

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH 2022

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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ USA President Joe Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.
  - She is now the first Black woman elected to serve on the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Ukraine has submitted its application against Russia to the International Court of Justice.
- ❖ An amount of ₹18,000 crores has been returned to banks from Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi.
- ❖ The government of India has launched an evacuation mission named Operation Ganga.
  - This is to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension.
- ❖ Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in the junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.
  - The 15-year-old Sadia Tariq hails from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Bangladesh has become the largest recipient of the COVID vaccines donated by the US worldwide via the Covax facility of the WHO.
- ❖ Ilker Ayci has declined the offer of Tata Sons to be the new Air India Chief executive officer.
- ❖ Self-Injury Awareness Day is observed globally on March 1st.
  - This is to raise awareness about self-harming behaviours such as “cutting” and other intentional methods of self-injury.
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a newly developed ‘Arogya Vanam’ at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
  - The objective of this Arogya Vanam is to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- ❖ The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made the decision to approve 20% FDI via the automatic method in the Life Insurance Corporation.
  - The government hopes that doing so, will make it easier for India’s largest insurer to be disinvested.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Education, Annpurna Devi, presented the National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Awards 2022.
  - The Award was presented to 49 teachers across India.
- ❖ The Global Mobile Economy Report was showcased at the “Mobile World Congress (MWC)” in Barcelona, Spain.



- The Global Mobile Economy Report shows that the total number of 5G connections globally is likely to reach 1 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The Swiss Air Lines, the subsidiary of Lufthansa, plans to become the world's first airline to use solar fuel.
  - Lufthansa and Swiss have started the strategic cooperation with the manufacturer Synhelion for market launch.
- ❖ The 'Stree Manoraksha Project' has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru.
  - This was launched with the aim to improve women's mental health across India.
- ❖ March 4 is observed as World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation every year since 2009.
  - It is to create awareness against sexual exploitation, which overwhelmingly involves women and children.
- ❖ Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways.
  - The Jalan Kalrock Consortium is the new promoter of Jet Airways.
- ❖ The Telangana State has ranked the highest in the country among states with a population over 1 crore in terms of growth rate in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices.
  - This is as per the latest data, from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.
- ❖ Russian forces have seized control of a key port city in southern Ukraine.
  - Kherson is the first major city to be taken by Russia.
- ❖ Hero MotoCorp has unveiled a new brand "Vida" for its emerging mobility solutions and upcoming electric vehicles.
  - It has been unveiled in Dubai (Vida means life).
- ❖ India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
  - With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver.
- ❖ The 53<sup>rd</sup> Raising Day ceremony of the Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) was organized on March 06, 2022, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
  - CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in India and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs with headquarters located at New Delhi.





- ❖ The government has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana and its components for the financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - Under this scheme, freedom fighters, and their dependents are given financial benefits and pensions.
- ❖ Next-Gen 3D Printed Catalysts are developed by researchers at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University in Melbourne, Australia.
  - Their main application of 3D Printed catalysts is solving the overheating challenge in hypersonic aircraft.
- ❖ Dalit Bandhu is the Telangana government's flagship programme.
  - It is a welfare scheme for empowering Dalit families of the state and enabling entrepreneurship among them through a Rs 10 lakh direct benefit transfer per family.
- ❖ India's first 100 percent women-owned industrial park named FLO Industrial Park was opened in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the allotment of houses by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board will henceforth be made in the name of woman heads of the family.
  - Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board was formerly the Slum Clearance Board.
- ❖ The University of Madras announced an award in the name of Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar to be presented to deserving girl students of the university.
- ❖ The Hindu Group has been named the 'Publisher of the Year' for the second consecutive year at the WAN-IFRA South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021.
  - The World Association of News Publishers is the global organization of the world's press.
- ❖ Andy Murray said that he would donate his prize money from tennis tournaments for the rest of the year to UNICEF's Ukraine appeal.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has retained its number one spot in the SKOCH State of Governance rankings for the second consecutive year.
  - The second rank was bagged by West Bengal and Odisha was ranked 3.
- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) is constructing a green charging hub along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway.
  - NHEV is an organization for promoting the electrification of the country's transportation systems.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited announced the opening of the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.



- It is set to act as a business, commerce, and cultural destination.
- ❖ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said his government would revive its long-pending demand for the inclusion of Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
  - The state cabinet had sent a proposal to the Centre in this regard in 2017.
- ❖ Famous Golfer, Tiger Woods from USA was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
  - He is a former financial services secretary.
- ❖ The Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane has announced the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design, and IPR) as well as the MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.
  - He claims that these programmes will assist entrepreneurs in launching new businesses.
- ❖ The Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months.
  - The notification came into effect on February 28.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar while presenting the state budget, has announced a 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women.
  - The award is given for their significant achievements or contribution to different walks of life in the international and national spheres.
- ❖ The Bolivian soldier Mario Terán Salazar died at the age of 80 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in eastern Bolivia.
  - He was who claimed to have killed the Argentine-Cuban guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara in 1967.
- ❖ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the 3rd edition of the NIC Tech Conclave 2022.
- ❖ The Kerala government has put aside Rs 1 million to construct a memorial to MS Viswanathan.
- ❖ The 11th edition of the Khel Mahakumbh was started at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - This edition of the Khel Mahakumbh includes 36 general sports and 26 para-sports.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) was honored with the "National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21".



- This is in recognition of its best performance in Self-Help Group Bank Linkage.
- ❖ The first Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre of India was inaugurated in Manesar, Haryana.
- ❖ For the first time, India's equity market reached the world's fifth position in terms of market capitalization.
  - At present India is ranked 5th, after the U.S., China, Japan, and Hong Kong.
- ❖ The chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chairman of Air India.
  - In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years.
- ❖ Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen has settled for silver in the men's singles final at the German Open 2022.
  - He lost to Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.
- ❖ The Karnataka High Court dismissed various petitions challenging a ban on hijab in educational institutions.
  - The High Court, in its judgment also stated that wearing the hijab is not an essential religious practice of Islam.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin announced that a mega book park would be established in the state.
  - The government will identify land for the same and extend necessary support to create the park.
- ❖ Chennai will host the 44th Chess Olympiad in July this year.
  - The International Chess Federation (FIDE) Council had decided to shift the venue of the event out of Moscow.
- ❖ Rashtriya Indian Military College, for the first time in its history of 100-years, will induct girls cadets from July 2022.
  - Five girl cadets are set to join the college in 2022.
- ❖ Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has announced that it has become the country's largest coal producer.
  - In the financial year 2021-22, the company reported it produced 157 million tonnes of coal.
- ❖ The Supreme Court granted permission to the Tamil Nadu government to continue providing reservations of 50 percent seats at the super-specialty level in Government Medical Colleges to service doctors in the state.
- ❖ Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Punjab at Khatkar Kalan, the place famous for the memorial of Bhagat Singh.



- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle has been unveiled in Madagascar to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.
- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the advanced Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai at New Delhi.
  - Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organization has successfully completed the ground test of the solid fuel-based booster stage of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.
  - It was done at Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota at Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The International Court of Justice ordered Russia to stop the military actions in Ukraine.
  - Russia started it on 24 February.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre in Hyderabad was laid by Chief Justice of India N.V.Ramana.
  - IAMC-Hyderabad is India's first arbitration center for alternative dispute resolution.
- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the central government's decision on One Rank, One Pension (OROP) for defense forces.
  - It said that it does not find any constitutional infirmity in the manner in which it is being implemented.
- ❖ Smriti Irani launched the new motto of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on its 17th Foundation Day (March 01, 2022).
  - The new motto encourages us to protect the future i.e. our children, because in their welfare lies the foundation of a strong Nation.
- ❖ Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has partnered with UNESCO to help preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India.
- ❖ On March 20 the International Day of La Francophonie is celebrated around the world.
  - It commemorates the signing of the Niamey Convention which took place on March 20, 1970.
- ❖ International Nowruz Day, the Iranian New year, has observed that occurs on 21 March.
  - Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox.





- ❖ Indian Coast Guard's fifth offshore patrol vessel 'Saksham' was commissioned in Goa by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.
  - The 105-meter offshore patrol vessel [OPV] has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- ❖ The 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) was held in Jakarta.
  - It was co-chaired by the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia, Mohammad Mahfud, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.
- ❖ Indian-American public health expert Dr. Ashish Jha will take over as President Joe Biden's Covid-19 Response Coordinator.
- ❖ N Biren Singh of BJP was sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term.
- ❖ Karnataka Bank has bagged the "Best MSME Bank of the year – Winner" award among private sector Banks.
  - The award was given at the 8th MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit 2022 instituted by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi.
- ❖ The 14th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi.
  - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida participated in the summit.
- ❖ Hyderabad FC has clinched their maiden Indian Super League title in Football.
  - They defeated Kerala Blasters in the penalty shoot-out.
- ❖ India has retrieved 29 stolen pieces of centuries-old artefacts from Australia
  - The artefacts will be handed over to temples of respective states.
- ❖ Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit).
  - This makes it among the hottest places on earth.
- ❖ Bharatiya Janata Party leader Pushkar Singh Dhami will take oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for his second consecutive term.
  - Dhami will be the 13th Chief Minister of the hill state.
- ❖ The Union Minister Bharati Pravin Pawar has inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
  - The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR.
- ❖ Kerala is set to become the first state in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods.



- ❖ International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members 2022 is observed on March 25.
  - This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice, and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- ❖ India has achieved the ambitious goods export target of \$400 billion ahead of schedule for the financial year 2021-22.
- ❖ The International Day for Achievers is observed every year on March 24.
  - It is to celebrate achievers and their strong sense of purpose and confidence.
- ❖ Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022.
  - Banco Central de Chile is the name of the central bank of Chile.
- ❖ North Korea has test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) named Hwasong-17.
  - This missile is the world's largest liquid-fuelled ICBM.
- ❖ The annual Mangaluru Kambala's fifth edition will be held on the grounds of Goldfinch City in Bangra Kulur.
  - It is a buffalo race held annually in Karnataka.
- ❖ 'Rape is rape, be it by man or husband' said the Karnataka HC on marital rape.
  - The Karnataka High Court said that marriage is not a license for 'unleashing a brutal beast'
- ❖ The Bharatiya Janata Party announced the name of Pramod Sawant for a second term as Goa Chief Minister.
- ❖ The Central government extended the scheme to provide 5 kg of foodgrains free of cost to the poor by six months till September 30.
  - The scheme, which started when India went into stringent lockdown two years back, was to end on 31 March.
- ❖ The Sports Ministry is set to build India's first-ever Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla.
  - It will be done in partnership with the Himachal Pradesh state government.
- ❖ The Council of Europe expelled Russia from the continent's foremost human rights body in an unprecedented move over Moscow's invasion and war in Ukraine.
  - It was an end to its 26 years of membership in the group.

- ❖ India's P.V. Sindhu won the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament.
  - She defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to claim the title.
- ❖ India's Defence Research and Development Organisation has successfully carried out the test firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile air defense system.
  - The test fire was carried out off the coast of Odisha's Balasore.
- ❖ The Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have signed Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements.
  - This helps in unrestricted movement of buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws.
- ❖ Darshan Singh of the Services and Varsha Devi of the Railways finally defended their men's and women's titles in the National Cross Country Championships.
  - The 10KM athlete Championship was held at Kohima, Nagaland.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Palk Bay Dugong Reserve**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has begun work to set up the first Dugong Conservation Reserve of India in the Palk Bay region.
- ❖ Dugongs are endangered species and are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act's, 1972 Schedule 1.
- ❖ The size of the reserve will be spread over around 500 sq km and will be located in Palk Bay's northern part from Adiramapattinam to Amapattinam.
- ❖ Dugongs are also known as Sea Cows.



## **Ungalil Oruvan**

- ❖ Rahul Gandhi, leader of Congress, has released the autobiography of DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.
- ❖ “Ungalil Oruvan” (One Among You) is the name of that autobiography.
- ❖ The book’s first copy was received by state Water Resources Minister and senior DMK leader Duraimurugan.
- ❖ MK Stalin is the 8th chief minister of Tamil Nadu.



## **Ambulance for street animals**



- ❖ India’s first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization “Four Paw”.
- ❖ The Stray Animal Care programme will be a “hospital on wheels” with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.

### **Naan Mudhalvan scheme**



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.
- ❖ It aims to equip about 10 lakh youth across the State annually with skills that will help them realize their talents for the benefit of the country.
- ❖ The scheme aims to identify, train and offer career and academic guidance to talented students in government-run and State-aided educational institutions.

### **Oath of administration**



- ❖ The swearing-in ceremony of 200 councilors of Greater Chennai Corporation was done with Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi administering the oath of office/affirmation.
- ❖ There were 102 women and 98 men councilors.

### **Mayor of Chennai**

- ❖ Twenty-nine-year-old R Priya of the DMK will be the first Dalit woman to hold the post of Mayor of Chennai.
- ❖ Priya will be Chennai's third woman mayor after Tara Cherian and Kamakshi Jayaraman.



- ❖ Priya will be taking over as councilor of ward 74, Mangalapuram.
- ❖ She is also the first mayor from North Chennai.



### **Top borrower state - TN**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has been the top borrower among States in the current fiscal 2022.
- ❖ Overall, the State has raised ₹65,400 crores through the issuance of bonds called State Development Loans (SDLs) in April-February 2022.
- ❖ It is about 18% lower than the ₹79,500 crore raised during the same period in fiscal 2021.
- ❖ After Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are the top borrowing States.

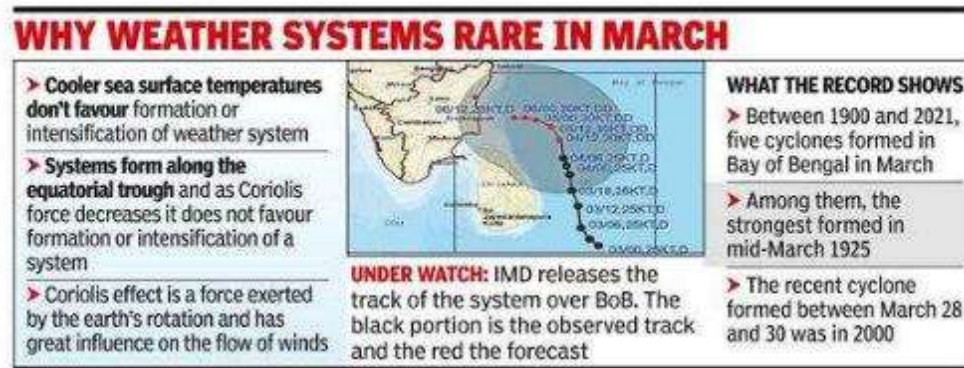
### **Rectangular ivory dice**



- ❖ A rectangular dice made of ivory measuring 4.5 cm was recovered during the eighth phase of archaeological excavations in Keeladi.
- ❖ This is the first time that the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology has stumbled upon a rectangular dice after it took over the excavations from the fourth phase in Keeladi.

- ❖ However, rectangular and cubical dices made of ivory and terracotta were found in the first two phases of the Keeladi excavation.

### Rare depression in the Bay of Bengal



- ❖ A rare weather phenomenon of depression in March is unfolding over the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The approaching weather system set a new record as such depressions that are considered unusual in March.
- ❖ In the past 130 years, the Bay of Bengal has churned two depressions in March.
- ❖ It was in 1938 and 1994.

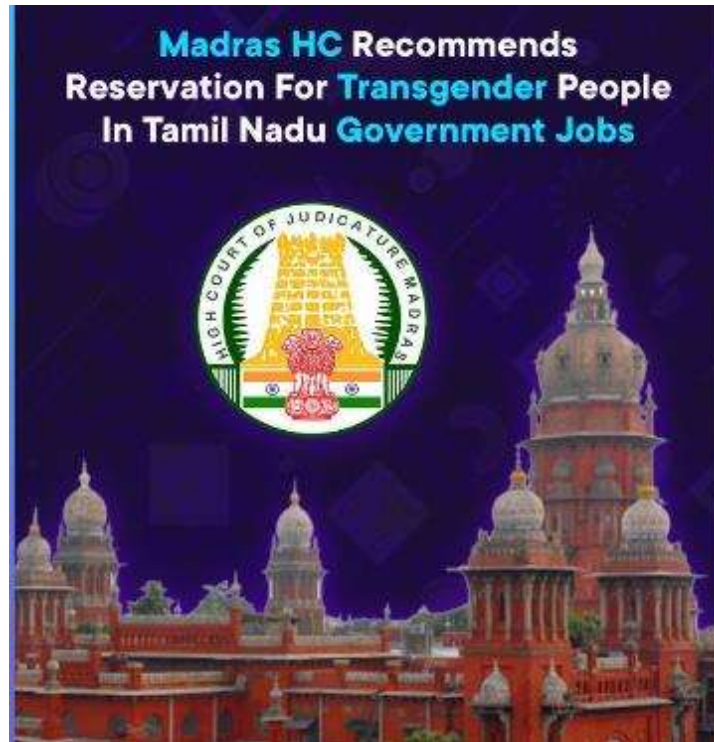
### Liquor shops

- ❖ The State government informed the Madras High Court of having amended the Tamil Nadu Liquor Retail Vending (In Shops and Bars) Rules of 2003.
- ❖ These rules were framed under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act of 1937.
- ❖ This makes it mandatory for Collectors to consider objections received with regard to the location of liquor shops before approving the location.
- ❖ As per the amendment to this Rule, no State-run liquor shop should commence business unless the location of the shop had been approved by the Collector.

### Reservation to transgenders

- ❖ The Madras High Court strongly recommended to the Tamil Nadu government to provide a specified percentage of special reservation for the Transgenders/Third Genders (TGs) in future public employments.
- ❖ This was recommended apart from other relaxations and concessions extended to the socially and economically backward classes.

- ❖ While granting any reservation, concessions, and relaxations to the TGs, the State government shall take into account the ratio adopted for granting similar privileges to the other socially and economically backward classes and
- ❖ It needs to adopt a similar method for determining these privileges for the Transgenders.



### **Mayor election**

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, 12,800 newly elected urban civic body ward councilors took the oath of office.
- ❖ Indirect elections for the posts of Mayors and Deputy Mayors of municipal corporations, Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of municipalities, and town panchayats were held across the State on March 4.
- ❖ This is the first time that the 21 municipal corporations, 138 municipalities, and 489 town panchayats have elected representatives after a gap of six years.
- ❖ Of the 20 Mayor posts, DMK Government has allotted 11 to women and 9 to men.



Tamilnadu list			
Chennai Corporation	Tambaram Corporation	Salem Corporation	Karur Corporation
Mayor: R Priya M.Com	Mayor: Vasanthakumari Kamalakaran B.Tech	Mayor: A Ramachandran	Mayor: Kavitha Ganesan M.Sc., B.Ed.,
Deputy Mayor: Mukesh kumar BA	Deputy Mayor: G. Kamaraj	Tirupur Corporation	Deputy Mayor: Dharani B. Saravanan B.Sc.,
Madurai Corporation	Kancheepuram Corporation	Mayor: N Dinesh Kumar M.B.A.,	Hosur Corporation
Mayor: Indirani B.A., M.L.I.S.,	Mayor: Mahalakshmi Yuvaraj B.E., M.B.A.,	Erode Corporation	Mayor: S Sathya
Tiruchy Corporation	Vellore Corporation	Mayor: Nagarathinam	Deputy Mayor: C Anandhaiyya
Mayor - M Anbazhagan M.A.,	Mayor: Sujatha Anandakumar	Deputy Mayor: Selvaraj	Dindigul Corporation
Deputy Mayor: Divya Dhanakodi B.Com	Deputy Mayor: Mr Sunil	Tutucorin Corporation	Mayor: Elamathi B.B.A.,
Tirunelveli Corporation	Cuddalore Corporation	Mayor: NB Jegan, M.Com.,	Deputy Mayor: Rajappa
Mayor: BM Saravanan B.A.,	Mayor: Mrs. Sundari	Deputy Mayor: Jenita Selvaraj	Sivakasi Corporation
Deputy Mayor: KR Raju B.A.,D.Lit.,	Tanjavur Corporation	Avadi Corporation	Mayor: Sangeetha Inbam B.A.,
Coimbatore Corporation	Mayor: SN Raamanathan M.B.A.,	Mayor: G Udhayakumar	Deputy Mayor: Vignesh Priya M.Sc,
Mayor: Kalpana	Deputy Mayor: Anjugam Boopathi M.B.B.S., M.D.,	Nagercoil Corporation	
Deputy Mayor: R Vetrivelan	Kumbakonam Corporation	Mayor: Magesh B.A, B.L.,	
	Deputy Mayor: Tamizazhagan	Deputy Mayor: Mary Princy M.A.,	

### Overall Installed Renewable Capacity - TN

- ❖ According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Tamil Nadu (TN) has achieved the first position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in India surpassing Karnataka.
- ❖ As of 31st January 2022, TN's total installed renewable capacity stood at 15,914 MegaWatt.
- ❖ Karnataka's total clean energy capacity was 15,795 MW.
- ❖ In recent years, Tamil Nadu has increased its capacity across solar and wind segments to regain its top position against Karnataka.

### Excavation at Maligaimedu

- ❖ A broken piece of bracelet made of gold and copper, a brick structure, and Chinese potsherds were unearthed in Ariyalur.



- ❖ These were found during the second phase of excavation at the southern part of Maligaimedu near Gangaikondacholapuram.
- ❖ The broken bracelet, weighing 7.920 grams and 4 mm thick, and made of copper and gold was the first remnant excavated from the site.
- ❖ Objects made of gold and other metals combined indicate that there was a royal palace here.



### **Women to head Avadi Police Commissionerate**

- ❖ To recognize the role played by women personnel on the occasion of International Women's Day, women officers will be given charge of all police stations under the Avadi Police Commissionerate for a day.
- ❖ For the first time in India, all police stations in a Commissionerate will be headed by women officers.
- ❖ This initiative is to recognize, honor, celebrate and cherish the role of women in our uniformed services.





## India's first furniture park

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin laid the foundation stone for India's first international furniture park at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The park seeks to create a better ecosystem to meet 70-80 percent of the raw material demand.



## Floating solar project in Tamilnadu



- ❖ A floating solar project at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu has been set up by leading fertilizer manufacturer Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd.
- ❖ The unit is claimed to be India's largest and first floating power plant in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International, owns this project.
- ❖ Yearly, this plant can generate 42.0 million units of electricity.

### **Bail granted to Perarivalan**



- ❖ The Supreme Court has granted bail to Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict AG Perarivalan.
- ❖ Perarivalan is serving a life sentence in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.
- ❖ He has served 32 years in prison till now.
- ❖ In 2014, his death sentence and that of two others, Murugan and Santhan (both Sri Lankan Tamils), was commuted to life over the long pendency of their mercy petitions by the Apex court.
- ❖ The Council of Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu had recommended Perarivalan's release on September 9, 2018 to the Governor under Article 161 (pardoning power) of the Indian Constitution.

### **Entry of domesticated cattle into forest areas**

- ❖ The Madras High Court has directed the Forest Department not to allow any domesticated cattle to venture into the forest areas across Tamil Nadu for grazing.
- ❖ The verdict aimed at reserving the forests only for wild animals and preventing multiple threats faced by them owing to the entry of domestic cattle.

### **Avvaiyar Award 2022**

- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Avvaiyar Award for 2022 to social worker Girija Kumarbabu.
- ❖ This was in recognition of her service towards the welfare of women and children.
- ❖ The Avvaiyar Award includes an eight-gram gold medal, a cheque for ₹1 lakh, a shawl, and a citation.

- ❖ Mr. Stalin also handed over the 'Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R. Traditional Rice Variety Conservator Award' for 2020-21.
- ❖ It was awarded to S. Moorthy from Namakkal district, K. Ponnu Puthiyavan from Tirunelveli district, and P. Lakshmi Devi from Tirunelveli district.



### **Chief Minister's fellowship programme**

Research will be done in 12 areas to: 1) augment water resources, 2) increase agricultural production and create marketing linkages, 3) provide housing for all, 4) improve educational standards, 5) boost health indicators, 6) achieve social inclusion, 7) upgrade infrastructure and facilitate industrial development, 8) provide skill development and entrepreneurship development, 9) facilitate institutional credit, 10) protect heritage and culture, 11) achieve ecological balance and 12) enhance data governance.

- ❖ The State government has issued orders for implementing Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme (TNCMFP) during 2022-24.
- ❖ 24 persons would get the fellowship for researching in 12 identified thematic areas.
- ❖ TNCMFP aims to create a pool of knowledgeable and action-oriented resources to work on policy efficacy, identify gaps, build internationally referred benchmarks for policy and programme outcomes.
- ❖ Bharathidasan Institute of Management in Tiruchi has been proposed to be the academic partner for the fellowships.

## **Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd**



- ❖ Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd. (TPL) has received the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) from the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- ❖ With the BIS certification, TPL emerges as the only authorized seller of LAB in the Indian market.
- ❖ It has also become the world's first LAB manufacturer accredited with BIS 12795:2020 certification.

## **Property registrations in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The Revenue from property registrations touched a new high, with 12,700 crore revenue generated till the second week of March this fiscal.
- ❖ This is a leap with respect to revenues of 1,672 crores and 2,057 crores in 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- ❖ Chennai and Coimbatore zones have together contributed around 60% of the total income.
- ❖ The Chennai zone comprising the city, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts contributed about 45% of the total income.

## **Spotted Royal butterfly**

- ❖ The Spotted Royal (*Tajuria maculata*) butterfly was rediscovered again in the Nilgiris district.
- ❖ It has not been recorded in the Nilgiris for over a century.



- ❖ It was rediscovered by members of the Wynter-Blyth Association (WBA).
- ❖ It is known to occur in the Northeast of India.
- ❖ The Spotted Royal lives close to its host plant, which is native Loranthus species.



### Tamil Nadu Covid-19 death

- ❖ After almost two years, Tamil Nadu reported no Covid-19 death on March 11th.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has so far reported 38,023 Covid deaths since March 2020.
- ❖ The state recorded the first death on March 25 of 2020 in the Government Rajaji General Hospital in Madurai.

### Ice cream factory





- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister opened a new ice cream factory at Aavin Dairy in Madurai.
- ❖ On behalf of the National Dairy Board, he opened a new ice cream plant with a production capacity of 30,000 liters.
- ❖ The plant here is the second for Aavin in Tamil Nadu after Chennai.

### Advanced robotic surgery center



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K.Stalin inaugurated an advanced robotic surgery center at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate.
- ❖ The robotic system with two consoles was procured through Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation
- ❖ The da Vinci robotic surgery system installed at TNGMSSH was an advanced form of minimally invasive surgery system.
- ❖ Robotic surgery would enable surgeons to perform complex major surgeries with ease by using robotic instruments.
- ❖ The installation is the first in a State-owned government set-up in the country.

### Tamil Nadu Data Policy

- ❖ Aiming to harness data for effective decision-making, the Tamil Nadu government has formulated the Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022.
- ❖ It is expected to support policy-making, improve implementation of schemes, encourage value-added services, improve access to and quality of services.

- ❖ A State-level empowered data governance committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, would provide strategic guidance for the data policy framework.
- ❖ A data inter-departmental committee, headed by the Chief Executive Officer of Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), would make the operational-level decisions emanating from the policy.
- ❖ The CEO of the TNeGA would be the State's Chief Data Officer.



### Tamilnadu budget – highlights

**Fiscal prudence** | Budget presented by Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Friday tried to balance fiscal prudence with growth and welfare-related expenditure

<p><b>REVENUE DEFICIT DOWN:</b> <b>₹7,000 crore</b> decline in revenue deficit in the revised estimate (RE) for 2021-22 compared to 2020-21. Decline seen for the first time after 7 years</p> <p><b>FISCAL DEFICIT DOWN: 3.8%</b> of gross State</p>	<p>domestic product is the fiscal deficit (FD) of Tamil Nadu as per RE for 2021-22, which is a decline of 0.8 percentage points compared to 2020-21</p> <p><b>EMPOWERING WOMEN:</b> <b>₹1,000</b> to be credited per month to girl students during their undergraduate, diploma and industrial training courses, provided they studied Class 6 to 12 in government schools. Six lakh students to benefit each year</p>	<p><b>BOOSTING GROWTH: 51%</b> rise in allocation of budget for industries and MSME sector. Allocation of ₹4,179 crore in 2022-23 compared to the RE of ₹2,764 crore in 2021-22</p> <p><b>FOCUS ON EDUCATION:</b> <b>₹4,885 crore</b> increase in allocation for education compared to previous year. School education gets the highest allocation of ₹36,896 crore</p>
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- ❖ Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan presented the General Budget for 2022-23 in the House on March 18, 2022.
- ❖ This is the second Budget of the DMK government.
- ❖ It was presented as an e-budget.
- ❖ A separate organization will be set up for Climate Change and green initiatives.
- ❖ The Government announces 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' to protect & conserve the 'State Animal' of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ All girl students in Tamil Nadu who studied from classes 6 to 12 in Government schools will be paid Rs.1,000/- per month directly into their bank account till the

uninterrupted completion of their undergraduate degree, diploma, and ITI courses.

- ❖ A Mobile information centers would be launched for migrant workers.
- ❖ New museums will be built this year in Villupuram and Ramanathapuram districts.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will launch the 'Perasiriyar Anbazhagan School Development Scheme' to modernize the government schools.
- ❖ The State Startup Hub Centre with all facilities will be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation at Nandambakkam, Chennai.

### **Mina Swaminathan**

- ❖ Mina Swaminathan, a childcare expert, died due to the old age.
- ❖ She was at 89.
- ❖ She is the wife of agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan.



### **Tamilnadu Budget 2022 – highlights**

- ❖ The revenue deficit has been brought down by ₹ 7,000 crores from 4.61 per cent to 3.80 per cent.
- ❖ The revenue deficit which has been going up in an alarming trend since 2014 will be reversed this year.
- ❖ The revised budget estimate had pegged the revenue deficit at ₹58,692.68 crores for 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt as of 31st March 2023 will be ₹6,53,348.73 crore.
- ❖ This constitutes 26.29% of Gross State Domestic Product in 2022-23.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit also will see a reduction from 4.61 per cent last year to 3.8 per cent.

- ❖ For the third consecutive year, the school education department has been accorded the highest allocation in the State Budget, at Rs 36,895.89 crore.



### ***Important initiatives***

- ❖ The earlier 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme, which provided gold and financial assistance for women's marriages, has been reshaped into a higher education assurance scheme.
- ❖ ₹5 crores have been allocated to translate Periyar's writings and works in other languages.
- ❖ To provide quality mental health services, the government has planned to establish a Tamil Nadu Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, by upgrading the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Kilpauk, Chennai.
- ❖ The New museums will be built this year in Villupuram and Ramanathapuram districts at an estimated cost of ₹10 crores.
- ❖ It has decided to set up a Children's Nature Park to house birds, butterflies and animals by remodelling the Guindy Children's Park.
- ❖ The State government has allocated ₹10 crores towards upgrading the disaster early warning system in Chennai.
- ❖ This is the first such initiative set up by the state government in India.
- ❖ To motivate government school students to aspire to join premier higher education institutions like IIT, IISC & AIIMS, the Tamil Nadu government will bear the full cost of undergraduate education of students who studied in government schools from classes 6-12.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will revive and implement the Maduravoyal - Chennai Port Elevated Corridor Project.
- ❖ The Special Social Media Monitoring Cells would be set up in the state.
- ❖ It is to battle fake news and misinformation on social media platforms





- ❖ In order to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of a famous Tamil saint and poet Ramalinga Adigal, or Vallalar, the government will launch 'Vallalar Palluyir Kappagangal' scheme, that will help NGOs take care of abandoned animals.
- ❖ The tribal on-site museum at Courtallam in Tenkasi district, the pre-historic on-site museum at Poondi in Tiruvallur district and the Hero-Stone on-site museum in Dharmapuri district will be upgraded.
- ❖ Under the 'Climate-Friendly Modernisation of Buses in Major Cities of Tamil Nadu' Project being implemented with Germany's KfW bank assistance, 2,213 BS-VI new diesel buses and 500 new electric buses will be procured.

#### **MSME sector**

- ❖ It has hiked the allocation for Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) Department by almost 48%.
- ❖ With a view of helping micro enterprises' clusters, it would launch a new "Micro Cluster Development Programme".
- ❖ The Budget has announced an allocation of ₹50 crores for the development of 20 microclusters, including artificial jewellery making by Narikuruvars in Kancheepuram district, toy cluster in Madurai district, the cookware cluster in Tirunelveli district and cashew processing cluster in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development Corporation will be set up in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The government would set up new industrial parks in Coimbatore, Perambalur, Madurai, Vellore and Tiruvallur districts to promote widespread industrial development.
- ❖ For the manufacturing of electronic products, two exclusive clusters will be established at Pillaipakkam and Manallur.
- ❖ In order to ease traffic movement and to regulate the parking of heavy vehicles, Truck Terminal Facilities at Cheyyar and Gummidipoondi will be constructed.
- ❖ Reserving 5% of all government divisible procurement for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs is another significant initiative.

#### **Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister MRK Paneerselvam presented his first full-fledged Agricultural Budget 2022-2023.
- ❖ The state has increased the agricultural land area to 53.50 lakh acres.
- ❖ Further, the state allotted Rs 400 crore for organic farming and also decided to implement special schemes to enhance millet production.
- ❖ The state is set to provide Rs 1 lakh to 200 educated youngsters for starting up agriculture-related businesses.





- ❖ Tamil nadu will launch State Agricultural Development Plan for Rs 71 crore.
- ❖ The State is to increase subsidy for SC/ST farmers by 20% and Rs 5 crore has been allotted for the purpose.
- ❖ Special zones are to be set up for cultivation of Toor dal in Salem and Krishnagiri.
- ❖ New soil testing center is to be set up in Mayiladuthurai for Rs 75 lakh.
- ❖ Tamilnadu allotted Rs 5,157 crore for providing free electricity to farmers.
- ❖ The NPKR Ramasamy Coop Sugar Mills to be reopened in Mayiladuthurai
- ❖ Rs 2 crore has been allotted for reviving cultivation of traditional vegetables.
- ❖ For the cultivation of unseasonal tomatoes, Rs 4 crore has been allotted.
- ❖ The state is to distribute 10 lakh palm seeds to increase palm trees in the state.
- ❖ The state aims to achieve 126 lakh MT of food grains production this year.
- ❖ Three food parks are to be set up in Theni, Dindivanam, and Manaparai for Rs 381 crore.
- ❖ Farmers are to be involved in the production of jaggery

**Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget Highlights**

- Rs 400 crore allocated for organic farming
- Rs 2,339 crore allocated to crop insurance scheme
- Rs 5,157.56 crore allocated for free electricity to farmers
- Rs 12 crore allocated to encourage tree plantation
- New soil testing centre to be set up in Mayiladuthurai for Rs 75 lakhs

- ❖ 3,000 solar pumps are to be set up under TN CM's scheme.
- ❖ Digital Agricultural is to be allocated Rs 8 crore.
- ❖ State government is to allot Rs 150 crore for purchasing machinery to overcome the agriculture labour shortage.
- ❖ A special team is to be set up under Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary to find solutions to problems faced by the farmers.
- ❖ Farmers excelling in agriculture are to be honored with a state government award.
- ❖ Millet festivals are to be conducted at the state and district level.
- ❖ The Government designed the app is to be launched for farmers to know details about seedings to sales.

- ❖ A Vegetable market complex is to be set up in partnership with private players in Coimbatore, Theni, and Kanyakumari.

### **Narasingapettai nagaswaram**

- ❖ The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram has earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under 'musical instruments of class 15'.
- ❖ The unique feature of the nagaswaram is its production process.
- ❖ It is handmade in Narasingapettai village in Thanjavur, unlike the other machine-made ones.
- ❖ Artisans of the nagaswaram choose the wood wisely.
- ❖ It is a type of ebony, ensuring it is 200 years old.
- ❖ The reeds are made from the leaves of a locally grown plant called 'naanai' (a variety of bamboo).



### **Multi-specialty hospital**

FACILITY UPDATE				
<b>1,000</b> beds	Built up space	<b>5.5 lakh</b> sqft		
Size: six-storeys				
Departments	Land area	Elevators	<b>OTHER FACILITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Separate block for operation theaters and ICUs</li><li>■ Green building with solar reflective tiles on terrace</li><li>■ Rainwater harvesting system</li><li>■ Sewage treatment plant</li><li>■ Car parking in the basement</li><li>■ CCTV cameras</li><li>■ Differently-abled friendly with handrails and signage in braille</li></ul>	
<b>13</b>	<b>4.89</b> acre	<b>10</b>		
Estimated cost				
<b>Rs 230 crore</b>				

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin laid the foundation stone for a multi-specialty hospital in Guindy.
- ❖ A Foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of a 1,000-bed multi-specialty hospital building at the King Institute premises in Chennai was held.

### **Green Fellowship programme**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has launched a Green Fellowship programme.
- ❖ This is to actively involve youth in initiatives for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- ❖ They will monitor and evaluate the outcomes, communicate the impact of policies and deliver better services.
- ❖ There will be a total of 40 green fellows, one per district and two at the State level.

### **Tamilnadu Agricultural Budget 2022 highlights**



- ❖ Rs 33,000-crore are allocated in this year for the Agriculture Budget for 2022-23.
- ❖ This year, the allocation for the agriculture sector rose by Rs 231.90 crore from Rs 32,775.78 crore allotted last year.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will provide free electricity to all farmers across the state and has allocated Rs 5,157.56 crore for the same.
- ❖ The food grain production target for 2022-23 will be 126 lakh metric tonnes.
- ❖ The “Sustainable Cotton Cultivation Mission” will be implemented at a budget of Rs.15.32 crore with Union and State Government fund, in order to enhance the Cotton yield.
- ❖ The special measures are being taken to increase soybean cultivation in Tanjore, Salem, Tiruvallur, Nellore and Villupuram districts of the state.

- ❖ Kalaigharin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme scheme will be implemented at an outlay of Rs.300 crore in 3,204 village panchayats converged with Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam.
- ❖ 4 new Uzhavar Sandhais will be established in the districts of Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Vellore and Tirupattur at a total cost of Rs 10 crore.
- ❖ The state government will distribute 10 lakh palm seeds to increase the number of the state tree - palmyra.
- ❖ A special incentive of Rs 195 per metric tonne will be given to the sugarcane farmers. It will benefit 1.2 lakh farmers.
- ❖ An exclusive portal called “Tamil Mann Valam” will be launched in co-ordination with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

### **Paddy coverage**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has achieved a record coverage of paddy this financial year 2021-22.
- ❖ The total area stands at 21.65 lakh hectares.
- ❖ This marks the highest coverage of paddy in the last 15 years.
- ❖ The previous high was 20 lakh hectares in 2015-16.

### **Resolution against Mekedatu dam**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Cauvery Water Management Authority not to consider the detailed project report submitted by Karnataka for the Mekedatu dam project.
- ❖ It urged the Centre to decline permission for the project.

### **First woman dubashi**



- ❖ Rajalakshmi joined the Legislative Assembly as an assistant in 1990.

- ❖ Rajalakshmi is set to retire next May.
- ❖ She has been now appointed as dubashi.
- ❖ This is the first time a woman has been appointed to the post in the Tamil Nadu assembly.

## **Valluvar Street**



- ❖ A street in the United States is named Valluvar Street in the honor of Thiruvalluvar.
- ❖ A street in the Fairfax County of Virginia in the United States is named after him.
- ❖ This street is called 'Valluvar Way' in English and Valluvar Street in Tamil.

## **World Press Photo Award**

- ❖ Madurai-based photographer R. Senthil Kumaran is the winner of the prestigious World Press Photo Award.
- ❖ He had received this for his submission titled 'Boundaries: Human-Tiger Conflict'.







## Award to 21 Scholars

### Awards Details:

Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award for the year 2022 (late) Mr. M. Meenakshi Sundaram  
Thantai Periyar Award – K. Thirumavukarasu  
Annai Ambedkar Award – Justice Chandru  
Grandfather Anna Award – Nanji Sampath  
Chief Kamarajar Award – Dr. Kamari Ananthan  
Mahakavi Bharathiar Award – Bharathi Krishnakumar  
Pavender Bharathi Dasan Award – Pulavar Senthalai Gauthaman  
Muthamil police constable K.A.P. Viswanatham Award – Dr. M. Rasendran  
Kambar Award – Mrs. Bharathi Bhaskar  
Solin Selvar Award – Sonya Xavier  
Jiu Pope Award – A.S. Panneerselvan  
Umanapulavar Award – Na. Mammadu  
Youngsters Award – Neilai Kanna  
Devanayag Pawanar Award – Ku. அரங்கேந்திரன்  
Singaravelar Award – Poet Madhukar Ramalingam  
Meraimalai Adigalar Award – Suki Sivam  
Arutperanjyothi Vallalar Award – Dr. Ina. அருவிநாயர்  
Ayodhya Pandit Award – Gnana Aloysius  
Chief Minister Computer Tamil Award for the year 2020 – Dr. V. Dhanaalakshmi  
C.P. Adithyanar Monday Award – Uyirmai Magazine  
Tamil Thai Award – Malaysian Tamil Writers Association, Malaysia

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin presented the award of the Government of Tamil Nadu to 21 Tamil scholars
- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin presented the award, cheque for the award, and gold medal on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu at a function held on behalf of the Tamil Development Department at the Kalaivanar Arena, Chennai.

## Foreign direct investment - Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tamil Nadu grew about 41.5% to ₹17,696 crores (about \$2.4 billion) in April-December 2021.
- ❖ This has improved from ₹12,504 crores (about \$1.7 billion) in the same period of 2020 (when the first wave of COVID-19 started).
- ❖ Of this, 53% or ₹9,332 crores came in the October-December 2021, the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22.
- ❖ According to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Tamil Nadu's share in the total FDI in the country increased to 5% from 4%.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the fifth-highest share, after Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Delhi.
- ❖ April-September 2021, the State attracted ₹8,364 crores.

### **TNAU - Vice-Chancellor**

- ❖ Professor V. Geethalakshmi has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) by Governor R.N. Ravi.
- ❖ She would be the University's first woman Vice-Chancellor.
- ❖ Ms. Geethalakshmi had 26 years of teaching experience and guided 14 research scholars for doctorates.



### **Amazon's biggest office in Tamil Nadu**



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated Amazon's biggest office in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The office is housed in the World Trade Centre on the information technology corridor of Rajiv Gandhi Salai at Perungudi, Chennai.
- ❖ The state-of-the-art building will also house the research and development team of Amazon's Echo device.

## **NATIONAL**

### **IATA Pay Platform**



- ❖ Global banking group Standard Chartered has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ This is to launch a payment platform for the airline industry in India.
- ❖ IATA Pay will be a new payment option that enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan and Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay).

### **Nishan**

- ❖ Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane has presented Presidential Colours to four parachute battalions at Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The award of President's Colours or the 'Nishan' is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation, both during the war and in peace.

### **Sustainable Cities program**

- ❖ World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ❖ This is to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.
- ❖ The program aims to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and built environment sectors.



### **Polio National Immunization Day**



- ❖ The Polio National Immunization Day (NID) 2022 was organized across the country on Sunday, 27th February 2022.
- ❖ India conducts one nationwide NID and two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNIDs) for polio every year.
- ❖ This is to maintain population immunity against wild poliovirus and to sustain its polio-free status.
- ❖ During the Polio NID, Over 15 crore children are covered across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.

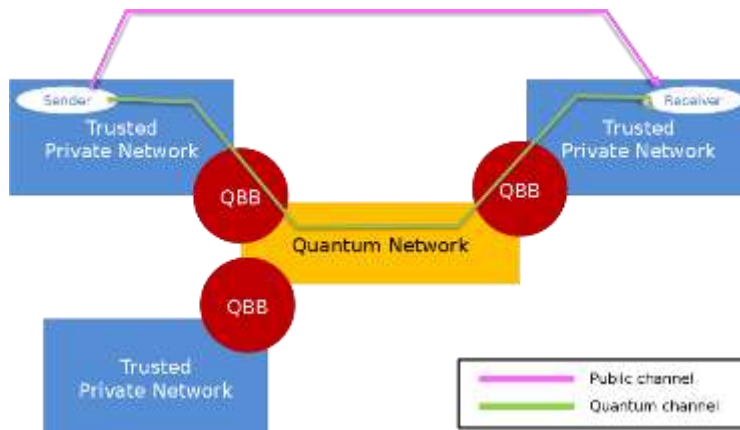
### **President's Fleet Review 2022**



- ❖ The Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam hosted the President's Fleet Review 2022.
- ❖ The fleet review is a long-standing tradition followed by navies all across the world.
- ❖ It is an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance to the sovereign and the state.
- ❖ The 12th Fleet Review holds a special significance as it was conducted on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' across the country.
- ❖ The President's Yacht is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel,
- ❖ INS Sumitra will lead the Presidential Column.

### Quantum Key Distribution link

- ❖ A joint team of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, for the first time in the country successfully demonstrated the Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The distance is more than 100 kilometers.



### Matsya 6000

- ❖ Matsya 6000 will be ready for its launch in 2024 for the Samudrayaan Mission.
- ❖ It is capable of taking 3 humans to a depth of 6,000 meters.
- ❖ MATSYA 6000 is an undersea submersible vehicle designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ It is developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).



- ❖ Mission Samudrayaan aims to send humans for deep-sea exploration.



### **Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign**



- ❖ The Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ This was done with the aim of promoting multilingualism and encouraging cultural diversity so as to foster the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat spirit.
- ❖ This initiative aims to promote the Bhasha Sangam mobile app which has been developed by MyGov India and the Ministry of Education.

## ICMR/DHR Policy

- ❖ For medical professionals, scientists, and technicians in medical, dental, and paramedical institutes, the Union health ministry has launched the ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ This Policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and develop an innovation-led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country by promoting Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.



## New Development Bank



- ❖ New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift).
- ❖ The Indian office will help identify suitable projects and try to create a pipeline of potential financing for the bank.
- ❖ NDB also expects to partner with the newly launched National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) to support crucial infrastructure projects in India.

## **'Hit and Run' Solatium**



- ❖ The Road Transport and Highways Ministry have decided to increase the compensation to the kin of hit-and-run victims by eight times to Rs 2 lakh in case of death starting April 1.
- ❖ The solatium for a person who suffers serious injuries in a hit-and-run case would be increased from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000.

## **Fresh fruits export**



- ❖ Fresh fruits export from India has witnessed a major growth.
- ❖ The major destinations of exports of fresh fruits include the Netherlands, Bangladesh, the UK, the UAE, Iran, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Qatar, and Oman.
- ❖ In April-January 2021-22, guava exports have risen to USD 2.09 million against USD 0.58 million recorded in April-January 2013-14.

- ❖ Paneer (Indian cottage cheese) and Curd (yogurt) exports have increased as well, to USD 30 million in April–January 2021-22 from USD 10 million in April–January 2013-14.

### **Cobra Warrior 22 - India withdraws**



- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided not to send its aircraft to the multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior-22' in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ This is due to the deepening crisis in Ukraine, arising out of the Russian military attack in that country.
- ❖ The exercise is scheduled to take place from March 6 to 27, 2022, at Waddington in the United Kingdom.

### **International Monsoons Project Office**

- ❖ On the occasion of National Science Day 2022, the government has launched an International Monsoons Project Office.
- ❖ The IMPO was set up to highlight the importance of monsoons for the economy of the nation.
- ❖ It will work under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- ❖ IMPO would identify and foster as well as include connections and activities which will be related to international monsoon research.
- ❖ Initially, for five years, the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be based at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.





### **Bilateral Swap Arrangement**



- ❖ Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement.
- ❖ The size of it is up to USD 75 billion.
- ❖ The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar.
- ❖ The actual Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was signed between the Bank of Japan and the Reserve Bank of India in 2018.

### **Indo-Belgian diplomatic ties**

- ❖ A special logo was unveiled to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Belgium.
- ❖ Belgium was among the first European countries to set up a bilateral relationship with India.
- ❖ The logo is a peacock.
- ❖ National flags of both the national, have also been symbolized on either side of the peacock.
- ❖ India is the second-largest importer of and fifth-largest exporter of Belgian products.





## **National Gender Index**



- ❖ The NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index.
- ❖ The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.
- ❖ It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.
- ❖ The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.

## **Women's Day Week**

- ❖ The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrates the International Women's Day week from the 1st of March as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ❖ This will mark an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equity and women's empowerment.
- ❖ On 3rd March 2022, the theme for the celebration was 'Women of Tomorrow'.
- ❖ On 8th March, Nari Shakti Puraskaar will be given.
- ❖ And the International Women's Day Conference for Women Police Delegates from all States and UTs will also be organized.

## **National Conclave on Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities**

- ❖ A National conclave on Social Enterprises for Garbage-Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management in Raipur is being organized.
- ❖ It is organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh government.
- ❖ The theme song "Swachhata Jaari Hai" will also be launched.

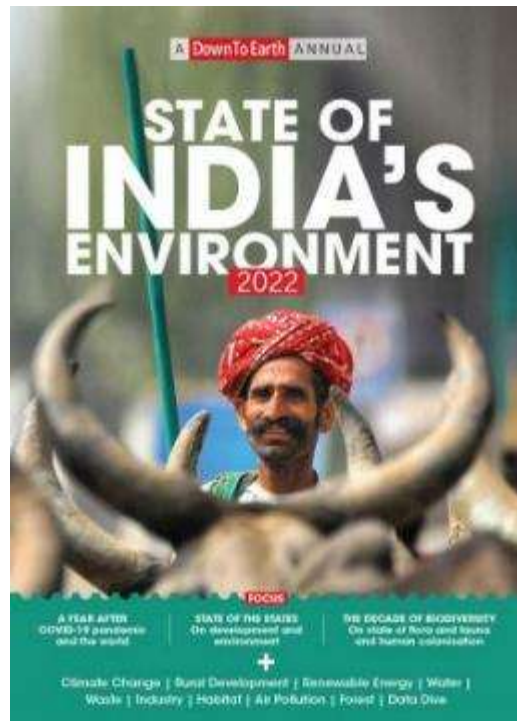


### **Polyester National Flags**

- ❖ The Indian government has allowed the import and manufacture of national flags which are machine-made of polyester.
- ❖ The 2002 Flag Code of India has been amended for this purpose.
- ❖ Earlier rules permitted only those flags which were made by only “hand-spun and weaved wool, cotton, or silk khadi bunting.
- ❖ While machine-made flag imports were banned in 2019.
- ❖ “The National Flag shall be made of hand-spun and hand-woven or machine-made, cotton, polyester, wool, silk khadi bunting” is what the latest revision acknowledged.



## State of India's Environment Report 2022



- ❖ The State of India's Environment Report, 2022 of the Centre for Science and Environment was released by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- ❖ According to this report, India's ranking has slipped due to substantial challenges in 11 SDGs such as zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, and sustainable cities and communities.
- ❖ India has dropped three places from last year's ranking of 117 to 120.
- ❖ The overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score of India was 66 out of 100.
- ❖ According to the report, the states that are least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year of 2030 are Jharkhand and Bihar.
- ❖ The report also stated that among the states Kerala topped, with Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh coming in second and third, respectively.
- ❖ According to the report, Chandigarh topped among the Union Territories.

## Exercise Vayu Shakti

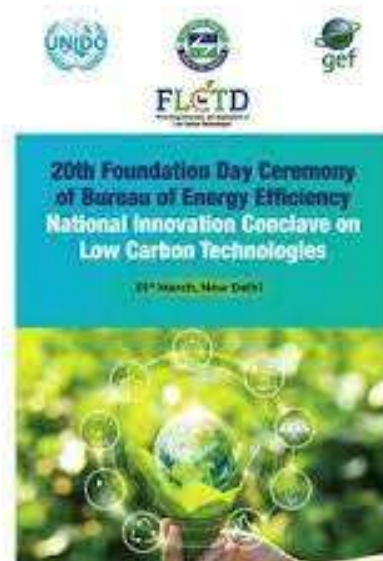
- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event.

- ❖ A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in this exercise.
- ❖ Rafale aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise.
- ❖ Exercise Vayu Shakti is organized by Indian Air Force for three years once.
- ❖ The last Vayu Shakti Exercise took place in 2019.



### **National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies**

- ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency commemorated its 20th Foundation Day, by organizing the “National Innovation Conclave” on Low Carbon Technologies.
- ❖ The National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon technologies is a platform to present innovations that are showing the benefits of energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction potential when they are deployed at a large scale in industrial and commercial sectors.
- ❖ The National Innovation Conclave is focussed on challenges in low-carbon innovation such as the need for financing towards commercialization and scale-up.



## **Roorkee Water Conclave 2022**



- ❖ 2nd edition of the “Roorkee Water Conclave 2022” was inaugurated by the union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ❖ It is being organized jointly by IIT Roorkee and the National Institute of Hydrology.
- ❖ The Conclave 2022 would focus on understanding water security and its multiple facets supporting sustainable water resource management as a key component of social development.
- ❖ The conclave focuses on the theme of “Water Security for Sustainable Development”.

## **‘Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates’ Scheme**

- ❖ Under the “Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates scheme”, Central Government has approved the proposal for the continuation of seven existing sub-schemes for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ❖ This approval seeks to ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme, continues to reach beneficiaries through the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ The scheme enables repatriates and migrants, who have suffered due to displacement, to earn a reasonable income as well as to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.

## **Pew Center report on gender roles**

- ❖ The Pew Research Centre recently published its report on gender roles.
- ❖ The survey results were based on a face-to-face survey of 29,999 Indian adults in 2019 and 2020.



- ❖ As per the report, Indian adults universally say that it is important for women to have the same rights as men and 8 out of 10 men say it is very important.
- ❖ 80% of men agree that “when there are few jobs, men should have more rights than women”.



### **Sagar Parikrama Program**

- ❖ The Sagar Parikrama Program will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala.
- ❖ This program has been organized by The Department of Fisheries, and the National Fisheries Development Board along with the Department of Fisheries, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India, Gujarat Maritime Board, and fishermen representatives.
- ❖ It is a navigation journey that will take place in all coastal states/UTs along a pre-decided sea route to show unity with all fishermen, fish farmers, and other stakeholders.
- ❖ The focus of Sagar Parikrama will be on the sustainable balance between the livelihood of coastal fisher communities and the usage of marine fisheries resources for the nation's food security.



## Swachh Survekshan

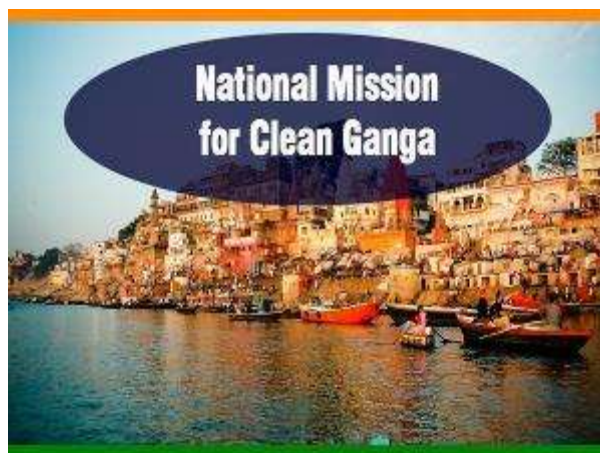


- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Swachh Survekshan.
- ❖ It is the seventh consecutive edition of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
- ❖ Swachh Survekshan 2022 is designed to capture initiatives of cities for the welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers, with the notion of 'People First' as its driving philosophy.

## Smart Managed EV Charging Station

- ❖ A subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure, SES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) has commissioned India's first 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' in New Delhi.
- ❖ BYPL is backed by Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES).
- ❖ It will be the first-ever BYPL managed Smart EV Charging Station.
- ❖ The smart-managed EV charging station can charge five Electric vehicles at the same time.

## National Mission for Clean Ganga



- ❖ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been awarded the ‘Special Jury Award’ at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards.
- ❖ NMCG has been awarded for its effort in reviving River Ganga and bringing about a paradigm shift in water management.
- ❖ G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

### **National War Memorial**

- ❖ National War Memorial's 3rd anniversary was observed on February 25, 2022.
- ❖ The National War Memorial was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019.
- ❖ The National War Memorial is India's first war memorial built to honor all the soldiers who fought in armed conflicts of independent India.
- ❖ The memorial memorializes the soldiers who martyred during the Indo-China War in 1962, the Indo-Pakistan wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971 and the Kargil war in 1999.



### **India and the Netherlands - 75 years**

- ❖ The 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands is being commemorated this year.
- ❖ A logo was released to commemorate the occasion.
- ❖ The logo features the national flowers of both the countries, the lotus, and the tulip.
- ❖ The chakra in the heart of the logo represents our friendship.
- ❖ The flag colors emphasize the ties that exist between Indians and Dutch people.



### **Health Heritage Walk**

- ❖ The health heritage walks were held during the Jan Aushadhi Diwas weeklong celebrations in 10 cities.
- ❖ This is to spread the message of wellbeing from physical exercise and walking, as well as to spread the message of affordable and quality generic medications which can be availed from Janaushadhi Kendras.

### **Host Country Agreement**



- ❖ The Government of India has signed the Host Country Agreement with International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ❖ This is for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi will serve South Asian countries comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India.

### **Pune Metro Rail Project**

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has inaugurated Pune Metro Rail Project.



- ❖ Pune Metro is the first metro project in the country to have Aluminum body coaches.
- ❖ These are indigenously manufactured under the Make in India policy.
- ❖ PM Modi also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation.



## **SLINEX 2022**

- ❖ The ninth edition of the Indian and Sri Lankan Navy bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX (Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise) was held at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The exercise is conducted in two phases.
- ❖ The Harbour Phase took place at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase will take place in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ In October 2020, the previous edition of SLINEX was conducted in Trincomalee.





## **HANSA-NG**

- ❖ 'HANSA-NG', successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry.
- ❖ It is India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer.
- ❖ HANSA-NG was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr.
- ❖ The aircraft has been designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

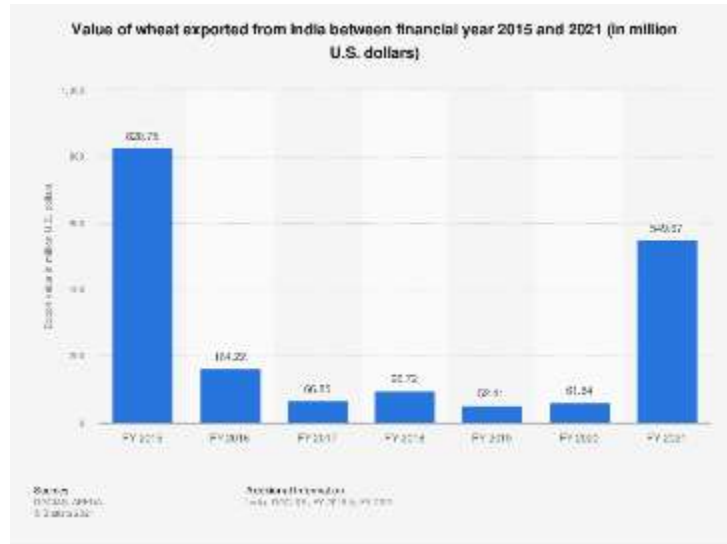


## **Floating storage and regasification unit**

- ❖ H-Jaigarh Energy's Terminal in Maharashtra has received India's first floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU).
- ❖ On April 12, 2021, the FSRU Hoegh Giant arrived at Jaigarh Terminal in Maharashtra after sailing from Keppel Shipyard in Singapore.
- ❖ This will be India's first FSRU-based LNG receiving terminal.

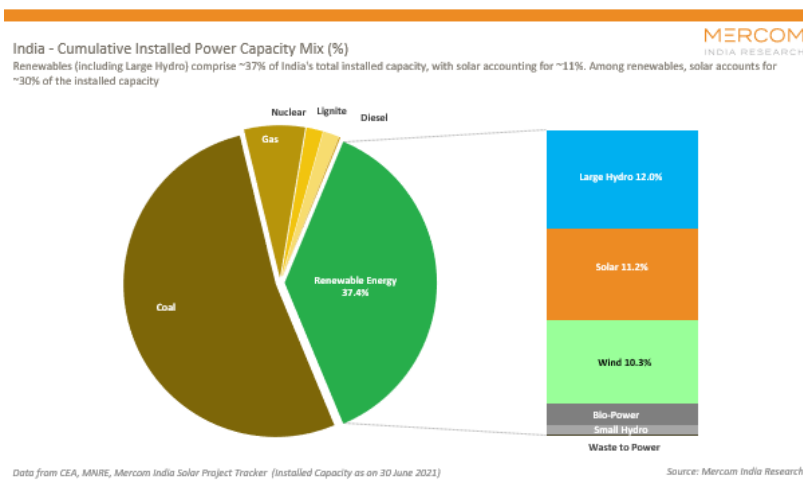


## Wheat Export



- ❖ This financial year, India is set to export around 7 million tonnes of wheat.
- ❖ This would be one of the highest exports of wheat by India.
- ❖ India is the world's second-biggest producer of wheat, accounting for 13.53% of global production.
- ❖ But it only accounts for 1% of global wheat exports.
- ❖ Annually India produces around 108 million tonnes of wheat.
- ❖ China is the World's largest producer of Wheat.

## Solar Capacity – 2021



- ❖ India installed a record 10 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity in the calendar year 2021, a 212 percent increase year on year (y-o-y).

- ❖ This is according to the report Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update by Mercom India Research.
- ❖ In 2021, rooftop installations increased by 138 percent year on year.
- ❖ As of December 2021, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh were the top three states in terms of cumulative large-scale solar capacity.

### **Report on Sundarbans Tigers**

- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was entrusted to prepare a report on the increasing cases of man-animal conflict.
- ❖ In this regard, WII released a preliminary report, which is based on the recent tiger census.
- ❖ The density of tigers in the Sunderbans of West Bengal may have reached its carrying capacity.
- ❖ WII informed the West Bengal forest department that the carrying capacity in the hostile terrain is three to five tigers per 100 sq km.
- ❖ But in multiple blocks of Sunderbans, the density is more than that.
- ❖ This high density will force tigers to move out of forests in search of new areas.
- ❖ Recently, around eight tigers have entered villages in Sunderbans and all of them were captured and released into the wild.
- ❖ The WII has advised the Bengal forest department to release the captured tigers in those areas of the forest that have less density of tigers.

### **Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange Conference**



- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange conference.

- ❖ This conference is being co-hosted by the US Indo-Pacific Command and Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS).
- ❖ 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World' is the theme of the conference.
- ❖ This conference aims to enhance joint manship and cooperation in military medicine.

## **SAMARTH**

- ❖ The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women named "SAMARTH".
- ❖ The objective of SAMARTH is to provide Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and to train more than 7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas in the FY 2022-23.



## **Donate-a-Pension initiative**







- ❖ Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav has launched the 'Donate-a-Pension' campaign under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) scheme.
- ❖ Under the new initiative, citizens can contribute to the pension fund of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, etc, by donating the premium amount.

### **India Global Forum annual summit**

- ❖ India Global Forum's (IGF) annual summit is being organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The summit will bring together eminent faces of tech-driven disruption and those who have joined the unicorn club along with Union ministers, policymakers, and global business leaders.
- ❖ The previous editions were hosted in Dubai and the UK.
- ❖ This is the first-ever edition of IGF at Bengaluru.



### **National Mineral Development Corporation**

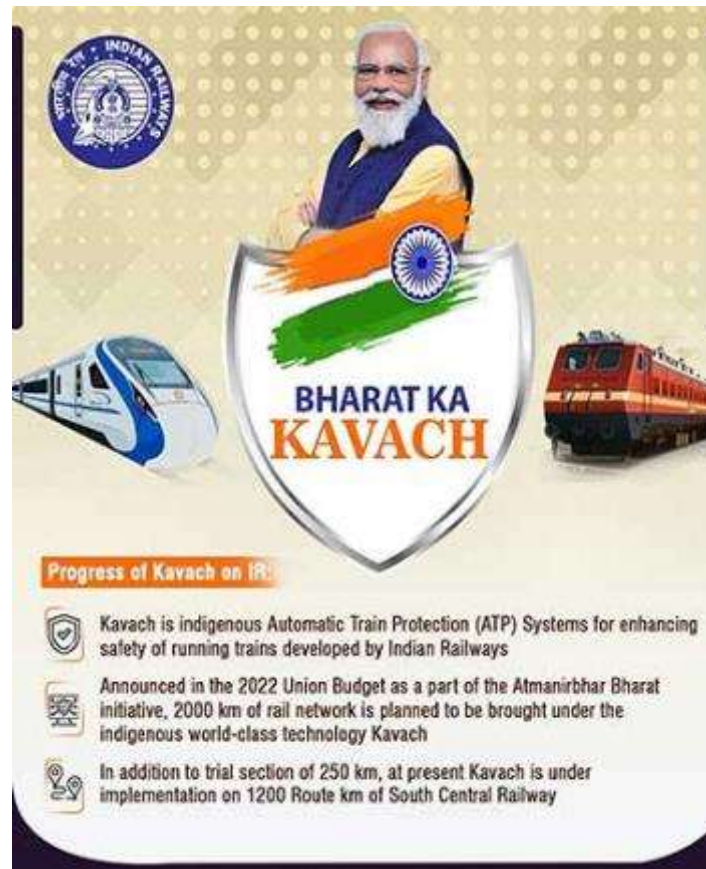


**NMDC**



- ❖ The National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC) received 1st prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21.
- ❖ The company also received the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20.
- ❖ The NMDC is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel.
- ❖ It is an eco-friendly mining company and the largest producer of iron ore in India.

### **Kavach system**



- ❖ 2,000 km of railway network will be brought under Kavach for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23, as a part of Prime minister's Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ The trial of the 'Kavach' functioning system between Gullaguda and Chitgidda Railway stations in Telangana was examined by the Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
- ❖ Kavach is designed to protect trains by preventing them from passing the Danger (Red) signal and colliding.
- ❖ It prevents collisions between two locomotives equipped with a functional KAVACH system by automatically activating the train braking system if the driver fails to regulate the train according to the speed regulations.

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a tall statue of great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall.
- ❖ PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the rejuvenation and pollution abatement of the Mula-Mutha River projects in Pune.

## Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav



- ❖ It is a campaign to bring out-of-school adolescent Indian girls back into the formal education and skilling system.
- ❖ The campaign aims to increase the enrolment and retention of the number of adolescent girls (girls aged 11 to 14) in school.
- ❖ The campaign will be implemented as part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development's BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) project.

## Swachhagraha Event



- ❖ The event aimed to promote awareness on “Swachhta, Swadhinta and Sulabh”.
- ❖ The Swachhagraha campaign is inspired by ‘Satyagraha,’ the world’s largest and most effective mass movement.
- ❖ Developing a sustainable culture of cleanliness is the aim of this campaign.
- ❖ This campaign also looks to promote Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan by encouraging young citizens to participate actively and develop youth leaders.

## Acetabularia jalakanyakae



- ❖ It is the new marine algae species discovered in India.
- ❖ It was discovered by Indian scientists from the Central University of Punjab in the Andamans archipelago.
- ❖ The scientists sighted the species in 2019 during their trip to Andamans.

## Manas National Park – Tiger and Rhino Population

- ❖ The Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam have witnessed a sharp rise in the population of rhinos and tigers.



- ❖ The authorities of the national park expect the tiger population will rise to more than 60 from 48 as per the 2021 census.
- ❖ The park's Rhino population has also increased.
- ❖ Manas National Park is a national park that has been given the status of UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, an elephant reserve, a Project Tiger reserve, and a biosphere reserve.
- ❖ It is located in the Himalayan foothills of Assam and is contiguous with Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park.



## 123PAY



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for feature phones called “UPI123Pay”.
- ❖ UPI ‘123PAY’ is a three-step method to initiate and execute services for those who use feature phones.
- ❖ Except for ‘the scan and pay’ option, all other transactions can be done by feature phones, with the help of UPI 123PAY.
- ❖ The bank account should be linked to a feature phone to use UPI 123PAY.
- ❖ There is no need for an internet connection, to initiate and execute transactions.

## Statue of Lord Buddha

- ❖ India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya.
- ❖ It is built by Buddha International Welfare Mission.
- ❖ The statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.



## 5 state Election results



- ❖ Votes were counted in five states namely Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur.
- ❖ Except for Punjab, the BJP has been in power in all the other states.
- ❖ In Punjab, Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP won the election.
- ❖ Yogi Adityanath became the first chief minister to retain power in Uttar Pradesh since the 1985 assembly elections.

## WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.



- ❖ The WHO GCTM is to be established under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy).
- ❖ This will be the first and only global outpost centre (office) for traditional medicines.



### **Freedom of the World 2022 report**

- ❖ For the second consecutive year, India has been termed as 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society.
- ❖ This is according to the report titled "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by Freedom House.
- ❖ Freedom House is a US-based NGO that assesses political rights and civil liberties.
- ❖ India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022.
- ❖ The country had scored 67 in 2021.
- ❖ India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.
- ❖ In Internet freedom, India scored 49.
- ❖ In 2022, 85 countries were termed as free, 56 as partly free and 69 as not free.



## Jharokha



- ❖ The Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles organized a programme called “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art, and culture”.
- ❖ This is to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture.
- ❖ The first event under this celebration has been organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station.
- ❖ Jharokha is a PAN India programme that will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav .

## Motor Vehicle Agreement

- ❖ The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) was signed by all four BBIN countries in 2015 but has not yet been implemented.
- ❖ BBIN MVA will allow the four countries to ply their vehicles in each other's country for transportation of cargo and passengers.
- ❖ Recently India, Bangladesh, and Nepal finalized an MoU to implement the BBIN MVA at a meeting held in New Delhi, India.



### **International Election Visitors Programme 2022**



- ❖ The virtual International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022 was hosted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from nearly 32 countries and four international organizations.
- ❖ More than 150 EMB Delegates participating online were given an overview of the recent elections for Legislative Assemblies in Manipur, Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.

### **National Land Monetization Corporation**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly-owned Government of India company.
- ❖ NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies.
- ❖ At present, CPSEs hold a considerable surplus, unused, and underused non-core assets in the nature of land and buildings.

## National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)



### Benefits:



NLMC will **undertake monetization of surplus land and building** assets of CPSEs and other Government agencies



Will help generate substantial revenues by **monetizing unused and under-used assets**

## Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela

- ❖ Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2022 is being organized from 9th to 11th March 2022 at the Pusa Institute's Mela Ground.
- ❖ ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is organizing the three-day Krishi Mela.
- ❖ "Self-reliant farmer through technical knowledge" is the main theme of this fair.

## India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave



- ❖ The National level 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' is organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in New Delhi.



- ❖ This conclave is being organized with an aim of starting communication with Startups in the water sector.
- ❖ Innovative solutions for urban water problems will be pitched/exhibited by more than 50 Startups.

### Chairperson of Chardham project Committee



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has named Justice (retd) AK Sikri as Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project (Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri).
- ❖ The HPC would look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Chardham project.
- ❖ The committee will as well as look after the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley.

### Best Airports by Size and Region

The six Indian airports include:

#### Category – Over 40 million passengers per year

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMA), Mumbai (5th consecutive year)
- Indra Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi (4th consecutive year)

#### Category – 15 to 25 million passengers per year

- Rajiv Gandhi International airport, Hyderabad

#### Category – 5 to 15 million passengers per year

- Cochin International Airport, Cochin
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

#### Category – 2 to 5 million passengers per year

- Chandigarh Airport, Chandigarh



- ❖ From India, six airports have found a place among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region'.
- ❖ The airports are recognized by the Airports Council International (ACI), in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021.
- ❖ Awards take into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities to recognize airport excellence in customer experience.

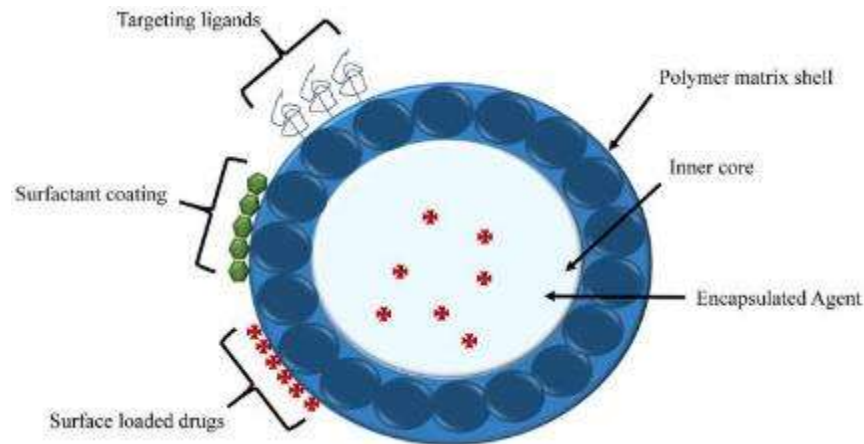
### **AARC and CLAWS tie up**

- ❖ The Australian Army Chief Lt Gen Richard Burr paid a visit to the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).
- ❖ CLAWS is an Indian Army think tank in New Delhi.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Australian Army Research Centre (AARC) and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) to create academic cooperation and engagement.



### **Biodegradable nanoparticles**

- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have created a biodegradable nanoparticle.
- ❖ It can be used as an alternative to chemical-based insecticides to protect crops from bacterial and fungal illnesses.
- ❖ Nanoparticles would reduce the risk of crop infection while also increasing agricultural productivity.



### Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center and Innovation Park



- ❖ The Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center and Innovation Park.
- ❖ This was launched as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program.
- ❖ The POWERGRID established the Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) to demonstrate and advance cutting-edge smart grid technologies.

### National Youth Parliament Festival

- ❖ The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) has been organized jointly by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in the coming years.
- ❖ The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.



### **Sahityotsav Literature Festival**



- ❖ Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters known as Sahityotsav is India's most inclusive literature festival.
- ❖ This festival will be a part of the commemoration of India's 75th anniversary of Independence.
- ❖ The events are themed on independence or the independence movement.
- ❖ The exhibition will highlight Akademi's achievements as well as important events from the previous year.
- ❖ 24 Indian languages recognized by Akademi will be represented by 26 young writers who will be participating in 'The Rise of Young India' event.

### **Jan Aushadhi Bal Mitra Programme**

- ❖ Jan Aushadhi Bal Mitra programme was held across the country at 75 locations on the 3rd Day of Jan Aushadhi Diwas week-long celebrations.

- ❖ This programme was organized to engage children as Bal Mitras with the Jan Aushadhi scheme.
- ❖ This is to educate them about the benefits of the Pariyojana, savings, Jan Aushadhi Seva Bhi Rozgar Bhi, the price difference between the Jan Aushadhi medicines and branded medicines, etc.

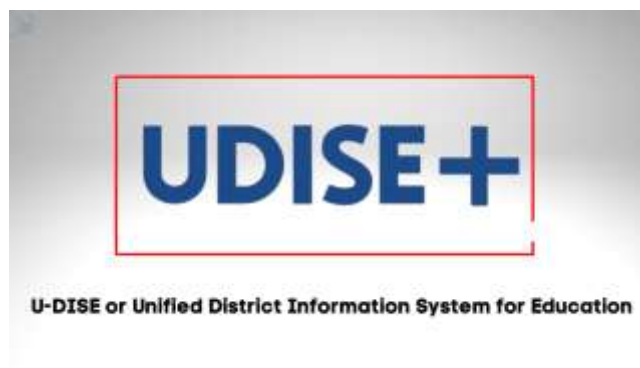
### **South India's longest bowstring bridge**

- ❖ The longest bowstring bridge in south India, connecting Alappuzha and Kollam, will be inaugurated at Valiyazheekkal.
- ❖ The bridge will reduce the distance between Alappad panchayat in Kollam and Valiyazheekkal in Alappuzha by 28km.
- ❖ The bridge is 1.23-km-long.



### **Unified District Information System for Education Plus**

- ❖ Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2020-21 on school education of India was recently released.
- ❖ It was initiated in 2012-13.



- ❖ It is one of the largest Management Information Systems on School Education.



- ❖ UDISE+ is an updated version of UDISE.
- ❖ Here the data from the schools is collected online and in real-time.
- ❖ It is to overcome the issues present in the UDISE system such as errors in data and delays.

### **Rashtriya Raksha University**

- ❖ PM Modi has dedicated the building of Rashtriya Raksha University to the nation.
- ❖ He delivered his first convocation address at Ahmedabad for the university.
- ❖ Rashtriya Raksha University provides students with different academic courses related to policing and internal security.



### **Vincov-19**



- ❖ The first indigenous drug to treat COVID-19 named Vincov-19 is expected to be made available to the public soon.



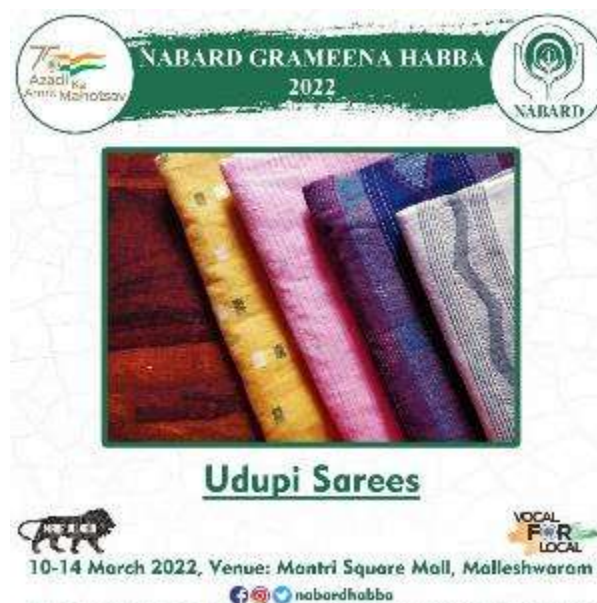
- ❖ CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB), VINS Bioproducts, and the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has collaborated to create the drug 'Vincov-19.'
- ❖ To create this drug, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is inactivated and injected into horses.

### **Adavi brand**

- ❖ The minor forest produces harvested by Kerala's Nilambur tribespeople, such as wild honey, will now be marketed under the Adavi brand.
- ❖ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan has jointly launched the Adavi brand at a tribal festival that was held at Nilambur.



### **Grameena Habba**



- ❖ Grameena Habba is a platform for rural artisans to sell handicraft, agricultural, and handloom products.
- ❖ It was held by NABARD's Karnataka regional office in Bengaluru.
- ❖ This event features handloom sarees, handmade arts, home decors, handwoven clothing material, etc. from numerous districts of Karnataka and across India.
- ❖ The incomes from the sale of these items will go directly to the artisans.

### **Young Scientist Programme**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation is organizing a special programme for school children called "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme".
- ❖ It aims at creating awareness about emerging trends in science and technology.
- ❖ This programme is expected to encourage more students to pursue research and a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

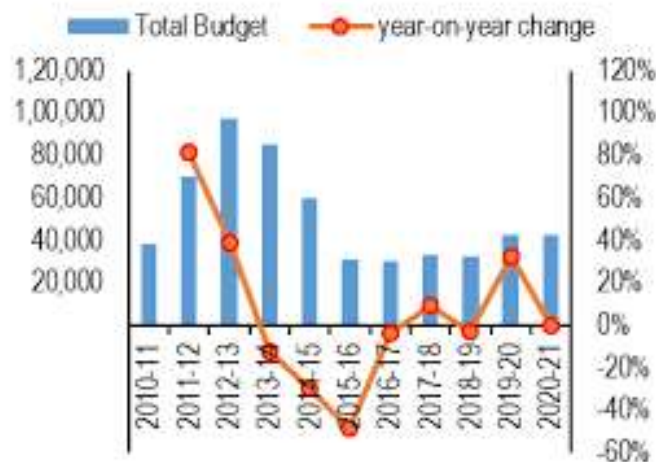


### **Global Investment in Digital Shopping 2021**

- ❖ India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies.
- ❖ This is according to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom. co-investment data.
- ❖ On a global scale, India came in second to the US last year.
- ❖ Within India, Bengaluru comes out on top.



## Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21



- ❖ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21'.
- ❖ It is the annual publication of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ It gives an overall picture of India's petroleum & Gas sector.
- ❖ India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements.
- ❖ Thus, in 2020-21 India's self-sufficiency ratio for petroleum products was 15.6%.
- ❖ Petrol and diesel prices in India are the highest among South Asia countries.
- ❖ India is dependent on imports for meeting about 54% of its Natural gas needs.

## Capital Employer Initiative



- ❖ The Capital Employer Initiative is a programme financed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).
- ❖ Through the captive employer initiative, requirements of the industry shall be addressed.
- ❖ This initiative will also give a significant boost to the industry.

## GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet



- ❖ The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet.
- ❖ This is to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets.
- ❖ Since the QR code label cannot be copied or misused, it will discourage the counterfeit production of carpets.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the first-ever consignment of GI-tagged hand-knotted carpets was exported to Germany from New Delhi this March.

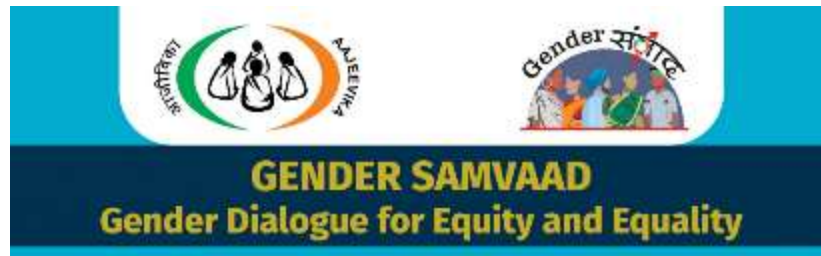


## LivQuik



- ❖ LivQuik, a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuer, announced that it has achieved full interoperability for its Prepaid Payment Instruments, as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ According to the firm, it is also the first PPI issuer to achieve full interoperability
- ❖ LivQuik is a Mumbai-based Fintech startup.

## Gender Samwaad



- ❖ Over 3000 State Mission employees and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from 34 states logged in to attend the third edition of 'Gender Samwaad,'.
- ❖ It was organized by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ It's a national virtual effort to raise awareness about the mission's activities around the country via the perspective of gender.
- ❖ Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives was the focus for this edition.
- ❖ The event was held as part of the Amrit Mahotsava's Iconic Week commemoration theme of 'Naye Bharat ki Naari.'

## Fortune India - The Next 500 list 2022 – RailTel

- ❖ RailTel Corporation of India Limited is owned by the Indian Railways has ranked 124th in the 8th Edition Fortune India The Next 500 (2022 edition) of top midsize companies operating in India.

- ❖ It is the only Telecom Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) of the Government of India (GoI) on the list.
- ❖ Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309.



### **Indian Embassy in Ukraine**



- ❖ India has decided to temporarily relocate its embassy in Ukraine to Poland.
- ❖ This is done in view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the war-torn country.
- ❖ The decision comes amid increasing Russian attacks on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and several other prominent cities.

### **Maternal Mortality in India**

- ❖ Kerala has yet again emerged on top when it comes to maternal and child health.
- ❖ The State recorded the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.
- ❖ According to the latest data, India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19.

- ❖ Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra are included in the top 3 states with the lowest MMR in India.
- ❖ The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has worsened in West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has drastically improved in UP, Rajasthan, and Bihar.
- ❖ Italy, Norway, Poland, and Belarus have the lowest MMR in the world.

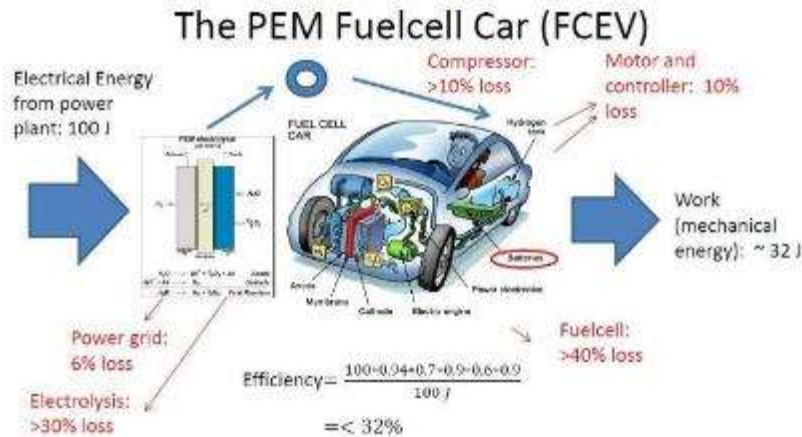


## Nutraceuticals



- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras have added nutraceuticals to their product basket.
- ❖ Nutraceuticals are any food-related substances that provide health and medical benefits.
- ❖ Nutraceutical products include protein powders, protein bars, malt-based food supplements, immunity bars, Vitamin supplements, etc.

## Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle



- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari will be inaugurating a pilot project for Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV).
- ❖ The minister will also demonstrate Toyota Mirai FCEV.
- ❖ The project is the first of its kind in India.
- ❖ It is aimed at spreading awareness about Hydrogen, FCEV technology and disseminating its benefits to support hydrogen-based society for the country.

## World Peace Center

- ❖ Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organization will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ 'World Peace Center' will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.
- ❖ Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organization was established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr. Lokesh Muni.

## Chair of Excellence





- ❖ The Indian Army has dedicated a chair of excellence in the late chief of defense staff (CDS)'s General Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI).
- ❖ The Chair will be open to Veterans of three Services and civilians having expertise in the field of National Security.

### **M V Ram Prasad Bismil**

- ❖ The MV Ram Prasad Bismil has become the longest vessel ever to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra.
- ❖ It successfully completed the pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia, to Pandu port in Guwahati.



### **Cyclone Asani**

- ❖ Cyclone Asani, the first cyclone of the year 2022 is likely to hit the Andaman Nicobar Islands on March 21, 2022.
- ❖ After hitting Andaman Nicobar, Cyclone Asani will move towards Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- ❖ As per the Weather Department, a low-pressure area in the Southeast region of the Bay of Bengal is most likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by March 21.

### **World's largest solar tree**

- ❖ Guinness World Records has confirmed the world's largest solar tree has been installed in India.
- ❖ The construction, which has 309.83m<sup>2</sup> of solar panel surface, has been constructed at the Centre of Excellence for Farm Machinery, Ludhiana, in Punjab.
- ❖ It was constructed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute.



### **Covid-19 Precautionary Dose**



- ❖ The Covid-19 vaccination for children between 12-14 years of age began on March 16, 2022.
- ❖ The children of the mentioned age group will be administered the Corbevax COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ Corbevax is manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological E.
- ❖ The COVID-19 precautionary dose will also be administered to all those aged above 60 years.

### **Glycosmis albicarpa**

- ❖ A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India has discovered a new gin berry species named Glycosmis albicarpa.
- ❖ It is discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- ❖ The species belongs to the Orange family, Rutaceae.



### **GD Birla Award for Scientific Research**

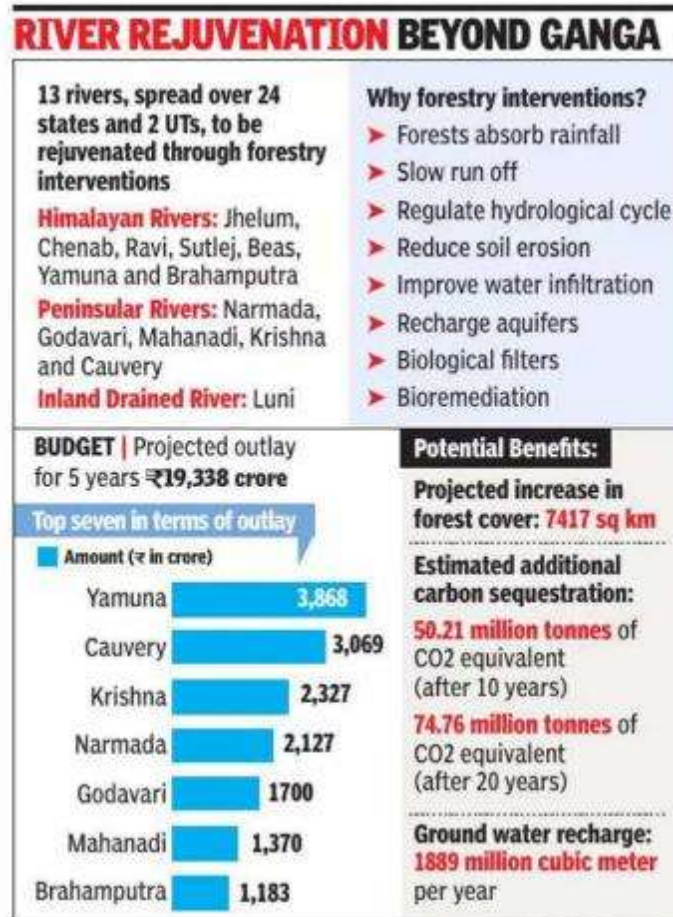
- ❖ Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
- ❖ He has been selected for his outstanding contribution to the field of material sciences.
- ❖ He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.
- ❖ Pradhan's research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light-emitting semiconductor nanocrystals.



### **Rejuvenation Project of 13 Rivers**

- ❖ Ministry for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change announced the project for the rejuvenation of 13 major rivers in the country.
- ❖ The 13 Rivers that will form part of the rejuvenation project include:
  - Himalayan Rivers: Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra.

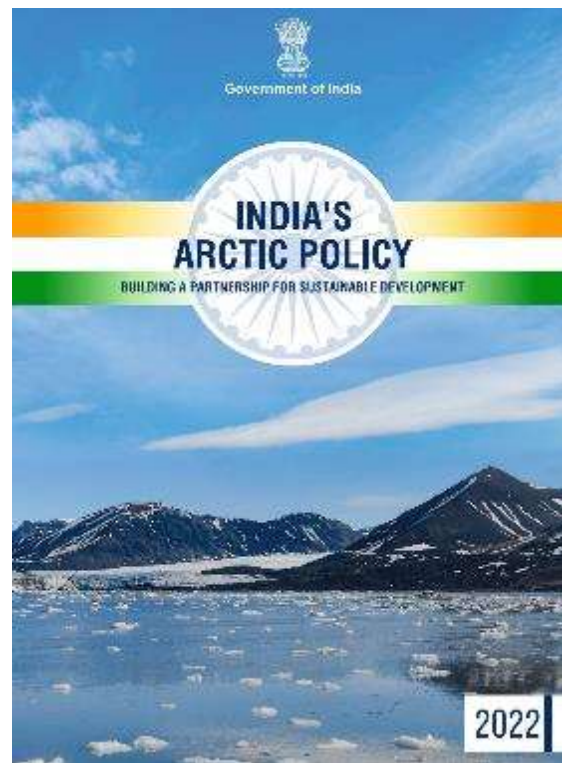
- Deccan or Peninsular Rivers: Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, & Cauvery.
- Inland drained Category River: Luni.
- ❖ These 13 rivers cover nearly 57.45% of India's geographical area.



## Arctic policy

- ❖ The Centre released its Arctic policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development'.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen national capabilities and competencies in science and exploration, climate and environmental protection, use of mineral wealth, and maritime and economic cooperation with the Arctic region.
- ❖ The focus of the policy is also to increase India's participation in the Arctic Council and improve understanding of the complex governance structures in the region.
- ❖ India is among the 13 nations that are observers in the Arctic Council.





## **National Rail Plan – 2030**



**RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE**

- National Rail Plan for India - 2030 to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030.
- Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and Eastern DFC to be commissioned by June 2022, will bring down the logistic costs thereby enabling Make in India strategy.
- 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed by December, 2023.

**For Passenger convenience and safety :**

- a. Aesthetically designed Vista Dome LHB coach on tourist routes for better travel
- b. Indigenously developed automatic train protection system to eliminates train collision due to human error

- ❖ The Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India - 2030.
- ❖ The Plan is to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030.

- ❖ The NRP is aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase the modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%.

### **Russian oil import**

- ❖ The Indian Oil Corporation has bought as much as 3 million barrels of crude oil from Russia.
- ❖ Russia had offered a steep discount to prevailing international rates.
- ❖ Taking advantage of a Russian offer to sell its crude oil cheap and bear the cost of insurance and transportation, India may import 15 million barrels of crude oil.

### **NariShakti Varta on STEM and Financial Literacy for young women**

- ❖ The UNICEF YuWaah facilitated the NaariShakti conversation, on 'STEM and Financial Literacy for Young Women'.
- ❖ STEM refers to "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics".
- ❖ The event was part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development's 'Iconic Week' celebrating International Women's Day under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ The participants discussed how to nurture young women to pursue careers in STEM-related fields.
- ❖ According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2018-19, around 43% of STEM graduates in India are women.
- ❖ This is the highest in the world.
- ❖ But their share in STEM jobs in India is a mere 14%.



## 25 Years of TRAI Act



- ❖ The Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated a seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: The Way Forward for Stakeholders (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA and Aadhaar)”.
- ❖ The seminar was organized by Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
- ❖ This is to commemorate the 25 years-long journey of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act.
- ❖ The objective of the seminar is to enhance awareness regarding the regulatory mechanisms, including dispute resolution, amongst stakeholders in Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, Airport Infrastructure, and Aadhaar Sectors.

## Rapid rail of India



- ❖ The coaches for the Delhi-Meerut Rapid Rail Corridor were launched by the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation.
- ❖ A total of 210 cars will be delivered from the Savli manufacturing factory for the first Regional Rapid Transit System corridor (RRTS).
- ❖ The RRTS is a first-of-its-kind system in which trains run at 180 kmph.

### **Flight Control System Integration complex**



- ❖ Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, inaugurated a seven-story Flight Control System Integration facility at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.
- ❖ Pilots of combat aircraft will also receive simulator training at the complex.

### **Digital payment to non-internet users**

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has teamed up with UltraCash Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ This is to provide BharatGas customers with a voice-based digital payment option for booking LPG cylinders.
- ❖ Customers who do not have access to a smartphone or the internet can use this feature to book cylinders and pay via the 'UPI 123PAY' system.

### **Surajkund International Crafts Mela**

- ❖ The Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatraya, and Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar formally inaugurated the 35th edition of the world-famous Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad district of Haryana.



- ❖ In 2022, the 'Theme State' is Jammu & Kashmir and Uzbekistan is the partner nation.
- ❖ The Mela provides an opportunity for artisans from all over India to showcase their talent and the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms, and cultural heritage of India.



### LAMITIYE-2022

- ❖ The Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) are holding the 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) in Seychelles.
- ❖ This exercise will see the participation of an Infantry Platoon strength from both the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF), as well as Company Headquarters.



- ❖ The goal of the exercise is to share experiences gained during various operations against hostile forces in a semi-urban environment and enhance the capability to conduct joint operations.
- ❖ The contingent of the Indian Army comprises troops from the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).

### **National e-Vidhan Application program**



- ❖ The northeastern state of Nagaland created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the entire country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) program to become completely paperless.
- ❖ NeVA is a Unicode compliant software having provision for easy access to various documents like List of Questions, List of Business, Reports etc. bilingually viz. English and any regional language.
- ❖ This application is spearheading the principle of 'One Nation- One Application'.

### **India - Australia virtual summit**

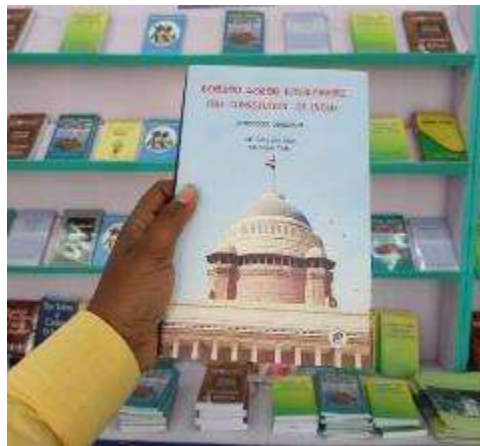
- ❖ At the summit, there were talks regarding critical investment, critical minerals, migration, defense, technological cooperation, and digital sectors.
- ❖ PM Modi and Scott Morrison, Australian Prime Minister took part in this summit.
- ❖ The first Virtual Summit was held in 2020.



### **Gulf Business Summit**

- ❖ Delegates from 33 companies from Hong Kong, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia arrived in Srinagar.
- ❖ The Summit was attended by the delegates with the aim of discussing the exploration of investment opportunities in various sectors across Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ For the first time, a Saudi Arabia-based investor has shown interest in business opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir.

### **Ol Chiki**



- ❖ For the first time, the Indian Constitution has been translated in Santali, written in the Ol Chiki script.
- ❖ Also known as Ol Cemet', Ol script, and Ol ciki Script.
- ❖ The Ol Chiki script is used for writing Santali.
- ❖ Pandit Raghunath Murmu (Guru Gomke) is the inventor of the Ol Chiki script.
- ❖ Santali is a language with its own special characteristics and has literature that dates back to the beginning of the 15th century.

### **WINGS INDIA 2022**

- ❖ It is being organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- ❖ This is Asia's largest event focusing on general, commercial, and business aviation.
- ❖ This event also focuses on investments, new business acquisitions, regional connectivity, and policy formation.

- ❖ WINGS India 2022 will also look to provide a boost to the country's aviation sector.
- ❖ 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry' is the theme for this year's event.



## EX-DUSTLIK



- ❖ It is a joint training exercise that is conducted between the armies of India and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The 3rd edition of this exercise is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Ex-DUSTLIK's last edition was conducted in March 2021 in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ To take part in this exercise, the Indian contingent is being represented by a platoon strength of Grenadiers Regiment.
- ❖ The Grenadiers battalion is one of the Indian Army's highly decorated battalions.
- ❖ This battalion has a distinction of participating in most Pre and Post-Independence Operations of the Indian army.





### **Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2**

- ❖ A joint exercise between the Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division and the Maharashtra Police named Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2 was organized at Lullanagar, Pune.
- ❖ India Army's Counter-Terrorism Task Force, Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad along with Dog Squads, Quick Reaction Teams, and Bomb Disposal Teams of the army, as well as the police, took part in this exercise.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted with the aim of coordinating the procedures and drills undertaken by the Police and the Army to counter any terrorist attacks in Pune.

### **BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre**

- ❖ The BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre has been launched by Union Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ❖ This newly launched vaccine R&D center will be looking to share experiences and collaborate among countries for mutual benefits.
- ❖ China's Minister of Science and Technology, Wang Zhigang chaired the launch ceremony.
- ❖ India meets 65-70% of WHO's vaccine requirements as well as supplies vaccines to more than 150 countries.
- ❖ India will offer its vaccine manufacturing industry to develop vaccines for the BRICS nations as well as the rest of the world.

### **Global House Price Index Q4 2021**

- ❖ India has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at 51st position in the 'Global House Price Index Q4 2021'.
- ❖ The report was released by property consultant Knight Frank.
- ❖ India was placed at 56th position in Q4 of 2020.
- ❖ India witnessed a 2.1 percent annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-December quarter of 2021 against Q4 of 2020.
- ❖ Turkey saw the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 percent in Q4 2021.
- ❖ Malaysia, Malta, and Morocco markets recorded a decline in housing prices by 0.7 percent, 3.1 percent, and 6.3 percent, respectively, in the year 2021.

Rank	Country/Territory	Nominal Price Growth
1	Turkey	59.6%
2	New Zealand	22.6%
3	Czech Republic	22.1%
4	Slovakia	22.1%
5	Australia	21.8%
6	Netherlands	20.3%
7	United States	18.8%
8	South Korea	18.4%
9	Jersey	18.4%
10	Estonia	17.3%
51	India	2.1%
52	Indonesia	1.5%
53	Cyprus	1.2%
54	Malaysia	-0.7%
55	Malta	-3.1%
56	Morocco	-6.3%

Source: Knight Frank Research

## 2021 World Air Quality Report



## IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report

- ❖ In 2021, air pollution continued to reach unhealthy levels according to a report on World Air Quality.
- ❖ It was prepared by "IQAir" a swiss organization.
- ❖ Also, for the fourth year running, New Delhi remained to be the most polluted capital city in the world.
- ❖ 35 Indian cities have been listed by the index under the worst air quality tag for 2021.
- ❖ Bhiwadi, Rajasthan topped this list and was followed Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ According to this report, not a single country from around the globe managed to meet the air quality standard of WHO in 2021.

## **Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit**



- ❖ The “Step-Up to End TB-World TB Day Summit” was inaugurated by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Health Minister.
- ❖ This summit was organized on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day.
- ❖ This summit will highlight India’s National TB Elimination Programme’s success and learnings.

## **New airports by 2025**



- ❖ The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the Government has set a target of building 220 new airports by 2025.
- ❖ Cargo flights for perishable food items will be boosted by 30% in the next few years, with 133 new flights.

## **Biplobi Bharat Gallery**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.
- ❖ This was inaugurated on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas.
- ❖ The inauguration was done virtually via video conferencing.

- ❖ The purpose of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947.
- ❖ It also highlights the important role played by the revolutionaries.



### **Common University Entrance Test**



- ❖ The Common University Entrance Test is an entrance exam that is computerized and is taken for admission to 45 central universities across the country.
- ❖ Under this exam, the Class 12 marks of a candidate won't matter.
- ❖ After the exams are conducted, the NTA will prepare a merit list based on which admissions will be given.
- ❖ There will be no common counseling sessions.



### **Climate Hazards E-Book and Vulnerability e-Atlas**

- ❖ An e-book titled “Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India- State: Tamil Nadu” has been launched by the India Meteorological Department.
- ❖ This is launched as part of World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- ❖ This e-atlas will help the disaster management agencies to take preventive steps against any disaster that they might face.

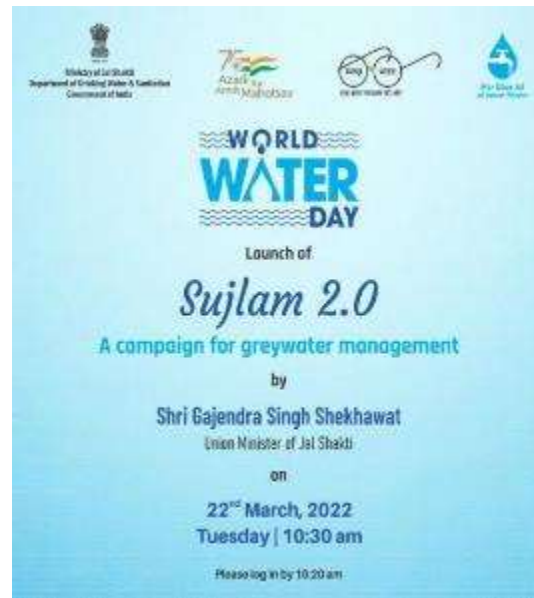
### **Indian Psychiatric Society national conference**



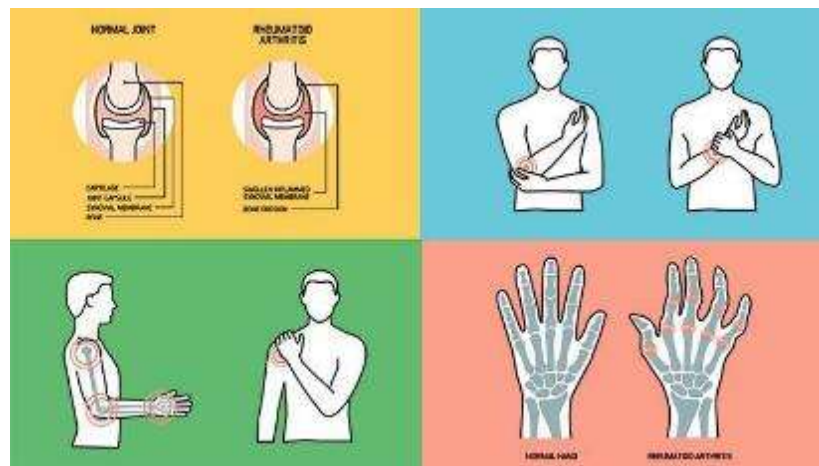
- ❖ The 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society has been organized in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The focus areas would be on drug and alcohol abuse in society, stress among students and growing incidence of suicides, depression and anxiety, old-age problems, and dementia.
- ❖ The theme is chosen for ANCIPS – 2022 is ‘Bridging minds ... Connecting generations’.

### **The Sujalam 2.0 campaign**

- ❖ This Campaign was launched by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ This campaign has been launched for greywater management.
- ❖ Under this campaign, there are plans to mobilize communities such as schools, panchayats, and anganwadis to help in greywater management.
- ❖ ‘Groundwater: making the invisible visible’ is the theme for this campaign.



## Clinical Trial in Ayurveda for Rheumatoid Arthritis



- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush has launched the world's first multicenter phase III clinical trial that will be assessing Ayurveda's efficacy in Rheumatoid Arthritis treatment.
- ❖ This trial will be monitored by Dr. Daniel Erick Furst who is a world-renowned rheumatologist from the University of California.
- ❖ The AVP Research Foundation, affiliated to the Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore) Ltd and the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush will be conducting these trials.
- ❖ Clinical trials will be conducted in Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Metabolic Disorders, Bengaluru, AVP Research Foundation, Coimbatore, and the Raja Ramdeo Anandilala Central Ayurveda Research Institute for Cancer, Mumbai.

## Red Fort Festival

- ❖ From 25th March to 3rd April 'the Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' is being celebrated.
- ❖ This 10-day event is being organized in association with the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ This event is being held to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ❖ This event has been thought out by the Red Fort's Monument Mitra, Union Culture Ministry, and Dalmia Bharat Limited.



## Srinagar Tulip Festival



- ❖ Asia's largest Tulip Garden is located in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- ❖ This garden houses more than a million tulips.
- ❖ On 23rd March, it has been reopened to the public after being shut for the past nine months.
- ❖ The garden has been reopened keeping in mind the upcoming Srinagar Tulip Festival.

## Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index



- ❖ It has been released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ This report was released in association with the Institute of Competitiveness.
- ❖ In this index, Gujarat has topped for the second time in a row.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana.
- ❖ The latest edition of the index has highlighted that most of the country's coastal states are among the best performers.

## India TB Report 2022

- ❖ In 2021, tuberculosis cases in India increased by 19 percent compared to the previous year.
- ❖ This information was revealed in the India TB Report 2022.
- ❖ By 2021, the total number of TB patients was 19, 33,381.
- ❖ In 2020 it was 16, 28,161.
- ❖ In India, the mortality rate due to all kinds of tuberculosis increased by 11% between 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ About 61 percent of patients suffering from TB were male and the females constituted 39 percent who were put on treatment.
- ❖ 6 percent of the notified patients were in the pediatric category.
- ❖ The highest prevalence was in Delhi.
- ❖ The lowest was in Gujarat.



## **The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh**



- ❖ Yogi Adityanath takes oath as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh for his second term in office.
- ❖ Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers in the new government.
- ❖ The Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government created history with its comeback as no other CM has been able to repeat a government in the state in 37 years.

## **Dare to Erade TB**



- ❖ The launch of the 'Dare to Erade TB' program on World TB Day 2022 was announced by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- ❖ This program will be based on the data available in India.
- ❖ Genome Sequencing Consortium for Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) TB Surveillance's formation was also announced.

## National Dolphin Day

- ❖ October 5 has been designated as the National Dolphin Day by the union environment ministry.
- ❖ It will be observed annually starting from this year.
- ❖ The National Board for Wildlife's (NBWL) standing committee took this decision to designate October 5 as National Dolphin Day.
- ❖ The day will focus on generating awareness as it is an integral part of dolphin conservation including the Gangetic Dolphin.
- ❖ The focus will also be given to improving the Ganga and its tributaries' water quality and flow so that Gangetic dolphins can survive.



## Yoga Mahotsav 2022



The poster for Yoga Mahotsav 2022 features a decorative border and logos at the top including the Government of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Yoga Mahotsav logo. The main text reads "Yoga Mahotsav 2022" and "Commemorating 100 Days Countdown to IDY-2022". Below this, a banner states "Beginning the Journey towards IDY 2022". A row of eight circular portraits shows the participating yoga experts, each with their name below: Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Shri Mahabhar Lal Khotter, Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Sri. Meenakshi Lekhi, Dr. Marjiana Mahendrapal Ka Lohari, and Shri. Parmod Kumar Pathak. At the bottom, the venue is listed as "Vigyan Bhawan" and the time as "10:00 AM". Social media icons for Facebook and YouTube are also present.

**Yoga Mahotsav 2022**  
**Commemorating 100 Days Countdown to IDY-2022**  
**Beginning the Journey towards IDY 2022**

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal   Shri Bhupender Yadav   Shri Mahabhar Lal Khotter   Shri Prem Singh Tamang   Sri. Meenakshi Lekhi   Dr. Marjiana Mahendrapal Ka Lohari   Shri. Parmod Kumar Pathak

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan  
Time: 10:00 AM

- ❖ It is a campaign that will be held for 100 days, at 100 places and will include 100 organizations.
- ❖ This campaign will be organized till 21st June 2022.
- ❖ This was started with the objective of giving publicity and promotion to Yoga and its utility.

### **INS Valsura**

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura has been awarded the prestigious President's Colour by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ It is the highest award or honor that can be bestowed upon any of India's military units.
- ❖ This award is also called 'Nishaan'.
- ❖ This award can be bestowed on a military unit as a sign of recognition of exceptional service rendered to the country, both during war and peace.



### **State Legislatures to tax lotteries**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that a lottery conducted by the Government of India, states or authorized by a state or conducted by private entities is an activity falling within the nomenclature of betting and gambling.
- ❖ And hence, the State Legislature has the competence to tax lottery scheme.
- ❖ This is applicable to gambling being conducted not only by the Government of India or the Government of any State or by any other agency or instrumentality of a particular State but also by a private entity within the State as gambling.



### **Demand for the Ahir Regiment**



- ❖ The demand for a full-fledged Infantry Regiment named after Ahir has found support from politicians seeking leverage with them.
- ❖ Ahirs community was brought into the national limelight after the story of the bravery of the Ahir troops of Haryana in the Battle of Rezang La in 1962 (India-China war) was widely known.
- ❖ Ahirwal region includes the southern Haryana districts of Rewari, Mahendragarh, and Gurgaon.
- ❖ This region is associated with Rao Tula Ram, the Ahir hero of the 1857 revolt.
- ❖ It has traditionally contributed soldiers to the Indian Army in large numbers.

### **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**

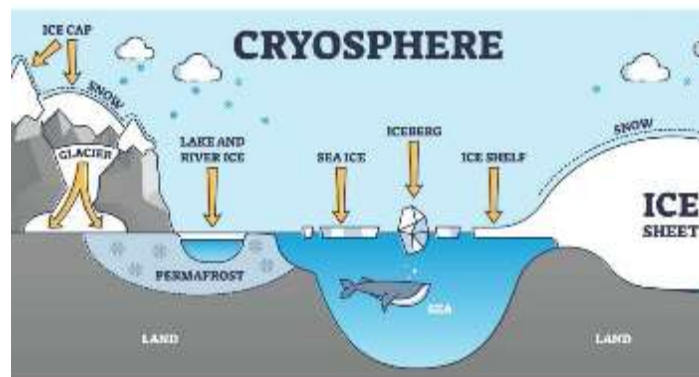
- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in Scotland.
- ❖ RSE is one of the world's oldest and most respected academic societies.



- ❖ Fellows are elected to join the RSE from across the fields of science, arts, education, business, and public life in recognition of their impact on improving the world around them.



### **Polar Science and Cryosphere Research Scheme**



- ❖ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), has successfully implemented the Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme.
- ❖ The scheme comprises of Indian Arctic program, the Antarctic program, Cryosphere, and Climate Program, and the Southern Ocean program.
- ❖ NCPOR is an autonomous institute that falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

### **‘Sambhav’ and ‘Svavlamban’**

- ❖ ‘Sambhav’ and ‘Svavlamban’ are the initiatives to tackle the issue of plastic waste in India.
- ❖ The initiatives were launched by the Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.

- ❖ It was launched at the International Summit on Plastics Recycling and Waste Management.
- ❖ These initiatives aim to encourage young entrepreneurs, especially from the aspirational districts of India.



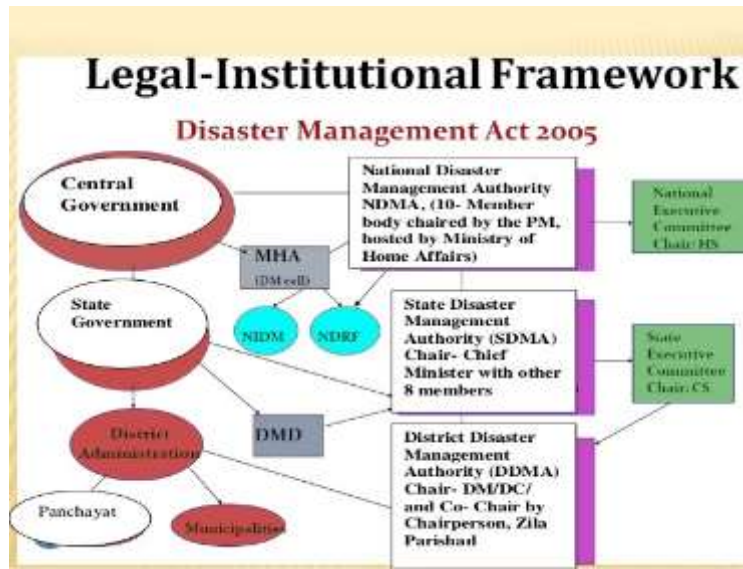
### **United Nations Commission on Status of Women**



- ❖ Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani addressed the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women
- ❖ The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- ❖ It is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was established on June 21, 1946.

### **Disaster Management Act provisions**

- ❖ The Centre has revoked the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005 for Covid containment measures.
- ❖ This is because the number of Covid-19 cases continues to show a downward trend.
- ❖ Covid containment measures such as the use of face masks and hand hygiene can be continued.



## Resilient Crops

- ❖ Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, in collaboration with several other research institutions, have identified about 15,000 selected germplasms of rice and wheat.
- ❖ These are identified for developing varieties that are tolerant to floods, droughts, heatwaves, and diseases to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change on food production.
- ❖ Agricultural scientists have sourced rice and wheat genetic resources from a gene bank run by the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in Delhi.

## International Geological Congress

- ❖ The 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) was held in New Delhi with the topic 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future'.
- ❖ The 36th International Geophysical Congress is a collaboration between the Ministries of Mines and Earth Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The event would provide a one-of-a-kind forum for Geoscience knowledge and experience sharing, as well as professional networking.
- ❖ India held the 22nd session of the IGC, which was the first IGC on Asian land, 58 years ago in 1964.



### **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022**

- ❖ It was started in Arts College Ground, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The first Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was held in 2015.
- ❖ The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see all of India's folk, traditional, tribal, classical, and popular art forms under one roof, with over 1000 artists performing.





## Price hike of 800 essential drugs

RELIEF FOR INDUSTRY HIT BY HIGH COSTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Govt is expected to let drug cos hike prices <b>in line with rise in wholesale price index</b>, which was 10.8% for 2021</li><li>&gt; Drug prices regulator NPPA is likely to announce the <b>higher price caps within days</b></li><li>&gt; Over <b>850 formulations</b> across key therapies may be impacted</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; This would be the first time essentials — like <b>painkillers, anti-infectives, cardiac &amp; antibiotics</b> — are allowed a price-hike of more than that for non-scheduled drugs</li><li>&gt; The move will provide major relief to the industry as it has been <b>incurring cost-escalations of 60-70%</b></li></ul>

- ❖ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has announced a hike in prices of around 800 essential drugs from 1 April.
- ❖ These drugs are included in the National Essential List of Medicine.
- ❖ The rise in drug prices works out at around 10.76% based on the Wholesale Price Index.

## C40 Cities Network



- ❖ Maharashtra has launched the Mumbai Climate Action Plan in partnership with the C40 Cities Network.
- ❖ Mumbai Climate Action Plan is essentially designed to reduce emissions and meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.
- ❖ Found in 2005, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is an association of 97 cities from around the world C40.
- ❖ It is a global network of mayors aimed at fighting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus mitigating climate risks.

- ❖ The goal of the C40's initiative is to reduce the emissions of its member cities to half within a decade.
- ❖ Five Indian cities are currently a part of the C40 network.
- ❖ These are Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai.

### **Doctor-population ratio in India**

- ❖ The number of medical undergraduate seats has increased from 51,348 before 2014 to 89,875 seats as of date.
- ❖ This is an increase of 75%.
- ❖ The number of medical postgraduate seats has gone up by 93%.
- ❖ The doctor-population ratio was 1:834 in the country assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors.

### **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022**



- ❖ Recently, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It would allow the police and prison authorities to collect, store and analyze physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans.
- ❖ It will also seek to apply these provisions to persons held under any preventive detention law.
- ❖ It also authorizes taking measurements of convicts and "other persons" for identification and investigation in criminal matters.
- ❖ It doesn't define the "other persons" implying its ambit beyond convicts, arrested persons, or detainees.
- ❖ Police personnel up to the rank of Head Constable have been authorized to record the measurements.

- ❖ It has been argued that the Bill was beyond the legislative competence of Parliament as it violated the fundamental rights of citizens including the right to privacy.
- ❖ It has been argued that the bill violates Article 20 (3) of the Constitution.
- ❖ It has been argued that the bill also violates human rights provisions as laid out in the United Nations charter.

### **India's first steel road**



- ❖ The Hazira Industrial Area in Surat, Gujarat, has created a one-of-a-kind road.
- ❖ The road is created entirely of steel waste.
- ❖ That is one of the best instances of sustainable development.
- ❖ ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India collaborated on the steel slag road with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research India, the Central Road Research Institute, and Niti Aayog.
- ❖ The road was constructed entirely of processed steel slag.
- ❖ Steel slag is a major source of concern for the steel industry because it is regarded as a waste product.

### **Prasthan Exercise**

- ❖ 'Prasthan' is an offshore security exercise that was conducted in Mumbai's Offshore Development Area.
- ❖ This exercise was conducted under the aegis of the Western Naval Command's Headquarters.

- ❖ This exercise is conducted every six months.
- ❖ This exercise was led by the Indian Navy.
- ❖ This exercise was conducted to refine the response and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to various contingencies in Mumbai's Offshore Defence Area.



### 50,000 ODF Plus Villages



- ❖ The milestone of having 50,000 open defecation-free (ODF) Plus villages has been crossed by the country.
- ❖ The top-performing states under this programme are Telangana.
- ❖ It is followed by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Into three categories, the ODF Plus villages have been divided.
- ❖ The categories are Rising, Aspiring, and Model.

### TEJAS Skilling Project

- ❖ The Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills (TEJAS) in Dubai.
- ❖ This is an initiative under the Skill India International Project.
- ❖ This programme has the objective of skilling, providing certification, and employment of Indians overseas.



- ❖ TEJAS is also aiming to create pathways so that the Indian workforce can get equipped for the various skills and market requirements in the UAE.
- ❖ Under this project, 10,000 strong Indian workforces will be created in the UAE during the initial phase of implementation.

## Yamunotsav

- ❖ The Yamunotsav was organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- ❖ This program was organized in collaboration with a group of NGOs.
- ❖ This event was organized at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge, New Delhi.
- ❖ This event was organized to celebrate River Yamuna's glory.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Ukraine's Airbases



- ❖ The air and missile strikes from the Russian side have destroyed over 90 military ground facilities belonging to Ukraine.
- ❖ This includes close to 14 airfields, command posts, radar stations, and the S-300 air defense systems.
- ❖ Key airfields like the Luts'k military airfield, the Ivano-Frankivsk airbase, the Melitopol airbase, the Mykolaiv airbase, the Gostomel airport, and the Chernihiv airbase were targeted heavily, resulting in major damages.

## Minsk Agreements



- ❖ Minsk Agreements were signed in 2014 and 2015 in the Belarusian capital Minsk.

### **MINSK I**

- ❖ Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed on a 12-point ceasefire deal in the Belarusian capital in 2014.
- ❖ Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.
- ❖ The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.

### **MINSK II**

- ❖ Representatives of Russia and Ukraine, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the leaders of two pro-Russian separatist regions signed a 13-point agreement in 2015.
- ❖ The leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine, gathered in Minsk at the same time issued a declaration of support for the deal.
- ❖ A major blockage has been Russia's insistence that it is not a party to the conflict and therefore is not bound by its terms.

## Khaibar-buster Missile

- ❖ Iran unveiled a new missile called "Khaibar Buster Missile".
- ❖ It is capable of hitting nearby US bases and Israel.
- ❖ It has a range of 900 miles.

- ❖ The missile runs on solid fuel.
- ❖ It can defeat missile shield systems.



### **Razzaza Lake**



- ❖ Razzaza Lake is a man-made lake is located between Iraq's governorates of Anbar and Karbala
- ❖ It is also known as Lake Milh.
- ❖ It's the second largest lake in Iraq.
- ❖ Razzaza was constructed as a measure to control floods in the Euphrates and to be used as a huge reservoir for irrigation purposes.
- ❖ Razzaza Lake is currently seeing a significant decline in water levels.
- ❖ It has been hit by pollution and high levels of salinity.

### **IOC response to Russia's invasion**

- ❖ The International Olympic Committee has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organizers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events.

### **Mriya**

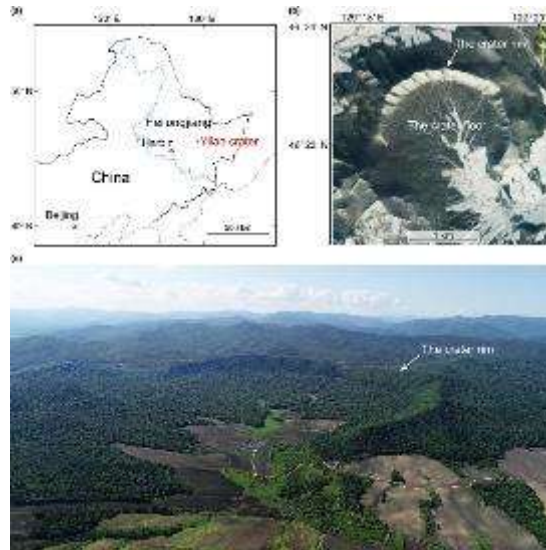


- ❖ Russia destroyed the largest plane in the world called “Ukraine’s Antonov-225 cargo plane”.
- ❖ The plane was destroyed outside Kyiv.
- ❖ According to weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom, restoring “AN-225 Mriya” would cost over USD 3 billion and could take over five years.
- ❖ It was destroyed on February 27.
- ❖ It has been named Mriya, which means “dream” in Ukrainian.

### **Yilan Crater**

- ❖ A team of geologists has discovered a crater named “Yilan Crater”.
- ❖ It was discovered in the northwest of Yilan in Heilongjiang Province of China.
- ❖ It is the largest crater on Earth under 100,000 years old.
- ❖ Carbon-14 dating sediments suggest that this crater was formed between 46,000 and 53,000 years ago.
- ❖ Prior to 2020, only one impact crater “Xiuyan Crater” was discovered in Liaoning province.





### **New Species of Orchid**



- ❖ The Researchers have discovered an astounding new species of orchid in the cloud rainforest of Northern Ecuador.
- ❖ It has been scientifically named *Maxillaria anacatalina-portillae*.
- ❖ This plant is unique with its showy, intense yellow flowers.

### **Saudi Arabia foundation day**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia held celebrations on February 22 to commemorate for the first time its foundation nearly 300 years ago.
- ❖ The anniversary marks the day in 1727 when Mohammed bin Saud, founder of the first Saudi state, took over the emirate of Diriyah.
- ❖ Emirate of Diriyah is a remote town that now lies on the northwest edge of the Saudi capital Riyadh.



### **Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant**

- ❖ Russia has captured Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.
- ❖ This is the largest one in Europe.
- ❖ It is located near the city of Enerhodar, on the Dnieper River.

### **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) vote to probe Russian actions**

- ❖ India has abstained on a vote at the UNHRC resolution which "strongly condemned" aggression by Russia on Ukraine.
- ❖ The resolution asked the council to set up an international commission of enquiry into Russia's actions in Ukraine.
- ❖ India was among 13 countries of the 47-member council elected from UN members that abstained from the resolution.
- ❖ Only Russia and Eritrea voted against the resolution.

### **Emergency General Assembly session**

- ❖ India abstained from a procedural vote taken in the UN Security Council to call for a rare special emergency session of the UN General Assembly on Russia's aggression against Ukraine.
- ❖ India, China, and the UAE abstained from this.
- ❖ The resolution was adopted with 11 votes in favor.
- ❖ This was the 11th such emergency session of the General Assembly since 1950.

## **Mobile World Congress 2022**



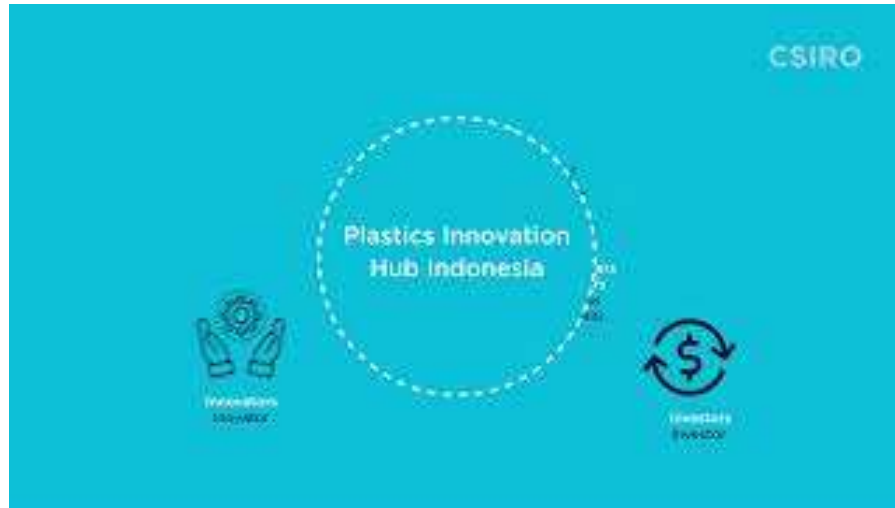
- ❖ The Global System for Mobile Communications Association has organized the 2022 Mobile World Congress.
- ❖ It took place in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ The Global Mobile Economy Report expects 5G connections globally to reach 1 billion in 2022 by 5G adoption.
- ❖ An increase in the 5G network connection will increase the global GDP by 5% up to \$5 trillion in 2025.

## **Pakistan - grey list**



- ❖ Pakistan is likely to remain on the grey list of global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF until June.
- ❖ Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018.
- ❖ It has been on the grey list for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing.

## Plastics Innovation Hub



- ❖ A partnership has been established by Australia and Indonesia with the aim of tackling plastic pollution in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ This partnership will bring together investors, researchers, and major stakeholders, including public and private sector businesses, to develop various solutions to tackle plastic waste in Indonesia's waterways and oceans.

## Endurance ship

- ❖ The Scientists have found and filmed one of the greatest ever undiscovered ship wrecks 107 years after it sank.
- ❖ The Endurance, the lost vessel of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, was found at the weekend at the bottom of the Weddell Sea.
- ❖ The ship was crushed by sea-ice and sank in 1915.
- ❖ The project to find the lost ship was mounted by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust (FMHT), using a South African icebreaker, Agulhas II.





## South Korea President



- ❖ Yoon Suk-yeol has been declared the winner of the 2022 South Korean presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country.
- ❖ He is scheduled to assume office for a fixed term of five years.
- ❖ Yoon Suk-yeol will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

## Care at work report



- ❖ It was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ This report offers a global overview of national laws, policies, and practices on care, including maternity, paternity, parental, child, and long-term care.
- ❖ It highlights how some workers fall outside the scope of these legal protections.
- ❖ The report finds that three in ten women of reproductive age, or 649 million women, have inadequate maternity protection.



- ❖ It means that it does not meet the key requirements of the ILO's Maternity Protection Convention, 2000.
- ❖ More than 1.2 billion men of prime reproductive age live in countries with no entitlement to paternity leave.

## **V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022**

### **Top 5 LDI Countries:**

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Norway
4. Costa Rica
5. New Zealand

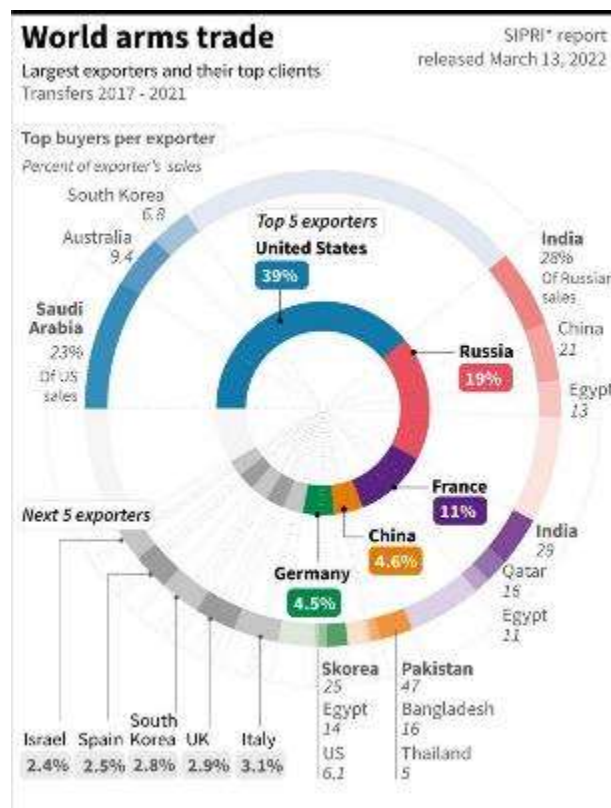
- ❖ The latest edition of Democracy Report was released recently by the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg.
- ❖ The study was titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'
- ❖ The report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy.
- ❖ It classifies India as an electoral autocracy ranking it 93rd on the LDI, out of 179 countries.
- ❖ India is one of the top ten 'autocratisers' in the world says the report.

## **Saudi Arabia - Mass execution**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia executed 81 people convicted of crimes ranging from killings to belonging to militant groups.
- ❖ This is the largest known mass execution carried out in the kingdom in its modern history.
- ❖ The number of executed surpassed even the toll of a January 1980 mass execution for the 63 militants convicted of seizing the Grand Mosque in Mecca in 1979.



## SIPRI Report



- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021.
- ❖ As per the report, India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21.
- ❖ Both two countries accounted for 11% of all global arms sales.
- ❖ The report placed India at the top of the list.

- ❖ Russia (46%), France (27%), and the USA (12%) were the top three largest exporters of arms to India during the period.
- ❖ The USA, with a 39% share, retained its standing as the world's largest arms exporters during 2017-21.
- ❖ India was the 23rd largest exporter during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports.

### **EU Carbon border tariff**



- ❖ The European Union (EU) countries decided to impose the world's first carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions tariff on imports of polluting goods.
- ❖ The European Union (EU) wants to introduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions costs on imports of steel, cement, fertilizers, aluminum, and electricity.
- ❖ The aim of imposing this tariff is to protect the European industry, as the European market is flooded by cheaper goods made in countries with weak environmental rules.

### **Women on board of listed companies**

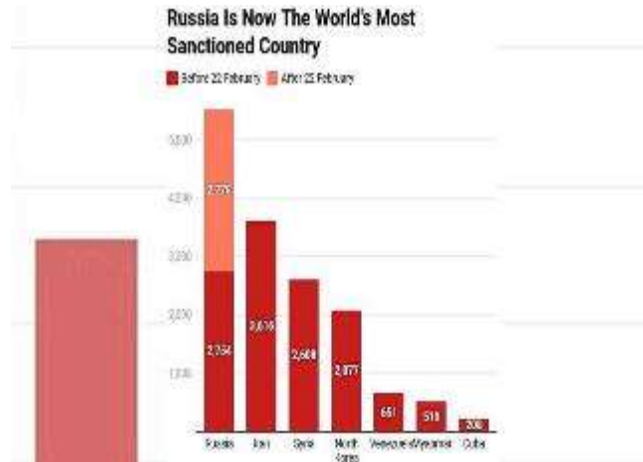
- ❖ Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies.
- ❖ This is said in a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- ❖ According to the latest figures, there was an increase in the percentage of women who are independent directors on listed companies from five percent in 2020 to six percent.



## Discovery of Old Stone Age culture

- ❖ In China, scientists have found evidence of a 40,000 years old culture, located 100 miles away from Beijing.
- ❖ The stone-age culture was known for now-extinct relatives of the human species.
- ❖ These hominins used a pigment called Ochre and used to craft blade-like tools from stone.
- ❖ This site is located in Nihewan Basin.
- ❖ It is a depression, located in the northern mountainous region of China.
- ❖ This site is called Xiamabei.

## Most sanctioned country



- ❖ Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of a number of sanctions.
- ❖ Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country.

## UN World Happiness Report 2022

- ❖ India has improved its rank by three spots to acquire 136th position in the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022.
- ❖ It is being published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, since 2012
- ❖ The report ranked 146 countries.
- ❖ In 2021, India's rank was 139.

- ❖ Finland has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year.
- ❖ Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, at 146th position.



## Cold Response 2022



- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has organized the massive military drill 'Cold Response 2022' in Norway.
- ❖ The exercise is held in Norway every second year, for NATO Allies and partners.
- ❖ Cold Response is a long-planned and defensive exercise where Norway and its allies exercise in defending Norway against external threats.

## Boeing 737-800 crash

### Boeing 737-800

A China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 with 132 people on board crashed near Wuzhou in China on March 21.

**Seats:** 162 - 189 passengers



- ❖ A China Eastern flight MU573 carrying 132 passengers has crashed into a mountain in China's Guangxi region.
- ❖ The plane had taken off from Kunming and was headed towards Guangzhou.
- ❖ The plane crash has caused a massive fire on the mountain.

## Montreux Convention



- ❖ Turkey activated the Montreux Convention in response to Russia's War over Ukraine.
- ❖ The declaration that the situation in Ukraine had become a war, authorizes Turkey to activate the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
- ❖ Montreux Convention is an international agreement that was signed by Australia, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and Turkey.
- ❖ It has been in effect since November 1936.

### Hisashi Takeuchi

- ❖ Hisashi Takeuchi (from Japan) has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Maruti Suzuki.
- ❖ Takeuchi will serve for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2022.
- ❖ Takeuchi will succeed Kenichi Ayukawa as the MD and CEO.



### BIMSTEC Charter



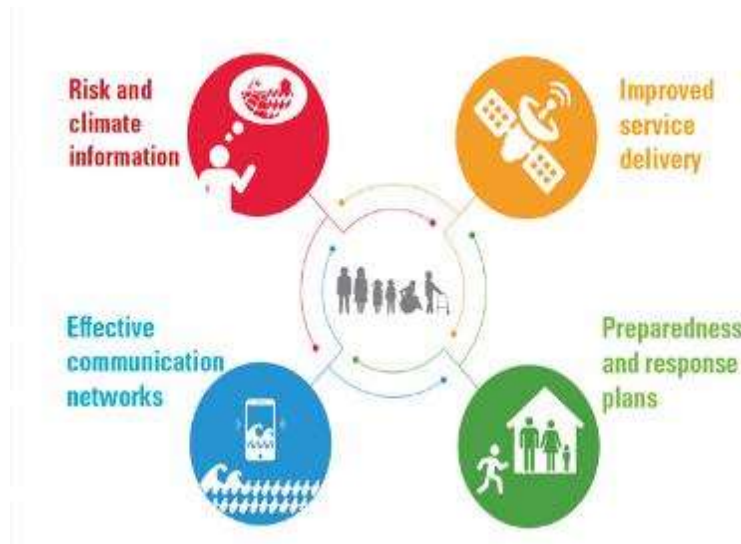
- ❖ 5th BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 30th March.
- ❖ Six documents, which also includes the BIMSTEC Charter, are likely to be adopted and signed.
- ❖ “BIMSTEC-Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies and Healthy Peoples” is the theme for the 5th BIMSTEC Summit.



## **Bersama Shield 2022**

- ❖ Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise.
- ❖ The four nations are Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The exercise is referred to as BS22 (Bersama Shield 2022).
- ❖ Bersama means together in Malay.

## **Climate Early Warning Systems**



- ❖ Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, announced this project in association with the World Meteorological Organisation based in Geneva.
- ❖ The project has been announced to put every individual on the planet in early weather-warning systems range within the next five years as natural disasters have grown frequent and more powerful due to the effects of climate change.
- ❖ One-third of the Earth's population, especially in the countries which are least-developed are not covered by early warning systems.
- ❖ 60 percent of people who are residing in Africa lack coverage.

## **Wildlife bond to save Africa's black rhino**

- ❖ The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) to support South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino.
- ❖ Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as "Rhino Bond".

- ❖ The bond will contribute to protecting and increasing black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa.
- ❖ Those areas are the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve.



### Resolution demanding aid access

- ❖ 193 Member States adopted a resolution drafted by Ukraine.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly demanded civilian protection and humanitarian access in Ukraine
- ❖ 140 votes were in favor.
- ❖ Five were against - Russia, Syria, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (more commonly known as North Korea), Eritrea and Belarus, and 38 others abstaining.

Voting Started		24-Mar-22		11:30:46	
Item 5 - Draft resolution A/ES-11/L.2					
Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine					
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## UNAMA



- ❖ The Security Council has adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for a year till March 17, 2023.
- ❖ The Resolution 2626 decides that UNAMA and the UN Secretary-General's special representative will continue to carry out their mandate in support of the people of Afghanistan.

## UNEP 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' - Highlights

- ❖ Dhaka has been ranked as the noisiest city in the world.
- ❖ It is followed by Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Five Indian cities have been ranked in this list of being among the noisiest cities of the world.
- ❖ They are,
  - Asansol,
  - Jaipur,
  - Kolkata,
  - New Delhi, and
  - Moradabad.
- ❖ Irbid, Jordan has been ranked as the world's quietest city
- ❖ The top 3 Noisiest Cities are,
  - Dhaka, Bangladesh- 119dB
  - Moradabad, India- 114dB
  - Islamabad, Pakistan- 105dB



### **US-EU Agreement on Data Transfer Pact**

- ❖ The United States and the European Union have announced that they have an “in principle” agreement in place to create a new framework for the purpose of cross-border data transfers.
- ❖ This announcement has come as a much-needed relief for various tech giants like Google and Meta.
- ❖ For more than a year, officials have been planning out a deal with the aim to replace the invalidated Privacy Shield, an arrangement that allows firms to share Europeans’ data with the U.S.

### **Gilbert Hounbo**

- ❖ Gilbert Hounbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization.
- ❖ Hounbo was the former Prime Minister of Togo.
- ❖ The current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, has held office since 2012.





### **COP-4 Minamata Convention on Mercury**

- ❖ In the Conference of Parties (COP-4) Minamata Convention on Mercury, the participating parties have agreed to expand the mercury-added products list that has been planned to be phased out.
- ❖ The COP-4 Minamata Convention on Mercury took place in Bali, Indonesia.
- ❖ This convention aims to protect the environment and human health from the release of mercury, and anthropogenic emissions.



## ECONOMY

### T+1 Stock Settlement

- ❖ India has become the second country after China to implement the T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner.
- ❖ Before this, the settlement period of stocks in India was T+2, i.e. two days after the actual buy/selling of stock.
- ❖ T means the trade/transaction day i.e. the day on which stock is brought/sold.
- ❖ Here T+1 means that the actual stock settlement will happen on the next day.



### GST Revenues – February



- ❖ The February 2022 collection of GST (Goods and Services Tax) stood at Rs. 1,33,026 crores.
- ❖ This is 18 percent higher than February 2021.
- ❖ For the fifth time, GST collection has crossed the mark of Rs 1.30 lakh crore.
- ❖ Since GST's implementation, GST cess collection, for the first time, crossed the mark of Rs 10,000 crore.

## 60 million Demat accounts



- ❖ The Central Depository Services (India) announced that it now has more than six crores (i. e. equivalent to 60 million) active Demat accounts.
- ❖ A Demat account is a kind of account that can be used to keep online copies of securities and shares.

## Wealth Report 2022



- ❖ India is ranked 3rd in terms of most number of billionaires' population globally in 2021.
- ❖ This is as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022.
- ❖ The number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to 145 billionaires.

- ❖ This is the highest percentage growth in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- ❖ UHNWIs are individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m or more (Rs 226 crore).
- ❖ The list has been topped by the United States (748) and China (554) respectively.
- ❖ In India, Bengaluru recorded the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs in 2021.
- ❖ It was followed by Delhi and Mumbai in 2021.

### **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development**



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised by it as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934.
- ❖ Presently RBI has four AIFIs under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB, and SIDBI.
- ❖ NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI.
- ❖ NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

### **Interest rate on PF deposits**

- ❖ The retirement fund body, Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has slashed the interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.10% for 2021-22.
- ❖ This rate is 0.4% lower than the previous year.
- ❖ The interest rate on PF deposits was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20.
- ❖ This is the lowest in more than four decades.



Financial Year	EPF Interest Rate (%)
2013-14	8.75
2014-15	8.75
2015-16	8.80
2016-17	8.65
2017-18	8.55
2018-19	8.65
2019-20	8.50

### Reserve Bank Innovation Hub



- ❖ The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has been inaugurated by Shaktikanta Das in Bengaluru.
- ❖ RBIH has been set up as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI with Rs 100 crore as an initial capital contribution.
- ❖ An independent board has been constituted for this hub with S. Gopalakrishnan selected as the Chairman.
- ❖ The aim of the RBIH is to create an ecosystem that will focus on the promotion of access to various financial products and services for the low-income group population across the nation.

### Economic Survey of Delhi

- ❖ Delhi ranked third in terms of per capita income behind Sikkim and Goa.
- ❖ This is according to the Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22.

- ❖ According to the survey, Delhi's per capita income grew 16.81 percent year-on-year in fiscal 2021-22.
- ❖ The per capita income of Delhi was three times higher than the national average in 2021-22.

### **Decline in dollar's dominance**

- ❖ The dollar's share of global reserve currencies has been in a steady decline over the past 20 years.
- ❖ This is because the Central banks turn to nontraditional currencies, including the renminbi, to diversify their holdings.
- ❖ Reserve managers have moved out of dollars in two directions, with one quarter headed into the renminbi and three quarters into currencies of smaller countries.
- ❖ The findings are in a new paper issued by the International Monetary Fund titled: "The Stealth Erosion of Dollar Dominance: Active Diversifiers and the Rise of Nontraditional Reserve Currencies."
- ❖ It was co-authored by Serkan Arslanalp of the IMF, Barry Eichengreen of the University of California Berkeley, and Chima Simpson-Bell also of the IMF.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Fossil of Sea Dragon

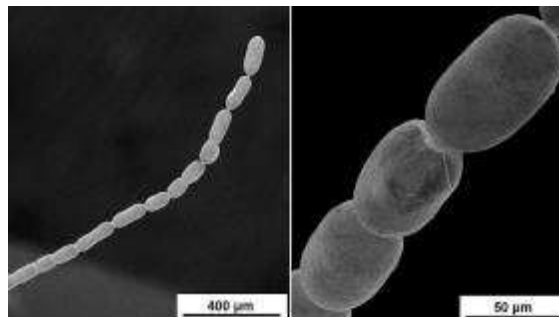


- ❖ United Kingdom researchers have found colossal 180-million-year-old fossilized remains of an Ichthyosaur.
- ❖ It is popularly known as a 'sea dragon'.
- ❖ The researchers show one of the most significant discoveries in the region as the fossil is the biggest and most complete skeleton of its kind found in the United Kingdom.

### Launch of 22 Satellites

- ❖ China launched a Long March-8 rocket to place 22 satellites in space.
- ❖ With the launch, China set a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket.
- ❖ The rocket blasted off at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in southern Hainan Province.
- ❖ It marked the 409th flight of Long March carrier rockets.

### Thiomargarita magnifica



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a bacterium that is big enough to be seen through the naked eye.
- ❖ It has been named *Thiomargarita magnifica*.
- ❖ This huge string-like bacterium can grow up to 2 cm in length.
- ❖ It is native to Caribbean mangroves.
- ❖ It's nearly 5,000 times bigger than most other microorganisms.

## **PARAM Ganga**



- ❖ It is the 'Made in India' Petascale supercomputer installed at IIT Roorkee under National Supercomputing Mission.
- ❖ It has a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 PFLOPS (Peta Floating-Point Operations per Second).
- ❖ It was designed and commissioned by the C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) under the National Super computing Mission.

## **Plasma**

- ❖ The Scientists have unraveled the science behind the jets of plasma.
- ❖ Plasma is the fourth state of matter consisting of electrically charged particles that occur just about everywhere in the sun's chromosphere.



- ❖ The jets, or spicules, appear as thin grass-like plasma structures that constantly shoot up from the surface and are then brought down by gravity.
- ❖ The amount of energy and momentum that these spicules can carry is of fundamental interest in solar and plasma astrophysics.
- ❖ The scientists recently elaborated that the plasma right below the visible solar surface (photosphere) is perpetually in a state of convection, much like boiling water in a vessel heated at the bottom.



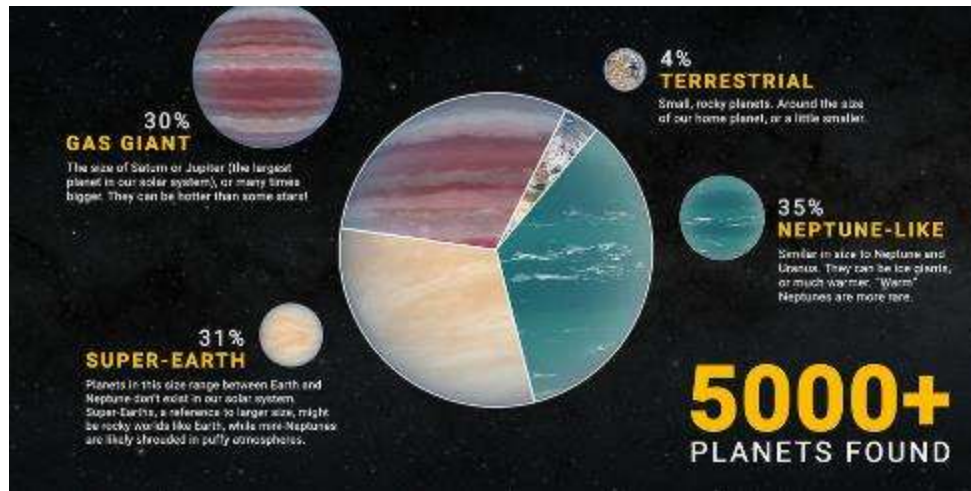
### **Kilonova**

- ❖ The afterglow from an epic cosmic event known as “Kilonova” might have been spotted by astronomers.
- ❖ Kilonovas occur when two hyper-dense neutron stars collide, which are the remnants of stars that died in supernova explosions.
- ❖ An afterglow in X-rays from the event, is dubbed GW170817.



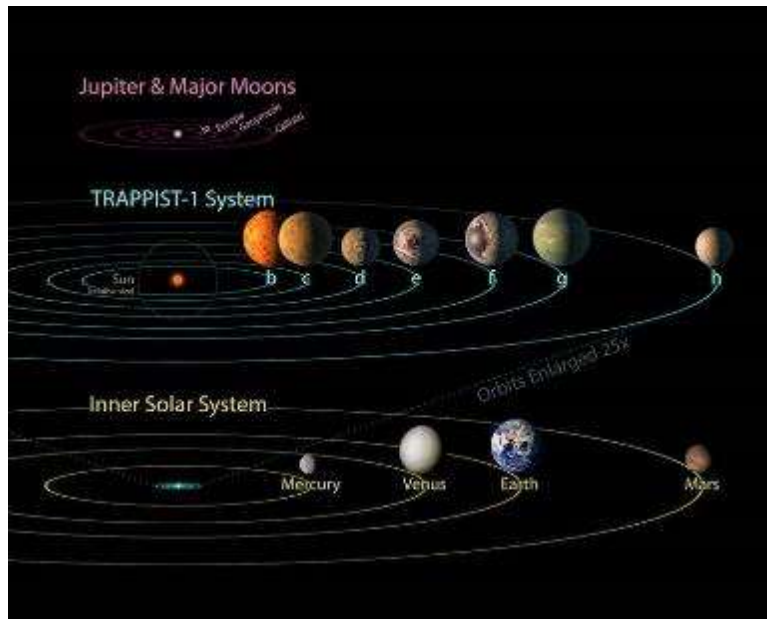
## 5000 Exoplanets

- ❖ 65 new planets have been discovered by NASA outside the Earth's solar system.
- ❖ This new discovery takes the total number of exoplanets that have been discovered to over 5000.
- ❖ Some of these discovered planets are Earth-like.
- ❖ These 65 newly discovered planets will be studied to look for the presence of microbes, water, gases on the planet's surface, or even life.



## TRAPPIST-1 system

- ❖ TRAPPIST-1 is a red dwarf star in the Aquarius constellation.
- ❖ TRAPPIST-1 was earlier known as 2MASS J23062928-0502285 or K2-112, because it was spotted with the Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS).
- ❖ It was discovered in 1999 by astronomer John Gizis.
- ❖ It is older than the solar system, as it is 7.6 billion years old.
- ❖ Its mass is about 9% of the Sun.
- ❖ Its radius is slightly larger than Jupiter.
- ❖ It has a surface temperature of about 2,290 °C.
- ❖ It is about 39 light-years from the Sun.
- ❖ James Webb Telescope will be directed towards the TRAPPIST-1 system.
- ❖ It will look for signs of atmosphere on the planets of TRAPPIST-1.



## ENVIRONMENT

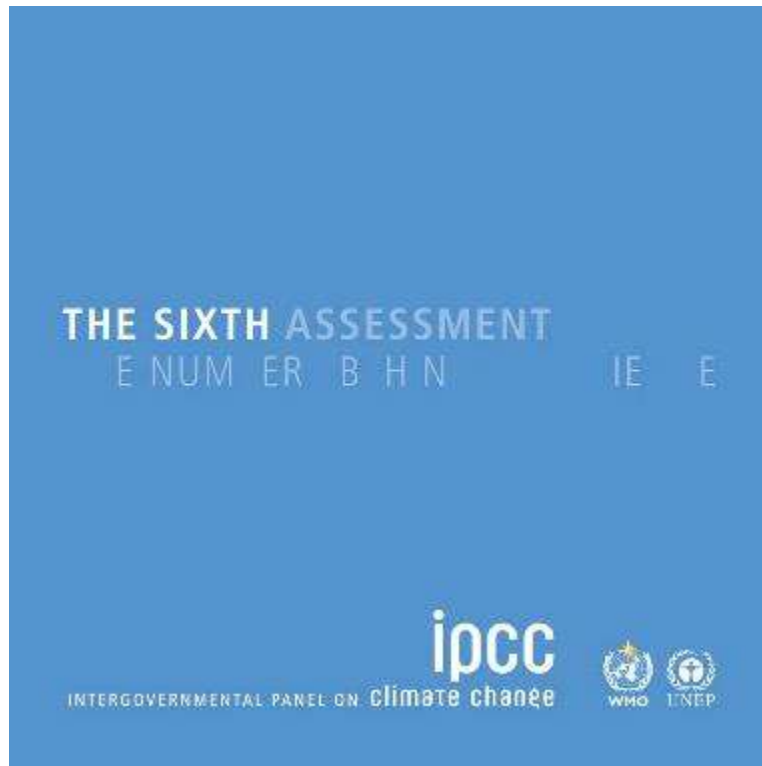
### UN Report on Climate Change

- ❖ The United Nations climate science panel, in a major report, warned that climate change is upon us and humanity is not prepared for it.
- ❖ The report noted that over half of the world's population was already exposed to increasingly hazardous climate impacts and called for massive action.
- ❖ The report stated that by 2040, climate change is expected to make the world hungrier, sicker, far more hazardous, and poorer with an increase in hazards.



- ❖ Also, if human-caused global warming is not limited, the Earth will degrade in 127 way.
- ❖ It is now regularly hit by deadly fires, heat, drought, and floods some of which will be irreversible.

### **IPCC Assessment Report**



- ❖ Even if greenhouse gas emissions are decreased, several disasters caused by climate change are likely to happen in the next two decades.
- ❖ This is according to a report compiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- ❖ India will be severely impacted if emissions are not reduced, according to the second installment of the IPCC report.
- ❖ The report claims that sea-level rise will endanger Mumbai, while storms will threaten Kolkata.
- ❖ Rice production in India can decrease by 10 to 30 percent, while maize production could decrease by 25 to 70 percent, assuming a temperature increase of 1 to 4 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The river basins of Indus, Amu Darya, Sabarmati, Ganges could face severe water scarcity issues due to climate change.



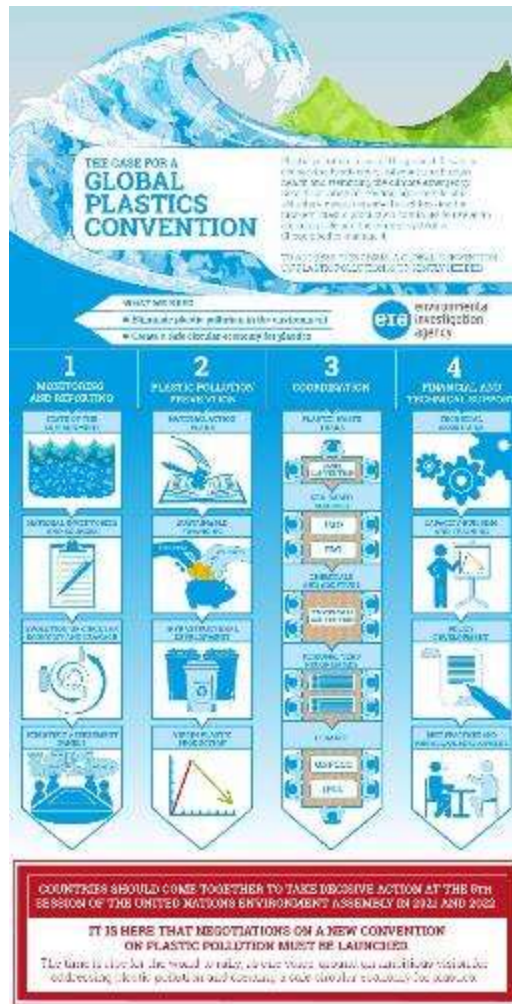
### **Sloth bear**

- ❖ The sloth bear, tiger, and dhole are among 36 apex predators worldwide affected the most due to road construction.
- ❖ The sloth bear was the most affected predator as its habitat was in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ From 2012 to 2017, 15 sloth bear roadkills were recorded in India.
- ❖ The sloth bear is followed by the dhole or Asiatic Wild Dog, the tiger, Asiatic black bear, clouded leopard, sun bear, and Sunda clouded leopard.
- ❖ Eight of the top 10 apex predators most affected due to roads running through their habitat are from Asia.



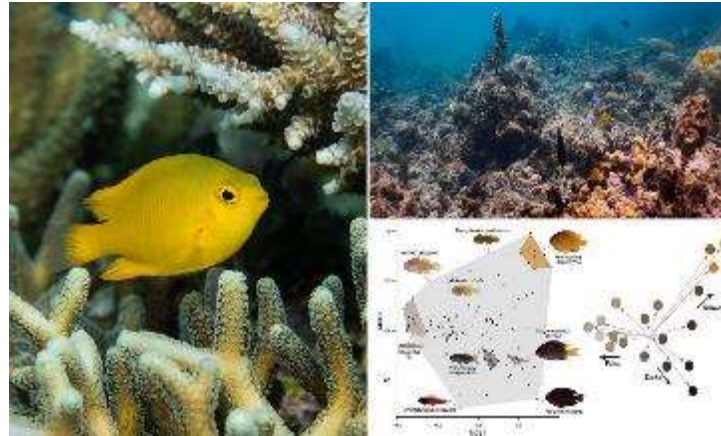
### **Global Plastics Treaty**

- ❖ In the biggest multilateral environmental deal, 175 countries have agreed to a legally binding global treaty called the “Global Plastics Treaty”.
- ❖ This is to end the plastic pollution crisis by tackling the entire supply chain of materials.
- ❖ The resolution on the first treaty was passed at a meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi in Kenya.
- ❖ The first treaty directly seeks to tackle 9 billion tonnes of plastic produced since the plastic age ramped up in the 1950s.
- ❖ Now, they have started working on how to implement the treaty by 2024.



## Fish in Great Barrier Reef Fading

- ❖ Due to climate change, the oceans are heating up and corals are continuing to bleach which is causing Australia's Great Barrier Reef's fish communities to fade and lose their color.
- ❖ This is according to the study published in Global Change Biology.
- ❖ Dr Hemingson at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia led this newly published study.
- ❖ This recently published study has monitored the changes seen in the fish communities' coloration as well as their living environment.
- ❖ According to the researchers, the fish communities' color diversity is linked to the local environment's composition.



## Annual Frontier Report 2022



- ❖ Recently, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the Annual Frontier Report 2022.
- ❖ It is titled Noise, Blazes, and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern.
- ❖ In the new report, UNEP has said that wildfires, noise pollution, and other looming environmental threats could cause widespread ecological damage, and need to be urgently addressed.
- ❖ The report highlights the urgent need to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.
- ❖ Noise pollution has been termed as “a raucous killer” .
- ❖ The report has highlighted that between 2002 and 2016, an average of 423 million hectares of the land surface have burned due to wildfires.

## STATES

### **Byanjana Dwadashi**



- ❖ It is a Vaishnavite festival that commemorates an episode featuring Krishna in the Mahabharata.
- ❖ It is a 500-year-old festival in Odisha.
- ❖ It is a festival with at least 701 dishes being prepared.

### **Upper Bhadra project**



- ❖ Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai announced that the high-powered committee of central government gave national project status to “Upper Bhadra Project”.
- ❖ This is the first project from the state to get this status.
- ❖ It will speed up the ambitious irrigation project and help in transforming central Karnataka from being water-scarce to a water-rich state.



## **The Cochin International Airport Limited**



- ❖ The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is set to commission a 12 MWp solar power plant near Payyannur in the Kannur district of Kerala.
- ❖ In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy.

## **Lachit Borphukan**

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Assam had announced many projects in connection with the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan.
- ❖ Lachit Borphukan was the commander of the Ahom forces and an icon of Assamese nationalism.
- ❖ In 1669, Aurangzeb dispatched the Rajput Raja Ram Singh I to recapture the territories won back by the Ahoms in previous battles.
- ❖ So, the Battle of Alaboi was fought in the Alaboi Hills in North Guwahati between the Ahoms and Mughals.
- ❖ Lachit Borphukan, after suffering a massive defeat at Alaboi, decimated the Mughals within just two years in 1671 (Battle of Saraighat).
- ❖ Lachit won the Battle of Saraighat (Naval battle) on the River Brahmaputra.
- ❖ The Ahom Kingdom was founded by Chaolung Sukapha, who was a 13th-century ruler.



### **Guinness record – Ujjain**



- ❖ Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes.
- ❖ The diyas were lighted as part of the ‘Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava’ on the occasion of Mahashivratri.
- ❖ With this, they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh in 2021.
- ❖ Ujjain is also known as the ‘Land of Mahakal’.

### **Herath festival**



- ❖ Herath or the ‘Night of Hara (Shiva)’ is generally known as Maha Shivratri.
- ❖ It is the main festival celebrated by the Kashmiri Pandits across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ❖ The festival marks the marriage anniversary of Lord Shiva and Goddess Uma (Parvathi).
- ❖ 2022 Herath Festival was celebrated on 28th February 2022.



- ❖ Herath Festival is celebrated on “Trayodashi” or the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna (Hindu calendar), between February and March.
- ❖ The rest of the nation celebrates the Maha Shivratri on Chaturdashi or the 14th of Phalguna.

### **Camel Protection and Development Policy**

- ❖ Rajasthan, the state government has announced a ‘Camel Protection and Development Policy’ in its budget 2022-23.
- ❖ According to the government figures, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan.
- ❖ And in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh since 2012.
- ❖ There were about 2.5 lakh camels left when counted last in 2019.
- ❖ World Camel Day is observed every year on 22 June to recognize the importance of camels to the livelihood of a large population.

### **Withdrawal of Consent to CBI**

- ❖ Meghalaya has become the ninth state of the country to withdraw consent to CBI to investigate cases in the state.
- ❖ It means that the CBI will not be able to file any new cases involving central government officials or private persons in the state without the permission of the state government.
- ❖ Before Meghalaya, the eight other states that had withdrawn consent to the CBI are Punjab, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, and Kerala.
- ❖ The first state to withdraw consent was Mizoram which did so in 2015.

### **HC and Andhra government**

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh high court has ordered Amaravati’s development as the state capital and ruled the government has no right to enact fresh legislation for three capitals.
- ❖ The court said that Parliament alone is competent to deal with the setting up of the legislature, executive and judicial organs of the state, and this was implicit in the language employed in Article 4 of the Constitution.

### **Konark temple town**



- ❖ Odisha plans to make the Konark temple town a 100 percent solar town.
- ❖ It was built by King Narasimhadeva I, the great ruler of the Ganga dynasty.
- ❖ The temple was included in UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- ❖ This temple was also known as 'BLACK PAGODA'
- ❖ Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "White Pagoda".

### **Microsoft data centre**

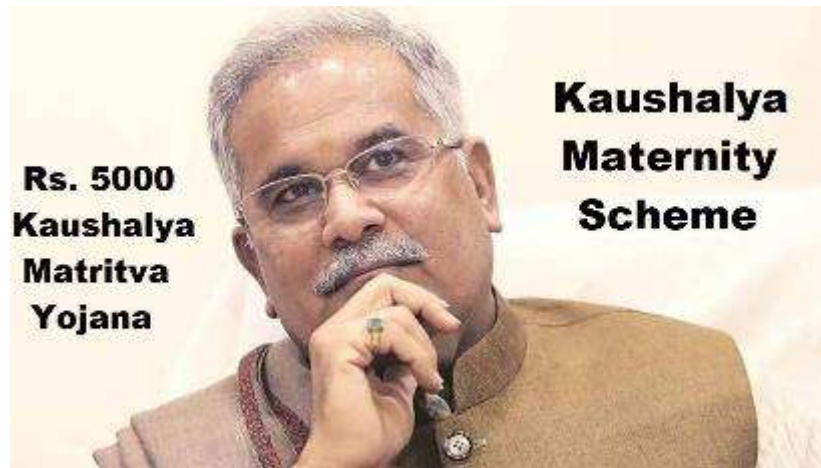


- ❖ Microsoft has announced to set up its fourth data centre in India in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ Hyderabad Data centre will be one of the largest data centres in India.
- ❖ It will be operational by 2025.
- ❖ Microsoft already has a data centre in three Indian regions across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai.



### **Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**

- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel introduced the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'.
- ❖ On the birth of a second daughter, women recipients are eligible for a lump payment aid of Rs. 5,000 under this scheme.
- ❖ The programme will assist in the parenting and education of girls.



### **Aama Yojna & Bahini Scheme**

- ❖ Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement 'Aama Yojana & 'Bahini Scheme'.
- ❖ Aama Yojna scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Government will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually.
- ❖ Bahini Scheme is to reduce the dropout rate of girl students due to the lack of accessibility/availability of Sanitary Napkins & also to ensure menstrual health and hygiene.

### **Pal-Dadhvav massacre**

- ❖ The government of Gujarat marked the 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav massacre on 7th March 2022.
- ❖ Pal-Dadhvav massacre refers to the killing of around 1,200 tribal revolutionaries (Bhils) by the British.
- ❖ It happened on 7th March 1922, in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district, then part of Idar state (present-day Gujarat state).

## Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme



- ❖ Haryana government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme to provide support to women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.

## Mission Indradhanush

- ❖ The Government of India's Mission Indradhanush is a healthcare initiative.
- ❖ It was first launched on December 25, 2014.
- ❖ This scheme seeks to achieve 90 percent full immunization coverage in India and also sustain it by the year 2022.
- ❖ Apart from successful COVID-19 vaccination, Odisha has the highest coverage of complete immunization in the country, with 90.5 percent coverage.



### Old pension scheme

- ❖ Chhattisgarh has become the second state, after Rajasthan, to reintroduce the old pension scheme for government employees that provides an assured pension after retirement.
- ❖ The scheme was scrapped by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from April 1, 2004, and was replaced with a market-driven pension scheme.

### Dudhala village - Gujarat

- ❖ Goldi Solar in partnership with Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) laid the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of Dudhala in Southern Gujarat.
- ❖ 450 KW solar rooftop projects will be used to power around 350 houses and public areas such as anganwadis and gram panchayat.
- ❖ Once completed, this would be the first village to be completely powered with solar panels by a foundation.



### Cheetah sanctuary



- ❖ Madhya Pradesh will be the first state in the country to introduce cheetahs.
- ❖ The Kuno Palpur sanctuary in Sheopur will be home to the batch of 12-15 cheetahs.
- ❖ The move comes 74 years after the last cheetah was killed in the country.

### **Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa scheme**

- ❖ Tripura Government has announced a special scheme 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa' for tea workers.
- ❖ It is introduced as a step towards bringing the 7000 tea garden workers of Tripura under the social security net.
- ❖ This special scheme would ensure housing, rations, and financial support to the tea garden workers.

### **Drone school - Gwalior**

- ❖ The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This drone school is one of the five Drone Schools planned to be opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The other four cities are Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, and Satna.

### **Child Budget - Madhya Pradesh**

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh state government for the first time presented a 'child budget' as part of its annual financial plan.
- ❖ The Child Budget will ensure that the children of the state have a bright future.
- ❖ The Child Budget will enable the government to deal with schemes that will be child-oriented including infant mortality and malnutrition.

Budget for Children  
in  
Madhya Pradesh





### **Indrayani Medicity**

- ❖ The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune.
- ❖ This is to provide all kinds of specialized treatment under one roof.
- ❖ Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centers for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness, and physiotherapy.

### **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park**

- ❖ The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) along with AI Foundry is going to launch a \$100 million venture fund to support AI and robotics innovations in India.



### **Digital Water Bank**

- ❖ India's First Digital Water Bank, 'AQVERIUM' has been launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ It is an innovative initiative aimed at better water management.
- ❖ It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures.
- ❖ Digital Water Data Bank can be understood as a curated list of 'Water Data' from all institutions and sources that will further aid in tackling some common development challenges.



## Mumbai Climate Action Plan



- ❖ The Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP), prepared by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), was released.
- ❖ The MCAP has laid down a 30-year roadmap for Mumbai to tackle the challenges of climate change.
- ❖ It has set short, medium, and long-term climate goals to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- ❖ It has identified six strategic areas where massive changes will have to be made over the next 30 years.
- ❖ With this Mumbai becomes the first South Asian city to make plans to eliminate carbon emissions by 2050.
- ❖ The main focus of MCAP will be decarbonizing Mumbai's energy grid.

## Crop diversification patterns

- ❖ Telangana is the first state in the country to record its crop diversification patterns in the form of an index.
- ❖ The crop diversification index has a base value of one.
- ❖ It represents the percentage of total cultivated area devoted to a single crop.
- ❖ If the index value is higher, it denotes that the crops are more diversified.
- ❖ In Telangana, many districts have index values ranging from 0 to 5.
- ❖ The crop diversification index will serve as a baseline for future crop diversification in the state.



## Mathrubhumi



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long celebrations of the centenary year of the Malayalam Daily, Mathrubhumi.
- ❖ Mathrubhumi started functioning on 18<sup>th</sup> March in 1923.
- ❖ It has been at the forefront of pushing across social reforms and developmental agendas, while constantly highlighting issues of national interest.

### **Dynamic map to track land ownership**

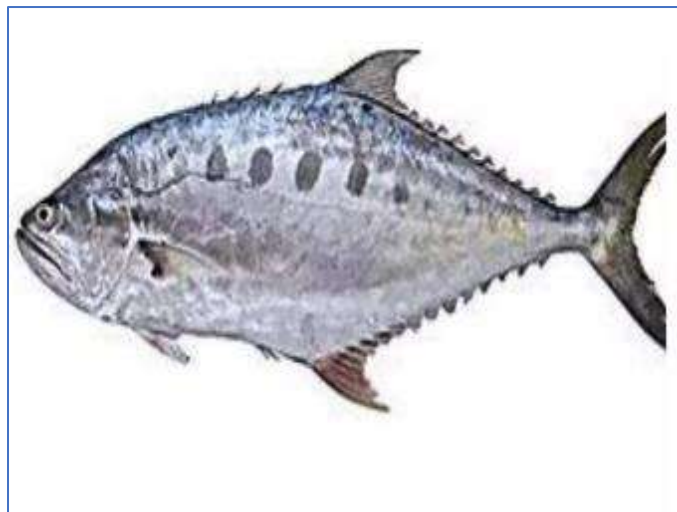
- ❖ Bihar has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of the dynamic map for villages.
- ❖ The dynamic map will automatically get updated, each time land ownership changes hands.
- ❖ The objective of the move is to reduce legal disputes.

### **Haryana Anti-Conversion Bill**

- ❖ The Assembly of Haryana has passed the “Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Bill, 2022.”
- ❖ This bill looks to prevent the conversion of a person’s religion through force, fraudulent methods, allurements, or under the guise of marriage.
- ❖ There is no central law in this regard.
- ❖ Similar bills have also been passed in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is also a proposal under the states of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

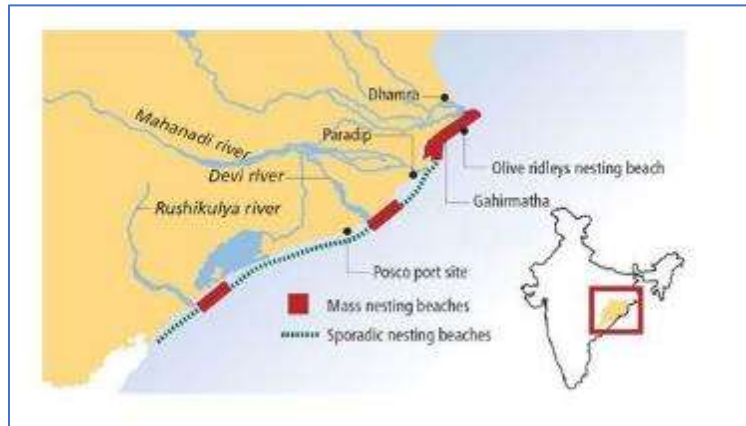
### **Identification of New Marine Species**

- ❖ A new Carangid species has been identified by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) from the Indian coast of Kerala.
- ❖ This newly identified fish belongs to the group named ‘queen fish’.
- ❖ The scientific name of this fish is *Scomberoides pelagicus*.
- ❖ In the local language, this fish is called ‘pola vatta’.





## **Gahirmatha arribada**



- ❖ About 2.45 lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles crawled ashore on the Nasi-II beach of the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary along the Odisha coast for laying eggs.
- ❖ The Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle.
- ❖ It is a medium-sized species of sea turtle found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- ❖ In the Indian Ocean, the majority of olive ridleys nest in two or three large groups at Rushikulya rookery near Gahirmatha in Odisha.
- ❖ The coast of Odisha in India is the largest mass nesting site for the olive ridley.
- ❖ It is followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

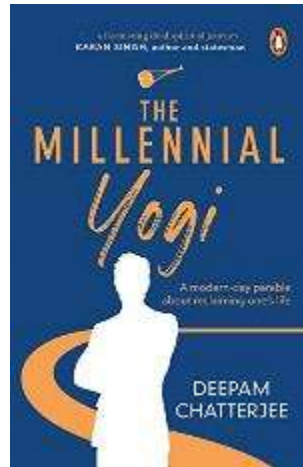
### **Madhabi Puri Buch**



- ❖ Former ICICI Banker, Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman, replacing Ajay Tyagi.
- ❖ She is the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body.

### **Book by Deepam Chatterjee**

- ❖ Former Indian Army Captain, Deepam Chatterjee has authored a new book titled “The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life”.
- ❖ The book talks about Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay and Vini, a mystic monk.
- ❖ The book is published by Ebury Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.



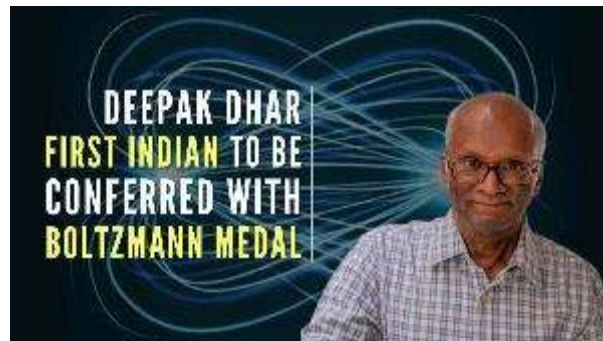
### **Junaid Kamal Ahmad**

- ❖ Junaid Kamal Ahmad, the World Bank’s India Director, has been named a Vice President of the international lending agency.
- ❖ Ahmad will lead the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) as Vice President, Operations.
- ❖ He is only the second Bangladeshi to be chosen to such a high position in the bank’s history.



### **Boltzmann Medal**

- ❖ Physicist Professor, Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal.
- ❖ The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics.
- ❖ The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year.
- ❖ He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.
- ❖ Prof Dhar is presently the emeritus faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.



### **Shane Warne**

- ❖ Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne has passed away at the age of 52.
- ❖ Shane Warne picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests.
- ❖ His career spanned over 15 years from 1992 to 2007.

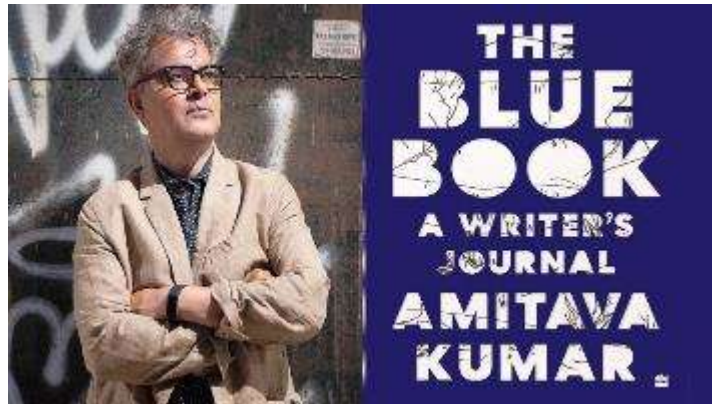


- ❖ He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in 1999.
- ❖ Shane Warn took more wickets than any other bowler in Ashes cricket, the tally standing at 195.

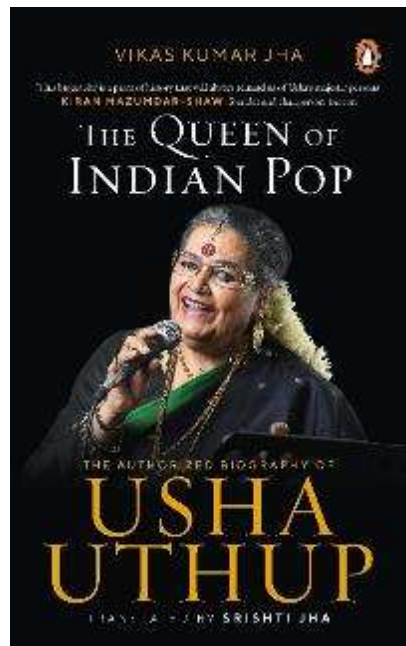
- ❖ In 2013, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- ❖ He also won the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League as the captain of Rajasthan Royals.

### **A book by Journalist Amitava Kumar**

- ❖ Indian writer and journalist, Amitava Kumar has come out with a new book titled 'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal'.
- ❖ The book has been published by HarperCollins India.
- ❖ The Blue Book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics.



### **Biography Usha Uthup**





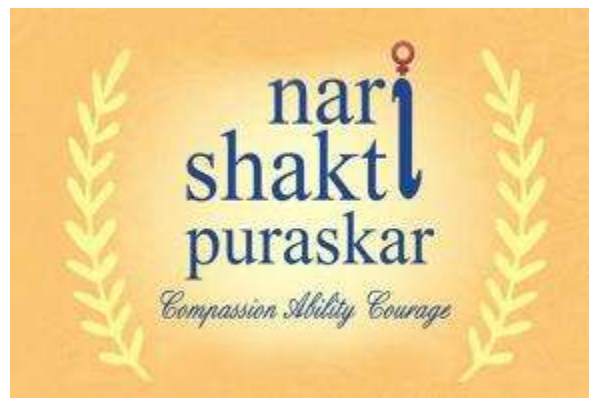
- ❖ The biography of pop icon Usha Uthup titled “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” was released.
- ❖ The book was originally written in Hindi titled “Ullas Ki Naav” by author Vikas Kumar Jha.
- ❖ “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” is the English translation of the book.
- ❖ It was translated by the writer’s daughter Srishti Jha.
- ❖ The book is published by Penguin Random House India.

### **23rd Woman Grandmaster of India**



- ❖ 19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki has secured her final WGM-norm at MPL’s forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship.
- ❖ She became India’s twenty-third Woman Grandmaster.
- ❖ She is from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

### **Nari Shakti Puraskar**



- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for the years 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2022, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ Overall 29 women have been conferred the award for the years 2020 and 2021.
- ❖ They were awarded in recognition of their outstanding and exceptional work towards the empowerment of women, especially the vulnerable and marginalized.
- ❖ Jaya Muthu and Tejamma from Nilgiris were awarded Nari Shakti Puraskar 2020 for their extraordinary contribution for preserving and promoting the age-old intricate Toda Embroidery of Nilgiris.
- ❖ Thara Rangaswamy from Chennai was Nari Shakti Puruskar 2021 for her innovative and relentless efforts to create awareness about and cure for mental disorders.

### **New President of the Financial Action Task Force**

- ❖ T Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ FATF is the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency.
- ❖ His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on July 1.
- ❖ Mr Raja's nomination marks the first time Singapore has assumed the president of the organisation.



### **Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar and National Safety Awards**

- ❖ Union Minister of Labor and Employment, Bhupender Yadav, presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP) and National Safety Awards.

- ❖ Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar and National Safety Awards are presented by the Ministry of Labor & Employment since 1965.
- ❖ The Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP) was previously known as Shram Vir National Awards.
- ❖ This award is given in recognition of outstanding suggestions given by workers and implemented by the management of the factory during the previous calendar year.
- ❖ The National Safety Awards are awarded in recognition of the outstanding safety performance of industrial establishments, construction sites, ports, and installations under the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
- ❖ The objective of the awards is to stimulate and maintain the interests of both the management and the workers in the prevention of accidents.



## Climate Force Antarctica Expedition



- ❖ Aarushi Verma has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition.
- ❖ She is a national-level shooter and an environmentalist hailing from Delhi.
- ❖ She will be fully supported and sponsored by The Hans Foundation.

### **‘Role of Labour in India’s Development’ Book**



- ❖ Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Labour and Employment released a book titled ‘Role of Labour in India’s Development’.
- ❖ ‘Role of Labour in India’s Development’ book has 12 articles outlining the contribution of labour in the development journey of India.
- ❖ These articles are written by experts in this field.
- ❖ The book is published by V V Giri National Labour Institute.

### **Fortune India 50 Most Powerful Women 2021**





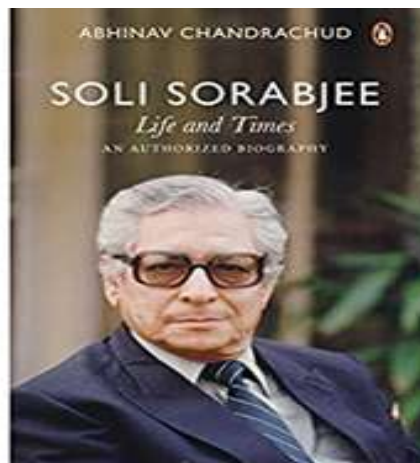
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman grabbed a top position on this list.
- ❖ She was followed by Reliance's Nita Ambani who is a Chairperson and founder of Reliance Foundation.
- ❖ The list released by Fortune India also included Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of WHO, and Gita Gopinath of the International Monetary Fund.
- ❖ The other names are Tessy Thomas, Suchitra Ella, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Reddy sisters, and Isha Ambani.

### **International Women of Courage Award**



- ❖ Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, Rizwana Hasan has been selected for the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.
- ❖ She is among the 12 women from around the world who will be honored by the US Department of State with the award.
- ❖ She has demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in her mission to protect the environment and defend the dignity and rights of the marginalized Bangladeshis.

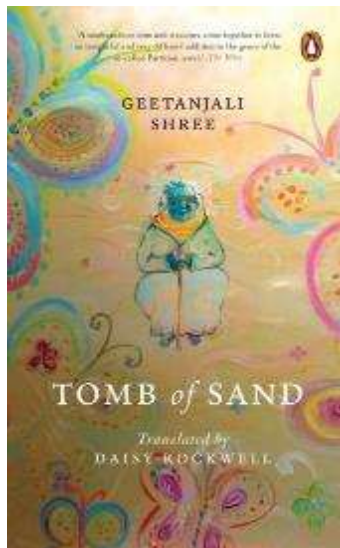
### **Book by Abhinav Chandrachud**



- ❖ A new biography, titled “Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times” was announced, during the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee.
- ❖ It is authored by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud.
- ❖ The book highlights the personal details of the life of Soli Sorabjee, his family background.
- ❖ Soli Sorabjee was the former Attorney General (AG) of India and served two times for the years 1989-90 and then from 1998- 2004.

### **Tomb of Sand**

- ❖ Author Geetanjali Shree’s translated Hindi novel “Tomb of Sand” is among 13 books long-listed for the International Booker Prize.
- ❖ It is the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it to the long list of the prestigious literary prize.
- ❖ The book was originally published as ‘Ret Samadhi’.
- ❖ It was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.



### **Prabha Narasimhan**

- ❖ Prabha Narasimhan has been appointed as the CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited.
- ❖ She succeeded Ram Raghavan.
- ❖ Colgate-Palmolive (India) provides oral care products under the ‘Colgate’ brand.
- ❖ It also provides personal care products under the ‘Palmolive’ brand name.



Prabha Narasimhan,  
CEO, Colgate-Palmolive

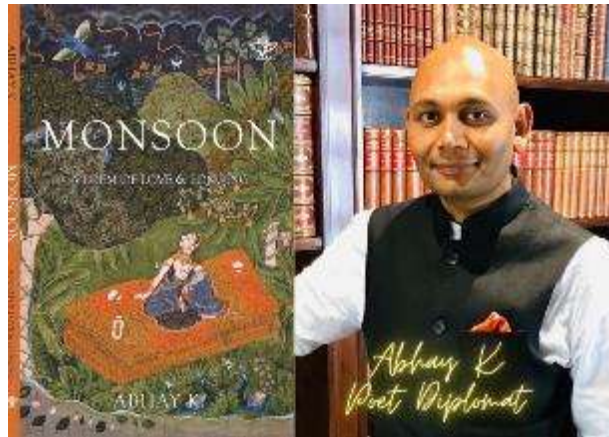


## BAFTA Awards 2022

Category	Winners
Best Film	The Power of the Dog
Best Director	Jane Campion, The Power of the Dog
Best Actress in Leading Role	Joanna Scanlan, After Love
Best Actor in Leading Role	Will Smith, King Richard
Best Supporting Actress	Ariana DeBose, West Side Story
Best Supporting Actor	Troy Kotsur, CODA
EE Rising Star Award	Lashana Lynch
Outstanding British Film	Belfast
Outstanding Debut By A British Writer, Director, Or Producer	The Harder They Fall
Best Film Not In The English Language	Drive My Car
Best Documentary	Summer of Soul (Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
Best Animated Film	Encanto
Best Short Animation	Do Not Feed the Pigeons, Vladimir Krasilnikov, Jordi Morera and Antonin Niclass
Best Short Film	The Black Cop, Cherish Oleka
Original Screenplay	Licorice Pizza, Paul Thomas Anderson
Adapted Screenplay	CODA, Sian Heder
Original Score	Dune, Hans Zimmer
Casting	West Side Story, Cindy Tolan

- ❖ The 75th edition of the British Academy Film Awards, also known as the BAFTA Award, was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London.
- ❖ The awards honor the best national and foreign films of 2021.
- ❖ The ceremony was hosted by actress and comedian Rebel Wilson.
- ❖ The film that received maximum nominations was Dune, with 11 nominations.
- ❖ The film that received the maximum number of awards was Dune as well with 5 awards.

### Book by Abhay K



- ❖ Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, has published a book-length poem 'Monsoon' by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K.
- ❖ The Monsoon is a poem of 150 stanzas of 4 lines.
- ❖ Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954.
- ❖ Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself.
- ❖ Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was its first President.
- ❖ The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956.
- ❖ It was a translation from Marathi into Hindi.

### Rosa Bonheur

- ❖ Google celebrated the 200th birthday of French painter Rosa Bonheur on 16th March with a beautiful animated Doodle.
- ❖ Rosa Bonheur was born on this day in 1822 in Bordeaux, France.
- ❖ Her successful career inspired a future generation of women in the arts.





### **Asian Bank of the Year**

- ❖ India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year.
- ❖ It is awarded for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.
- ❖ The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.
- ❖ This year, the bank has also won the 'Best DCM House in India' Award at the Finance Asia's Country Awards.



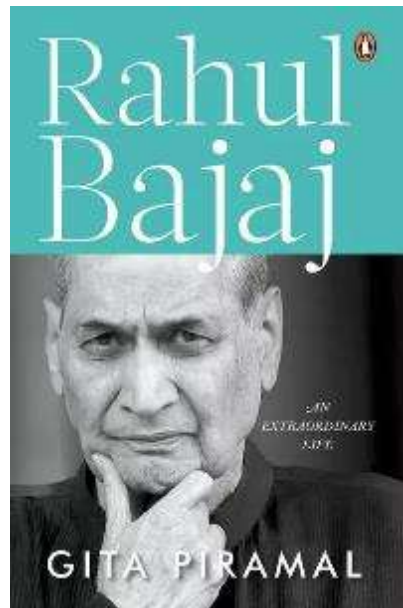
### **Miss World 2021**



- ❖ Karolina Bielawaska from Poland won the crown of Miss World 2021 at the 70th edition of the beauty pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- ❖ In Miss World 2021, USA's Shree Saini and Olivia Yace of Cote d'Ivoire emerged as the first and the second runners-up, respectively.

### Biography of Rahul Bajaj

- ❖ The first authorized biography of the late iconic industrialist and former chairman of Bajaj group Rahul Bajaj will be released recently.
- ❖ It is being published by Penguin Random House.
- ❖ Titled "Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life", it is written by the noted business historian Gita Piramal.



### Women Transforming India Awards



- ❖ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) organized the fifth edition of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) on March 21, 2022.
- ❖ The WTI Awards 2021 were conferred upon 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'

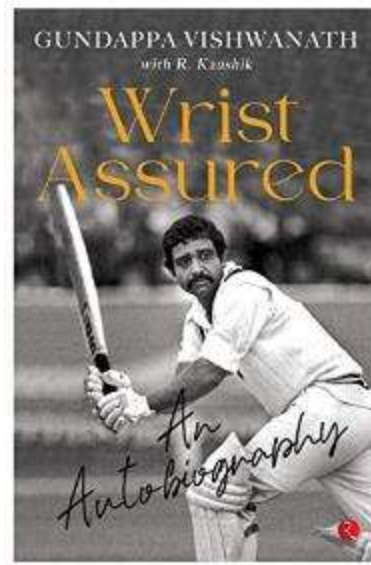
- ❖ The WTI Awards are an initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavors of India's women leaders and change-makers.

### **Jayati Ghosh**



- ❖ United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.
- ❖ Jayati Ghosh is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst of USA.

### **Book by GR Vishwanath**



- ❖ Former Indian cricket captain Gundappa Ranganatha Vishwanath has penned his autobiography titled "Wrist Assured: An Autobiography".
- ❖ It is co-authored by senior journalist R Kaushik.

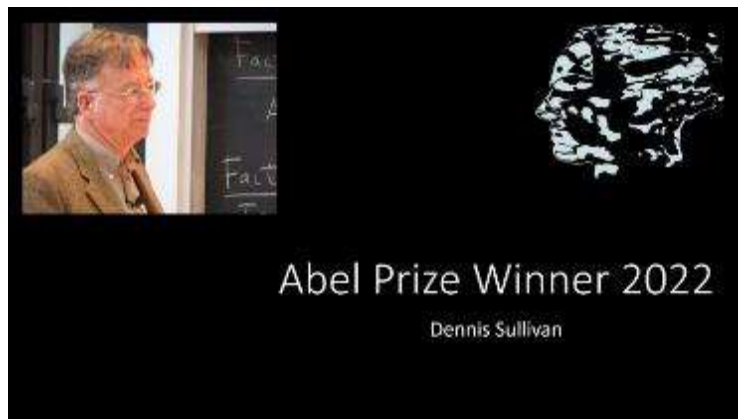
- ❖ The book traces the cricketing journey of Gundappa Vishwanath who played Test Cricket for India between 1969 and 1986, making 91 appearances and scoring more than 6000 runs.

### **Ashleigh Barty**



- ❖ World tennis No.1 Ashleigh Barty of Australia announced her retirement at the age of 25.
- ❖ She has won three Grand Slam singles titles - the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021, and the Australian Open in 2022.
- ❖ Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.

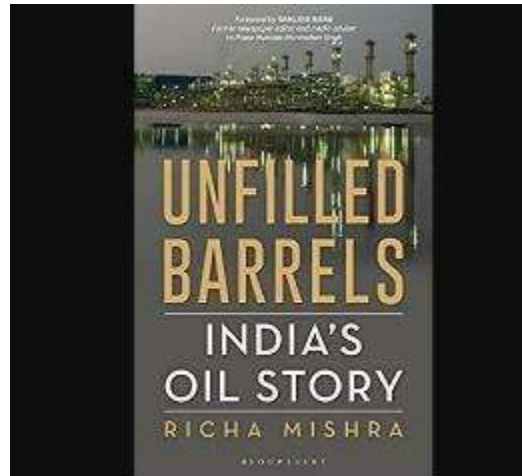
### **Abel Prize for 2022**



- ❖ The winner of the Abel Prize 2022 is Dennis Parnell Sullivan, an American mathematician.
- ❖ He received this award for his contributions to topology, especially its geometric, algebraic, and dynamical aspects.



### Book by Richa Mishra



- ❖ A book titled “Unfilled Barrels: India’s oil story” authored by Richa Mishra will be released soon.
- ❖ Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine.
- ❖ The book highlights the key role played by Keshav Dev Malaviya, who was the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology.
- ❖ It also highlights the emergence of other stakeholders from public sector enterprises, including ONGC, to the fiercely competitive private players like Cairn Energy, and Mukesh Ambani’s RIL.

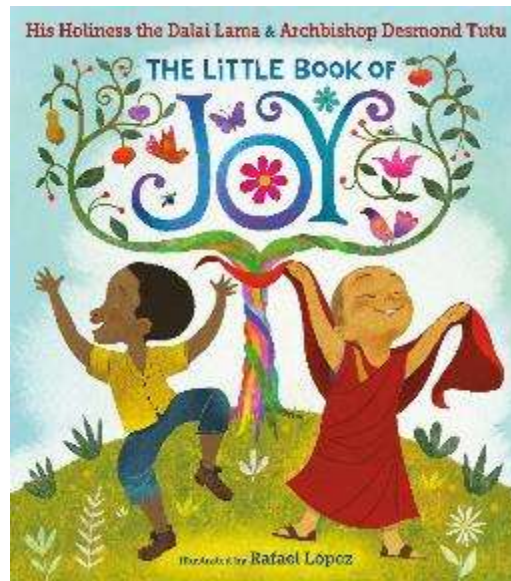
### Devendra Jhajharia



- ❖ Devendra Jhajharia became the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan award.
- ❖ He has won many Paralympic medals, including gold at the 2004 in Athens and 2016 Rio Games, and a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

- ❖ Avani Lekhara (para-shooter) was also awarded the Padma Shri award in the Sports category.
- ❖ She is the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals in the same Games, as well as the first Indian woman to earn Paralympic gold.

### **The Little Book of Joy**



- ❖ A Book titled “The Little Book of Joy” will be released in September 2022.
- ❖ It is a picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
- ❖ The illustrations provided by artists Rafael Lopez and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text.
- ❖ This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.
- ❖ In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World”.

### **Stephen Wilhite**

- ❖ Stephen Wilhite passed away at the age of 74 years due to Covid-19 related issues.
- ❖ He was the creator of the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) format.
- ❖ Wilhite devised the Graphics Interchange Format, or GIF, in 1987 while working at CompuServe.

- ❖ The Oxford American Dictionary named GIF the word of the year in 2012.
- ❖ He was honored with a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013.



### **Madeleine Albright**



- ❖ Madeleine Albright, the first female secretary of state of USA has died at the age of 84.
- ❖ Albright came to the United States as a refugee with her family in 1948.
- ❖ She became a US citizen in 1957.
- ❖ She served under the President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001.

### **Stockholm Water Prize 2022**

- ❖ Professor Wilfried Brutsaert is awarded the Stockholm Water Prize 2022 by SIWI (Stockholm International Water Institute).
- ❖ This is for his important contribution to understanding the effects of climate change on our planet.
- ❖ Professor Brutsaert is the Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University, New York.

- ❖ He has also been hailed for his pioneering approaches to understanding changes in groundwater storage.



### **Covid champion award**

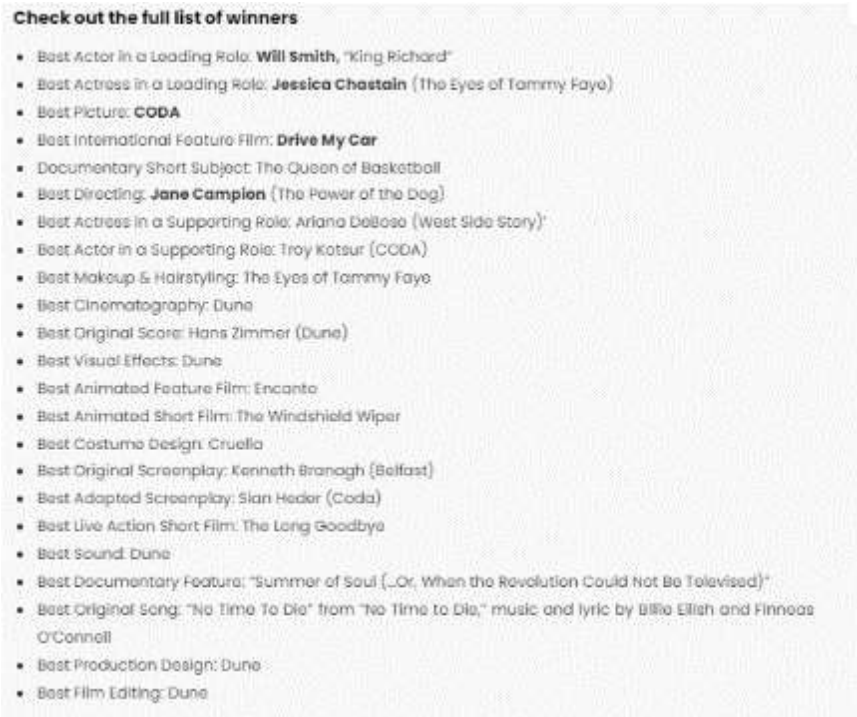


- ❖ The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022.
- ❖ CIAL has been awarded for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport.
- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru won two the 'Best Airport' under the General Category and the 'Aviation Innovation' Award at the event.
- ❖ Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport won the 'Aviation Sustainability & Environment' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices.
- ❖ Wings India is Asia's largest event on civil aviation, including Commercial, General, and Business Aviation.



## 94th Academy Awards

- ❖ The show was hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer, and Wanda Sykes.
- ❖ This is the first time the award ceremony has had multiple hosts since Anne Hathaway and James Franco co-hosted the 83rd installment in 2011.
- ❖ Netflix's *The Power of the Dog* leads the race with 12 nominations.
- ❖ It is followed by sci-fi epic *Dune*, with 10 nods.
- ❖ Indian documentary *Writing With Fire* is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).



## TIME100 Impact Awards 2022



- ❖ Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been named as one of the awardees of the TIME100 Impact Awards 2022.
- ❖ The actress has got featured on the inaugural TIME100 Impact Awards list for her work in mental health struggles and raising awareness, through her LiveLoveLaugh Foundation.
- ❖ The award recognizes global leaders who have gone above and beyond to move their industries and the world forward.

## SPORTS

### Fastest ODI fifty



- ❖ Richa Ghosh of West Bengal recorded the fastest fifty by an Indian batter in women's ODI cricket.
- ❖ She achieved this feat against New Zealand.
- ❖ But the New Zealand team won the match.

### Singapore Weightlifting International 2022

- ❖ India concluded its campaign at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 with eight medals, including six golds and a silver and bronze each.
- ❖ Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore International won medals and secured their spots at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ India now has a total of 12 weightlifters qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

### **Ice Hockey Championship 2022**

- ❖ The finals of the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship, 2022 were played between the teams of ITBP and Ladakh Scouts at the Ice Hockey Rink which is at NDS Sports Complex in Leh.
- ❖ The Ladakh Scouts won the Championship.

### **Para Archery World Championships**

- ❖ Para-archer, Pooja Jatyan became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ She lost to Italy's Patrilli Vincenza in the final.
- ❖ India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship.
- ❖ The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamy and Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.



### **Pro Kabaddi League**



- ❖ Dabang Delhi KC defeated Patna Pirates in the final of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ Dabang Delhi beat three-time champion Patna Pirates.
- ❖ Pawan Sehrawat was awarded the Raider of the season award.

### **ISSF World Cup**

- ❖ Indian shooter, Saurabh Chaudhary has won the gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ongoing 2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ In the women's 10m air pistol section, India's Esha Singh lost to Anna Korakaki of Greece to win the silver medal.



### **Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament**



- ❖ Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) have won gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- ❖ Nandini in the 81kg category won a bronze medal.
- ❖ The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with these three medals.



### **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**

- ❖ This is the 12 edition of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.
- ❖ It is being held in New Zealand.
- ❖ The opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 was held at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.
- ❖ The final match is scheduled to take place at the Hagley Oval stadium.
- ❖ Total 8 teams are participating which includes, New Zealand, Australia, England, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and West Indies.



### **General Manager of BCCI**

- ❖ Abey Kuruvilla of Kerala will be taking charge as the new General Manager of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ❖ Abey Kuruvilla is a former Indian pace bowler of the mid-1990s.
- ❖ He retired from all forms of cricket in 2000 and took up coaching.



### **Ravichandran Ashwin**

- ❖ Ravichandran Ashwin has become India's second-highest wicket-taker in Test crickets after Anil Kumble by taking his 435th test wicket in his 85<sup>th</sup> test match.
- ❖ Ashwin achieved the feat when he dismissed Sri Lankan batsman Pathum Nissanka in the Test between India and Sri Lanka at the PCA Stadium in Mohali, Chandigarh.
- ❖ He has now become the ninth highest wicket-taker in the history of Test cricket.



### **Mithali Raj**



- ❖ The Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj has become the first woman to appear in six World Cups.
- ❖ She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- ❖ She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, and now in 2022.
- ❖ The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.

## Ravindra Jadeja

- ❖ India's Ravindra Jadeja climbed to the top spot in the ICC Test rankings for all-rounders.
- ❖ This is after his match-winning performance against Sri Lanka in the opening Test in Mohali.
- ❖ His unbeaten 175 lifted him up to 17 places from 54th to 37th.
- ❖ He added nine wickets in this match.

<b>2</b> Times <b>Ravindra Jadeja</b> has taken 25 wickets or more in a Test series: 26 at 25.84 in the five-Test series against England in India in 2016-17 and 25 at 18.56 in the four-Test series against Australia in 2016-17.	<b>1</b> Just one allrounder has a higher batting average and has taken more wickets at a lower average in a 30-Test span than <b>Ravindra Jadeja</b> , who has 1436 runs at 49.51 and 112 wkts at 25.24 from his last 30 Tests. Imran Khan scored 1585 runs (ave 52.83) and claimed 114 wickets at 23.37 in 30 consecutive Tests.
<b>1</b> <b>Jadeja</b> is the only allrounder to have scored 750-plus runs and taken 40 wickets or more in the World Test Championships between 2019 and 2022, his tally being 885 runs at 46.57 and 49 wickets at 26.61 in 17 matches.	

## Mithali Raj captainship

- ❖ India's ODI skipper Mithali Raj broke the record for most matches captained in the ICC Women's World Cup.
- ❖ She surpassed former Australian counterpart Belinda Clark.
- ❖ Mithali had led the country in 24 World Cup games.



## **S L Narayanan**



- ❖ In Chess, S L Narayanan was declared the winner in the Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy.
- ❖ Meanwhile, his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second.
- ❖ The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015.
- ❖ He is the 41st Grandmaster from India.

## **German Open Super 300**



- ❖ Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen beat the reigning world no.1 Viktor Axelsen, to enter the final of the German Open Super 300.
- ❖ It happened at the Westenergie Sporthalle.
- ❖ This was Lakshya Sen's first-ever victory against Viktor Axelsen.
- ❖ The two players have faced each other five times.



### Duplantis sets world record

- ❖ Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis cleared 6.19m to smash his own world record by one centimeter.
- ❖ It was conducted at the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade.
- ❖ Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow.



### ISSF World Cup 2022



- ❖ India has taken first place in the medal standings at the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo.
- ❖ It was organized by the International Shooting Sport Federation.
- ❖ By winning a total of seven medals, the Indian team took first place in the medals tally, with four gold, two silver, and one bronze. Norway took second place.

### Jhulan Goswami

- ❖ India's Jhulan Goswami has become the highest wicket-taker in Women's ODIs by claiming 250 wickets.
- ❖ Jhulan Goswami achieved the historic feat with the wicket of Tammy Beaumont in India's match against England in the ICC Women's World Cup 2022.
- ❖ Jhulan Goswami is a right-arm fast bowler.



### **Rishabh pant - fastest 50**



- ❖ Rishabh Pant scored the fastest 50 by an Indian in Test cricket.
- ❖ He surpassed Kapil Dev's record during the second India vs Sri Lanka test match at M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Rishabh Pant 50 came off 28 deliveries.
- ❖ This is also the 13th fastest fifty in the world.

### **R Ashwin - Test wickets**

- ❖ Ashwin bagged his 440th Test wicket in the pink-ball Test match against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Ashwin removed Dhananjaya de Silva for his 440th Test wicket.

- ❖ Ashwin now become the 8th highest wicket-taker in the history of red-ball cricket.
- ❖ He surpassed South African pacer Dale Steyn's tally of 439 Test wickets.



### **Asian Billiards title**



- ❖ Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has defeated Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022.
- ❖ It was held in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ Overall this is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown.

### **Sports Icon award**

- ❖ Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has been awarded the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022.
- ❖ The Maldives government felicitated Raina for his various achievements throughout his career.



## Sportstar Aces 2022

**Lovlina Borgohain** (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports),

**Avani Lekhara** (Parathlete of the Year, Female),

**Pramod Bhagat** (Special Recognition award),

**Savita** (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and **Rupinder Pal Singh** (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports).

**Arif Khan** wins Special Recognition Award at Sportstar Aces 2022.

Former Indian hockey team captain **Ajit Pal Singh** was conferred the 'Lifetime Achievement award'.

Ajit was part of two Olympic bronze-winning teams, including one at the 1972 Munich Games.

- ❖ Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards.
- ❖ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award.
- ❖ The Aces Awards celebrate the spirit of excellence in sport and hope to inspire our athletes and sportspersons to continue to strive to break new records and reach new pinnacles of glory.
- ❖ It is given by the Sportstar magazine from the Hindu Group.

## Road to 1000

- ❖ The Sportstar and The Hindu group released a coffee-table book, 'Road to 1000'.
- ❖ It was released at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
- ❖ The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket's journey.





### **World Para Athletics Grand Prix**



- ❖ This event is being held in Dubai.
- ❖ 450 athletes from 43 different countries will be taking part in this event.
- ❖ The athletes participating in this competition will be targeting to qualify for both the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ The Indian contingent for this event consists of 29 members and is being led by Paralympian Dharambir.
- ❖ Dharambir will be competing in men's club throw and discus throw F51 events.

### **FIFA World Cup and BYJU'S**

- ❖ Edu-tech company BYJU'S has made history by becoming the first Indian company to ally with the FIFA World Cup in Qatar this year.
- ❖ The move represents a big step by FIFA to reach more participants and fans in the populous subcontinent and will see the two organizations partner together to enact positive societal change.



### **IPL 2022 season**



- ❖ MS Dhoni has handed over the captaincy of Chennai Super Kings to all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja ahead of the start of the IPL 2022 season.
- ❖ Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK won the IPL trophy four times in 2021, 2018, 2011, and 2010.
- ❖ CSK also won two Champions League T20 trophies and reached the IPL finals a total of 9 times.

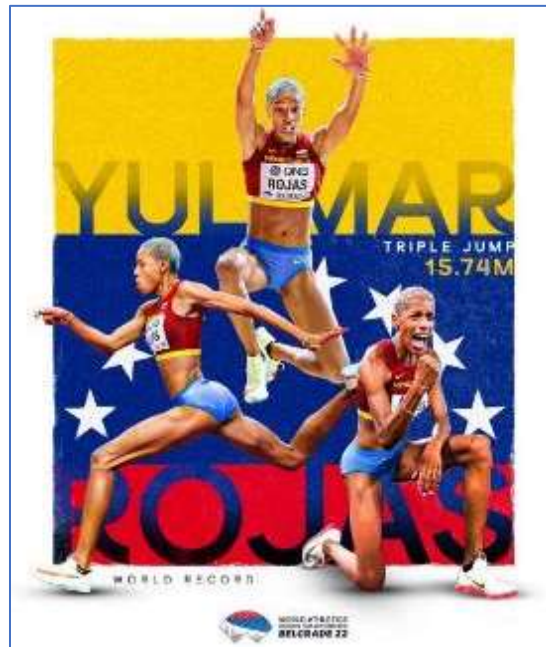
## Steve Smith



- ❖ Steve Smith of Australia has become the fastest to score 8000 runs in Test cricket.
- ❖ He surpassed Sangakkara of Srilanka.
- ❖ Smith achieved the milestone in his 151st innings, while Sangakkara had achieved it in his 152nd innings.
- ❖ Steve Smith crossed 8000 runs mark when reached 7 runs against Pakistan at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore.

## New world triple jump record

- ❖ Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas soared out to 15.74 meters in the triple jump event in Belgrade.
- ❖ She smashed her previous world indoor best of 15.43 set in Madrid in February 2020.



### **SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship**



- ❖ India has been declared the winner of the 3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship.
- ❖ The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.
- ❖ The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was Lynda Kom.
- ❖ She scored five goals in total.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Zero Discrimination Day - March 01



- ❖ The day aims to ensure the right to equality, inclusion, and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.
- ❖ The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”.

### Janaushadhi Diwas 2022 - March 01 to 07



- ❖ This is the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas.
- ❖ The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: “Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi”.
- ❖ The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November 2008.
- ❖ This was launched to provide quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

### **World Civil Defence Day - March 01**

- ❖ This day is observed to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it.
- ❖ The purpose of the Day is to promote public awareness about civil defence, civil protection and emergency management.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2022 is “Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics”.



### **Civil Accounts Day 2022 - March 02**

- ❖ The 46<sup>th</sup> Civil Accounts Day has celebrated on 2nd March 2022 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest of the occasion.
- ❖ The Finance Minister has launched a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system.
- ❖ This is launched as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system.



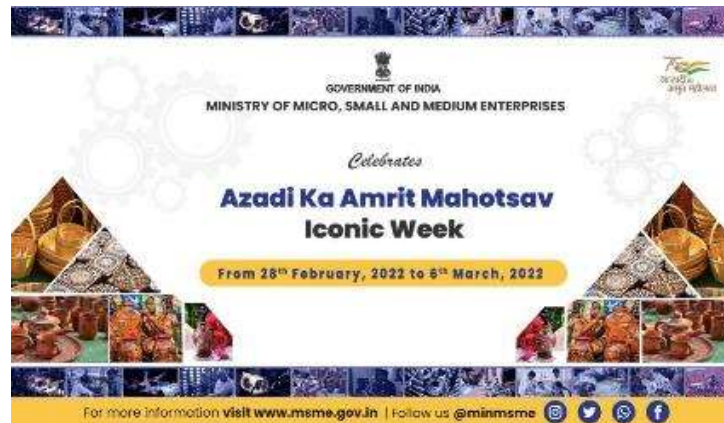
### **World Wildlife Day – March 03**



- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.
- ❖ The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts.
- ❖ The World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.
- ❖ The day was proposed by Thailand and recognized in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

### **MSME Ministry Iconic Week 2022 - February 28 to March 6**

- ❖ As a part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ initiative, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises is celebrating its iconic week.
- ❖ During the iconic week, Ministry will launch the Phase II of the ‘National Level Awareness Programme - Sambhav’.



### **World Hearing Day - March 03**



- ❖ It is a campaign run by the Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The aim of this day is to spread awareness about hearing loss and promote actions towards its prevention and improved hearing care.
- ❖ The theme for this year's World Hearing Day is "To hear for life, listen with care."

### **Employee Appreciation Day 2022 - March 04**

- ❖ The first Friday of March is observed as Employee Appreciation Day.
- ❖ This year it is marked on 4 March.
- ❖ The day was introduced to acknowledge the hard work and diligence of employees and bestow them with the recognition that they deserve.
- ❖ This day is considered an opportunity to create a positive bond between employers and employees and to ensure a healthy mental and physical workspace for individuals.



### **World Obesity Day - March 04**

- ❖ It is observed to promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis.
- ❖ The day is organized by the World Obesity Federation.
- ❖ It is a non-profit body that is in official relations with the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ The theme of World Obesity Day 2022 is 'Everybody Needs to Act'.



### **National Safety Day - March 04**

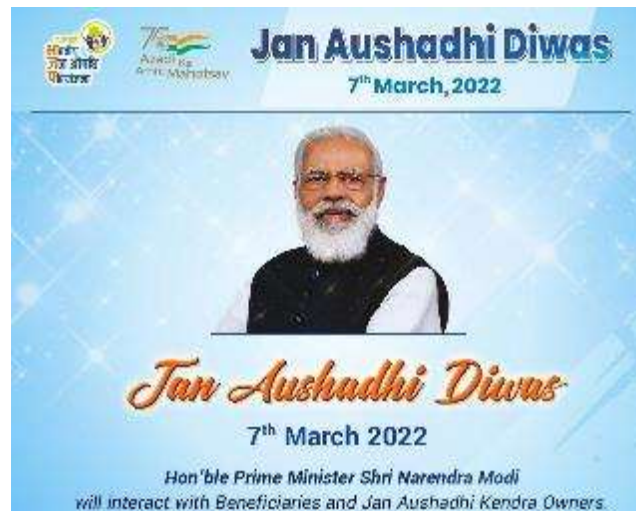
- ❖ It is celebrated every year to commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India.
- ❖ The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety.
- ❖ The year 2022 marks 51st NSD.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'.
- ❖ The first National Safety Day was observed in 1972.

### **National Security Day - March 04**



- ❖ It is also known as Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas.
- ❖ The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their lives in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country.
- ❖ Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from March 4 to March 10, 2022.

### **Jan Aushadhi Diwas - March 07**



- ❖ It is celebrated by the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India.
- ❖ The day is observed to spread awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi”.
- ❖ The first Jan Aushadhi Diwas was celebrated on the 7th of March 2019.

### **International Women’s Day - March 08**

- ❖ The day recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- ❖ The event celebrates women’s achievements and raises awareness about women’s equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.
- ❖ The theme of 2022 International Women’s Day is “gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”.
- ❖ International Women’s Day was observed for the first time in 1911.



### **No Smoking Day 2022 - March 09**

- ❖ It is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world.
- ❖ This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9th March.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- ❖ No Smoking Day was first observed in the year 1984 in the Republic of Ireland.

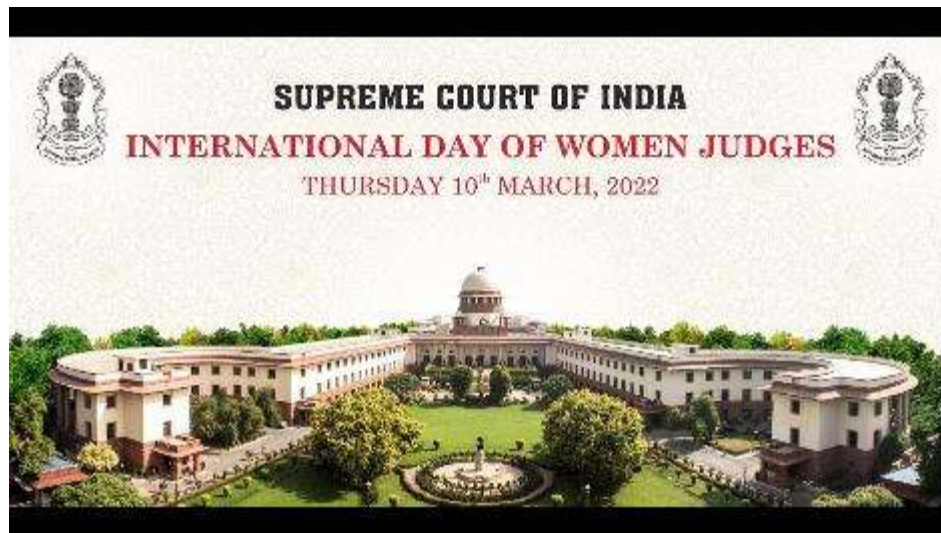


### **53<sup>rd</sup> CISF raising day - March 10**

- ❖ In the year 1969, the CISF was set up on March 10 and three battalions were formed under the CISF act 1968.
- ❖ Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year.
- ❖ It is one of the six paramilitary forces in India functioning under the Union Home Ministry.



### **International Day of Women Judges - March 10**



- ❖ It is the first annual observation in the World.
- ❖ On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies and plans for the advancement of women in the judicial system and institution at the managerial and leadership level.
- ❖ The resolution of the General Assembly on this was drafted by Qatar in 2021.

### **World Kidney day 2022 - March 10**

- ❖ It is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year.
- ❖ This year, it is being observed on March 10.
- ❖ World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- ❖ The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is “Kidney Health for All”.





### **World Day Against Cyber Censorship - March 12**



- ❖ The day is observed every year to highlight the importance of free speech and expression on the internet.
- ❖ The day also highlights how governments all over the world are stifling free speech online.
- ❖ The World Day Against Cyber Censorship is also known as the international day of freedom of expression on the internet.

### **World Rotaract Day - March 13**

- ❖ It aims to recognize the services offered by the Rotaractors throughout the World.
- ❖ "Rotaract" stands for "Rotary in Action".
- ❖ Rotary Club is a community service organization for young men and women.
- ❖ Rotaract began as a Rotary International youth program in 1968 in North Carolina, USA.
- ❖ The first Rotaract Club was founded on March 13th, 1968.

### **International Day of Mathematics - March 14**

- ❖ It is also known as the Pi Day because the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- ❖ It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 IDM is “Mathematics Unites!”.



### **International Day of Action for Rivers - March 14**

- ❖ It highlights the importance of rivers in our lives.
- ❖ The day also aims to raise awareness about equitable access to clean and flowing water.
- ❖ This year marks the 25th edition of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- ❖ This year, the day will be marked by celebrating “the importance of rivers to biodiversity.”



### **World Glaucoma Day - March 12**



- ❖ It is to raise awareness about glaucoma and to alert everyone to have regular eye (and optic nerve) check-ups to detect glaucoma as early as possible.
- ❖ Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness.
- ❖ World Glaucoma Week is also observed from March 6-12 for the year 2022.

### **NCRB foundation day – March 12**

- ❖ Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs addressed the 37th Foundation Day(Raising Day) celebrations of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as the chief guest.
- ❖ He is the first Union Home Minister to attend a Foundation Day function of the NCRB.
- ❖ NCRB was set up in 1986 based on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, the National Police Commission (1977-1981), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s Taskforce (1985).



### **World Consumer Rights Day - March 15**



- ❖ The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers' rights be recognized and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardize those rights.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Fair Digital Finance."

### **The World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development - March 04**

- ❖ The day offers an opportunity to highlight engineers and engineering's achievements in our modern world.
- ❖ It also aims to improve public understanding of how engineering and technology are central to modern life and sustainable development.



### **World Contact Day - March 15**

- ❖ The day brings all alien life enthusiasts together to attempt to contact extraterrestrial beings.
- ❖ It was initiated by The International Flying Saucer Bureau (I.F.S.B.) in 1952 by Albert K. Bender.

### **National Vaccination Day - March 16**

- ❖ It is observed to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- ❖ It is also known as National Immunisation Day.
- ❖ The day was first observed in the year 1995.
- ❖ It was in 1995 that India started the Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Vaccines Work for all".



### **International Day to Combat Islamophobia - March 15**

- ❖ The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia every year, starting from 2022.
- ❖ The resolution was introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- ❖ It marks the day of 2019 when a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 worshippers and wounding 40 others in the terror attack.

### **World Sleep Day 2022 - March 18**

- ❖ It is observed on the Friday before the March equinox.
- ❖ It is to highlight the importance of quality sleep.
- ❖ This year, it falls on March 18.
- ❖ It is organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society.
- ❖ 'Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World' is the theme for this year.



### **Global Recycling Day - March 18**



- ❖ The day is observed to help recognize, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in securing the future of our planet.
- ❖ This year, the event's focus will be on the “recycling fraternity”.

### **The Ordnance Factories' Day March - 18th**

- ❖ The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory was started on the 18th of March, 1802.
- ❖ The factory is at Cossipore of Kolkata.
- ❖ The OFB is referred to as the “Fourth Arm of Defence” and the “Force Behind the Armed Forces” of India.
- ❖ The Indian Ordnance Factories supply products to all three Indian Armed Forces. ie the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and the Indian Air force.



### **International Day of Happiness - March 20**



- ❖ The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013.

- ❖ The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness.
- ❖ The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind.

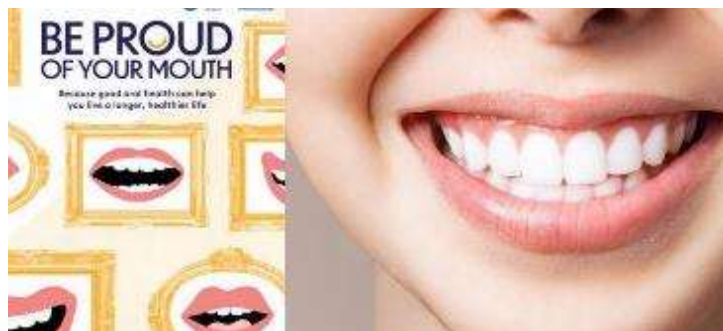
### **World Sparrow Day - March 20**

- ❖ This day is meant to raise awareness about the house sparrow and the dangers it confronts.
- ❖ The theme of World Sparrow Day of 2022 is “LOVE Sparrows.”
- ❖ World Sparrow Day was established by Mohammed Dilawar, the founder of The Nature Forever Society.



### **World Oral Health Day - March 20**

- ❖ The event is observed to spread the message of the benefits of a healthy mouth and to promote worldwide awareness of the issues around oral health.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is “Be Proud of Your Mouth”.



### **UN French Language Day - March 20**

- ❖ The day was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.

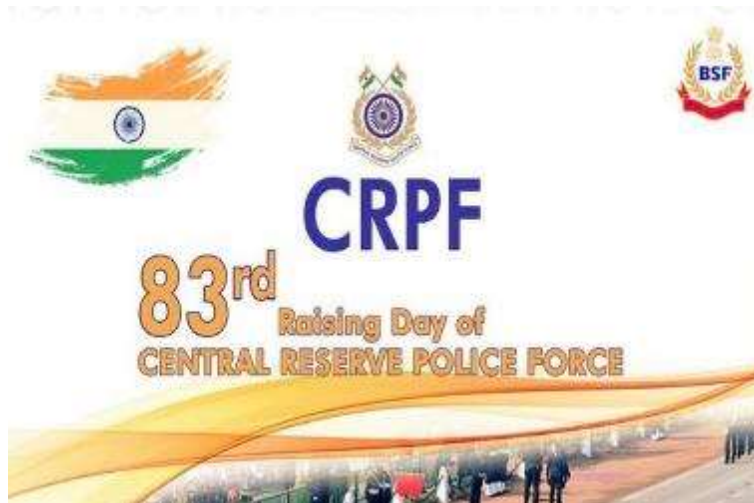
- ❖ It is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.
- ❖ March 20 was chosen as the date for the French language since it coincides with the 40th anniversary of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

### **The International Adolescent Health Week - March 20 to 26**



- ❖ It is an annual international week to inspire health care providers, policymakers, administrators, media and adolescents, and their communities to advocate for a successful transition into adulthood.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Transition'.

### **Central Reserve Police Force 83rd Raising Day - March 19**



- ❖ The 83rd Raising Day parade was organized at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.
- ❖ This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital of India.
- ❖ The CRPF came into existence on July 27, 1939, as Crown Representative's Police.
- ❖ It was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force on December 28, 1949, upon the enactment of the CRPF Act.

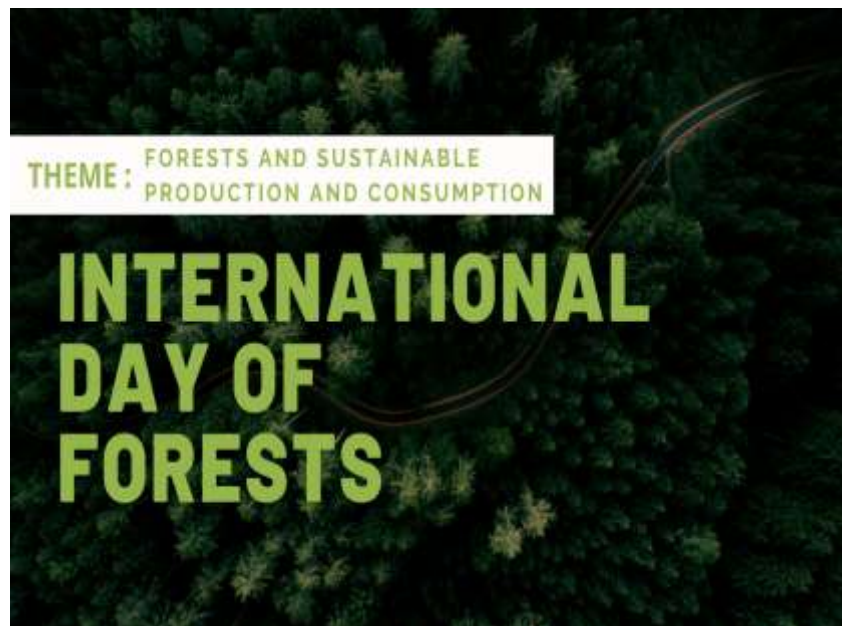


### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21**

- ❖ It is to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.
- ❖ The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme “Voices For Action Against Racism”.
- ❖ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21.
- ❖ On the day the, police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960.



### **International Day of Forests - March 21**



- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the significance of different types of forests.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly in 2012 proclaimed March 21 as the International Day of Forests.
- ❖ The day reminds people to value and save forests and the importance of forests in the lives of living creatures.
- ❖ The theme for 2022 is "Forests and sustainable production and consumption."

### **World Puppetry Day – March 21**

- ❖ This day aims to recognize puppetry as a global art form.
- ❖ It is also an attempt to pay tribute to and honor puppeteers from around the world.
- ❖ World Puppetry Day was established in 2003.

### **World Down Syndrome Day - March 21**



- ❖ It is a global awareness day that has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.
- ❖ Down syndrome is a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- ❖ This year, the theme for World Down Syndrome Day is "Inclusion Means".

### **World Water Day - March 22**

- ❖ The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater.
- ❖ It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- ❖ The World Water Day theme 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".

### **Bihar Diwas - March 22**



- ❖ People of Bihar celebrate Bihar Diwas to mark the formation of the state.
- ❖ Bihar was carved out of Bengal in the year 1912 by the British government.
- ❖ This year, Bihar is celebrating the 110th Bihar Diwas.
- ❖ This year Bihar Diwas theme is 'Jal, Jeevan, Hariyali'.

### **World Poetry Day - March 21**

- ❖ It is celebrated every year to recognize the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.
- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization adopted this day during UNESCO's 30th session in Paris in 1999.

### **World Meteorological Day - March 23**



- ❖ The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ It concentrates on the behavior of Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ This year the theme is Early Warning and Early Action.

- ❖ World Meteorological Day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was established on March 23, 1950.

### **Martyrs' Day - March 23**



- ❖ Every year, the nation observes this day as Martyrs Day or Shaheed Diwas, or Sarvodaya Day.
- ❖ The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India.
- ❖ Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **Pakistan Day - March 23**

- ❖ Pakistan Day is celebrated to honor the moment when the Pakistan Resolution was adopted in 1940 at Lahore by the Muslim league Party.
- ❖ This resolution is considered one of the most powerful political movements in the world of politics.





### **World Tuberculosis Day - March 24**

- ❖ It is observed to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- ❖ The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB.
- ❖ The theme of World TB Day 2022 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.'



### **International Day for the Right to the Truth - March 24**

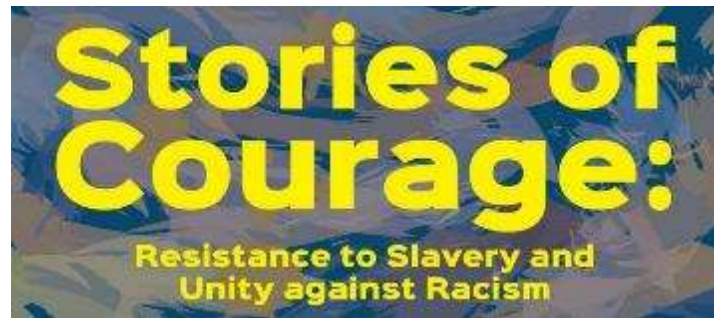
- ❖ The day is observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year.
- ❖ The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.
- ❖ This day is observed on 24th March every year to pay tribute to “Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero” as he was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- ❖ He was actively engaged in criticizing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

### **International Day of the Unborn Child – March 25**

- ❖ The International Day of the Unborn Child is an annual commemoration of unborn fetuses, observed as a day of opposition to abortion.
- ❖ It was established by Pope John Paul II.
- ❖ In 1993, El Salvador became the first nation to officially celebrate what was called a Day of the Right to Be Born.

## **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade - March 25**

- ❖ It is marked every year to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- ❖ 2022 Theme: “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”.



## **Earth Hour 2022 - March 26**

- ❖ Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month.
- ❖ Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on March 26th.
- ❖ This is to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet.
- ❖ The event encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights, for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Invest In Our Planet'.





### **World Theatre Day – March 27**

- ❖ It is promoted by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).
- ❖ This year, the celebration will focus on the young, the next generation, the emerging artists.

### **World Idli Day – March 30**

- ❖ The day was started by Eniyavan, a famous Idli caterer from Chennai.
- ❖ It only started in 2015.
- ❖ Although idli is an Indian staple food, some historians say that its origin is in the country of Indonesia.
- ❖ This country is known for its long tradition of fermenting foods.
- ❖ The tradition then went on to India in the form of steamed idli which was around 800 to 1200 CE.
- ❖ Some experts say that the term idli came from the word “iddalige” which is a food made from urad dal batter.
- ❖ In addition, the Sanskrit Manasollasa from 1130 AD mentions the term “Iddarika” which is a dish made from urad dal.
- ❖ During the 17th century, the Tamil people first mentioned the food as “Itali”.

### **International Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31**

- ❖ The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.
- ❖ The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009.

