of Assam and exporters from across India.
- ❖ This move will expand the base of export pockets in NE states.



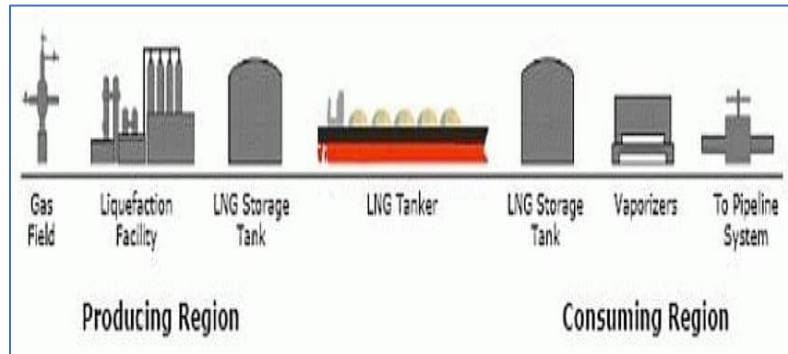
Longest double-decker bridge

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India and Maharashtra Metro achieved the world record for constructing the longest double-decker bridge.
- ❖ It has a length of 3.14 km in Nagpur.
- ❖ The maximum metro stations constructed on a double-decker flyover are recognized by the Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records.

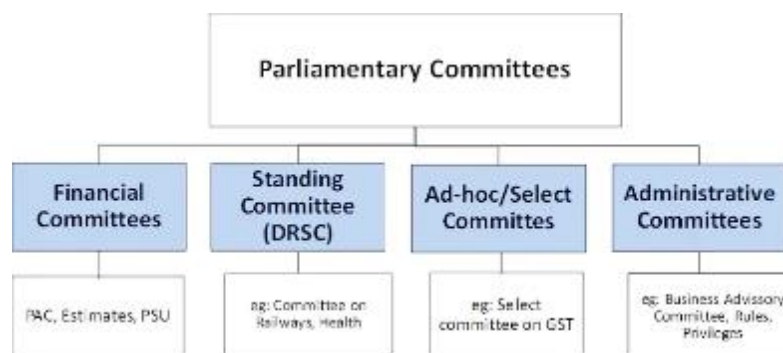
First floating LNG terminal

- ❖ India's First floating terminal of India for liquefied natural gas (LNG) is to be operationalised at Jaigarh in Maharashtra.

- ❖ Another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat will also begin operations in this year.
- ❖ Both are expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum of regasification capacity.



Tenure of House committees



- ❖ A first ever comprehensive study of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, a panel, has presented its recommendations to the chairman.
- ❖ This panel is headed by former General Secretary and adviser P.P.K. Ramacharyulu and made recommendation.
- ❖ Parliamentary committees are appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
- ❖ They work under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman.

Recommendations

- ❖ Increase in tenure of Parliamentary Standing Committees from 1 year to 2 years to ensure stability and continuity.
- ❖ Field visits should also be increased from the present two visits for a maximum of 10 days in a year to three visits and 15 days.
- ❖ Merging existing committees on Industry and Commerce into one.
- ❖ Setting up a new committee on tourism and culture.

- ❖ Examine the issue of enabling virtual meetings of Departmental related Standing Committees, given the technological advances and legislatures in other countries.

BBBP extension

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development extended Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme to all Districts.
- ❖ The ministry now targeted improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth by 2 points every year.
- ❖ It aims improvement in the percentage of institutional deliveries at 95% or above.
- ❖ It also aims for increasing girls' participation in sports by identifying talent and linking them with appropriate authorities under 'Khelo India'.
- ❖ It aims at strengthen One-Stop Centres, set up to help women facing violence, including domestic violence and trafficking.
- ❖ BBBP was launched in January 2015.
- ❖ It aims to address sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- ❖ The programme is being implemented across 405 districts in the country.

| IN THE WORKS | |
|---|---|
| ■ Additional 300 One-Stop Centres to be set up; existing centres to be upgraded | Trafficking Units, where a group of victims, ready for reintegration, can live and work out of |
| ■ Govt to introduce free day-care crèche facilities through Palna | ■ Hubs for empowerment of women to be set up at Central, states and districts levels to merge and monitor schemes |
| ■ Half-Way Homes to be set up under Anti- | |

Nari Adalat

- ❖ The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry introduced a new component called 'Nari Adalat'.
- ❖ It aims to providing women with an alternate grievance redress mechanism to resolve cases of petty nature at gram panchayat-level.
- ❖ It redresses harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements cases.
- ❖ It will be implemented in a phased manner.

Survey on proportion of unmarried persons

- ❖ The Social Statistic Division of National Statistical Office released a report on proportion of Unmarried person in India.
- ❖ The percentage share of unmarried young people is increasing.
- ❖ This number is commonly increasing among men and women.
- ❖ Percentage of 15–29-year age of youth who are never married witnessed an increase among male population by 26.1 percent in 2019.
- ❖ It was 20.8 percent in 2011.
- ❖ In 2019, highest percentage of youth share who never married was witnessed across Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ It was followed by Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Punjab.
- ❖ Lowest percentage share was witnessed across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

NIRF Rankings 2022

- ❖ The Ministry of Education has released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings for this year.
- ❖ Jamia Hamdard of New Delhi has once again taken the top rank in the pharmacy category.
- ❖ It is followed by National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad at second place.



Ministry of Education
Government of India

INDIA RANKINGS 2022

National Institutional Ranking Framework



Overall

| | |
|--|----|
| Indian Institute of Technology Madras | 1 |
| Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru | 2 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Bombay | 3 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Delhi | 4 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur | 5 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur | 6 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee | 7 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati | 8 |
| All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi | 9 |
| Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi | 10 |

- ❖ IIT Madras was declared the best university in the overall category this year.
- ❖ It is followed by Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru at a second.



- ❖ With the above list IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur as the top five institutes in the overall category.
- ❖ This year, IITs dominated the list as IIT Kharagpur, IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati have followed IIT Kanpur to complete the top 8 ranks.
- ❖ AIIMS-Delhi has secured the ninth rank and JNU is ranked tenth.

Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022

- ❖ Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022 is being held from July 16, 2022 to August 14, 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❖ This year is making the 22nd edition of the Bharat Rang Mahotsav.
- ❖ It aims to showcase incidents and raise awareness about unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle who have not made to India's history.
- ❖ The National School of Drama (NSD) started the Bharat Rang Mahotsav two decade ago.
- ❖ The NSD was established in 1959 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units.
- ❖ In 1975, it became as an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture.

SPRINT Challenges

- ❖ The "SPRINT Challenges" were launched for Indian Navy.
- ❖ The seminar was organised by Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation.
- ❖ It aims to increase the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy.

Religious, and linguistic Minority status

- ❖ The Supreme Court stated that "The minority status of religious and linguistic communities is "State-dependent".
- ❖ One can be a minority outside of his/her State.
- ❖ Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jain and Parsis have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- ❖ As per the Census 2011, the percentage of minorities in the country is about 19.3% of the total population of the country.
- ❖ The Parliament has the legislative powers and the Centre has the executive competence to notify a community as a minority.

First E-Waste Eco Park

- ❖ 21 acres would be used to create India's first e-waste eco-park in Holambi Kalan, Delhi.
- ❖ Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) will be the project's implementing agency.

Made In India' surgical robotic



- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre of New Delhi have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System.
- ❖ The device named "SSI-Mantra".
- ❖ It is a brainchild of World-renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr Sudhir P Srivastava.

Jagriti mascot

- ❖ Jagriti Mascot was launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- ❖ It aims to empower consumers and generate awareness on their rights.
- ❖ It will help in empowering consumers and generating awareness among them about "consumer rights".
- ❖ It would be displayed along with tagline "Jago Grahak Jago" across all the media campaigns.
- ❖ Consumer right is defined as the "right to have information regarding quality, quantity, potency, price, purity, and standard of goods or services".

Mountain warfare training facility

- ❖ The Indo Tibetan Border Police has established its first mountain warfare training facility in northeast at Sikkim.
- ❖ It is the first mountain warfare training facility in northeast India and its second overall.
- ❖ The first institution of its kind is the Mountaineering and Skiing Institute (M&SI), was opened in Auli, near Joshimath of Uttarakhand in 1973–74.
- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is tasked with securing the Line of Actual Control with China.

India Innovation Index 2021

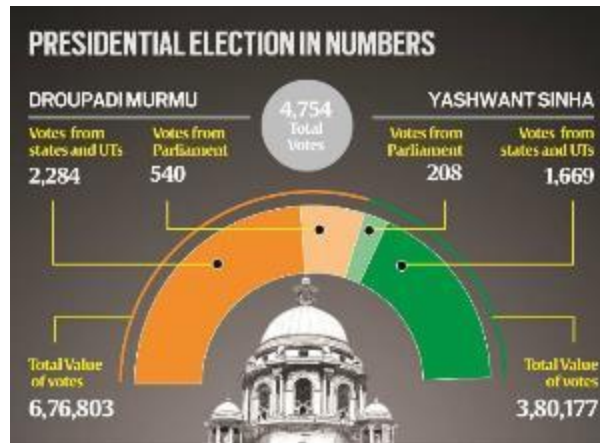
- ❖ Third edition of India Innovation Index was released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance.
- ❖ Karnataka, Manipur and Chandigarh topped in the index.
- ❖ Manipur topped in the 'North East and Hill States' category.
- ❖ Chandigarh was the top performer in the 'Union Territories and City States' category.

| Rank | States |
|------|-------------|
| 1 | Karnataka |
| 2 | Telangana |
| 3 | Haryana |
| 4 | Maharashtra |
| 5 | Tamil Nadu |

List of Unparliamentary Words

- ❖ Lok Sabha Secretariat released a list of “unparliamentary words” recently.
- ❖ Some of the unparliamentary words include ‘Jumla jeevi, Covid spreader, Snoop gate, Baal buddhi’.
- ❖ It also includes expressions like “ashamed, betrayed, hypocrisy. Abuse, drama, and incompetent”.
- ❖ This list has been released in 1954, 1986, 1992, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2010 in the past.
- ❖ In year 2010, it was started releasing on yearly basis.

15th President of India



- ❖ Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India.
- ❖ Murmu becomes India's first woman tribal (Santhal) president.
- ❖ She also becomes the second woman to hold the post after Pratibha Patil.
- ❖ Murmu is the second person belonging to a scheduled tribe, to be nominated as a candidate for the post of President of India.
- ❖ She is the first tribal woman governor of India.
- ❖ She served as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.

51% completion of Jal Jeevan Mission

- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission hit 51% completion of the project.
- ❖ It aims to supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections by 2024.
- ❖ It has enabled reach to more than 34% now in less than 3 years from 17%.
- ❖ Around 1.4 million soak beds have been constructed in schools and Anganwadis to use recycled water in tap connections.
- ❖ Haryana, Telangana and Goa, the three states have declared that they have completed the project.

Committee on MSP

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted a committee on "Minimum Support Price (MSP)".
- ❖ It aims to make it more effective and transparent.
- ❖ The committee will be headed by Sanjay Agarwal.

- ❖ This committee will make suggestions to provide greater autonomy to “Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices”.
- ❖ Other members of the committee
 - Ramesh Chand- Member of NITI Aayog
 - Sukhpal Singh - Professor of IIM Ahmedabad,
 - Dilip Sanghani - Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative,
 - Secretary of Food and Consumer Affairs
 - Secretary of Cooperation and Textiles
 - Secretary of Department of Agriculture
 - Secretary of Department of Indian Council of Agricultural Research
 - Representatives from the state governments of Karnataka, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all docks being operated on the PPP model.
- ❖ The PPP model of investment in Indian ports has made remarkable progress in the last 25 years.
- ❖ As per Lloyds List Top 100 Ports 2021 Report, it is one of the leading container ports in the country.
- ❖ And it is ranked 26th among the top 100 global ports.

| Western Coast | Eastern Coast |
|--|---|
| 1. Kandla | 2. Kolkata (Riverine) Known for twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System (KDS) on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) on the western bank of river Hooghly. |
| 3. Mumbai (Busiest and Biggest in India) | 4. Paradip |
| 5. Jawaharlal Nehru/ Nhava Seva | 6. Vishakhapatnam (oldest shipyard and natural harbour) |
| 7. Marmugao (Natural Harbour) | 8. Chennai (oldest and artificial harbour) |
| 9. Mangalore | 10. Ennore |
| 11. Cochin | 12. Tuticorin (artificial deep sea harbour) |

National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions

- ❖ The Union government unveiled the “National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)”.
- ❖ India has become the world’s first country to launch a unique model for creating a national level standard for civil service training institutions.



- ❖ It aims to raising their quality and capacity.
- ❖ Capacity Building Commission was created as a part of Mission Karmayogi for civil servants.
- ❖ The Mission Karmayogi is a “National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building”.

Basic Road Statistics in India 2018-19

- ❖ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways released its annual publication “The Basic Road Statistics of India 2018-19”.
- ❖ India has a network of more than 63,31,757 kilometres of roads, as on March 2019.
- ❖ This is second highest worldwide.
- ❖ Road transport dominated the transport sector in India.
- ❖ It contributed 3.06% to GVA as compared to total transport sector contribution of 4.58% for 2019-20.
- ❖ Share of Railways stands at 0.74%.
- ❖ Air Transport Share is 0.125 and Water Transport stood at 0.08%.
- ❖ National Highways accounts for 2.09 % of total road network in India.
- ❖ Maharashtra with 13.4% of highways network stands at top position.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh with 8.9% highways network and Rajasthan with 7.8 % of highways network.
- ❖ State Highways accounts for 2.8 percent of total road network in India.
- ❖ Maharashtra (17.83%) has largest State Highways network.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Together, these 5 states accounted for 53.9% of total State Highways network in India.

NAMASTE Scheme

- ❖ The Government has formulated NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tank.
- ❖ NAMASTE stands for National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem.
- ❖ The Objectives of the schemes are
 - Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India
 - No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter



- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods
- ❖ It is a joint venture of
 - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation,
 - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and
 - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan

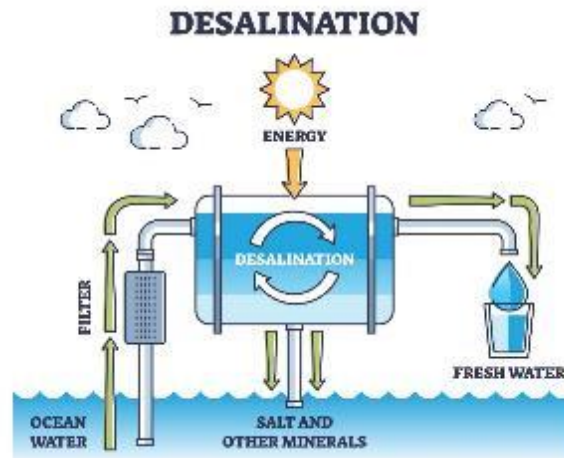
- ❖ Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan is a movement launched by the central government under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ❖ It aims to encourage people to bring the hoist the Tiranga to mark the 75th year of India's independence.

Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011

- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs vides the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), (Second Amendment) Rules 2022.
- ❖ It has allowed electronic products to declare certain mandatory declarations through the QR Code for a period of one year, if not declared in the package itself.
- ❖ This amendment will allow the industry to declare the elaborated information in digital form through the QR Code.
- ❖ Earlier, all the pre-packaged commodities including the electronic products were required to declare all the mandatory declarations as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2011 on the package.

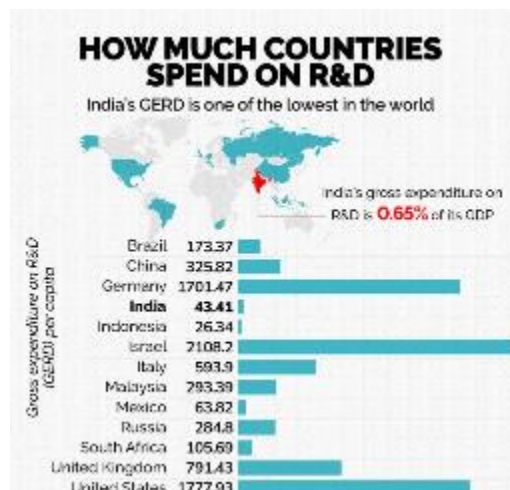
Low Temperature Thermal Desalination

- ❖ A Desalination Plant has been developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology of Chennai.
- ❖ It will convert the saline or saltish seawater into drinking water.
- ❖ This technology has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.
- ❖ The Desalination Plant is based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology
- ❖ Three Plants have been installed and demonstrated at Kavaratti, Agati and Minicoy Islands of Lakshadweep.



Study on India's R&D expenditures

- ❖ India Innovation Index was recently released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It is providing ranks to states and union territories based on their innovation performance.
- ❖ As per NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021, gross expenditure on research and development in India is lowest in the world.
- ❖ India spends USD 43 per capita on R&D.
- ❖ Russia spends USD 285 per-capita, Brazil spends USD 173, while Malaysia spends USD 293.
- ❖ India's expenditure is lower as compared to Brazil (1.16%) and South Africa (0.83%).
- ❖ Only Mexico (0.31%) had a lower share of GERD as percentage of GDP, than India.



Oath - Draupadi Murmu

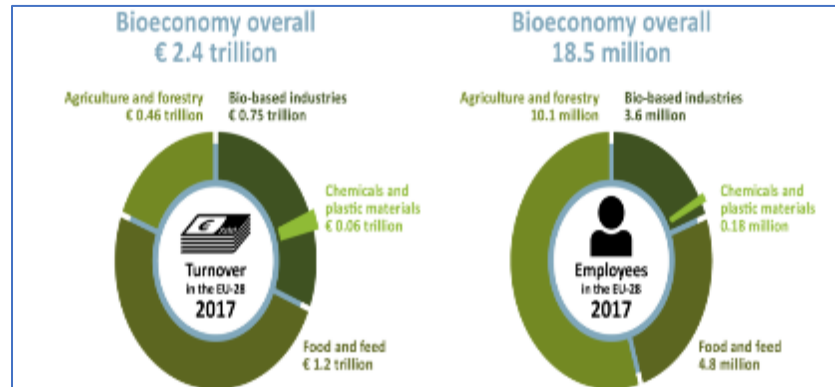
- ❖ Draupadi Murmu was sworn in as India's 15th President at the Central Hall of Parliament in Delhi.
- ❖ She was sworn in by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana.
- ❖ She was given a 21-gun salute after which she signed the oath register.
- ❖ The new commander-in-chief of the armed forces inspected a tri-services guard of honour in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ She created history by being the first tribal President and the second woman to occupy the country's highest constitutional post.
- ❖ She is India's youngest President at 64 and the first to be born after Independence.
- ❖ She was born to a Santali family on June 20, 1958, in Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
- ❖ Her name given by her family was Puti Tudu.
- ❖ She was renamed by her school teacher to Draupadi.
- ❖ Murmu was sworn in as the Governor of Jharkhand in 2015.
- ❖ Thus, she became the first woman governor to that state.
- ❖ She was the first female tribal leader from Odisha to be appointed as a Governor of the Indian State.



Indian Bioeconomy Report 2022

- ❖ The Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) recently released its "India Bioeconomy Report 2022".
- ❖ India's bioeconomy is expected to reach USD 150 billion by 2025 and more than USD 300 billion by 2030.
- ❖ In 2021, India's bioeconomy has touched USD 80 billion, accounting for a growth of 14.1 per cent growth.

- ❖ It was 70.2 billion USD in 2020.
- ❖ Three biotech start-ups were set up every day, on an average, in 2021.
- ❖ Thus, 1128 biotech start-ups were set up in 2021.



The Flag Code of India

- ❖ The Flag Code of India is a set of laws and conventions concerning the use, display, and hoisting of the Indian national flag in the country.
- ❖ It was brought into effect on January 26, 2002.
- ❖ On July 20, 2022, the Centre amended the Flag Code of India.
- ❖ This is allowing the national flag to be flown both in the day and at night if it is displayed in the open or on the house of a member of the public.
- ❖ Earlier, the tricolour could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset.
- ❖ In an earlier amendment dated December 30, 2021, the government had allowed the use of machine-made and polyester flags.
- ❖ Previously, such flags were not allowed to be used.

Indian Antarctic Bill – 2022

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022 under its obligations as a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty.
- ❖ It aims to demilitarise Antarctica, establish it as a zone free of nuclear tests and the disposal of radioactive waste, and ensure that it is used for peaceful purposes only.
- ❖ It also encourages to promote international scientific cooperation in Antarctica and to set aside disputes over territorial sovereignty.
- ❖ The Antarctic treaty was signed in 1959 and implemented in 1961.
- ❖ India signed the treaty in 1983.



‘Johar’ greeting

- ❖ The 15th President of India, Droupadi Murmu, assumed office on 25th July Monday with a ‘Johar’ greeting to the country.



JOHAR, NAMASKAR

SUPREME COMMANDER: President Droupadi Murmu inspects the guard of honour after the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday

➤ President Murmu began her speech with “Johar, Namaskar”. ‘Johar’ or “Juhar” is a traditional tribal greeting exchanged among the communities in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

➤ Murmu chose to wear a **Santhali saree** brought by her sister-in-law for the swearing-in. In another recall

of her roots, she **quoted Odia saint and poet Bhim Bhoi** to stress welfare of the world over self interest

➤ In her first tweets, the President **highlighted tribal uprisings & icons** such as Rani Velu Nachchiar, Rani Gaidinlu & Rani Chennamma for their role in the freedom struggle (**SEE FLAP OPP**)

“It is the power of India’s democracy that a girl born in a poor tribal home could reach the topmost constitutional post

I was born in that tribal tradition which has lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years... We take resources and serve nature with equal reverence. This sensitivity has become a global imperative today

—President Droupadi Murmu

“The entire nation watched with pride as Smt Droupadi Murmu Ji took oath as the President of India. Her assuming the Presidency is a watershed moment for India...”

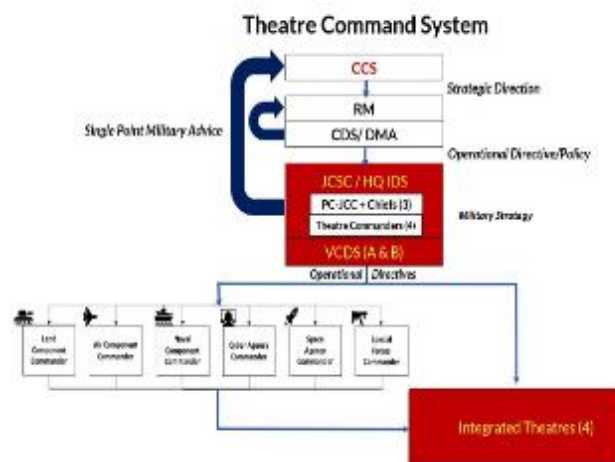
—PM Modi

- ❖ ‘Johar’ essentially means ‘salutation and welcome’.
- ❖ It is used within the tribal communities of Jharkhand, and in parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- ❖ The word ‘Johar’ also means ‘paying respect’.
- ❖ It is predominantly used by Santhali, Munda and Ho communities that share some similarities.

Joint theatre commands

- ❖ Joint theatre commands of tri-services would be set up to enhance coordination among armed forces.
- ❖ It is a concept which seeks to integrate the capabilities of the three services - army, air force and navy.
- ❖ It aims to optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.
- ❖ The Theatre Commander will be a three-star general, drawn from any of the three services, depending on the function assigned.
- ❖ At present, there are two joint services commands in India, the first one is Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and the second, being Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
- ❖ ANC is considered to be the only one of its kind in the country that amalgamates the army, navy and air force.
- ❖ Set up in 2001, ANC is based in Port Blair.
- ❖ SFC takes care of the nuclear assets of India and is not related to any specific theatre of war.

Proposed Theatre Command System



GI tag for White Onion

- ❖ Alibag's white onion from gets GI tag.
- ❖ Alibag is located in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The GI Tag for this onion, characterised by its sweetness, has been accepted.
- ❖ The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion.
- ❖ It has medicinal qualities and is being cultivated in a traditional way for a long time.



Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0

- ❖ Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0).
- ❖ It aims to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations.
- ❖ It was launched in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.
- ❖ It is 100% centrally funded and efforts are made to achieve convergence with other schemes of Central and State Governments.

Maritime Partnership exercise

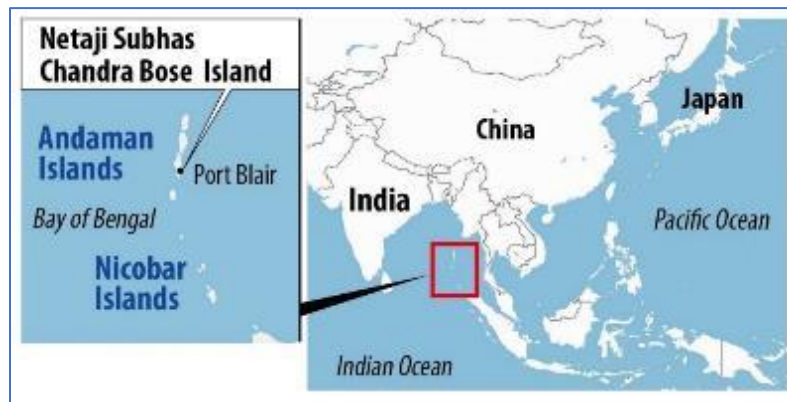
- ❖ A Maritime Partnership Exercise was conducted between Japan Indian Navy in the Andaman Sea.
- ❖ The two countries have been carrying out regular exercises in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aimed towards reinforcing maritime association.
- ❖ The exercises conducted were aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

National Anti-Doping Bill 2021

- ❖ This will provide a statutory framework in the form of legislation, to stop doping in sports in India.
- ❖ Currently, the National Anti-Doping Agency has been performing anti-doping measures in accordance with the norms of World Anti-Doping Agency.
- ❖ This Bill would help in establishing National Board of Anti-Doping in sports.
- ❖ It will be comprising of competent and independent personnel.
- ❖ It also seeks to achieve time-bound justice for athletes.
- ❖ It will also enhance cooperation among agencies to fight against doping.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island

- ❖ Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island was transferred Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
- ❖ It aims to further development of the island's infrastructure and tourism.
- ❖ Previously, it was administered by the Andaman and Nicobar Command.



Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant

- ❖ Indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was handed over to the Indian Navy and will be commissioned on August 15.
- ❖ This has an overall indigenous content of 76 per cent,
- ❖ It is named after India's first aircraft carrier.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Vikrant played a significant role in the 1971 war.

Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar

- ❖ Union Ministry of Mines introduced the Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar.
- ❖ It is a national award to promote and facilitate mining all over the country.
- ❖ The Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar 2022 is introduced to encourage the states that take the initiative in the exploration, auction, and operationalization of mineral blocks.
- ❖ There are three categories of minerals to which the Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar will be awarded.
- ❖ Gujarat received the 1st prize in Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar for the auction of Minor Minerals.

Advancee enrolment for voters' list

- ❖ Those above the age of 17 can now apply in advance for getting enrolled in the voters' list.
- ❖ Now no need to wait until fulfil the pre-requisite criterion of attaining the age of 18 years on January 1 of a year.
- ❖ The Election Commission also ordered annual summary revision with reference to January 1, 2023.

INTERNATIONAL

New Commonwealth Members

- ❖ The West African states Gabon and Togo joined as the members of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- ❖ They are the latest nations with no historic ties to Britain to enter the English-speaking club headed by Queen Elizabeth II.
- ❖ They were never having been under the British rule.
- ❖ They are inducted in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022 held in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ❖ Now the total members of this organisation are 56 members.
- ❖ These French-speaking West African states are the first new members to join the Commonwealth since Rwanda in 2009.
- ❖ Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, became the first Commonwealth member without historic links to Britain when it joined in 1995.



UN Oceans Conference 2022

- ❖ The UN Ocean Conference 2022 kicked off in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ❖ It is being co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya.
- ❖ The Minister of State Jitendra Singh attends this conference.
- ❖ It is aligned to SDG 14 'life below water'.
- ❖ India will address on the topic of Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stock taking, Partnerships and Solutions.
- ❖ India is on track for advancing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the Conference, the leaders will also reiterate the statement titled Our ocean, our future: call for action.

- ❖ The popular actor and ocean activist Jason Momoa of USA has been named UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Advocate for Life Below Water.

New countries – BRICS

- ❖ Iran has submitted an application to become a member in the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS.
- ❖ Russia also said separately that Argentina had also applied to join the group.

POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico and Germany have been mentioned as candidates for full membership of the BRICS, while Egypt, Argentina, Iran, Nigeria, Syria and most recently Bangladesh have expressed interest in joining BRICS

Law to Restore Nature

- ❖ The European Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Law is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law and part of the Biodiversity Strategy.
- ❖ It calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems.
- ❖ It includes reducing chemical pesticide use by 50% (by 2030), increasing tree canopy (by at least 10%) and allowing free-flow of rivers.

Living Lands Charter

- ❖ All 54 Commonwealth members have agreed to voluntarily dedicate a 'living land' in their respective countries to future generations.
- ❖ It is in line with the strategy set for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).
- ❖ It is non-binding in nature
- ❖ It mandates that member countries will safeguard global land resources and arrest land degradation while acting against climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable management.

- ❖ It recognizes the “critical guardianship” provided by indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting land and vital ecosystem services.



NATO forces

- ❖ The NATO will increase the strength of its rapid reaction force (RRF) nearly eight fold to 3,00,000 troops.
- ❖ The NATO reaction force currently numbers around 40,000.
- ❖ The alliance is also expected to address for the first time the security challenges posed by China.

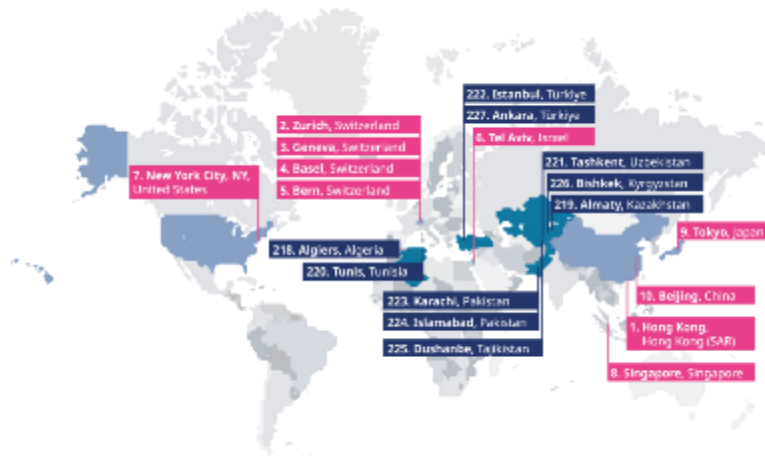
Partners in the Blue Pacific

- ❖ The US and its allies - Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom - have launched this new initiative.
- ❖ It is for “effective and efficient cooperation” with the region’s small island nations.
- ❖ It is a five-nation “informal mechanism” to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the Pacific region.

Mercer’s 2022 Cost of Living assessment

- ❖ According to a survey, Kolkata is the least costly city in Asia.
- ❖ Mumbai is the most expensive city in India for foreign employees.
- ❖ Hyderabad is the most expensive Indian city in the ranking.
- ❖ It is followed by New Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

- ❖ The least expensive Indian cities are Pune and Kolkata.
- ❖ Hong Kong is the most expensive for foreign employees in the world.



UN-Habitat World Cities Report 2022

- ❖ It highlights that, rapid urbanisation in India was delayed temporarily due to covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Urban population in India is estimated to reach at 675 million in 2035.
- ❖ It will be the second highest figure, behind China's one billion.
- ❖ After covid-19 pandemic, global urban population is growing again.
- ❖ It will grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050.
- ❖ Percentage of population in urban areas of India will be 43.2 percent, by 2035.

UNESCO endangered world heritage

- ❖ The UN's cultural agency (UNESCO) has inscribed the culture of cooking borshch soup in Ukraine as an endangered cultural heritage.
- ❖ Ukraine has welcomed UNESCO's decision to recognise the beetroot soup borshch as Ukrainian cultural heritage.
- ❖ The move was urged by Ukraine but vehemently opposed by Russia.
- ❖ Russia also claims the beetroot soup borshch as its national dish

QS Best Student Cities Rankings

- ❖ The QS Best Students Cities Rankings 2023 was published recently.
- ❖ In the ranking, London has been ranked as the best city.

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

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

Covovax vaccine to US



- ❖ The government has allowed Serum Institute of India to supply 32.4 lakh doses of its COVID-19 jab Covovax under the brand name Nuvaxovid to the US.
- ❖ It will be the first vaccine to be exported to the country by any Indian manufacturer.

- ❖ On December 28, 2021, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults.

Lithium in Nigeria



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

India forum for Nature-Based Solution

- ❖ India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions was launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.
- ❖ The forum was collectively launched by
 - National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)
 - World Resources Institute India (WRI India)
 - Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and their partners.
- ❖ It is India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS).
- ❖ It has been launched under Cities4Forest initiative.
- ❖ It is aimed at creating a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, like-minded organizations and government entities to help in scaling urban nature-based solutions.



Exhibition - Batsagaan Temple



- ❖ In honour of Mongolian Buddha Purnima, the 12-day exhibition at the Batsagaan Temple was held on the grounds of Gandan Monastery, Mongolia.
- ❖ The four holy relics of Lord Buddha came back to India after being displayed for 12 days at the exhibition.
- ❖ The Union minister Arjun Meghwal received the holy relics at Ghaziabad.
- ❖ The duration of display of the relics had to be extended by a few days on popular demand from Mongolian people.
- ❖ The relics are known as the 'Kapilvastu Relics'.



- ❖ They are from a site in Bihar, which was first discovered in 1898.
- ❖ It is believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu.
- ❖ They were accorded the status of a state guest.

UN Report on Internet Shutdown

- ❖ The OHCHR report has highlighted that shutting down the internet affects people's safety & well-being, hampers information flow and harms the economy.
- ❖ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is commonly known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the United Nations Human Rights Office.
- ❖ Internet shutdowns are measures taken by a government or on behalf of a government, to intentionally disrupt access to and the use of information and communications systems online.
- ❖ As per #KeepItOn coalition, it documented 931 shutdowns in 74 countries from 2016-2021.
- ❖ #KeepItOn coalition monitors internet shutdown episodes across the world.
- ❖ India blocked or disrupted internet connections 106 times.
- ❖ At least 85 of India's internet shutdown episodes were in Jammu & Kashmir.

RIMPAC 2022

- ❖ The RIMPAC-22 exercise was held near the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California in the Pacific.
- ❖ 27 countries are participating in the current edition of the multi-dimensional exercise.
- ❖ It's one of the largest biennial multilateral Naval Exercises led by US.
- ❖ The RIMPAC started in 1971 as an annual exercise by the US, Australia, and Canada.
- ❖ But from 1974, this maritime exercise became a biennial event.
- ❖ India first participated in RIMPAC in 2014.
- ❖ The theme of RIMPAC 2022 is "capable, adaptive, partners".

The sixth Caspian summit

- ❖ The sixth summit of the heads of the Caspian states took place in the capital of Turkmenistan.

- ❖ The meeting was attended by the leaders of the Caspian “five” countries - Presidents of Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.



Lisbon Declaration

- ❖ The 2nd UN Ocean Conference ended with Lisbon Declaration.
- ❖ This Declaration titled as ‘Our Ocean, Our Future: call for action’.
- ❖ It was co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal in Lisbon.

Components

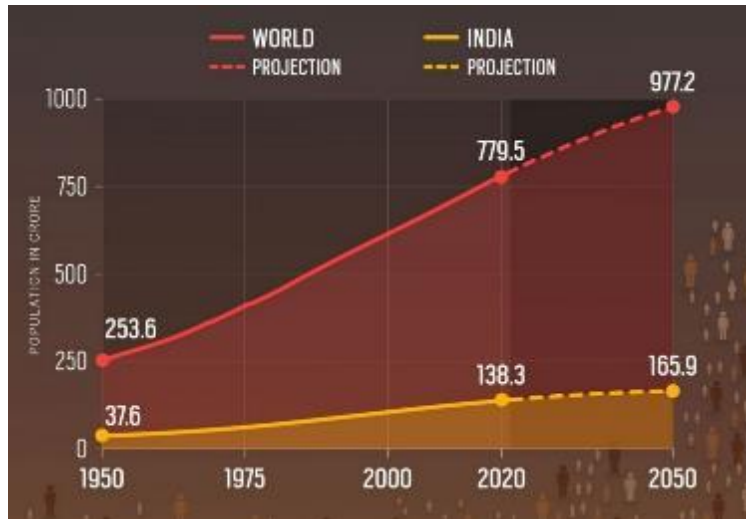
- ❖ Protecting at least 30% of national maritime zones by 2030.
- ❖ Achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.
- ❖ Allocating funds to research on ocean acidification, climate resilience and surveillance.
- ❖ Scale-up Science-based and innovative actions to address ocean emergency.
- ❖ Support implementation of SDG14 (life below water) by empowering women and girls- recognising their participation is crucial to building a sustainable ocean-based economy.
- ❖ Protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which lie outside the 200-mile (322-kilometre) exclusive economic zones of countries.

Accession protocols with NATO

- ❖ Sweden and Finland signed the accession protocols.
- ❖ At the last trilateral conference in Madrid, Turkey agreed to drop its objections under specific circumstances.
- ❖ It is with 30 members—28 European and 2 North American.

- ❖ It is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- ❖ It is often known as the North Atlantic Alliance.

World's most populous country in 2023

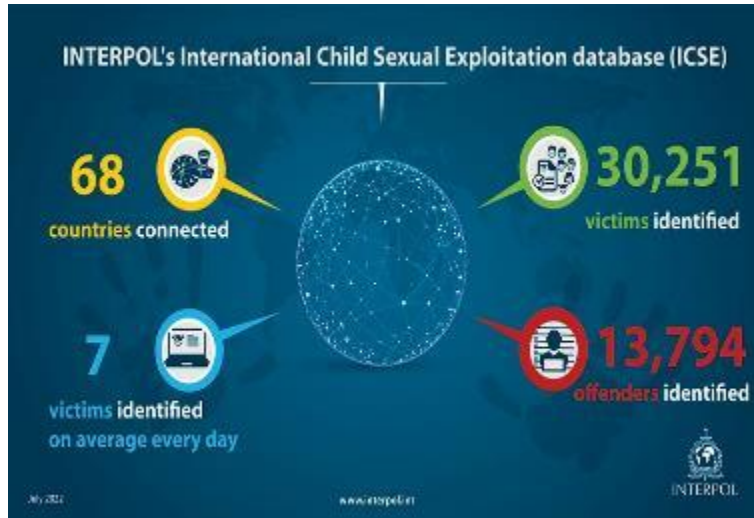


- ❖ India will surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, with each counting more than 1.4 billion residents this year.
- ❖ The world's population is estimated to reach 8 billion by November 15 this year.
- ❖ This could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, and 10.4 billion in 2100.
- ❖ The world's population was growing at its slowest pace since 1950.
- ❖ It has fallen below 1% in 2020.
- ❖ In 2021, the average fertility of the world's population stood at 2.3 births per woman over a lifetime.
- ❖ It has fallen from about 5 births in 1950.
- ❖ Global fertility is projected to decline further to 2.1 births per woman by 2050.

International Child Sexual Exploitation Initiative

- ❖ India's CBI has joined the Interpol's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) initiative.
- ❖ With this, it gained access to its image and video database.
- ❖ ICSE is an image and video database are an intelligence and investigative tool.
- ❖ It allows specialized investigators to share data on cases of child sexual abuse.
- ❖ It analyses Child Sex Exploitation Material and make connections between victims, abusers and place.

- ❖ India is the 68th country to have access to this database and software.
- ❖ On average, the database of the ICSE initiative helps identify 7 child victims everyday globally.



SOFI 2022

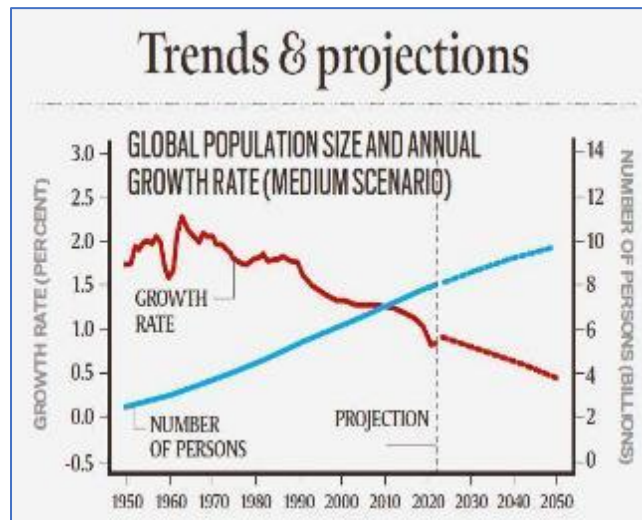
TABLE 1 PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT (PoU) IN THE WORLD, 2005–2020

| | Prevalence of undernourishment (%) | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020* |
| WORLD | 12.4 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.9 |
| AFRICA | 21.3 | 18.0 | 16.9 | 17.5 | 17.1 | 17.8 | 18.0 | 21.0 |
| Northern Africa | 8.5 | 7.3 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 7.1 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 24.6 | 20.6 | 19.4 | 20.1 | 19.5 | 20.4 | 20.6 | 24.1 |
| Eastern Africa | 33.0 | 28.4 | 24.8 | 25.6 | 24.9 | 25.9 | 25.6 | 28.1 |
| Middle Africa | 36.8 | 28.9 | 28.7 | 29.6 | 28.4 | 29.4 | 30.3 | 31.8 |
| Southern Africa | 5.0 | 6.2 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 10.1 |
| Western Africa | 14.2 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 12.9 | 18.7 |
| ASIA | 13.9 | 9.5 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 9.0 |
| Central Asia | 10.6 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| Eastern Asia | 6.8 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <2.5 | <2.5 |
| South-eastern Asia | 17.3 | 11.6 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.3 |
| Southern Asia | 20.5 | 15.6 | 14.1 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 13.3 | 15.8 |
| Western Asia | 9.0 | 9.1 | 14.3 | 15.0 | 14.5 | 14.4 | 14.4 | 15.1 |
| Western Asia and Northern Africa | 8.8 | 8.2 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 11.3 |

- ❖ FAO, International Fund for Agriculture Development, UNICEF, UN world food Programme and WHO have jointly released SOFI 2022.
- ❖ SOFI stands for “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”.

- ❖ India has high undernourishment (about 16% of the population), wasting (about 17%), stunting (about 31%) and low exclusive breastfeeding practice (only 58%).
- ❖ The world is moving further away from its goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.
- ❖ Over 828 million were affected by hunger in 2021.
- ❖ Over 8% will still face hunger by 2030 even if the global economic recovery is taken into consideration.
- ❖ The gender gap in food insecurity continued to rise in 2021.
- ❖ 31.9 per cent of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure, compared with 27.6 per cent of men.

World Population Prospects (WPP) 2022



- ❖ The UN has been publishing the WPP in a biennial cycle since 1951.
- ❖ More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries.
- ❖ They are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- ❖ The share of the global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050.
- ❖ Over the next few decades, migration will be the sole driver of population growth in high-income countries.
- ❖ India has attained the Replacement Fertility Rate.
- ❖ It is the rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.

- ❖ In India, Population of 0-14 years and 15-24 years will continue to decline.
- ❖ Age of 25-64 and 65+ will continue to rise for the coming decades.
- ❖ Those who are already in the 25-64 age bracket, there is a need for skilling, which is the only way to ensure they are more productive and have better incomes.

I2U2 Leader's Summit 2022

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister participated in the first I2U2 Leaders' Summit.
- ❖ The I2U2 group is being projected as the QUAD grouping for West Asia.
- ❖ The grouping was proposed with the aim of encouraging investments in six mutually identified areas including water, food security, energy, health, transportation and space.
- ❖ An agricultural park project worth USD 2 billion was announced during the Summit.
- ❖ The project will be partly funded by the UAE with support from US private sector and technical expertise will be provided by Israel.



Cost-of-Living Crisis in Developing Countries

- ❖ United Nations Development Programme published its “Cost-of-Living Crisis in Developing Countries” report.
- ❖ The Global cost-of-living crisis is forcing another 71 million people in poorest countries of world, into extreme poverty.

- ❖ Increase in key commodity prices in 2022 is already disturbing parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Balkans.
- ❖ The cost-of-living crisis is forcing millions of people into poverty and starvation at alarming speed.



Sea Guardians-2

- ❖ It was organized by Pakistan Navy and Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy.
- ❖ It was the second edition of exercise.
- ❖ The first edition was organised in northern Arabian Sea off Karachi, in January 2020.
- ❖ This navel exercise focuses improving joint response towards maritime security threats.
- ❖ It is aimed at promoting the defence cooperation and enhance naval capabilities of navies from both the country.

10th World Peace Forum

- ❖ Tenth World Peace Forum 2022 was organized by Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.
- ❖ As a part of the World Peace Forum, panel discussion on "BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges" was held.

Jerusalem Declaration

- ❖ US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid inked a joint strategic declaration in Jerusalem.
- ❖ It is officially called as “Jerusalem US-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration”.
- ❖ US pledge to use all elements under its national power, to ward off Iran from getting nuclear weapons.
- ❖ USA and Israel have committed to continue discussions regarding challenges and opportunities in Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Nepal’s first Citizenship Amendment Bill

- ❖ Parliament of Nepal passed the first ever “Citizenship Amendment Bill” recently.
- ❖ The citizenship amendment bill was being discussed since 2020.
- ❖ It will amend the Nepal Citizenship Act 2006.
- ❖ This will make provisions to provide citizenship in line with the Constitution.

First outbreak of Marburg virus

- ❖ Ghana, a country in West Africa, has officially confirmed two cases of the deadly Marburg virus.
- ❖ The two patients, both deceased, were tested positive for the highly infectious virus.
- ❖ The Marburg virus disease is an extremely infectious haemorrhagic fever that belongs to the same family as Ebola virus.



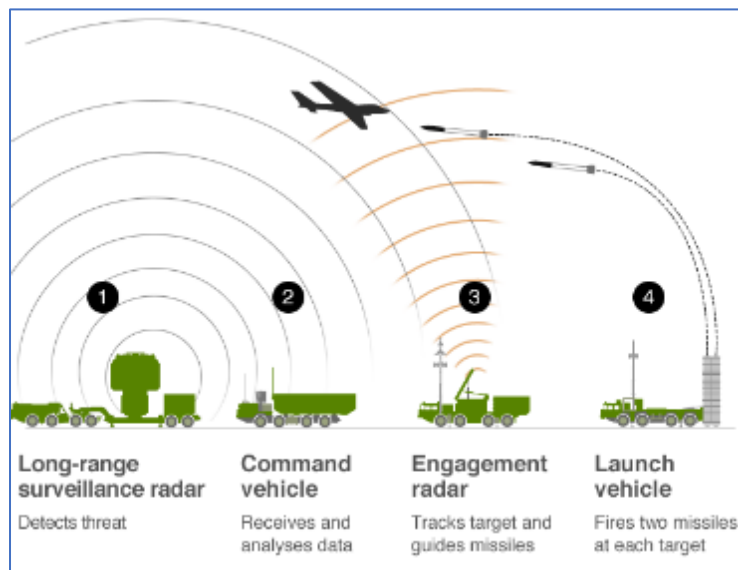
BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet 2022

- ❖ The First BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet was organised under the chairman ship of China.

- ❖ Member countries signed a communiqué of “BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Anti-Corruption”.



Waiver to India on S-400



- ❖ The United States has decided not to impose sanctions on India for purchasing S-400 missile systems from Russia.
- ❖ India is exempted from Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) now.
- ❖ Already, Turkey faced US sanctions under the law for purchasing S-400 from Russia.
- ❖ India had signed the \$5 billion deal with Russia for purchase of five units of the S-400.
- ❖ The first unit has been handed over to the Indian Air Force and deployed along the Western front in the Punjab sector.



- ❖ The S-400 is a mobile long-range surface to air missile system.
- ❖ It is considered one of the most lethal in the world.
- ❖ It can take down multiple targets up to a range of 400 km.
- ❖ With four different kinds of missiles, it has beyond visual range capabilities.
- ❖ It can engage multiple targets, which includes tracking of 160 objects in a 600 km range and hit 72 targets up to 400 km.

Sri Lanka 9th President

- ❖ Sri Lankan politician Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected as the 9th President of the Island nation by the Parliament.
- ❖ He will replace Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who fled the country and resigned after public anger over the country's worst economic crisis.
- ❖ Ranil was the prime minister during the crisis.
- ❖ After Rajapaksa fled, Ranil becomes an interim president.

Jeddah Summit for Security and Development

- ❖ The Jeddah Security and Development Summit was organised in Jeddah city of Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It aimed at boosting the countries' joint cooperation across all the areas.
- ❖ They applauded the "Saudi Green Initiative" and "Middle East Green Initiative".
- ❖ The setting up of Combined Task Force 153 and Task Force 59 were discussed.

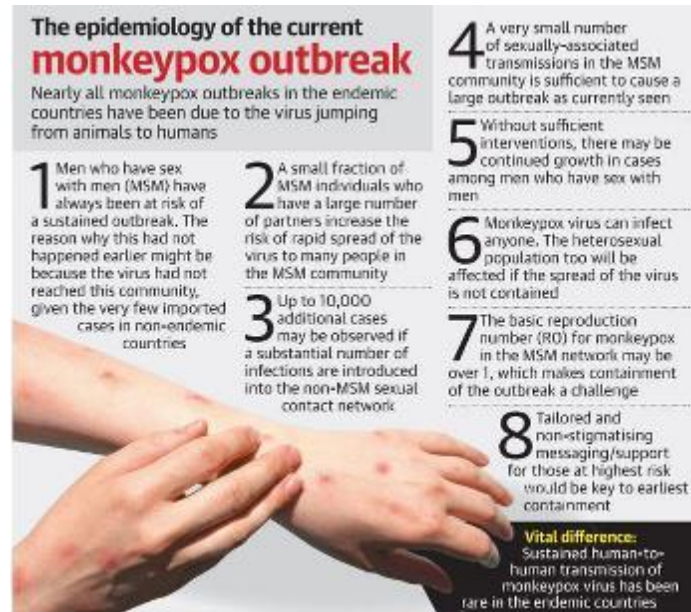
G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ❖ G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting 2022 was hosted by Indonesia recently.
- ❖ They "deliberated on issues of contemporary relevance, such as-Strengthening multilateralism and Current global challenges including food and energy security".
- ❖ India will assume the G20 Presidency for 2023.

Monkeypox - global emergency

- ❖ The World Health Organisation has declared the global monkeypox outbreak as a 'public health emergency of international concern' (PHEIC).
- ❖ It is one step below that of a 'pandemic.'

- ❖ On January 30, 2020, the organisation had categorised COVID-19 as a PHEIC.
- ❖ On March 11 that year, the agency elevated it to 'pandemic.'
- ❖ The PHEIC declaration is to be "temporary" and reviewed every three months.
- ❖ In the past, Ebola (2014), Zika virus (2016), H1N1(2009), the polio virus (2014) and Covid-19 have been declared a PHEIC.



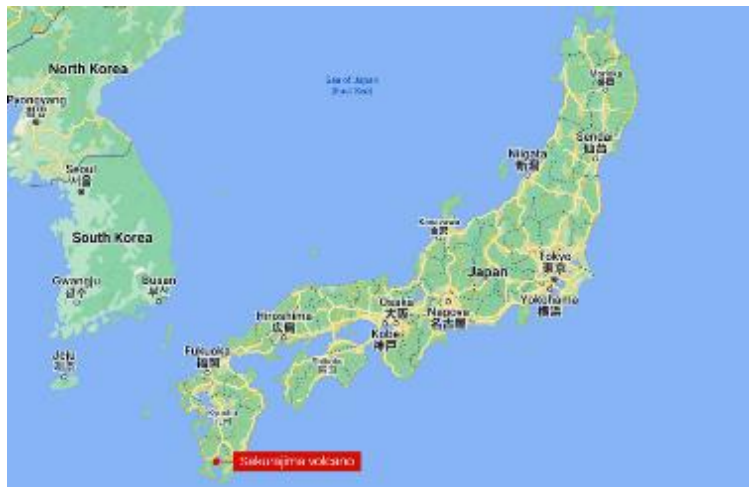
Russia and Turkey Grain Export Deal

- ❖ The Russian and Ukrainian ministers signed separate but identical agreements with UN and Turkish officials.
- ❖ With this, grain shipments could ease a global food crisis in which millions face hunger.
- ❖ The deal was signed in Turkish capital Istanbul.



Sakurajima volcano

- ❖ Japan's Sakurajima volcano erupted recently.
- ❖ It is located on the island of Kyushu near the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It is one of Japan's most active volcanoes and eruptions of varying levels take place on a regular basis.
- ❖ It is an active stratovolcano.
- ❖ The largest historical eruptions of Sakurajima took place during 1471-76 and in 1914.



'Imanvex' For Monkeypox

- ❖ The European Commission has approved a smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox.
- ❖ Imvanex has been approved in the EU since 2013 for the prevention of smallpox.
- ❖ It is considered a potential vaccine for monkeypox because of the similarity between the monkeypox virus and the smallpox virus.
- ❖ Monkeypox is less dangerous and contagious than smallpox, which was eradicated in 1980.
- ❖ Recently, WHO declared the monkeypox outbreak as a global health emergency.
- ❖ It has affected nearly 16,000 people in 72 countries.

Electricity Market report

- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) released its early 2022 edition of the bi-annual Electricity Market Report.
- ❖ The Global electricity demand increased by 6% year-on-year in 2021.



- ❖ It was the steepest year-on-year increase recorded by the IEA since 2008 financial crash.
- ❖ The Global energy intensity decreased by 1.9% year-on-year.
- ❖ This drop was only half as compared to the level required to lay foundation for net-zero by 2050.
- ❖ In 2021, the electricity generation from renewables increased by 6% year-on-year.
- ❖ Generation from coal was increased by 9%.
- ❖ This increase was led by markets like China and India, where coal served as greater than half of the increase in demand.
- ❖ There was an increase of 2% in gas-fired generation.

European Investment Bank (EIB) in CDRI

- ❖ European Investment Bank recently joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- ❖ CDRI is led by India.
- ❖ This coalition is aimed at limiting the destruction caused due to climate change.
- ❖ EIB will provide advisory and financial support to members of CDRI.
- ❖ EIB will work as “EU climate bank” within the CDRI.
- ❖ The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by India in 2019, at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- ❖ It allows the members to share knowledge and resources as well as help countries in meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals’.
- ❖ EIB is the investment bank of European Union.
- ❖ It is possessed by the EU Member States.

World Airport Traffic Dataset 2021

- ❖ The Airports Council International World has released the annual World Airport Traffic Dataset.
- ❖ It listed the global air traffic rankings of the top 20 aviation industries for the full year 2021.
- ❖ From India, the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi (13th) has been ranked among the top 20.
- ❖ It is the industry’s most comprehensive airport statistics dataset featuring airport traffic for over 2,600 airports in more than 180 countries and territories.



Russia quit ISS

- ❖ Russia has announced that it will quit the International Space Station after 2024.
- ❖ Russia's withdrawal from the Space Station will open a new door for private companies to enter the Space Station.
- ❖ China is building its own space station, Tiangong, and nearing its completion by the end of this year.

ECONOMY

Global Health Care

- ❖ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced the launch of its unique Global Health Care health insurance programme.
- ❖ It offers seamless coverage to the policyholder for both domestic and international (outside of India) medical providers for both planned and emergency treatment (within India).
- ❖ It is Indian insurance industry first global health care product.

47th GST Council Meeting

- ❖ It was held in Chandigarh.
- ❖ In a two-day meeting GST Council headed by the Union Finance Minister, recommended rate changes on certain items.

- ❖ Every decision of GST Council is to be taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present.
- ❖ Central government's vote has a weightage of one-third of total votes cast.
- ❖ While the votes of state governments all together have a weightage of two-thirds of total votes cast in the meeting.

47th Meeting of the GST Council, Chandigarh
28th and 29th June, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

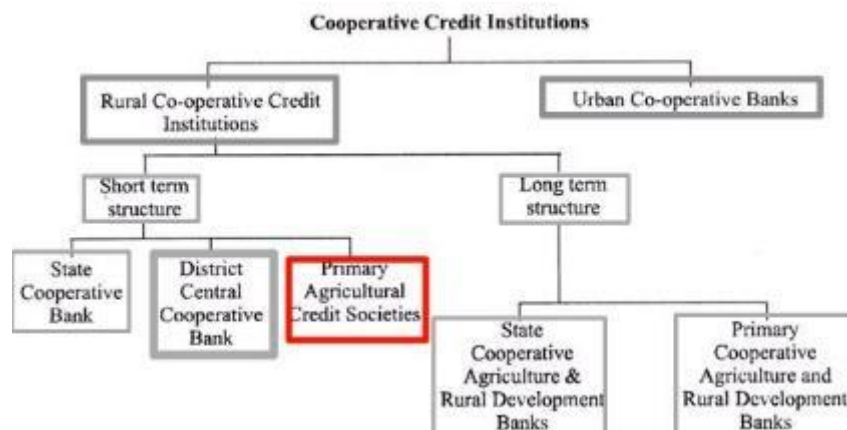
The GST Council's 47th meeting was held in Chandigarh on 28th and 29th June, 2022 under the chairmanship of the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The GST Council has *inter-alia* made the following recommendations relating to changes in GST rates on supply of goods and services and changes related to GST law and procedure:

I. Recommendations relating to GST rates on goods and services

A. Rate Rationalization to remove inverted duty structure [Approval of recommendations made by GoM on rate rationalization]

| S. No. | Description | From | To |
|-----------------|--|------|-----|
| GOODS | | | |
| 1. | Printing, writing or drawing ink | 12% | 18% |
| 2. | Knives with cutting blades, Paper knives, Pencil sharpeners and blades therefor, Spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake-servers etc | 12% | 18% |
| 3. | Power driven pumps primarily designed for handling water such as centrifugal pumps, deep tube-well turbine pumps, submersible pumps, Bicycle pumps | 12% | 18% |
| 4. | Machines for cleaning, sorting or grading, seed, grain pulses; Machinery used in milling industry or for the working of cereals etc; Pawan Chakki that is Air Based Atta Chakki; Wet grinder | 5% | 18% |
| 5. | Machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce and its parts, Milking machines and dairy machinery | 12% | 18% |
| 6. | LED Lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuits board | 12% | 18% |
| 7. | Drawing and marking out instruments | 12% | 18% |
| 8. | Solar Water Heater and system; | 5% | 12% |
| 9. | Prepared/finished leather/chamois leather / composition leathers; | 5% | 12% |
| 10. | Refund of accumulated ITC not to be allowed on flowing goods: (i) Edible oils (ii) Coal | | |
| Services | | | |
| 11. | Services supplied by foreman to chit fund | 12% | 18% |
| 12. | Job work in relation to processing of hides, skins and leather | 5% | 12% |

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies





- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved computerisation of primary agricultural credit societies (PACS).
- ❖ It has proposed computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of five years.
- ❖ It will become delivery point for various services and provision of inputs like fertilizers, seeds etc.
- ❖ The project will help in making PACS as outlets for banking activities and also non-banking activities.
- ❖ PACS is the smallest unit in cooperative sector which works with farmers and aim at development of rural economy.
- ❖ It is the lowest tier of the three-tier short-term cooperative credit (STCC).
- ❖ The other two tiers i.e State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) already work on Common Banking Software (CBS).

Financial Services Institutions Bureau

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

Future Unicorn Index 2022

- ❖ The Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022 was released by Hurun Research Institute
- ❖ As per index, India will have 122 new unicorns in next two to four years.
- ❖ Gazelles are the companies, which are likely to become unicorns in following two years.
- ❖ Gazelles are expected to be worth between USD 500 million and USD 1 billion.
- ❖ Cheetahs are the start-ups that could turn into unicorn in next four years.

- ❖ A unicorn is a privately held start-up company, with value of more than USD 1 billion.
- ❖ This term was first published in 2013.
- ❖ It was coined by venture capitalist Aileen Lee.

Top 10 Gazelles in India

| Startup | Funding recieved (in \$ mn) | Year founded | Sector |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Shiprocket | 355 | 2017 | Logistics Tech |
| Zepto | 360 | 2021 | Quick Commerce |
| Turtlemint | 200 | 2015 | E-Commerce |
| Ather Energy | 290 | 2013 | Electric Vehicle |
| Vivriti Capital | 190 | 2017 | Fintech |
| Ninjacart | 370 | 2015 | AgriTech |
| Dunzo | 700 | 2015 | Quick Commerce |
| Rapido | 310 | 2015 | Shared Economy |
| Clear Tax | 140 | 2011 | Fintech |
| Twin Health | 200 | 2018 | HealthTech |

Source - ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022

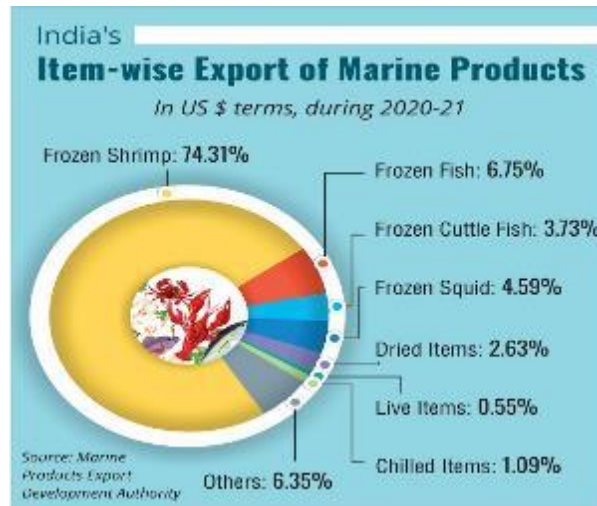
Gold import duty

- ❖ The government has hiked gold import duty to 15 per cent from 10.75 per cent.
- ❖ It aims to check the current account deficit (CAD) and rising import of the yellow metal.
- ❖ Earlier, the basic customs duty on gold was 7.5 per cent, now it will be 12.5 per cent.
- ❖ Along with the agriculture infrastructure development cess (AIDC) of 2.5 per cent, the effective gold customs duty will be 15 per cent.

Financial Stability Report

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released its bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR).
- ❖ The asset quality of the banking system has improved with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA).
- ❖ Its ratio is declining from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022.
- ❖ Provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 70.9 per cent in March 2022 from 67.6 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ PCR is the percentage of funds that a bank sets aside for losses due to bad debts.

Marine product exports



- ❖ During the FY 2021-22, India shipped 13,69,264 MT of seafood worth US\$ 7.76 billion.
- ❖ The export improved in rupee terms by 31.71%, in USD terms by 30.26%, and in quantity terms by 19.12%.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity and value.
- ❖ The USA tops the list for the import of frozen shrimp.
- ❖ It is followed by China, the European Union, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the middle east.

GST collection in June



- ❖ The Gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second-highest collection next to the April 2022.
- ❖ The collection GST collection crosses Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark 5th time since the inception of GST.

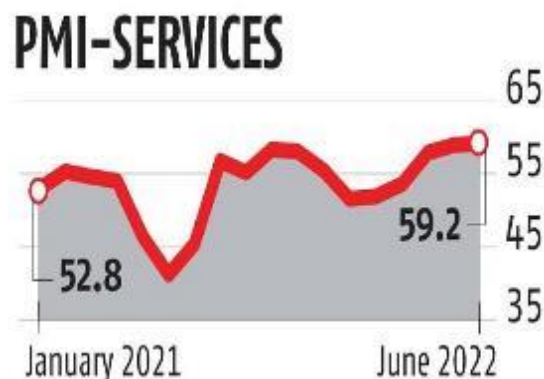
- ❖ It is also the 4th month at a stretch since March 2022.
- ❖ The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the 2nd highest collection subsequent to the April 2022 GST collection of Rs 1,67,540 crore.

Payment from abroad relatives

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has amended certain rules related to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) of 2010.
- ❖ It is allowing Indians to receive up to ₹10 lakh in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities.
- ❖ The earlier limit was ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have 90 days to inform the government, instead of 30 days earlier.
- ❖ The amended rules have given individuals and organizations or NGOs 45 days to inform the home ministry about the bank accounts that are to be used for the utilization of such funds.

India's service sector

- ❖ In June, the services industry in India had its highest level of activity in 11 years.
- ❖ The results demonstrate a solid rebound in the services sector, which is reflected in good GST receipts.
- ❖ The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services increased to 59.2 in June from 58.9 in May.
- ❖ That is the highest level since April 2011.



Global Findex database

- ❖ The World Bank released Global Findex database 2021.
- ❖ It surveyed how people in 123 economies use formal and informal financial services e.g., cards, ATMs, mobile phones, and the internet.
- ❖ Globally, in 2021, 76 per cent of adults had an account at a bank or regulated institution.
- ❖ It includes a credit union, microfinance institution, or a mobile money service provider.
- ❖ About two-thirds of unbanked adults said that if they opened an account at a financial institution, they could not use it without help.
- ❖ Low access to formal banking in India and there is a lack of trust.
- ❖ Aadhar contributed to account ownership in about 80% of adults (from 35% in 2011).
- ❖ Transitioning from cash to biometric smart cards has reduced leakage by 47% in pension payments.



Mechanism for International trade in INR

- ❖ RBI notified new measures to settle down “international trades in rupee”.
- ❖ This move will promote global trade and emphasise on exports from India.
- ❖ Under this, invoicing, payment, as well as settlement of exports or imports in rupee.
- ❖ Thus, all the exports and imports can be denominated and invoiced in rupee.
- ❖ However, to make payment in rupees, banks will need to take prior approval from foreign exchange department of RBI.

Breaking: India's Central Bank, RBI announces International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees



TDC Fund

- ❖ SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) joined hands to set up the “Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund)”.
- ❖ TDC Fund will help in routing India’s commitment of around Rs.175 crore to Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund).
- ❖ The fund will be administered and advised upon by SVL.
- ❖ SVL will also be facilitating the GIP program for MEA.

Refinance Dollar-Denominated Bonds

- ❖ ReNew Energy Global plc recently refinanced its bonds worth USD 525 million.
- ❖ It was scheduled to get mature in 2024.
- ❖ These were refinanced with amortising project debt from Indian non-banking financial company.
- ❖ ReNew Energy Global Plc has become the first renewable energy company in India, to refinance the dollar-denominated bonds.

New GST Rates

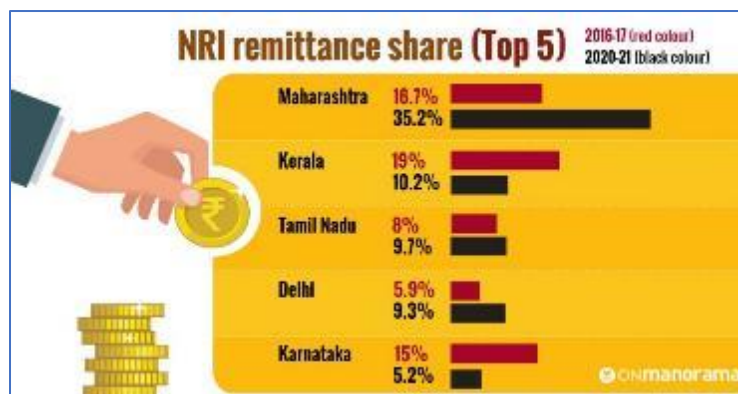


- ❖ The new GST rates came into effect from July 18, 2022.
- ❖ Several food items have become costlier including products like paneer, rice, wheat, jaggery, curd and lassi that are pre-packaged and labelled.
- ❖ These day-to-day household items will attract 5 percent GST from July 18.
- ❖ Dried makhana, puffed rice, meslin flour, labelled meat and fish will also attract 5 percent GST.
- ❖ All these items were exempted from GST tax earlier.
- ❖ Besides this, 12% GST will now be charged on all forms of mango including mango pulp.
- ❖ However, loose, unbranded and unlabelled goods will continue to remain exempted from GST.
- ❖ The GST rates for hotels and bank services have also been hiked.
- ❖ The new GST rates for Bank services including the fee charged by banks for issuing cheques will now be 18 %.
- ❖ 12 per cent GST will be levied on hotel rooms.
- ❖ Current they have exempted from GST.

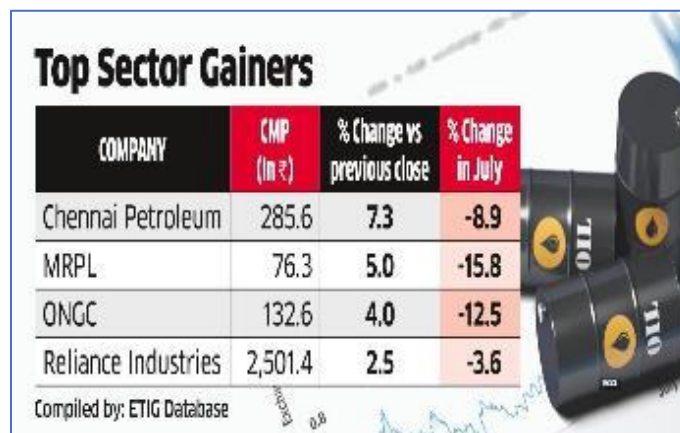
Remittance in India in 2020-21

- ❖ The RBI conducted the fifth round of the survey on remittances for the year 2020-21.
- ❖ The share of India's inward remittances from Gulf countries declined from more than 50% in 2016-17 to about 30% in 2020-21.

- ❖ Remittances from the US have surpassed that of UAE.
- ❖ The USA accounting for 23% of total remittances in 2020-21.
- ❖ Remittances from UAE now account for 17-18% of India's total inward remittances.
- ❖ The share of the traditional remittance recipient states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, has almost halved in 2020-21.
- ❖ They accounting for only 25% of total remittances compared to over 42% in 2016-17.
- ❖ Maharashtra has emerged as the top recipient state surpassing Kerala.
- ❖ The report shows Maharashtra now accounts for almost 35% of the total remittances in 2020-21.



Cut in Windfall Tax



Top Sector Gainers

| COMPANY | CMP (₹) | % Change vs previous close | % Change in July |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Chennai Petroleum | 285.6 | 7.3 | -8.9 |
| MRPL | 76.3 | 5.0 | -15.8 |
| ONGC | 132.6 | 4.0 | -12.5 |
| Reliance Industries | 2,501.4 | 2.5 | -3.6 |

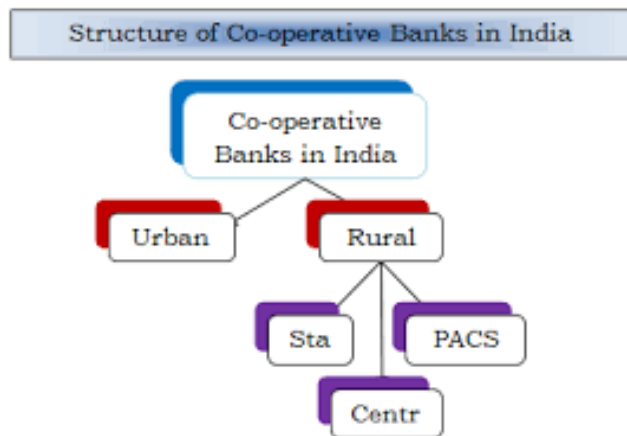
Compiled by: ETIG Database

- ❖ The Union government reduced the windfall tax on petrol, diesel, crude oil and jet fuel, following the cut in international rates.
- ❖ India imposed the windfall tax on refiners and oil producers on July 1, 2022.
- ❖ Windfall tax is a one-off tax, which is imposed by a government on a company.

- ❖ The tax targets those who are gaining from something they were not responsible for.
- ❖ This tax is a higher tax rate on sudden huge profits.
- ❖ It is a one-time tax more than the normal rates of tax, imposed on profits.

4-tier regulatory framework

- ❖ Four-tiered regulatory framework was adopted by the Central Bank for Urban Co-operative Banks.
- ❖ It aims to strengthening the financial soundness of the existing urban cooperative banks.
- ❖ A committee was created under S. Vishwa Nathan, to make recommendations on strengthening the Urban Co-operative Banks.
- ❖ The committee has recommended to adopt four-tiered regulatory framework, on the basis of size of deposits of banks and area of operations.



Long-term resilient supply chains

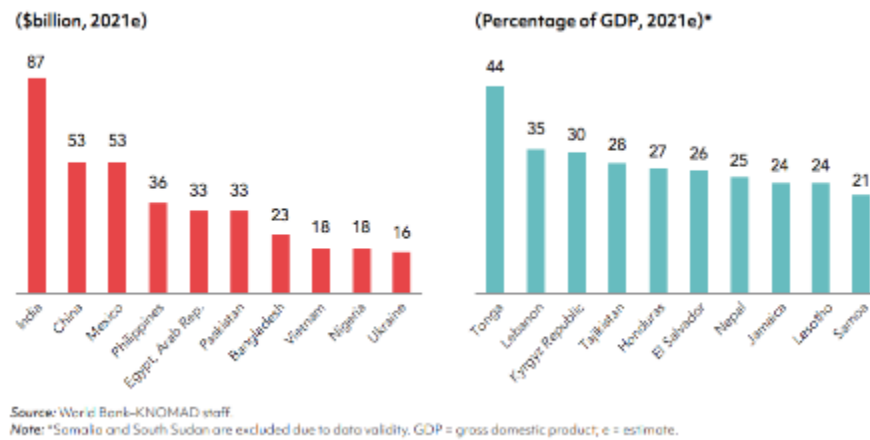
- ❖ A partnership of 18 economies has unveiled a four-point roadmap for building collective, long-term resilient supply chains.
- ❖ It is including steps to counter risks arising from supply dependencies and vulnerabilities.
- ❖ The countries include India, the US and the European Union (EU).

Digital Banks

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released a Report titled 'Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing & Regulatory Regime for India'.

- ❖ It suggested setting up Digital Banks and a licensing and regulatory framework for such Banks.
- ❖ India has made rapid strides in furthering Financial Inclusion, catalysed by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and India Stack.
- ❖ But credit penetration remains a policy challenge, especially for the nation's 63-million-odd MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

Top remittance recipient – 2021

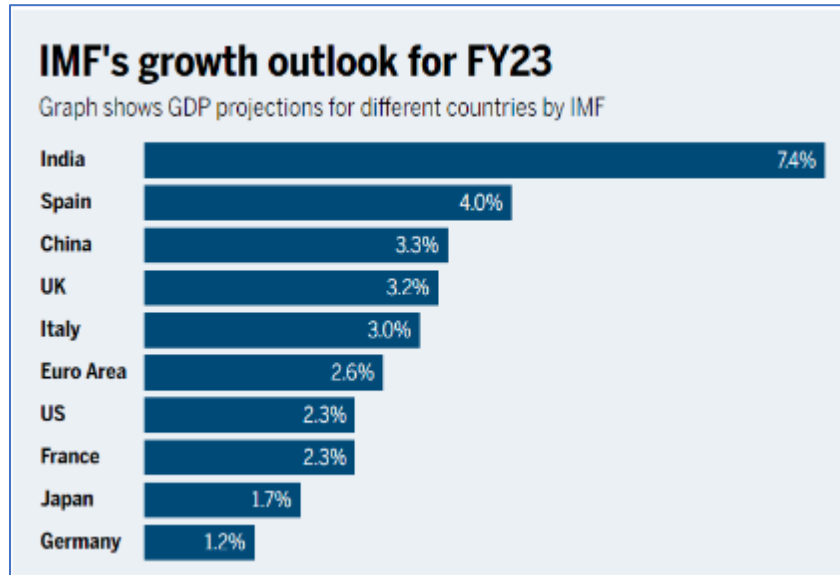


- ❖ The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants released recently.
- ❖ As per the report, one in eight people in the world, around one billion, are migrants.
- ❖ With USD 87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low and middle-income countries.
- ❖ The top five remittance recipients in 2021 were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.
- ❖ The United States was the largest source country for remittances in 2020,
- ❖ It is followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

India economic growth

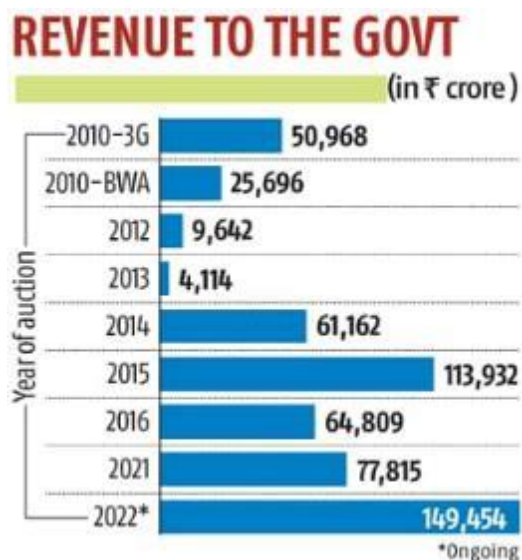
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund slashed India's economic outlook for financial year 2022-23 to 7.4%.
- ❖ The outlook has been revised down by 0.8 percentage point.
- ❖ The forecast is sharply lower than IMF's previous estimate of 8.2% for FY23.

- ❖ But it is higher than Reserve Bank of India's latest estimate of 7.2% growth rate for FY23.
- ❖ In latest World Economic Outlook report, the IMF projected India's economy to grow by 6.1% in FY23-24.



5G spectrum auction

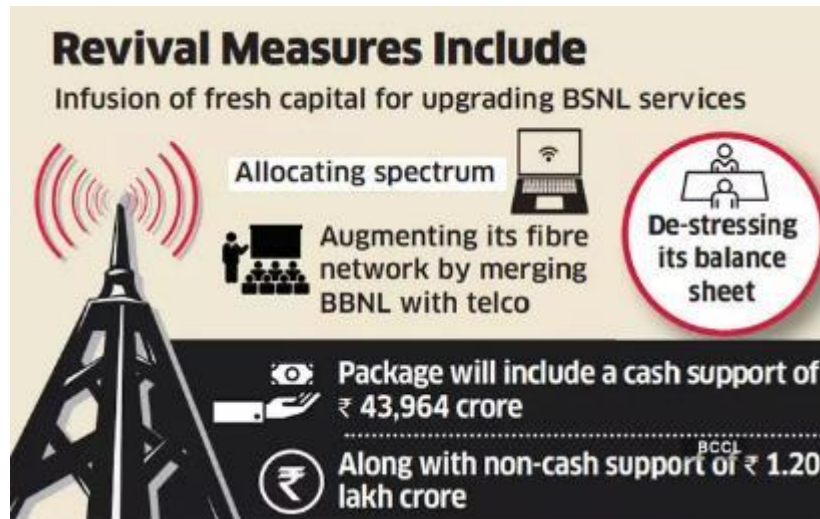
- ❖ 5G spectrum auction drew bids totalling ₹ 1,49,855 crore after four days.
- ❖ Over 70 per cent of the spectrum on the block was sold.
- ❖ The bids for 5G airwaves are being led by Reliance Jio, followed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and a Gautam Adani company.



First international bullion exchange

- ❖ India launched its first international bullion exchange.
- ❖ India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), is based at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City in Gujarat.
- ❖ IIBX is a platform that not only enrolls jewellers to trade on the exchange, but has also set up necessary infrastructure to store physical gold and silver.

BSNL BBNL Merger



- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved the merger of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- ❖ BSNL will work as government's executive arm and the ownership of assets will be with the government.
- ❖ Bharat Broadband Network Limited is also known as BharatNet.
- ❖ It is owned by government and provides broadband infrastructure.
- ❖ BSNL is the largest government-owned, wireless telecommunications service provider in country.

Suez Canal Economic Zone

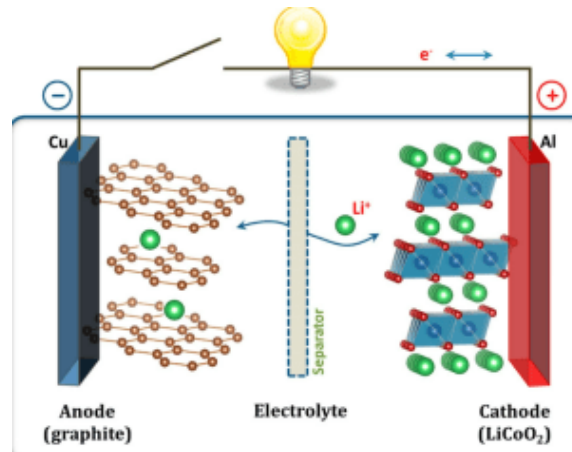
- ❖ Egypt and an Indian company have signed a MoU to construct a green hydrogen factory in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.
- ❖ Indian ReNew Power Private Limited (RENE.BO) will invest \$8 billion to construct a facility that will create 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen annually.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Energy Storage Platform

- ❖ The Scientists at Indian Institute of Science have found nanoscopic refractory metal layers like Tungsten.
- ❖ It could improve the performance of these batteries which are crucial for purposes like electrical mobility.
- ❖ This will enable fast charge-discharge rates in solid-state lithium metal batteries.
- ❖ Conventional Li-ion batteries employ a graphite anode, a liquid electrolyte, and a transition metal cathode.
- ❖ However, the liquid electrolytes are flammable and degrade at high temperatures leading to poor battery life.
- ❖ And in extreme cases they lead to battery fires.
- ❖ Replacing the liquid electrolyte with a ceramic solid electrolyte could enable safer Li-ion batteries that also last longer on a single charge.



Firefly-like light emitting robots

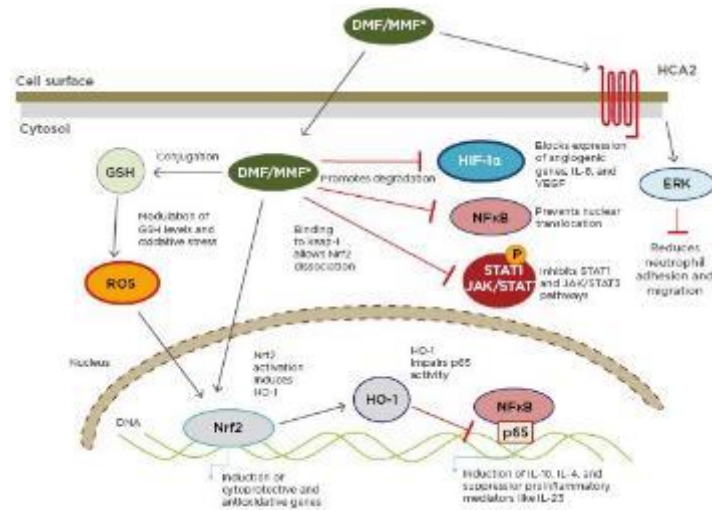


- ❖ Researchers from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) have created robots, capable of emitting light while flying, motion tracking and communications.
- ❖ These robots weigh barely more than a paper clip.
- ❖ And they can be tracked using the light they emit and three smartphone cameras.
- ❖ Fireflies use their luminescence for communication to attract a mate, ward off predators, or lure prey.

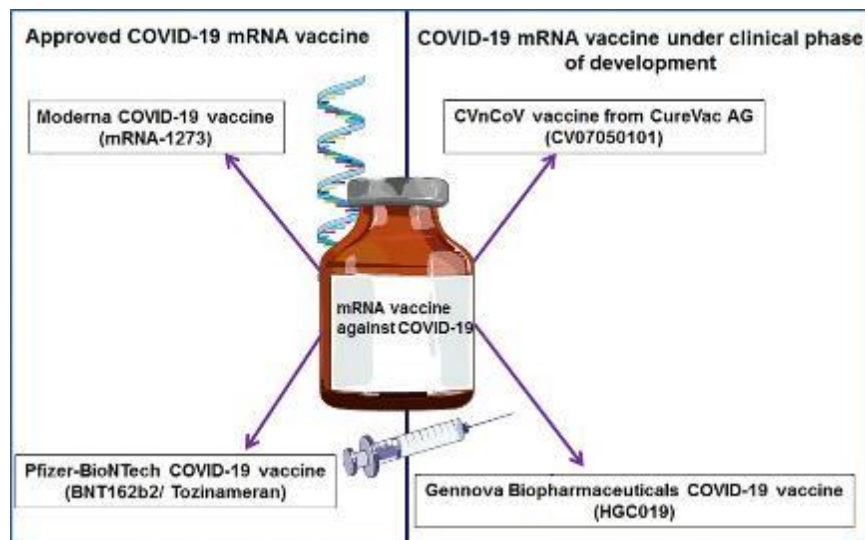
Estradiol to Treat Psoriasis

- ❖ Researchers have found that the female hormone estradiol suppresses psoriasis.
- ❖ It is a skin condition that causes rashes and leads to itchiness.
- ❖ The presence of this hormone in women is the reason why compared to men, women have a significantly lower incidence of severe psoriasis.

- ❖ Estradiol or oestradiol is a form of the female sex hormone estrogen.
- ❖ Also called 17-beta-estradiol, estradiol is an estrogen steroid hormone.



Gennova mRNA Vaccine



- ❖ The Gennova mRNA-based vaccine, GEMCOVAC-19, is India's first homegrown mRNA COVID- 19 vaccine.
- ❖ It is the first mRNA vaccine that remains stable during storage even at 2-8 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ While most of the other mRNA vaccines have to be stored at sub-zero temperatures.
- ❖ It has got emergency use authorization in emergency situations for all adults aged above 18 years.



- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) gave its approval.
- ❖ It was developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals.
- ❖ mRNA is short for messenger RNA, a type of RNA found in cells that is used for the production of proteins.
- ❖ The mRNA vaccine teaches our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response inside our bodies.
- ❖ The mRNA vaccines protect us from infectious diseases by activating cells to fight against invading virus.
- ❖ The immune response leads to the creation of antibodies that are required to fight the foreign virus by targeting that particular piece of protein.
- ❖ The mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccines send instructions to the cells to create a piece of protein known as spike protein.
- ❖ It is the same as the one found studded on the surface of the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ These proteins have been engineered to stop them from replicating.
- ❖ The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are both mRNA vaccines.
- ❖ The children are being administered Corbevax COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological E.

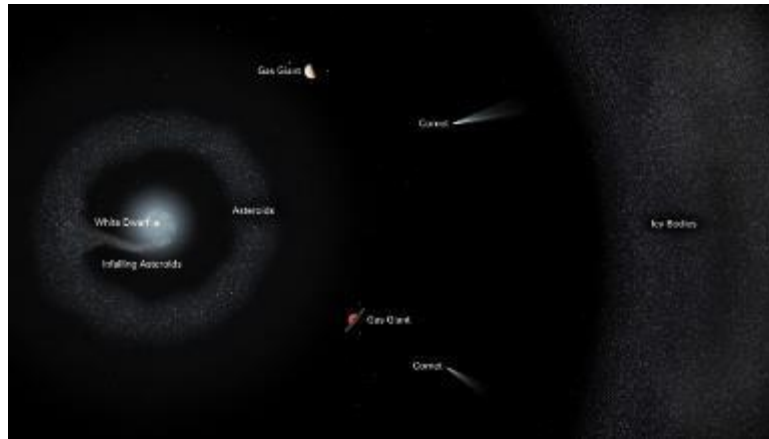
Nuclear-powered Flying Hotel

- ❖ The Sky cruise is a futurist sky hotel.
- ❖ It is a nuclear-powered flying hotel that never lands in the Earth.
- ❖ It will remain suspended above the clouds.
- ❖ It has 20 nuclear-powered engines.
- ❖ It is big enough to accommodate over 5000 guests.
- ❖ It will always be airborne throughout the scheduled travel.
- ❖ It has been designed by a Yemeni producer Hashem Al-Ghaili.

Cosmic cannibalism

- ❖ Astronomers have observed for the first time a phenomenon, called, “cosmic cannibalism”.
- ❖ In this, a dead star is sucking in debris from both the inner and outer reaches of its planetary system.
- ❖ A white dwarf is formed when a low-mass star like our sun exhausts most of its nuclear fuel.

- ❖ It is usually very dense, dim and about the size of a planet.
- ❖ It is the last observable stage of evolution for low- and medium-mass stars.



Anti-Tank Guided Missile of India (ATGM)

- ❖ As per the Defence Ministry, the ATGM hit the target with precision and successfully tested the target at the minimum ranges.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army successfully tested the indigenously-developed anti-tank guided missile at the KK range in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was successfully test-fired from the Arjun battle tank.
- ❖ It employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead for defeating the Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.

TANK KILLERS

- Anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) are meant to **destroy advancing enemy armoured units**
- Range from shoulder-launched to larger tripod-mounted systems for infantry soldiers
- Army has a shocking **60% shortage** in its 'authorised holding' of ATGMs
- **Big operational gap**, especially on the western front with Pakistan
- Army demanding **3rd-generation ATGMs** with

night-fighting capabilities & higher range for a decade

- Defence Acquisitions Council in June 2009 gave nod for 8,356 ATGMs, 321 launchers & 15 simulators for ₹3,200 crore
- This included transfer of

technology to Bharat Dynamics for mass production

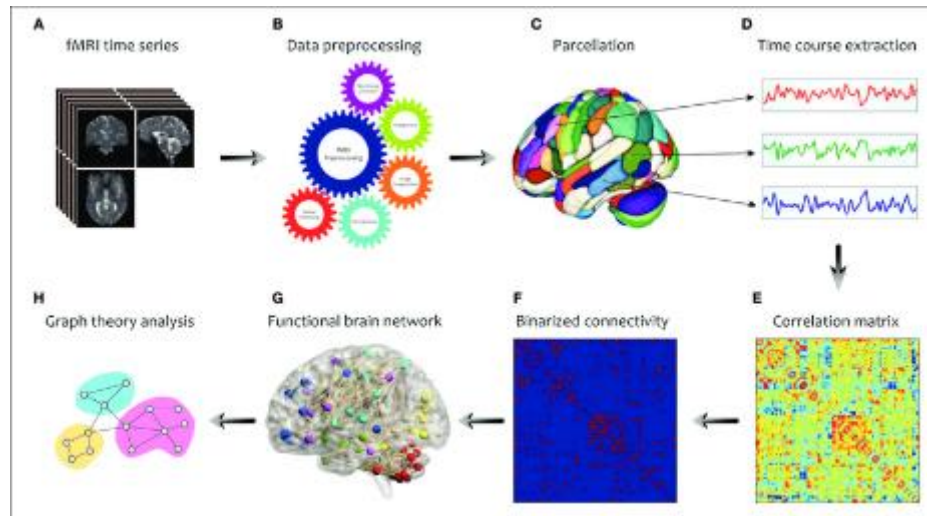
- Israeli company Rafael's **Spike ATGM** underwent trials in a single-vendor situation. Tender scrapped in late-2017
- Separate process to acquire **Javelin ATGMs** from US also didn't materialise



Infantry battalions making do with
2nd-Generation Milan (2 km)
& **Konkurs (4 km)**
ATGMs



New algorithm to study brain connectivity



- ❖ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a new Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) based machine learning algorithm.
- ❖ It is called RaAl-LiFE (Regularized, Accelerated, Linear Fascicle Evaluation).
- ❖ It can help scientists in understanding and predicting connectivity between different regions of brain, in a better manner.
- ❖ It can rapidly analyse the enormous data generated from diffusion Magnetic Resonance Imaging (dMRI) scans of human brain.
- ❖ Using the new algorithm, this team was able to evaluate dMRI data 150 times faster as compared to existing state-of-the-art algorithms.

CAPSTONE mission

- ❖ The NASA researchers successfully launched CAPSTONE spacecraft to the moon from New Zealand.
- ❖ Mission CAPSTONE stands for Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment.
- ❖ It will verify that a specific type of moon orbit is suitable for the lunar Gateway space station that the agency aims to launch later this decade.

PSLV-C53 Mission

- ❖ The PSLV-C53 mission was launched from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Srihari Kota.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched three satellites from Singapore on its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).



- ❖ It was launched to deploy the three satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ This was the second launch mission for ISRO in the year and was the second commercial launch for the Indian space agency.
- ❖ The PSLV-C53 is the 55th mission of the launch vehicle.
- ❖ And it is the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant.
- ❖ The PSLV is ISRO's workhorse and has been its most successful launch vehicle developed indigenously.
- ❖ It has been launched 54 times in the past.
- ❖ It was also responsible for launching India's highly successful Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 and the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 that later travelled to Mars.
- ❖ The launch vehicle is capable of taking up to 1,750 kg of payload to Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits of 600 km altitude.
- ❖ It has also been used to launch various satellites into Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits, like satellites from the IRNSS constellation.

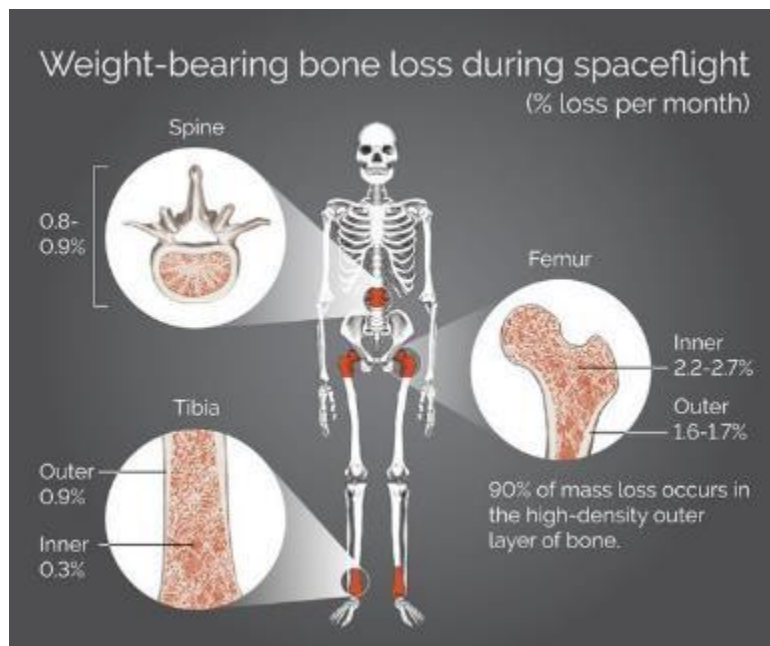
Abhyas High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested Abhyas.
- ❖ It is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT).
- ❖ This was flight-tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the Bay of Bengal coast in Odisha.
- ❖ Abhyas has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), of DRDO.
- ❖ It is powered by a small gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at high subsonic speed.

Loss of bone mass in space

- ❖ Researchers have found that astronauts lose a huge amount of bone mass when travelling in space.
- ❖ It takes more than a year for them to recover it after coming back from their missions.
- ❖ Wrists and ankles of astronauts during and after a stay at the International Space Station and found that they lost around 1 to 2 per cent of bone density every month.

- ❖ That is basically the same amount of bone density that people lose in almost decades.



Salmonella Contamination

- ❖ Salmonella bacteria were found in the world's largest chocolate production unit, managed by Barry Callebaut.
- ❖ Barry Callebaut's Wieze factory in Belgium has ceased its manufacturing due to this.
- ❖ Also, Salmonella was found in 31% of the samples of ground chicken that tested in US.
- ❖ Salmonella is a group of bacteria that can cause food-borne illnesses known as salmonellosis.

Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demo

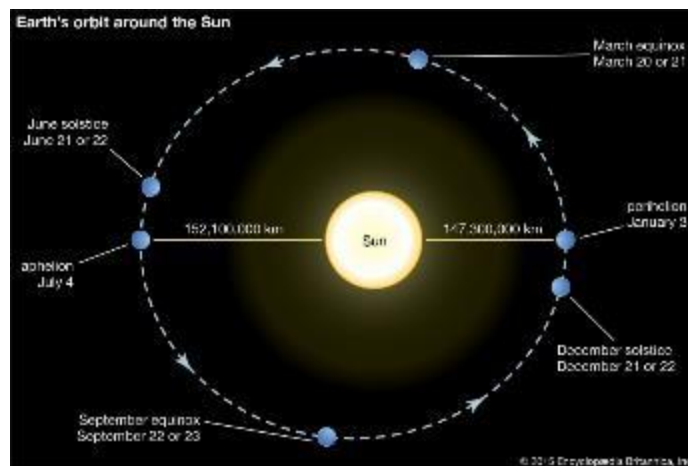
- ❖ The DRDO carried out the maiden test flight of a new unmanned Aerial Vehicle.
- ❖ It is an Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.
- ❖ The test of the demonstrator is also known as the 'Stealth Wing Flying Testbed' (SWiFT).
- ❖ It is an Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) or a combat drone that is a flying wing type.
- ❖ The UCAV will be capable of launching missiles and precision-guided munitions.

- ❖ Its applications are
 - Mapping of Landslide Affected Area
 - Infested Crop Damage Assessment
 - Large Scale Mapping
 - Traffic Monitoring and Management
 - Logistics support



Aphelion Phenomenon 2022

- ❖ Aphelion is a position where the distance between the Sun and Earth is the longest.
- ❖ The two objects hanging in space are separated by nearly 152.1 million kilometres on July 4, 2022.
- ❖ It is nearly 1.67 per cent farther from the sun than the mean Earth-sun separation.
- ❖ The mean Earth-Sun separation is known as the Astronomical Unit (AU).
- ❖ 1 AU is equal to 149.6 million kilometers.



Regulating Nitrate absorption in Plants

- ❖ Researchers discovered a new pathway that regulates nitrate absorption in plants.
- ❖ They investigated a miR444 target gene called MADS27, a transcription factor that has previously received little attention.
- ❖ The micro-RNA, miR444, activates the Gene MADS27.
- ❖ That regulates nitrate absorption, root development, and stress tolerance.
- ❖ Thus provides a way to control these plant properties.
- ❖ The gene MADS27 appears to be an excellent candidate for modification in order to improve nitrogen use efficiency.

Controlling nitrate absorption in plants
A novel pathway has been found, which can use gene editing to achieve this objective



Approach: The researchers used rice and tobacco plants to study the mechanism. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Plants mainly absorb nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrates and ammonium
- An important macronutrient, nitrogen is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids

ALTERNATE PATHWAY

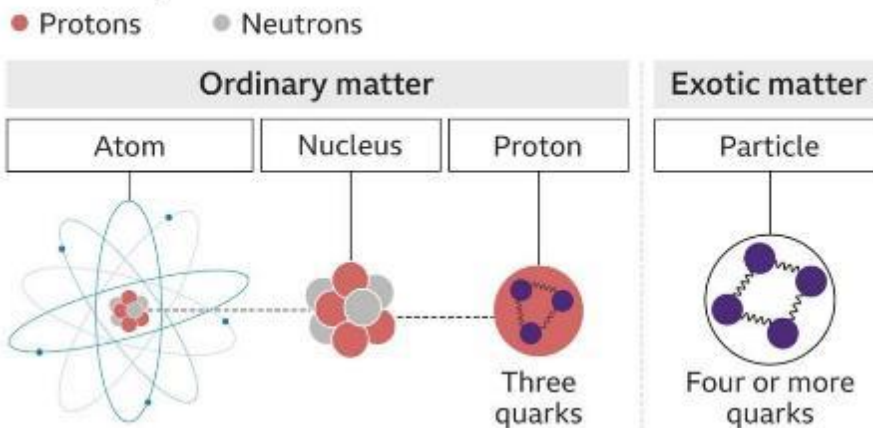
- There is a need to regulate and optimise nitrogen intake in plants, so that the excess is not dumped in soil and water
- The hormone auxin is responsible for well-developed roots across all plants, influencing nitrate absorption
- The regulatory micro-RNA switch - miR444 - is known to turn off at least five genes

called MADS box transcription factor genes

- A target gene of miR444 called MADS27, has a three-pronged effect: regulating nitrate absorption and root development, and stress tolerance
- Tinkering with MADS27 may help regulate nitrate absorption and engineer abiotic stress tolerance

New sub-atomic particles

Ordinary and exotic matter

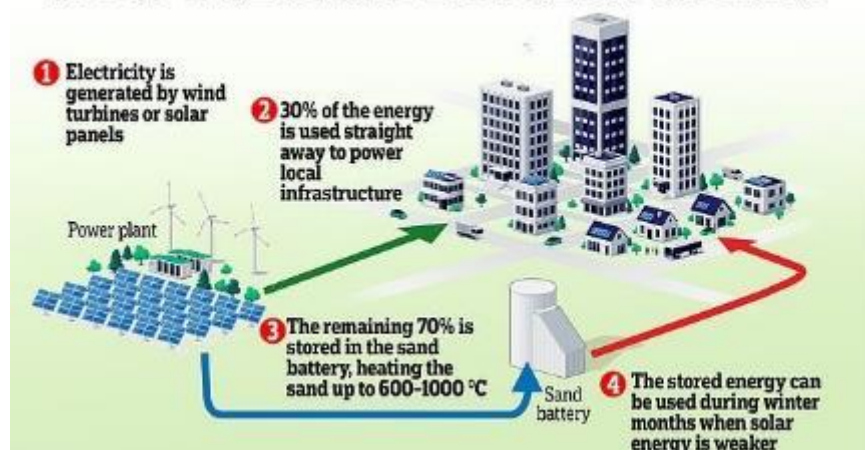


- ❖ The LHCb collaboration has observed a new kind of pentaquark and the first-ever pair of tetraquarks.
- ❖ The new particles called as “beauty quark”, or “b quark”.
- ❖ These three particles are unknown till date.

World’s first “sand battery”

- ❖ A battery that stores heat energy in sand has been installed in western Finland.
- ❖ Electricity from renewable sources is used to heat the sand to around 932°F.
- ❖ The heat energy then warms water that can be circulated around local buildings.
- ❖ It can store energy from sources that work intermittently, like wind and solar.
- ❖ It can hold renewable energy for up to months at a time.

HOW THE SAND BATTERY WORKS



Autonomous Aircraft’s Maiden Take-Off

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the Maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.
- ❖ It is tested from Aeronautical Test Range in Chitra Durga, Karnataka.
- ❖ The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) powered by a small turbofan engine.

Particle Zoo 2.0

- ❖ Scientists have discovered three never-seen-before subatomic particles while working to unlock building blocks of the universe at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

- ❖ The scientists have observed a new kind of “pentaquark” and the first-ever pair of “tetraquarks”.
- ❖ This was informed by the European nuclear research centre CERN.
- ❖ The Large Hadron Collider is the machine that found the elusive ‘God particle’ or Higgs Boson.
- ❖ It is thought to be vital for the formation of the universe after the big bang, 13.7 billion years ago.
- ❖ It is a 27 km long LHC at CERN.
- ❖ It is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ CERN is an official United Nations Observer.
- ❖ CERN is also the birthplace of the World Wide Web.

Images of unseen Universe

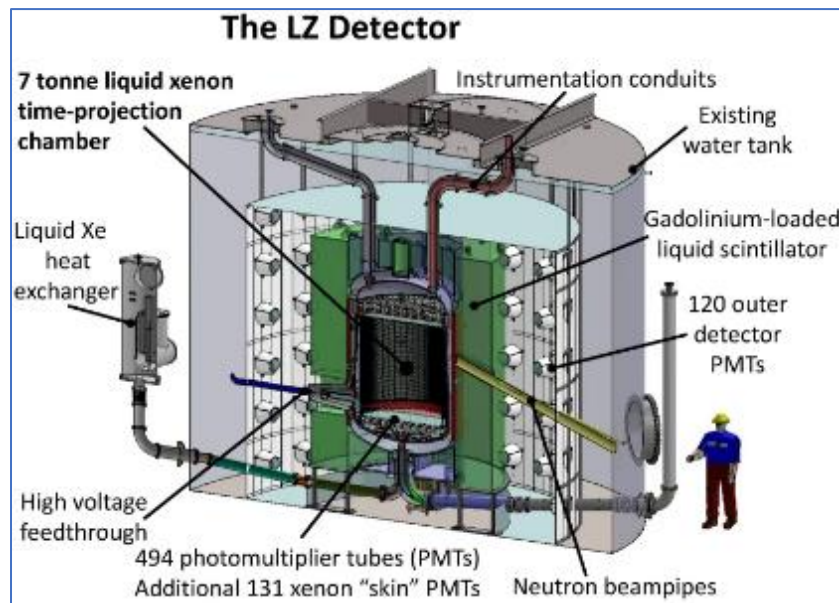
- ❖ NASA has released the next wave of images from James Webb Space Telescope.
- ❖ The image shows the deepest view of the universe that has never been seen before.
- ❖ The galaxy cluster is shown in the picture as it appeared 4.6 billion years ago.
- ❖ The new images will include the Carina Nebula, WASP-96b, the Southern Ring Nebula and Stephan’s Quintet.
- ❖ The Carina Nebula is a stellar nursery where more stars larger than our sun reside.
- ❖ It is more than 9,600-light years away.
- ❖ The exoplanet WASP-96b and its atmosphere’s images will also be released.
- ❖ The planet is 1,150 light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ It has half the mass of Jupiter.
- ❖ And it orbits around its sun in just 3.4 days.



Indigenous lithium-ion cell

- ❖ OLA Electric recently produced India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell called "NMC 2170".
- ❖ NMC 2170 is a high nickel cylindrical Ola cell.
- ❖ It comprises of Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) on cathode side while graphite & silicon on anode side.

LUX-ZEPLIN Dark Matter Detector



- ❖ This next-generation dark matter detector has started operations and delivering its first results.
- ❖ It is the most sensitive machine of this type on Earth.
- ❖ It has been installed deep down the Black Hills in South Dakota in Sanford Underground Research Facility, USA.
- ❖ The Dark matter particles have never been detected earlier.
- ❖ Initial results from the first 60 days live days testing of LZ have generated positive results.

Rocket fuel from Bacteria

- ❖ POP-FAME, a newly developed biofuel based on an antifungal molecule made by Streptomyces bacteria could be used in future rocket launches.
- ❖ POP-FAME stands for 'Polycyclopropanated Fatty Acid Methyl Ester'.

- ❖ It may also have significantly more energy density than rocket fuels used now.
- ❖ It significantly reduces the amount of added greenhouse gas relative to any fuel generated from petroleum.
- ❖ Molecular structure of POP-FAME is similar to Syntin.
- ❖ However, the challenge is to remove the two oxygen atoms with each molecule, in order to avoid weight in the rocket.

Anti-cervical cancer vaccine

- ❖ Serum Institute of India plans to roll out its indigenously-developed vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer among women.
- ❖ It will be the first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) in India, to prevent cervical cancer.
- ❖ Cervical cancer is the second most common cancers among women in India, even though it is preventable.
- ❖ This cancer is commonly diagnosed among women aged 15 to 44 years of age.
- ❖ National Cancer Control Programme was first started in India in 1975.

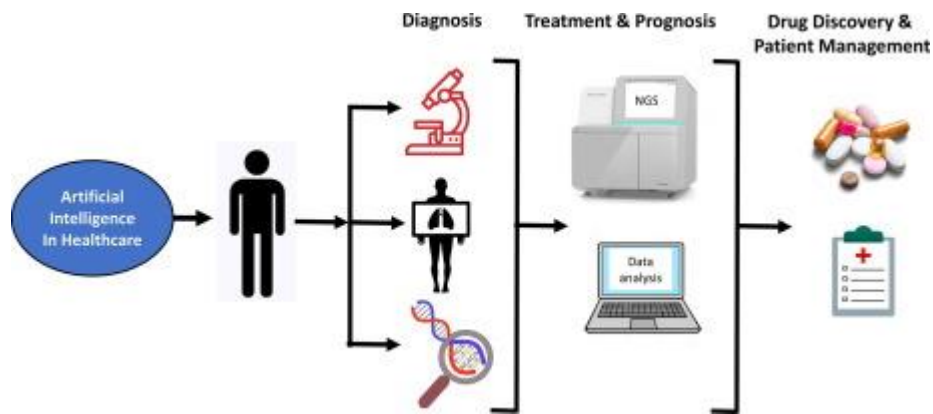
ALH Squadron INAS 324

- ❖ Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 (INAS 324) was commissioned into the Indian Navy at INS Dega in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ This is the first Naval Squadron on the Eastern Seaboard operating the indigenously designed and built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters.
- ❖ The first ALH Squadron INAS 324 has been named “KESTRELS”.
- ❖ It has good sensory capabilities.
- ❖ It symbolizes the envisaged role of the Aircraft and the Air Squadron.

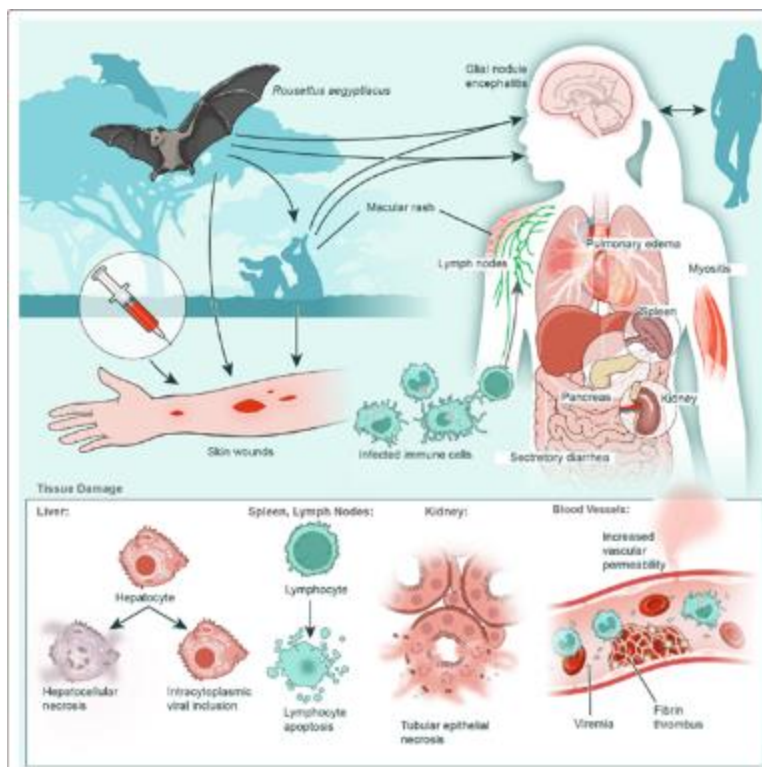
AI-based tool to detect Cancer

- ❖ An Artificial Intelligence-based tool called ‘PIVOT’ has been developed by IIT Madras.
- ❖ PIVOT is capable of predicting cancer-causing genes in patients.
- ❖ This AI-based tool will help in formulating strategies for personalized cancer treatment.
- ❖ It has been designed to predict genes which are responsible for causing cancer.

- ❖ It uses different data, including mutation & gene expression, to foresee the cancer-causing genes.



Marburg virus Disease



- ❖ Two suspected cases of Marburg virus disease were reported in Ghana recently.
- ❖ The Marburg Virus disease is an infectious haemorrhagic fever.
- ❖ It belongs to same family as Ebola.
- ❖ The virus is transmitted to people via fruit bats.
- ❖ People to people transmission also takes place.

- ❖ It spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected person or surfaces.
- ❖ It has an incubation period of 2-21 days.
- ❖ This disease is potentially very harmful and deadly.
- ❖ Fatality rates in previous outbreaks have ranged from 24% to 88%.

ARYABHAT-1

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science of Bengaluru researchers recently developed a prototype of an analog chipset called “ARYABHAT-1”.
- ❖ ARYABHAT-1 stands for “Analog Reconfigurable Technology and Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks”.
- ❖ These chipsets may operate faster.
- ❖ It will use less power as compared to digital processors used in different electronic gadgets.
- ❖ Such chipsets can be beneficial for applications based on Artificial Intelligence.

IS4OM

- ❖ The “ISRO System for Safe & Sustainable Operation” (IS4OM) at ISRO Control Centre, in Bengaluru inaugurated recently.
- ❖ S4OM is a facility that is conceived with a holistic approach towards ensuring safety and sustainability.
- ❖ S4OM will bring a prompt, accurate and efficient information on on-orbit collision, fragmentation, atmospheric re-entry risk, space based strategic information, hazardous asteroids and space weather forecast.

AI Mandarin translation



- ❖ Using this, Indian soldiers patrolling on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) will be able to understand Mandarin and reply back instantly.
- ❖ It is a 600gm Artificial Intelligence-based device developed by an Indian start-up.
- ❖ It is an offline handheld language translation system which works based on AI.
- ❖ It is bidirectional with a range of 5-10 feet.
- ❖ And it converts Mandarin to English.

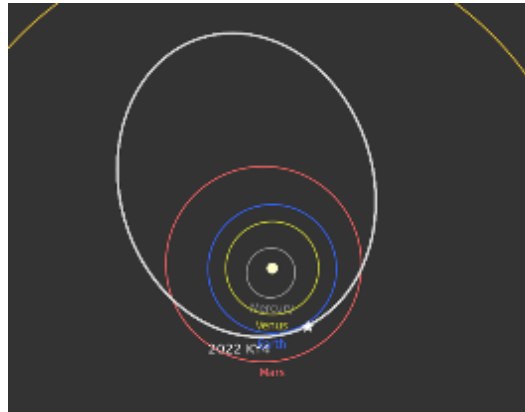
India's First Unique Blood Group

| Blood Group | Gives to these groups | Receives from these groups |
|-----------------|---|--|
| O ⁻ | All | O ⁻ only |
| O ⁺ | AB ⁺ , A ⁺ , B ⁺ , O ⁺ | O ⁻ and O ⁺ |
| A ⁻ | AB ⁻ , AB ⁺ , A ⁺ , A ⁻ | O ⁻ and A ⁻ |
| A ⁺ | AB ⁺ and A ⁺ | O ⁻ , O ⁺ , A ⁻ , A ⁺ |
| B ⁻ | B ⁻ , B ⁺ , AB ⁻ , AB ⁺ | O ⁻ and B ⁻ |
| B ⁺ | B ⁺ and AB ⁺ | O ⁻ , O ⁺ , B ⁻ , B ⁺ |
| AB ⁻ | AB ⁻ and AB ⁺ | O ⁻ , A ⁻ , B ⁻ , AB ⁻ |
| AB ⁺ | AB ⁺ only | All |

- ❖ A man from Gujarat who is a heart patient has been identified with EMM negative blood group.
- ❖ It is India's first and world's tenth case of unique blood group.
- ❖ It cannot be categorized into the existing groups of 'A', 'B', 'O' or 'AB'.
- ❖ There are four types of blood groups in the human body.
- ❖ It further consists of 42 types of systems, like A, B, O, Rh and Duffy.
- ❖ There are also 375 types of antigens in which EMM is high.
- ❖ However, there are only 10 such people in the world who do not have EMM high-frequency antigen in their blood.
- ❖ It makes them different from normal humans.
- ❖ People with such rarest blood groups can neither donate their blood to anyone, nor can they acquire it from anyone.

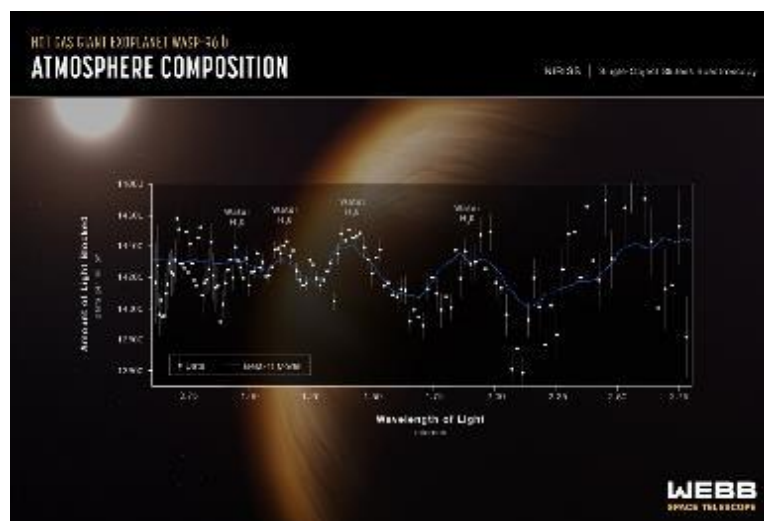
Asteroid 2022 KY4

- ❖ The closest approach of asteroid 2022 KY4 to Earth was occurred on July 17.
- ❖ The 2022 KY4 space rock is almost as big as a 50-storey building.
- ❖ It is around 290 feet wide and will approach Earth after 100 years.
- ❖ The estimated speed of the asteroid 2022 KY4 is 16,900 miles per hour.
- ❖ It had previously come very close to Earth in 1959 and 1948.
- ❖ This asteroid won't come this near to Earth again until May 2048.



Discovery of water on distant planet

- ❖ James Webb Telescope will help in discovery of water on distant planet.
- ❖ This telescope will help the researchers in measuring the chemical makeup of atmospheres of planets across other stars.
- ❖ It is a space telescope, that has been designed specifically to conduct infrared astronomy.



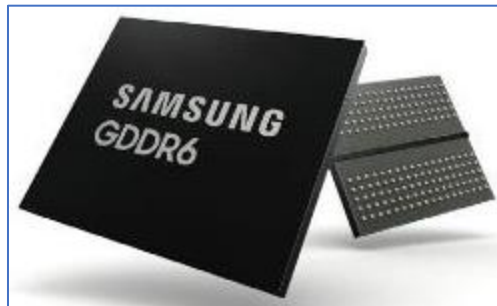
- ❖ It is the largest optical telescope in space.
- ❖ Its improved sensitivity and infrared resolution allow it to look too old, distant, or faint objects for Hubble Space Telescope.

Project 17A stealth frigate

- ❖ The Union Defence Minister launched the fourth P17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' recently.
- ❖ The P-17A class is a follow-on of the P-17 Shivalik Class with improved stealth features & advanced weapons.
- ❖ The first two ships of the P17A Project were launched in 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ The third ship-Udaygiri was launched this year.

World's fastest graphics DRAM chip

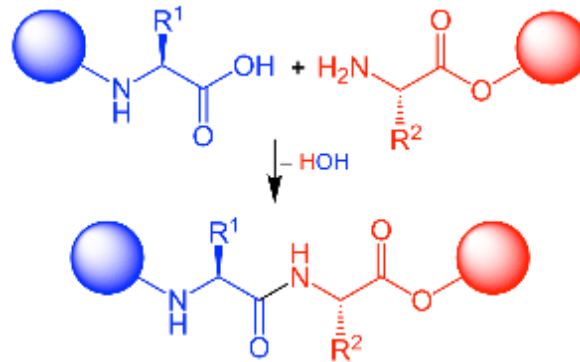
- ❖ Samsung has developed a new graphics dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) chip with a faster speed and improved power efficiency.
- ❖ The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to 1.1 terabytes per second.
- ❖ Samsung's claim is the fastest in the world and is equivalent to processing 275 full HD movies in a second.
- ❖ Graphics DRAMs are widely used in high-powered 3D games, personal computers, notebooks or devices that play videos with a high resolution.



New synthetic peptides

- ❖ Indian researchers developed novel method to render SARS-CoV-2 inactive.
- ❖ New synthetic peptides can both prevent the SARS-CoV-2 virus from entering cells.
- ❖ It also, clump the virus particles together to lessen their capacity to infect living cells.

- ❖ With the help of this innovative technique, viruses like SARS-CoV-2 can be rendered dormant, opening the door for a new family of peptide antivirals.



Varroa Mite plague

- ❖ Australia killed millions of honeybees in a bid to stop the spread of catastrophic parasite to its south-eastern part.
- ❖ Honey-sector in Australia is under huge threat from recent outbreak of deadly varroa mite.
- ❖ It is a sesame seed-sized parasite, discovered at a port in near Sydney.
- ❖ It involved in attacking and feeding on honeybees.
- ❖ They are known to destroy entire colonies of honeybees.



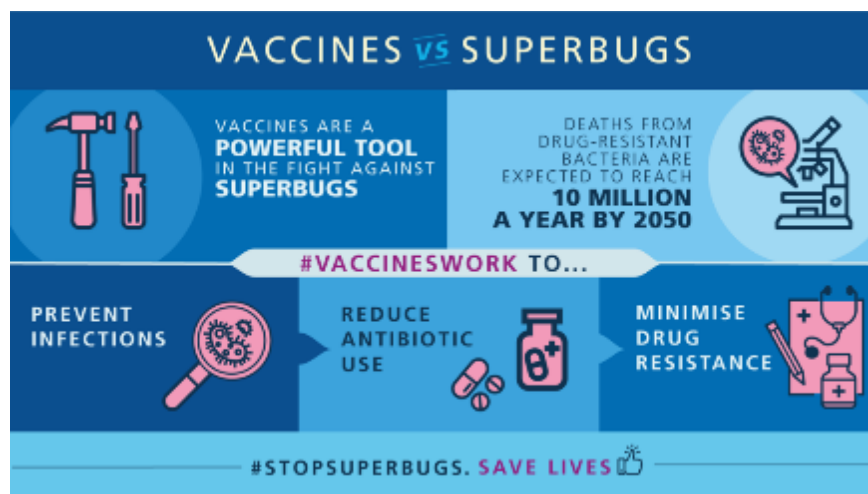
India's first Human passenger drone

- ❖ India's first human carrying platform pilot-less drone made its debut in New Delhi.
- ❖ This 'Varuna' drone has been designed and developed by a start-up, Sagar Defence Engineering.
- ❖ It has the capacity to carry one person inside.
- ❖ It has a range of 25 kms with a payload of 130 kgs and around 25-33 minutes of endurance.



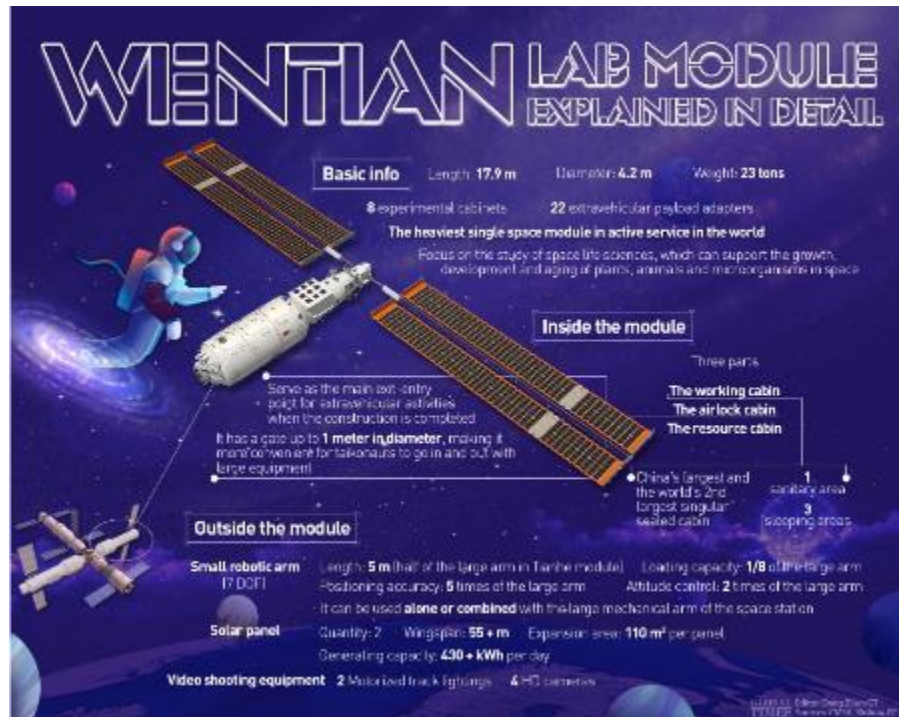
Antimicrobial resistance vaccines

- ❖ The WHO released the first-ever report on the pipeline of the vaccines currently developing to prevent infections by AMR bacterial pathogens.
- ❖ Resistant-bacterial infections are associated with nearly 4.95 million deaths per year.
- ❖ In that, 1.27 million deaths are directly attributed to AMR.
- ❖ There are already vaccines available against four priority bacterial pathogens:
 - Pneumococcal disease (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*),
 - Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)
 - Tuberculosis (*mycobacterium tuberculosis*) and
 - Typhoid fever (*Salmonella Typhi*).
- ❖ Except TB vaccine, the remaining three vaccines are effective.

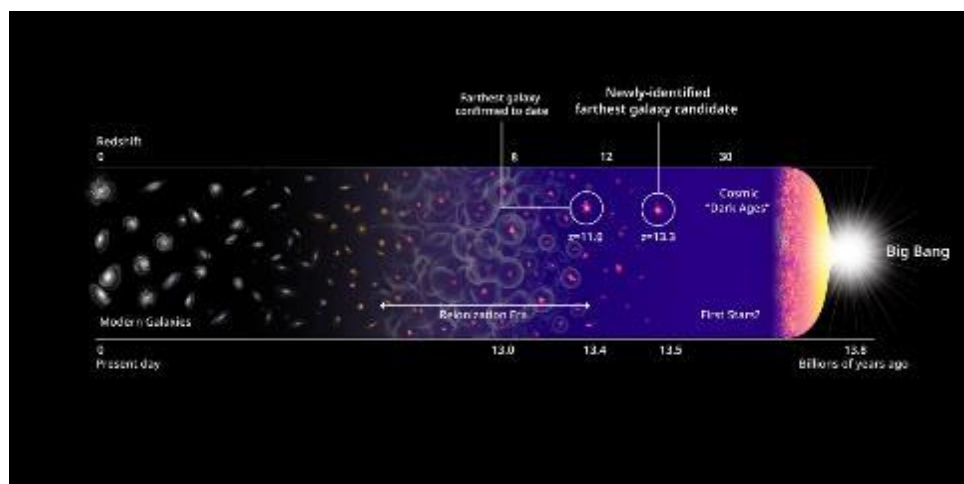


“Wentian” space station modules

- ❖ China launched Wentian, the second of the three modules needed to complete its new space station.
- ❖ This was the most recent development in China’s ambitious space programme.
- ❖ In April 2021, Beijing launched the main module of the Tiangong space station, which is Chinese for “heavenly palace.”
- ❖ Tiangong should have a lifespan of at least 10 years.

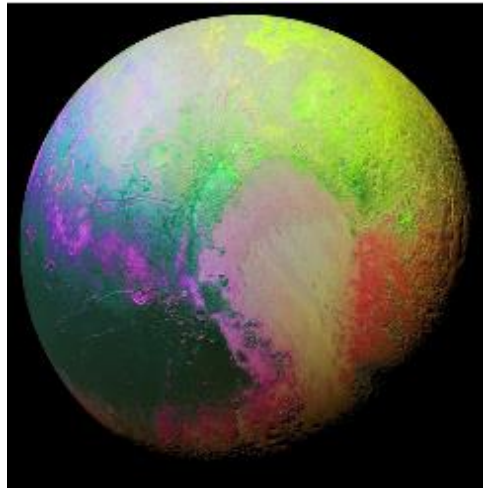


Oldest galaxy in the universe



- ❖ James Webb Space Telescope, the world's most powerful telescope, has discovered the oldest galaxy in the universe.
- ❖ It has spotted galaxy candidates that existed when the universe was just 300 million years old, an infant stage in cosmic terms.
- ❖ It spotted two candidates to be the oldest galaxies in the universe GLASS-z11 and GLASS-z13.
- ❖ GNz11 remains the only galaxy to have been confirmed to exist in the first few hundred million years after the Big Bang, the moment when our universe came to life.
- ❖ The light from GLASS-z13 has taken about 13.4 billion years to hit the mirrors of the spacecraft.
- ❖ This is located nearly 15,00,000 kilometres away from Earth.

Rainbow-colored planet



- ❖ NASA shared a Rainbow coloured picture of the dwarf planet Pluto.
- ❖ These images showcase different areas of the planet in various psychedelic colours.
- ❖ Pluto does not naturally look this flamboyant.
- ❖ This image was actually created by New Horizons scientists to highlight the planet's distinct regions.
- ❖ Pluto is located in the Kuiper belt of the solar system.
- ❖ It is a doughnut-shaped region of icy bodies beyond the orbit of Neptune.

Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle

- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems successfully delivered the locally developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle to the Indian Army.
- ❖ These armoured vehicles will increase the nation's protector's ability to fight in all weather and terrain situations and will offer protection while moving.



ENVIRONMENT

New Biosphere Reserves

- ❖ UNESCO has approved the designation of 11 new biosphere reserves in 9 countries.
- ❖ It includes three countries for the first time: Chad, Georgia and Zambia.
- ❖ Two existing biosphere reserves in Spain have also been extended.
- ❖ With the new designations, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves totals 738 sites in 134 countries.
- ❖ These additions were decided by the 34th session of the International Coordinating Council.
- ❖ It is the governing body of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.
- ❖ It is composed of 34 representatives of UNESCO Member States.
- ❖ The Council was meeting from 13 to 17 June at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris.
- ❖ The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme pioneered the idea of sustainable development.
- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 1971 as an intergovernmental scientific programme.



Inventory of animal species

- ❖ In 2021, India's faunal database gained 540 new species.
- ❖ It is bringing the overall number of animal species to 1,03,258.
- ❖ Additionally, in 2021, 315 taxa were added to the Indian flora.
- ❖ It is bringing the total number of floral taxa in the nation to 55,048.
- ❖ Of the 540 species of fauna, 134 are new records for India, while 406 are new finds.
- ❖ Also in 2021, thirteen new genera were found.
- ❖ One mammal species, 35 reptile species, and 19 species of fish are among the newly identified species.
- ❖ India makes for 6.1% of the world's total faunal variety with its 1.03 lakh species.

New Discoveries 2021

- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) had contributed to 68% of the animal discoveries in 2021.
- ❖ *Crocidura narcondamica*, a white-toothed shrew from the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, is the newly identified mammal species.
- ❖ *Boiga whitakeri*, also known as the Whitaker's cat snake, was one of the remarkable reptiles found in 2021.
- ❖ It was found in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats.
- ❖ The order of insects known as the Hymenoptera was the source of the most new discoveries.
- ❖ It is accounting for 80 species, including one new genus.
- ❖ Hymenoptera includes sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants.
- ❖ According to the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), regions such as the Western Ghats and the north eastern regions have contributed 28% of the total discoveries.
- ❖ In State-wise analysis, the most number of discoveries were made from Kerala with 51 taxa.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh.

World's Largest Waterlily Species

- ❖ *Victoria Boliviana* is now the world's largest water lily.
- ❖ It usually grows in freshwater rivers, floodplains and ponds in north-eastern Bolivia.

- ❖ This is the third species in the Victoria genus.
- ❖ Victoria Amazonica and Victoria Cruziana are the other two species of water lilies.



Membership of UNESCO Committee

- ❖ India has been elected to the intergovernmental committee of UNESCO's 2003 convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- ❖ The Intergovernmental Committee of 2003 Convention includes 24 members.
- ❖ India will be a member for a period of 2022-2026.
- ❖ In past, India has been a member of ICH Committee for two times viz., during 2006-2010 and 2014-2018.
- ❖ The main functions of “Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage” include
 - Promoting the objectives of the convention
 - Providing directions on best practices and
 - Recommending on measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

Introduction of Red Pandas

- ❖ Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park of West Bengal has started a programme to release 20 Red Pandas in about five years to the forests.
- ❖ The Singalila National Park, the highest protected area in West Bengal, will soon get new denizens.
- ❖ It is located at the Singalila Ridge in Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- ❖ In 1994, it was declared a major wild habitat for red pandas.
- ❖ Two species of Panda are found worldwide, namely, Giant Pandas and Red Pandas.

- ❖ They are also regarded as an indicator species for ecological change.
- ❖ In India, two subspecies of Panda are found viz, Himalayan red panda and Chinese red panda.
- ❖ Red panda is endemic to the forests of India, Bhutan, Nepal, north Myanmar and south China.
- ❖ Red Pandas are categorized in “Endangered” category of IUCN Red list.
- ❖ Giant Pandas are Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.



Eoscanosor cobrensis

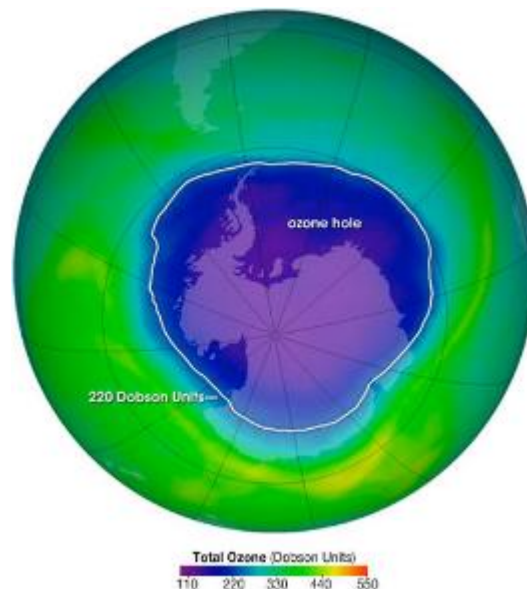
- ❖ New Fossil of Eoscanosor cobrensis was discovered from New Mexico.
- ❖ Eoscanosor cobrensis is a reptile, belonging to Pennsylvanian subperiod of Carboniferous period.
- ❖ It lived around 305 million years ago in area around present-day New Mexico.
- ❖ The species belongs to Varanopidae, which is an extinct family of reptiles.
- ❖ They were similar to monitor lizards.



Sustainable Use of Wild Species

- ❖ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released a report recently.
- ❖ This report has found that with the accelerating global biodiversity crisis, a million species of plants and animals are facing extinction.
- ❖ The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species - Fishing, Gathering, Logging, Terrestrial animal harvesting.
- ❖ About 70% of the world's poor population is directly dependent on wild species.
- ❖ 20% source their food from wild plants, algae and fungi.
- ❖ About 34% of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels.
- ❖ The survival of an estimated 12% of wild tree species is threatened by unsustainable logging.
- ❖ Illegal trade in wild species represents the third largest class of all illegal trade.

Ozone Hole 2022



- ❖ The scientists discovered a new large ozone hole in the lower stratosphere.
- ❖ It is seven times larger than the one over Antarctica.
- ❖ The new ozone hole was discovered over the tropics.
- ❖ This is the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- ❖ It has reportedly been there for over 30 years.

- ❖ The Ozone layer is a gas layer in the Earth's stratosphere
- ❖ That envelops the planet and protects it from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- ❖ It is generally found in the lower portion of the stratosphere, about 15-35 kilometres above Earth.

First carbon-neutral airport

- ❖ Leh airport is being built as a carbon-neutral airport.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind in India.
- ❖ A “Geothermal system” in hybridization with Solar PV Plant will be provided in the new airport Terminal Building for heating and cooling purposes.
- ❖ This system works by exchanging heat between the air and the ground as its heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating.

Cheetah Restoration

File Pic

| MP IN SPOT-LIGHT | | |  | Why Kuno Clicked |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Spotted Trail | | | | |
| Aug 2019 SC okays NTCA proposal to introduce African cheetahs in India | Oct 2020 Kuno, Nauradehi among 5 sites in MP on shortlist, plus Shahgarh in Rajasthan | Nov 2020 WII begins surveying sites |  | ➤ Was once home to cheetahs |
| | | Jan 2021 CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan chairs meeting, is told Kuno is ideal | | ➤ Has ideal vegetation for cheetahs to ambush and hunt |
| | | Mar 2021 WII starts detailed survey of Kuno | | ➤ Good prey base |
| | | July 2021 Minister announces cheetahs coming to Kuno in Nov | | ➤ Only one village that's being relocated |

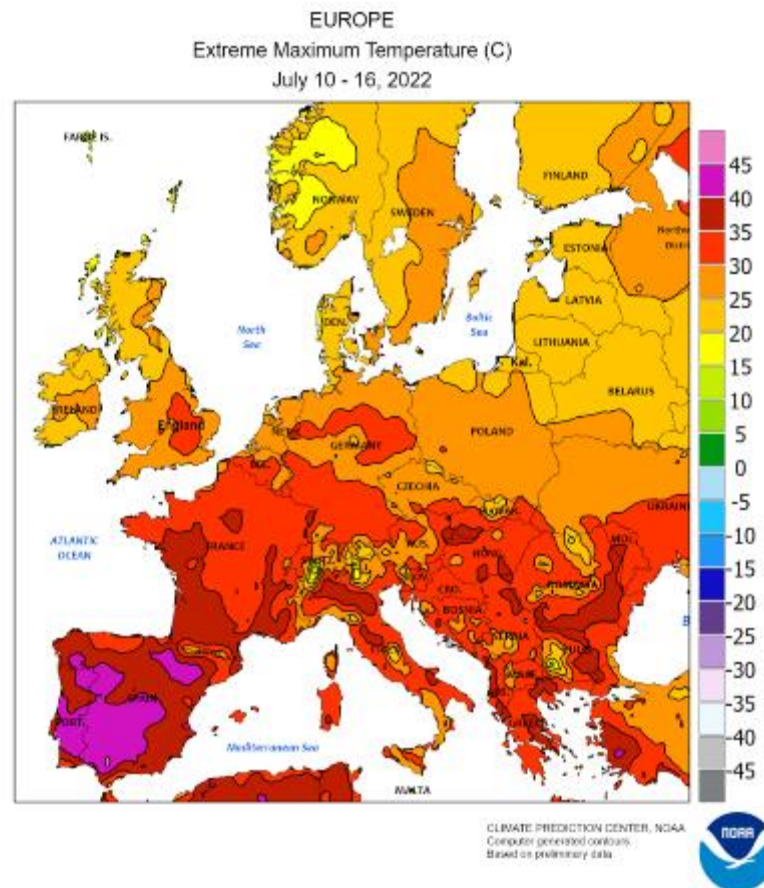
- ❖ India and Namibia signed a MoU to reintroduction cheetahs in historical range in India.
- ❖ 8 Cheetahs (4 males and 4 females) will reach India in August 2022.
- ❖ They will be reintroduced in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ They are extinct species in India now.
- ❖ India has planned to introduce 8 to 10 cheetahs each year.
- ❖ In next five years, a total 50 cheetahs will be relocated to India from Namibia, South Africa and other African countries.

13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue

- ❖ The 13th Petersburg Climate Dialogue held at Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ The two-day informal ministerial meet was chaired by Germany and Egypt.

- ❖ They are the hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27).
- ❖ This informal ministerial meeting proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving the implementation of climate action.

Heat Wave



- ❖ Over 2,000 people have died in Spain and Portugal due to an unprecedented heat wave moves through Europe.
- ❖ Spain was gripped by a heatwave affecting much of Western Europe.
- ❖ It increased the temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit).
- ❖ It is the third most intense heatwave in terms of its geographic extension and duration" since modern records began in 1975.
- ❖ Only two other heatwaves lasted longer: one in July 2015 (26 days) and another in August 2003 (16 days).

World's oldest male giant panda

- ❖ World's oldest male giant panda in captivity dies at the age of 35 in Hong Kong.
- ❖ The panda, called An An, was euthanized at the age of 35.
- ❖ This is equivalent of a human living till 105.
- ❖ An An, together with its mate Jia Jia, was gifted to Hong Kong from China's central government in 1999.
- ❖ His female mate Jia Jia died in 2016 at the age of 38.
- ❖ It became the oldest female panda in captivity.
- ❖ The average life expectancy of the species is below 20 years in the wild.



First-ever red weather warning

- ❖ The UK's Meteorological Office issued a first-ever red extreme heat warning for parts of England, including London.
- ❖ A red warning is the highest alert used by the Met Office under its alert system.
- ❖ It means a risk to life is likely as temperatures could hit 40 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The hot weather is being treated as a national emergency with contingency plans in place



Karakoram Anomaly

- ❖ Large number of glaciers are melting and are decreasing around the world.
- ❖ But the glaciers of central Karakoram in Himalaya have surprisingly remained unchanged or slightly increased in the last few decades.
- ❖ This phenomenon has been puzzling glaciologists and providing climate deniers with a very rare straw to clutch at.
- ❖ This is peculiar because the behaviour seems to be confined to a very small region.
- ❖ Kunlun ranges is being another example of showing similar trends in the whole of Himalaya.
- ❖ Recent studies revealed that western disturbance has been instrumental in triggering and sustaining the Karakoram Anomaly since the advent of the 21st century.



Migratory monarch butterflies



- ❖ The migratory monarch butterfly, has been classified 'endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ It is a sub-species of the monarch butterfly that travels around 4,000 kilometres across America each year.
- ❖ The number of the western monarchs, which live west of the Rocky Mountains, reduced 99.9 per cent.
- ❖ Its Population is falling to only 1,914 butterflies in 2021 from 10 million in the 1980s.
- ❖ The population of the eastern monarchs that migrate from eastern United States and Canada also shrunk 84 per cent from 1996-2014.

New Ramsar Sites in India 2022



- ❖ Five more wetlands of India have got international importance tag of Ramsar sites.
- ❖ Now totally, 54 such Ramsar sites are in the country.
- ❖ The newly designated sites are
 - Karikili Bird Sanctuary - Tamil Nadu,
 - Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest - Tamil Nadu
 - Pichavaram Mangrove - Tamil Nadu
 - Pala wetland - Mizoram
 - Sakhya Sagar - Madhya Pradesh.

Data on Tigers & Elephants



- ❖ Data on tigers & Elephants was presented in Lok Sabha recently.
- ❖ As per the data, 29 tigers got lost in India in past 3 years.
- ❖ In 2019, India had lost 96 tigers.
- ❖ In 2020, it lost 106 tigers while 127 tigers were lost in 2021.
- ❖ Currently, 197 tigers have been put to scrutiny.
- ❖ 125 people got killed in “tiger attacks” in last three years.
- ❖ 61 deaths occurred in Maharashtra and 25 in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ India lost 307 elephants in the same period.
- ❖ 222 elephants lost their life to electrocution in part 3 years.
- ❖ 41 cases were reported in Odisha, 34 in Tamil Nadu and 33 in Assam.
- ❖ 45 elephants have died in train accidents.

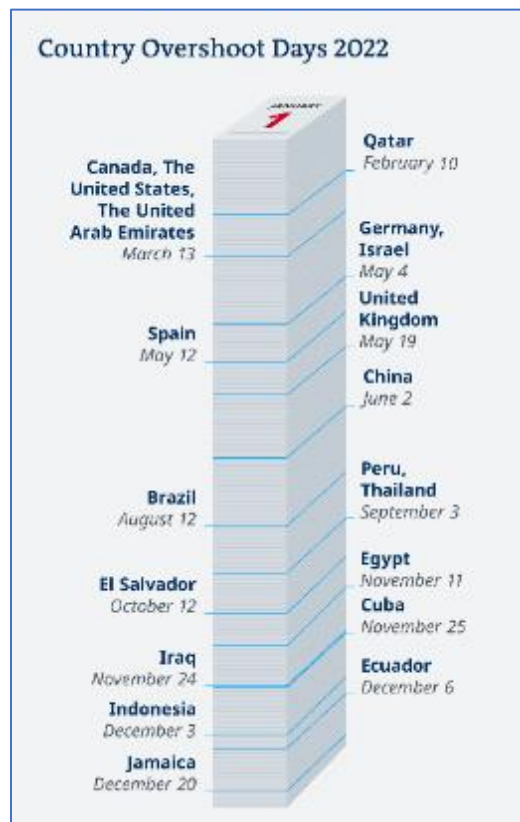
ZSI Study on Snow Leopard

- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) conducted survey on Snow Leopard recently.
- ❖ There is a strong link between habitat use by Snow Leopard and its prey species like blue sheep and Siberian ibex.
- ❖ The chances of detecting a snow leopard were high if that site was used by its prey species.

- ❖ In case of prey species, the chances of detection were low when the snow leopard was present and detected.
- ❖ Snow Leopard has been categorised as 'Vulnerable' in IUCN Red list.
- ❖ In India, it is found in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.



Earth overshoot day



- ❖ From January 1 to July 28, humanity has used as much from nature as the planet can renew in the entire year.
- ❖ Thus, July 28 is Earth Overshoot Day.
- ❖ It would take 1.75 Earths to provide for the world's population in a sustainable way.
- ❖ Global Footprint Network said Earth Overshoot Day has fallen ever sooner over the last 50 years.

STATES

Eknath Shinde

- ❖ Eknath Shinde, a rebel Shiv Sena MLA, sworn in as the new chief minister of Maharashtra.
- ❖ He is the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra replacing Uddhav Thackeray.
- ❖ Devendra Fadnavis of BJP got the deputy Chief minister of the state.

Aurangabad and Osmanabad Districts – Maharashtra



- ❖ Osmanabad has been renamed Dharashiv and Aurangabad's name has been changed to Sambhaji Nagar.
- ❖ The Navi Mumbai's airport's name will also be changed to DB Patil International Airport.



- ❖ Aurangabad was founded in 1610 by Malik Ambar, the Siddi General of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar.
- ❖ Aurangabad was named Khirki or Khadki at the time.
- ❖ And its name was later changed to Fatehpur by Malik Ambar's son Fateh Khan after Malik Ambar's death in 1626.
- ❖ The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb invaded the Deccan in 1653 and set up his capital in the city.
- ❖ He also renamed it as Aurangabad.

Jhansi Railway Station

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi Railway Station is to be renamed as Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station.
- ❖ The move comes after the state government got the approval to rename the railway station from the central government.
- ❖ Earlier, the Yogi government has renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya, Allahabad as Prayagraj and Mughalsarai station as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction.

Largest floating Solar Power Project

- ❖ India's largest floating solar power plant was made fully operational by NTPC at Ramagundam, Telangana.
- ❖ The capacity of solar plant is 100 MW.
- ❖ It is powered with advanced technology and environment friendly features.
- ❖ The presence of floating solar panels will reduce evaporation rate from water bodies.
- ❖ Thus, it will serve the purpose of water conservation.

'Project Surya' initiative

- ❖ ReNew in partnership with UNEP and SEWA launched 'Project Surya' will train 1,000 low-income women salt-pan workers to work in the renewable industry.
- ❖ ReNew is providing financial support and familiarization with its renewable facility in the area.
- ❖ SEWA or Self-Employed Women's Association is the lead implementation partner.
- ❖ UNEP or United Nations Environment Program will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project.

- ❖ SEWA is a National Trade union with a membership base of over 1.5 million poor, self-employed women workers from the informal economy across 16 states in India.

Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra 2022

- ❖ The Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra, also known as the Festival of Chariots commenced on July 1 in Puri, Odisha.
- ❖ This Yatra is believed to be the oldest and largest chariot procession in the world.
- ❖ Lord Jagannath's chariot is named Nandighosh.
- ❖ Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra's chariots are called Taladhwaja and Darpadalana respectively.

Public Health Emergency



- ❖ The Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services of Puducherry, declared a public health emergency in the Karaikal region.
- ❖ This is due to an outbreak of acute diarrhoeal cases over the last few days.
- ❖ Large number of people were found to be suffering from ADD (Acute Diarrhoeal Disease).

GI tag for 'Ant chutney'

- ❖ In Odisha, scientists are fine-tuning their analysis for making presentation for GI tag of Kai Chutney.
- ❖ This Dish is fabricated from weaver ants offer a treatment to many sicknesses for Odisha tribes.

- ❖ The Kai Chutney is wealthy in treasured proteins, zinc, calcium, iron, diet B-12, potassium, magnesium, copper, sodium, fiber and 18 amino acids.
- ❖ It is considered healthy for boosting the immune device and stay sicknesses at bay.
- ❖ Weaver ants are scientifically called as *Oecophylla smaragdina*.



Nari Ko Naman scheme

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh government has launched 'Naari Ko Naman' scheme.
- ❖ It aims to provide 50 % concession on fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women commuters within the state boundaries.
- ❖ Seema Thakur, the first woman bus driver in the state, drove him in a state transport bus to the event venue.

State Ranking Index for NFSA

- ❖ State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2022 was released by recently.
- ❖ Odisha was ranked first, for bringing resilient food systems in state, in a bid to optimise the delivery of benefits.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at 3rd amongst the General Category States.
- ❖ Among the Special Category states/UTs, Tripura stood first followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively.
- ❖ Among the 3 UTs where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) – Cash is operational, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu is the top ranked UT.

IMPLEMENTING FOOD SECURITY

How the 20 'general category' states ranked in terms of NFSA implementation

TOP THREE

| Rank | State | Index score |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Odisha | 0.836 |
| 2 | Uttar Pradesh | 0.797 |
| 3 | Andhra Pradesh | 0.794 |

BOTTOM THREE

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------|
| 18 | Delhi | 0.658 |
| 19 | Chhattisgarh | 0.654 |
| 20 | Goa | 0.631 |

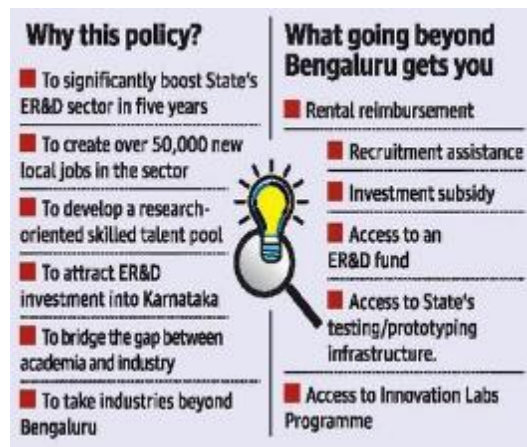
Delta Ranking

- ❖ Jharkhand has secured the first position in the Delta Ranking for the month of June under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission Scheme.
- ❖ This was Released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Jharkhand has also improved in overall performance and has earned 8th place in the country.

Deoghar Airport

- ❖ An upgraded Deoghar International airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister.
- ❖ Deoghar International Airport will be the 68th destination.
- ❖ It will be connected to Kolkata, Patna and Ranchi under UDAN scheme.
- ❖ It will be the second international airport in Jharkhand after Ranchi.

Nation's first R&D policy



- ❖ The Karnataka state government is set to become the first state in the country to have an exclusive Research and Development (R&D) Policy.
- ❖ The new policy would boost research and innovations taking place in the state at all levels from garage-level innovations to those in major institutions.
- ❖ Even individuals would be encouraged.

NEP Implementation

- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to initiate the process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy.
- ❖ The implementation of the New Education Policy marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country.
- ❖ It is focusing on the overall personality development of students.

13 expressways in UP

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh become the first state to have 13 expressways.
- ❖ Six of the 13 expressways totaling 3200 km are in use while the other seven are under construction.

"Right To Health" bill

- ❖ Rajasthan government will enact a law on "right to health".
- ❖ This will be the "first of its kind in India".
- ❖ It aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.

| PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO HEALTH ACT | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Rajasthan is the biggest state of the country and many of its hamlets are not connected with proper roads. Ferrying patients to hospitals can be a problem | ➤ Sanctioned posts of doctors have not been increased for a long time even as number of patients have increased manifold |
| ➤ For successful implementation of Right to Health Act, posts of doctors should be occupied. But, in the state, at least 20% of the doctors' posts are vacant | ➤ Machines for diagnosis and medical equipment are out of order |
| | ➤ Implementation will need excessive budget |

India's biggest shopping festival

- ❖ Delhi will host its first ever government-backed shopping festival from January 2023.
- ❖ The festival will have 200 concerts for entertainment, food walks and will also offer huge discounts on products.
- ❖ This will be the biggest ever shopping festival in India.

Mother Teresa Memorial Award



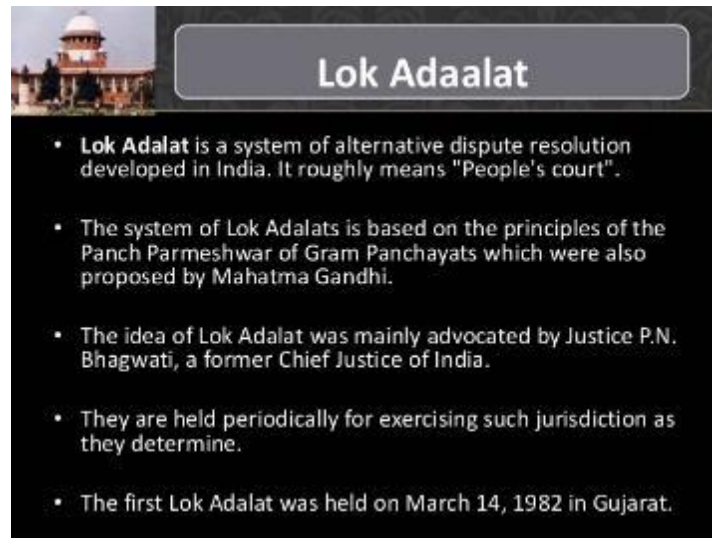
- ❖ The UNEP National Goodwill Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza, and Environmental Activist Mr Afroz Shah were presented with the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021.
- ❖ Both were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability.
- ❖ Harmony Foundation hosts the Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice.

State own internet service

- ❖ Kerala is now the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications' granting of an Internet Service Provider licence to the IT infrastructure project of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon).
- ❖ Kerala Fibre Optic Network Ltd is a state government initiative that aims to eliminate the digital gap.

Digital Lok Adalat in India

- ❖ The NALSA Chairman Uday Umesh Lalit unveiled the first digital Lok Adalat driven by Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority's (RSLSA) digital Lok Adalat was created by Jupitice Justice Technologies.



PMFBY - Andhra Pradesh

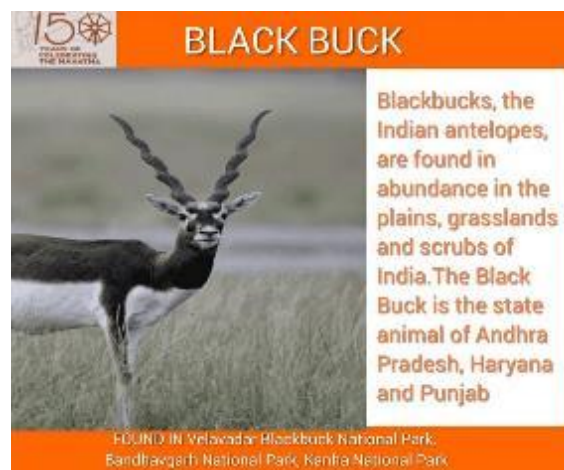
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to rejoin the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- ❖ It decided to implement the PMFBY from Kharif-2022 season.
- ❖ PMFBY and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been successfully implemented in Andhra Pradesh from Kharif-2016 to Kharif-2019.

Pacts to solve the border dispute

- ❖ Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal's CM Pema Khandu held their third meeting on the border disputes.
- ❖ They jointly issued the 'Namsai Declaration'.
- ❖ The first two meetings held between the two CMs on January 24 and April 20 this year.
- ❖ The boundary line delineated and signed on the 29 toposheets by the High-Powered Tripartite Committee as notified boundary during the year 1960.
- ❖ Both states decided to constitute 12 "regional committees".

- ❖ Each covering 12 districts of Arunachal and the counterpart districts of Assam for joint verification of 123 villages.
- ❖ The final decision will be made based on the recommendations of the regional committees.
- ❖ 28 villages, which are within the constitutional boundary of Arunachal, will remain with it.
- ❖ 3 villages, on which claims were withdrawn by Arunachal, will remain with Assam.

First-ever blackbuck survey



- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh State Wildlife Department has begun the first-ever study of blackbucks.
- ❖ It conducted along a length of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam.
- ❖ Indian Blackbuck is an antelope.
- ❖ It is the only living species of the genus Antelope.
- ❖ It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.
- ❖ It has been categorised least concerned in IUCN Red Data Book.
- ❖ The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known worldwide for their conservation efforts to blackbuck.

Vehicle Location Tracking Device fixing

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has become India's first state to connect the Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).



- ❖ All the registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLRD will be connected with ERSS
- ❖ Thus, these vehicles can be tracked anywhere in India
- ❖ It would help in detecting the theft of vehicles and vehicle accidents easily.
- ❖ The Government of Punjab has also decided to introduce the VLTD system in all the passenger service vehicles.

Restoration of OBC quota

- ❖ The six-member commission, headed by Jayant Kumar Banthia, was set up by the Maharashtra government.
- ❖ The panel submitted its report to the Supreme Court recently.
- ❖ This report has paved way for candidates who belong to Other Backward Classes in Local Bodies' Elections in Maharashtra.
- ❖ This Commission has recommended to provide 27% reservation in local bodies
- ❖ However, this reservation should not affect the statutory reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- ❖ It is also, subject to reservation limit of 50%.

e-FIR system

- ❖ Gujarat Government offers e-FIR service for the crimes like mobile or two-wheeler theft.
- ❖ Taking a step towards digital governance, the "e-FIR system" was launched in State.
- ❖ The e-governance initiatives and e-FIR system has been launched as a part of "e-GujCop project".
- ❖ The e-FIR system is currently offering 16 Police-related services in online mode.
- ❖ The eGujCop Project was launched on September 2013.

First Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur became the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in the Country.
- ❖ This is the only district in the country, people from each of 254 villages in Burhanpur have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas.



- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.
- ❖ Under this scheme, 55 litres of water per person is being provided to every rural household.

India's first brain health clinic

- ❖ Karnataka health minister inaugurated India's first brain collaborative health clinic in Bengaluru.
- ❖ It has been established by the state health dept under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (KaBHI) in association with NIMHANS.

Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi

- ❖ Rajasthan Government signed a MoU with Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation of Telangana government.
- ❖ It aims to set up first ever all women-run cooperative bank called "Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi".
- ❖ It will promote women's empowerment by extending support to their enterprises.
- ❖ It will be operated by all women staffs.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Vijay Amritraj

- ❖ Indian tennis great, Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award in London.
- ❖ It is given by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.
- ❖ He is first recipient from India to receive this award.
- ❖ He joins including Brian Tobin of Australia, Eiichi Kawatei of Japan, and Peachy Kellmeyer of the United States.

Oscar Academy Members 2022

- ❖ Bollywood actor Kajol and Tamil actor Suriya have been invited to join the Class of 2022 of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

- ❖ It hosts the Oscars every year.
- ❖ The two Indian actors are among the 397 distinguished artists and executives from around the globe to be invited to join the organisation in 2022.

Eoin Morgan Retirement

- ❖ The England's cricket team captain Eoin Morgan announced his retirement from the International Cricket.
- ❖ Under his captaincy, England lifted their first-ever ODI World Cup in 2019
- ❖ He is also the most successful T20I captain, with his team winning 42 out of the total 72 matches.

Varinder Singh

- ❖ Indian hockey stalwart and member of the gold medal winning 1975 World Cup team, Varinder Singh passed away.
- ❖ He was part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❖ It was India's only World Cup crown.
- ❖ In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

1st Black woman judge in US Supreme Court

- ❖ Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black woman judge of the Supreme Court of America.
- ❖ She is also its first former public defender.
- ❖ This is the first time in the history of United States that a black woman has become a judge of the country's highest court.

Saraswati Samman 2021

- ❖ Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021.
- ❖ This is awarded for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.
- ❖ Saraswati Samman award was Instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- ❖ It is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.



- ❖ It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.

President of FATF

- ❖ T. Raja Kumar from Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ FATF the anti-money laundering watchdog.
- ❖ He has replaced Marcus Pleyer, and will discharge his service for next two years.

21st TIFF Edition Trophy

- ❖ The 21st edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival was held at Uniri Square in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- ❖ Utama, the debut film director Alejandro Loayaza Grisi, was the winner and awarded the 10,000-euro Transylvania Trophy.
- ❖ Best Director Award – Filmmaker Guomundur Arnar Guomundsson.
- ❖ Best Performance Award – Laura Muller & Schemci Lauth.

Ayurveda Ratna award

- ❖ Tanuja Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) was awarded with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.
- ❖ The UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg) conferred the award.
- ❖ It is recognising her contribution for promoting the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad.

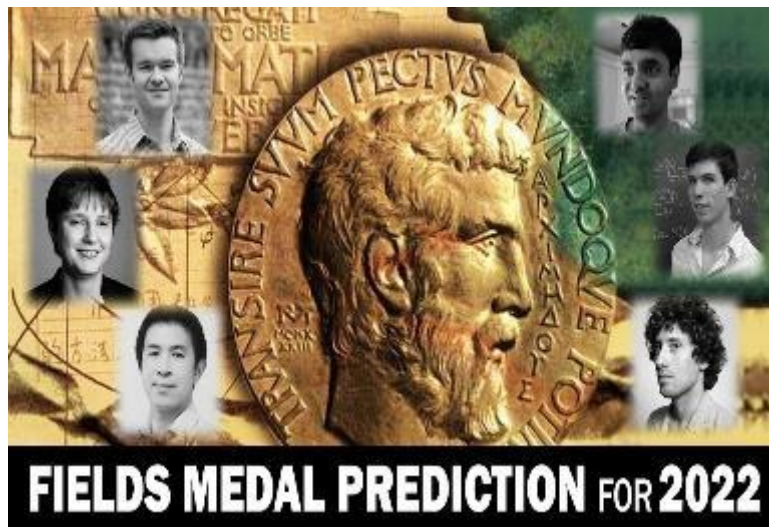
Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022

- ❖ HCL Technologies was recognised at Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022, for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology.
- ❖ HCL Tech bagged Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner).
- ❖ The IT company was also named a finalist in the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Internet of Things (domain finalist).

Youngest Speaker in the country

- ❖ Mumbai lawyer and first-time legislator, Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ He belongs to the BJP.
- ❖ Thus, he becomes the youngest ever in India to hold this Constitutional post.
- ❖ He creates a history to become the youngest legislator to be elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960).

Fields Medal 2022



- ❖ Four mathematicians have been awarded the prestigious Fields Medals.
- ❖ It is dubbed as the Nobel prize in maths.
- ❖ It is awarded by the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- ❖ It is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organisation.
- ❖ It is awarded to mathematicians under 40.
- ❖ The four awardees of the prize include
 - France's Hugo Duminil-Copin - Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques
 - US-based June Huh – Princeton University
 - Britain's James Maynard – University of Oxford
 - Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.
- ❖ Ukraine's Maryna is only the second woman to receive the award.
- ❖ The other female laureate was Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani in 2014.



Force Commander of UNMISS

- ❖ India's Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian has been appointed the Force Commander in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ❖ Almost 20,000 peacekeepers serve with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- ❖ They work to protect civilians and build durable peace in the conflict-affected country.
- ❖ A total of 1,160 peacekeepers from India are currently serving in South Sudan.

Shiromani Award

- ❖ Michelle Poonawalla has received the Shiromani Award at NRI World Summit 2022, held at United Kingdom.
- ❖ The Shiromani Award was also awarded to Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria.

“Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life”

- ❖ Hachette India has announced the expanded paperback edition of this book.
- ❖ It is about five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand.
- ❖ It is written by Anand with author-journalist Susan Ninan.

P Gopinath Nair

- ❖ Freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair has passed away at the age of 100.
- ❖ He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma award.
- ❖ He had participated in the freedom struggle.
- ❖ He had taken part in the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- ❖ He had worked alongside Vinoba Bhave to promote Bhoodan and Gramdan movements.
- ❖ The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to society.

Wall of former chief economists

- ❖ India-born Gita Gopinath features on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the IMF.

- ❖ She became the first woman and second Indian to get this honour.
- ❖ The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan.
- ❖ He was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- ❖ Gopinath was appointed as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018.
- ❖ Later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year.

Japan's PM



- ❖ Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe was passed away recently.
- ❖ He was reported shot at while delivering a campaign speech.
- ❖ Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japanese history.
- ❖ He was initially serving from 2006-2007 and then again from 2012 to 2020.

United Kingdom Prime Minister

- ❖ United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has announced his resignation as Conservative Party.
- ❖ Johnson will remain in charge until the process of electing a new leader is completed.

Father of Indian Internet

- ❖ Brijendra K Syngal, the former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed away.
- ❖ He has been acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet.

- ❖ He was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment.

Kharchi festival

- ❖ A week-long traditional Kharchi festival began on the eastern outskirts of Tripura.
- ❖ During the festival prayer offered to 14 gods and goddess.
- ❖ Kharchi Puja is predominantly a tribal festival.
- ❖ But it owes its origins to Hindu religion.

Archaeologist Enamul Haque

- ❖ Dr. Enamul Haque, a well-known archaeologist, historian, expert in art, and former director general of the Bangladesh National Museum passed away.
- ❖ He received the Ekushey Padak in 2016, the Swadhinata Padak in 2020.
- ❖ He was honoured with the Indian Padma Shri award for his contributions.

Mrs Universe



- ❖ India's Pallavi Singh has won the Mrs Universe Divine Title at the finals held at Yeosu City, South Korea.
- ❖ She won the title of Mrs India held in Jaipur in 2020.
- ❖ She then won the title of Mrs Indo-Asia Universe in the Asia-level competition held in Delhi in 2021.



Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

- ❖ Japan decided to honour its former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, posthumously.
- ❖ This is the highest order in Japan.
- ❖ Emperor Meiji of Japan had established the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876.
- ❖ He is the fourth former prime minister to get the Japan's highest order.
- ❖ This order can also be conferred posthumously, unlike European orders.

Advisory committee for bishops

- ❖ Pope Francis has appointed three women two nuns and a laywoman committee that assists him in choosing the world's bishops.
- ❖ The three women are Argentine laywoman Maria Lia Zervino, French nun Yvonne Reungoat and Italian sister Raffaella Petrini.
- ❖ About twice a month, the committee's international members convene in Rome to discuss their suggestions.

London Indian Film Festival

- ❖ Filmmakers Aparna Sen and Nandita Das have been awarded the Icon Award at this year's London Indian Film Festival.
- ❖ This is for their contribution to Indian and global cinema.
- ❖ Director Pan Nalin's poignant ode to cinema 'Chhello Show' (Last Film Show) was the winner of this year's audience-voted Best Film Award.
- ❖ In the annual Satyajit Ray short film category 'Jaagran', won the LIFF Jury Prize.

Gautam Adani - fourth richest person

- ❖ Gautam Adani become the world's fourth richest person, by replacing Microsoft founder Bill Gates.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani ranks 10th in the Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires List.
- ❖ Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk tops the list.

THE RICH LIST

| Rank | Name | Net worth (\$bn) |
|------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX) | 235.8 |
| 2 | Bernard Arnault & family (LVMH) | 156.7 |
| 3 | Jeff Bezos (Amazon) | 148.4 |
| 4 | Gautam Adani & family (infrastructure, commodities) | 116.4 |
| 5 | Bill Gates (Microsoft) | 104.6 |
| 6 | Larry Ellison (software) | 99.7 |
| 7 | Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway) | 99.4 |
| 8 | Larry Page (Google) | 98.3 |
| 9 | Sergey Brin (Google) | 94.5 |
| 10 | Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries) | 90.1 |

Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List

68th National Film Awards 2022

- ❖ This year's awards ceremony honoured films from 2020 as well due to COVID-19-related delays.
- ❖ Soorai Potru won three of the four biggest awards.
- ❖ 'Tanhaji The Unsung Warrior' also got major trophies.
- ❖ The National Film Awards is the most prominent film award ceremony in India from 1954.
- ❖ Some Important awardees
 - Best Feature Film: Soorai Potru
 - Best Director: Sachidanandan KR for Ayyappanum Koshiyum
 - Best Actor: Suriya for Soorai Potru and Ajay Devgn for Tanhaji
 - Best Actress: Aparna Balamurali for Soorai Potru
 - Best Background Score: Soorai Potru (Tamil) - GV Prakash Kumar
 - Best Supporting Actress: Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli for Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengallum
 - Best Editing: Sreekar Prasad for Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
 - Best Screenplay: Soorai Potru (Sudha Kongara), and Mandela (Madonne Ashwin)
 - Best Feature Film in Tamil: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum.



- Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director: Mandela (Tamil) - Madonne Ashwin
- Most Film Friendly State: Madhya Pradesh

World's Best SME Bank

- ❖ Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS Bank) has been recognized as the 'World's Best SME Bank' by Euromoney.
- ❖ The bank has established its position as a global industry leader in association with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance growth and development.
- ❖ DBS' latest global best SME bank accolade comes from leading UK-based financial publication Euromoney.
- ❖ It got this title for the second time since 2018.
- ❖ It also got following three first-time awards
 - World's Best Financial Innovation of the year 2022
 - Asia's Best Bank for Wealth Management 2022
 - Asia's Best Bank for SME award 2022

Global Energy Prize 2022

- ❖ Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin professor, has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize.
- ❖ This is for his outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.
- ❖ The awarding ceremony will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow.

Golden Visa to Kamal Hasan

- ❖ Tamil actor Kamal Haasan has been given the prestigious Golden Visa by the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The UAE Golden Visa is an extended resident visa programme which lasts between five and ten years.
- ❖ The visa is perpetually extended.
- ❖ It is given to high performers in a variety of industries, as well as to professionals, investors, and those with potential skills.

Highest taxpayers

- ❖ Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar were honoured by the Income Tax Department in recognition of their contribution towards nation-building.
- ❖ Rajinikanth was felicitated for paying his taxes regularly.
- ❖ The highest taxpayer in India, Akshay Kumar, was honoured with 'samman patra.'

Winston Churchill Leadership Award

- ❖ Winston Churchill Leadership Award was presented to President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky.
- ❖ This is awarded for his standing against Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and fighting back.
- ❖ The situation was similar to what Churchill had faced in 1940.
- ❖ The Winston Churchill Leadership award was first given in 2006.
- ❖ Winston Churchill served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during Second World War, and from 1951-1955.

India's richest woman

- ❖ HCL Technologies' chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra has retained her position as the richest woman in India.
- ❖ Falguni Nayar, founder of Nykaa, has emerged as the 2nd richest woman
- ❖ Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar has moved down one rank to be the third richest woman in the country.





SPORTS

Qosanov Memorial Athletics

- ❖ Dhanalakshmi becomes 3rd fastest Indian woman in 200 meters.
- ❖ She ran her personal best time to win 200m gold at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ She is only the third Indian woman to run in 23 second after national record holder Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).
- ❖ Dhanalakshmi Sekar is an Indian athlete from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Indian women's discus thrower, Navjeet Dhillon from Punjab won the gold medal.

Adani Sportsline

- ❖ It is the sports arm of the Adani Group
- ❖ It has inked a long-term principal sponsorship deal with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ❖ It will be the official partner of the Indian contingent during the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024.
- ❖ It had earlier been associated with the Indian contingent during the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

National record of Neeraj Chopra

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

Jasprit Bumrah world record

- ❖ Indian captain Jasprit Bumrah got 35 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket.
- ❖ He hit 29 runs and 6 runs added as extras in the over of Stuart Broad of England.
- ❖ Thus, he breaks the West Indies Brian Lara's feat by one run.
- ❖ Lara hit South African Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in 2003-04.
- ❖ Former Australian player George Bailey had also scored 28.

New Bowling Record

| Player | Season | Matches | Wickets |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Jasprit Bumrah | 2021/22 | 5 | 21 |
| Bhuvneshwar Kumar | 2014 | 5 | 19 |
| Zaheer Khan | 2007 | 3 | 18 |
| Ishant Sharma | 2018 | 5 | 18 |
| Subhash Gupte | 1959 | 5 | 17 |

- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah has set a new record for the most wickets (21) taken by an Indian bowler during a test series in England.
- ❖ The new record set by Jasprit Bumrah has surpassed Bhuvneshwar Kumar's record of 19 wickets during a five-match series in 2014.

U-15 Asian Wrestling Championship

- ❖ India has won the title of Asian Wrestling Championship
- ❖ Indian male wrestlers won seven medals including 4 gold in the Under-15 Asian Wrestling Championship being held in Bahrain.
- ❖ These include four gold medals, two silver and one bronze.
- ❖ Earlier, Indian women wrestlers had won 6 gold and three silver.

Test wickets in SENA Countries

- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah became the 6th Indian bowler and 5th pacer to take 100 wickets in SENA countries.
- ❖ Thus, he joining the league of legends like Kapil Dev, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, and Anil Kumble.
- ❖ The SENA Countries include South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia.

Commonwealth Games 2022

- ❖ Women's cricket will be making its debut in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022.
- ❖ This would be the second-ever time that cricket will be played in the Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ It has only been played once before in Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games 1998 when men's ODI cricket was included in the schedule.

- ❖ Birmingham 2022 will see T20 Cricket make its debut in Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ This will also mark the first appearance of the women's cricket in the event.

Elorda Cup

- ❖ The Youth World Boxing champions Alfiya Pathan and Gitika have won gold medals at the Elorda Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Two other Indian female boxers Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro won silver medals.
- ❖ This tournament witnessed players from countries such as India, Uzbekistan, and hosts Kazakhstan, Cuba, China, and Mongolia.

World Masters Athletics Championships



- ❖ The 94-year-old Bhagwani Devi Dagar from Haryana won a gold and 2 bronze for India at the World Masters Athletics championships 2022.
- ❖ She got a gold medal in 100m sprint event held at the World Masters Athletics Championship 2022, Tampere of Finland.
- ❖ She won a bronze medal in shot put as well.

Commonwealth Games – 2022

- ❖ Harmanpreet Kaur is all set to lead Team India in the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.
- ❖ This will be the first time that Women's T20 International will be featured in this multi-sport event.
- ❖ India is in Group A with Australia, Barbados, and Pakistan.



Wimbledon men's title

| S.No | Category | Winner |
|------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Men's Singles | N. Djokovic |
| 2 | Women's Singles | E. Rybakina |
| 3 | Men's Doubles | M. Ebden & M. Purcell |
| 4 | Women's Doubles | K. Siniaková & B. Krejčíková |
| 5 | Mixed Doubles | D. Krawczyk & N. Skupski |

- ❖ Serbia Novak Djokovic won a seventh Wimbledon men's title and 21st Grand Slam.
- ❖ The Wimbledon Championships 2022 is a Grand Slam tennis tournament that takes place at London.

Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships

- ❖ The Indian team won as many as 22 medals in Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships, held at Manama, Bahrain.
- ❖ It won 4 gold medals, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.
- ❖ It includes both the men's and women's wrestling.



ISSF World Cup



- ❖ Veteran Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan made history by becoming the first person to ever win a men's skeet gold medal at an ISSF World Cup held at Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Minsu Kim from Korea got second place, and Ben Llewelin from Britain got third place.

Singapore Open title

- ❖ P V Sindhu clinched the women's singles title at the Singapore Open 2022 BWF Super 500 tournament.
- ❖ This is Sindhu's first 500 title, since she won the world championship in 2019.
- ❖ In 2022, she has won two titles of Super 300.
- ❖ Singapore Open badminton event has been held every year from 1929.



36th National Games logo

- ❖ The 36th National Games will be held in Gujarat from September 28-October 10.
- ❖ The logo for the 36th National Games 2022, featuring the Asiatic lion, was unveiled recently.

2025 World Athletics Championships

- ❖ The World Athletics Council has selected Japan's Tokyo to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships.
- ❖ The 18th edition of the World Athletics Championships of 2022 begins in Oregon USA.
- ❖ Budapest in Hungary will host the 2023 event.
- ❖ 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia.
- ❖ The 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, USA.

World Athletics Championships - world record

- ❖ Tobi Amusan won the 100 metres hurdles gold at the World Athletics Championships.
- ❖ This is the Nigeria's first gold medal in this competition.
- ❖ After breaking the world record in her semifinal heat with a time of 12.12 seconds, she even made a faster time for the final.
- ❖ Sweden's Armand Duplantis won his gold medal in the pole vault with new world record.

World Athletics Championships – 2022

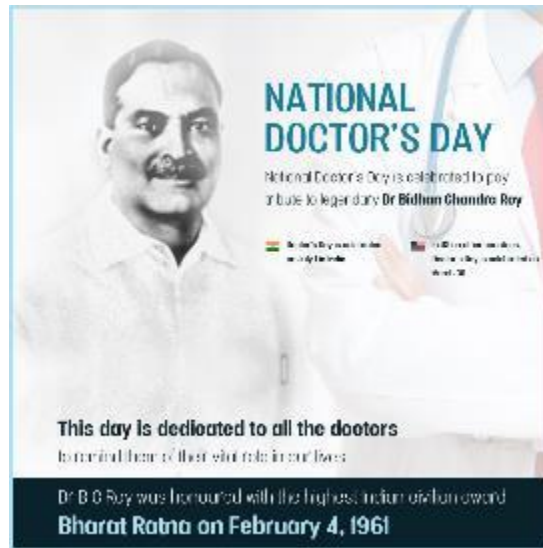
| Rank | Country | Medals |
|------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | United States | 33 |
| 2 | Ethiopia | 10 |
| 3 | Jamaica | 10 |
| 33 | India | 1 |

- ❖ The World Athletics Championships were held in America for the first time.
- ❖ In terms of medals, Team USA made the most of their time over the last 10 days.
- ❖ India came up at number 33 overall and fourth in Asia, just behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Algeria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Greece, and South Korea have tied with India in 33rd position on the medal tally with 1 silver medal each.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctors Day – July 1

- ❖ It was first observed in 1991.
- ❖ It is to recognize the contribution of the Second Chief Minister of Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- ❖ On July 1, 1882, he was born, and on the same date in 1962, he died.
- ❖ Family Doctors on the Front Line is the theme for 2022.



Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day – July 01

- ❖ GST was launched on intervening night of June 30 and July 1, 2017, in a ceremony held in the central hall of Parliament.
- ❖ It was first observed on July 1, 2018 marking the one-year anniversary of implementation of the new tax regime.
- ❖ It was introduced with the idea of “One Nation-One Market-One Tax”.
- ❖ GST is an indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system.
- ❖ However, items including petroleum, liquor, and stamp duty have not been added to GST.
- ❖ These items follow the old tax system.

Chartered Accountants Day – July 01

- ❖ It is also known as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Foundation Day.
- ❖ It is marked to commemorate the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949.
- ❖ ICAI is among the oldest professional institutions in the country.
- ❖ It is also the second largest professional accounting and finance body in the world in terms of members.
- ❖ It is country's first national professional accounting body created by the Indian Parliament.



World Sports Journalist Day - July 02

- ❖ It aims to celebrate the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.
- ❖ Sports journalism is a form of reporting that focuses on matters pertaining to any subject or topic related to sports.
- ❖ Sports journalists work on various media platforms including print, broadcast, and the internet.
- ❖ The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) established the World Sports Journalist Day in 1994.

International Co-operative Day – July 02

- ❖ In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The date was chosen as it marked the centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance's establishment.
- ❖ The Cooperatives celebrated the 100th International Day of Cooperatives this year.
- ❖ This marks a decade from the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2012.
- ❖ The 100th International Day of Cooperatives in India is jointly organized by the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) on July 4 at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.
- ❖ The NCUI is an apex organization of the cooperative movement in India with a focus on cooperative education and training.
- ❖ The theme of 100th International Cooperative Day is "Cooperatives Build a Better World".
- ❖ The cooperative movement in India is the largest in the world.
- ❖ AMUL, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, etc. are some of the well-known success stories of the cooperative movement in India.

World UFO Day – July 02

- ❖ It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO).
- ❖ It commemorates two important days which are the first widely reported UFO sightings in the world.
- ❖ The first sighting was reported on June 24, 1947, when an aviator named Kenneth Arnold claimed to have seen what looked like a flying saucer.



International Plastic Bag Free Day – July 03

- ❖ The day is an initiative by Bag Free World for the purpose of getting rid of the single-use of plastic bags around the world.
- ❖ The first International Plastic Bag Free Day was observed on July 3, 2008, when Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated it.
- ❖ The theme for this year is ‘Zero Bags – Zero Waste’.

World Zoonosis Day – July 06

- ❖ It is marked to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like influenza, Ebola and West Nile virus.
- ❖ Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria and fungi.
- ❖ This day was instituted on 6 July 1885 to educate and raise awareness about zoonotic diseases that can transmit from animals to humans.
- ❖ It commemorates French biologist Louis Pasteur, who administered the first dose of the first vaccine against rabies.

World Chocolate Day – July 07

- ❖ It was the day when chocolate was first introduced to Europe in 1550.
- ❖ The first recorded chocolate consumption happened in Mesoamerica.
- ❖ In ancient Mesoamerica, which is present-day Mexico, people would perceive cocoa beans as “food of the Gods”.
- ❖ It is believed that chocolate was consumed as a way to symbolize marital fidelity.

World Kiswahili Language Day – July 07

- ❖ It is observed following a declaration led by UNESCO member states.
- ❖ This year marks the 1st observance of this day.
- ❖ It was adopted during 41st session of UNESCO in 2021.
- ❖ The theme for this year is ‘Kiswahili for peace and prosperity’.
- ❖ Kiswahili language is widely spoken in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ It is the only African language, to become the official language of African Union.
- ❖ It is also the first African language that United Nations has recognized in this manner.



Van Mahotsav - July 01 to 07

- ❖ Van Mahotsav was started in 1950 by K.M.Munshi.
- ❖ It aims to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees.
- ❖ Also, awareness campaigns about benefits and protection of trees and the harm caused by cutting down of trees are held.

National Fish Farmers Day - July 10

- ❖ It aims to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the country.
- ❖ This Day is celebrated in the memory of scientists Dr K. H. Alikunhi and Dr H. L. Chaudhury.
- ❖ Both of them successfully demonstrated Hypophysation (technology of induced breeding) in Indian Major Carps on 10th July 1957.
- ❖ The fisheries sector plays a vital role in economic and overall development of the country.
- ❖ It is also referred as the “sunrise sector”.

World Population Day - July 11

- ❖ The day seeks to raise awareness on global population issues.
- ❖ It was celebrated under the theme “A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all”.

- ❖ The UNDP started observing the “World Population Day” in 1989.
- ❖ This decision was taken after the global population reached 5 billion-mark on July 11, 1987.
- ❖ The UNGA has recognized this day in December 1990.

Dhammachakra Day 2022

- ❖ Dhammachakra Day 2022 celebrations held at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This Celebrations were organised on “Ashadha Purnima”, by Ministry of Culture, in coordination with “International Buddhist Confederation.
- ❖ Ashadha Purnima is regarded as the second most significant sacred day for Buddhists, after the Vaishakha Buddha Purnima.
- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate First Sermon by Buddha.
- ❖ This is regarded as event of First Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma”.
- ❖ During his first sermon at Sarnath, Buddha taught Dharmachakra pravartana Sutra.



Tamil Nadu Day – July 18

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Day is celebrated to commemorate the formation of the state.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was created on 1 November 1956 with the name Madras State.
- ❖ A resolution was passed unanimously in the Madras State Legislative Assembly by the Annadurai government seeking to rename the state as Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ On 18 July 1967, Madras State was officially renamed to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 2019, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced that 1st November of every year will be celebrated as Tamil Nadu Day to mark the formation of the state.
- ❖ In July 2022, Government of Tamil Nadu announced that 18 July of every year will be celebrated as Tamil Nadu Day.



World Youth Skills Day – July 15

- ❖ In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day.
- ❖ This day aims to commemorate, acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is 'Transforming youth skills for the future'.

National Plastic Surgery Day – July 15

- ❖ The concept of National Plastic Surgery Day was introduced in 2011 by Association of Plastic Surgeons in India (APSI).
- ❖ Across the country, it performs free operations and conducts awareness programmes on this day.

World Day for International Justice – July 17

- ❖ It aims to commemorate the organisations that work to bring justice to the victims of international criminal acts.
- ❖ On July 17, 1998, 120 countries came together to sign a treaty titled the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- ❖ The establishment came to be known as the International Criminal Court.
- ❖ It came into force on July 1, 2002.
- ❖ To celebrate the signing of the Rome Statute, World Day for International Justice has been celebrated every year ever since.

International Moon Day - July 20

- ❖ This year will mark the inaugural celebration of International Moon Day.
- ❖ The UNGA, on December 9, 2021, recognised the proposal submitted by the Moon Village Association.
- ❖ The day will celebrate one of the most memorable moments in human history.
- ❖ On July 20, 1969, US astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to reach the lunar planet.
- ❖ It was the first time that a human had set foot on the Moon's surface.

Nelson Mandela International Day - July 18

- ❖ This day remember the first democratically elected President of South Africa and his long years of struggle for justice against apartheid.

- ❖ It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.
- ❖ Theme for 2022 is “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”.
- ❖ The United Nations officially designated Mandela Day in November 2009.
- ❖ The UNGA instituted the Nelson Mandela Prize in 2014 to honour those who have dedicated their lives to serving humanity.

International Chess Day - July 20

- ❖ This day marks the date of establishment of the International Chess Federation in Paris in the year 1924.
- ❖ The Day started as the founding day of the same day in 1966.
- ❖ In December 2019, the General Assembly proclaimed 20 July as World Chess Day.

National Flag Day - July 22

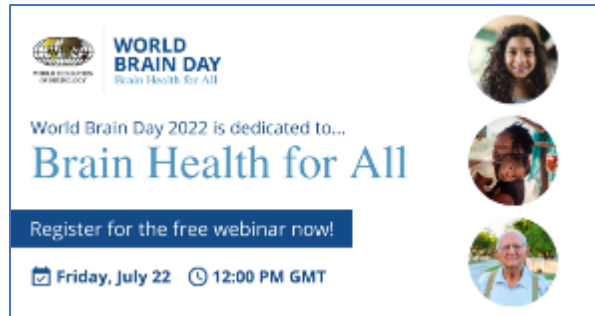


- ❖ It was the day that the tricolour was adopted in its present form in 1947 as India's national flag.
- ❖ The members of the Indian Constituent Assembly met in the Constitution Hall in Delhi for this on July 22, 1947.
- ❖ A motion to adopt the national flag for free India was introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru.

World Brain Day - July 22

- ❖ It aims to create awareness on brain health.
- ❖ The World Federation of Neurology which was established on the same day in 1957.

- ❖ It had proposed to observe the day as World Brain Day in the year 2014.
- ❖ The theme of the day is “Brain Health for all”



World Fragile X Awareness Day - July 22

- ❖ It aims to celebrate families impacted by Fragile X and highlight the progress of research to find a cure.
- ❖ Fragile X syndrome causes mild to severe intellectual disability.
- ❖ The World Fragile X Day was initiated by the US-based FRAXA Research Foundation.

Pi Approximation Day - July 22

- ❖ The process of calculating the value of pi was a never-ending and non-terminating value.
- ❖ July 22 is observed as Pi Approximation Day, also called Casual Pi Day.
- ❖ Pi is also referred to as the Archimedes constant, which implies an infinite constant.
- ❖ The decimal value of pi is 3.14 was initiated by the physicist Larry Shaw in the year 1988.

National Broadcasting Day - July 23

- ❖ It was on July 23, 1927 that All India Radio began its journey as a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd (IBC).
- ❖ Later, it was taken over by the British and transformed into All India Radio (AIR) on June 8, 1936.
- ❖ The name Akashvani (voice or announcement from the skies) was formally adopted for the national broadcaster in 1956.



Income Tax Day - July 24

- ❖ This date was chosen because income tax was first levied as a duty in India in 1860 on this very day.
- ❖ In 2010, the I-T department for the first time decided to celebrate this day to mark 150 years of levy of the tax.
- ❖ This year, it will be the 162nd occasion of National Income Tax Day.
- ❖ The first income tax was imposed in India in 1860 by Sir James Wilson.
- ❖ The Income Tax Act 1922 was introduced it laid a proper framework for the direct tax administration in the country.
- ❖ In 1924, the Central Board of Revenue was constituted as a statutory body with functional responsibilities for administering the Income Tax Act.
- ❖ In 1963, the Central Board of Revenue was bifurcated, and a separate Board for Direct Taxes known as Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) was constituted under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.

World Drowning Prevention Day - July 25

- ❖ This day aims to collectively start action towards drowning prevention with the objective of making the world sustainably-developed.
- ❖ Drowning is among the major causes of death for people aged 1 to 24 years.
- ❖ It is the third leading cause for unintentional injury death.
- ❖ It accounts for 7% of all injury-related deaths.

World Drowning Prevention Day 2022
Do One Thing – to prevent drowning

INDIVIDUALS are encouraged to:



- Share water safety advice
- Sign up for swimming and water safety lessons
- Support local drowning prevention charities and groups

GROUPS are encouraged to:



- Launch water safety campaigns
- Commit to developing or delivering new drowning prevention programmes
- Host public information events (workshops, seminars)
- Share stories of your work

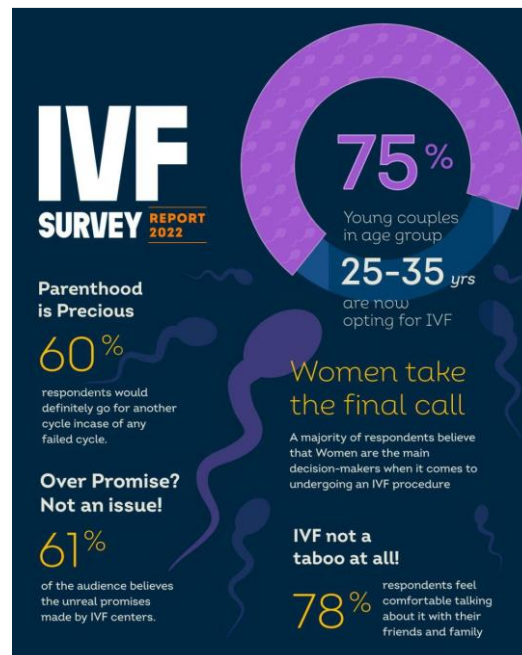
GOVERNMENTS are encouraged to:



- Announce new drowning prevention policies, strategies, legislation, or investment
- Announce or commit to support drowning prevention programming domestically or internationally
- Convene multi-sectoral roundtables or parliamentary discussion

World IVF Day - July 25

- ❖ On July 25, 1978, Louise Joy Brown became the first baby to be born through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) method.
- ❖ Robert Edwards received a Nobel Prize in 2010 for the development of IVF.
- ❖ IVF refers to a process of fertilisation where an egg is combined with sperm in vitro (meaning in glass).



Kargil Vijay Diwas - July 26



- ❖ The day is celebrated to mark India's victory in Kargil War against Pakistan.
- ❖ Year 2022 marked the 23rd anniversary of India's victory.
- ❖ Kargil war was fought between May 1999 to July 1999 in Kargil-Drass sector of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The Pakistan troops had illegally invaded the mountain tops of Northern Kargil District in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Indian Army launched the "Operation Vijay" and regain its control over the region.

World Hepatitis Day - July 28

- ❖ It aims to create awareness among people about the viral disease.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Bringing hepatitis care closer to you".
- ❖ In 1967, American Physician Baruch Samuel Blumberg discovered the Hepatitis B virus.
- ❖ In order to honour the Nobel Prize-winning scientist his birthday, July 28, was chosen as World Hepatitis Day.
- ❖ The hepatitis virus has five primary strains, known as types A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ The World Hepatitis Alliance was founded in the year 2007.
- ❖ The first community-organised World Hepatitis Day was observed in 2008.



International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26

- ❖ It seeks to raise awareness on importance of mangrove ecosystems.
- ❖ Mangroves are considered as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”.
- ❖ UNESCO had adopted this day in 2015.
- ❖ As per Forest Survey Report 2021, Mangrove cover in India has increased by 17 square km as compared to 2019 assessment.
- ❖ It is now spread to 4,992 square km.

World Nature Conservation Day - July 28

- ❖ The day is celebrated to spread awareness to preserve our natural resources.
- ❖ The purpose of this day has always been to make people aware of the importance of nature.
- ❖ The theme is “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”.

International Tiger Day - July 29

- ❖ The purpose of observing this is to create awareness among the people to conserve tigers and save their natural habitat.
- ❖ Asia was home to 100,000 tigers a century ago.
- ❖ Less than 4,000 tigers remain in the wild as of today.
- ❖ To double that amount by 2022 is one of the objectives for the day.
- ❖ This year's theme is “India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population”.

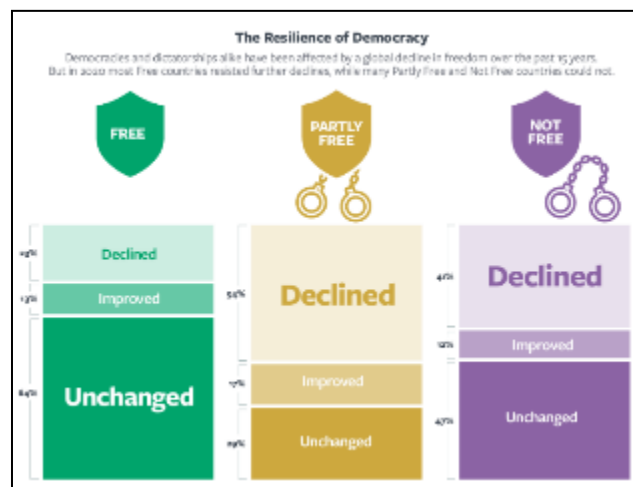
CRPF 84th Raising Day - July 27

- ❖ The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.
- ❖ CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.
- ❖ It operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ It created as the 'Crown Representative's Police' on 27 July 1939.
- ❖ It became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the 'CRPF Act' on 28 December 1949.

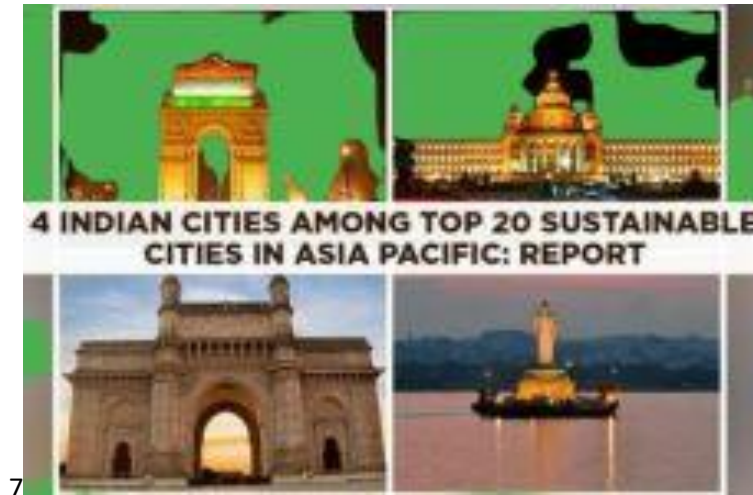
MISCELLANEOUS

2022 Resilient Democracies Statement

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



Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021



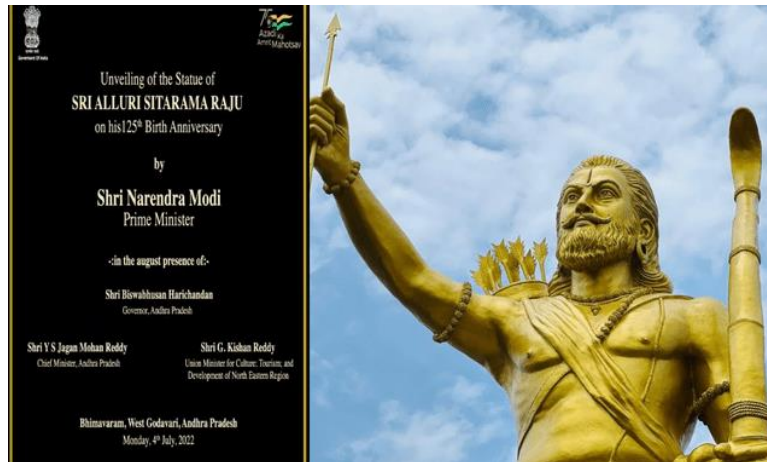
- ❖ The Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021 was recently launched by Knight Frank, a Global property consultant.
- ❖ This Index has been topped by Singapore.
- ❖ It is followed by Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne.
- ❖ These are the top five green-rated cities in commercial real estate in Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Among the Indian cities, Bengaluru was ranked first.
- ❖ While in the Asia-Pacific region, it has been ranked 14th.
- ❖ Bengaluru is the only Indian city to achieve 'Gold' standard category.
- ❖ Delhi has been ranked 17th in the ASIA Pacific Region.
- ❖ Hyderabad has been ranked 3rd in India and 18th in Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Mumbai is ranked 4th among Indian cities and 20th in Asia-pacific region.

World Drug Report 2022

- ❖ The World Drugs Report 2022 was recently released by UN Office on Drugs and Crimes.
- ❖ As per this report, legalization of Cannabis has increased its daily use and the related health impacts.
- ❖ In Africa and Latin America, majority of the people aged under 35 are being treated for drug use disorders.
- ❖ 2 million people globally were injecting drugs.
- ❖ About half of this number suffered with hepatitis C, 1.4 million with HIV, and 1.2 million with HIV & hepatitis C.

- ❖ Cocaine manufacturing has increased from 11 percent in 2019 to 1,982 tons in 2020.
- ❖ Opium production have increased by seven per cent worldwide, during 2020-2021.
- ❖ This predominantly due to rise in production in Afghanistan.

Alluri Sitarama Raju statue



- ❖ Prime Minister unveiled the statue of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju on his 125th birth anniversary celebrations in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is the 30-feet tall bronze statue located in the Bhimavaram region of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Alluri Sitarama Raju, the legendary freedom fighter, is remembered for his fight against the Britishers in order to safeguard the interests of the tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats Region.
- ❖ Alluri Sitarama Raju had led the Rampa Rebellion against the British army back in 1922.
- ❖ He is also referred to as 'Manyam Veerudu' (Hero of the Jungles) by the local people as he waged an armed campaign against the British.

8th Edition - Digital India Week 2022

- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Digital India Week 2022 under the Digital India Programme at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The theme of this Digital India Week is 'Catalysing New India's Techade' to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living.

Dinosaur Skeleton Auction



- ❖ A 76 million-old fossilized skeletons of a dinosaur will be auctioned end of this month in Newyork.
- ❖ The fossils became known for forming one of the most intact dinosaur skeletons ever discovered.
- ❖ This remains were discovered in 1987.
- ❖ The size of skeleton is 10 feet tall and 22 feet long

Oldest European human fossil

- ❖ A jawbone fragment was discovered in northern Spain recently.
- ❖ This could be the oldest known fossil of a human ancestor found to date in Europe.
- ❖ This fossil was found at an archaeological site in the Atapuerca mountain range was about 1.4m years old.
- ❖ Until now, the oldest hominid fossil found in Europe was a jawbone found at the same site in 2007.
- ❖ It was determined to be 1.2m years old.



World's Greatest Places of 2022



- ❖ “50 extraordinary destinations to explore” this year was released by TIME Magazine.
- ❖ Kerala and Ahmedabad, were the two Indian entries into the list of the world’s greatest places of 2022.
- ❖ Kerala is one of India's most beautiful states, with spectacular beaches and lush backwaters, temples, and palaces.
- ❖ As India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad boasts both ancient landmarks and contemporary innovations that make it a mecca for cultural tourism.

AIDef symposium and exhibition



- ❖ The first ever “Artificial Intelligence in Defence (AIDef) symposium and exhibition” was held recently at New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised by Department of Defence Production under Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It showcased AI-enabled solutions that have been developed by Services, industry, research organisations, and start-ups & innovators.

Expatriate Insider Rankings for 2022

- ❖ Mexico has topped the Expatriate Insider Rankings for 2022.
- ❖ It was released by the InterNations.
- ❖ India has been ranked on 36th position out of the 52 countries.
- ❖ Kuwait is the worst country for expats in the ranking.
- ❖ The top 5 countries are: Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain.



Henley Passport Index 2022

- ❖ Japan, Singapore and South Korea have top 3 places in the Index.
- ❖ India is placed 87th place in the list.
- ❖ A Japanese passport provides visa-free access to 193 countries.
- ❖ Ukraine is ranked 35th with access to 144 nations

| Passports, Please? | | |
|--|------|----------------------|
| The world's most powerful travel documents are Asian | | |
| Passport | Rank | Country Access Score |
| Japan | 1 | 193 |
| Singapore | 2 | 192 |
| South Korea | 2 | 192 |
| Germany | 3 | 190 |
| Spain | 3 | 190 |
| Finland | 4 | 189 |
| Italy | 4 | 189 |
| Luxembourg | 4 | 189 |
| Austria | 5 | 188 |
| Denmark | 5 | 188 |

- ❖ China is placed 69th with access to 80 countries.
- ❖ Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan are at the bottom of the ladder.
- ❖ Afghanistan's passport offers access to only 27 countries.
- ❖ The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association.
- ❖ The index is validated by a research team Henley and Partners.

Opium production and processing

- ❖ India has opened up the highly regulated sector of producing and processing opium to private players.
- ❖ Bajaj Healthcare has become the first company to win tenders for producing concentrated poppy straw.
- ❖ It would use to derive alkaloids that are the active pharmaceutical ingredient in pain medication and cough syrups.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Narcotics, Gwalior, licenses farmers to cultivate opium poppy; supervises and controls the cultivation; and procures the opium produced by the licenced cultivators.

Diamond - Lulo Rose

- ❖ A rare pink diamond has been unearthed in Angola.
- ❖ It is claimed to be one of the largest ever recovered in the world.
- ❖ The 170-carat precious stone is called the "Lulo Rose".
- ❖ Lulo Rose is believed to be the biggest pink diamond recovered in the last 300 years.
- ❖ It is the fifth-largest diamond ever discovered at the Lulo alluvial mine.

