

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2022

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The State of Telangana has become India's first state to complete 100 percent 1st dose Covid-19 vaccination.
- ❖ Jharkhand government has decided to give a concession of ₹25 per litre petrol to motorcycles and scooter riders
- ❖ The world's longest Metro Line was opened in China's Shanghai Province.
 - With this inauguration, Shanghai upholds its rank as the city with the largest Metro network worldwide.
- ❖ The newly constructed second road, linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok in Sikkim was named 'Narendra Modi Marg'.
 - The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road.
- ❖ Non-resident Indians and overseas citizens of India don't require prior approval for buying or selling immovable properties like houses in the country.
 - This has been clarified by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ Japan's defense minister Nobuo Kishi agreed to launch a military hotline with China.
- ❖ Assistant professor Subodh G of Kerala University and research scholar Vidhya Lalan have developed fifth-generation (5G) microwave absorbers.
 - The development of 5G microwave absorbers could act as an effective shield against electromagnetic radiations.
- ❖ Coronavirus vaccinations for those between 15-18 years of age begins from January 3rd.
 - Those with the birth year 2007 or before will be eligible for vaccination under this category.
- ❖ Mumbai water taxi services are starting in January 2022.
 - They are expected to provide connectivity between the Domestic Cruise Terminal at Ferry Wharf and the terminals at Belapur and Nerul.
- ❖ Union Education Minister & Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched "National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0".
 - It was launched as a single platform for providing the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students in India.
- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank has been categorized as a scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
 - With this, Airtel Payments Bank can now pitch for the government.



- ❖ Odisha's Ganjam has declared itself a child marriage-free district, the first in the State.
 - Ganjam had started a programme Nirbhaya Kadhi (Fearless bud) to achieve this feat.
- ❖ The stock market value of Apple Inc. hit \$3 trillion.
 - It became the world's first company to hit this mark.
- ❖ The Kerala High Court is all set to become India's first paperless court.
 - Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated the smart courtrooms on 1 January 2022.
- ❖ Antigua and Barbuda have become the 102nd country to join the International Solar Alliance.
 - Antigua and Barbuda have been included in the International Solar Alliance in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr. J. Srinivas.
- ❖ Pakistan has moved closer to appointing the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.
 - This is after the high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge Ayesha Malik to the apex court.
- ❖ Kerala's Sruthy Sitara was crowned Miss Trans Global 2021.
 - Sruthy Sitara, 25, hails from Kerala.
- ❖ The Centre has given nod to set up six new branches of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
 - They are to be set up at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Patna, Jaipur, Bhopal, and Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The oldest living person in the world, Kane Tanaka of Japan, celebrated her 119th birthday on January 2, 2022.
 - In March 2019, the Guinness World Records recognized Kane as the world's oldest living person at the age of 116 years.
- ❖ Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan informed about his decision to withdraw as Chancellor of Universities.
 - He hinted towards internal turmoil being the reason behind his decision to discontinue the post.
- ❖ Azure Power said it has commissioned a 600 MW solar power project in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
 - This is the largest solar power project in India, owned and operated at a single location by any developer.
- ❖ Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier has died at the age of 94.



- He was the first African American and first Bahamian to win an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964.
- ❖ Noida recently bagged the Cleanest Medium City (population of 3-10 Lakh) in Swachh Survekshan 2021.
 - Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation in India carried out by Quality Council of India.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the new Chief Economist.
 - He succeeds Gita Gopinath as its chief economist.
- ❖ The Indian government will own a 36 percent stake in Vodafone Idea.
 - Vodafone Group will own around 28.5 percent stake and Aditya Birla Group will own about 17.8 percent stake.
- ❖ The Supreme Court-appointed a four-member committee to probe Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security breach incident in Punjab.
 - The committee will be headed by a retired top court judge Indu Malhotra.
- ❖ Recently, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in Maryland hospital in the USA.
 - It was done for the first time in the history of medicine.
- ❖ Tata Group will replace Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League from 2022.
 - Vivo is a Chinese mobile manufacturer.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) formed as many as six academia-driven task forces under the Technology Innovation Group (TIG) on sixth-generation or 6G technology.
- ❖ China has shut down several supermarkets after coronavirus traces were found in fruits that were imported from Vietnam
 - The reports claim that coronavirus samples were found in dragon fruit.
- ❖ Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beat Jan-Krzysztof Duda to claim the World Blitz Chess Championship.
- ❖ India and South Korea have set to achieve a bilateral trade target of 50 billion USD by 2030.
 - The target is to be achieved by giving fresh momentum to the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement).
- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Western Railways zone of Indian Railways has launched a new initiative called "Mission Amanat".
 - It aims to make it easier for railway passengers to get back their lost luggage.



- ❖ Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
 - The primary aim and objective of the Indian Council of Historical Research is to promote and give directions to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history.
- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd signed a joint development agreement with Africa50, to continue to develop “Kenya Transmission Project” in public-private partnership mode.
- ❖ Tasnim Mir from Gujarat has become the first Indian to grab the No.1 spot in under-19 girls’ singles badminton.
 - She has won 4 junior international tournaments, with 3 of them - Bulgarian Junior Championship, Alpes International, and Belgian Junior coming in 2021.
- ❖ The 20th Dhaka International Film Festival begins at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 - It will also organise the 8th edition of the ‘Women in Cinema’ international conference, as well as the 4th edition of the ‘West meets East’ screenplay lab during the festival.
- ❖ India has announced financial assistance of USD 900 million loans to Sri Lanka to help its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.
 - India is extending its support through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh State Government recently has created a separate women police cadre.
 - The women police will wear a special separate emblem called the Mahila Police Emblem.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the Union government would provide Rs 3,000 crore to Tamil Nadu in the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
 - It is to address critical gaps in health infrastructure and health research, especially at the district level.
- ❖ Australia defeated England in the fifth Ashes Test at the Blundstone Arena at Hobart.
 - With the win, Australia beat England in the five-match Ashes series (4-0) held in Australia.
- ❖ Indian Navy and Russian Navy undertook PASSEX exercises at the port of Cochin, in the Arabian Sea.
 - The Indian Navy’s indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS Kochi, took part in the exercise.



- ❖ Axis Bank & CRMNEXT Solution won the IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the “Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation”.
 - It is one of the most prominent awards for global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants across the world.
- ❖ National Award for e-Governance 2020-21 (Silver) was recently conferred to Mon District Administration of Nagaland.
 - This award was presented at 24th National Conference on e-Governance at Hyderabad with the adoption of Hyderabad Declaration on e-governance.
- ❖ India and Denmark recently agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels, including green hydrogen.
 - The agreement was signed as a part of the already adopted “Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025”.
- ❖ Recently, the Central Government rejected the contention that Amar Jawan Jyoti of New Delhi has been extinguished.
 - The government further asserted that Amar Jawan Jyoti has been merged with the flame at “National War Memorial” in the vicinity.
- ❖ Jerri settlement in Reasi district is declared as the first ‘Milk Village’ of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - A total of 57 more dairy farms have been sanctioned under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme for the hamlet.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the ‘Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore’ programme via video conferencing.
 - The national-level program includes seven yearlong initiatives dedicated to the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Brahma Kumaris.
- ❖ The Russian central bank proposed to crack down the cryptocurrencies.
 - This could disrupt the burgeoning virtual money sector because Russia is one of the largest crypto-mining nations worldwide.
- ❖ In Himachal Pradesh, the 9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 was inaugurated at Ice Skating Rink, Kaza in Lahaul Spiti district.
 - This is the first time that National Level Ice Hockey Competition and Development Camp was being held in the State.
- ❖ BRICS Science Technology Innovation Steering Committee meeting has decided that India will host 5 events in 2022.
 - During this event, India handed over the chairmanship to China from 2022 January.



- ❖ South Africa has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa.
 - Three locally produced nanosatellites were launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States.
- ❖ The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS recently conducted a study on children suffering from COVID-19.
 - According to the study, adolescents suffered from lower mortality and lesser symptoms as compared to adults.
- ❖ The Union home minister Amit Shah launched the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) in Jammu and Kashmir with Jammu tops in the list.
 - This makes it the first Union Territory to have such an index.
- ❖ Koozhangal film from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.
 - It was directed by P S Vinothraj.
- ❖ In India, 67% of the young population aged under 18 years consider climate change a global emergency as against 58% of adults.
 - This is as per G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 Report.
- ❖ The Common Service Centre operating under the Ministry of Electronics and IT recently launched the Yogyata Mobile Application.
 - The main objective of the application is to provide skill development opportunities to the youths in rural areas.
- ❖ The government of Assam conferred its highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav' on Ratan Tata.
 - It is the highest civilian award in the State of Assam.
- ❖ Meta has said that its newly unveiled artificial intelligence supercomputer will be the fastest in the world by mid-2022.
 - Meta is the parent company of Facebook.
- ❖ The women's team from Ladakh has lifted the 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Supreme Court made it clear that Hindu daughters would be entitled to inherit the property of their father in the absence of any other legal heir under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
 - They would receive preference over other members of the family in inheriting the property even if the father does not leave behind a will.



- ❖ Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu Satyabrata Sahoo has been selected for the national award under the category of best-performing State.
 - This award is for overall performance in various areas of election management during the legislative assembly elections in the state during 2021.
- ❖ India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for the year 2022.
 - India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.
- ❖ Police personnel from Jammu and Kashmir have been awarded 115 Police Medals for Gallantry, the highest number from any police force this year.
 - They are followed by CRPF with 30, Chhattisgarh Police with 10, Odisha Police with nine, and Maharashtra Police with seven.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi hosted the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit.
 - The meeting was attended by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
- ❖ The Government of India has appointed Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran as the new Chief Economic Adviser.
 - This post was lying vacant since December 17, 2021, when KV Subramanian left the office.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named 'Digital Sansad App'
 - This is to allow citizens to access live proceedings of the House, including the Union Budget 2022 live.
- ❖ World's largest desert, The Sahara Desert, witnessed snowfall recently.
 - Snowfall in the Sahara Desert is a rare event.
- ❖ China is the first country to host both summer and winter Olympic games.
 - China is creating artificial snowflakes for the winter Olympics to be held in 2022.
- ❖ Japan won the 2022 Hockey Women's Asia Cup in the finals against South Koreans at Muscat.
 - India won the bronze medal beating China.

TAMIL NADU

Sahitya Academy award – Tamil



- ❖ Ambai has won this year's Sahitya Akademi award.
- ❖ She has been awarded for her short story collection Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai.
- ❖ Ambai is the fourth woman writer from Tamil Nadu to get the award.
- ❖ Her original name is C.S. Lakshmi.
- ❖ Tamil writer Mu Murugesh bagged the Bala Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories.
- ❖ The name of the book is 'Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kadhai'.

New Draft Policy for Women 2021

- ❖ The state of Tamil Nadu has released its "New Draft Policy for Women 2021" on December 29, 2021.
- ❖ This policy will be implemented for more than five years.
- ❖ The new policy provides for martial arts training for school and college girls.
- ❖ It talks about 50 more person-days for all single-headed households and women-headed households under MGNREGS.
- ❖ The Women will also get 33.3% representation in registered parties.
- ❖ Scope of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya will be extended specifically in educationally backward blocks, to cover adolescent girls aged up to 19 years of age.
- ❖ This move will help them in completing their school education.
- ❖ The policy also aims to support at least 1,000 women student researchers from disadvantaged sections of society each year, particularly in STEM subjects.

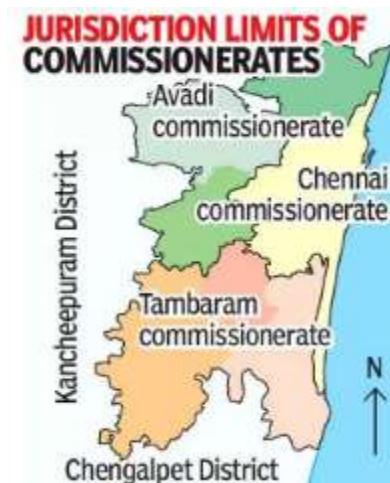
Good Samaritans awards

- ❖ The Union Road ministry has launched a scheme for 'Good Samaritans'.
- ❖ Under this, a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be given to those who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to the hospital within the 'golden hour' of the mishap.
- ❖ This is to motivate the general public to help the road accident victims in an emergency situation.
- ❖ 'Golden hour' refers to the 1-hour time period following a traumatic injury during which there is the highest likelihood of preventing death by providing prompt medical care.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced a reward of Rs 5,000 for those who admit road accident victims to hospitals for treatment.

Note

- ❖ Prize money will be given a maximum of 5 times a person per year.
- ❖ All accidents will be inspected by a District Level Assessment Committee headed by the District Collector.
- ❖ The selected cases will be recommended to the Commissioner of Transport for a prize of Rs.5000.

New Police Commissionerate



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin formally inaugurated new police Commissionerate in Tambaram and Avadi.
- ❖ These have been carved out of the Greater Chennai City Police jurisdictions.
- ❖ Senior IPS officers M. Ravi and Sandeep Rai have been posted as Commissioners of Police of Tambaram and Avadi.

Chennai Airport



- ❖ Chennai Airport is ranked 8th in the global list for 'On Time Performance' among Large Airports in 2021.
- ❖ It was recognized by 'Cirium', a top aviation analytics firm.
- ❖ It is the only Indian airport ranked in the top 10.
- ❖ The top three are Miami Airport in the United States, Fukuoka Airport, and Haneda Airport from Japan.

Assembly proceedings - live telecast

- ❖ The proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, which commenced with the Question Hour session, were telecast live for the first time in its history.
- ❖ The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) live telecasts this.
- ❖ DD Podhigai had also done the same apart from the DIPR streaming it live online.

Tamil documents and estampages - Mysore to Chennai

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court directed the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India to shift all Tamil documents and estampages preserved in its epigraphy branch in Mysore to the branch in Chennai in six months.
- ❖ A Division Bench of Justices N. Kirubakaran and M. Duraiswamy also directed the Centre and ASI to name the epigraphy branch of the Archaeological Survey of India in Chennai as the epigraphy branch-Tamil.

CM-headed advisory committee

- ❖ The state government has formed a State-level advisory committee headed by Chief Minister MK Stalin to streamline the maintenance of famous temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable and Endowment (HRCE) department and to improve facilities for devotees.
- ❖ The HR and CE Minister PK Sekar Babu will be the vice-chairman of this committee.

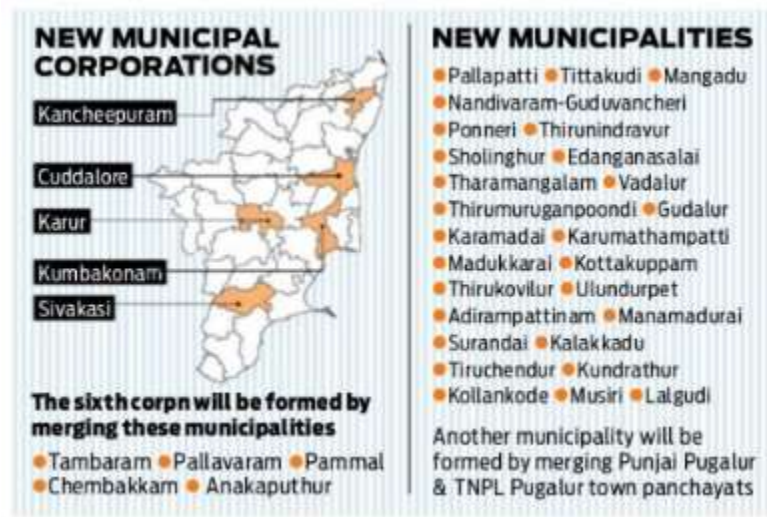
3rd National Water Awards 2020



- ❖ Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat declared the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards 2020.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu secured the third prize in the Best State Category.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan bagged first and second prizes respectively.
- ❖ Vellaputhur Panchayat, Chengalpattu district, won the second prize in the category 'Best Village Panchayat - South zone'.
- ❖ Madurai Municipal Corporation won the third prize in the category 'Best Urban Local body'.
- ❖ Under the 'Best School Category', Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kaveripattinam came first.

Bills introduced in the state assembly

- ❖ The state Government in the Assembly introduced a bill reducing the tenure of Cooperative Societies from five to three years.
- ❖ The state Government also brought in bills for the formation of new municipal corporations.
- ❖ The Local Administration Minister KN Nehru introduced the bill for the creation of municipal corporations for Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Sivakasi, Karur, Tambaram, and Kumbakonam.



TNPSC (Additional Functions) Bill 2022

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a bill to empower the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission to conduct recruitment tests for posts in quasi-government entities.
- ❖ The move comes amid increasing complaints of irregularities and corruption in filling vacancies in PSUs and corporations.
- ❖ According to the TNPSC (Additional Functions) Bill 2022, the commission will carry out the recruitment process for filling certain vacancies in PSUs, corporations, statutory boards, and authorities under the government.

Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme

- ❖ The Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the extension of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) for another five years starting from January 11.
- ❖ Families with Rs 1.20 lakh annual income will be eligible for the scheme.
- ❖ Journalists who have accreditation cards and also press pass holders are eligible for the scheme irrespective of their annual income.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented through United India Insurance Corporation.



Social Justice Awards

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced that K. Thirunavukkarasu, a historian documenting the Dravidian movement, and the retired Madras High Court judge, K. Chandru, would be honored with the Thanthai Periyar Award for Social Justice and the Dr. Ambedkar Award for 2021 respectively.
- ❖ Mr. Thirunavukkarasu's work, *Needhi Katchi Varalaru*, documents in two volumes the history of the Justice Party since its founding in 1916 until it was named Dravidar Kazhagam in 1944.
- ❖ He has also been commended for his works, *Dravida Iyakka Vergal* and *Dravida Iyakka Thoongal*.
- ❖ He is fondly called the mobile encyclopedia of the Dravidian movement.
- ❖ Mr. Chandru has delivered judgments in over 96,000 cases during his service.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has every year been honoring those who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of social justice with the Thanthai Periyar Award.
- ❖ The Ambedkar Award is given to an eminent personality who has contributed to the socio-economic and educational development of the Adi Dravidar community.
- ❖ The cash component of the awards was hiked from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh this year by Chief Minister MK Stalin.



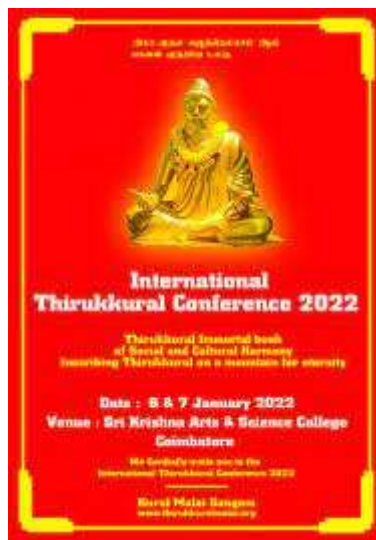
Kalaingar Memorial Library



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the foundation stone for the Kalaingar Memorial Library in Madurai.
- ❖ It will be akin to the Anna Centenary Library in Kotturpuram, Chennai.

International Thirukural Conference 2022

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurated the International Thirukural Conference 2022.
- ❖ It was at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.
- ❖ The Sri Krishna Institutions and Kural Malai Sangam have organised the event.



Vinisha Umashankar

- ❖ Vinisha is India's baton bearer at 16th official Queen's Baton Relay.
- ❖ It started at the Buckingham Palace in London on October 7, 2021.
- ❖ It is scheduled to conclude on July 28, 2022 at the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games after travelling across 72 Commonwealth nations and territories for 294 days.
- ❖ The 2022 Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in Birmingham, UK.
- ❖ India is the 27th nation en route to Birmingham in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya kicked off the Queen's Baton Relay in India with a symbolic run in Delhi.
- ❖ The Queen's Baton Relay is to be held in Bengaluru on January 14 and Bhubaneswar on January 15.



- ❖ She had inspired the world with her solar ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box.
- ❖ She is from Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ She won Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India for her invention.
- ❖ NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology under the central government.



MSME Technology Centre



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated an 'MSME Technology Centre' in Puducherry.
- ❖ It will function under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ❖ It was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry.

National Youth Festival



- ❖ Puducherry has been handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to host the 25th National Youth Festival on the occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.
- ❖ National Youth Festival started in 1995 as a major activity under the programme held by National Integration Camp (NIC).
- ❖ It is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and in association with one of the State Governments.

11 new medical colleges in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 11 new government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new colleges are in Ariyalur, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Ramanathapuram, the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur and Virudhunagar,
- ❖ It would have an intake of 1,450 M.B.B.S. students annually.
- ❖ As on March 31, 2021, the intake capacity of students in M.B.B.S. courses in government medical institutions of Tamilnadu was 3,550.

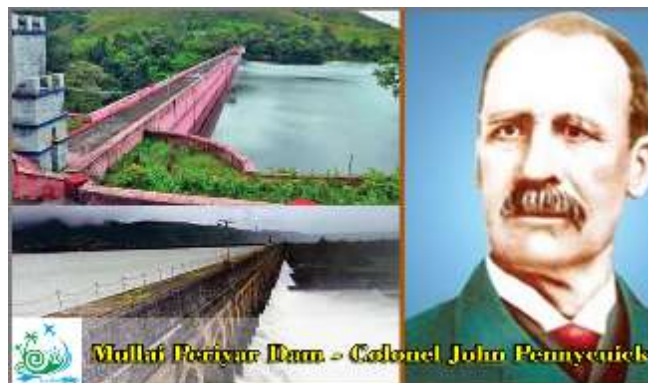
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi also virtually inaugurated the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) at Perumbakkam near Chennai.

AT A GLANCE					
Subjects	INDIA	TN	UP	MAHA	WB
Number of colleges	593	69	67	59	27
Number of seats	45,698	10,375	6,928	9,200	4,150
Number of govt college/ govt society	312	37	35	28	20
Number of govt seats	22,933	5,125	3,478	4,630	3,150
Number of Private/ self-financing colleges / deemed universities	281	32	32	31	7

Tamilnadu Government Awards

- ❖ The State government has chosen veteran Congress leader and former TNCC president Kumari Ananthan (88) for the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award for 2021.
- ❖ The All-India Tamil Sanga Peravai president Meenakshi Sundaram (78) has been chosen for the Thiruvalluvar award.
- ❖ He was instrumental in installing a statue of Thiruvalluvar by the former CM Karunanidhi in Bengaluru in 2009.

Statue of Pennycuik



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will install a statue of Col. Pennycuik in Camberley, United Kingdom.
- ❖ It is the birthplace of the British Army Engineer Pennycuik.



- ❖ He was instrumental in constructing the Mullaperiyar reservoir, Kerala.
- ❖ He built the dam in the year 1895.
- ❖ The late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had unveiled Col. Pennycuick's statue at the Public Works Department campus in Tallakulam, Madurai on January 15, 2000.
- ❖ Subsequently, the TN government built a memorial (Mani mandapam) at Gudalur, Lower Camp in Theni district and also installed a life-size statue of Pennycuick.
- ❖ The newly-built bus stand in Theni was also named after Pennycuick.

Reservation of seats in Urban Bodies

**APPENDIX,
NOTIFICATION.**

Under rule 5 of the Tamil Nadu Town Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations (Delimitation of Wards or Divisions and Reservations) Rules, 1995 and in supersession of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department Notification No. 1 (2)/MAWS/949(a)/2019 published at pages 1 to 2 of Part II-Section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, Extraordinary, dated the 4th December 2019, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, hereby reserves for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (General), Scheduled Castes (Women) and for Women (General), the offices of the Mayor of Municipal Corporations, as specified in the Schedule below:-

THE SCHEDULE.

(1) Reserved for the Scheduled Castes (Women)

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporation	District
1.	Tambaram Corporation	Chengalpattu
2.	Chennai Corporation	Chennai

(2) Reserved for the Scheduled Castes (General)

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporation	District
1.	Avadi Corporation	Thiruvallur

(3) Reserved for the Women (General)

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporation	District
1.	Cuddalore Corporation	Cuddalore
2.	Dindigul Corporation	Dindigul
3.	Vellore Corporation	Vellore
4.	Karur Corporation	Karur
5.	Sivakasi Corporation	Virudhunagar
6.	Kancheepuram Corporation	Kancheepuram
7.	Madurai Corporation	Madurai
8.	Coimbatore Corporation	Coimbatore
9.	Erode Corporation	Erode

SHIV DAS MEENA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

- ❖ In a significant decision, the Tamil Nadu Government issued orders to reserve the Chennai Mayor post for a woman belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC).
- ❖ It also reserved the Mayor posts in Tambaram and Avadi Municipal Corporations for SC (Women) and SC (General) respectively.
- ❖ This will be the first time a woman from the SC community will be elected as Mayor of the Greater Chennai Corporation when “indirect elections” are held for the urban local bodies this year.

- ❖ All three municipal corporations in and around the State capital would be held by members of the SC community - two of them women.
- ❖ The Mayor posts in nine Corporations - Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Karur, Madurai, Sivakasi, and Vellore have been reserved for Women (General) candidates.
- ❖ The State government also reserved the post of chairperson of 10 municipalities to SC (General) candidates, 10 Municipalities to SC (Women), one Municipality to a woman from the Scheduled Tribes (ST), and 58 others to Women (General).
- ❖ It also reserved 288 chairperson posts in town panchayats - two for ST (Women), one for ST (General), 43 for SC (Women), 42 for SC (General), and 200 for Women (General).

Global Community Oscar Award 2021

- ❖ Suriya, Jyotika, and Udhayanidhi are on the list for Global Community Oscars.
- ❖ The mentioned awards recognize celebrities who have made a significant contribution to the strengthening of human communities and have made a significant impact internationally.
- ❖ Actor and politician Udhayanidhi is also on the list of nominees for the Global Community Oscar Award 2021.
- ❖ He has been nominated as he has been involved in several social activities and encouraging young people to enter into politics.
- ❖ The Global Community Oscar Award will be presented at the International Emerging Star Award ceremony that is scheduled to happen on February 19 in the USA.



Fourth Police Commission

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has issued orders to constitute the Fourth Police Commission.
- ❖ He has named retired Madras High Court judge, C.T. Selvam, to lead the panel.

- ❖ This is the first time a retired judge heads the police commission in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Retired IAS officer K. Alauddin, retired IPS officer K. Radhakrishnan, Dr. C. Rama subramaniam, and retired Professor Nalini Rao are the other members of the panel.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal will function as the panel's Member-Secretary.
- ❖ The Police Commission will extensively examine measures towards the welfare of police personnel and various other aspects related to policing and will submit its recommendations within a timeframe.



New jallikattu arena

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced that a new Jallikattu arena with world-class facilities would be built at Alanganallur, Madurai.
- ❖ An exhibition centre on bulls will also be set up near the arena.

Semmozhi Tamil Awards



- ❖ The awards were presented by the Kalignar M. Karunanidhi Tamil Aaivu Arakkatalai.
- ❖ The awards were presented to those who excelled in archaeology, the study of stone inscriptions, coins, literature, fictional literature, research in literature, translation, and fine arts.

- ❖ The awards were not presented for 10 years between 2010 and 2019.
- ❖ The awards were given to
 - Professor Pon. Kothandaraman (2011)
 - Professor E. Sundamoorthy (2012)
 - Professor Pa. Marudhanayagam in (2013)
 - Professor Ku. Mohanarasu (2014)
 - Professor Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar in (2015)
 - Ka. Rajan in (2016)
 - Kavignar Erode Tamilanban (2018)
 - Ku. Sivamani (2019)
- ❖ Two winners - Dr. V. S. Rajam in 2010 and Professor Ulrich Nicholas will receive the awards at a later time.

Noida International Film Festival - Jai Bhim



- ❖ Director Tha Se Gnanavel's 'Jai Bhim', featuring actors Suriya, Lijomol Jose, and Manikandan in the lead, has won three awards at the Ninth Noida International Film festival, 2022.
- ❖ The film fetched Suriya the Best Actor award and Lijomol Jose, the award for Best Actress.
- ❖ It also took home the award for Best Film.

Raoul Wallenberg Prize

- ❖ Arokiasamy Vincent Raj, better known as "Evidence" Kathir has been selected to be the recipient of the 2022 Raoul Wallenberg Prize.
- ❖ He was selected for his work with the Madurai-based organization Evidence, founded and headed by him.

- ❖ Evidence works to defend the rights of Dalit and tribal people in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In recognition of their work, the European Council has conferred Kathir with Raoul Wallenberg Prize.
- ❖ The Raoul Wallenberg Prize came about through the joint efforts of the Swedish government and the Hungarian Parliament.
- ❖ It is awarded in memory of Raoul Wallenberg for his efforts to save Jewish lives during the Holocaust and World War 2.



Poochi Murugan and Thuraimugam Khaja

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin has issued orders to appoint Poochi Murugan as the chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board.
- ❖ Murugan was also a member of the Censor Board and South Indian Film Arts Association trust.
- ❖ Stalin has also issued an order to appoint 'Thuraimugam' Khaja as chairman of Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation.



Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Corporation

- ❖ Tamil Nadu now has its own drone manufacturing corporation established at Anna University.

- ❖ The corporation will design, manufacture and trade all types of drones and allied systems.
- ❖ The Centre for Aerospace Research on the Madras Institute of Technology campus of Anna University has been producing drones with financial assistance from the State government.



Anna medals for gallantry to brave hearts

- ❖ The Tamilnadu CM Stalin presented Anna medals for gallantry to policemen and members of the public.
- ❖ Inspector Rajeswari who saved Ganesh, a painter, from a dilapidated house in Otteri of Chennai during the Nivar cyclone was given the award.
- ❖ M Rajiv Gandhi, a fireman from Villupuram district who rescued two boys from drowning in a flood was given award.
- ❖ Dr. K Asokan, a forest veterinary assistant surgeon, was awarded the gallantry medal for successfully tranquilizing two forest elephants and saving many lives.
- ❖ Muthukrishnan from Sivaganga was awarded for saving the lives of five people who fell into a canal.
- ❖ Nine-year-old Chandrasekaran of Tiruchy got the award for saving the life of a Class four student who fell into a well.
- ❖ Sokknathan and Sudha, from Tiruppur, were awarded the medal for rescuing five schoolchildren from drowning.
- ❖ M Thaniyarasu from Tiruvottiyur was awarded for alerting the residents of the TNUHDB building before it collapsed.
- ❖ C Ramasamy from Salem district was awarded C Narayanasamy Naidu Award for the highest yield of rice (13,800 kg per hectare).
- ❖ Gandhi Adigal police medal was given to policemen for their outstanding work in curtailing illicit liquor.

- ❖ The Tirupur south, Tiruvannamalai Taluk, and Anna Nagar of Madurai police stations were named the best police stations in the places of first, second and third respectively in the State.



Awards for scholars

பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா விருது - நான்கில் சம்பத்
மகாகவி பாரதியார் விருது - பாரதி கிருஷ்ணகுமார்
பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன் விருது - புலவர் செந்தலை கவுதமன்
சொல்லின் செல்வர் விருது - சூர்யா சேவியர்
சிங்காரவேலர் விருது - கவிஞர் மதுக்கூர் இராமலிங்கம்
தமிழ்த்தாய் விருது - மலேசியத் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் சங்கத்திற்கு,
அருட்பெருஞ்சோதி வள்ளலார் விருது - முனைவர் இரா.
சஞ்ஜீவிராயர்

சி.பா. ஆதித்தனார் திங்களிதழ் விருது - உயிர்மை
திங்களிதழுக்கும்
தேவநேயப்பாவாணர் விருது - முனைவர் கு. அரேந்திரன்
உமறுப்புலவர் விருது - நா. மம்மது
கி.ஆ.பெ. விருது - முனைவர் ம. இராசேந்திரன்,
கம்பர் விருது - பாரதி பாஸ்கர்
ஜி.யு.போப் விருது - ஏ.எஸ். பன்னீர்செல்வம்
மறைமலையடிகள் விருது - சகி.சிவம்
இளங்கோவடிகள் விருது - நெல்லைக் கண்ணன்
அயோத்திதாசப் பண்டிதர் விருது - ஞான. அலாய்சியஸ்

- ❖ The Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the 2021 awards for scholars, organizations, and media houses that contributed to the development of the Tamil language.
- ❖ This year the award money has been increased to ₹2 lakh from ₹1 lakh each.
- ❖ The award winners will be honored with a one-sovereign gold medal, a shawl, and a citation.
- ❖ The list of awardees are given below

Tamilnadu republic day parade

- ❖ The Wing Commander Anuj Gupta was the overall Parade Commander of the Republic Day parade.
- ❖ Three tableaux were showcased in the Tamilnadu republic day celebration.



First tableau

- ❖ The first of the three tableaux depicted the Vellore Sepoy Mutiny in 1806.
- ❖ It also had
 - Rani Velu Nachiyar, the only queen who fought with the British and regained her kingdom
 - Kuyili, a woman soldier who made a suicide attack on the munitions depot of East India Company by setting herself ablaze
 - Veerapandiya Kattabomman who had been a nightmare for the British
 - Veeran Sundaralingam who was the commander of Veerapandiya Kattabomman's army
 - Ondiveeran, who fought alone and destroyed the British forces
 - Poolithevan, the first in the history of the Indian freedom movement to voice Quit India
 - Veeran Azhagumuthkon, who opposed paying tax to the British and
 - The Kalaiyar Kovil Temple worshipped and patronized by Marudhu Brothers

Second Tableau

- ❖ The second Tableau showcased Mahakavi Bharathiyar, VO Chidambaranar, Subramaniya Siva, and social reformer Vijayaraghavachariar.

Third Tableau

- ❖ The third float depicted Thanthai Periyar who fought for social reforms, women's liberation, and for eradicating untouchability
- ❖ The other leaders from Tamil Nadu who played key roles in the freedom struggle who were depicted in this tableau include Rajaji, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Kamaraj, Rettaimalai Srinivasan, Vanchinathan, Theeran Chinnamalai, Va Ve Su Iyer, Quaid-e-Millet, JC Kumarappa and Kakkan.

Ramachandran Nagasamy



- ❖ Veteran archeologist and epigraphist Ramachandran Nagasamy died in Chennai at the age of 91.
- ❖ He served as the director of the Government Archaeology Department in Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Nagasamy is known for his epigraphy research on the sculptures in Maha bali Puram.
- ❖ He has written several books on Tamil literature.
- ❖ He was honored with the Padma Bhushan award in 2018 for his research work in archeology.
- ❖ He was also the recipient of the Kalaimamani award - the highest civilian award, from the Tamil Nadu government.

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve



- ❖ Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode district, Tamil Nadu) has been given the prestigious TX2 award after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010.
- ❖ Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary was declared a tiger reserve in 2013.

- ❖ It is an important link between the Nilgiris and Eastern Ghats landscape.
- ❖ The Nilgiri biosphere landscape that this reserve is part of is currently the home to the largest tiger population in the world.
- ❖ TX2 award acknowledges the efforts by the State governments and the local communities which have played one of the most important roles to turn a relatively new tiger reserve into one of the source populations of tigers in India.
- ❖ Apart from the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the Bardia National Park in Nepal has won this year's TX2 award for doubling the population of wild tigers.

'Kalaigiar Porkizhi' Awards 2021

- ❖ The Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India's (BAPASI) 'Kalaigiar Porkizhi' Awards 2021 were awarded to
 - Journalist Samas for Prose
 - Prasanna Ramasamy for play
 - Aasaithambi for poem
 - A. Venilla for Novel
 - Paul Zacharias for Foreign Language Literature
 - Meena Kandasamy for English Literature
- ❖ Other awards announced include
 - Pathipaga Chemmal award for Best Publisher: S.M. Meenakshi Soma sundaram (Manivasakkar Publishing), Ravi Tamilvanan
 - Pathipaga Chemmal C. Meiyappan award for Best Bookseller: Nadam Geetham Booksellers
 - Azha. Valliyappa award for Best Children literature: Thiruvai Babu
 - Paari Sellappanar Award for Best Tamil Scholar: Dr. Devira
 - Amsaveni Periyanan Award for Best Female Writer: Bharathi Bhaskar
 - Nellai S. Muthu Award for Children's Science: K.Y. Balasubramanian



NATIONAL

Trend and Progress of Banking in India

- ❖ This report was recently released by the RBI.
- ❖ According to the report, the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) ratio of SCBs fell from 8.2 percent at the end of March 2020 to 7.3 percent in March 2021.
- ❖ This decreased further to 6.9 percent at the end of September 2021.
- ❖ The Capital to risk-weighted assets ratios of SCBs improved from 14.8 percent at the end of March 2020 to 16.3 percent at the end of March 2021.

J&K real estate open to all



- ❖ The first-ever 'J&K Real Estate Conference' was held recently in Jammu.
- ❖ The Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory governments have decided to throw open local real estate for "second homes and summer homes" to all the citizens of the country.
- ❖ This is to attract investments from real estate bigwigs.
- ❖ Under the newly introduced Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, the term 'being permanent resident of the State' as a criterion has been 'omitted', paving the way for investors outside Jammu and Kashmir to invest in the Union Territory.
- ❖ As a result, any citizen of India can buy non-agriculture land in Jammu and Kashmir.

Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System

- ❖ The Défense Research and Development Organisation has handed over technology for indigenous Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS) to some Indian companies.

- ❖ The Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System is an ergonomically-designed modular, three-layered technical clothing system that can be used at various climatic conditions in extreme altitude combat operations.
- ❖ The Indian Army, till recently has been importing ECWCS and several Special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment (SCME) items for the troops deployed in high altitude regions.
- ❖ ECWCS is a viable import alternative for the Indian Army for its sustained operations in glacier and Himalayan peaks.



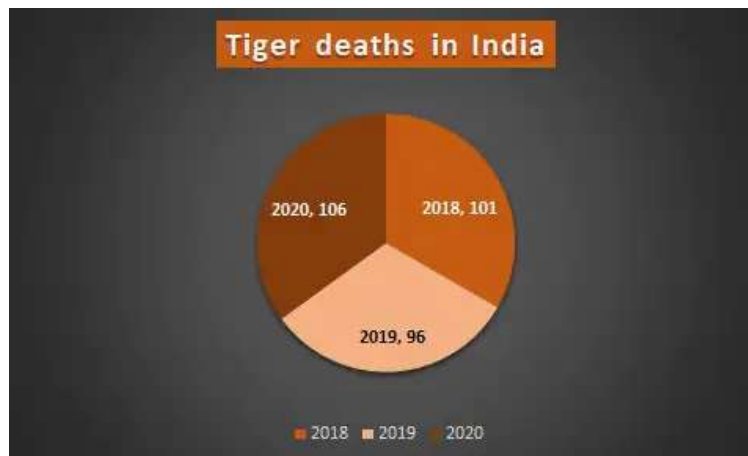
Sahitya Academy awards 2021



- ❖ Sahitya Akademi announced its prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 in various languages.
- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 was given in 20 Indian languages.
- ❖ The winner of Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri, and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date.

- ❖ The English Author, Namita Gokhale was awarded for her novel Things to Leave Behind.
- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 was awarded for 22 Indian languages.
- ❖ The award in Tamil will be declared later.
- ❖ There was no award given in the Rajasthani language this year.
- ❖ The English Author Megha Majumdar won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book 'A Burning', published in 2020.
- ❖ The Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 was given in 22 Indian languages.
- ❖ No Bal Sahitya Puraskar was given in Gujarati and Punjabi languages this year.
- ❖ The English author Anita Vachharajani has been named as the recipient of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 for the biography "Amrita Sher-Gil: Rebel with a Paintbrush".

Tiger Deaths



- ❖ According to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), in 2021, India reported the death of around 126 tigers.
- ❖ Recently, a tiger was found dead in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh (MP), taking the toll to 44 in MP in 2021.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh with 44 tiger deaths, is followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

19th Tranche of Electoral Bonds

- ❖ The central government approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds ahead of assembly elections in five states.
- ❖ The sale of electoral bonds will be open from January 1 to 10, 2022.

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorized to issue and encash the bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches.
- ❖ The state Assembly elections are scheduled for 5 states namely, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Goa.
- ❖ Electoral Bond is a financial instrument, used to make donations to political parties.
- ❖ These bonds are issued in multiples of 1000, 10000, 1 lakh, 10 lakh, and 1 crore rupees, without any maximum limit.



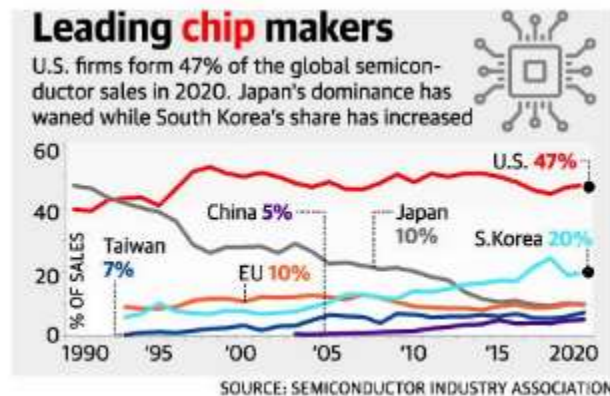
Largest ever Rhino Transfer



- ❖ Recently, 30 white rhinos were transferred from South Africa to Rwanda, onboard a Boeing 747 chartered plane.
- ❖ They were transferred in light of the increasing threat of illegal poaching.
- ❖ It was the largest single transfer of white rhinos ever.
- ❖ White Rhinoceros is also known as square-lipped rhinoceros while their scientific name is *Ceratotherium simum*.

India Semiconductor Mission

- ❖ Information Technology Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- ❖ ISM is a specialized and independent business division of Digital India Corporation.
- ❖ The scheme was launched with the aim of attracting large investments in manufacturing AMOLED-based (active-matrix organic light-emitting diode) display panels or TFT LCD (Thin-film-transistor liquid-crystal display).



Bina - Panki Multiproduct pipeline project



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 356 Km long Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh) - POL Terminal at Panki (Kanpur, UP) Multiproduct pipeline project.
- ❖ It will provide for safe and efficient evacuation of products from Bina Refinery.
- ❖ It also improves the availability of products in Eastern U.P, Central U.P., Northern Bihar, and Southern Uttarakhand.

Domestic Systemically Important Insurers



- ❖ The Insurance regulator IRDAI has identified the state-owned LIC, GIC, and New India Assurance as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22, in continuation.
- ❖ D-SIIs are insurers of such size, market importance, and domestically & globally inter-connected, whose failure or distress will result in significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

Norbu Wangdu peak

- ❖ The personnel of Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Ladakh Police had scaled two unnamed 6,000-metre height mountains in Eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ They named one of them 'Norbu Wangdu peak'.
- ❖ It was dedicated to ITBP's mountaineer late Nurbu Wangdus, who died during an avalanche in October 2019.

Brahmos missile



- ❖ The defence minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone of the BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit in Lucknow.



- ❖ He also laid the foundation of DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow.
- ❖ BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the NPOM of Russia.
- ❖ BrahMos missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra river of India and the Moskva river of Russia.

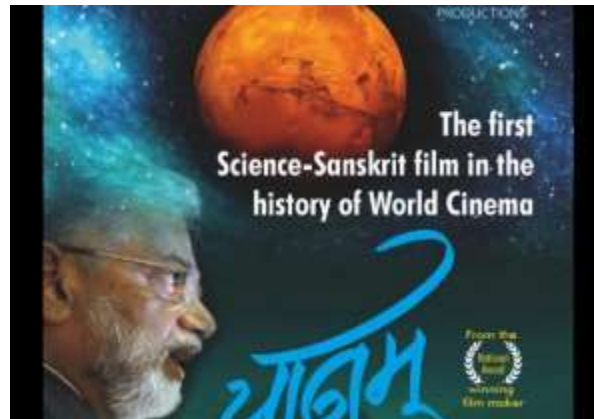
Lakhimpur Kheri violence

- ❖ The Special Investigation Team probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence of October 3 has described the killing of four farmers and a journalist as a “pre-planned conspiracy”.
- ❖ Ashish Mishra is the main accused in the case, as it was his SUV that allegedly crushed the farmers.
- ❖ Ashish Mishra is the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni.



Special Investigation Team

Yaanam



- ❖ It is the World's First Science-Sanskrit Film to Document ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission.
- ❖ This documentary is considered to be the first such initiative in the world cinema.

- ❖ It will document the success story of India's historic 'Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) alias 'Mangalyaan.'
- ❖ The National Award-winning filmmaker Vinod Mankara is coming out with this innovative docu-film.
- ❖ Titled Yaanam, the movie is based on 'My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission'.
- ❖ It was penned by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Radhakrishnan.

Padhe Bharat

- ❖ On January 1, 2022, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched this 100-day Reading Campaign.
- ❖ It marks a significant step to improve learning levels because it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary as well as ability to express in writing & verbal forms.
- ❖ Children studying in Balvatika to class 8 will be covered under the campaign.
- ❖ The campaign will also focus on Indian languages like mother tongue, local language or regional languages.
- ❖ In line with this goal, the campaign has also been integrated with the "International Mother Tongue Day" which is observed on February 21.



Report on Health status in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a two comprehensive report titled – Reports on current status on Country level- secondary and tertiary level and district level emergency and injury care in India.
- ❖ It was based on a study carried out by the Department of Emergency Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi.

- ❖ The report, surveyed the status of emergency and injury care in the country's secondary, tertiary and district-level hospitals.
- ❖ It found that although 88 per cent of hospitals had in-house ambulances, only 3 per cent had the trained paramedics needed to assist ambulance services.
- ❖ Only three to five per cent of beds in district hospitals across India are reserved for emergency care.
- ❖ Around 94 per cent of hospitals had no point-of-care labs (for simple tests), 76 per cent lacked separate access for ambulances, and 68 per cent hospitals lacked adequate spacing for the emergency department.



GST on Swiggy and Zomato



- ❖ Food aggregators like Swiggy and Zomato will have to collect and deposit tax at 5 per cent.
- ❖ Also, cab aggregators like Uber and Ola will have to collect 5 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) for booking 2 and 3-wheeler vehicles effective January 1.
- ❖ Also, footwear irrespective of prices will attract 12 per cent tax.
- ❖ Currently, restaurants registered under GST are collecting and depositing the tax.

Energy Transition Advisory Committee



- ❖ The Energy Transition Advisory Committee was formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ It is headed by Tarun Kapoor, former Secretary of Petroleum Ministry.
- ❖ It will focus on increasing the share of clean energy sources such as hydrogen, biofuel, nuclear, geothermal, tidal in the energy mix of the country.
- ❖ It was formed,
 - To help India achieve its net-zero emission target by 2070.
 - To create an energy transition road map (within 6 months).
 - To create a step-by-step plan for moving from fossil fuels to green energy.
 - The committee will primarily focus on biofuel and green hydrogen of all the clean energies

Syrphid flies



- ❖ It is a new species recently discovered in India.
- ❖ Along with *Monoceromyia flavoscutata*, researchers also found *Monoceromyia nigra*.
- ❖ These newly discovered species were classified as a new type of Syrphid flies.

- ❖ Monoceromyia flavoscutata was discovered in the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Monoceromyia nigra was discovered in the Bastar district of Arunachal Pradesh.

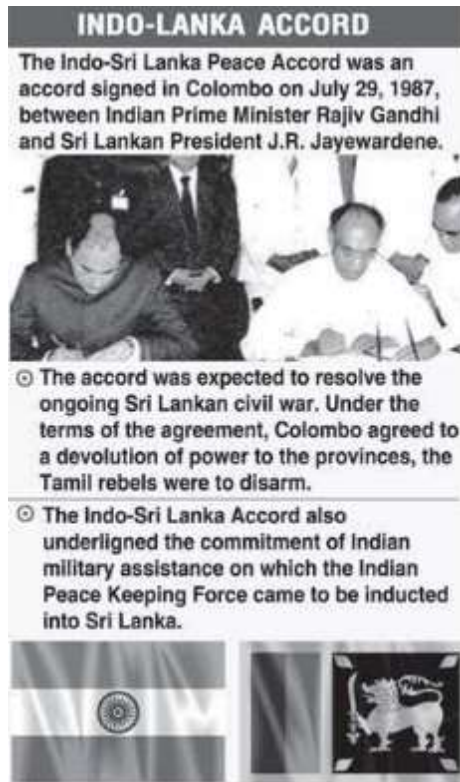
Major Dhyan Chand Sports University



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut.
- ❖ The University will be established in the Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut.
- ❖ The University will have the capacity of training 1080 sportspersons including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.

Trincomalee oil tank farm

- ❖ Recently, Sri Lanka announced that the Indian Oil Subsidiary Lanka IOC would be given a 49% stake in the joint development of the Trincomalee Oil Tank farm, with Ceylon Petroleum Corporation keeping 51%.
- ❖ If it goes according to plan, India and Sri Lanka would have finally achieved the implementation of an agreement contained in an exchange of letters between then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J R Jayawardene as part of the annexure to the India-Sri Lanka Accord of July 29, 1987.
- ❖ Trincomalee is the nearest port to Chennai.



Indo-Lanka Accord

- ❖ It is popularly referred to as the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord.
- ❖ It was signed in 1987 on the pretext of the Civil War in Sri Lanka (between Tamils and the Sinhala community).
- ❖ The accord sought to balance India's strategic interests, the interest of people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The accord saw the placement of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War.
- ❖ The accord also resulted in the enactment of the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.

Digi Zone

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has inaugurated "Digi Zone", at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.
- ❖ LIC's Digi Zone can be used by the customers to purchase policies online, pay the premium, and avail of other services.
- ❖ LIC will offer information related to its products and services through kiosks installed on the Digi Zone premises.



One Nation One Grid One Frequency



- ❖ The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) celebrates the first anniversary of One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency.
- ❖ One Nation One Grid shall synchronously connect all the regional grids and there will be one national frequency (frequency band of 49.90-50.05 Hz).
- ❖ Synchronization of all regional grids will help in optimal utilization of scarce natural resources by transfer of Power from Resource centric regions to Load centric regions.
- ❖ Further, this shall pave way for establishing a vibrant Electricity market facilitating trading of power across regions.

IndiGau Chip



- ❖ IndiGau is the world's largest cattle genomic chip launched by the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad.
- ❖ IndiGau is India's first Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) based chip.
- ❖ It is used for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole, etc.
- ❖ This chip will have practical utility in the Governments schemes to achieve the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling of farmers' income by 2022.

Ayush Aahaar



- ❖ The project was launched by AYUSH Ministry.
- ❖ Ayush Aahaar is a healthy diet.
- ❖ The ministry is to make this diet available in its canteen.
- ❖ The project aims to promote healthy living through a nutritious diet.

Unified Presentment Management System

- ❖ NPCI BillPay has introduced a unique functionality called “Unified Presentment Management System” (UPMS).
- ❖ This is with the aim of enriching and simplifying bill payments in India.
- ❖ UPMS will help the customers to set up standing instructions, for any mode and from any channel on their recurring bill payments.
- ❖ The Bills will be fetched automatically from the billers and will be presented to customers for their action, in terms of bill payment and auto-debit management.



NBBL launches Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS) to simplify bill payments

04/01/2022

With an aim to enrich and simplify bill payments in the country, NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'Unified Presentment Management System' (UPMS). NBBL through UPMS will enable the customers to set up standing instructions - from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments. The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.

With the UPMS launch, the intent is to enable all the Bharat BillPay Operating Units (BBPOU) to extend this facility to their customers/corporate clients with minimal effort through the centralized infrastructure and application support provided by Bharat BillPay Central Unit (BBPCU). UPMS will help in democratizing recurring bill payments and making them further convenient for customers.

Committee to examine bill on raising the legal age of marriage

TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS	
<p>➤ Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men</p> <p>➤ Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage – Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954</p>	<p>Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Foreign Marriage Act, 1969</p> <p>➤ Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority</p> <p>➤ Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice</p> <p>➤ Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent</p>

- ❖ The parliamentary standing committee was constituted to examine “the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021”.
- ❖ Out of the total 31 members, TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the sole woman representative on the committee.

- ❖ The Bill seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women in India from 18 to 21 to bring it at par with men.
- ❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the “Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006” and seven personal laws.
- ❖ They are,
 - Indian Christian Marriage Act
 - Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act
 - Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act
 - Special Marriage Act
 - Hindu Marriage Act
 - and the Foreign Marriage Act.

Naval Exercise Milan 2022



- ❖ India has invited a total of 46 friendly foreign countries to participate in the multinational naval exercise Milan in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion, and collaboration.
- ❖ This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies.

ODF villages

- ❖ Telangana stood first in the country in the list of the highest number of open defecation-free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II program till December 31, 2021.
- ❖ This was followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.



Sl No	Name of the State	Total Villages	Total GDP Plus Villages	%
1	Telangana	14200	13737	96.74
2	Tamil Nadu	12525	4432	35.39
3	Karnataka	27944	1511	5.39
4	Uttarakhand	15475	1394	9.01
5	Madhya Pradesh	30228	1079	3.57
6	Andhra Pradesh	18841	872	4.63
7	U.P.	97940	549	0.57
8	Kerala	3027	401	13.25
9	Haryana	6908	387	5.59
10	Punjab	13707	304	2.22
11	Maharashtra	40543	299	0.74
12	Himachal Pradesh	15921	278	1.75
13	Rajasthan	22840	228	0.99
14	Madhya Pradesh	6028	178	2.95
15	Chhattisgarh	29564	146	0.49
16	Odisha	46785	134	0.29
17	Gujarat	19061	83	0.43
18	Assam	25803	17	0.07
19	Goa	408	11	2.72
20	Arundel Pradesh	5361	6	0.11
21	Manipur	2056	5	0.24
22	J&K	7262	0	0.00
23	Bihar	38851	0	0.00
24	West Bengal	41481	0	0.00
25	Nagaland	1451	0	0.00
26	Mizoram	896	0	0.00
27	Tripura	1118	0	0.00
28	Goa	360	0	0.00
Total		582903	26198	4.48

Source: <https://sbi.gov.in/ghane2dashboard>

2021 Gold Import in India

- ❖ 2021 gold import bill got doubled the \$22 billion, which were spent in 2020.
- ❖ India reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021.
- ❖ It also surpassed the previous high set in 2011 (\$53.9 billion).
- ❖ Strict lockdown during the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic in 2020 had hit the gold demand.

Date	Standard Gold ₹/10 Gm	% Return
Nov 03, 2010	19,645	24.2
Oct 24, 2011	26,785	36.3
Nov 11, 2012	31,650	18.2
Nov 01, 2013	30,510	-3.6
Oct 21, 2014	27,400	-10.2
Nov 09, 2015	25,800	-5.8
Oct 28, 2016	29,995	16.3
Oct 17, 2017	29,615	-1.3
Nov 05, 2018	31,760	7.2
Oct 25, 2019	38,570	21.4
Nov 13, 2020	50,645	31.3
Nov 02, 2021	47,644	-5.9

Compiled by BS Research Bureau
Source: IBJA / Zaveri Bazar





Institute of Mathematical Sciences



- ❖ The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai came into the 60th year of its existence on January 3 this year.
- ❖ The IMSc is a research centre located in Chennai.
- ❖ It is funded mainly by the Department of Atomic Energy.
- ❖ The institute operates the Kabru supercomputer.

Mud Crab Reovirus

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh recently found that 'Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV)' has been the reason for the mass mortality of wild crab (*Scylla serrata*).
- ❖ The presence of MCRV in samples collected from Nagayalanka fields was confirmed by Joint research by the Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology (Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu) and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- ❖ MSSRF has been noticing mortality in areas like Machilipatnam and Nagayalanka in the Krishna district, since 2019.

5G network – 2022



- ❖ The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) confirmed that the 5G network will roll out in India by 2022.
- ❖ DoT noted that 13 cities across the country will get 5G in the beginning.
- ❖ These cities include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Pune.
- ❖ Earlier this year, 5G trials were carried out in most of these cities by telecom operators Airtel, Jio, and Vi.
- ❖ 5G technology is expected to deliver an improved user experience in terms of data download rates.

OMISURE

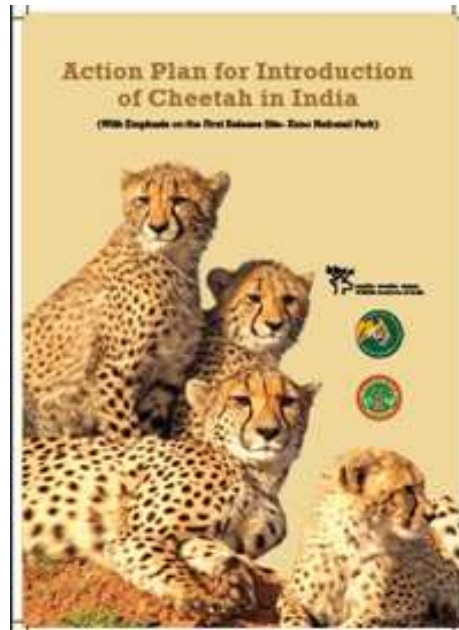
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recently approved 'OMISURE'.
- ❖ Omisure is a RT – PCR kit.
- ❖ It is used to detect Omicron, a COVID-19 variant.
- ❖ The kit was designed and developed by a US-based company Thermo Fisher.
- ❖ It was manufactured by Tata.
- ❖ The kit uses S Gene Target Failure to detect Omicron.
- ❖ It is currently the only kit in India to use this method to detect Omicron.



Introduction of Cheetah in India - Action Plan

- ❖ The Union government launched an action plan for introducing Cheetah in India.
- ❖ The 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' was released by the environment ministry in the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- ❖ Under the action plan, 50 cheetahs will be introduced in India, in the next five years.

- ❖ Around 12 to 14 cheetahs will be imported from South Africa or Namibia.
- ❖ Each of the cheetahs will be fitted with a satellite-GPS-very high-frequency radio collar.
- ❖ They will be transported to Kuno Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh.



Complaints of crimes against women

COMPLAINTS BY AGGRIEVED WOMEN		
Categories	2020-21	2019-20
Cyber crime against women	797	458
Harassment of married women/ dowry harassment	4,209	3,963
Domestic violence	6,049	3,369
Right to live with dignity	8,688	5,061
Police apathy	1,460	1,968

- ❖ Nearly 31,000 complaints of crimes committed against women were received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) last year.
- ❖ This is the highest since 2014.
- ❖ Also, over half of them were from Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ There was a 30 percent rise in complaints of crimes against women in 2021 as compared to 2020 when complaints were received.
- ❖ According to the data, the highest number of complaints related to the right to live with dignity and domestic violence were received from Uttar Pradesh.

Chilika Water Bird Status Survey – 2022



- ❖ The Odisha Wildlife Organization recently conducted a bird census in Chilika Lake.
- ❖ The organization was joined by Chilika Development Authority and Bombay Natural History Society.
- ❖ Chilika is the largest brackish water lake.
- ❖ The three major bird species in the lake such as Northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, and gadwall accounted for a count of one lakh.
- ❖ In the 2022 count, the greater flamingo count reached the highest in the decade.
- ❖ This is mainly due to the restoration of mudflats in Nalabana.

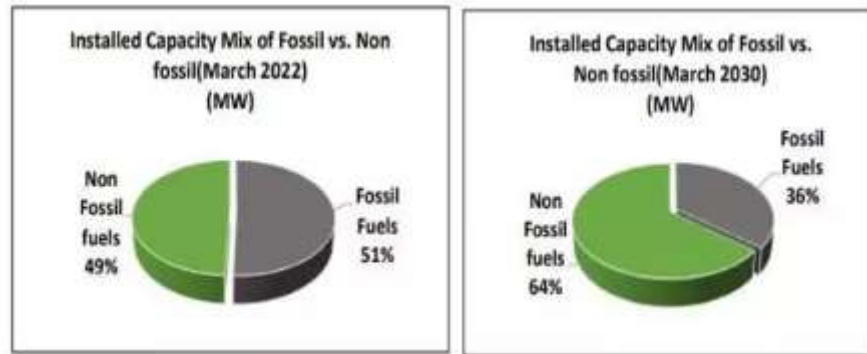
Automatic Generation Control

- ❖ Power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh has dedicated Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation.
- ❖ The AGC sends signals to power plants every four seconds to maintain the frequency and thereby reliability of India's power system.
- ❖ It will help in achieving the government's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030.

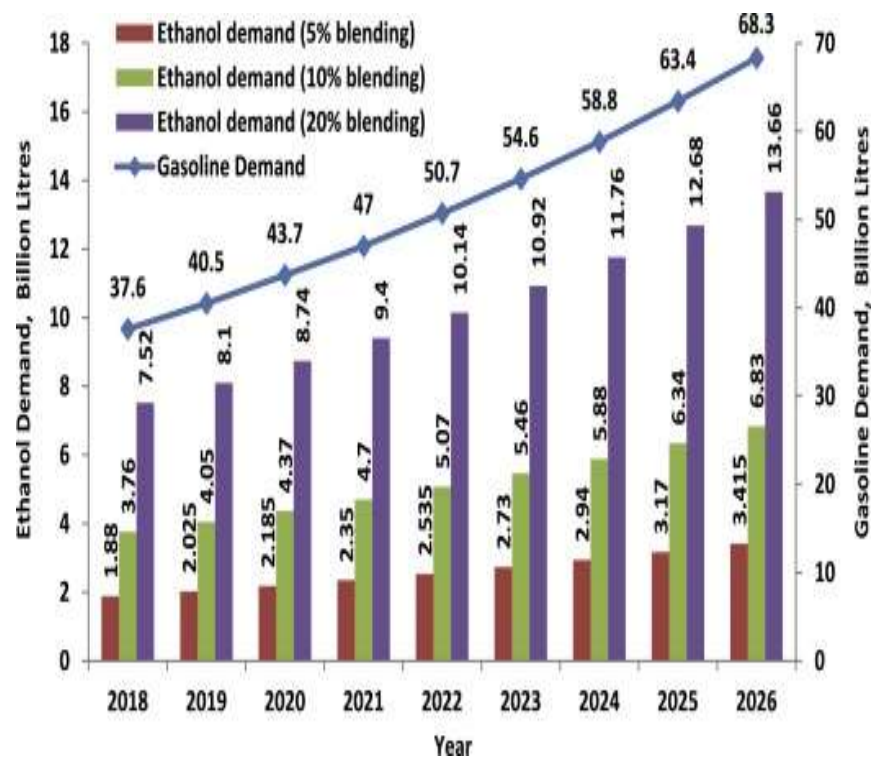
India's Non – Fossil Fuel Milestone

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recently announced that India has reached its non – fossil fuel target much ahead of 2030.
- ❖ At the COP21, India had pledged to install 40% of overall electric energy from non – renewable sources.
- ❖ India aimed to achieve this target by 2030.

- ❖ But it has now achieved this well ahead in November 2021.
- ❖ The total installed electric capacity of India is 392.01 GW.
- ❖ Of this, the total non fossil fuel-based energy is 157.32 GW.
- ❖ This is 40.1% of 392.01 GW to be precise.



India's Ethanol Consumption



- ❖ As per recent research of the International Energy Agency (IEA), India is on track to become the world's third-largest ethanol market by 2026.
- ❖ India will only be left behind the United States and Brazil by 2026, as it has accelerated the transition towards a clean energy environment to become carbon neutral by 2070.

- ❖ According to IEA, India has made “huge progress” in expanding ethanol blending.
- ❖ Blending was 2 percent in 2017.
- ❖ By 2021, it had reached 8 percent.
- ❖ It thus brought India on target to attain 10 percent blending in 2022.

PM – POSHAN Scheme

- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programme, UN – WFP has signed an agreement with a Bengaluru-based NGO to improve the effectiveness of PM – POSHAN.
- ❖ PM – POSHAN is Pradhan Mantri POshan SHakti Nirman.
- ❖ The scheme was called the Mid – Day Meal Scheme before.
- ❖ The agreement was signed with the Akshaya Patra Foundation.



International Yoga Academy

- ❖ Union Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation stone of the Heartfulness International Yoga Academy in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ He also launched 75 crores Surya namaskar initiative as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

Strategic areas - Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir administration gave its approval to declare more than a thousand kanals of land in Gulmarg and 354 kanals in Sonamarg areas as “strategic areas”.
- ❖ This land will be utilized for the “operational and training requirements” of the armed forces.

Green Energy Corridor Phase – II

- ❖ The Government of India approved Green Energy Corridor Phase – II.
- ❖ Under this phase, 10,750 kilometres of transmission lines are to be constructed and 27,500 MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) substations are to be added.
- ❖ The project is to be implemented in seven states.
- ❖ They are Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- ❖ The Green Energy Corridor Phase II will be implemented between 2021-22 and 2025-26.
- ❖ 33% of the project cost is to be provided by the central government.
- ❖ It will help India achieve its target of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.



GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE-II

Cabinet approves Intra-State Transmission System – Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- To facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately **20 GW of Renewable Energy projects in 7 States**
- Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh
- Total estimated cost **Rs. 12,031 crore**
- Central Financial Assistance at **33% of project cost** i.e. Rs. 3970.34 crore
- To be created **over a period of five years**

1/2

Open Rock Museum

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh, inaugurated India's first "Open Rock Museum" in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The museum displays about 35 different varieties of rocks from different parts of India.
- ❖ The age of these rocks is ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years.
- ❖ These rocks also represent the deepest part of the Earth, which is up to 175 km of distance from Earth's surface.
- ❖ The Museum was inaugurated at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).



NEET-PG and NEET-UG admissions

EWS SCRUTINY

- > SC to scrutinise Rs 8 lakh annual income cap for EWS in **third week of March**
- > Move after solicitor general Tushar Mehta argues against changing EWS criteria at this **late stage**
- > Says general category will not be affected as seats in all colleges have gone up by 25%

- ❖ The Supreme Court, in an interim order directed that counselling may proceed on the basis of the July 29, 2021 government notification by which 10 percent seats were reserved for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and 27 percent for Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates.

- ❖ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna also accepted the recommendation of the Ajay Bhushan Pandey Committee to stick to the prescribed Rs 8 lakh income limit for the EWS quota for the current admission cycle.

India Skills competition

- ❖ The India Skills competition is conducted by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ❖ It is held once in two years.
- ❖ The winners of India Skills 2021 will participate in World Skills competition.
- ❖ The World Skills competition is to be held in Shanghai, China in 2022.
- ❖ The winners will compete against 1500 participants from 60 different countries.
- ❖ The World Skills competition is called “Olympics of Skills”.



Sea Dragon 2022

- ❖ It is a US-led exercise.
- ❖ India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022.
- ❖ It takes place at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- ❖ The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and South Korea.

E-Governance Conference

- ❖ The 24th National E-Governance Conference is to be organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the State government of Telangana, and the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

- ❖ The conference is to be held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Madhapur.
- ❖ The conference is to be organized under the theme, “India’s Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World”.
- ❖ It will provide momentum to the e-governance initiatives.
- ❖ It provides opportunities to industries and civil servants to exhibit their successful interventions in E-Governance.



Veer Gatha Project

- ❖ The Government of India launched the “Veer Gatha Project” as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
- ❖ Veer Gatha project was launched to inspire the school children in India, by making them aware of stories of war heroes and brave hearts.
- ❖ 25 students have been selected as the winners of this project.
- ❖ Under it, students were motivated to do activities and projects, based on gallantry award winners.
- ❖ The Veer Gatha Project was organized by the Ministry of Education, the Department of School Education & Literacy, and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).



Cultural survey of villages



- ❖ The Government-promoted CSC SPV, (Common Service Centres Special Purpose Vehicle) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages.
- ❖ This will be done through a mobile application.
- ❖ The survey is titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar'.
- ❖ It will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block, or district unique.

Startup India Innovation Week

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has decided to organize a week-long virtual innovation celebration called 'Startup India Innovation Week'.
- ❖ This is to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.
- ❖ The virtual event is organized from January 10 to January 16, 2022.
- ❖ The event also aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.



Expenditure limit - election commission

For Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs)	
Earlier expenditure limit (2014)	Enhanced expenditure limit now
Rs. 70 Lakh	Rs. 95 Lakh
Rs. 54 Lakh	Rs. 75 Lakh

For Assembly Constituencies (ACs)	
Earlier expenditure limit (2014)	Enhanced expenditure limit now
Rs. 28 Lakh	Rs. 40 Lakh
Rs. 20 Lakh	Rs. 28 Lakh

- ❖ The election commission has hiked the poll expenditure limit up to ₹95 lakh for the Lok Sabha elections from 70 lakhs.
- ❖ For the state assembly elections, the expenditure limit has been enhanced to ₹40 lakh from ₹28 lakh.
- ❖ The revision in the expenditure has come due to the rise in the cost inflation index and the size of the electorate.
- ❖ The new expenditure limits will be applicable for candidates contesting in the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur.

Water Atlas



- ❖ The 19th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held under the chairmanship of the union minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- ❖ During the meeting, the union minister released a Water Atlas.
- ❖ The water atlas maps all the water bodies in the tiger-bearing areas of India.
- ❖ Landscape-wise information has been outlined in this water atlas.
- ❖ It includes the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic plain landscape, Central Indian Landscape and Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats landscape, North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra flood plains, and Sundarbans.

Mahakali River bridge



- ❖ The Cabinet has cleared a plan to build a new bridge connecting India and Nepal.
- ❖ The two countries are set to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding the bridge, which will be built over the Mahakali river.
- ❖ It will link Dharchula in Uttarakhand with Nepal's Dharchula.

Mobile Honey Processing Van



- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission has launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad.
- ❖ The Mobile Van has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokehra, Haryana.
- ❖ This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours.
- ❖ The van is also equipped with a testing laboratory, that would instantly examine the quality of honey.

Assembly Election 2022

- ❖ Dates for Assembly elections in five states - Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Punjab, and Uttarakhand - were announced.
- ❖ The five states will vote over seven phases starting February 10, with the counting of votes scheduled for March 10.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh will vote in each of the seven phases - on February 10, February 14, February 20, February 23, February 27, March 3, and March 7.
- ❖ Punjab, Goa, and Uttarakhand will vote on February 14.
- ❖ Manipur will vote in two phases on February 27 March 3.
- ❖ A total of 690 Assembly constituencies will vote over the next two months.

- ❖ Maximum will be in UP (403 seats) followed by Punjab (117), Uttarakhand (70), Manipur (60), and Goa (40).

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2022



UTTAR PRADESH			
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
FEB 10	FEB 14	FEB 20	FEB 23
Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	Results
FEB 27	MAR 3	MAR 7	MAR 10



PUNJAB	
Voting	Results
FEB 14	MAR 10



UTTARAKHAND	
Voting	Results
FEB 14	MAR 10



MANIPUR		
Phase 1	Phase 2	Results
FEB 27	MAR 3	MAR 10



GOA	
Voting	Results
FEB 14	MAR 10

Veer Baal Diwas

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that starting this year, 26th December shall be marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas'.
- ❖ 'Veer Baal Diwas' will be observed on the same day Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall.
- ❖ The Sahibzades were the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who sacrificed their lives in an important battle against the Mughal.



75th BIS Foundation Day



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India, annually celebrates the BIS Foundation Day on 6th January.
- ❖ The BIS foundation day commemorates the day on which BIS came into existence as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) (6th January 1947).
- ❖ Dr. Lal C. Verman took over as its first Director of ISI.
- ❖ 6th January 2022 marks the observance of the 75th BIS Foundation Day.

75th Platinum Jubilee Year Of CSIR-NPL

- ❖ Dr. Jitendra Singh released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75th Platinum Jubilee year of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Physical Laboratory (NPL).
- ❖ It is one of the earliest CSIR laboratories that was set up during independence that the celebration coincides with the 75th year of India's independence.
- ❖ The foundation of NPL was laid by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 4th January 1947.
- ❖ The main building of the laboratory was formally opened by Late Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 21st January 1950.



Global Surya Namaskar event



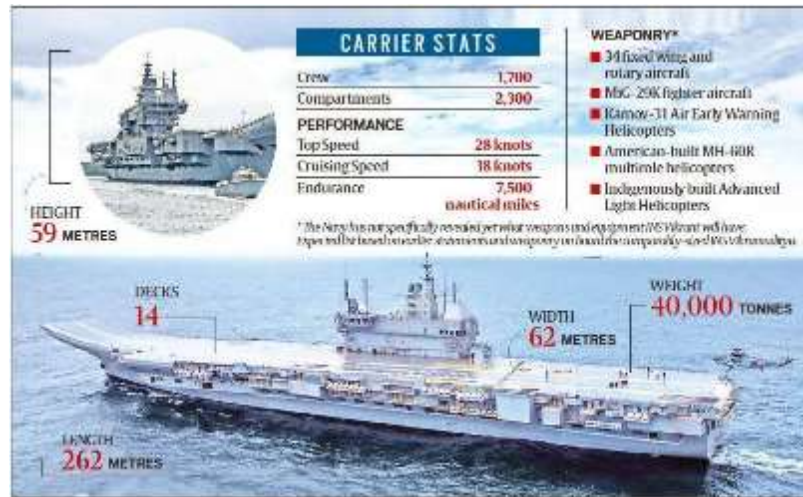
- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH has decided to organize a “Global Surya Namaskar Demonstration Programme” on the occasion of Makar Sankranti (January 14, 2022).
- ❖ The event will be organized for 75 lakh people across India.
- ❖ The Mass Surya Namaskar demonstration programme also seeks to carry the message of global warming and climate change.

International conference on academic institutions 2022



- ❖ The International Conference of Academic Institutions was organized at Vigyan Bhavan, Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ It was organized in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and globally renowned universities under the aegis of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022.
- ❖ ICAI 2022 Endeavours provided a platform to academicians, researchers, and students across the world to deliberate on diverse perspectives of the NEP - 2020 (National Education Policy) and its role in transforming higher and technical education.

IAC Vikrant



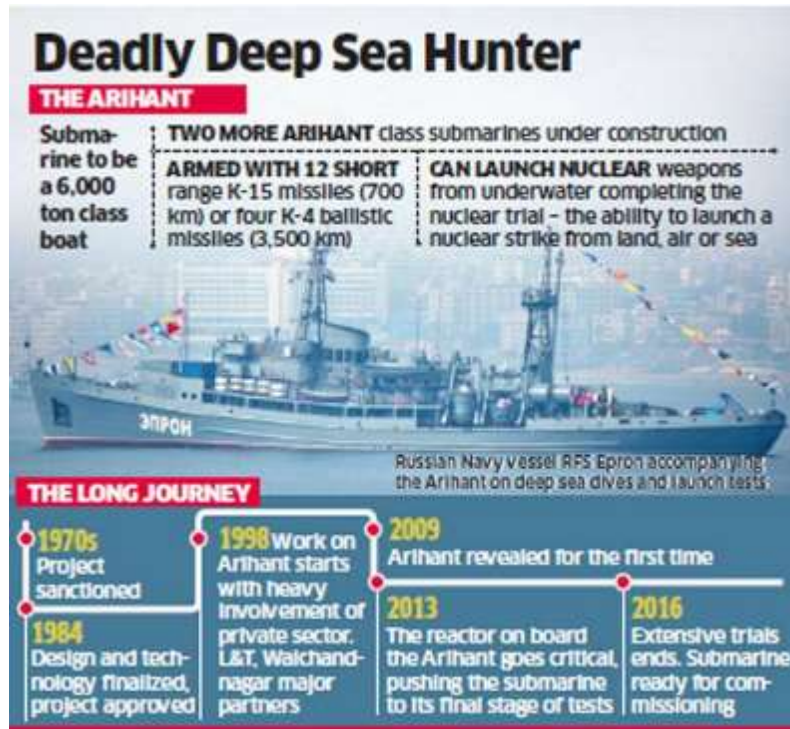
- ❖ INS Vikrant (IAC-I) is the first aircraft carrier built in India.
- ❖ It has been designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design.
- ❖ It is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- ❖ The IAC-1 has an overall length of 263 m and a breadth of 63 m.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying 30 assorted aircraft including combat jets and helicopters.

Red Sanders

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature's recently categorized the Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood) again into the 'endangered' category in its Red List.
- ❖ The species, called Red Sanders, is scientifically called *Pterocarpus santalinus*.
- ❖ It is an Indian endemic tree species.
- ❖ Its geographical range is restricted to the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.



Third Arihant-class Nuclear-powered Submarine



- ❖ India has launched its third Arihant-class a nuclear-powered Submarine in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ It can carry at least 8 K-4 ballistic missiles.
- ❖ The low-key launch was reported by UK-based Janes Defence Weekly through satellite imagery from the Vishakhapatnam Ship Building Centre.
- ❖ The first SSBN INS Arihant was commissioned in 2016.
- ❖ The second, though initially launched in 2014, is awaiting commissioning into the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The Arihant class of Submarines is being built with help from Russia.

Ekta Nagar railway station



- ❖ The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of the Kevadiya railway station in the Narmada district of Gujarat.
- ❖ It is renamed Ekta Nagar railway station.
- ❖ The Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division.

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conference 2022



- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is also called Non – Resident Indian Day.
- ❖ It is celebrated on January 9 every year.
- ❖ It is celebrated to encourage the overseas Indian community to reconnect with their roots.
- ❖ The conference is a platform for the NRIs to express their outlooks, feelings, and perceptions.
- ❖ It aids in creating a network of NRIs distributed all over the world.

India aids Sri Lanka - Inter-city Train Service

- ❖ Sri Lanka had created an inter-city railway service with the help of India.
- ❖ India provided diesel units to the project.
- ❖ Railway services were launched between Jaffna and Colombo.
- ❖ The service was launched between Mount Lavinia (Colombo) and Kankesanthurai (Jaffna).



BrahMos Missile



- ❖ BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired by DRDO from the Indian Navy destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western Coast.
- ❖ The sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was test-fired at a maximum range.
- ❖ It had also hit the target with pinpoint accuracy.

North East Festival

- ❖ The 9th North East Festival (NEF) was held under strict COVID guidelines in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ It's a festival that celebrates the beautiful diversity and integrity of the northeast.
- ❖ The North East Festival's 9th edition aims to promote and highlight the region's enormous commercial and tourism potential.



India Skills 2021 competition

- ❖ India Skills 2021 national competition concluded recently.
- ❖ As many as 270 winners of the Competition felicitated with 61 gold, 77 silver, 53 bronze, and 79 medallions of excellence.

- ❖ Odisha finished first out of 26 states and union territories of this year in the 'India Skills 2021' contest with 51 medals.
- ❖ Maharashtra remained in second place.
- ❖ Kerala took third place in this.
- ❖ The winners of the India Skills 2021 competition will also have the opportunity to compete in the World Skills International Competition in Shanghai, China, in October 2022.

India's shining #SkillStars from all over the country!

State-wise medal tally

State / UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Odisha	10	18	9
Kerala	8	8	5
Maharashtra	8	4	7
Karnataka	7	8	4
Andhra Pradesh	7	4	1
Bihar	4	2	5
Haryana	3	4	1
Gujarat	3	1	2
Rajasthan	3	1	1
Tamil Nadu	2	8	8
Chandigarh	2	2	1
Punjab	1	4	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	2	-
West Bengal	1	1	1
Delhi	-	2	1
Jharkhand	-	2	1
Uttarakhand	-	2	-
Tripura	-	-	1
Assam	-	1	-
Goa	-	1	-
Mizoram	-	-	1
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	1

#IndiaKeSkillStar

Smart Cities and Academia Towards Action and Research (SAAR)

- ❖ SAAR was launched by the Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ SAAR will document the projects implemented by Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ It is a part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations.
- ❖ SAAR is mainly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The other institutes that join the ministry in implementing the project are the National Institute of Urban Affairs and other premier institutions in the country.
- ❖ This includes 15 premier architecture institutes.
- ❖ First, SAAR is to prepare a list of 75 urban projects.
- ❖ Varanasi, adopting several smart city measures and being the constituency of the PM, failed to enter SAAR.



Model Code of Conduct

- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct for governments, candidates, and political parties has come into force on 8th January with the announcement of the election schedule for five states.
- ❖ All provisions of the poll code will apply to the whole of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The model code is a set of guidelines, issued by the Election Commission.
- ❖ It stays in effect till the elections are completed and the results are announced.



New ISRO Chief

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the appointment of Dr. S Somanath as its new chairman and Space Secretary.
- ❖ He is currently the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ He is to act as the director of ISRO for three years.
- ❖ He will succeed Kailasavadivoo Sivan who completes his extended tenure.
- ❖ The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary, and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.
- ❖ The chairman of ISRO is the secretary to the Government of India.
- ❖ He is an executive of the Department of Space.
- ❖ The Department reports to the prime minister directly.



Ganga Sagar Mela 2022



- ❖ The Ganga Sagar Mela is the biggest fair in Eastern India.
- ❖ It is the second biggest fair in India after the Kumbha Mela of India.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on January 12, 2022, at the Sagar Island of West Bengal.

Kachai Lemon Festival

- ❖ The 18th edition of the two-day-long Kachai Lemon Festival began in Manipur at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in the Ukhrul district.
- ❖ This year the festival is being organized under the theme ‘Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation’.
- ❖ Kachai Lemon of Manipur has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag.



Vaccination in Lakshadweep

- ❖ Lakshadweep has vaccinated all eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years.
- ❖ With this, it has become the first among UTs and states to have achieved this feat.
- ❖ Earlier, Lakshadweep became the first among Union Territories and states to have achieved 100 per cent vaccination in other categories such as healthcare workers, frontline workers and age group above 18 years.

5th Sikh Takht

- ❖ Delhi Assembly passed an amendment bill to “Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971”.
- ❖ It recognizes the “Takht Damdama Sahib” in Bathinda of Punjab as the fifth Takht of Sikhs.
- ❖ Takht (Throne) is a seat of temporal authority for Sikhs.
- ❖ Presently, there are five Sikh Takhts.
- ❖ Out of them, three are in Punjab, one in Maharashtra, and one in Bihar.
- ❖ Akal Takht, located in Amritsar, is the oldest of the Takhts.
- ❖ It was set up in 1606 by Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru.



Zojila pass



- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) keeps Zojila pass open for traffic for first time in January month.
- ❖ It is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the Indian union territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ Zojila Pass, located at an altitude of 11643 ft on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road is the lifeline between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.
- ❖ The National Highway 1 between Srinagar and Leh in the western section of the Himalayan Mountain range traverses the pass.

Khadi Handmade Paper Slippers



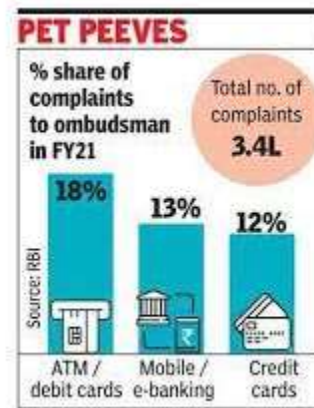
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently launched handmade use and throw paper slippers and also khadi baby wear slippers for the first time.
- ❖ For the first time, the KVIC has also introduced baby wear produce.
- ❖ It is made of hand-woven khadi cotton.
- ❖ As it is created using natural fibres, it is eco-friendly.
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Education has launched this one.
- ❖ It will help in recognising, inspiring and awarding the schools, that have undertaken exemplary work pertaining to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ❖ It is open to all categories of schools, ranging from Government, Government aided and Private schools across both rural and urban areas.

Rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its “Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21”.
- ❖ It highlights the rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints.
- ❖ Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi received the maximum number of complaints.

Napkin free panchayat

- ❖ Kumbalangi village in Cochin of Kerala is all set to become India’s first sanitary napkin-free panchayat.
- ❖ The village has previously won acclaim as India’s first model tourism village.

India Women Hockey Team for Asia Cup

- ❖ Savita Punia will captain an 18-member women Indian Hockey Team for Asia Cup 2022 in Muscat, Oman.
- ❖ Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand are the 7 other countries that will compete at the Women’s Hockey Asia Cup 2022.
- ❖ India women are the defending champions of this cup.



Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) Scheme

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the High Courts of the country to provide an estimate of manpower required to create Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre (VWDC) scheme in their states within three months.
- ❖ This centre will create a safe environment to record the statements of the vulnerable victims.
- ❖ At least One VWDC centre should be established in one district.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has included the sexually assaulted victims in the vulnerable witnesses.
- ❖ Sexual assault victims are defined by Section 377 of Indian Penal Code.

The other vulnerable victims are as follows

- ❖ Gender neutral victims of sexual assault
- ❖ Witnesses under threat perception
- ❖ Witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in mental health care act
- ❖ Hearing impaired or speech impaired individuals
- ❖ Person suffering from other disabilities as defined by the courts.

Agreement with South Korea's POSCO



- ❖ Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore business opportunities in India.
- ❖ This includes the establishment of a green, environment-friendly integrated steel mill at Mundra, Gujarat.

MPATGM

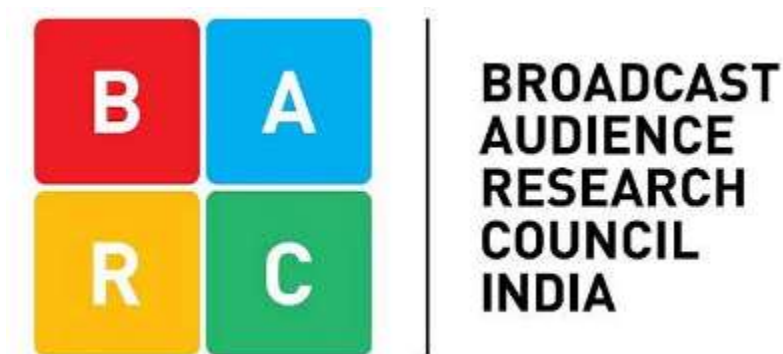
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

- ❖ MPATGM will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited at its facility in Bhanoor, Telangana.
- ❖ MPATGM is an indigenously developed anti-tank missile, a low weight and a 'fire and forget' missile.
- ❖ It is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile.
- ❖ It has been derived from Nag ATGM.
- ❖ It can be launched from different platforms under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.



BARC News Channel Ratings

- ❖ The Information & Broadcasting Ministry asked the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC India) to resume "news channel ratings".
- ❖ The Ministry has asked to release of viewership data of news channels as well as to release the last three months data of news channels in monthly format.
- ❖ BARC has revised its processes, oversight mechanisms and protocols.
- ❖ BARC India is a joint industry body.
- ❖ It was founded by organisations representing Indian broadcasters, advertising and media agencies (AAAI) and advertisers (ISA).
- ❖ It is the largest television measurement science industry body worldwide.



Paytm Payments Bank



- ❖ It became the largest and fastest-growing UPI beneficiary bank in India.
- ❖ It becomes the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) topped the chart of being the biggest remitter in December 2021, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ Beneficiary banks are the banks of the account holder who is receiving money.

India Edtech Consortium

- ❖ The private companies in India have joined together to form India EdTech Consortium.
- ❖ It was formed under the guidance of Internet Mobile Association of India.
- ❖ It is mostly formed by the 1 billion USD companies.
- ❖ This includes Unacademy, BYJU's, upGrad, Lead School and Vedantu.
- ❖ Basically, the consortium is framing self-regulation.
- ❖ This is being done to reduce the interference of the government in the sector's operating principles or rules and regulations.
- ❖ EdTech is Education and Technology.





Citizen Constitution Literacy campaign

- ❖ It was launched in Kollam district of Kerala.
- ❖ The campaign is first of its kind.
- ❖ The campaign will educate the residents of the district about the basics of constitution.
- ❖ The campaign aims to make Kollam district a constitutionally literate district.

16th India Digital Summit 2022



- ❖ It was organized by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- ❖ The theme of the summit was “Supercharging Startups”.
- ❖ India Digital Summit is the oldest event of the digital industry in India.
- ❖ During the event, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal unveiled ‘LEAP’ as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem.
- ❖ LEAP stands for “Leverage, Encourage, Access & Promote”.

Postal Stamp on COVID-19 Vaccine





- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya releases commemorative Postal Stamp on COVID-19 Vaccine.
- ❖ It was released to mark the 1st anniversary of India's National COVID Vaccination program.
- ❖ It has been issued on the indigenous Covaxin developed jointly by ICMR and Bharat Biotech
- ❖ Vaccination was made free for everyone above 18 years of age on 21st June 2021.

India's first coal to methanol plant

- ❖ The union minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant in Hyderabad.
- ❖ It is currently producing methanol with a purity of more than 99 percent from high-ash Indian coal.
- ❖ This conversion of high ash Indian coals to methanol through the gasification route is the first of its kind technology demonstration in India.



Vote through postal ballot

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has allowed journalists to cast their votes through postal ballot facility.
- ❖ Any voter opting for postal ballot facility would not be able to cast a vote at the polling station.

- ❖ It is regulated under the Representation of People's Act of 1951.
- ❖ Currently, the following voters are also allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot.
 - Service voters (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad),
 - Voters on election duty,
 - Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD),
 - Voters under preventive detention.

Delhi's first DTC Electric Bus



- ❖ The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off the first electric bus of the Delhi Transport Corporation.
- ❖ These electric buses are low floor buses and fully air conditioned.
- ❖ These buses were acquired under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and electric Vehicles in India, that is, FAME – II.

Collarwali Tigress passes away



- ❖ India's "Supermom" tigress, popularly known as 'Collarwali', has passed away at Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Madhya Pradesh, due to old age.
- ❖ It was over 16 years old.
- ❖ 'Collarwali' tigress was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime.
- ❖ It is believed to be a world record.
- ❖ The official name given to the tigress by the forest department was T-15.
- ❖ But she was fondly called 'Collarwali' by the native people.
- ❖ She gained the Collarwali title as she became the first tigress in the park to be fitted with a radio collar in 2008.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh also gained an identity as a 'Tiger State' due to the significant contribution of this supermom.

Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Bay of Bengal – India, and Japan

- ❖ A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19.
- ❖ The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmat.
- ❖ Uraga and Hirado participated from the Japanese side.



AFC Women's football Asian Cup India 2022

- ❖ India is all set to host AFC Women's football Asian Cup India 2022 from 20th January 2022 in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Pune.
- ❖ The tournament will witness 12 teams competing for the trophy.
- ❖ AFC Women's Asian Cup India will also be the final stage of Asian qualification for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

- ❖ Japan is the defending champions of the Women's Asian Cup, having won it in 2018.



Indian Army's New Combat Uniform

- ❖ The Indian Army is to provide new uniforms to more than 12 lakh military personnel.
- ❖ Unlike the old uniform, the new uniform has a combat T-shirt underneath.
- ❖ The previous uniform has been in use since 2008.
- ❖ The new uniform is made of light, sturdy, and more breathable fabric.
- ❖ The cotton to the polyester ratio of the fabric is 70:30.
- ❖ As compared to the old uniform, the new uniform is 15% lighter and 23% stronger.



Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme

- ❖ Under the “Chip to Start-up (C2S) Programme”, the central government is seeking applications from 100 start-ups, MSMEs, R&D organizations and academia.
- ❖ It aims to train 85,000 engineers in very-large-scale integration (VLSI) and embedded system design areas.
- ❖ The C2S programme will result in the development of 175 ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits), IP core repository and working prototypes of 20 systems on chips (SoC), for a period of five years.
- ❖ It will be a step towards leapfrogging in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) space by infusing the culture of SoC/System Level Design at the Bachelors, Masters and Research levels.



India-China Trade in 2021

- ❖ The trade between India and China was around 125 billion USD in 2021.
- ❖ India's imports from China stood at 100 billion USD.
- ❖ Most of the import demands were in machinery.
- ❖ India faced a trade deficit of 69.4 billion USD with China in 2021.
- ❖ This was 22% higher than the trade deficit faced in 2019.

- ❖ In 2021 alone, the total imported goods from China exceeded the total trade between the countries.
- ❖ In 2021, the major Indian exports to China were cotton, iron ore, and raw material-based goods.
- ❖ Electrical machinery, mechanical machinery, medical supplies such as oxygen concentrators, active pharmaceutical ingredients, semiconductor devices, electrical batteries.



Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India

- ❖ The scientists of CRS have created a climate hazard and vulnerability atlas of India.
- ❖ CRS is Climate Research and Services and it operates under India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ❖ The scientists created the map based on 14 extreme weather events.
- ❖ They also considered the risks and threats imposed by these 14 weather events on the local population and their economy.
- ❖ Here 'local' pertains to district and not state or village.

Flipkart - New Startup Programme



- ❖ LEAP is the new start-up programme of Flipkart.

- ❖ It is also called Leap Ahead.
- ❖ It aims to help startups in India.
- ❖ Under this LEAP programme, Flipkart is to implement two programmes.
- ❖ They are FLIN and FLA.
- ❖ FLIN is Flipkart Leap Innovation Network.
- ❖ FLA is Flipkart Leap Ahead.
- ❖ It will invest in startups focusing on cutting edge technologies.

Open Data Week

- ❖ The Open Data Week was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The week is celebrated between January 17, 2022, and January 21, 2022.
- ❖ It encourages promoting innovation in the urban ecosystem of the country.
- ❖ During the celebration of the week, the ministry of housing and urban affairs published high-quality blogs and data sets about smart cities.
- ❖ The data are to be published in an open data portal.



UPI AUTOPAY - JIO

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Reliance Jio have announced that UPI AUTOPAY has now been introduced for the telecom industry with Jio.
- ❖ It is the first player in the telecom industry to go live with the unique e-mandate feature that was launched by NPCI.
- ❖ Using the UPI AutoPay launched by NPCI, customers can now enable recurring e-mandate using any UPI application for recurring payments such as mobile bills, electricity bills, EMI payments, etc.

- ❖ For recharge amounts up to Rs 5,000, customers do not have to enter the UPI PIN on the execution of the recharge.

Reliance Jio has rolled out
a new UPI Autopay feature
for its prepaid plan users.



Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022

- ❖ The World Economic Forum recently published the Global Cyber security Outlook 2022.
- ❖ In 2021, ransomware attacks have increased by 151%.
- ❖ Each organization faced 270 cyber-attacks on average.
- ❖ According to the report, the following two factors have the highest influence on cyber security:
 - Automation and machine learning: 48%
 - Remote and hybrid work environment: 28%



Operation Sard Hawa

- ❖ The Border Security Force, BSF launches Operation Sard Hawa.
- ❖ Under the operation, the BSF increases the surveillance on the Pakistan border.
- ❖ It is usually launched in the Rajasthan border, especially in the Jaisalmer region.
- ❖ It is a regular annual exercise.
- ❖ It is launched in the month of January.
- ❖ This year, Operation Sard Hawa is to be conducted between January 23 and January 28.



Streets for People Challenge



- ❖ The Street for People Challenge is an online event organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ The Streets for People challenge along with the India Cycles4 challenge brought in changes to make the roads cycle-friendly, walking-friendly, and child friendly.
- ❖ The streets for people challenge focuses on making the streets walking friendly.

- ❖ Around eleven cities have won the “Streets for People Challenge Award”.
- ❖ They are Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Kochi, Nagpur, Pimri chinchwad, Pune, Udaipur, Kohima, Ujjain, and Vijayawada.
- ❖ Ten cities have won the “Nurturing Neighbourhood challenge” award.
- ❖ They are Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Indore, Jabalpur, Kakinada, Kochi, Kohima, Rourkela, Vadodara, Warangal.

Digital Government Mission

- ❖ The Digital Government Mission was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ The mission will deliver government services to the citizens.
- ❖ It will use machine learning and artificial intelligence to deliver the services.
- ❖ The mission aims to reach benefits to the citizens before even they start enquiring about a scheme or subsidiary.



India-Israel Industrial R&D & Technological Innovation Fund

- ❖ India and Israel recently widened the I4F (India-Israel Industrial R&D & Technological Innovation Fund) during their eighth governing body meet.
- ❖ I4F is India - Israel Industrial research and development technological Innovation fund.
- ❖ The fund has now been widened to 5.5 million USD.

- ❖ The fund has been widened to implement three research and development projects.
- ❖ They are as follows:
 - Centrally monitored Internet of Things Nano sensors for Molecular diagnostic in health care,
 - Internet of Things enabled satellite communication for real-time agriculture and environmental data collection and
 - NoMoreMos: It is a mosquito control biological solution.

The poster is for the 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (IIF)'. It features portraits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The text includes: 'Launch of 1st Call For Proposal (CFP)', 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (IIF)', 'Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and Israel Innovation Authority, State of Israel have created a joint USD 40 Million USD IIF fund with equal contribution from both sides over a period of two (02) years. IIF is aimed to promote, facilitate and support joint Industrial R&D between India & Israel which would lead to co-development and commercialization of innovative technologies benefiting both the countries.' It also mentions 'CFP Launch Date: 16 Jun 2018' and 'CFP Closing Date: 16 Apr 2018'. There are three main sections: 'Focus Areas' (Agriculture, Health, Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Space), 'Eligibility for Indian Industry' (Indian Project Lead company, minimum 10% equity, 5% turnover, etc.), and 'Special Funding Available to Industry' (CFP-GTA will support a minimum of 0.25 Million USD for duration of 1-2 years). It also mentions 'India-Israel Working Partner' as Green & Sustainable Technology Alliance.

Kaziranga National Park – Census



- ❖ The Kaziranga National Park of Assam is a Tiger Reserve and a World Heritage site.
- ❖ The park recently conducted its waterfowl census.
- ❖ The census is conducted in the 52 wetlands in the parks.
- ❖ The bird count has increased by 175% in one year.
- ❖ Of all, the bar-headed geese were in greatest numbers
- ❖ The first Kaziranga National Park census was held in 2019.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis



- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently extended the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three more years.
- ❖ The current tenure of the commission ends in March 2022.
- ❖ Safai Karamcharis are the manual scavengers.
- ❖ They clean drainages and sewer with direct hands, without any protection or equipment.

Electricity Market Report

- ❖ The 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.
- ❖ In 2021, the electricity generation from renewables increased by 6% year-on-year.
- ❖ Generation from coal was increased by 9%.
- ❖ There was an increase of 2% in gas-fired generation.
- ❖ This increase resulted in a 7% year-on-year increase in emissions from power sector.

Republic Day - 2022

- ❖ For the first time in 75 years, the Republic Day parade will not start at the scheduled time of 10 am but with a 30-minute delay.
- ❖ This year it will start at 10.30 am.
- ❖ This is due to the Covid-19 restrictions and to pay homage to Jammu and Kashmir security personnel.
- ❖ For the second year in a row, Republic Day will have no foreign chief guest due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.



Hologram Statue of Netaji



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils a hologram statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose near India Gate in Delhi.
- ❖ The statue was unveiled on Netaji's 125th birth anniversary (January 23rd).
- ❖ The hologram statue is placed at the spot where once the statue of King George V of England stood.
- ❖ The statue was removed in 1968.

World leaders - Global rating



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has grabbed a top spot in a global rating amongst the world leaders with an approval rating of 71 percent by the Morning Consult group.
- ❖ In the list of the most popular leaders in the world, which consisted of 13 leaders, US President Joe Biden has been ranked at number 6.
- ❖ He is followed by Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Purple Revolution



- ❖ “Purple Revolution” is Jammu & Kashmir’s contribution to "Start-ups India".
- ❖ The “Purple Revolution” in India is a result of the Aroma Mission launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❖ ‘Purple Revolution’ involves the cultivation of Lavender as a new aroma crop in the Kashmir Himalayas.

Report on Solar Waste



- ❖ According to a report prepared by the National Solar Energy Federation of India, India could generate over 34,600 tonnes of cumulative solar waste by 2030.
- ❖ Solar waste is the electronic waste generated by discarded solar panels.
- ❖ The two most popular module technologies in India are crystallized silicon (C-Si) and thin-film (mainly cadmium telluride), with 93 and 7% market shares respectively.
- ❖ Both the technologies have a recovery rate of 85-90%.
- ❖ But the large cost gap between recycling and discarding panels in landfills is the reason why it is not recycled enough.

Export of Advanced Light Helicopter to Mauritius



- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with the Government of Mauritius (GoM).
- ❖ This is to the export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-MkIII for the Mauritius Police Force.
- ❖ Mauritius already operates an ALH and Dornier Do-228 aircraft built by HAL.

Banking on Electric Vehicles in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released this report.
- ❖ This outlines the need and importance of the inclusion of Electric Vehicles in RBI priority-sector lending guidelines.
- ❖ The report has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with US-based non-profit organizations Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.



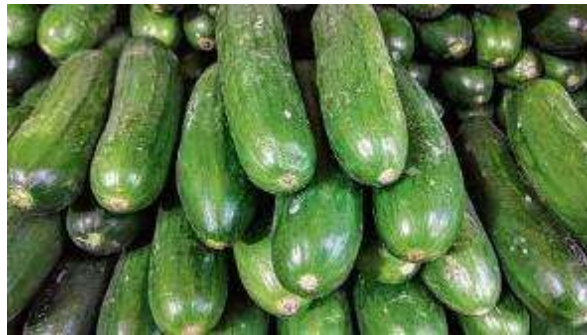
4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation



- ❖ It was recently organized by the Government of Malaysia and the Global Tiger Forum.
- ❖ This conference is an important event for reviewing progress towards the Global Tiger Recovery Programme and commitments to tiger conservation.
- ❖ India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries towards the finalization of the New Delhi declaration for the Global Tiger Summit to be held at Vladivostok, Russia later this year.
- ❖ A “Pre-Tiger Summit” meeting was held at New Delhi in 2010.
- ❖ Wherein the draft declaration on tiger conservation for Global Tiger Summit was finalized.

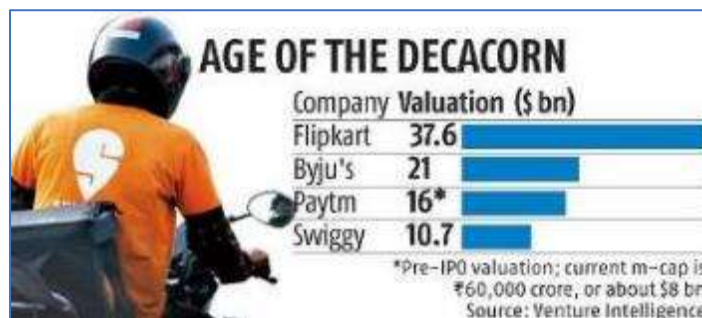
Gherkins

- ❖ India has emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world.
- ❖ It is also known as pickling cucumber.
- ❖ Gherkin cultivation, processing, and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in Karnataka.
- ❖ Later extended to the neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
- ❖ Nearly 15% production of the world's gherkin requirement is grown in India.



Swiggy turns decacorn

- ❖ Swiggy has signed a \$700 million funding round led by asset manager Invesco.
- ❖ With this, the total valuation of Swiggy has reached to \$10.7 billion i.e. it is now a decacorn.
- ❖ A decacorn is a startup with a valuation of more than \$10 billion.



Spice Exchange Portal

- ❖ The Spice Board of India recently launched the Spice Exchange Portal.
- ❖ The portal will act as a meeting point between the Indian spice exporters and buyers all over the world.
- ❖ This platform is the first of its kind in the country.

- ❖ The platform was launched by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ Spices contribute 41 percent of total horticultural exports.
- ❖ Spices rank fourth in Indian agricultural commodities.
- ❖ The first three ranks are held by marine products, non-basmati rice, and basmati rice.
- ❖ India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices in the world.



India and Israel - 30th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations

- ❖ India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- ❖ The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- ❖ Israel and India established diplomatic relations on the 29th of January 1992.



Omicron Testing Kit – OM

- ❖ The CSIR - Central Drug Research Institute has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om'.
- ❖ This is for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- ❖ It is the first kit made by any government institution.
- ❖ And it is the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.



Subsidy to popularise drone in agriculture



- ❖ The Union Agriculture Ministry has amended the guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization.
- ❖ This will provide a 40-100 percent subsidy until March 2023 in purchasing drones for farm mechanization.
- ❖ After the amendment, a grant for the purchase of drones up to 100 percent of the cost of agriculture drones or Rs 10 lakhs, whichever is less, can be given.

Personalities who refused Padma Awards

- ❖ Former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and former General Secretary late EMS Namboodirpad refused the Padma Awards.
- ❖ Former General Secretary CPI (M), late EMS Namboodirpad was the first among leaders to refuse the Padma Award.
- ❖ Also, 90-year old veteran singer Sandhya Mukherjee, also known as Sandhya Mukhopadhyay refused an offer of a Padma Shri award this year.



Neptune Strike 22

- ❖ The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries will be conducting a 12-day maritime exercise in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ The name of the maritime exercise is “Neptune Strike 22”.
- ❖ The main purpose of this exercise will be to demonstrate and test NATO’s wide range of maritime capabilities.

Republic day tableau – 2022



- ❖ The Republic Day event and the parade was held at the Rajpath in New Delhi.
- ❖ This year tableaux of 12 states were selected.
- ❖ Tableaux of Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand were shown at this year’s parade.
- ❖ Additionally, tableaux of nine ministries and departments of the Central government were at this year’s parade.



- ❖ The tableau of the Ministry of Civil Aviation was included in the Republic Day parade for the first time.
- ❖ The theme of this tableau was 'Udaan - Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik'.

Corruption Perceptions Index

- ❖ Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index 2021.
- ❖ India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40).
- ❖ The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand (Score of 88).
- ❖ This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be.
- ❖ The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- ❖ 180 countries are ranked in it.

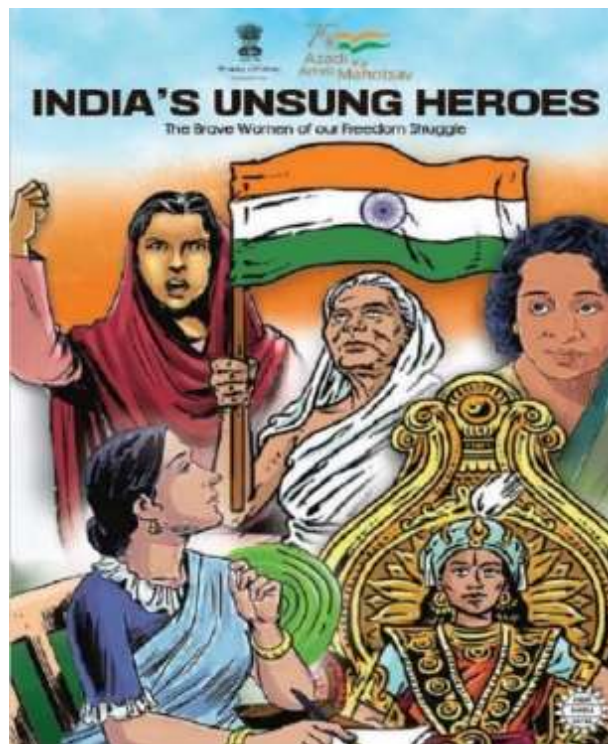
List of India's Rank Different Index 2021-22:	Rank
Global Drug Policy Index 2021:	18th
Climate Change Performance Index 2022:	10th
2021 TRACE global Bribery Risk Rankings:	82nd
World Talent Ranking report 2021:	56th
Global Health Security Index 2021:	66th
5th Truecaller's Global Spam & Scam Report 2021:	4th
Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2021:	3rd
"2019 Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) Report:	3rd
Henley Passport Index 2022:	83rd

India's first Woman Rafale pilot

- ❖ Pilot Shivangi Singh is India's first Woman Rafale pilot.
- ❖ She was a part of the Indian Air Force Tableau at the Republic Day celebrations.
- ❖ She joined the Indian Air Force in 2017.
- ❖ She is the only second woman pilot to participate in the Indian Air Force Tableau.
- ❖ Fighter Jet pilot Bhawna Kanth was the first woman pilot to participate in the IAF tableau.
- ❖ Shivangi Singh was born in Bihar.
- ❖ The theme of 2022 IAF Tableau was "Indian Air Force Transforming for the future".



India's Women Unsung Heroes



- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Culture, Meenakashi Lekhi has released a pictorial comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'.
- ❖ This is released as a tribute to the forgotten women freedom fighters of the country.
- ❖ The book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.
- ❖ The book celebrates the lives of 75 unsung women freedom fighters of India, including Chakali Iamma, Padmaja Naidu, Durgabhai Deshmukh, among others.

5-year roadmap - 300 billion dollar electronics powerhouse

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document 2.0 for the electronics sector.
- ❖ The Vision Document 2.0 titled “\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026” has been prepared by MeitY in association with the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA).
- ❖ The first part of the document titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.
- ❖ This will help India to transform into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026, from the current US\$75 billion.

Air India - Tata Group



- ❖ The government of India officially handed over India’s flag carrier, Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022.
- ❖ This is almost 69 years after acquiring the conglomerate.
- ❖ The total value of the deal is Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion).

- ❖ The strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India includes the transfer of a 100 percent stake of GoI in Air India to Tata Sons, along with management control.
- ❖ The transaction covers three entities namely, Air India, Air India Express, and Air India SATS (AI SATS).
- ❖ The airline was founded in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the inaugural flight between Karachi and Bombay.

Restrictions on Export of Human Hair

- ❖ The Indian Government imposed restrictions on the export of human hair.
- ❖ This ban was imposed with the aim of curbing the alleged smuggling of products from India.
- ❖ With this decision, exporters would now require permission or license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to send shipments of hair outside India.

Exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)

- ❖ The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy conducted a joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) off the West Coast which concluded.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army, and Coast Guard.
- ❖ The Western Naval Command (HQ- Mumbai) is one of the three command-level formations of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The other two are Eastern Naval Command (HQ- Visakhapatnam) and Southern Naval Command (HQ- Kochi).



Exercise CHIRU – 2Q22

- ❖ The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)



- ❖ Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes.
- ❖ This is according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan occupy the second and third slots.
- ❖ Generally, the proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%.

SC quashes indefinite suspension of 12 BJP MLAs

- ❖ The Supreme Court has set aside the Maharashtra Assembly's decision to suspend 12 legislators of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a one-year period beginning July 5, 2021.
- ❖ The legislators were suspended for a year for allegedly misbehaving with the presiding officer in the Assembly.

Observations made by the Supreme Court

- ❖ Suspension beyond the remaining period of the session of the Assembly was ‘non-est’ in law, substantially unconstitutional and irrational.
- ❖ The resolution, therefore, is illegal and was “beyond the powers of the assembly”.

India’s largest EV charging station



- ❖ India’s largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station, with a capacity of 100 charging points for 4 wheelers, was opened at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ Previously, India’s largest EV charging station was situated in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The new EV charging station has been developed by tech-piloting company Alektrify Private Limited.

Conditional market approval



- ❖ The Drug regulator in India has granted conditional market approval for the covishield and covaxin vaccines.
- ❖ This means that the private hospitals shall administer the vaccines.
- ❖ However, the vaccines will not be available in retail medical stores.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS Bank

- ❖ The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) announced to add Egypt as its new member.
- ❖ Egypt is the fourth new member admitted into NDB, following Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Uruguay.
- ❖ The inclusion of Egypt has further expanded the global outreach of the BRICS Bank.



Sibir

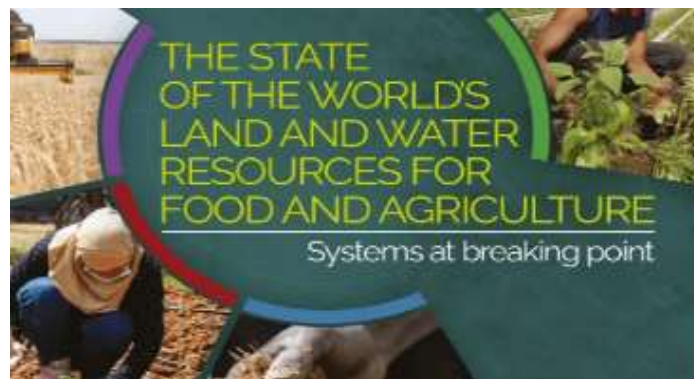
- ❖ Russia has launched a new nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Sibir'.
- ❖ This will contribute to the rapidly growing fleet of lethal icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the Arctic enabling a wider presence of India in the region.

Europol



- ❖ South Korea has recently become the 10th country outside of Europe to join Europol.
- ❖ The National Police Agency of South Korea joined Europol by signing the agreement, which was approved unanimously by the 27 EU nations.
- ❖ Under the agreement, police can now exchange information on crime and cooperate with member states of Europol.
- ❖ Europol is the European Union law enforcement cooperation agency that fights terrorism and other international crimes.

SOLAW 2021



- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations launched the State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture – Systems at breaking point Synthesis report 2021 (SOLAW 2021).
- ❖ This highlights the worsening state of the earth's soil, land, and water resources and the challenges it poses for feeding a global population that is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050.
- ❖ The central theme of SOLAW 2021 is "Systems at breaking point".
- ❖ The present status is
 - The interconnected systems of land, soil, and water are stretched to the limit.
 - Current patterns of agricultural intensification are not proving sustainable
 - Farming systems are becoming polarized.

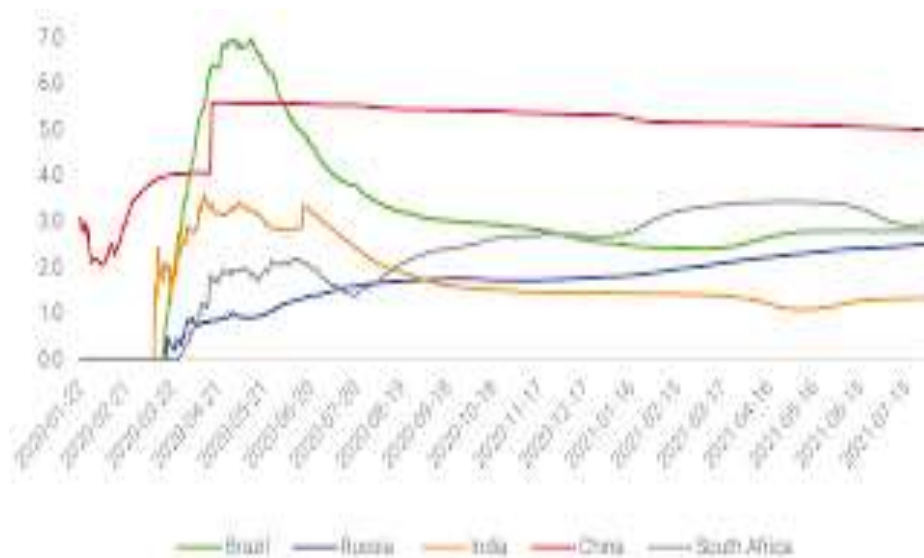
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

- ❖ The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will come into effect on January 1, 2022, marking the formation of the world's largest free-trade zone in terms of trade volume.
- ❖ It is a trade deal between the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

- ❖ India withdrew from the RCEP largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods amid an already wide trade imbalance with China, and the failure of the agreement to adequately open up to services.
- ❖ Both India and USA are not members to this partnership.



BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has released the BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021.
- ❖ It was prepared by the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Research Group with members from BRICS central banks.
- ❖ The CRA Research Group was set up to enhance the research, economic analysis, and surveillance capacity of the BRICS.

- ❖ The BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 addresses the theme of 'Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience and Recovery', covering the economic recovery and its divergences, inflation risks, external sector performances, financial sector vulnerabilities, and other macroeconomic risks.

India and Pakistan exchange information



India and Pakistan exchanged list of nuclear installation

- ❖ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities.
- ❖ It was according to the provisions of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ It states that India and Pakistan have to inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the pact on January 1 every calendar year.
- ❖ This is the 31st consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.
- ❖ Both also exchanged about the details of prisoners.
- ❖ These lists are exchanged in line with the provisions of the Agreement on Consular Access signed in May 2008.
- ❖ Under this pact, the two sides exchange comprehensive lists on January 1 and July 1 every year.

BrahMos missile deal

- ❖ India and the Philippines are set to formally seal a government-to-government BrahMos deal.
- ❖ A number of countries including Indonesia and many in the Gulf region have shown interest in procuring the missile.

- ❖ BrahMos Aerospace is an India-Russian joint venture.
- ❖ It produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.
- ❖ It is the only supersonic cruise missile in the World that flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- ❖ The variant to be exported is likely to have a range of around 290 kilometres.



India's help to Afghanistan



- ❖ For the first time since Kabul fell to the Taliban in mid-August, India has sent 5 lakh doses of Covaxin to Afghanistan as a “gift for the people of Afghanistan”.
- ❖ It is the second such assistance that India has provided to the Taliban-ruled country in less than a month.

- ❖ On December 11, the first consignment of 1.5 tonnes of medicines was sent.
- ❖ Earlier, India plans to send 50000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan.
- ❖ However, India has not formally recognised the Taliban administration as the legitimate ruler till now.

UNSC statement on Nuclear War

- ❖ UNSC statement on Nuclear War was published by Kremlin (Russia).
- ❖ Five nuclear powers, namely Russia, China, Britain, the United States, and France, stated in a joint statement that further spread of nuclear arms and nuclear war should be avoided.
- ❖ These five nations further look to avoid war between nuclear states and reduce strategic risks.
- ❖ They also seek to work with all nations for creating an atmosphere of security.



Variant 'IHU'



- ❖ Scientists and experts in France have reportedly identified a new variant of COVID-19 termed 'IHU'.
- ❖ The new variant is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron.
- ❖ The B.1.640.2 or IHU variant was first identified by the academics at the institute IHU Mediterranee Infection.
- ❖ It contains 46 mutations, which is more than Omicron.

New hypersonic Tsirkon missiles

- ❖ Russia successfully test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and other two missiles from a submarine.
- ❖ The Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).



EU Presidency



- ❖ France has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union with effect from January 01, 2022.
- ❖ The country will continue to hold the EU presidency for the next six months till June 30, 2022.
- ❖ This is the 13th time that France has taken over the rotating presidency.
- ❖ The motto of France as EU President is “recovery, strength, belonging.”
- ❖ Upon the completion of six months presidency, France will be replaced by the Czech Republic.

Asian Waterbird Census

- ❖ The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an integral part of the International Waterbird Census.
- ❖ The international census is conducted in 143 countries.
- ❖ The AWC is jointly held by Wetlands International and Bombay Natural History Society.
- ❖ AWC is held in the month of January every year.

Secretary-General of SCO

- ❖ China’s senior diplomat Zhang Ming has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- ❖ He was until recently China’s ambassador to the European Union.
- ❖ The SCO comprises eight member states.
- ❖ They are India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India joined SCO at the Astana summit in 2017.



Philippines bans child marriage

- ❖ The President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte signed a law prohibiting Child Marriage.
- ❖ As per the Britain-based rights organization Plan International, the Philippines has the world's 12th highest rate of child marriage.
- ❖ According to a report released by the United Nations Children Fund in 2021, the highest rates of child marriages were found in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The collapse of Maya Civilisation

- ❖ Various studies suggested that the disruption of Classic Maya society in the Yucatan Peninsula of south eastern Mexico and northern Central America at the end of the ninth century coincided with extended droughts.
- ❖ It is clear that droughts of strong magnitude could have limited food availability, potentially causing famine, migration, and societal decline.
- ❖ A new analysis by UC Riverside archaeologist Scott Fedick and plant physiologist Louis Santiago shows the Maya had nearly 500 edible plants available to them.
- ❖ Also, many of them are highly drought resistant.
- ❖ This study casts doubt on drought as the driver of ancient Mayan civilization collapsed.



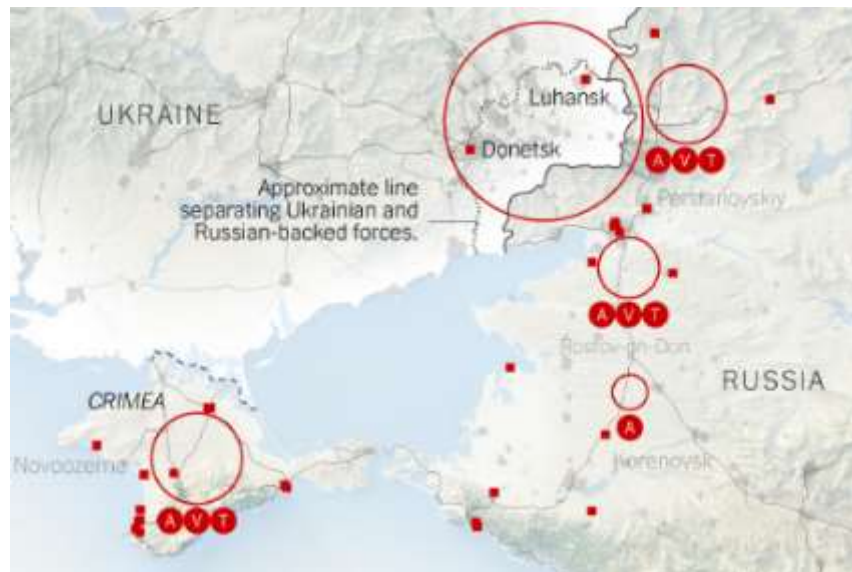
Gateway to Hell

- ❖ Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov recently ordered the officials to find a method of finally extinguishing the 'Gateway to Hell' in the country.
- ❖ Turkmenistan's Gateway to Hell is the raging flames, burning for five decades in a large natural gas crater.

- ❖ It is also known as the ‘Gateway to Hell’ or the ‘Door to Hell’.
- ❖ This crater is located in the Karakum desert, 260 km away from Ashgabat (Turkmenistan’s capital).
- ❖ In 2018, the crater was officially renamed as the “Shining of Karakum”.



US and Russia - Key Dialogue on Ukraine



- ❖ The US and Russian officials met in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ They are to discuss several issues including the tensions around Ukraine.
- ❖ The US and other western countries are under fear of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ Ukraine is supported by the US and other western countries.
- ❖ Ukraine was formed after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ Russia has stationed thousands of troops at the Ukraine border.
- ❖ This triggered a cold war between US and Russia.



Background

- ❖ The issue started when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014.
- ❖ Crimea is located in Ukraine.
- ❖ It holds the Strait of Kerch.
- ❖ This strait is the only route for Russia to reach the Mediterranean countries.
- ❖ The strait connects the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.
- ❖ It is a major trade route.
- ❖ The US and the western countries support Ukraine mainly to make shipping difficult for Russia.

Japan and Australia - Defense agreement

- ❖ The leaders of Japan and Australia signed a “landmark” defence agreement.
- ❖ This allows closer cooperation between their militaries and stands as a rebuke to China’s growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at a virtual summit to sign the Reciprocal Access Agreement.
- ❖ This is the first such defence pact signed by Japan with any country other than the United States.

Hub of world robotics innovation

- ❖ China has announced a five-year roadmap to achieve its goal of becoming a global robotics innovation hub by the year 2025.
- ❖ China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology revealed operating income from the country’s robotics industry is expected to grow by around 20% per year between 2021 and 2025.
- ❖ As per the 2021 World Robot Report, South Korea, Singapore, and Japan were the top three most automated countries in Asia-Pacific.

Uvariopsis dicaprio

- ❖ Uvariopsis dicaprio is a newly identified tree species.
- ❖ It is the first new tree species to be described in 2022.
- ❖ It was discovered in the tropical Ebo forest of Cameroon and is native to the region.
- ❖ The yellow-green flowers of the tree grow directly on its trunk.

- ❖ The tree has been added to the Strange and Spectacular list of plant species.
- ❖ The tree has been classified as critically endangered.



Henley Passport Index 2022

- ❖ India has improved its position by seven places to rank at 83rd place among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index
- ❖ India ranked at the 90th spot among 116 countries in October 2021.
- ❖ The Indian passport has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide in Q1 of 2022.
- ❖ Oman and Armenia are the latest destinations where Indian passport holders can visit without obtaining a visa.
- ❖ Japan and Singapore have retained the joint top position with 192 destinations worldwide visa-free.
- ❖ Afghanistan has the world's least powerful with 26 destinations only.
- ❖ Henley is the London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm.



Clive Lloyd

- ❖ Clive Lloyd, the former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team, has been given the honour of knighthood.
- ❖ The investiture was performed by the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle at Berkshire in England.
- ❖ It was under Lloyd's Captaincy that West Indies lifted the trophies of 1975 and 1979 World Cup against Australia.



Kazakhstan unrest



- ❖ Russia-led peacekeepers to withdraw from Kazakhstan
- ❖ It was sent to manage the unrest after a request from Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for intervention from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).
- ❖ CSTO is an alliance made up of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Prince Andrew

- ❖ Prince Andrew, Duke of York, has been stripped of all his military and royal titles.
- ❖ He is the ninth in line of succession to the British throne.
- ❖ He is the third child and second son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
- ❖ This means that the Duke of York will no longer be known as "His Royal Highness".



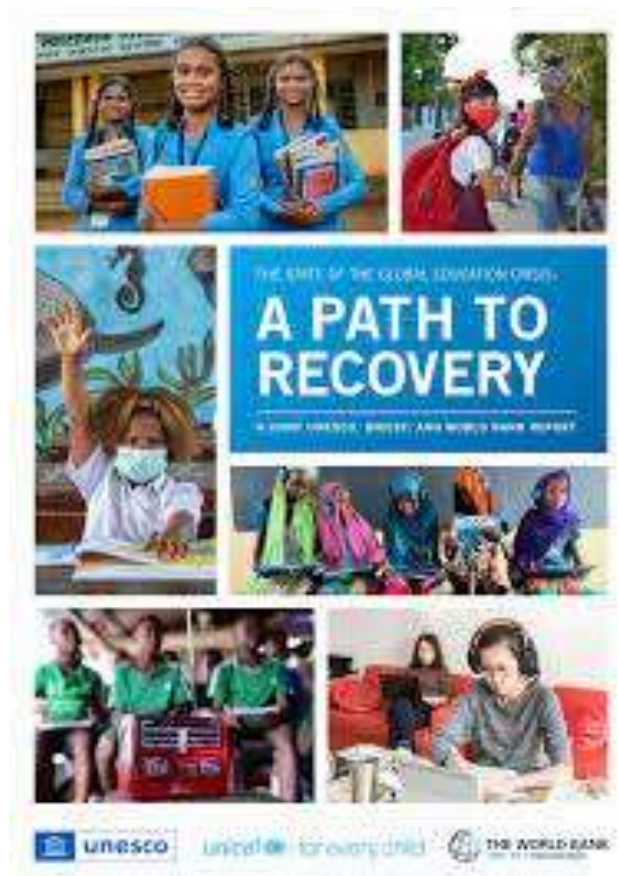
The State of inequalities report

- ❖ It has been prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The poorest, least-educated and rural subgroups tend to remain at a disadvantage across indicators regarding HIV, TB and malaria.
- ❖ It takes a look at 32 health indicators from 186 countries.
- ❖ The report also underlines the impact of getting rid of inequalities on the prevalence of TB, HIV and malaria
- ❖ India was among the countries that reported the “largest relative reductions in the annual notification of TB” at 25 per cent between 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ India is at 26.2 per cent of a total load of Tb cases in the World.
- ❖ India was also among the countries that reduced education-related inequalities in BCG immunisation against TB.

State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery

- ❖ It was a study report published jointly by the World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF.
- ❖ It projects that the impact caused by the pandemic could be more severe (\$ 17 trillion) than previously estimated and exceeds the \$10 trillion estimates.

- ❖ Countries such as Brazil, rural India, Pakistan, Mexico, South Africa, among many others have shown substantial losses in math and reading.



Developing Country Tag

- ❖ The World Trade Organization recently provided the “developing country” tag.
- ❖ The organization has officially not created any definitions for “Developed” or “developing” countries.
- ❖ However, when a tag is provided other countries can challenge the offering.
- ❖ Though WTO has not provided the definition, two-third of its members claim themselves as developing countries.
- ❖ As the members can themselves declare them as developing, China has taken advantage to declare itself as developing.
- ❖ Also, China is currently the world second-largest economy.
- ❖ It accounted for one-fourth of the global GDP in 2021.
- ❖ US, Australia and the European countries are opposing this.

Matter of choice

WTO allows member countries to classify themselves as "developed" or "developing". However, other members can challenge the decision of a country to be classified as "developing". Only the "least-developed countries" status is designated by the UN. Countries in the three lists:

Developing	Developed	Least-developed countries
India	U.S.	Afghanistan
China	European Union	Bangladesh
Russia	Japan	Bhutan
Brazil	Canada	Myanmar
South Africa	Australia	Nepal
South Korea	New Zealand	South Sudan

Global Private Banking Awards 2021



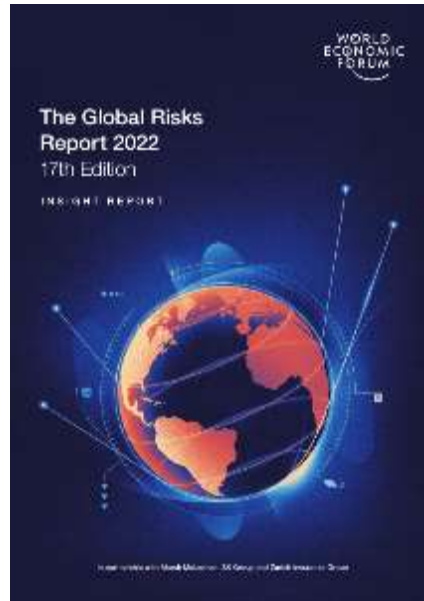
- ❖ HDFC Bank was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021'.
- ❖ It was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM).

First Coin featuring Black Woman



- ❖ Maya Angelou becomes the first black woman to appear on USA's coin.
- ❖ She is an African American.

The Global Risks Report 2022



- ❖ The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Risks Report 2022.
- ❖ In the past two years, during the pandemic, the world top 20% (the richest) has recovered their losses. On the other hand, the bottom 20% have lost 5% more.
- ❖ Environmental risks are to dominate for long term and short term.
- ❖ Climate action failure, extreme weather events and biodiversity loss were perceived by experts as the biggest threats for the global population over the next decade.
- ❖ Environmental factors like human environmental damage and natural resource crisis were also believed to be among the top 10 risks in the period.
- ❖ Cybersecurity, pandemic and space advancements are also the emerging risks to the global economy.

Global Economic Prospects Report

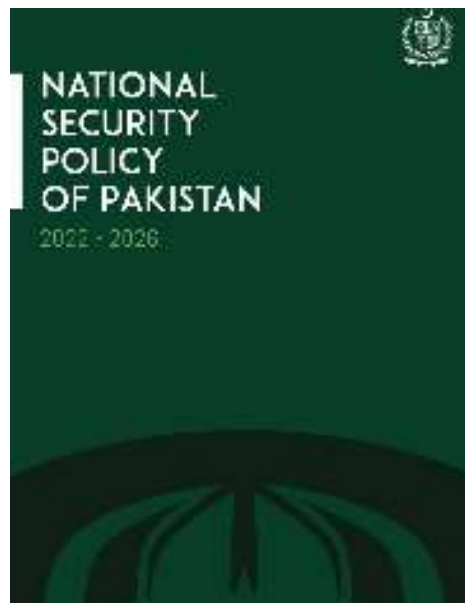
- ❖ It was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The report notes that Global economic growth will decrease sharply to 4.1% in 2022.
- ❖ It also flagged the risks posed by rising inflation and growing inequality
- ❖ However, India stands at a relatively bright spot.

- ❖ It projects India's annual growth to be 8.3% in the fiscal year 2021-2022



Pakistan's National Security Policy (NSP)

- ❖ Pakistan launched its first-ever National Security Policy (NSP).
- ❖ The cardinal objective of the policy is to “defend Pakistan’s territorial integrity at all costs”.
- ❖ According to this policy, nuclear deterrence occupies a critical role in security calculus of South Asia.



Pandemic Billionaires



- ❖ Oxfam has recently released its report on “Pandemic Billionaires”.
- ❖ As per report, covid has not only took livelihood for millions but it has also created new billionaires.
- ❖ The people in Asia witnessed their wealth zoom during the covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ These people were mostly associated with pharmaceuticals sector.
- ❖ Richest 1 per cent owned more wealth as compared to poorest 90 per cent in Asia.

Tearless Onions

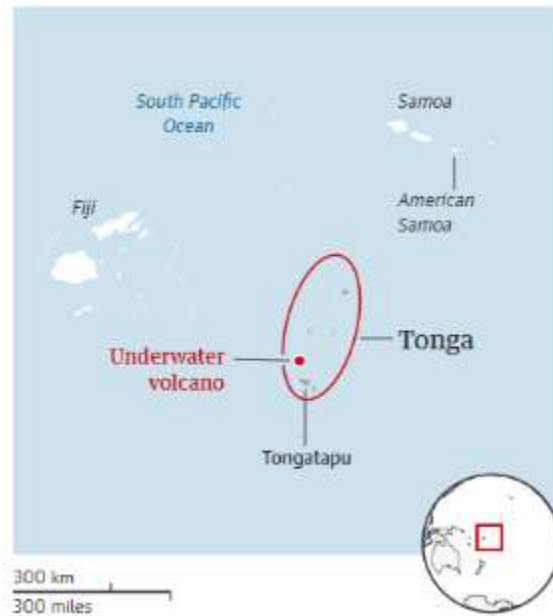
- ❖ The tearless onions are called “Sunions”.
- ❖ These onions were produced by cross breeding onion varieties that are less pungent.
- ❖ The Sunions are sweet onions.
- ❖ These onions sold in UK are grow in the United States.



Volcanic eruption in Tonga - Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano

- ❖ A massive underwater volcanic eruption was recorded in Tonga, a South Pacific Island country.
- ❖ The event triggered Tsunami warning along the Pacific coast.

- ❖ Tsunami warnings were issued in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Russia, Chile and the United States.



'Davos Agenda 2022'

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda virtual event.
- ❖ It will be the first global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022.
- ❖ It is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the World'.
- ❖ The Geneva-based World Economic Forum of Switzerland describes itself as an international organization for public-private cooperation.
- ❖ Klaus Schwab is the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.





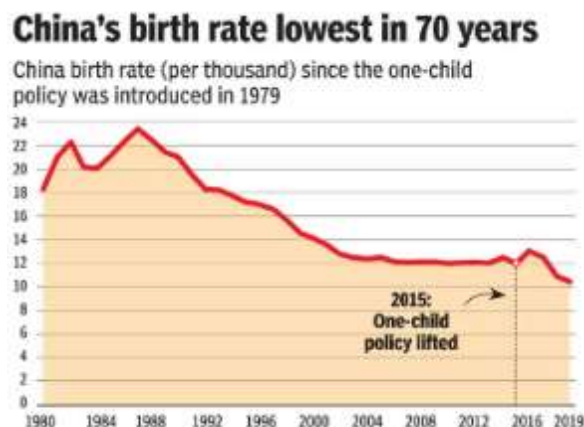
Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)



- ❖ The United Kingdom-based Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has listed five sites with unusual features.
- ❖ These sites are associated with World War I and World War II.
- ❖ Among them is Nagaland's Kohima War Cemetery.
- ❖ The Kohima War Cemetery is a memorial dedicated to the soldiers of the 2nd British Division of the Allied Forces who died in World War II at Kohima in April 1944.
- ❖ CWGC is an intergovernmental organisation of six member-states who ensure the men and women who died in the wars will never be forgotten.
- ❖ Membership include Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

China's Record-low Birth rate

- ❖ The birth rate in China in 2021 declined to 7.52 births per 1,000 people.
- ❖ It is also the lowest data, since Communist China was founded in 1949.



- ❖ China has already been grappling with a threatening demographic crisis with rapidly ageing workforce, weakest population growth in decades and slowing economy.

- ❖ In 2016, China relaxed the nation's "one-child policy".
- ❖ In 2021, China extended the policy to allow couples to have three children.

EU parliament presidency



- ❖ Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the European Union's parliament.
- ❖ She is only the third woman elected to the post.
- ❖ She is the European Parliament's youngest president.

Infinity Bridge



- ❖ Iconic 'Infinity Bridge' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates has been formally opened to traffic for the first time.
- ❖ Its design resembles a mathematical sign for infinity (∞).
- ❖ It represents the limitless, infinite goals of Dubai.
- ❖ It consists of six lanes in each direction and a combined 3-meter track for pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❖ It is 300 meters long and 22 meters wide.
- ❖ The bridge improves the link between Deira and Bur Dubai.

World Employment and Social Outlook



- ❖ The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report titled “World Employment and Social Outlook”.
- ❖ In the report, ILO has projected global unemployment of 207 million in 2022.
- ❖ It is almost 21 million more than in 2019.
- ❖ Total hours worked in 2022 will be about 2% below the pre-pandemic level.
- ❖ There will be a deficiency of 52 million full-time equivalent jobs in 2022.
- ❖ The 2022 outlook represents a substantial deterioration as compared to the outlook in June 2021.
- ❖ In June 2021, the shortfall in working hours relative to the fourth quarter of 2019 was projected to decrease to less than 1% in 2022.

The Enigma



- ❖ A 555.55-carat black diamond called “The Enigma” was unveiled in Dubai.
- ❖ It was unveiled by auction house Sotheby’s.
- ❖ After a tour in Dubai, the diamond will also be taken to Los Angeles before it will go under auction in London in February 2022.
- ❖ Number five has an important significance to the diamond because it has 55 facets.

Icefish breeding colony



- ❖ Deep-sea scientists have found an icefish breeding colony in the Weddell sea of Antarctica.
- ❖ The scientific name of the icefish is *Neopagrtopsis ionah*.
- ❖ The species was discovered in February 2021.
- ❖ However, their breeding nests were discovered recently.

New Capital of Indonesia



- ❖ The Indonesians are moving to new capital due to climate change.
- ❖ It is East Kalimantan.
- ❖ It is now called 'Nusantara'.
- ❖ Earlier, Jakarta was the capital of Indonesia.
- ❖ Jakarta is sinking in the Java Sea and highly polluted with dense population.

UN's largest Single Country appeal

- ❖ The United Nations recently launched the largest country-specific appeal valued at 5 billion USD for Afghanistan.
- ❖ The appeal was launched after Pakistan called the United Nation to revive the banking system in Afghanistan.



SaaṛThi Mobile App

- ❖ SEBI launched this app.
- ❖ The new app aims to empower investors with accurate knowledge about the securities market.
- ❖ The app will cater largely to individual investors, who have recently entered the markets and carry out trading via their mobile phones.
- ❖ It is currently available in Hindi and English.

First BRICS Sherpas meeting – 2022



- ❖ The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19 2022, with the members thanking India for its BRICS Chairship in 2021.



- ❖ China has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.
- ❖ BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies.
- ❖ They are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Children's Word of the Year 2021

- ❖ The Oxford University Press (OUP) has picked up 'Anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021, based on their recent research.
- ❖ Apart from "anxiety" (21%), "Challenging" (19%), "isolate" (14%), "Well-being" (13%), and "resilience" (12%) were the children's top five words.
- ❖ In 2020, Coronavirus was the Children's Word of the Year by OUP.



UNSC 3-D Virtual Diplomacy



- ❖ Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) went on a virtual field trip to Columbia, with the help of Virtual Reality (VR) technology.
- ❖ On the virtual trip, they listen, watched, and got insights into the peace process and what it looks like in Columbia.
- ❖ For the first time, UNSC in New York used VR technology in its security council session.
- ❖ This innovative solution will help in understanding conflicts, peacekeeping, and peace-building, in a better manner.

US Bill on Rare Earth supplies

- ❖ China has a strong chokehold on all these metals.
- ❖ In 2019, 80% of the US rare-earth metals were from China.
- ❖ The bill aims to reduce the Chinese dependence on rare-earth metals.
- ❖ This is essential to protect the US from the threat of rare-earth metal supply disruption.

Five-alarm global fire



- ❖ The United Nations recently announced that the world is to face five major risks in 2022.
- ❖ These risks are referred to as five-alarm global fire.
- ❖ The five alarms are
 - Covid 19,
 - lawlessness in cyberspace,
 - climate crisis,
 - bankrupt global financial system and
 - diminished peace and security.

- ❖ The UN has suggested that in order to prevent or reduce these risks,
 - the countries should go into emergency mode
 - avalanche action is the need of the moment to tackle the climate crisis.
 - global emissions should be reduced by 45% by the end of the decade.

IMF World Economic Outlook

- ❖ As per the report, Global economic growth will decrease by half a percentage point less than it was forecasted earlier.
- ❖ The growth will decrease from 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022.
- ❖ It will further reduce to 3.8% in 2023.
- ❖ According to the IMF forecast, India will grow at 9% in 2021-2022.
- ❖ In October 2021 estimate, IMF had estimated India's growth prospects at 9.5% for the year.
- ❖ IMF now projects 9% growth for India's economy in 2022-23.
- ❖ In the October assessment, growth was forecasted at 8.5% in 2022-23 and 7.1% in 2023-24.



Nordic “clinker boats”

- ❖ United Nations' culture agency, UNESCO, added the Nordic “clinker boats” to its Heritage List.
- ❖ The wooden sailboats have allowed peoples of northern Europe to spread influence, trade, and sometimes war across continents and seas, for thousands of years.

- ❖ Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway jointly sought the UNESCO designation.



Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report

TOP 10 BRAND VALUE			
Brand	Rank 2022	2021	Value (\$)
Apple	1	1	355,080
Amazon	2	2	350,273
Google	3	3	263,425
Microsoft	4	4	184,245
Walmart	5	6	111,918
Samsung Group	6	5	107,284
Facebook	7	7	101,201
ICBC	8	8	75,119
Huawei	9	15	71,233
Verizon	10	9	69,639

Source: Brand Finance Global 500

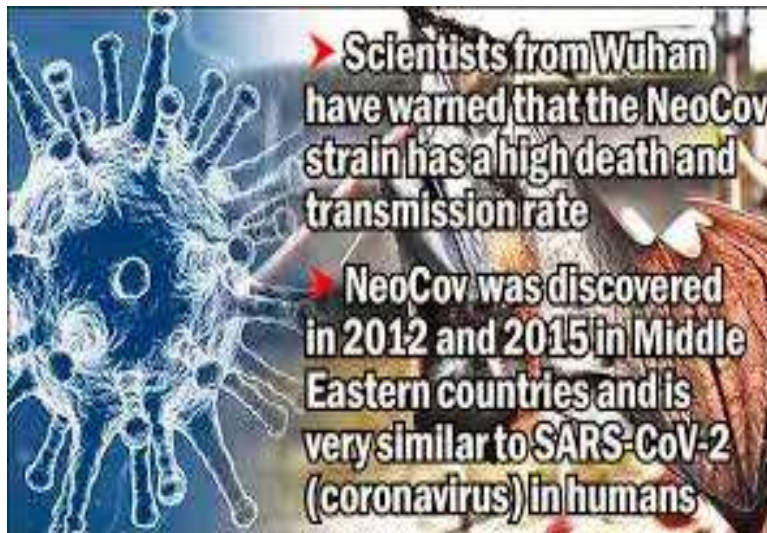
- ❖ Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well.
- ❖ The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year.
- ❖ This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- ❖ TikTok (18th) has been named the world's fastest-growing brand on the list.
- ❖ Tech remained the most valuable industry in the list in terms of sector.
- ❖ This was followed by Retail, Banking, Media and Telecoms in top 5 respectively.
- ❖ The Indian conglomerate Tata Group has emerged as the most valuable brand from India and also in South Asia.
- ❖ It is the only brand from the country in the top 100.
- ❖ The Global Rank of Tata Group 78.

World's largest canal lock



- ❖ The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at Ijmuiden.
- ❖ It is a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- ❖ The sea lock was inaugurated by the Dutch King Willen-Alexander.

NeoCov Coronavirus



- ❖ According to Chinese researchers, a type of coronavirus called NeoCov, which spreads among bats in South Africa, is likely to pose threat to humans if it mutates further in the future.
- ❖ Study shows that NeoCov is closely associated with Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
- ❖ This is a viral disease first identified in 2012, in Saudi Arabia.

ECONOMY

2nd largest in PoS machines - Axis

- ❖ Axis Bank has become the second-largest merchant-acquiring bank in the country by installing over two lakh card-swipe machines during the year.
- ❖ This is part of the bank's 'Axis One' strategy.
- ❖ In this strategy, the bank approaches the customers by offering its entire gamut of products instead of a standalone service.
- ❖ HDFC Bank tops in this and SBI and ICICI Bank comes after Axis.



Textiles sector - Tax rate

- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax Council decided to defer the proposed hike in the tax rate for the textiles sector to 12 percent from 5 percent.
- ❖ It was to be implemented from January 1.
- ❖ The Status quo will be maintained for the GST rate for textiles as of now.

Particulars	Current Effective Indirect Tax Rate (VAT + Excise Duty + Central Sales Tax)	GST Rate
Cotton	5 - 7%	5%
Synthetic	11 - 14%	13 - 14%
Blended	11 - 14%	13 - 14%
Wool	8 - 10%	5%
Silk	8 - 10%	5%

Source: Ministry Of Textiles

Interest rates on Small Savings Schemes

Latest Post Office Interest Rates January - March 2022 (www.bacunivesh.com)								
Sl No.	Scheme Name	Current Interest Rate	Revised Interest Rate	Frequency of Compounding	Effective Return	Minimum Deposit	Maximum Deposit	Tenure
1	Savings Deposit	4.00%	4.00%	NA	4%	Rs.20 for opening	No Limit	NA
2	Term Deposit 1 Yr	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.51%	Rs.200	No Limit	1 Yr
3	Term Deposit 2 Yrs	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.51%	Rs.200	No Limit	2 Yrs
4	Term Deposit 3 Yrs	5.50%	5.50%	Qly	5.51%	Rs.200	No Limit	3 Yrs
5	Term Deposit 5 Yrs	6.00%	6.00%	Qly	6.07%	Rs.200	No Limit	5 Yrs
6	RD 5 Yrs	5.80%	5.80%	Qly	5.82%	Rs.10 a month	No Limit	5 Yrs
7	NSC-5 Yrs	6.00%	6.00%	Yearly	6.06%	Rs.100	No Limit	5 Yrs
8	Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)	6.60%	6.60%	NA	6.60%	Rs.1,500	Rs.4.5 Lakh (Single) Rs.9 Lakh (Jointly)	5 Yrs
9	Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%	7.10%	Yearly	7.10%	Rs.500 per year	Rs.1.5 Lakh per year	15 Yrs
10	Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)	7.40%	7.40%	NA	7.40%	Rs.1,000	Rs.15 Lakh	5 Yrs
11	Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	6.90%	6.90%	Yearly	6.90%	Rs.1,000	No Limit	126 Months
12	Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme	7.60%	7.60%	Yearly	7.60%	Rs.1,000	Rs.1.5 Lakh per year	21 Yrs

Note: KVP will now double in 124 months.

- ❖ The interest rates on the small savings schemes will remain the same for the fourth quarter of 2021-2022 (January – February – March 2022).
- ❖ It will be the same as they were in the third quarter of 2021-22 (October-December 2021).
- ❖ It must be noted that West Bengal is the highest contributor to the small saving schemes.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the second top contributor.
- ❖ Also remember, the government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis.

Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF

- ❖ Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited announced the launch of Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF.
- ❖ It is India's first of its kind in this regard.
- ❖ The New Fund Offer (NFO) was opened on 5 January 2022 and get closed on 14 January 2022.
- ❖ The minimum investment amount required is ₹1,000.
- ❖ Investors can add in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

- ❖ The Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF (exchange-traded funds) is an open-ended scheme that will replicate the Nifty Auto Index.
- ❖ ETF will predominantly invest in stocks comprising the Nifty Auto Index in the same proportion as the index adding that it will provide exposure to top 15 (as per Nifty Auto Index methodology) companies.
- ❖ The company here represents auto-related sectors like automobiles 2,3 or 4 wheelers, auto ancillaries, and tires.



Domestic Systemically Important Banks



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has retained State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- ❖ These three banks have continued to be on the D-SIBs list published by RBI, since Sep 04, 2017.
- ❖ Domestic Systemically Important Banks are those banks which if fail would have a significant impact on the economy.
- ❖ The D-SIBs banks are classified into 5 buckets.

- ❖ They are Bucket 1, Bucket 2, Bucket 3, Bucket 4, and Bucket 5.
- ❖ With Bucket 5 is being the most important followed by rest in decreasing order.
- ❖ State Bank of India is in Bucket 3.
- ❖ ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank are in Bucket 1.

International remittance business



Fino Payments Bank
फिनो पेमेंट्स बैंक

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has approved Fino Payments Bank for commencing international (Cross Border) remittance business under the Money Transfer Service Scheme.
- ❖ The approval will enable the customers of Fino Payments Bank to receive money sent from foreign countries.
- ❖ It also plans to partner with more leading money transfer operators (MTOs) to improve its cross-border remittance.

Highest-ever monthly exports

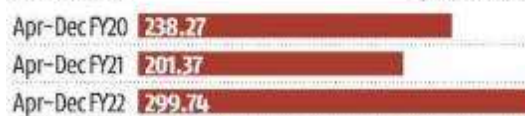
- ❖ India exported goods worth \$37.29 billion in December.
- ❖ It is the highest ever in a month.
- ❖ India's export has increased by 37 percent from the figures of December 2020.

ON THE RISE

	Value in \$ bn			Growth in %	
	Dec '19	Dec '20	Dec '21	Dec '21 over Dec '19	Dec '21 over Dec '20
Exports	27.11	27.22	37.29	37.55	37.00
Imports	39.59	42.93	59.27	49.70	38.06
Deficit	12.49	15.72	21.99	76.10	39.90

EXPORTS

(in \$ billion)



Source: Department of Commerce

Cryptocurrency index



- ❖ Global cryptocurrency super app Cryptowire has launched a crypto index in India to monitor the performance of the 15 most traded cryptocurrencies.
- ❖ The cryptocurrency index is known as IC15.
- ❖ Cryptowire is a unit of crypto statistics provider Ticker Plant.

New window for Primary Dealers

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently provided a new special window for bond houses called “Primary Dealers”.
- ❖ The primary dealers are those dealers who buy securities directly from the government.
- ❖ They then resell the security to the others.
- ❖ Thus, their main role is to assist the government in selling bonds or securities.
- ❖ They earn some fees for selling these securities.
- ❖ The Bond House is the security firm that creates and distributes bonds.
- ❖ Now, these primary dealers have a separate section or window to buy securities from the government.

Offline transactions

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for small value offline transactions in digital mode.
- ❖ Offline payments can be made using any channel or means such as cards, wallets, or mobile devices.

- ❖ But they will be done in close proximity, or only in face-to-face mode.
- ❖ Offline transactions are expected to boost digital transactions in areas with poor or weak internet or telecom connectivity, especially in semi-urban and rural areas

THE FRAMEWORK

- Payments can be carried out face to face using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets, mobile devices, etc
- Transactions are subject to an upper limit of ₹200; overall limit on a payment instrument shall be ₹2,000 at any point in time
- Transactions would not require an Additional Factor of Authentication
- But, replenishment of used limit shall be allowed only in online mode with AFA
- Offline mode of payment can be enabled only after obtaining specific consent of the customer

Second Round of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has recently released this.
- ❖ According to the survey, nine sectors hired two lakh people.
- ❖ This accounted for 85% (3.10 crores) of the total employment of the country.
- ❖ The survey was for the period July to September 2021.
- ❖ The QES is a part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey.
- ❖ It focuses on the demand side.
- ❖ On the other hand, the labour force survey focuses on the supply side of the labour market.

LCR maintenance

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has increased the threshold limit for Banks to maintain the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).
- ❖ It will be on deposits and other 'extension of funds' received from non-financial small business customers from Rs 5 crore to Rs 7.5 crore.
- ❖ This is applicable on all Commercial Banks other than Regional Rural Banks, Local Area Banks, and Payments Banks.
- ❖ It is to align RBI's guidelines with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standard and enable banks to manage liquidity risk more effectively.
- ❖ LCR promotes the short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions.
- ❖ It will ensure that they have sufficient high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days.



RBI and fintech



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has set up a separate internal department for fintech (Financial technology).
- ❖ It will not only promote innovation in the sector but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.

Digital Payments Index for September 2021

- ❖ According to the index, the digital payments in the country have increased by 40% in September 2021, as compared to March 2021.
- ❖ The index measure of online transactions was 304.06 in September 2021.
- ❖ It was 270.59 in March 2021.
- ❖ In September 2020, the online transaction measure was 217.74.
- ❖ The RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in the adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country.
- ❖ The base year of the RBI Digital Payment Index is 2018.
- ❖ This means the score of the index for the March period was set to 100.
- ❖ The index value has increased by 2.7 times within three years.



Reserve Bank of India
announces Digital
Payments Index for
September 2021



Investment Trends Monitor



- ❖ The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Investment Trends Monitor was published recently.
- ❖ Global FDI flows showed a strong rebound in 2021.
- ❖ It grew to 77 percent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion.
- ❖ In 2020, the FDI flow was USD 929 billion.



- ❖ As per the report, developed economies witnessed the biggest rise by far.
- ❖ FDI reached an estimated USD 777 billion in 2021, which is three times that in 2020.
- ❖ As per the report, in 2021 the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India were 26 percent lower as compared to 2020.
- ❖ This is because large M&A deals (Mergers and acquisitions deals) recorded in 2020 were not repeated.

NSE world largest derivative exchange



- ❖ National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by number of contracts traded.
- ❖ The NSE is ranked fourth in the world in cash equities by number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021.

Amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd



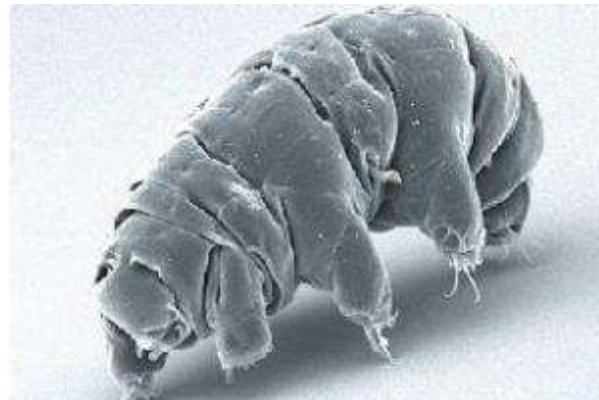
- ❖ The Government of India has sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- ❖ This means all the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- ❖ The Unity Small Finance Bank Limited is promoted by Centrum Financial Services Limited along with Resilient Innovation Private Limited.

Rise in India's Bilateral Trade with China

- ❖ As per Chinese government data, India's bilateral trade with China has increased to 43.3 percent in 2021.
- ❖ India's imports from China increased to USD 97.5 billion (46.1 percent increase) in the year 2021.
- ❖ India's exports to China also increased to a record high of USD 28.1 billion (34.9 percent) in 2021.
- ❖ India's total trade with China was USD 125.7 billion, in 2021.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

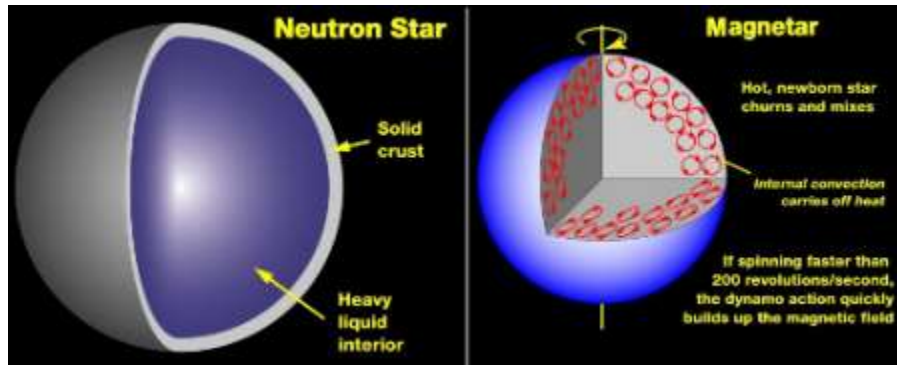
Quantum entanglement



- ❖ Scientists have identified the first “quantum entangled” animal in history-frozen tardigrade, in a recent study.
- ❖ The researchers managed the feat by placing frozen tardigrades between two capacitor plates of a superconductor circuit to form a qubit.
- ❖ Qubit is the quantum equivalent of a bit.

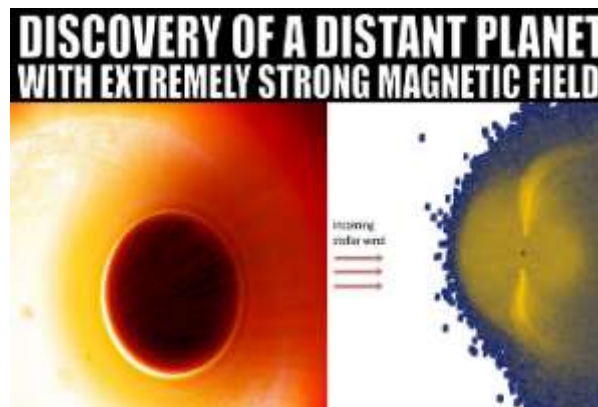
- ❖ It is the physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated and they interact in such a way that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others.

Magnetar



- ❖ Researchers have succeeded in measuring for the first time the characteristics of a flare on a distant magnetar.
- ❖ A magnetar is a rare compact type of neutron star teeming with energy and magnetism.
- ❖ Only 30 Magnetars have been spotted within the Milky Way so far.

First Magnetic Field on an Exoplanet



- ❖ A team of astronomers used data from the Hubble Space Telescope for discovering the signature of a magnetic field on an Exoplanet.
- ❖ The findings were described in the journal called Nature Astronomy.
- ❖ Such a feature has been seen on an exoplanet, for the first time.
- ❖ A magnetic field around the planet explains the observations of an extended region of charged carbon particles.

KSTAR

- ❖ The South Korean government is planning to develop a technology for the South Korea's first artificial sun KSTAR.
- ❖ This would maintain 100 million degrees for 300 seconds by 2026.
- ❖ The 300 seconds is the minimum time required for the commercialization of nuclear fusion technology.

Paxlovid



- ❖ Pfizer's Covid-19 antiviral drug Paxlovid has received emergency use authorisation in the United States.
- ❖ It becomes first US-authorized home COVID treatment.
- ❖ It will be used for adults and children aged 12 and more.
- ❖ The United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) also approved this drug.
- ❖ The US regulators also authorized Merck's molnupiravir for covid treatment.
- ❖ The Indian Pharma giants Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, and Optimus Pharma are exploring the possibility to manufacture the Covid-19 pill.

Florona

- ❖ Israel reports 1st "Florona" Case or flu + Corona, Covid and Influenza Double Infection.
- ❖ Israel's national health providers began administering fourth vaccine shots against COVID-19.
- ❖ So far, the World Health Organization (WHO) has named Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Omicron as variants of concern of SARS-CoV-2.



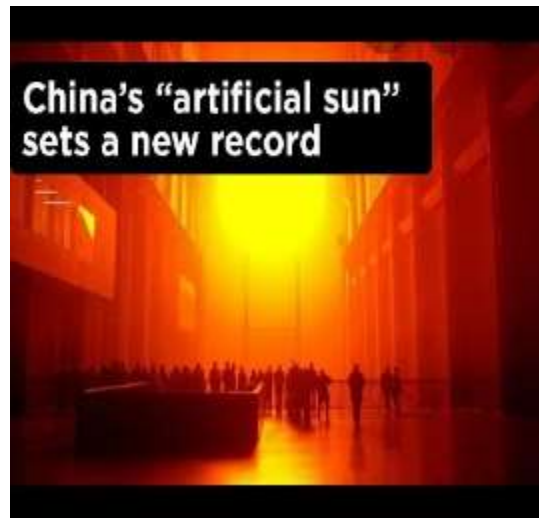
Quadrantid meteor shower

- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower occurs in January every year.
- ❖ The radiant of the shower lies in the Bootes constellation.
- ❖ Meteor showers are caused due to debris or a trail of dust left by a comet.
- ❖ The Geminids meteor shower occurs in December.
- ❖ The Perseids meteor shower occurs in August.
- ❖ The Quadrantid meteor shower is not as bright as the Geminids and Perseids.
- ❖ This is because the duration of peak occurrence is comparatively less.



Artificial Sun – China

- ❖ China has been experimenting with its 'artificial sun' to facilitate a way for clean energy in the future.
- ❖ In a recent successful test of China's artificial sun, the fusion reactor ran successfully for almost 20 minutes at a stunning 70 million degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The machine strives at utilizing the power of nuclear fusion which is a less explored way of harnessing nuclear energy.



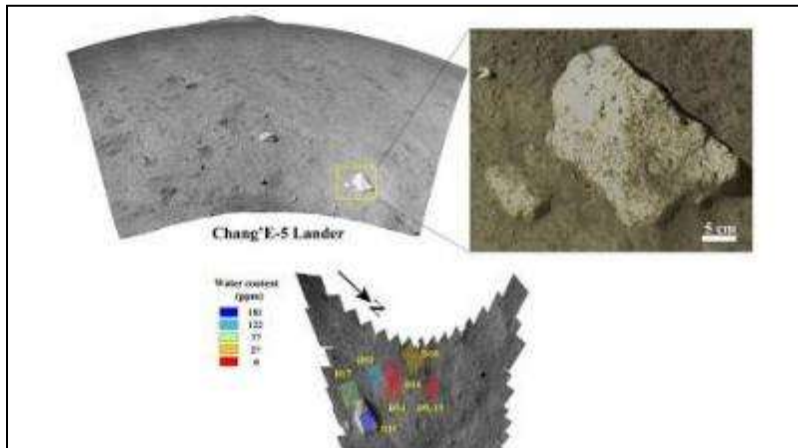
New Covid Strain 'Deltacron'



- ❖ A strain of Covid-19 combining delta and omicron was found in Cyprus.
- ❖ The discovery has been named “deltacron”.
- ❖ It was named this way because of the identification of omicron-like genetic signatures within delta genomes.

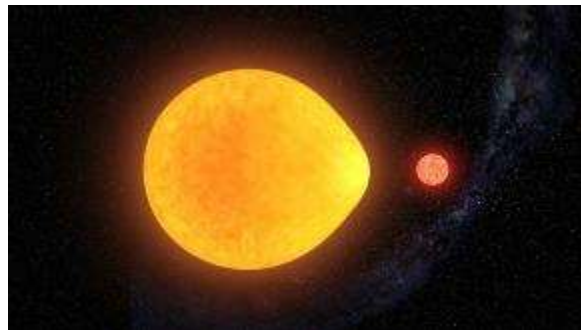
Water on the surface of the moon

- ❖ China’s Chang’e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon
- ❖ The study on this revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 grams of water per ton.
- ❖ A light, vesicular rock carries 180 ppm.



HD73619

- ❖ A group of Indian and international scientists has spotted a “peculiar binary star that shows heartbeat but no pulsations”.
- ❖ This is contrary to the norm of binary stars sporting both heartbeats as well as pulsations.
- ❖ This star called HD73619 is located in a cluster in the Cancer constellation.
- ❖ A team of 33 scientists, led by Santosh Joshi from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences carried out observations of HD73619.
- ❖ According to the Department of Science & Technology, a total of about 180 ‘heartbeat’ stars are known to date.



White Swan Strategic Missile Bomber

- ❖ The Russian defense forces recently unveiled a new Tupolev Tu-160M.
- ❖ It is a missile bomber and is also known as “White Swan”.
- ❖ It has been designed to carry nuclear warheads.
- ❖ It is the largest and heaviest Mach 2+ military bomber built in the world.

Grime-eating Bacteria

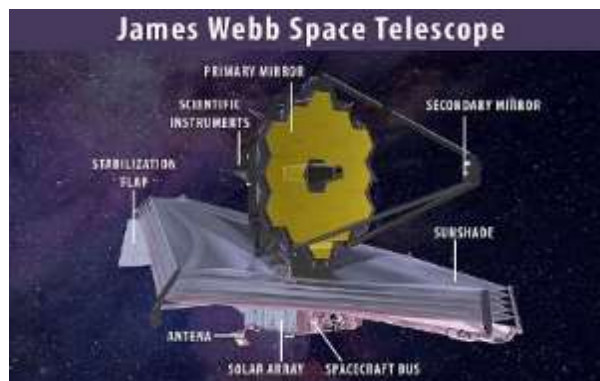
- ❖ Scientists have started using grime-eating bacteria extensively to restore classical art.
- ❖ The process of using bacteria to restore classical art is called Bio-cleaning.

Conversion Therapy in Canada



- ❖ Conversion therapy is banned in Canada.
- ❖ Conversion therapy is a discredited practice that is used in an attempt to change the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression of LGBTQ individuals.
- ❖ It was given royal assent by Queen Elizabeth II.
- ❖ Based in the British tradition, royal assent is a Canadian ceremony.
- ❖ Under this, a bill is sanctioned by all three components of Parliament - the Sovereign (Queen Elizabeth II), the Senate, and the House of Commons - and formally becomes law.

Mirror Unfolded

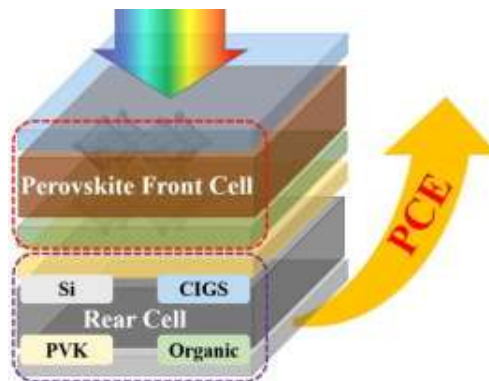


- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope team fully deployed its 21-foot, gold-coated primary mirror.

- ❖ It has successfully completed the final stage of all major spacecraft deployments to prepare for science operations.
- ❖ The Webb mission will explore every phase of cosmic history – from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe.
- ❖ Its infrared technology will allow it to see the first stars and galaxies that formed 13.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ It is the world's largest and most complex space science telescope.
- ❖ This is a joint effort with the NASA, European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency.
- ❖ Webb is the successor to Hubble telescope.

Perovskite-based devices

- ❖ Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati of Assam have found a way to make solar panels more efficient, cheaper and recyclable.
- ❖ It was done by stabilising hybrid perovskite-based solar or photovoltaic devices to produce electricity.
- ❖ These are considered heavily used semiconductor materials as they are affordable and easy to manufacture.
- ❖ The perovskite materials are extremely unstable towards ambient (humidity and oxygen) conditions that restrict their commercialisation.
- ❖ These devices can be manufactured at room temperature, making them cost-effective and more eco-friendly.



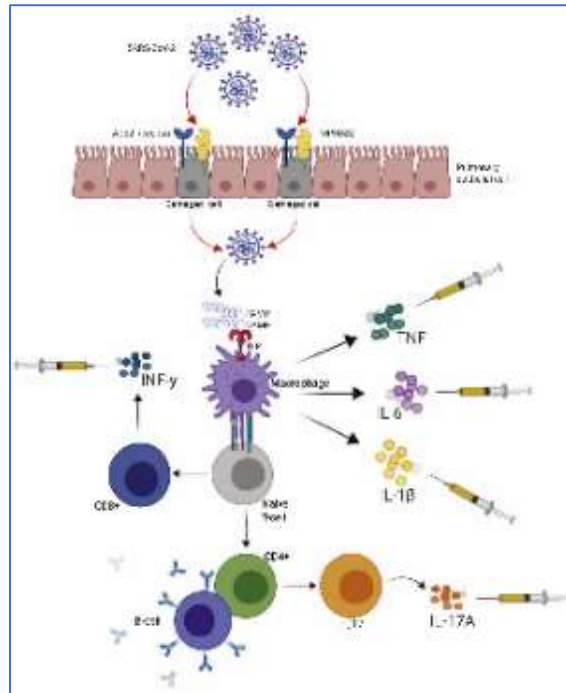
Atacama Large Milli meter

- ❖ The scientists have detected a new born star and the surrounding cocoon of a complex organic matter, for the first time in WB89-789 region.
- ❖ It is located in extreme outer Galaxy.

- ❖ It was done by using the Atacama Large Milli meter/submilli meter Array (ALMA) in Chile.
- ❖ The discovery revealed the hidden chemical complexity of Universe.
- ❖ Several types of complex organic molecules, like methanol (CH_3OH), methyl formate (HCOOCH_3), ethanol ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$), dimethyl ether (CH_3OCH_3), propanenitrile ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{CN}$), formamide (NH_2CHO) are present in primordial environment of the Galaxy.



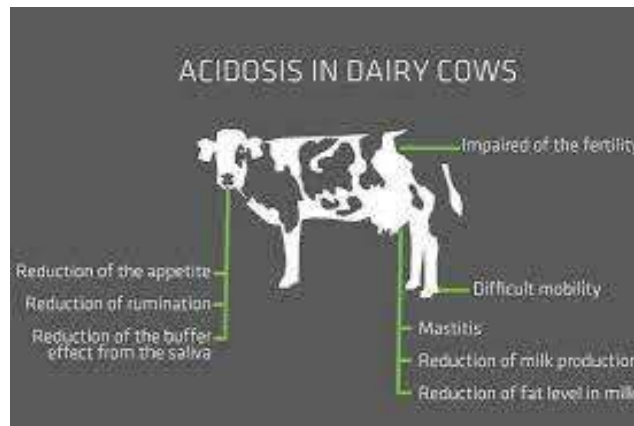
New drugs for COVID-19



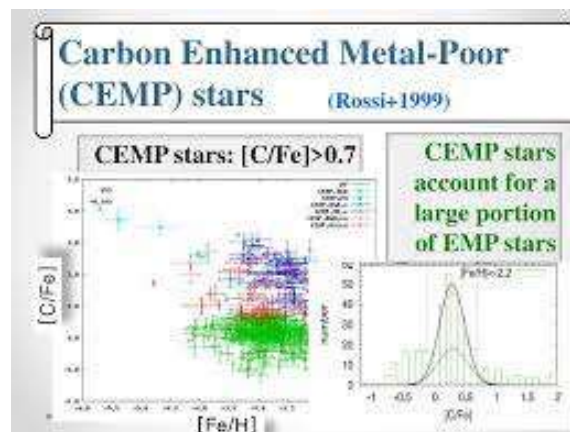
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has recommended the use of two new drugs called interleukin-6 (IL-6) and baricitinib in combination with corticosteroids to treat patients with severe or critical COVID-19 infection.
- ❖ The usage of both drugs at the same time is not recommended.

Ruminal Acidosis

- ❖ The Veterinarians say that feeding too much sweet Pongal is not good for cows, and causes Subacute Ruminal Acidosis (SARA).
- ❖ The sugary foods that reach the cow's stomach get fermented abnormally and cause a health issue in the cows and other ruminant animals.
- ❖ In severe cases, it is called Ruminal Acidosis.
- ❖ It is a bovine metabolic disease that affects feedlot as well as dairy cattle.
- ❖ Acidosis is usually associated with the ingestion of large amounts of highly fermentable, carbohydrate-rich feeds.



Carbon Enhanced Metal-Poor Stars (CEMP)



- ❖ Indian astronomers have traced the origin of a much higher fraction of elements heavier than iron.
- ❖ It is more than expected in carbon-rich stars to the low-mass companions of these stars, from which the materials have been stolen.
- ❖ The low-mass companion stars have further evolved to white dwarfs that are no longer detectable.

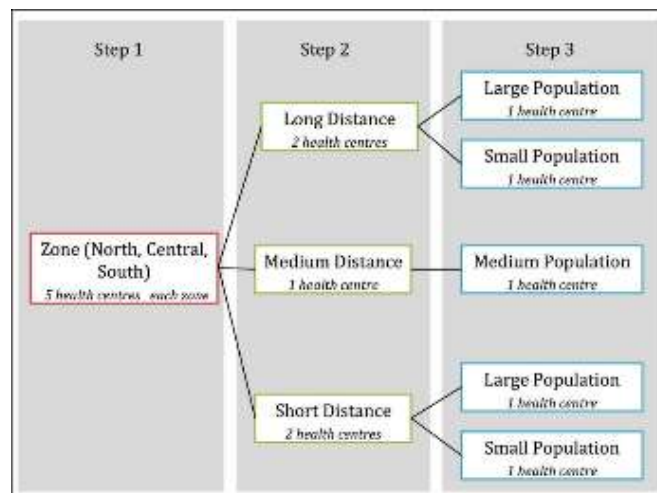
- ❖ The CEMP stars were formed from the ejected material of the first stars that formed after the Big Bang, carrying the chemical imprints of early Galactic chemical evolution.

Qualification tests of Cryogenic engine

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully conducted the qualification test of cryogenic engine for the Gaganyaan Programme.
- ❖ The duration of the test was for 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has ensured the reliability and the robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan.
- ❖ The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle, which will be used for the Gaganyaan programme, will use two cryogenic engines.
- ❖ It is developed by ISRO and is named as Vikas.



Purposive Testing Strategy

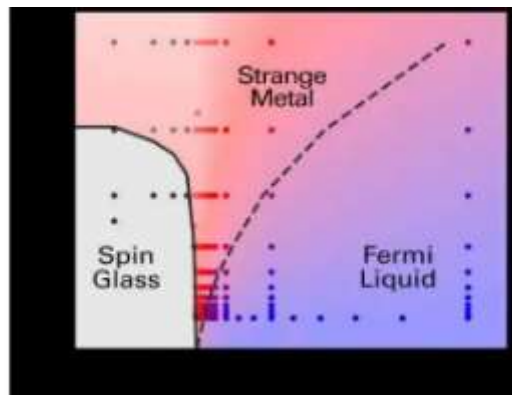


- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued new guidelines on “Purposive Testing Strategy”.
- ❖ It will be on who needs to get tested for the infection, and who doesn’t.
- ❖ As per the guidelines, asymptomatic individuals, and contacts of Covid patients are not required to be tested unless identified as “high-risk individuals” based on co-morbidities or age.

AI-driven Start-Up for Water Purification

- ❖ The union minister Jitendra Singh launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up for water purification through innovative technology.
- ❖ It has been developed by an IIT Alumni.

Discovery of New Strange Metal

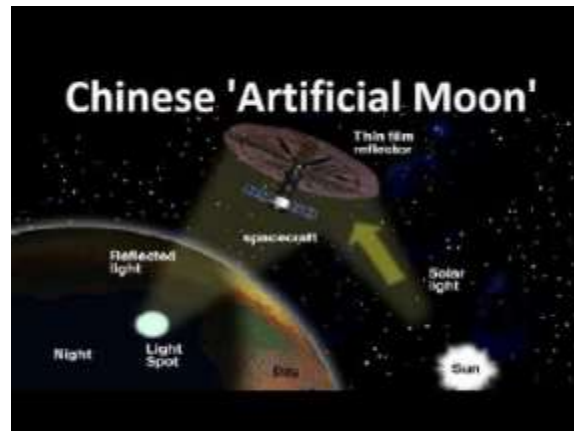


- ❖ The Scientists have recently discovered a new group of metals.
- ❖ The newly discovered metal group is called as “New Strange group of metals”.
- ❖ The characteristics of this new group of metals are yet to be deciphered.
- ❖ The strange metals are also called non – Fermi liquids.
- ❖ They do not follow the traditional rules of metals.
- ❖ Their behaviour was first discovered in cuprates, that is, copper oxides.
- ❖ These cuprates are high temperature super conductors.
- ❖ These metals do not follow the electrical conductance as that of the metals.

China’s Artificial Moon

- ❖ China is ready with its first artificial moon.
- ❖ It was after China’s artificial Sun reached temperatures five times hotter than the Sun.

- ❖ The facility will help them in conducting low-gravity environments using magnetism.
- ❖ The research facility will be filled with rocks and dust to resemble it with the lunar surface.
- ❖ It is first of its kind research facility in the world.
- ❖ It is capable of maintaining low-gravity conditions for as long as scientists want.
- ❖ It can control the gravity inside a vacuum chamber that is 60 centimetres in diameter and can make the gravitational pull of the Earth disappear.



Pandit Birju Maharaj



- ❖ Legendary Kathak dancer, Pandit Birju Maharaj from Uttar Pradesh has passed away at the age of 83.
- ❖ Birju Maharaj was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers.
- ❖ He was an exponent of the Lucknow Kalka-Bindadin gharana of Kathak dance in India.
- ❖ He also practised Hindustani classical music and was a vocalist.
- ❖ He was having excellent in Thumri, Dadra, Bhajan and Ghazal.

Asteroid 1994 PC1



- ❖ The asteroid 1994 PC1 passed by earth on January 18, 2022.
- ❖ It passed by at a distance of 1.2 million miles.
- ❖ It is also known by the name “7482”.
- ❖ Its length is more than one kilometre.
- ❖ It is a stony asteroid.
- ❖ It is put under the category of the potentially hazardous asteroid and also under the near-earth object category.

Recent Study on Antimicrobial resistance



Review on Antimicrobial Resistance

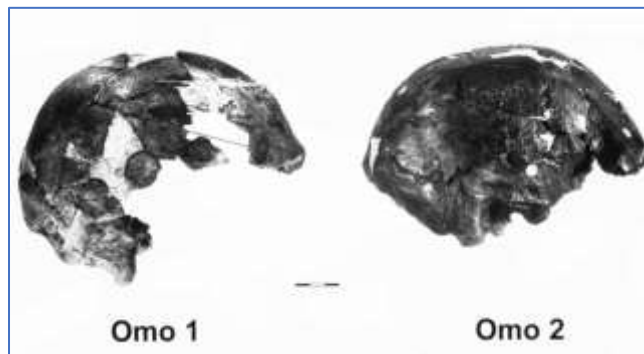
Tackling drug-resistant infections globally

- ❖ A recent Lancet study says that antimicrobial resistance is now the leading cause of death.
- ❖ The study says that in 2019 antimicrobial resistance killed more than 1.27 million people all over the world.
- ❖ This is higher than those who died of malaria and HIV.
- ❖ It is a condition wherein the disease-causing microbes such as bacteria, the virus becomes resistant to drugs.

New Jupiter-like Exoplanet

- ❖ A group of scientists recently discovered a new planet.
- ❖ The planet is the size of Jupiter.
- ❖ The new planet is 379 light-years away from the earth.
- ❖ It is 105 times denser than the earth.
- ❖ The planet is named TOI-2180 b.
- ❖ Its surface temperature is 76 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The planet is made of helium and hydrogen.

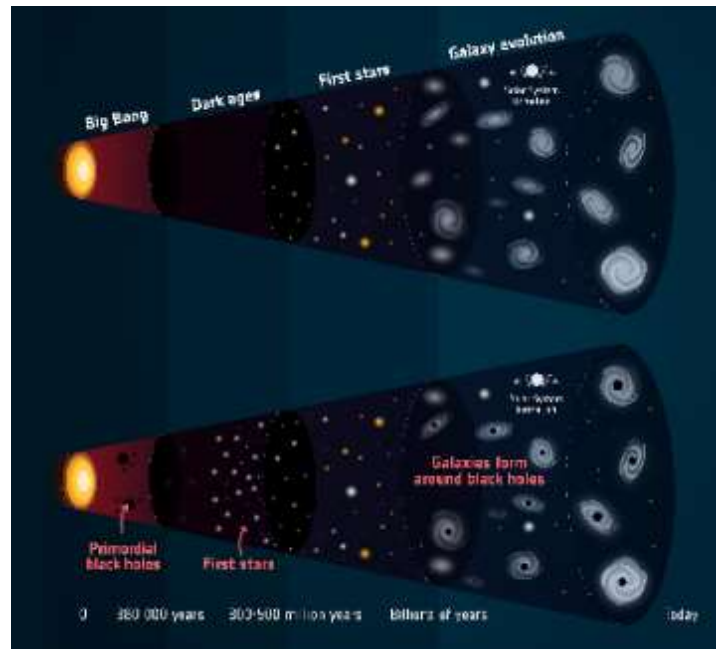
Omo I – Oldest Human Fossils



- ❖ As per a recent study, one of the oldest known Homo sapiens fossils, Omo Kibish I, maybe around 35,000 years older than it was previously thought.
- ❖ Omo Kibish I was first unearthed in Ethiopia in 1967.
- ❖ Omo I is the only fossil, with all the morphological characteristics of modern man.

Black Hole ignites Star Formation

- ❖ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope finds a black hole igniting star formation in a dwarf galaxy.
- ❖ The black hole at the heart of the dwarf galaxy Henize 2-10 is creating stars rather than gobbling them up.
- ❖ This dwarf galaxy lies 30 million light-years away, in the southern constellation Pyxis.



Basal Stem Rot Disease



- ❖ The Researchers from Kerala have identified two new fungi species from the genus *Ganoderma* - *G. keralense* and *G. pseudoapplanatum* - that are associated with coconut stem rot.
- ❖ Butt rot or Basal Stem Rot (BSR) disease is one of the major obstacles in oil palm cultivation.
- ❖ The BSR disease of coconut is known by several names in different parts of India, like
 - *Ganoderma* wilt (Andhra Pradesh),
 - Anaberoga (Karnataka) and
 - Thanjavur wilt (Tamil Nadu) etc.

ENVIRONMENT

Earth's fifth hottest year – 2021

- ❖ Recently a report was made public by Copernicus Climate Change Service, which is a European Union programme.
- ❖ The report found that 2021 was the fifth-hottest year on the Earth.
- ❖ As per the report, the last seven years have been the warmest on record.
- ❖ 2021 was ranked fifth among those 12-month spans because of the continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

Wolf Volcano



- ❖ This tallest mountain in the Galapagos Islands erupted recently.
- ❖ It spewed lava down its flanks and clouds of ash over the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The volcano last erupted in 2015.

India's oldest sloth bear

- ❖ India's oldest female sloth bear was passed away at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo.
- ❖ The park is located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Its name was Gulabo and aged at 40.
- ❖ They are a myrmecophagous bear species, which are native to the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ They have been listed in Vulnerable category on the IUCN Red List, because of degradation and habitat loss.

- ❖ The bear is also called as “labiated bear” because of their long lower lip and palate.
- ❖ The global range of sloth bear includes India, temperate climatic zones of Bhutan & Sri Lanka and Terai region of Nepal.



India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 17th edition of the biennial 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)' 2021.
- ❖ ISFR is released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), every two years since 1987 to assess the country's forest resources.
- ❖ India's forest and tree cover rose by 2,261 square kilometres in ISFR 2021 as compared to the assessment of 2019.
- ❖ This includes an increase of 1,540 square kilometres in forest cover and a 721 sq km increase in tree cover.
- ❖ The total forest and tree cover in the country is now spread across 80.9 million hectares or 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.
- ❖ 17 states/UTs have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover.
- ❖ Out of these states and UTs, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover.

- ❖ The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km), and Jharkhand (110 sq km).
- ❖ Area-wise, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country.
- ❖ It is followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The top five states in terms of forest cover as a percentage of total geographical area are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%), and Nagaland (73.90%).
- ❖ There is an increase of 17 sq km in mangrove cover in the country
- ❖ The top three States in terms of increase in mangrove cover are Odisha (8 sq km), Maharashtra (4 sq km), and Karnataka (3 sq km) respectively.
- ❖ Among the megacities in the country, Ahmedabad has been the biggest loser when it comes to forest cover.
- ❖ The Northeastern states saw a decrease of 1,020 sq. km.
- ❖ It together account for 23.75 per cent of India's total forest cover and are among its biggest biodiversity hotspots.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh lost the maximum forest cover of 257 sq km, followed by Manipur which lost 249 sq km, Nagaland 235 sq km, Mizoram 186 sq km and Meghalaya 73 sq km.
- ❖ In total 140 hill districts of the country, the forest cover reduced by 902 sq km in the last two years.



Orang in Assam

- ❖ The Assam Government has recently decided to increase the size of Orang National Park.
- ❖ Orang is a major rhino habitat.

- ❖ Orang region in the northern bank of Brahmaputra is essential to Kaziranga Orang Riverine Landscape.
- ❖ The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 says that the area comprised within the forest as decided by the State Government is declared as the wildlife sanctuary and National Parks.



Eastern Swamp Deer



- ❖ The population of the vulnerable eastern swamp deer, extinct elsewhere in South Asia, has dipped in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ Barasingha, (Cervus duvauceli), also called swamp deer, graceful deer, dolhorina belongs to the family Cervidae (order Artiodactyla).
- ❖ Swamp Deer Stags have 10 to 14-tine antlers.
- ❖ It explains their Hindi name, barasingha, or twelve-horned.
- ❖ It is listed in the IUCN Red Data Book as an endangered species.



Environment Ministry Star Rating System

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recently launched the “Star Rating System”.
- ❖ The ministry will find out states that provide environmental clearances efficiently in a short duration of time.
- ❖ It will then incentivize such states.
- ❖ For this, the star rating system provides marks to the states on a scale of seven.
- ❖ The states receive two marks for clearing a project in less than 80 days.
- ❖ One mark for clearing in 105 days.
- ❖ Zero for clearing more than this duration.
- ❖ If the state has less than 10% of projects for scrutiny, then one mark is provided, and so on.

‘Climate of India during 2021’ report

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) published its “Climate of India during 2021” recently.
- ❖ As per the report, the year 2021 was the fifth warmest year in India since country-wide records started in India in 1901.
- ❖ India reported a loss of 1,750 lives because of extreme weather events in 2021.
- ❖ Maharashtra was the most adversely affected state, with 350 deaths.
- ❖ Among extreme weather events, lightning & thunderstorms were responsible for the highest lives followed.
- ❖ It is followed by floods, heavy rains, and landslides.
- ❖ The annual mean temperature in India during 1901-2021 witnessed an increasing trend of 0.63 degrees C per 100 years
- ❖ 2021 annual rainfall over India as a whole was 105% of its Long Period Average, based on the 1961-2010 period.

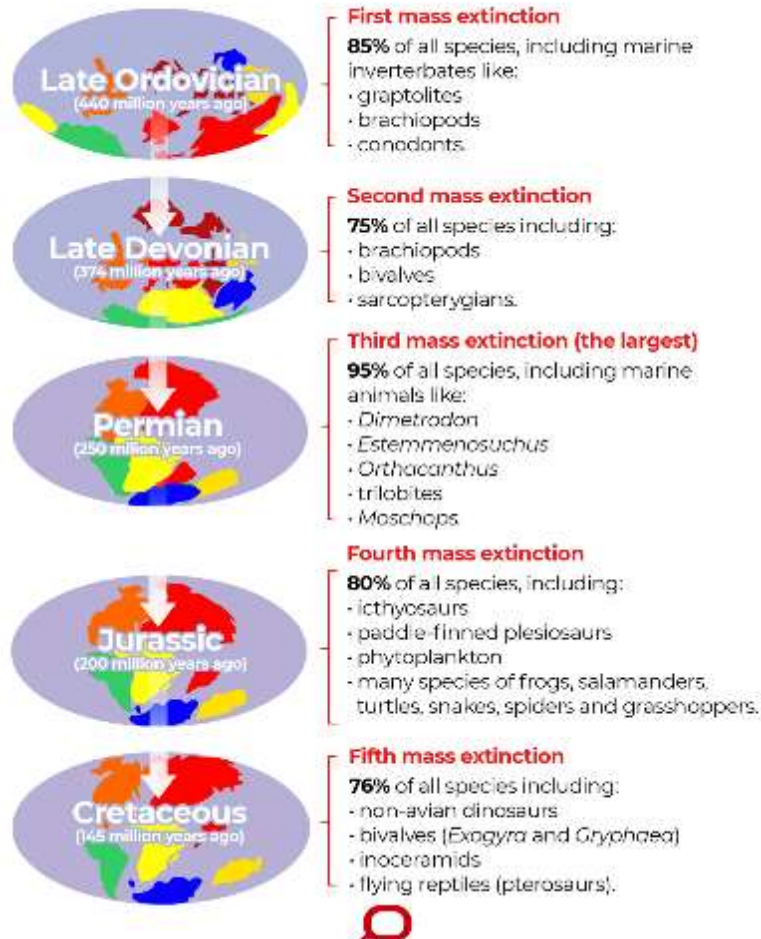
Greta Thunberg Rainfrog

- ❖ A new species of rain frog was discovered in the Panama jungle.
- ❖ It has been named after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.
- ❖ The species has been named *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog.



Sixth mass extmxyion

The "Big Five" mass extinctions



- ❖ As per a report published in Biological Reviews, the Sixth Mass Extinction crisis is underway on Planet Earth.
- ❖ It could have already lost around 13 percent of its total species.

- ❖ The last mass extinction was about 65 million years, which wiped out the dinosaurs.
- ❖ The Holocene extinction is referred to as “sixth mass extinction” or Anthropocene extinction.

Najafgarh Jheel

- ❖ Najafgarh Jheel is a transboundary wetland.
- ❖ It is located along the borders of Delhi and Haryana.
- ❖ The Najafgarh lake is under the control of Delhi.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal recently directed the Haryana and Delhi state governments to implement the environmental management plans prepared by them.
- ❖ The plan aims to rejuvenate Najafgarh Jheel.



Environmental emergency in Peru

- ❖ Peru is a South American country.
- ❖ The Government of Peru recently declared an environmental emergency due to oil spill.
- ❖ The emergency is to last for 90 – days.
- ❖ Around six thousand barrels of oil were spilled into the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ A tanker of Repsol, a Spanish energy firm, was transporting oil to Vantinalla refinery in Peru.
- ❖ The name of the tanker is “Mare Doricum”.
- ❖ It is an Italian tanker.

- ❖ The oil spill occurred due to the explosion of the undersea volcano Tonga.



STATES

Nagaland - disturbed area



- ❖ The central government declared the entire Nagaland as a “disturbed area” for six more months, under the AFSPA Act.
- ❖ This declaration will be in effect, starting from December 30, 2021.
- ❖ The government has also termed the state’s condition as “disturbed and dangerous”.
- ❖ This decision was taken days after the central government constituted a high-level committee for examining the possibility of withdrawal of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from Nagaland.

Internet Exchange Nodes - Uttar Pradesh



- ❖ Seven new Internet exchange nodes were launched in Uttar Pradesh by Union IT Ministry.
- ❖ The nodes will boost internet connectivity and the digital economy in the state.
- ❖ The internet exchange nodes will be located at Lucknow, Agra, Meerut, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, and Varanasi.

Battery-powered electric boat

- ❖ In Kerala, the first battery-powered electric boat built for the Kochi Water Metro Project was handed over to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited.
- ❖ The fully air-conditioned boat was built by the Cochin Shipyard.
- ❖ The battery-powered water metro boat can carry 100 passengers.

District-level Good Governance Index



- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is to get India's first district-level Good Governance Index.
- ❖ The index is modelled on the Good Governance Index 2021.
- ❖ It is to be calculated considering 58 indicators in ten different sectors.
- ❖ The index will help Jammu and Kashmir increase its district governance to the level of other best-administered districts in the country.

Losar Festival

- ❖ The Losar Festival in Ladakh is celebrated at the onset of the New Year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan Buddhism.
- ❖ It is celebrated by the Buddhist Community in the Ladakh region.
- ❖ The Losar is a 15 days festival, from the start of the Tibetan Lunar calendar, marking the 1st day of the 11 months in the Tibetan Calendar.
- ❖ Losar is a Tibetan word that means 'New Year'.
- ❖ The festivities began with the celebration of Birth and Nirvana Anniversary Je Tsongkhapa.



LNG terminal

- ❖ Karnataka Government has signed a memorandum of understanding with Singapore-based LNG Alliance Company.
- ❖ This is to set up the State's first LNG Terminal in Mangalore.
- ❖ The first LNG terminal will be set up in Karnataka, in collaboration with New Mangalore Port Trust.
- ❖ The terminal will be set up as a part of the Union Government's plan to boost the alternative fuel market for achieving net-zero carbon by 2070.

First LPG enabled & smoke-free State



- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became the first LPG enabled, also, smoke-free state.
- ❖ This milestone was achieved due to the Ujjwala Scheme and Grahini Suvidha Yojana by Centre.
- ❖ The Ujjwala scheme was introduced by the government to get rid of the smoke.
- ❖ The Grahini Suvidha Scheme was introduced to assist the women of rural areas.

Lifetime Cabinet Status

- ❖ Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the state cabinet has decided to give the permanent status of a cabinet minister to former chief minister Pratapsingh Rane.
- ❖ Mr. Rane is currently a Congress MLA representing the Poriem Assembly segment.
- ❖ The decision to accord him the honour was taken as Mr. Rane has completed 50 years as a legislator in the Goa Assembly during his current tenure.



Urban Forest Parks mobile app

- ❖ Telangana launches the first of its kind mobile app called the Urban Forest Parks mobile app.
- ❖ It is an exclusive mobile app that gives all information about theme-based Urban Forest Parks.
- ❖ It facilitates the visitors to plan their visits and journey.

International Craft Award



- ❖ The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village near Kovalam has won the 2021 International Craft Award for the best craft village of the year.
- ❖ It is an institution established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society for the state tourism department.
- ❖ The 'Kraf Komuniti Ku' craft village in Malaysia was selected as the best village for the previous year.

First Heli-hub



- ❖ Gurugram of Haryana will get India's first Heli-hub with all aviation facilities.
- ❖ The Heli-hub will be the first of its kind in the country to have all facilities at one place for helicopters.
- ❖ All kinds of aviation facilities for helicopters such as heliport, hangars, maintenance of air taxis, and chartered helicopters will be available.

Losoong festival



- ❖ Losoong (Namsoong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Sikkim on the 18th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar.
- ❖ It also marks the beginning of the harvest season.
- ❖ The losoong festival is celebrated as Sonam Losoong, by the Sikkimese Bhutia, and as Namsoong by the Lepchas.
- ❖ The festival is also celebrated in Nepal and Bhutan.

Water Metro Project

- ❖ The Kochi Water Metro Project is a ferry transport project in Kerala.
- ❖ It provides feeder service to the suburbs.
- ❖ With this Kochi has become the first city in India to launch a water metro project.
- ❖ The project is operated by the Kochi Metro Rail Limited.
- ❖ The transport system is powered by LTO battery technology.
- ❖ This is the first time in the world, battery power centrally controlled water system is implemented.
- ❖ LTO is Linear Titanium Oxide is a rechargeable battery.



Guru Ravidas Jayanti



- ❖ The Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima, that is, on the new moon day of the Magh month.
- ❖ It is celebrated all over India.
- ❖ Ravidas was a social reformer and a spiritual man.
- ❖ He is popular mainly for his work against casteism.
- ❖ Ravidas was a contemporary saint to Saint Kabir.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India recently postponed the assembly elections in the state of Punjab due to Ravi Das Jayanti.
- ❖ According to the new schedule, the elections are to be held on February 20.

Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura – 50th Statehood Day

- ❖ Every year, the states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their 50th statehood day on January 21.
- ❖ These states were formed under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act, 1971.

- ❖ The princely states of Manipur and Tripura were joined with India in 1949.
- ❖ They were then granted the union territory status.
- ❖ In 1972, Meghalaya and Tripura were granted complete statehood.



Kokborok Day

- ❖ Kokborok Day, also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on 19th January.
- ❖ It is celebrated with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language.
- ❖ The day commemorates the initial recognition of Kokborok as the official language in 1979.
- ❖ 19th January 2022 marks the observance of the 44th Kokborok Day.
- ❖ The Kokborok language, the official language of Tripura, is also known as Tripuri or Tiprakok.
- ❖ In 1979, Kokborok, along with Bengali and English, was declared an official language of the state of Tripura.



Digital initiatives - Gujarat High court

- ❖ Two digital services for Gujarat High court - a 'Justice Clock', and electronic payment of court fee, were recently inaugurated.
- ❖ The Justice Clock is an LED display placed in the high court premises.
- ❖ This 'Justice Clock' will exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system in Gujarat, to "maximize outreach and visibility" of the work done by the state judiciary.
- ❖ The online e-Courts fee system allows advocates and parties to procure judicial stamps online through electronic payment and upon submission of a PDF receipt.

AVGC Center of Excellence

- ❖ The government of Karnataka has launched India's first AVGC Centre of Excellence (CoE) (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ AVGC CoE was launched with pioneering high technology digital media hub under its Innovate Karnataka initiative.
- ❖ It is funded by the Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology.
- ❖ Karnataka became India's first state to set up such an AVGC CoE.
- ❖ It is also the biggest centre in Asia.



Kerala gets its first-ever scientific bird atlas

- ❖ The first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India has been created with The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA).

- ❖ KBA is said to be Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent.



Adi Badri Dam

- ❖ The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh signed an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar district.
- ❖ The Dam will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswathi River.
- ❖ It is situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border.
- ❖ The place is considered as the river's origin point.
- ❖ The dam at Adi Badri will also get water from the Somb river, which falls in Yamuna River near Adi Badri in Yamuna Nagar.



Plastic park at Mangaluru

- ❖ The Central Government recently approved to build a plastic park at Ganjimutt, Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The plastic parks are industrial zones.

- ❖ They play a key role in the growth of machinery supplies and plastic manufacturing, plastic recycling, and plastic processing companies.
- ❖ A Plastic park is present at Voyallur in the Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu also.

Brain Health Initiative

- ❖ Karnataka has launched the 'Brain Health Initiative' undertaken by NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) in association with NITI Aayog in the state.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind in the country.
- ❖ Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.
- ❖ The initiative is being rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur districts on a pilot basis.

Mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans



- ❖ Andhra Pradesh State Forest Department has approached experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII-Deharadun), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI-Kolkata).
- ❖ This is for preventing mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans in the Naupada swamp at Telineelapuram, Srikakulam district.
- ❖ Telineelapuram is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), where pelicans have been succumbing to 'Nematode infestation' since December 2021.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Ramnath Goenka award



- ❖ The Hindu's West Bengal correspondent Shiv Sahay Singh won the Ramnath Goenka award in the "Uncovering India Invisible" category.
- ❖ This was awarded for his 2019 story "Death by Digital Exclusion".
- ❖ The story exposed how the Jharkhand government's insistence on digitization deprived people living on the margins of the benefits of the public distribution system (PDS).
- ❖ Tridip K Mandal of The Quint is the broadcast media winner under the same category.

Anupam Ray

- ❖ Senior diplomat Anupam Ray has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
- ❖ Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- ❖ Ray will succeed Pankaj Sharma.

RedInk Awards 2021

- ❖ The Redink Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2021 were presented by Mumbai Press Club.
- ❖ The Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui was posthumously awarded as the 'Journalist of the Year' by the Mumbai Press Club.

- ❖ Siddiqui died during an assignment in Afghanistan in July 2021.
- ❖ RedInk 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on Senior Journalist Prem Shankar Jha for his long and distinguished career of analytical and incisive writing.



The RedInk 2021 winners:

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Varsha Thangaloor - Stories Asia (Print)
Nityunjay Singh - ABP News Network (Television)

CRIME

Sagar - The Caravan (Print)

ENVIRONMENT

Neelam Kalyani, Randeep Pandey, Seemab Qureshi, Rameshwar & Sugandha Arora - Down To Earth (Print)
Sofia Bled - Media One TV (Television)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Priyanka Pulla - The Wire (Print)
Faye D'Souza & Anur Ranganathan - Freemedia Interactive (Television)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Kumar Sambhav Shrivastava - HuffPost & Prabhakar Tamilarasu - The Federal (Joint Winners - Print)
Tidip Kanti Mandal & Syed Shabir - The Quint (Television)

LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

Ruthakali Chanda - Forbes India & Makgessee Sathya - CNN (Joint Winners - Print)

POLITICS

Ashishankh Arora - The Indian Express (Print)
Gaurish Shukla - NDTV India (Television)

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

Bhavya Dora - Fifty Two (Print)
Ganesh Raghunath Kulkarni - News18 Lokmat & Pallava Bagle - India Science Channel (Joint Winners - Television)

SPORTS

Shikhar Venugopal - The Indian Express (Print)

THE ARTS

Mahab Ali - The Wire & Rajul Majumdar - Mint (Joint Winners - Print)

THE BIG PICTURE

Agarwal Shweta Sankar - Outlook (Winner)
Manisha Mondal - ThePrint (Runners-up)

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & GENDER EQUALITY

Aruna Bakshi - Mint (Print)
Shobhit Fakirba Sangale - BBC News Marathi (Television)

Virender Singh Pathania



- ❖ Virender Singh Pathania has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ VS Pathania replaced K Natarajan.
- ❖ Pathania, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, is the first chopper pilot from the force to get command of the Coast Guard.

Sir Tony Blair

- ❖ Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been awarded a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II and
- ❖ Hence, he become to be known as Sir Tony.
- ❖ Blair has been appointed as a member of the Order of the Garter.
- ❖ It is England's oldest and most senior honour which is made as a personal choice of the monarch.



Ashok Elluswamy

- ❖ Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk have disclosed that Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy of Chennai was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.
- ❖ Before joining Tesla, Mr. Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.



Robert Irwin

- ❖ Australia's Robert Irwin has been awarded the London's Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award 2020.
- ❖ It was awarded for his drone image of the Bushfire in northern Australia.
- ❖ The 17-year-old is the son of the Australian wildlife conservationist and icon, the late Steve Irwin.



Captain Harpreet Chandi

- ❖ Captain Harpreet Chandi has created history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo trek to the South Pole.
- ❖ She is an Indian-origin British Sikh Army Officer, and a physiotherapist
- ❖ Harpreet Chandi is also known as Polar Preet.



Alka Mittal





- ❖ Director HR in ONGC, Alka Mittal has been given the additional charge as the new interim chairman and managing director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- ❖ She is the first woman to head the top post at the Maharatna company.
- ❖ She replaces Subhash Kumar.

Richard Leakey

- ❖ World-renowned Kenyan politician, conservationist, and fossil hunter Richard Leakey has passed away.
- ❖ He is credited for the discovery of 'Turkana Boy' in 1984 which led to ground breaking discoveries proving that humankind evolved in Africa.
- ❖ Turkana boy is the most complete fossil Skelton of a human ancestor ever found.
- ❖ Leakey is also known to spearhead campaigns against the ivory trade to save the population of African elephants.



Goenka Award in the Photo Journalism



- ❖ Zishaan A Latif won Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photo Journalism category.
- ❖ He won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC.
- ❖ It was published in The Caravan in October 2019.
- ❖ He documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and put a face to an untold human story.

K Ayyappan Pillai

- ❖ K Ayyappan Pillai of Kerala, the freedom fighter and senior BJP leader, passed away at the age of 107.
- ❖ Ayyappan Pillai had participated in India's freedom struggle and had met Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ Pillai was a senior lawyer and was also a member of Shree Moolam Praja Sabha of Travancore.



Sindhutai Sapkal



- ❖ The Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal passed away at the age of 73 years.
- ❖ She was also called as 'Mother of Orphans'.



- ❖ She was also referred to just as ‘Sindhutai’ or ‘Mai’.
- ❖ She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021 in the Social Work category.
- ❖ She was from Maharashtra.
- ❖ A biopic on her life titled “Mee Sindhutai Sapkal” was released in the year 2010.

Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards

- ❖ The Indian Express Group has announced the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards (RNG Awards) for journalists across the country, for their work done in 2019.
- ❖ RNG awards are one the most prestigious awards in India in the field of journalism, held annually since 2006.
- ❖ The award is named after Ramnath Goenka, the founder of “The Indian Express” and Indian Express Group in 1932.

List of winners

- Hindi (Print): Anand Choudhary, Dainik Bhaskar
- Hindi (Broadcast): Sushil Kumar Mohapatra, NDTV India
- Regional Languages (Print): Aniket Vasant Sathe, Loksatta
- Regional Languages (Broadcast): Sunil Baby, Media One TV
- Environment, Science and Technology Reporting (Print): Team Pari (People’s Archive of Rural India)
- Environment, Science and Technology Reporting (Broadcast): Team Scroll
- Uncovering India Invisible (Print): Shiv Sahay Singh, The Hindu
- Uncovering India Invisible (Broadcast): Tridip K Mandal, The Quint
- Business And Economic Journalism (Print): Sumant Banerji, Business Today
- Business And Economic Journalism (Broadcast): Ayushi Jindal, India Today TV
- Reporting On Politics and Government (Digital): Dheeraj Mishra, The Wire
- Reporting On Politics and Government (Broadcast): Seemi Pasha, Thewire.in
- Sports journalism (Print): Nihal Koshie, The Indian Express
- Sports journalism (Broadcast): Team NewsX
- Investigative Reporting (Print): Kaunain Sheriff M, The Indian Express
- Investigative Reporting (Broadcast): S Mahesh Kumar, Manorama News
- Reporting On Arts, Culture and Entertainment: Uday Bhatia, Mint
- Prakash Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism: Chaitanya Marpakwar, Mumbai Mirror
- Photojournalism: Zishaan A Latif, The Caravan
- Books (Non-Fiction): Arun Mohan Sukumar

T S Tirumurti

- ❖ India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- ❖ India has assumed the chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNSC-CTC) for one year, beginning from January 01, 2022.

- ❖ India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation UNSC.
- ❖ Its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.



World Record in Numerology



- ❖ JC Chaudhry has achieved the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022.
- ❖ He achieved this by educating about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology joined from the United States, the United Kingdom, Middle East, and India.
- ❖ The Guinness World Record London office has opened a new category, “Numerology” for this achievement.

78th SKOCH summit

- ❖ The Forensic Science Laboratory - Forensic Service, Delhi, has won the SKOCH Award 2021(Silver).
- ❖ It got the award in the Governance category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children.

- ❖ The award was presented during the 78th SKOCH Summit held on 6th January 2022.
- ❖ The summit was organized with the theme “State of Governance”.
- ❖ The SKOCH award, instituted in 2003 is the highest civilian honour in India.
- ❖ It is conferred by an independent organization to recognize the people, projects, and institutions that work to build a better India.
- ❖ The SKOCH Literature Award 2021 was presented to the book titled ‘Rising to the China Challenge: Winning Through Strategic Patience and Flexible Policies’ authored by leading members of Pune International Centre.
- ❖ The book was published in 2021 by Rupa Publications India Ltd.
- ❖ The book was based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash provoked by China.



Dr. Subhas Mukherjee Award

- ❖ A professor in the clinical embryology department at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal in Karnataka Dr. Satish Adiga has been selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for its national award.
- ❖ He will receive Dr. Subhas Mukherjee Award from ICMR.
- ❖ This is in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the field of in-vitro fertilization.
- ❖ He has contributed significantly to both clinical IVF and fertility research.

Urjit Patel

- ❖ Urjit Patel was recently appointed as the Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- ❖ He served as the 24th Governor of RBI (Reserve Bank of India).

- ❖ He was born in Kenya.



Golden Globe Awards 2022

- ❖ The winners of the Golden Globe Awards 2022 were announced by Hollywood Foreign Press Association of the USA in a private ceremony on January 10, 2021.
- ❖ This year, the event was not televised or live streamed and did not involve any celebrity presenter or nominee, and had no red carpet.
- ❖ Netflix's 'The Power of the Dog' won Best Film-Drama at the Golden Globe Awards 2022.



- ❖ 20th Century Studios' West Side Story won Best Film– Musical or Comedy.
- ❖ HBO series Succession won Golden Globe award 2022 for best television series-drama and
- ❖ HBO Max's Hacks won Best Television series-musical or comedy.
- ❖ Will Smith won his first-ever Golden Globe award for his role in the 2021 film 'King Richard'.
- ❖ Nicole Kidman won Golden Globe for Best Actress for her role in the film 'Being the Ricardos'.
- ❖ The Power of the Dog also won the Golden Globe award 2022 for Best Director.



UiPath Automation Excellence awards 2021

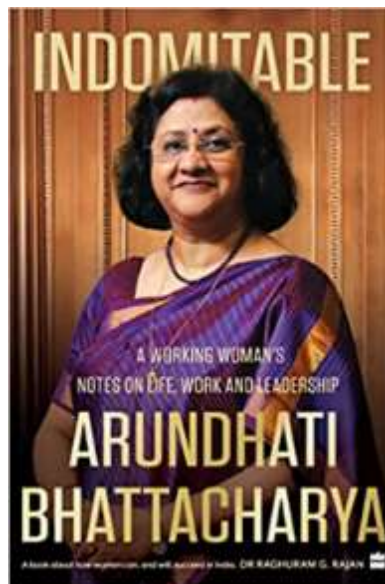
- ❖ The South Indian Bank (SIB) won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021.
- ❖ It was awarded for Best Automation under "Crisis for Business Continuity".
- ❖ The 2021 edition of the award recognizes the contribution of the individuals and organizations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal) for bringing change through transformative automation projects.

Champa

- ❖ The Prominent Kannada writer Chandrashekhara Patil, popularly known as "Champa", passed away at the age of 82.
- ❖ He was a Kannada language activist, a poet, and a playwright.
- ❖ He also served as President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) and Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority.



Book on Arundhati Bhattacharya



- ❖ Harper Collins is set to publish “Indomitable: A Working Woman’s Notes on Life, Work and Leadership” the autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya.
- ❖ She was a retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India.

Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022



- ❖ Harshaali Malhotra has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.
- ❖ The Government of Maharashtra organised the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar national Awards 2022 ceremony.

Narayan Debnath



- ❖ Legendary Bengali comics artist, writer, and illustrator, Narayan Debnath has passed away.
- ❖ He was 97.
- ❖ The celebrated cartoonist was the creator of popular Bengali comic strips like Handa Bhonda (1962), Bantul the Great (1965), and Nonte Phonte (1969).
- ❖ In 2021, Debnath was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India.

M.K. Prasad



- ❖ The Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner Prof M K Prasad passed away recently.
- ❖ He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroots level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction.
- ❖ He had also led the popular science movement, 'Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath'.

National Startup Awards 2021

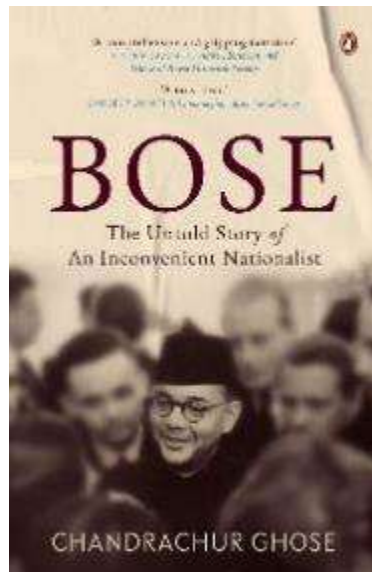


- ❖ The National Startup Awards 2021 is the second edition of the award ceremony.
- ❖ It is conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❖ A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of the National Startup Awards 2021
- ❖ State-wise, Karnataka bagged the highest number of awards, which included 14 out of 46 national start-up awards.
- ❖ In the fintech category's financial inclusion sub-sector, Bengaluru-based Naffa Innovations Private Limited was declared the winner.

- ❖ In the fintech category's insurance sub-sector, Umbo Idtech Private Limited won the award.
- ❖ In the Robotics sub-sector, Sagar Defence was declared the winner.
- ❖ In the women-led start-up category, Jaipur-headquartered Frontier Markets was honoured.

Book by Chandrachur Ghose

- ❖ A new biography titled "Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist" authored by Chandrachur Ghose will be released in February 2022.
- ❖ The book contains the thoughts and opinions of Subhas Chandra Bose about the development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics, and political ideology.
- ❖ It also marked the untold and unknown stories of Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose).



Best National Costume award

- ❖ India's Navdeep Kaur has won the award for the Best National Costume at the prestigious Mrs. World 2022 pageant in Nevada, Las Vegas.
- ❖ She is the winner of Mrs. India World 2021, and she was representing the country at Mrs. World 2022.
- ❖ Navdeep hails from a small town near Odisha's Steel City, Rourkela.
- ❖ The "avant-garde" outfit was inspired by Kundalini Chakra.
- ❖ It "symbolizes the movement of energy in chakras of the body from the base to the spine up through the crown".



Army Vice Chief



- ❖ General Pande would be the successor to Lt Gen CP Mohanty who is scheduled to superannuate on January 31.
- ❖ General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in December 1982.
- ❖ He was Director-General at Army Headquarters dealing with subjects of discipline, ceremonial, and welfare.

Youth Climate Champion

- ❖ The content creator and actress Prajakta Koli become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.
- ❖ She won the title under her partnership with the UNDP.
- ❖ The title has been conferred to her because of her contribution towards mental health, girl child education, and women's rights through various global social campaigns.
- ❖ Prajakta Koli is an Indian YouTuber and actress, known by her YouTube Channel "Mostlysane".



World's oldest living man

- ❖ Guinness World Records holder for the oldest person living (male), Saturnino de la Fuente García (Spain) has passed away at the age of 112 years and 341 days.
- ❖ Saturnino claimed the record as the oldest person living (male) in September 2021 when he was exactly 112 years and 211 days.
- ❖ He was born on February 11, 1909, in the Puente Castro neighbourhood of León in Spain.



International Association of Working Women Award

- ❖ Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen has been conferred with the International Association of Working Women Award at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival 2021.

- ❖ She has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.
- ❖ The Aarya 2 series is created by Ram Madhvani.
- ❖ It was had on Disney+Hotstar.



Mrs. World 2022

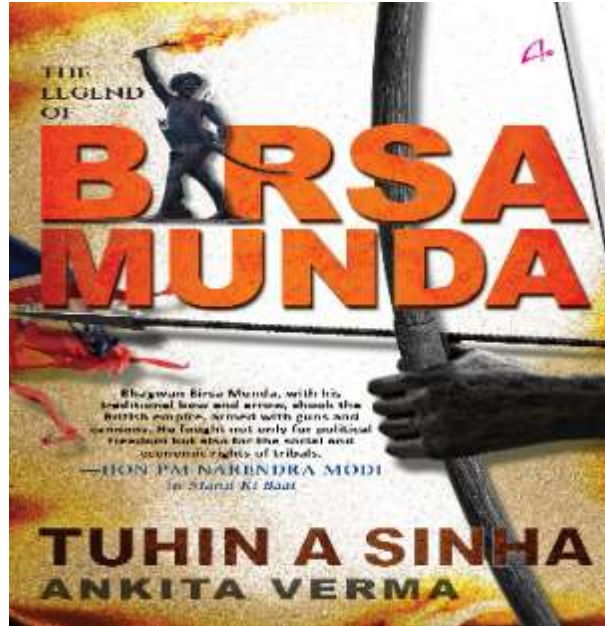


- ❖ 37 Years old Shaylyn Ford was crowned as the winner of Mrs. World 2022.
- ❖ She was crowned by the outgoing queen Kate Schneider from Ireland.
- ❖ Mrs. Jordan Jaclyn Stapp & Mrs. UAE Debanjali Kamstra were the runner up.
- ❖ Shaylyn Ford represented America.
- ❖ This is the 8th time an American representative won the title of Mrs. World.

The Legend of Birsa Munda

- ❖ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released a book titled 'The Legend of Birsa Munda'.
- ❖ It is authored by Tuhin A Sinha and co-authored by Ankita Verma.

- ❖ The Book is the story of a lesser-known tribal hero, Birsa Munda.
- ❖ He courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.



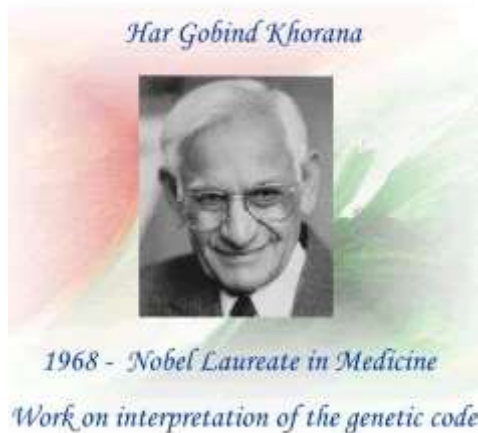
International Folk Art Festival



- ❖ Lavni artist from Maharashtra, Sumit Bhale of Fulbari taluka has won a gold medal at the International Folk Art Festival in Dubai.
- ❖ Lavani is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is a combination of traditional song and dance.
- ❖ It is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.

Har Gobind Khorana

- ❖ Recently, the 100th birth anniversary of the biochemist and chemical biologist Har Gobind Khorana was observed.
- ❖ He shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W.
- ❖ In addition to the Nobel Prize, Khorana received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1968) and the National Medal of Science (1987).
- ❖ The Indian government awarded Khorana the Padma Vibhushan in 1969.



First Indian to complete Nasa Programme



- ❖ Jahnavi Dangeti has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US.
- ❖ This makes her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.
- ❖ She is a young girl from Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts.

Netaji Award 2022



- ❖ Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau.
- ❖ Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the Padma Vibhushan on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan is the country's second-highest civilian honour.

Genesis Prize 2022



- ❖ Albert Bourla has been awarded the prestigious Genesis Prize 2022
- ❖ He is the Chairman and Chief Executive of Pfizer.
- ❖ He has been awarded for his efforts in leading the development of a COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine)
- ❖ Genesis Prize is widely referred to as the “Jewish Nobel Prize”.

Pradhan Mantri Rastriya Bal Puraskar

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with the awardees of Pradhan Mantri Rastriya Bal Puraskar.
- ❖ He awarded them certificates digitally using blockchain technology.
- ❖ The technology was used for the first time to give certificates to awardees.

- ❖ 29 children, including 14 girls, were awarded.
- ❖ They were awarded in six fields namely, innovation, sports, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, and bravery.
- ❖ From Tamilnadu Vishalini N C and Aswatha Biju received the award in the innovation field.



Gallantry Awards - Republic Day



- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind approved 384 gallantry awards and other military decorations for security forces personnel.
- ❖ He also approved 12 Shaurya Chakras for soldiers who demonstrated exceptional courage during operations.
- ❖ The President posthumously awarded Ashok Chakra to Assistant Sub Inspector Babu Ram of Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- ❖ Babu Ram had killed three terrorists in Srinagar, during an operation on August 29, 2020.
- ❖ Ashok Chakra is India's highest peace-time gallantry award.
- ❖ Kirti Chakara is the second highest peacetime gallantry award
- ❖ Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award.



Padma Awards 2022

Padma Vibhushan (4)

Name	Field	State/Country
Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	U.P.
General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Union ministry of home affairs announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day.
- ❖ The Awards are given in three categories:
 - Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service),
 - Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order), and
 - Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- ❖ The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- ❖ The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri Awards.
- ❖ 34 of the awardees are women.
- ❖ The list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- ❖ Details of Padma shri awardees from Tamil Nadu are given below.

Padma Shri		
Name	Field	State
Shri Sirpi Balasubramaniam	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
Shri S Ballesh Bhajantri	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri S Damodaran	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
Ms. Sowcar Janaki	Art	Tamil Nadu
Ms. R Muthukannammal	Art	Tamil Nadu
Shri A K C Natarajan	Art	Tamil Nadu
Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah	Medicine	Tamil Nadu

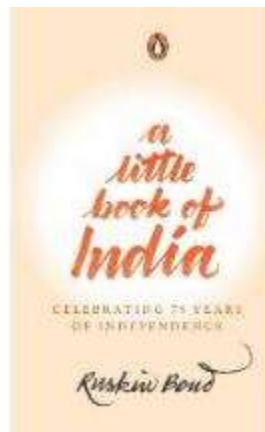
Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar



- ❖ The Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- ❖ This is to recognize and honor the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.
- ❖ The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ❖ For the year 2022, the awardees are,
 - Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and
 - Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category).

Ruskin Bond's new book

- ❖ A new book titled “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence” authored by Ruskin Bond was released recently.
- ❖ The book is the blend of “physical and spiritual” attributes of India.
- ❖ It also highlights the last 75 years of India’s progress as a nation.
- ❖ It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



SPORTS

Dubai Globe Soccer Awards

- ❖ The 12th edition of the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards took place in the Burj Khalifa.
- ❖ Robert Lewandowski secured the Maradona award for the year's best goal scorer and the fans' player of the year award.

Fans' Player of the Year: Robert Lewandowski
Men's Player of the Year: Kylian Mbapp
Maradona Award: Robert Lewandowski
Top best scorer of all time: Cristiano Ronaldo
Women's Player of the Year: Alexia Putellas (Barcelona)
Men's Club of the Year: Chelsea
Women's Club of the Year: Barcelona
Defender of the Year: Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus/Italy)
Goalkeeper of the Year: Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG/Italy)
Coach of the Year: Roberto Mancini
National Team of the Year: Italy
Agent of the Year: Federico Pastorello
Sports Director of the Year: Txiki Begiristain (Manchester City)
Esports Player of the Year: Musaed Al-Dossary "MsDossary7"
Player Career Award: Ronaldinho
Best Youth Academy in Africa: ZED FC
Special Innovation Award: Serie A

Bumrah - 100 wickets

INDIAN PACERS WITH 100 OVERSEAS WICKETS

Player	M	Wkts	Ave	SR	WPI	WPI%	Best
Jasprit Bumrah	23	100	21.95	49.7	6	0	6/27
Mohammed Shami	39	141	29.61	52.2	4	0	6/56
Zahoor Khan	54	207	31.47	55.4	8	1	7/67
Yashvir Sharma	63	207	32.78	59.5	9	1	7/74
Nagpal Dev	66	215	32.85	72.2	12	0	8/80
Javagal Srinath	75	328	33.24	70.8	5	0	6/76

CLAIMING CENTURION



- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah has achieved the milestone of picking 100 wickets away from home in 22 Test matches.

- ❖ Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions.
- ❖ Bumrah has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home.
- ❖ Bumrah, who made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, has played 25 Tests.

U-19 Asia Cup 2021



- ❖ U19 Indian cricket team won against Sri Lanka by 9 wickets in the final.
- ❖ India sealed their 8th ACC U19 Asia Cup title in Dubai.
- ❖ The rain-marred final was reduced to 38 overs after a two-hour interruption.

Asian Powerlifting Championship



- ❖ Gaurav Sahu of Udaipur in Rajasthan won the first Gold Medal for India in the Asian Powerlifting Championship.
- ❖ It is underway at Istanbul in Turkey.
- ❖ Lorraine More at the age of 66 has won a gold medal for India by lifting 165 kgs in this championship.

- ❖ A 48-year-old driver with the Tamil Nadu Forest department, Manimaran from Trichy has bagged an overall gold medal in this championship.
- ❖ Raja, a DMK legislative member from Sankarankoil, won a bronze medal in this championship in the 140 kg weight category.
- ❖ He recently won first place nationally in a weightlifting competition.
- ❖ Raja is thus eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Games of 2022.
- ❖ Powerlifting (bench press only) is a Paralympic sport while weightlifting is an Olympic sport.

Md Arif Khan



- ❖ Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) of India has approved the inclusion of Alpine Skiing athlete Md Arif Khan in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core group, until the Winter Olympics, scheduled this February in Beijing, China.
- ❖ The feat earned Khan the unique distinction of becoming the first Indian to win direct quota spots in two different Winter Olympics events.
- ❖ He is also the first athlete from the country to seal a berth at the Winter Olympic games 2022.

Multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in France.
- ❖ The expedition was conducted in November last year and the team comprised 12 people.
- ❖ The expedition team carried out over 250 kilometres of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges.

NIMAS MULTIDIMENSIONAL EXPEDITION, FRANCE-2021



World Deaf T20 Cricket championship 2023



- ❖ The All-India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship.
- ❖ The first World Deaf T20 cricket championship will be held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from January 10 to January 20, 2023.

73rd chess Grandmaster

- ❖ Fourteen-year-old Bharath Subramaniam from Tamilnadu became India's 73rd chess Grand master.
- ❖ He secured the third and final Grandmaster norm at an event at Cattolica in Italy.
- ❖ Fellow Indian player M R Lalith Babu became the winner in the tournament.



Bharath Subramaniyam has become the year's first
Indian GM.

2021 rapid chess championship

- ❖ Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan), won the World Rapid Chess Championship 2021.
- ❖ He defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tiebreaker and dethroned Magnus Carlsen, the current World Number 1.
- ❖ 2020 FIDE Championship was won by Magnus Carlsen.

Virat Kohli

INDIA'S FINEST					
MOST WINS AS TEST CAPTAIN					
CAPTAIN	MATCHES	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	W/L
Graeme Smith	109	53	29	27	1.827
Ricky Ponting	77	48	16	13	3
Steve Waugh	57	41	9	7	4.555
Virat Kohli	68	40	17	11	2.352
Clive Lloyd	74	36	12	26	3

- ❖ Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Captain of the Indian Test team.
- ❖ With the latest decision, he has ended his captaincy stint of the Indian Cricket team in all forms.
- ❖ With 40 wins in 68 test matches, Virat Kohli has ended his captaincy stint as the most successful Indian Test Captain.
- ❖ Dhoni (27 wins from 60 matches) and Ganguly (21 wins out of 49) are next on the list.

India Open 2022 – badminton championship

- ❖ India's Lakshya Sen beat World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the men's singles final at the India Open 2022 at the KD Jadhav Stadium in New Delhi.
- ❖ Loh Kean Yew is the world champion now.
- ❖ India's PV Sindhu lost against Thailand's Supanida Katethong in the women's singles semi-final of India Open 2022.
- ❖ Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghphan (women's) win singles titles by beating Supanida Katethong of Thailand.



Best FIFA Football Awards 2021

- ❖ The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held virtually in Zurich, Switzerland.
- ❖ This was held to crown outstanding players for excellent achievement in football.
- ❖ Spain's Alexia Putellas and Poland/Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski were awarded the Best FIFA Players in women's and men's football respectively.
- ❖ Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020.

Category	Winner
Best FIFA Men's Player	Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich, Poland)
Best FIFA Women's Player	Alexia Putellas (Barcelona, Spain)
Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper	Édouard Mendy (Chelsea, Senegal)
Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper	Christiane Endler (Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon, Chile)
Best FIFA Men's Coach	Thomas Tuchel (Chelsea, Germany)
Best FIFA Women's Coach	Emma Hayes (Chelsea, England)
FIFA Fair Play Award	Denmark national football team and medical staff
FIFA Special Award for an Outstanding Career Achievement	Christine Sinclair (Female) & Cristiano Ronaldo (Male)

Pakistani Skipper Babar Azam - Captain of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year

- ❖ Pakistani skipper Babar Azam has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's T20I team of the year for 2021.
- ❖ The ICC Team of the Year recognizes the 11 best players in men's cricket who have impressed one and all with their performances in a calendar year, either with the bat, ball, or their all-around performance.
- ❖ No Indian male player has found a place in that team of 11.
- ❖ However, in ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021, Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian women player named in the 11-member team.
- ❖ Smriti has made the list for the third time in the T20I team of the year after 2018 (opener) and 2019 (number three).
- ❖ England's Nat Sciver has been made the captain of ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021.



ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2021



- ❖ Three Indians have been named in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2021.
- ❖ The Indian players who have found a place in the playing 11 include-Rishabh Pant, R Ashwin, and Rohit Sharma.
- ❖ New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson has been named as the captain of the ICC Test.

Syed Modi Badminton Championship 2022



- ❖ Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu won the women's singles final of this championship.
- ❖ It was held at Babu Banarasi Indoor Stadium, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Sindhu beat Malvika Bansod in the final that lasted for 35 minutes.
- ❖ The Syed Modi Badminton Championship 2022 mixed doubles title was won by the Indian duo of Ishaan Bhatnagar - Tanisha Castro.



First para-badminton academy

- ❖ India's first para-badminton academy has been set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The set-up will improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics.
- ❖ 2024 Paralympics is to be held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.
- ❖ The badminton centre has been launched by the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.

AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022



- ❖ The Indian women's football team has withdrawn from the ongoing AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022.
- ❖ This is after several players tested positive for COVID-19.
- ❖ India is the host of the ongoing football tournament.

ICC Awards 2021

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the 17th edition of ICC Awards for the year 2021.
- ❖ This is to recognize and honor the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months, between January 01, 2021, and December 31, 2021.
- ❖ Notably, these awards honor players for their performances for their respective national side in a year.

Category	Winners
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tommy Beaumont (England)
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year	Janneman Malan (South Africa)
ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year	Fatima Sana (Pakistan)
ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Zeeshan Maqsood (Oman)
ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Andrea-Mae Zepeda (Austria)
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)

Param Vishisht Seva Medal



- ❖ Olympian Neeraj Chopra was honored with Param Vishisht Seva Medal on the eve of Republic Day by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ He is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ Neeraj is a Subedar in the Indian Army.
- ❖ He was chosen for training at the Mission Olympics Wing and Army Sports Institute in Pune.
- ❖ Chopra was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018 and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2020 for his excellence in sports.

Australian Open 2022

- ❖ Ash Barty ended Australia's 44-year wait for a home winner at the Australian Open.
- ❖ She won against American Danielle Collins to pick up her third Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Barty became the first Australian to win the event since Chris O'Neil captured the women's title in 1978.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Family Day - January 01

- ❖ It aims at sensitizing people about peace and making them believe that the world is one family.
- ❖ The idea to celebrate the day originated from a 1996 children's book 'One Day in Peace'.
- ❖ The book was authored by Steve Diamond and Robert Alan Silverstein.
- ❖ The overall theme of this Day is "One Day of Peace".

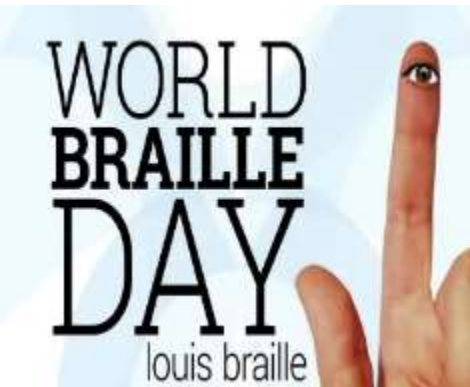
64th DRDO Foundation Day – January 01

- ❖ DRDO is the largest and most diverse research organisation in India.
- ❖ DRDO is the premier agency, working under the Department of Defence Research & Development in Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The organisation is headquartered in Delhi.

- ❖ It was established on January 1, 1958 after merging Directorate of Technical Development & Production of Indian Ordnance Factories and Technical Development Establishment, with Defence Science Organisation.
- ❖ It also developed a medicine named 2DG, to fight covid-19.



World Braille Day – January 04



- ❖ Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical, and scientific symbols.
- ❖ Braille (named after its inventor in 19th century France, Louis Braille) is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.
- ❖ Before the existence of the Braille system, the Haüy system was being used by blind and partially visually impaired people for reading purposes.
- ❖ The date for the event was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly via a proclamation in November 2018.
- ❖ It marks the birthday of Louis Braille.

World Day of War Orphans - January 06

- ❖ The day creates awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.
- ❖ World Day of War Orphans was started by the French organization SOS Enfants en Dresses.



NRI Day - January 09

- ❖ The day is also called Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- ❖ The day is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on January 9, as Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa on the day in 1915.



World Hindi Day - January 10

- ❖ The day is celebrated since 2006 to promote the language on the global stage.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was inaugurated on January 10, 1975, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.



- ❖ However, the celebration of the first World Hindi Day was commenced on 10 January 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- ❖ The language got its name from the Persian term 'Hind' which means 'the land of Indus'.

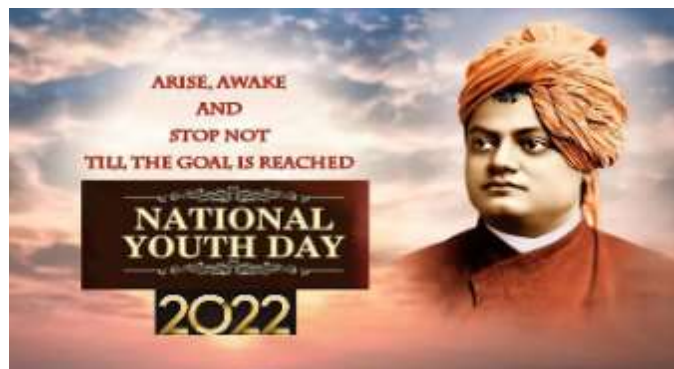
National Vision Board Day 2022 - January 08

- ❖ The day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in January.
- ❖ This year, it was on January 8th.
- ❖ This day is observed to encourage us to set our goals visually.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day - January 11

- ❖ The day aims at raising awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promoting and protecting their rights.
- ❖ The entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
- ❖ In 2007, the United States Senate ratified the resolution establishing January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.
- ❖ In 2010, President Obama dedicated the entire month of January to awareness and prevention of human trafficking.

National Youth Day - January 12



- ❖ In India, the National Youth Day is celebrated annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ The main aim behind this is to make sure that the students across the country can be encouraged to learn about the life, the ideas, and the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and apply them in their lives.

- ❖ In 2022, we are observing the 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand (12 January 1863).
- ❖ The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is “It’s all in the mind.”
- ❖ The decision to celebrate Vivekananda’s birthday as National Youth Day was taken in 1984.
- ❖ It was first marked on January 12, 1985.

Armed Forces Veterans Day - 14 January



- ❖ It is observed each year on 14 January since 2017.
- ❖ The day aims to acknowledge and honor the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation.
- ❖ It is observed as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa.
- ❖ He was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14 January 1953.

World Logic Day – 14 January

- ❖ It is an international day proclaimed by UNESCO in association with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) in November 2019.
- ❖ It corresponds to the date of death of Kurt Gödel and the date of birth of Alfred Tarski, two of the most prominent logicians of the twentieth century.

74th Indian Army Day – 15 January

- ❖ It is observed to salute the sacrifice of the jawans who got martyred protecting the country and its citizens.
- ❖ It is also observed in recognition of Field Marshal KM Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from the British General Francis Bucher.
- ❖ Bucher was the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, in 1949.
- ❖ The new Army Combat Pattern Uniform has been developed with the help of National Institute of Fashion Technology.
- ❖ The Monumental National Flag was put on a grand public display along the India-Pakistan Border at Longewala in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric.
- ❖ The Monumental National Flag measures 225 feet long, 150 feet wide and weighs around 1,400 kg.
- ❖ Longewala was the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.
- ❖ This will be the fifth public display of the National Flag since its unveiling in Leh on October 2, 2021.



National Startup Day - January 16

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi declares January 16 as 'National Startup Day'.
- ❖ This is the first time India is celebrating this day.
- ❖ India is celebrating Startup India Innovation Week between January 10, 2022 and January 16, 2022.
- ❖ The week celebrations are organized by Department of Promotion Industry and Industrial Trade.
- ❖ In 2022, the National Startup Day is celebrated on six themes.

- ❖ They are sustainable development, technology of future, from local to global, building champions in manufacturing, nudging the DNA and growing from roots.

**'National Start-up Day' to be celebrated on
January 16: PM Modi calls start-ups backbone
of new India**



58th Foundation Day of Food Corporation of India (FCI)



Food Corporation of India

- ❖ It is a statutory body created under the Food Corporation's Act 1964.
- ❖ It was set up on 14 January 1965 having its first District Office at Thanjavur
- ❖ It is under the ownership of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ❖ On this day, the food minister Piyush Goyal released a “5-point reform agenda for FCI”.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day - January 19

- ❖ NDRF is celebrating this day since it came into existence on January 19, 2006.
- ❖ In 2022, the NDRF is observing its 17th Raising Day.
- ❖ There are 12 NDRF battalions located in different parts of the country.
- ❖ They comprise as many as 13,000 NDRF personnel who work to build a safer country.

- ❖ NDRF is an Indian specialized force under the National Disaster Management Authority, constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ It is constituted to carry out the special responses in situations of threatening disaster.



Parakram Diwas - January 23rd



- ❖ The Indian government has decided to celebrate January 23rd as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ❖ This year is the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ❖ Netaji' was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack in Odisha.
- ❖ Netaji joined the Indian National Congress in 1921.
- ❖ Netaji started a newspaper called "Swaraj".
- ❖ He had written a book called "The Indian Struggle".
- ❖ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose himself spelt the slogan "Jai Hind" for the first time.

The International Day of Education - January 24

- ❖ The day is global to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development.



- ❖ The first-ever International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2019.
- ❖ The theme of the 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is 'Changing Course, Transforming Education'.
- ❖ The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



National Girl Child Day - January 24

- ❖ The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child.
- ❖ The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

National Tourism Day - January 25

- ❖ The Indian government established this day to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.
- ❖ The day is observed to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, political, financial, and cultural worth.

National Voters' Day - January 25



- ❖ India observes this day to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India is celebrating the 12th National Voters Day this year.
- ❖ The theme for this is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- ❖ Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated every year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, (25th January 1950).

International Customs Day - January 26

- ❖ This day is to commemorate the inaugural session of the World Customs Organisation.
- ❖ It was held on this day in 1953.
- ❖ The day also raises awareness about the importance of customs authorities and their role in the smooth movement of goods across borders.

Himachal Pradesh statehood day – January 25

- ❖ This is the 52nd Statehood Day.
- ❖ It was established in 1948 as a Chief Commissioner's Province within the Union of India.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became a Union Territory on 1 November 1956 separating from Punjab.
- ❖ It became the 18th state of India in the year 1971.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27

- ❖ The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.



- ❖ In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is “Memory, Dignity, and Justice”.
- ❖ The United Nations designated the day in 2005.

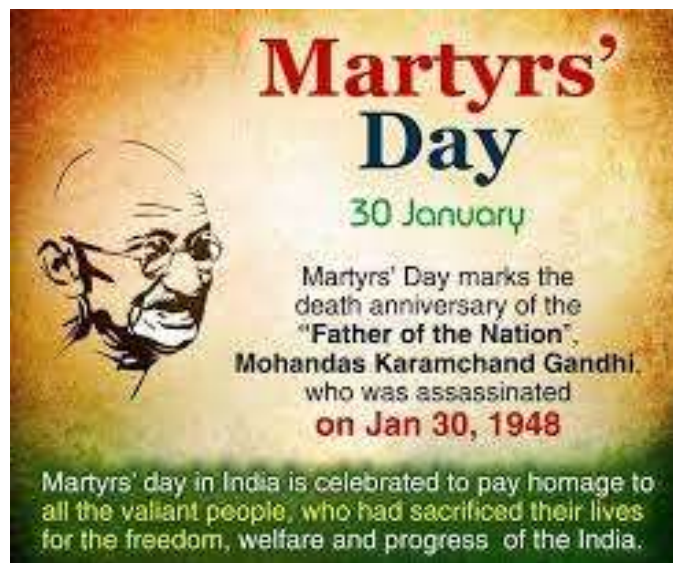
Data Privacy Day - January 28

- ❖ The objective of the day is to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles.
- ❖ It encourages everyone to own their privacy responsibilities to create a culture of privacy.
- ❖ The theme for this year is ‘Privacy Matters’.



Martyrs' Day - January 30

- ❖ Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed every year on January 30 in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

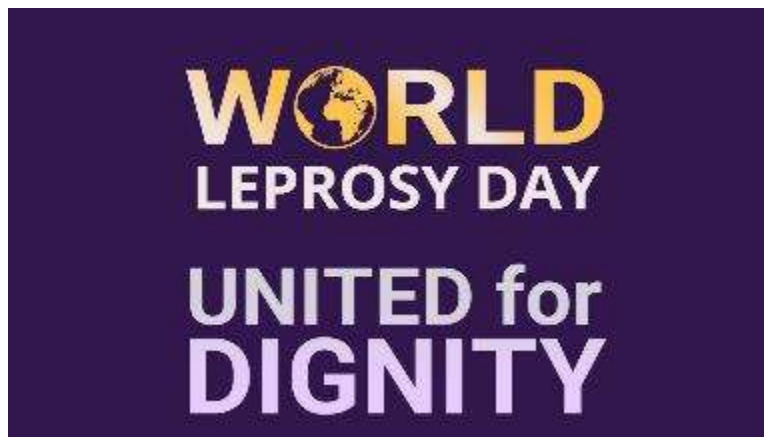


- ❖ Gandhi was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House at Delhi by Nathuram Godse in 1948.



- ❖ This year nation observed 74th Martyrs' Day.
- ❖ The day is observed to remember the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence and to pay our respects to them.
- ❖ Notably, Martyrs' Day is also observed in India on March 23 to pay respect to Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar.
- ❖ They were hanged death on this day in 1931.

World Leprosy Day 2022 - January 30



- ❖ The day is observed on the last Sunday in the month of January.
- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about leprosy disease across the world.
- ❖ This year the day falls on January 30, 2022.
- ❖ It is also known as Hansen's disease.
- ❖ The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau who made people know about this ancient disease
- ❖ The theme for this year's World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity' and to create an environment for leprosy people to live a dignified life.

