



**SIVARAJVEL IAS ACADEMY**

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

**TNPSC**

**SANGAMAM**

**FREE**  
**MONTHLY**  
**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 2022**



 [www.sivarajavelias.com/magazine/](http://www.sivarajavelias.com/magazine/)



# **SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

**FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS**

Monthly Current Affairs are published at free of cost on behalf of Our  
**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY** with the best teachers.

This can be used by students who are preparing for TNPSC and all kinds of state competitive examinations. Join the following web address to download it for free.

**Website: [www.sivarajavelias.com](http://www.sivarajavelias.com)**

**Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/Sivarajaveliasacademy>**

**Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/sivarajavel\\_ias\\_academy](https://www.instagram.com/sivarajavel_ias_academy)**

**Telegram: [https://t.me/sivarajavel\\_ias\\_academy](https://t.me/sivarajavel_ias_academy)**

**Twitter : [https://twitter.com/sivarajavel\\_ias](https://twitter.com/sivarajavel_ias)**

**Kindly share your feedback**  
[sivarajaveliasacademy@gmail.com](mailto:sivarajaveliasacademy@gmail.com)

## **HEAD OFFICE**

No.97, AF Block, Shanthi Colony,  
12<sup>th</sup> Main Road, Anna Nagar  
West, Chennai – 600 040.  
Ph: 9626364444, 9626369899

## **BRANCHES**

### **TIRUNELVELI**

No.106B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Gilgal Complex,  
VOC ground Opposite,  
Trivandrum Road,  
Palayamkottai – 627 002  
Ph: 9626252500, 9626253300

### **TRICHY**

No.143, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Lakshmi Complex,  
Salai Road,  
Thillai Nagar, Trichy-620 018  
Ph: 9751500300, 9786500300

# INDEX

| Sl.No | Content                       | Page No |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1     | TAMILNADU NEWS                | 5       |
| 2     | NATIONAL NEWS                 | 7       |
| 3     | INTERNATIONAL NEWS            | 28      |
| 4     | ECONOMY NEWS                  | 42      |
| 5     | PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS          | 51      |
| 6     | SCIENCE AND TECH              | 62      |
| 7     | ENVIRONMENT NEWS              | 71      |
| 8     | REPORTS AND INDICES           | 77      |
| 9     | SPORTS NEWS                   | 80      |
| 10    | PERSONALITIES                 | 85      |
| 11    | AWARDS                        | 92      |
| 12    | DEFENCE NEWS                  | 95      |
| 13    | BOOKS AND AUTHORS             | 98      |
| 14    | APPOINTMENT                   | 101     |
| 15    | IMPORTANT DAYS                | 104     |
| 16    | TNPSC BITS                    | 113     |
| 17    | 2022 FEBRUARY MONTH QUESTIONS | 119     |







## English translation of

### Tamil literary works

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released a set of books, including The Cilappatikaram, translated into English under the 'Taking Tamil to the World project'. The book release is expected to take place at the Chennai Book Fair.

### Taking Tamil to the World

- 'Taking Tamil to the World' is a collaboration between Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTB and ESC) and private publishers to promote the rich literary history and culture of Tamil Nadu. It was launched in 2017 when T. Udayachandran was the Secretary of the School Education Department.
- The objective is not only to promote translation of Tamil works in English and take it to global audience, but also encourage reading of Tamil literary works among the generation that does not know Tamil

### Note

- The Cilappatikaram translated into English as The Tale of an Anklet ,
- Sahitya Akademi award winner Thoppil Mohamed Meeran's stories,
- Tamil writer S. Ramakrishnan's Katha Vilasam
- Writings about Tamil short story writers,
- Essays of U.Ve. Swamintha Iyer,
- Hephzibah Jesudan's novel Putham House and short fictions by Dalit writers titled In Defiance-Our Stories .
- These are the six of the set of 12 books selected for translation.

### ARAN

- Pudukkottai district administration has launched an initiative called 'Aran', which lends a helping hand to school children and adolescents to open up on issues affecting their studies and mental health.
- Aim is to help children and young people access information and support related to their rights, needs, safety and protection, legal

assistance, mental and physical health, sexual and reproductive health as well as academic career through interdepartmental coordination and public participation.

### EIGHTH PHASE OF KEELADI EXCAVATION

- Chief Minister M K Stalin on inaugurated the eight phase of excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga district, the third phase at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district and the first phase at Vembakottai in Virudhunagar district and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli.
- The eighth phase of the excavation at Keeladi and its cluster villages of Konthagai, Manalur and Agaram would work towards identifying the continuations of brick structures found in the earlier excavations at the site.
- It would focus on finding evidence of the trade connections that Keeladi had with different parts of India and other nations and also more evidence of this urban civilization which had flourished on the banks of the river Vaigai.
- Keeladi disproved a theory that Tamil Nadu did not have a riverbed civilization like the Ganges civilization. In addition, it has been proven that the people who lived there were literate as early as in the 6th century BCE.

### Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women

- A.S. Kumari has been named the Chairperson of the recently reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women. The panel has seven new members.

### Tamilnadu state commission for women

- The Chairperson and members of the Commission would hold office for a period of three years. There is no change in the official members of the Commission.
- The tenure of two legislators, nominated by the State government to the panel, would cease if they stop being Members of the Legislative Assembly or on completion of the tenure for three years, whichever applies first.
- "The honorarium and allowances, and other

terms and conditions of services of the Chairperson and the members shall be as per the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (Honorarium, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2013

## **TAMIL NADU WETLANDS MISSION**

- The Tamil Nadu government - has sent a proposal to the Union government to designate 13 potential wetlands of international significance in the state as Ramsar site.



### **WETLANDS**

- A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention established by UNESCO. India is also a signatory to the convention.
- Point Calimere - is the only designated Ramsar site in Tamil Nadu
- Kodiakkarai, also called Point Calimere or Cape Calimere, is a low headland of the Coromandel Coast, in the Nagapattinam district of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- Kodiakkarai has been designated as a Ramsar site since August 2002.
- The Cape is located about 9 kilometres (5.6 mi) south of Vedaranyam in the delta region of the Cauvery River
- The forests of Kodiakkarai, also known as the Vedaranyam forests, are one of the last remnants of the dry evergreen forests that were once typical of East Deccan dry evergreen forests ecoregion



## NATIONAL NEWS

### BORDER HAAT AT KAMALPUR-KUMARGHAT

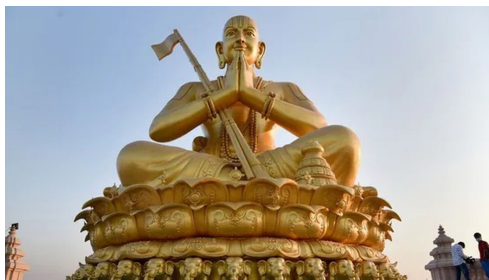
The foundation stone for the third border haat at Kamalpur-Kumarghat on Tripura- Bangladesh border was laid jointly by the Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi.

#### About:

- The border haat is spread over 75 square metres and can accommodate 100 vendors on each side of the border.
- Inaugurating the border haat, Chief Minister Biplab Deb said that apart from enhancing trade relations between the two countries, the border haat will also strengthen friendly relationship between the two countries.
- He said that eight border haats are proposed to be built on the border between Tripura and Bangladesh out of which two are already functional at Kamalasagar in Sepahijala district and Srinagar in South Tripura district.
- He expressed hope that the border haat will start functioning at Kamalpur from this year. The consent for the fourth border haat at Raghna in Dharmanagar has been received on which work is expected to start from this year, said the Chief Minister.

### STATUE OF EQUALITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Statue of Equality, a gigantic statue of Ramanujacharya, on February 5 on the outskirts of Hyderabad.



#### Who was Ramanujacharya?

- Ramanujacharya is revered as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer. He travelled across India, advocating equality and social justice.

- Ramanuja revived the Bhakti movement, and his preachings inspired other Bhakti schools of thought. He is considered to be the inspiration for poets like Annamacharya, Bhakt Ramdas, Thyagaraja, Kabir, and Meerabai.
- He went on to write nine scriptures known as the navaratnas, and composed numerous commentaries on Vedic scriptures.

#### Why is it called the Statue of Equality?

- Ramanuja was an advocate of social equality among all sections of people centuries ago, and encouraged temples to open their doors to everyone irrespective of caste or position in society at a time when people of many castes were forbidden from entering them.
- He took education to those who were deprived of it. His greatest contribution is the propagation of the concept of “vasudhaiva kutumbakam”, which translates as “all the universe is one family.”

### RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

Minister for Jal Shakti informed Lok Sabha about the River Cities Alliance.

#### About:

- The River Cities Alliance (RCA) has been launched with the objective to provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers, sharing best practices and supporting innovation.
- The alliance has been launched initially with 30 cities namely Dehradun, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Srinagar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Farrukhabad, Mirzapur, Mathura, Bijnor, Ayodhya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Munger, Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Howrah, Jangipur, Hugli-Chinsurah, Behrampur, Maheshtala, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur and Vijaywada.
- The Alliance is open to all river cities of India. Any river city can join the Alliance at any time.
- State Governments are implementing Action Plans for restoration of water quality of the identified polluted river stretches.



- The implementation is being monitored regularly at State level by Chief Secretary of the respective State/UT and at Central level by the Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

## NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION

According to Economic Survey, the government is setting up the National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) to carry out the monetization of the land and other non-core assets.

### National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC):

- The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) is being set up in accordance with the Budget announcement.
- It is being set up as a 100 per cent Government of India owned entity.
- The initial authorized share capital will be Rs 5,000 crore while subscribed share capital will be Rs 150 crore.
- It works as an asset manager for lands owned by central government and central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).
- It has the freedom to invest, lease or rent assets or monetise them based on suggestions by many sources. It is free to develop assets for commercial or residential purposes.

## NSO FIRST REVISED GDP ESTIMATES FY21

According to the estimates, the GDP contracted by 6.6%. Earlier, the GDP had contracted by 7.3%.

### About

- The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for the financial year 2020-21.
- The National Statistical Office recently released the first revised GDP estimates for the fiscal year 2021.
- According to the estimates, the GDP contracted by 6.6%. Earlier, the GDP had contracted by 7.3%.
- The contraction is mainly due to the COVID pandemic and the lockdown imposed.

## CHAURI CHAURA INCIDENT

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has remembered the heroes of our freedom struggle on completion of hundred years of Chauri Chaura incident.
- The Chauri Chaura incident took place on 4 February 1922 at Chauri Chaura in the Gorakhpur district of the United Provinces (modern-day Uttar Pradesh) in British India, when a large group of protesters participating in the non-cooperation movement, were fired upon by the police.



- In retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants.
- Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-cooperation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of this incident.

## SWACHHTA SAARTHI FELLOWSHIP 2022

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its “Waste to Wealth” Mission announced the “Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022” to empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management, waste awareness campaigns, waste surveys etc. as Swachhta Saarthis.

### About:

- The fellowship was launched in 2021 to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the enormous challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.
- The three categories of awards under the fellowships are as below:
- Category-A – Open to School students from 9th to 12th standards engaged in waste management community work. An amount of Rs. 500/- per month would be given as fellowship for a period of 1 year.
- Category-B – Open to College students (UG, PG, Research students) engaged in waste

management community work. An amount of Rs. 1,000/- per month would be given as fellowship for a period of 1 year.

- Category-C – SHGs or sanitary workers. A maximum of 2 citizens from the same SHG can apply an amount of Rs. 2,000/- per month would be given as fellowship for a period of 1 year.



### About Waste to Wealth

- The Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)
- The Mission is spearheaded by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.

### FREEDOM OF RELIGION

- After six students were banned from entering a college in Karnataka's Udupi district for wearing a hijab last month, the row over whether educational institutions can impose a strict dress code that could interfere with rights of students has spilled to other colleges in the state. The issue throws up legal questions on reading the freedom of religion.

### How is religious freedom protected under the Constitution?

- Article 25(1) of the Constitution guarantees the "freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion".
- It is a right that guarantees a negative liberty — which means that the state shall ensure that there is no interference or obstacle to exercise this freedom.
- However, like all fundamental rights, the state can restrict the right for grounds of public order, decency, morality, health and other state interests.

### View of Supreme Court

- Over the years, the Supreme Court has evolved a practical test of sorts to determine what religious practices can be constitutionally protected and what can be ignored.

- In 1954, the Supreme Court held in the Shirur Mutt case that the term "religion" will cover all rituals and practices "integral" to a religion. The test to determine what is integral is termed the "essential religious practices" test.

### VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that 400 Vande Bharat trains will be manufactured in the next three years.



### About:

- It comes in addition to the current plan — to be able to run 75 Vande Bharats across India by Independence Day in 2023.
- Vande Bharat is a semi-high speed trainset, each of 16 coaches, and self-propelled — they do not require an engine. This is called a distributed traction power system, which is increasingly becoming the norm the world over for passenger operations.
- Distributed power gives the train higher acceleration and deceleration compared to loco-hauled trains, which take a much longer time to reach top speed or to gradually come to a halt.
- Introduced in 2019, the Vande Bharat semi-high speed trains have been a novelty so far. Two Vande Bharat trainsets (originally called Train 18) are currently running, both from Delhi — to Varanasi and Katra.

### INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT)

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi visited the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad and kickstarted the 50th Anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.





#### About:

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated ICRISAT's Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and ICRISAT's Rapid Generation Advancement Facility.
- These two facilities are dedicated to the smallholder farmers of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- ICRISAT is an international organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia & sub-Saharan Africa. It helps farmers by providing improved crop varieties and hybrids and also helps smallholder farmers in the drylands fight climate change.

### INDIAN FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IFLDP)

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) (erstwhile IFLADP) has been approved for continuation from 2021-22 with an approved financial outlay of ₹1,700 crore, said the ministry of commerce in a statement.



- The programme was approved by the cabinet on 19 January for continuation till 31 March 2026, or till further review, whichever is earlier.
- Sub-schemes approved under the programme include

- sustainable technology and environmental promotion;
- integrated development of leather sector (IDLS);
- establishment of institutional facilities;
- Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development;
- brand promotion; and
- development of design studios.
- Under the IDLS, with a proposed outlay ₹500 crore, assistance would be provided to the sectoral units for their modernization/capacity expansion/technology up-gradation on or after 1 January 2020.

### MOTION OF THANKS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha in the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament on February 7, 2022.

#### About:

- The Budget Session had begun with the President Ram Nath Kovind's address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together at Central Hall on 31st of January.
- The debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address began on 2nd of February in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- Under Article 87 of the constitution, the President of India specially addresses both Houses of Parliament together at the beginning of the first session of each year.
- The discussion on the Address is initiated by a Motion of Thanks.
- Motion of Thanks is moved by a member and seconded by another member. Members who have to move and second the Motion are from the ruling party.
- The notice of such a Motion is received through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- The Chairman allots time for the discussion of the Address under article 87(2) in consultation with the Leader of the House.
- At the end of the discussion, the Prime Minister replies to the debate.
- Thereafter, the amendments are disposed, and then the Motion of Thanks is put to vote in the House. If any of the amendments is accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.



## OPERATION AAHT

- The Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking



### About:

- As part of “Operation AAHT”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The Railways, which operate about 21,000 trains across the country daily, is the most reliable mode of transportation for the traffickers who often move their victims on long-distance trains.
- As part of “Operation AAHT”, the infrastructure and intelligence network of the force could be utilised to collect, collate and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, identity of carriers/agents, kingpins etc and shared with other law-enforcing agencies.
- The RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace.

### Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking, especially of women and children, for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, domestic servitude, organ transplant, drug peddling etc is an organised crime and the most abominable violation of human rights.
- Thousands of Indians and persons from neighbouring countries were trafficked every day to some destinations where they were forced to live like slaves.
- “They are also being trafficked for illegal adoptions, organ transplants, working in circuses, begging and the entertainment industry.

## REIMAGINING MUSEUMS GLOBAL SUMMIT 2022: CULTURE MINISTRY TO ORGANISE

- The Union Ministry of Culture will organize a first-of-its-kind Global Summit on ‘Reimagining Museums in India’ on February 15-16, 2022



- The Global Summit is being organised in partnership with Bloomberg. It will be held online for two days and is open for public participation.
- The summit will see participation from 25 museologists and museum professionals who will speak on reimagined priorities and practices for Museums.

### Themes of the summit:

- The virtual summit will be conducted with four broad themes: Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections Curation & Conservation practices) and Education and Audience Engagement.

## FINTECH OPEN SUMMIT

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, ‘Fintech Open’, from 7–28 February.
- An open platform is created using public investment, wherein numerous private entrepreneurs, start-ups and developers can join to create new solutions.
- For example, today, 270 banks are connected with the UPI and many entrepreneurs and start-ups have provided solutions that have helped increase the country’s fintech adoption rate—which is the highest globally at 87%.

## COMMUNITY INNOVATOR FELLOWSHIP

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP, India launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF) marking the “International Day of Women & Girls in Science”.



#### About:

- This is going to be a one-year-long intensive fellowship program which has been designed for an aspiring community innovator irrespective of their socio-economic background.
- During the course of this fellowship, each fellow will be hosted at one of the AIM's Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) and shall acquire SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills and life skills while they are working on their idea.
- The ACICs would nurture youth-led innovations by providing suitable resources in terms of operating facilities, co-working space, maker labs and a dynamic business network to the innovator.
- ACICs have been established with a focus to develop the start-up and innovation ecosystem in the underserved regions of the country. Currently, there are 12 ACICs across 9 states in the country and the target is to establish 50 such centres in the country.

### DRONE PILOT LICENCE

The requirement of a drone pilot licence has been abolished in the country.

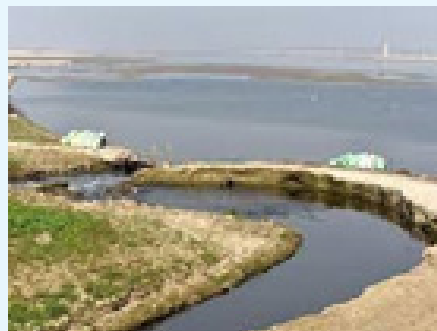
#### About:

- In a gazette notification of Ministry of Civil Aviation, it has been said that the Remote Pilot Certificate issued by a Directorate General of Civil Aviation approved drone school through the single window Digital Sky platform will be sufficient for operating drones in the country.
- Drone (Amendment) Rules 2022 further stated that no remote pilot certificate will be required for operating a drone upto two-kilogram for non-commercial purpose.
- Earlier, in order to promote Made in India drones, the import of foreign drones has been prohibited in the country.

### RIVER DEVIKA PROJECT

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that the historic River Devika project, built at the cost

of over Rs 190 crore, will be complete by June this year.



#### About:

- North India's first river rejuvenation project will offer a unique destination both for pilgrim tourists as well as recreation tourists, in addition to being a state-of-the-art cremation centre.
- This will bring Udhampur in Jammu prominently on India's map. The Devika project was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu in early 2019.
- The project includes the construction of three sewage treatment plants of 8 MLD, 4 MLD and 1.6 MLD capacity, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.
- On completion of the project, the rivers will see reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality.

#### Note

- The country's first Highway Village being constructed by NHAI is coming up on fast track on Udhampur National Highway and the Centrally funded Medical College will start its classes next year through NEET selection.

### SCHEME OF MODERNISATION OF POLICE FORCES (MPF)

The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister has approved continuation of umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

#### Salient Features of the scheme are:





- Provision has been made under the Scheme for internal security, law and order, adoption of modern technology by Police, assisting States for narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic set-up in the country.
- The Scheme for modernization of State police forces has a Central outlay of Rs.4,846 crore.
- A central Scheme for Modernisation of Forensic Capacities with outlay of Rs.2,080.50 crore has been approved.
- Central outlay of Rs.18,839 crore has been earmarked for security related expenditure for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, insurgency affected North Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
- Six LWE related schemes with Central outlay of Rs.8,689 crore have been approved. These schemes include Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Most LWE Affected Districts & Districts of Concern to consolidate the gains.
- For raising of India Reserve Battalions/ Specialized India Reserve Battalions, Central outlay of Rs.350 crore has been approved.
- Central sector scheme of 'Assistance to States & Union Territories for Narcotics Control with outlay of Rs.50 crore has been continued.

### HIPPOCRATIC OATH

The National Medical Commission (NMC), the regulator for medical education and practices that replaced the Medical Council of India in 2020, has suggested to medical colleges that the traditional Hippocratic Oath should be replaced by a "Charak Shapath".



#### About:

- The Hippocratic Oath is attributed to Hippocrates of the island of Kos, a Greek physician of the classical period (4th-5th centuries BC, until the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC).

- Basically, the Hippocratic Oath is a charter of ethical principles that physicians over the ages have sworn to uphold in the practice of their profession.
- Modern codes of medical ethics such as those formulated by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the British Medical Association (BMA) are broadly rooted in the Hippocratic Oath.
- The Corpus Hippocraticum is a collection of 70 books on medicine; however, most scholars agree that the Hippocratic Oath was probably not the work of the individual identified as the historical Hippocrates, the "father of modern medicine".

### Charaka and Charak Samhita

- Like several other sages mentioned in the literature of ancient India, the historicity of Charaka is uncertain, and the compendium of medicine that carries his name is unlikely to have been the work of a single individual.
- The Charak Samhita is a medical pharmacopoeia and collection of commentaries and discussions on medical practices that is dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.
- Along with the compendium of Susruta (c. 4th century AD), which is about surgery, the Charak Samhita is considered the foundational text of ancient Indian medicine.

### MEDARAM JATHARA

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned ₹2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to Medaram Jathara 2022.



#### About:

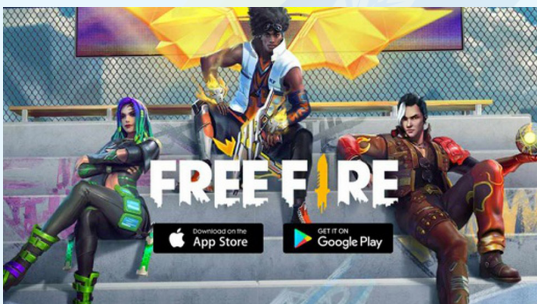
- Medaram Jathara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela, celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana—the Koya tribe for four days.
- This year it is being celebrated from 16th-19th February, 2022.
- The activities for which funds have been sanctioned by the Union Tribal Affairs

Ministry include promotion of Medaram, Tribal Culture and Heritage, inclusive of the execution of the protection wall to the Sanctum of Chilakalagutta and Murals on the walls and the Cultural Complex – Model Koya Tribal Village in the premises of Museum.

- Considering the footfall of the festival and its auspicious significance, the Jathara was declared a State Festival in 1996.

## GOVERNMENT BAN ON CHINA-LINKED APPS IN INDIA

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued orders to ban 54 more apps, which either have originated in China or have some Chinese connection. These apps were banned for being a threat to national security.



### About:

- As per the new list, video editing apps such as Viva Video Editor- Snack Video Maker with Music and Nice Video Baidu, which are used extensively for making short videos, games such as Onmyoji Chess and Conquer Online II have been banned in India.
- Garena Free Fire– Illuminate, a game, which had gained popularity among children, teenagers and youth in India after the ban on PUBG, has also been banned.
- The new apps, IT ministry officials said, have been banned using emergency powers under Section 69 of the Information Technology Act.
- Most of these apps, the officials said, were operating as clones or shadow apps of the apps that had earlier been banned by the government.
- The ban on these apps was recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs, IT ministry officials said, adding that they have also been removed from the Google PlayStore.

## TARAPUR MASSACRE

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said February 15 would henceforth be commemorated as “Shahid Diwas” in memory of the 34 freedom fighters who were killed by police in Tarapur town

(now subdivision) of Bihar’s Munger district 90 years ago.

### About:

- The freedom fighters had never got their due, the Chief Minister said, even though the Tarapur massacre was the biggest carried out by the British police after the one in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in 1919.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had referred to the Tarapur massacre in his Mann ki Baat radio address of January 2021.

### What happened?

- On February 15, 1932, a group of young freedom fighters planned to hoist an Indian national flag at Thana Bhavan in Tarapur. Police were aware of the plan, and several officers were present at the spot.
- Around 2 pm, even as the police carried out a brutal lathicharge, one Gopal Singh succeeded in raising the flag at Thana Bhavan. A 4,000-strong crowd pelted the police with stones, injuring an officer of the civil administration.
- The police responded by opening indiscriminate fire on the crowd. After about 75 rounds were fired, 34 bodies were found at the spot, even though there were claims of an even larger number of deaths.

## DARKATHON-2022

- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is organising a “Darkathon-2022” to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the darknet.
- The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets. The agency recently smashed three groups of drug peddlers that were operating on the network that is accessed through encryption software which enables anonymity of users.
- Narcotics Control Bureau Director-General: Satya Narayan Pradhan;
- Narcotics Control Bureau Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Narcotics Control Bureau Founded: 1986

## QUIT TOBACCO APP

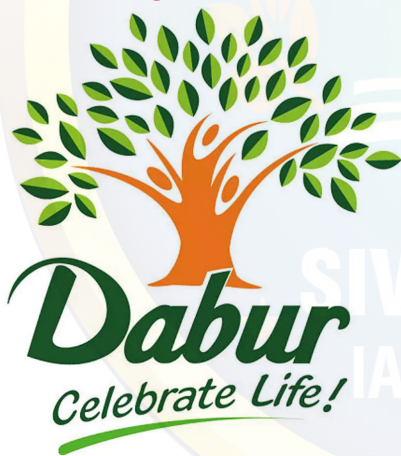
World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has launched a ‘Quit Tobacco App’

- This application helps people to give up the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products.



- The App was launched by Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO-SEAR, during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign, is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- The app, the first such by WHO, and the first that targets all forms of tobacco, helps users to identify the triggers, set their targets, manage cravings, and stay focused to quit tobacco.
- Tobacco is the world's leading cause of preventable death and kills nearly 8 million persons every year.
- It claims 1.6 million lives in the WHO South-East Asia Region which is amongst the largest producers and consumers of tobacco products.
- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948;
- World Health Organization Director-General: Tedros Adhanom.

### **DABUR BECOMES FIRST INDIAN PLASTIC WASTE NEUTRAL' FMCG COMPANY**



- Dabur India has become the first Indian consumer goods company to become completely plastic waste neutral.
- It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22.
- Dabur has achieved the landmark of surpassing its plastic packaging usage with recycling. Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was launched in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule.
- Dabur has also announced the beginning of a new 'Save the Environment' campaign in Himachal Pradesh to raise community awareness about how to manage home plastic waste.

- They have also been working with school children in towns and villages as part of this commitment, educating them about different forms of garbage and the benefits of sorting them at the source.
- They have been assisting government schools by providing waste bins, sanitary facilities, and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials.

### **INDIA TO REPLACE DIESEL BY RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE BY 2024**

- Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.
- For this, states should develop action plans to achieve the assigned targets and specific agencies dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation.
- This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.

### **NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES LONG RAIL-CUM-ROAD BRIDGE OVER RIVER GANGA IN BIHAR**

- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometre long 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' in Bihar.



- The much-awaited bridge is constructed over the River Ganga on NH 333B in Bihar's Munger region. The cost of the 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' project is Rs 696 crore.
- The new bridge will reduce travel time, give a boost to tourism, agriculture as well as generate employment opportunities.

#### **The benefit of the Bridge:**

- One of Bihar's major tourist and pilgrimage sites, the city of Munger is well known for

its rich ancient history, culture, education and commerce.

- With the construction of this Rail-cum-Road-Bridge, the distance from Munger to Khagaria will be less than 100 kilometres and also, the distance from Munger to Begusarai will be less than 20 kilometres.

## **GREEN HYDROGEN/ GREEN AMMONIA POLICY**

Ministry of Power has notified the Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy.

### **The policy provides as follows :**

- Green Hydrogen / Ammonia manufacturers may purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity themselves or through any other, developer, anywhere.
- Open access will be granted within 15 days of receipt of application.
- The Green Hydrogen / Ammonia manufacturer can bank his unconsumed renewable power, up to 30 days, with distribution company and take



- Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years will be allowed to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia for the projects commissioned before 30th June 2025.
- The manufacturers of Green Hydrogen / Ammonia and the renewable energy plant shall be given connectivity to the grid on priority basis to avoid any procedural delays.
- To ensure ease of doing business a single portal for carrying out all the activities including statutory clearances in a time bound manner will be set up by MNRE.
- Connectivity, at the generation end and the Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia manufacturing end, to the ISTS for Renewable Energy capacity set up for the purpose of manufacturing Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia shall be granted on priority.

## **Background**

- The Prime Minister launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day (i.e. 15th August, 2021).
- The Mission aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.
- This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The conviction rate in cases of human trafficking has been on the decline, government data show.

### **About:**

- Details of cases shared in Parliament earlier this month showed that the conviction rate has been declining over the past four years although the number of anti-human-trafficking units (AHTU) in the country has increased to 696.
- The conviction rate of cases related to human trafficking dropped from 27.8% in 2016 to 10.6% in 2020. Between 2018 and 2019 the conviction rate in such cases increased from 19.4% to 22.5%.
- The data has been sourced from a reply by Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra to a question in the Rajya Sabha earlier this month.

## **REFUGEES**

Model laws on asylum and refugees that were drafted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) decades ago but not implemented by the government could be revised by an expert committee, according to Commission member Justice M.M. Kumar's suggestion at a recent meeting.

### **About:**

- Though India has not signed the United Nations Refugee Convention, 1951, Justice Kumar said the refugees and asylum seekers were entitled to the rights in Articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Constitution. He highlighted the lack of a specific legislation governing refugees and asylum seekers.
- The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention or the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951, is a United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who a refugee is, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted



asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.

- The Convention also sets out which people do not qualify as refugees, such as war criminals.
- The Refugee Convention builds on Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.

## GUJARAT BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY FOR 2022-27

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27.



### About:

- Under this policy, the strategic projects and mega and large projects are eligible for special packages. This will attract new investment through anchor units and existing industries and create new employment opportunities in the state.
- According to this new policy, the MSMEs with a capital investment of less than 200 crore rupees will be given maximum assistance of 40 crore rupees.
- Similarly, the mega and large projects with a capital investment of more than 200 crore rupees and special projects like ecosystem empowerment, emerging technologies in challenging areas and strategic importance will be assisted up to 25 percent of the total capital expenditure up to a maximum limit of 200 crore rupees.
- This assistance will be provided in the form of 20 quarterly installments over five years. MSME units with a capital investment of less than 200 crore rupees will be assisted with a maximum of 5 crore rupees per annum.
- Mega and large projects with a capital investment of more than 200 crore rupees and special projects like ecosystem empowerment will be given an assistance of up to 15 percent of the total operating cost up to a maximum of 25 crore rupees per annum.

## VACANCIES IN TRIBUNALS

The Supreme Court assured lawyers that it will take up the issue of vacancies in key tribunals soon, while indicating that it is a problem that cannot be simplistically resolved by sending those responsible for the appointments to jail for contempt.

### About:

- In September last year, a Special Bench of the Supreme Court led by the CJI had said it was “not interested in a confrontation” with the government but the court was running out of patience.
- The Bench had said tribunals across the country were on the verge of collapse. Cases had been adjourned by a year.
- The court had even said the only three options were to
  - close the tribunals,
  - make the appointments itself or
  - initiate contempt action.

### Note

- Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976: Based on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee, Part XIV-A was added by the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976, titled as ‘Tribunals’ which provided for the establishment of
- ‘Administrative Tribunals’ under Article 323-A: It gives exclusive power to the Parliament for establishing tribunals.
- ‘Tribunals for other matters’ under Article 323-B: It gives power to the concerned State Legislature to constitute Tribunals for the respective subjects specified therein.
- Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985: It provides for the establishment of three kinds of administrative Tribunals: (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), State Administrative Tribunals (SAT) and Joint Administrative Tribunals (JAT)

## GOBAR-DHAN (BIO-CNG) PLANT, INDORE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate “Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant” in Indore on 19th February through video conferencing



#### About:

- Prime Minister recently launched the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, with the overall vision of creating “Garbage Free Cities”.
- The Mission is being implemented under the overarching principles of “waste to wealth”, and “circular economy” for maximising resource recovery – both of which are exemplified in the Indore Bio-CNG plant.
- The plant has a capacity to treat 550 tonnes per day of segregated wet organic waste. It is expected to produce around 17,000 kg per day of CNG, and 100 tonnes per day of organic compost.
- The plant is based on zero landfill models, whereby no rejects would be generated.
- Additionally, the project is expected to yield multiple environmental benefits, viz. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, providing green energy along with organic compost as fertiliser.
- Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle created to implement the project, was set up by Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd. (IEISL) under a Public Private Partnership model, with 100% capital investment of ₹150 crores by IEISL.

### REWARD PROJECT

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of “Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development” (REWARD) Project

#### About:

- The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and doubling farmers’ income by 2023. Effective watershed management can

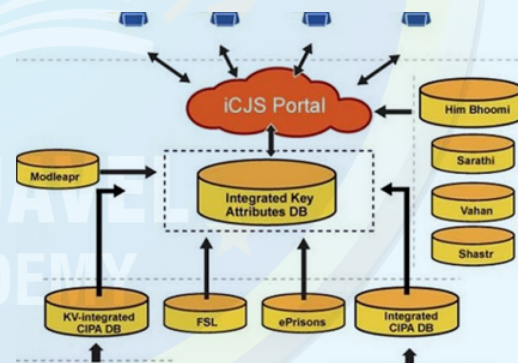
help enhance livelihoods in rainfed areas, while building a more resilient food system.

- In this context, the new program will help the participating state governments in their efforts to transform watershed planning and execution and adopt science-based planning that could be replicated across the country. It will also help the participating and others states to adopt new approaches to watershed development.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) financing will support Karnataka with \$60 million (INR 453.5 crore), Odisha with \$49 million (INR 370 crore), and the remaining \$6 million (INR 45.5 crore) will be for the central government’s Department of Land Resources.
- The \$115 million (INR 869 crore) loan has a maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.

### INTER-OPERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (ICJS) PROJECT

The Government of India has approved the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs.3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.

#### About:



- Phase II of the ICJS project will be a step towards ensuring effective and modern policing. The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.
- The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Center (NIC).
- The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.

#### Background

- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)



is a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country by five pillars namely:-

- Police (Crime and Criminal Tracking and Network Systems),
  - e-Forensics for Forensic Labs,
  - e-Courts for Courts,
  - e-Prosecution for Public Prosecutors and Prisons for Prisons.
- In Phase-I of the ICJS project, individual IT systems have been implemented and stabilized; also search of records have been enabled on these systems.
- Under Phase-II, the system is being built on the principle of 'one data one entry' whereby data is entered only once in one pillar and the same is then available in all other pillars without the need to re-enter the data in each pillar.

### **PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Ministry of Power recently issued the revised consolidated Guidelines and Standards for EV charging infrastructure on January 14, 2022.

**Salient Features of these guidelines are:**

- To provide an affordable tariff chargeable by public EV charging station operators and owners and Electric Vehicle (EV) owners.
- Enable owners of electric vehicles to charge EVs at their residences or offices using their existing electricity connections.
- A revenue sharing model has been suggested for land use to make a public charging station financially viable from an operational perspective.
- Timelines have been prescribed for providing connectivity to the Public Charging Station (PCS) for faster rollout of EV public charging.
- Technical requirements for public charging stations have been elaborated.

### **KISAN DRONES**

The Prime minister Narendra Modi flagged off 100 Kisan drones in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India.



**About:**

- He virtually addressed to a group of farmers gathered at Manesar from where the "Drone Kisan Yatra" was flagged off.
- Kisan Drones will be used to boost the agricultural sector in the country. The use of Kisan Drones will be promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- This step was taken as the government aims to promote chemical-free national farming.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget 2022 speech that "Chemical-free Natural farming will be promoted throughout the country, with focus on farmers' lands in 5-kilometre-wide corridors along the river Ganga in the first stage".

### **AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES 'SHAstra APP' AND 'SMART CARD ARMS LICENSE' OF DELHI POLICE**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'Smart Card Arms License' and 'Shastra App' of the Delhi Police, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police.
- In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital.
- According to Delhi Police, the smart card, with inherent security features, is easy to carry and handle. The card will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders.

**About the Smart Card Arms License:**

- The Delhi Police Licensing Unit has introduced 'Smart Card Arms License', to replace the existing bulky arms license booklet. With this Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to introduce such a smart card service.
- The Smart Card Arms License is easy to carry with inherent security features. It will be printed in the house after verification of data of arms license holders.

### About the Shastra mobile app:

- The card is also integrated with the 'e-Beat book' of Delhi Police through the 'Shastra mobile app' for effective policing.
- The Shastra app will help beat officers in identifying the credentials of arms license holders anytime during day-to-day random checking.

### CAREER COUNSELLING WORKSHOP 'PRAMARSH 2022' LAUNCHED IN BIKANER

- Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal has launched 'Pramarsh 2022', a mega career counselling workshop, for the students of the Bikaner District region in Rajasthan.
- More than one lakh students from thousands of private & government schools of Bikaner district and mainly from rural areas participated in this workshop.
- It is the first such incidence in India that more than 1 lakh students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.

### PROSTITUTION

A film starring actor Alia Bhatt is facing legal trouble after individuals claiming to be family members of the main protagonist, Gangubai Kathiawadi, have objected to her portrayal in the film.

#### About:

- Ganga Harjeevandas Kathiawadi was a native of Gujarat who earned a name for herself as one of Mumbai's well-known and influential brothel owners in the 50s and 60s.
- She was an Indian mafia woman and madam of a brothel in the Kamathipura area of the city of Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Gangubai is said to have been a proponent of the rights of commercial sex workers and apparently lobbied with politicians on this issue.
- Her life was documented in the 2011 book, Mafia Queens of Mumbai, by writer and journalist Hussain Zaidi. Gangubai Kathiawadi is an upcoming Indian Hindi-language biographical crime film based on a chapter of Zaidi's book, and directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

#### Important Info :

- Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the Ujjawala Scheme which is a comprehensive scheme for prevention of

trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

### PRESIDENT'S FLEET REVIEW

President Ram Nath Kovind will take part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review.

#### About:

- President's Fleet Review is the country's President taking stock of the Navy's capability.
- It takes place once under every President, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces.
- The President is taken on one of the Naval ships, which is called the President's Yacht, to look at all the ships docked on one of the Naval ports.
- The President's Yacht this year "is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sumitra, which will lead the Presidential Column. The yacht will be distinguished by the Ashoka Emblem on her side and will fly the President's Standard on the Mast".
- The idea is to showcase not all the Navy's ships, but every type of ship — and the kind of capabilities it has at that time. The review also includes merchant ships.



- In the current fleet review, which will take place in Vishakhapatnam, Kovind will review over 60 ships and submarines, and 55 aircraft, from the Navy and the Coast Guard.

#### How many of these reviews have been held

- There have been 11 President's Fleet Reviews since Independence.
- The first was conducted in 1953, under Dr Rajendra Prasad. The next one was done not by the President but by the then Defence Minister, Y B Chavan, in 1964.
- Since then, it has been the President reviewing the fleet.
- The last one was done in 2016, under President Pranab Mukherjee.



- The reviews in 2001 and 2016 were International Fleet Reviews, in which some vessels from other countries also participated

## ELECTION SYMBOLS

- Bicycle, the election symbol of the Samajwadi Party (SP) became the target of BJP leaders after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an election rally in Hardoi appeared to link the SP's symbol with the 2008 Ahmedabad terror blasts.

### About:

- As per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, the Election Commission allots symbols for anyone contesting in polls.
- A person contesting on behalf of a recognised political party will inherit the party's symbol.



- An independent candidate or someone contesting on behalf of an unrecognised political party has to approach the Commission and get a symbol allotted from the list of 'free' symbols available.
- A candidate will have to provide three symbols from the free list at the time of submission of nomination papers, one of which will be allocated to him/her.
- Any choice other than from the EC's list will be summarily rejected.
- In the case of a recognised political party, the Commission allows it to 'reserve' a symbol.
- For example, if a political party recognised in a particular State wishes to contest in elections in another State, it can 'reserve' the symbol being used by it.
- The Commission will oblige, provided the symbol is not being used by anyone else.
- Two or more recognised political parties can have the same symbol provided they are not contenders in the same State or Union Territory.
- Both Federal Party of Manipur and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) use 'Rising Sun' as their symbol.

- But if one of the parties wish to open their account in the other State, it will have to contest on a different symbol.

## PURPLE REVOLUTION

- Purple Revolution (Lavender cultivation) was launched under the Aroma Mission of the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.
- The AROMA mission is implemented by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) through its Jammu-based laboratory, the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM).
- The Mission's objective is the cultivation of important medicinal and aromatic plants domestically to empower domestic farmers and support India's aromatic crop-based agro-economy by reducing imports of aromatic oils and increasing homegrown varieties.
- The Lavender crop is however a native to Europe
- Doda district in J&K is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution or the cultivation of Lavender. Though, Lavender cultivation is practised in almost all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir

## INDIA DEBT RESOLUTION COMPANY LTD

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

### The objective of IDRCL

- India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) and National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) have been set up by banks and financial institutions to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt in the banking/financial system and then manage and dispose the assets to Alternate Investment Funds

## AFSPA

- A committee constituted by the Union Home Ministry in December to study the withdrawal

of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, from Nagaland, slated to submit a report within 45 days as claimed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, is yet to conclude its findings

**Special powers** | A timeline of the events leading to the formation of the committee



**Dec. 4, 2021:** 13 villagers are killed in a botched operation by the Army in Oting village of Nagaland. Another person is killed later during a protest

**Dec. 6:** Home Minister Amit Shah tells Parliament that the civilians, who were returning from a coal mine, tried to flee when the para-commandos of the Army signalled their vehicle to stop

**Dec. 8:** The Konyak Naga Union issues a statement accusing the Home Minister of presenting "misleading, indigestible and false" statement in Parliament

**Dec. 20:** Amid massive protests, Nagaland Assembly passes a resolution demanding repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

**Dec. 26:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio announces in Kohima that a committee to look into the withdrawal of AFSPA will be instituted, and it will submit its report in 45 days

■ A Home Ministry order of the same day, however, states that the committee will make suitable recommendations within three months

#### About:

- The panel was formed in the wake of growing civilian anger against the botched ambush by an elite unit of the Army that led to the killing of 13 civilians at Oting in Nagaland's Mon district on December 4.
- The six-member committee, headed by Registrar-General of India Vivek Joshi, made a solitary visit to the State in January.
- The announcement of the constitution of the committee was made by the Nagaland Chief Minister in Kohima on December 26.

#### Note

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is a law that gives enormous discretionary powers to the armed forces over a civilian population.
- Currently, AFSPA is in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (with the exception of the Imphal municipal area) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It has been retained in Arunachal for areas bordering Assam and Myanmar. In Arunachal Pradesh, the 'disturbed area' notification is confined to the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding, and the areas falling under Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations, bordering Assam.

### CHAR CHINARI ISLAND

- Two tall chinar trees were planted on the iconic

island Char Chinari in the middle of the Dal Lake in Srinagar with the Zabbarwan hills in the backdrop. The 2014 floods left two mighty chinars damaged.

#### About:



- Char Chinari, also sometimes called Char Chinari, Ropa Lank, or Rupa Lank, is an island in Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Dal Lake includes 3 islands, 2 of which are marked with beautiful Chinari trees.
- The island located on the Lakut Dal (small Dal) is known as Roph Lank (Silver Island), is marked with the presence of majestic Chinari trees at the four corners, thus known as Char-Chinari (Four Chinars).
- The second Chinari Island, known as Sone Lank (Gold Island), is located on the Bod Dal (Big Dal) and overlooks the holy shrine of Hazratbal.
- The island became famous in 1970s after the Bollywood song Accha To Hum Chalthe Hai, starring Rajesh Khanna and Asha Parekh, was shot there for the movie Aan Milo Sajna.

### NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP (NMMSS)

- Government has approved the continuation of Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) over the 15th Finance Commission cycle for a period of five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore

#### About:

- The scheme has been approved with minor modifications in eligibility criteria such as increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.
- The objective of the scheme, launched in 2008-09, is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop-out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary



stage.

- One lakh fresh scholarships of Rs.12,000/- per annum (Rs.1000/- per month) per student are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme.
- Students are selected for award of scholarships through an examination conducted by the State/ UT Governments. 100% funds under the scheme are provided by Central Government.
- The scheme is boarded on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Scholarships are disbursed directly into the bank accounts of students by electronic transfer through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode.

### DRAFT 'INDIA DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND USE POLICY

- The IT ministry has come out with a draft policy that proposes a framework for government-to-government data sharing and moots that all data for every government department or organisation shall be open and shareable by default, with riders

#### About:

- The draft 'India Data Accessibility and Use Policy' circulated for public consultation will be applicable to all data and information created, generated and collected by the government directly or through ministries, departments and authorised agencies.
- The policy aims to 'radically transform' India's ability to harness public sector data.

### FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

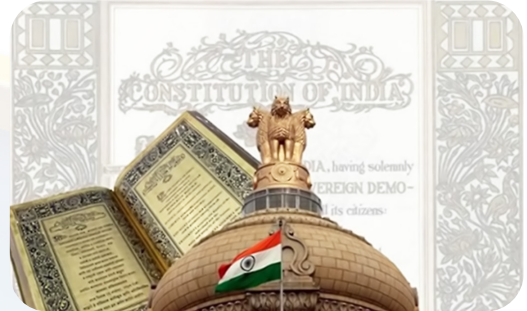
The Supreme Court asked the Union and the State governments to respond to a petition to enforce the fundamental duties of citizens, including patriotism and unity of the nation, through "comprehensive, well-defined laws".

#### About:

- Background: The Fundamental Duties were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, during Emergency under Indira Gandhi's government. The amendment came at a time when elections stood suspended and civil liberties curbed.
- How many? Today, there are 11 Fundamental Duties described under Article 51-A, of which 10 were introduced by the 42nd Amendment

and the 11th was added by the 86th Amendment in 2002, during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government.

- Status: These are statutory duties, not enforceable by law, but a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter.
- Objective: The idea behind their incorporation was to emphasise the obligation of the citizen in exchange for the Fundamental Rights that he or she enjoys.



- The concept of Fundamental Duties is taken from the Constitution of Russia.
- The 11 Fundamental Duties are:
- To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem
- To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom
- To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India — it is one of the preeminent national obligations of all the citizens of India.
- To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so
- To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
- To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture — our cultural heritage is one of the noblest and richest, it is also part of the heritage of the Earth
- To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures
- To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform
- To safeguard public property and to abjure violence
- To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of

endeavour and achievement

- Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

## SECURITY PRINTING & MINTING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. (SPMCIL)

The Delhi headquarters of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) has been declared a “prohibited place” under the Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 by the Union Home Ministry “to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons”.

### About



- The Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is a government printing and minting agency.
- It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was incorporated in 2006 with its registered office at New Delhi.
- It is engaged in the manufacture and production of currency and bank notes, security paper, non-judicial stamp papers, postal stamps, stationery, passport and visa stickers, security inks, circulation, commemorative coins and others.
- The nine production units of the SPMCIL, where bank notes and other government papers are manufactured, are already prohibited places.
- The nine production units are four India Government Mints, two Currency Note Presses, two Security Printing Presses and one Security Paper Mill located in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida, Nashik, Dewas and Narmadapuram.

## IMMIGRATION VISA FOREIGNERS REGISTRATION TRACKING (IVFRT)

- The Government of India has approved the continuation of the Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond March 31, 2021 for a period of five years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with a financial outlay of Rs.1,364.88 crore.



### About:

- The objective of IVFRT is modernization and up-gradation of Immigration and Visa services.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs aims to provide a secure and integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travelers while strengthening national security, through this scheme.
- The project has a global outreach and seeks to interlink and optimize functions relating to immigration, visa issuance, registration of foreigners and tracking of their movements in India by covering 192 Indian Missions across the globe, 108 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India and more than 700 Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs) across the country.

## COIR BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE

- Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) inaugurated Coir Board Regional Office at Kankavali in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.



### About:

- Coir Board is implementing several programmes to develop coir industry in the Konkan Zone. With the opening of this regional office, Coir Board will bring more programmes to the region.
- The Coir Board is a statutory body established by the Government of India under the Coir Industry Act 1953 for the promotion and development of the coir (coconut fibre) industry in India.
- The head office of the Coir Board is in Kochi.



- The board functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

## VIVA CARNIVAL

Goa is celebrating its annual 'Carnaval' or carnival from February 26 to March 1



### About:

- Carnival in Goa is also called "Carnaval", "Intruz", "Entrado", or (colloquially) "Viva Carnival".
- The colourful festival, a vestige of the state's erstwhile Portuguese rulers, is a celebration before the month of Lent followed by Catholics in Goa.
- With float parades, music, dance and culinary delights, over the decades, the exuberant celebration has been an eagerly awaited annual event showcasing Goa's vibrant culture.
- While carnival celebrations are held across the state by the Goa Department of Tourism, Panaji is the centre of action during the carnival.
- Like in other parts of the world, the celebration kicks off with an opening ceremony and has parades of floats in the streets. The streets are decorated with striking masks, colourful streamers, lights on its tree-lined streets.

## MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTION (MII)

The National Stock Exchange (NSE), the country's largest equities and derivatives exchange, was earlier this month fined for laxity in governance pertaining to actions taken during the tenure of its former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna

### About:

- Markets regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) in its order noted that

the NSE was a systemically important market infrastructure institution (MII).

- A panel set up under the chairmanship of former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan — to examine issues in MIIs — in its 2010 report said: "The term 'market infrastructure' denotes such fundamental facilities and systems serving this market.
- Stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses are all Market Infrastructure Institutions and constitute a key part of the nation's vital economic infrastructure.

### What are the specific institutions in India that qualify as MIIs?

- Among stock exchanges, the SEBI lists seven, including the BSE, the NSE, the Multi Commodity Exchange of India and the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India.
- There are two depositories — charged with the safekeeping of securities and enabling their trading and transfer — that are tagged MIIs: the Central Depository Services Ltd. and the National Securities Depository Ltd.
- The regulator also lists seven clearing houses including the Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation. Clearing houses, for their part, help validate and finalise securities trades and ensure that both buyers and sellers honour their obligations.

## MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TO BE SET UP IN SINDHUDURG

- Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Narayan Rane has announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- The MSME-Technology Centre will provide the best of technology, incubation as well as advisory support to the industry, especially MSMEs, to enhance their competitiveness and provide skilling services for the employed and unemployed youth of the area to enhance their employability.
- The Ministry is presently focussing to create a benchmark for MSMEs across the country by scaling them to new heights in terms of exports, quality of products, contribution to GDP and providing World-class infrastructure to all MSMEs in India.

## NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

- Ministry of Electronics & IT released a “National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing” on 24th February 2022.

### Salient features:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) aims to increase India’s share in global additive manufacturing to 5 per cent within the next three years, with hopes that it could likely add \$ 1 billion to the gross domestic product by that time.
- By 2025, India will aim to achieve certain targets such as 50 India specific technologies for material, machine and software, 100 new startups for additive manufacturing, 500 new products.
- In total, MeitY hopes that these new startups and opportunities will give jobs to at least 1 lakh new skilled workers over the next three years.
- To get ahead in the additive manufacturing or 3D printing space, India must adopt it in all sectors, including in defence and public sectors.
- An apex body which has subject matter experts and leaders from local and global industries could be established to lead the mission.

## DEVAYATANAM

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture, Government of India is organizing a two-day international conference ‘Devayatanam – An odyssey of Indian temple architecture’ on 25th – 26th February 2022 at Hampi, Karnataka. The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G Kishan Reddy inaugurates the conference.



### What is the aim of the conference?

- The conference aims to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temple.
- It also intends to initiate a dialogue on the

evolution and development of the various styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga and others.

### Significance of the conference:

- The conference has eminent scholars discussing on the various facets of the great temples of India.
- Various sessions of discussions include Temple- From the Formless to Form, Temple-Evolution of Temple Architecture, Temple-Regional Development Forms and Styles, Temple-Epicenter of art, culture, education, administration and economy, Temple-Protector of environment, Temple- Culture diffusion in Southeast Asia.

## CO-LOCATION

- The issue of co-location has come into the limelight once again in the wake of the latest order by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) sanctioning former National Stock Exchange (NSE) MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna over decisions taken by her under the alleged influence of a mysterious ‘yogi’.



### About:

- In its February 11 order, SEBI had observed that the fact of Ms. Ramkrishna having shared confidential internal NSE information with an unknown person had come to light during the regulator’s probe of the co-location matter.

### What is co-location?

- In 2009, the NSE started to offer co-location services to members of the exchange.
- Co-location allows a member to set up his server in a specifically earmarked data centre within the NSE’s exchange premises for a certain price.
- And even though this data centre is located in a different wing from the exchange’s trading systems, the relative proximity allows members wishing to gain access to the entirety of buy and sell orders sent to the exchange by market participants, or tick-by-tick data, a headstart of a few microseconds or nanoseconds.

### What is the controversy?

- Co-location per se is not illegal. Stock exchanges across the world allow the practice to flourish as a paid service. The SEBI, in fact, had allowed exchanges to offer co-location in 2008.
- However, a whistleblower in 2015 alleged that some exchange members were able to manipulate NSE's co-location services to their own benefit with the support of certain officials in NSE's IT department.







## BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, the military government announced that it has restored the constitution a week after taking power and has appointed the coup's leader as head of state for a transitional period.



### About:

- Just hours earlier, the African Union's 15-member Peace and Security Council announced that it had voted to suspend the participation of Burkina Faso in all AU activities until the effective restoration of constitutional order in the country.
- On January 24, rebel soldiers detained president Roch Marc Christian Kabore and imposed army rule on the country.

### Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa, bordered by Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and the Ivory Coast to the southwest.
- Its capital and largest city is Ouagadougou.

## NORTH KOREA MISSILE TEST

North Korea has conducted its biggest missile launch since 2017. North Korea has claimed the missile which it test fired recently is extremely powerful and can travel hundreds of miles, It also has the ability to strike the US Northern Pacific command Guam.



### About:

- The test was an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), which would be the biggest missile tested since November 2017.
- The missile reached an altitude of 2,000km and flew for 30 minutes to a distance of 800km. Finally, it landed in the Sea of Japan.
- North Korea has conducted a record number of seven missile launches in the month of January 2022 alone - which was strongly condemned by the US, South Korea, Japan, and other nations.
- The UN prohibits North Korea from ballistic and nuclear weapons tests, and has imposed strict sanctions, but the East Asian state regularly defies the ban.

## Guam

- Guam is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States in the Micronesia subregion of the western Pacific Ocean.
- In Oceania, it is the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands and the largest island in Micronesia.
- Guam's capital is Hagåtña.

People born on Guam are American citizens but have no vote in the United States presidential elections.

## INDIA-CHINA TRADE

India's trade with China in 2021 reached \$125.6 billion, according to figures released in January by China's General Administration of Customs (GAC).



#### About:

- This was the first time that trade crossed the \$100 billion mark. India's imports from China accounted for \$97.5 billion, while exports reached \$28.1 billion, both records.
- Compared to 2019 —trade declined substantially in 2020 because of the pandemic, which exaggerates the year-on-year increase — imports are up 30%.
- Exports to China, meanwhile, are up by as much as 56%.
- The trade deficit, a long-term source of concern for India, is up by 22% since 2019, having declined last year.

#### What is driving India's imports?

- India's biggest imports are electrical and mechanical machinery, a range of chemicals that are intermediate imports used by industries, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), auto components, and since 2020, a large amount of medical supplies.
- According to figures available with India's Ministry of Commerce, all those key imports continued to rise in 2021.

### ANTARCTIC MICROBES FOR PLASTIC CLEAN-UP

A team of Argentine scientists is using microorganisms native to Antarctica to explore the idea of cleaning up pollution from fuels and, potentially, plastics in the pristine expanses of the white continent.



#### About:

- The tiny microbes munch through the waste, creating a naturally occurring cleaning system for pollution caused by diesel that is used as a source of electricity and heat for research bases in the frozen Antarctic.
- The continent is protected by a 1961 Madrid Protocol that stipulates it must be kept in a pristine state.
- The research on how the microbes could help

with plastic waste could have potential for wider environmental issues. This work uses the potential of native microorganisms - bacteria and fungi that inhabit the Antarctic soil, even when it is contaminated.

### INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS

Maldives has announced that the Visa-free entry for Indian business travelers to the island nation, comes into effect.



#### About:

- Starting from the 1st of February 2022, it has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days.
- This is according to the Agreement on the Facilitation of Visa Arrangements between both the governments, signed on the 17th of December, 2018.
- As part of the reciprocal arrangement, a multiple entry, non-resident, business visa will be granted for Indian Nationals for a period of 90 days within 6 months. Any Indian National with an approved business visa is eligible to renew their visa up to 180 days within a calendar year.

### ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the high-level segment of One Ocean Summit on Feb 11, 2022 through a video message.



### About:

- The Summit will also be addressed by several Heads of States and Governments including Germany, United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada among others.
- One Ocean Summit is being organised by France from 9th to 11th February in Brest, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- The objective of the Summit is to mobilise the international community to take tangible action towards preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

### RUSSIA LAUNCHES BELARUS MILITARY DRILLS

Russia rolled its tanks across Belarus for live-fire drills that drew an ominous warning from NATO and added urgency to Western efforts to avert a feared invasion of Ukraine.



### About:

- The war games — set to run until February 20 — followed a gradual Russian military build-up around Ukraine that some U.S. estimates say has reached 1,30,000 soldiers grouped in dozens of combat brigades.
- Western leaders have been shuttling to Moscow in an effort to keep the lines of communication open, giving Russia a chance to air its grievances about NATO's expansion into eastern Europe and ex-Soviet states.
- Russia has also sent six warships through the Bosphorus for naval drills on the Black Sea and the neighboring Sea of Azov.

### Belarus

- Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe.
- It is bordered by Russia to the east and northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.
- Minsk is the capital and largest city.

### INDIA - AUSTRALIA MOU ON TOURISM

India and Australia have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism cooperation in the field of Tourism on 11th February 2022 in New Delhi.



### About:

- Australia is one of the most important tourism generating markets for India (ranked 4th in terms of Foreign Tourist Arrivals to the country in 2019 and contributing 3.4% in total tourism share of foreign tourists in the country).
- The signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Australia will be instrumental in increasing tourists' arrival from this important source market.
- India and Australia had previously signed a Memorandum of Understanding on tourism cooperation in the field of tourism on 18.11.2014. Under the framework of the said MoU three meeting of Joint Working Group Meeting on tourism between India and Australia were conducted. This above Memorandum of Understanding had expired in the year 2019.
- Presently, Ministry of Tourism has MoUs with 45 countries.

### INDIA-AUSTRALIA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT (CECA)

India's Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia have announced reaching an understanding on the Interim agreement and finalizing it in the next 30 days.





### About:

- The two nations are expected to sign the Interim Agreement in March 2022.
- The India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is expected to be concluded in 12 months thereafter.
- The areas covered under the interim agreement should include goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, Customs procedure, and Legal and Institutional issues.
- Speaking on the occasion Shri Goyal recalled watching the classic movie 'Dil Chahta Hai', which was partially shot in Australia. He said that CECA FTA is like a 'Dil Chahta Hai FTA', which represents the hope, aspiration & ambition of the people of our two great nations.

### WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

India signed an agreement with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 tonnes of wheat that it has committed to sending Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.

### About:

- Diplomatic efforts are under way to begin sending truck convoys through Pakistan by road, and the transport is expected to begin after the Punjab election on February 20.
- According to the MoU, the wheat will be taken through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar beginning February 22.
- The wheat will eventually be divided into five batches of 10,000 tonnes, to be distributed across the country on approximately 200 trucks that are run by the WFP.
- The WFP runs its own logistics network inside Afghanistan, partnering with civil society groups, and has launched a global campaign for enough food and aid for the population facing malnutrition — estimated to be half the population or 22 million Afghans.

### Key facts

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
- It is headquartered in Rome.
- The WFP was formally established in 1963 by the FAO and the United Nations General Assembly.

## INDIA-KENYA TIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met former Prime Minister of Kenya Raila Amolo Odinga who is currently in India on a private visit.

### About:

- The two leaders share friendly personal relations going back decades. Mr Modi expressed his happiness at being able to meet Mr. Odinga after almost three and half years.



- He recollected his multiple interactions with Mr. Odinga since 2008 in both India and Kenya, as well as the latter's support to the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2009 and 2012.

### Kenya

- Kenya is a country in Eastern Africa.
- Kenya's capital and largest city is Nairobi, while its oldest city and first capital is the coastal city of Mombasa.
- Kenya is bordered by South Sudan to the northwest, Ethiopia to the north, Somalia to the east, Uganda to the west, Tanzania to the south, and the Indian Ocean to the southeast.

### India-Kenya Ties

- Kenya has a large minority of Indians and Persons of Indian Origin living there who are descendants of labourers who were brought in by the British to construct the Uganda Railway
- Kenya and India are members of international fora like United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Commonwealth of Nations, G-77 and G-15 and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and often cooperate with each other on these fora.

## INDIA-MALDIVES DEFENCE RELATIONS

India's Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar visited the Maldives on February 13-14, for discussions with the Maldives National Defence Force as part of the second Defence Cooperation Dialogue.

### About:

- The Defence Cooperation Dialogue is one



of India's policy-level frameworks that aims to strengthen long-standing and mutually beneficial bilateral defence ties.

- The first Defence Cooperation Dialogue was held in July 2016 during the presidency of Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom and the second DCD was held in January 2019.



- The location of the Maldives, at the intersection of commercial sea-lanes running through the Indian Ocean, makes it strategically important for India, particularly in the light of China's growing aggression in the region.
- During the visit, Dr. Kumar handed over the refitted ship, the CGS Huravee to the Maldives.
- The Trinkat-class patrol vessel was gifted to the Maldivian Coast Guard in 2006. This vessel is used by the Maldives for coastal surveillance and for combating transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

#### Why is this important for bilateral relations?

- Since 1988, defence and security have been major areas of cooperation between India and Maldives.

#### INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency.



#### About:

- G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.
- India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to substantive / knowledge / content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.
- It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant line Ministries / Departments and domain knowledge experts.
- The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024.
- The Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister, and comprising Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister, and G20 Sherpa (Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister), to provide overall guidance to India's G20 Presidency.
- Further, a Coordination Committee will also be set up to oversee all G20 preparations and report to the Apex Committee.

#### WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit on 16th February, 2022



#### About:

- World Sustainable Development Summit is TERI's annual flagship event.
- The theme for this year's Summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.
- The Summit will discuss a wide range of

issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

## ABRAHAM ACCORDS

This week, in what is being called a historic first, Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett undertakes a two-day official visit to Bahrain, one of the seven Gulf countries whose relations with Israel have been sour on account of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

### Why is Bennett's Bahrain visit significant?

- The visit signals the growing ties that are developing between Israel and the Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates).



- It comes a couple of years after another the UAE — a key ally of the US — normalised relations with Israel in 2020 after signing the 'Abraham Accords'.

## Abraham Accords

- This deal, sponsored by the US, was part of the country's regional security agenda to counter Iran.
- As part of this security agenda — signed during the Trump administration — the US prioritised improving relations between Israel and the Gulf countries, something that the latter nations have been wary of because of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- As part of the Abraham Accords, Israel agreed to stop further annexation of Palestinian territory.
- The accords were signed by the leaders of Bahrain, Israel and the UAE in September 2020. Bennett visited the UAE in December 2021, becoming the first leader from Israel to visit the federation of seven emirates.

## ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

India lashed out at the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), after the grouping called on the UN Human Rights Council to take "necessary measures" on the issue of Muslim

girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools.



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation



### About:

- The Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation is the world's second largest multilateral body after the UN.
- It counts 57 members, all of which are Islamic countries or Muslim majority members.
- The Central African Republic, Russia, Thailand, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and the unrecognised Turkish Cypriot "state", have Observer status.
- The OIC's stated objective is "to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world".
- The Organisation of the Islamic Conference was established by the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Morocco in September 1969, to marshal the Islamic world after an act of arson at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem by a 28-year-old Australian in 1969.
- As a country with the world's second largest Muslim community, India had been invited to the founding conference at Rabat in 1969, but was humiliatingly ejected at Pakistan's behest.

## UNION MINISTER RK SINGH CO-CHAIRS 4TH INDIA-AUSTRALIA ENERGY DIALOGUE

- Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue and both the Energy Ministers. Energy Transition activities in their respective countries with a focus on renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining etc.
- The need of Climate Finance was also highlighted by India for meeting the Energy Transition goals of developing countries.



## CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU INVOKES EMERGENCIES ACT FOR 1ST TIME

- Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau has invoked never-before-used emergency powers to support provinces in ending the blockades and public disorder that have gripped Ottawa for 18 days at the hands of participants in the so-called “Freedom Convoy.”
- The demonstrations shut a main economic corridor between Canada and the United States for six days before it was reopened on the 13th Feb.

### What is the Emergencies Act?

- The act gives the government temporary powers it does not normally have, such as the power to impose special restrictions on public assembly and travel and to mobilize federal support for the local and provincial police.
- It gives the federal government power to implement temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies.
- A declaration of a public welfare emergency allows the government to regulate the distribution of essential goods, decide what are essential services, and impose fines on violations of the act. It sets out a compensation scheme for those who suffer damages as a result of its application.

## ISRAEL BECAME FIRST COUNTRY TO ALLOW DRONES IN CIVILIAN AIRSPACE

- The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems, an Israeli defence electronics company.
- The UAVs will be used for the benefit of agriculture, the environment, public welfare, economic activity and against crime.
- For safety reasons, international aviation regulations prohibit uncertified aircraft from flying in civilian airspace, limiting the operation of UAVs to unsegregated airspace.

## FALKLAND ISLANDS

Four decades after the Falklands War between the United Kingdom and Argentina ended bitterly for Buenos Aires, a statement from China on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics, that affirmed Beijing’s support for Argentina’s claim to the Falkland Islands



### About:

- The Falkland Islands are an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean on the Patagonian Shelf.
- As a British overseas territory, the Falklands have internal self-governance, and the United Kingdom takes responsibility for their defence and foreign affairs. The capital and largest settlement is Stanley on East Falkland.
- Argentina has maintained that the Falklands were illegally taken from it in 1833 and invaded the British colony in 1982. That incident resulted in what later came to be known as the Falklands War that lasted a little over three months, ending in victory for the United Kingdom.
- China’s President Xi Jinping and Argentina’s President Alberto Fernandez issued a joint statement last week that said China “reaffirms its support for Argentina’s demand for the full exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands,” with the statement using the Argentine name for the territory.

## INDIA-UAE VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit



### Joint Vision Statement

- They issued a Joint Vision Statement “Advancing the India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestone”.



- The Statement establishes a roadmap for a future-oriented partnership between India and UAE and identifies focus areas and outcomes.
- The shared objective is to promote new trade, investment and innovation dynamic in diverse sectors, including economy, energy, climate action, emerging technologies, skills and education, food security, healthcare and defence and security.

### India-UAE CEPA

- A major highlight of the Virtual Summit was the signing and exchange of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The Agreement will provide significant benefits to Indian and UAE businesses, including enhanced market access and reduced tariffs.
- It is expected that the CEPA will lead to increase in bilateral trade from the current USD 60 bn to USD 100 bn in the next 5 years.

### GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION CAMP

The Biden administration has been quietly laying the groundwork to release prisoners from the Guantanamo Bay detention center and at least move closer to being able to shut it down.



#### About:

- The Guantanamo Bay detention camp is a United States military prison located within Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, also referred to as Guantánamo, GTMO, and Gitmo, on the coast of Guantánamo Bay in Cuba.
- Of the 780 people detained there since January 2002 when the military prison first opened after the September 11, 2001 attacks, 731 have been transferred elsewhere, 39 remain there, and 9 have died while in custody.
- The camp was established by U.S. President George W. Bush's administration in 2002 during the War on Terror following the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- Indefinite detention without trial and torture led the operations of this camp to be considered a major breach of human rights by Amnesty International.

### NEPAL WILL BECOME 1ST COUNTRY TO DEPLOY INDIA'S UPI PLATFORM

- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services. GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.

### MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar held a series of one-to-one meetings with Ministers from Europe, Asia and other parts of the world on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

#### About:

- The Munich Security Conference is an annual conference on international security policy that has been held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany since 1963.



- Over the past four decades the Munich Security Conference has become the most important independent forum for the exchange of views by international security policy decision-makers.
- Each year it brings together about 350 senior figures from more than 70 countries around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future security challenges.
- The list of attendees includes heads of states, governments and international organizations, ministers, members of parliament, high-ranking representatives of armed forces, science, civil society, as well as business and media.
- The conference is held annually in February. The venue is the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich, Bavaria, Germany.

## INDIA AND FRANCE SIGN ROADMAP ON BLUE ECONOMY

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

### About the partnership:



- The partnership will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law.
- The scope of the roadmap will encompass maritime trade, the naval industry, fisheries, marine technology and scientific research, integrated coastal management, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, and cooperation between competent administrations on civil maritime issues.
- India and France underscored that fisheries are a vital economic sector and play a decisive role in food security and livelihood security, particularly for coastal populations.

## FRANCE ANNOUNCES MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM MALI AFTER NINE YEARS

- French president, Emmanuel Macron has announced that France and its European partners will start the military withdrawal from Mali after more than nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.
- France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 under the Socialist president François Hollande.

The decision has been taken due to a breakdown in France's relations with the ruling junta government in the country. The heart of this military operation will be shifted from Mali to Niger

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

- The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on the 21st of February. The day aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- The 2022 theme is "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities". The UN mentioned in its statement that this year's theme raises the potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.



### History of the day:

- International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999. The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution of 2002.

### Significance of the day:

- The day signifies how an intergovernmental body like UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies.
- According to UNESCO, it is within its mandate for peace that it works to preserve the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for diversity.

## INDIA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla flagged off a convoy of 50 trucks carrying 2500 tonnes of wheat as humanitarian aid for Afghanistan at the India-Pakistan integrated checkpost (ICP), the first of about 1,000 truckloads which will head for Jalalabad over the next few weeks.





#### About:

- The wheat assistance will be delivered in multiple consignments and will be handed over to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) in Jalalabad, Afghanistan to help people deal with the crisis caused by food shortage and an economic collapse after the Taliban takeover of Kabul.
- The assistance was made “in response to appeals made by the United Nations for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan”.
- The wheat, procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), has been specially “double bagged” to protect it from contamination along the 500-km journey from Attari to Jalalabad, and then to other centres for distribution.
- The consignment had been originally offered to the Taliban leadership in October 2021, but was held up due to objections from Pakistan.

### LUGANSK AND DONETSK TERRITORIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin will recognise the independence of eastern Ukraine’s separatist republics, the Kremlin said in a statement, adding that he had informed the French and German leaders of his decision.



#### About:

- Earlier, the rebel leaders of eastern Ukraine’s separatist Donetsk and Lugansk territories had appealed to Mr. Putin to recognise them as independent.
- The conflict in the separatist regions began in 2014, when rebels loyal to Russia seized government buildings in Donetsk and Luhansk, beginning a long trench war with Ukrainian forces. More than 13,000 people have died in fighting in the region since.
- Russia’s recognition of the two regions, the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic and Luhansk People’s Republic, could allow separatist leaders to request military help from Russia, further easing a path for a military offensive, Ukrainian officials say.
- Ukraine would likely interpret that as Russian troops entering Ukrainian territory.

### MINSK AGREEMENTS

US authorities have warned Russia not to invade Ukraine and urged both countries to return to a set of agreements, which were signed in Minsk in 2014 and 2015, designed to end a separatist war by Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine



#### MINSK I

- Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed a 12-point ceasefire deal in the Belarusian capital in September 2014.
- Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons, five months into a conflict that had by then killed more than 2,600 people – a toll that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says has since risen to around 15,000.



- The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.

## MINSK II

- Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the leaders of two pro-Russian separatist regions signed a 13-point agreement in February 2015.
- The leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine, gathered in Minsk at the same time, issued a declaration of support for the deal.

## NDC-TRANSPORT INITIATIVE FOR ASIA (NDC-TIA) PROJECT

NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, with the support of GIZ India, conducted a virtual consultation workshop on 'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport' as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.

# NDC TRANSPORT INITIATIVE FOR ASIA

## About:

- The NDC-TIA is a joint programme of seven organizations that engages India, China and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport in their respective countries.
- The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).
- The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports the initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.
- NITI Aayog is the implementing partner for the India component of the project.

## CHERNOBYL

After a brief but fierce battle, Russian troops were able to capture the Chernobyl nuclear plant in northern Ukraine, the site of one of the worst nuclear disasters in human history.

## Nuclear power plants in Ukraine

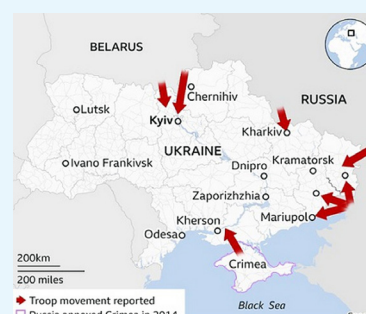


## About:

- Located around 16 km away from the city of Chernobyl and a little over 100 km away from Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv, the power plant witnessed the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986.
- The disaster occurred between April 25-26, when a group of technicians in what was then Soviet-controlled Ukraine carried out a botched safety test that led to a series of explosions at Chernobyl's reactor No. 4 and a partial meltdown of its core. The explosions exposed the core and released clouds of radioactive material into the atmosphere.
- It is said to have released 400 times more radiation than the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in Japan.
- In fact, the catastrophe is considered one of the key factors that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union a few years later.
- Why did Russia capture Chernobyl? Seizing Chernobyl was a strategic decision that gave Russian troops quick and easy access to Kyiv from Belarus, which is an ally of Moscow. By capturing Chernobyl, Russia has secured a route into Ukraine for its ground forces.

## UKRAINE

Three days before he invaded Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin described Russia's southwestern neighbour as a bogus country with no history, identity, or "stable traditions of real statehood".



### About:

- Ukraine is in the east of Europe, and is bound by Russia to its northeast, east, and southeast, and the Black Sea in the south. In the southwest, west, and north, Ukraine shares borders, in the clockwise direction, with Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Belarus.
- It is the largest country in Europe after Russia itself.
- In July 2021, Ukraine's population was estimated at 43.7 million. Of this, 77.8% was of Ukrainian ethnicity and 17.3% was Russian.
- Ukraine is the poorest country in Europe in terms of gross domestic product and gross national income per capita. It has deposits of iron ore and coal, and exports corn, sunflower oil, iron and iron products, and wheat.

### Ukraine as part of USSR

- Months after the Bolsheviks took power in the October Revolution of 1917, an independent Ukrainian People's Republic was proclaimed, but a civil war continued between various claimants to power, including Ukrainian factions, anarchists, Tsarists, and Poland.
- In 1922, Ukraine became part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- In 1991, the USSR was dissolved and the parliament of Ukraine adopted the country's Act of Independence.

### India and Ukraine

- India is Ukraine's largest export destination in the Asia Pacific region.
- The country's major export to India is sunflower oil, followed by inorganic chemicals, iron and steel, plastics, and chemicals.
- Ukraine's major import from India is pharmaceutical products.

### REVOLUTIONS IN UKRAINE

Since 1990, Ukraine has had one revolution every decade. As Russian forces continue their long march into the former Soviet state, here is a look at some of these revolutions and their outcome.

### About:

- Granite Revolution: Ukraine's first and perhaps least known popular uprising was the granite revolution which took place in October 1990. At the time, Ukraine was still a part of the Soviet Union.
- Orange Revolution: The Orange Revolution was a series of protests and political events that

took place in Ukraine between November 2004 and January 2005.

- Maidan revolution: It took place in Ukraine in February 2014 at the end of the Euromaidan protests, when a series of violent events involving protesters, riot police, and unknown shooters in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv culminated in the ousting of elected president Viktor Yanukovich and the overthrow of the Ukrainian government.

### UNSC RESOLUTION ON RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Russia used its veto powers to block a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution condemning its invasion of Ukraine and demanding an immediate withdrawal of its troops.

### About:

- Eleven out of the 15 permanent and non-permanent members — including the US, UK and France — voted in favour of the resolution, while India, China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) chose to abstain.
- Indian Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti, who abstained, said that “dialogue is the only path forward,” no matter how daunting it might seem, and urged the Council to restore the difficult path forward.

### Veto Power

- The United Nations Security Council “veto power” is the power of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) to veto any “substantive” resolution.
- However, a permanent member's abstention or absence does not prevent a draft resolution from being adopted.
- This veto power does not apply to “procedural” votes, as determined by the permanent members themselves.

### THE CONFLICT OF UKRAINE-RUSSIA EXPLAINED 2022

- The attack on Ukraine by Russia is potentially the onset of war in Europe on top of Russia's behest for an end to NATO's eastward expansion.
- The attack on Ukraine by Russia is potentially the onset of war in Europe on top of Russia's behest for an end to NATO's eastward expansion.
- The launch of the major invasion by Russia



on Ukraine, that started with air and missile assaults on Ukrainian military targets before sending troops and tanks across the country's northern, eastern, and southern borders.

- On many fronts, the Ukrainian military fought back. In a video speech delivered early Friday, February 25, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that 137 people had been killed, including troops and civilians, and that hundreds more had been injured.

### Background:

- Since the invasion of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine has been living in fear of war with Russia for nearly eight years. Russia and Ukraine have been at odds for a long time, with Russia claiming Ukraine as a part of its country and opposing Ukraine's developing ties to the West. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to recapture the former Soviet Union Republic.
- He requested that the Ukrainian military put down their weapons. Prior to its cessation in 1991, Russia and Ukraine were both members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which consisted of 15 republics.

### Genesis of the Conflict:

- The heat between Russia and Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, have existed for a decent amount of time, they began to escalate out of control in early 2021. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's President hinted the US President Joe Biden to allow Ukraine to join the NATO forces in January of last year.
- This Russia is highly infuriated, which began sending soldiers near the Ukrainian border for "training exercises" in the spring of last year and boosted the number in the fall. The US began to hype that there is a deployment of Russian troops, and Vice President Joe Biden had threatened Russia with heavy sanctions if Russia attacked Ukraine.
- Russia wants a legally enforceable promise from the US that NATO forces will not conduct any military operations in eastern Europe, especially in Ukraine. According to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Ukraine is merely a puppet of the US and was never a real sovereign country in the first place.
- This isn't the first time that conflicts between Russia and Ukraine have erupted. Russia had previously invaded Ukraine in 2014, it happened when pro-Putin separatists captured major swaths of eastern Ukraine, and they have been fighting the Ukrainian army since the invasion. Russia also annexed Crimea at that time.

- Ukraine has extensive social and cultural ties with Russia, and Russian is widely spoken there, but those ties have deteriorated since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014.
- When Ukraine's pro-Russian president lost in early 2014, Russia came to an offensive. It is estimated that more than 14,000 people have died as a result of the continuous war happening in the east.
- The Minsk peace agreement was signed by Russia and Ukraine to end the ongoing violent armed conflict which was going on in east Ukraine, including Donbas region. However, as the armed conflict continues, Russia said that it will be sending "peacekeepers" to the affected region. According to the, Moscow is using it as a cover to occupy sovereign Ukrainian country.
- The rising tension between Russia and Ukraine, which shares a border with the European Union, has ramifications for the European Union. This is why the European Union has joined the US in declaration of the penalties against Russian firms, the majority of which the NATO members.
- Just a few weeks back, French President Emmanuel Macron had travelled to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in an effort to calm down the ongoing tensions.
- India is also suggesting for a diplomatic solution, through talks to the present Russian-Ukraine violent conflict.

### RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

Russia has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea, in what is being seen as the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since World War II.

### What's the issue between Russia and Ukraine?

- Ukraine, a democratic country of 44 million people with more than 1,000 years of history, is the biggest country in Europe by area after Russia itself.
- It voted overwhelmingly for independence from Moscow after the fall of the Soviet Union and says it aims to join Nato and the European Union.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, has called Ukraine an artificial creation carved from Russia by enemies, a characterisation Ukrainians call shocking and false.
- The Russian President has also claimed that Ukraine is a puppet of the West and was never a proper state anyway.



- Putin has demanded guarantees from the West and Ukraine that it will not join NATO, a defensive alliance of 30 countries. He also wants Ukraine to be demilitarised and become a neutral state.
- But in January last year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged US President Joe Biden to let Ukraine join NATO. This greatly irked Russia as it does not want Ukraine to move towards European institutions such as NATO and the EU.

#### But why do Russia care so much about Ukraine?

- Both Russia and the West see Ukraine as a potential buffer against each other.
- Russia considers Ukraine within its natural sphere of influence. Most of it was for centuries part of the Russian Empire, many Ukrainians are native Russian speakers and the country was part of the Soviet Union until winning independence in 1991.



#### NATO

- Russia's foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova announced that if Sweden and Finland were to become members of NATO, the move "would have serious military and political consequences".



#### About:

- Along with Austria, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta, Finland and Sweden are two EU states that are not members of NATO yet. Since the end of the Second World War, both countries remained militarily neutral.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between

28 European countries and 2 North American countries.

- Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
- NATO constitutes a system of collective security, whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.
- The NATO headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium, while the headquarters of Allied Command Operations is near Mons, Belgium.

#### NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK 1ST MULTILATERAL AGENCY TO OPEN OFFICE IN GIFT CITY

- New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT). New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City.
- 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.



#### About the New Development Bank:

- NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS as well as other emerging markets in 2014.
- It became operational in 2015 and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. All the founding members equally own the bank.
- New Development Bank Headquarters Location: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank President: Marcos Prado Troyjo;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.



## **IMPORT DUTY CHANGES IN BUDGET 2022**

Signalling a move to protect domestic industries which are not necessarily capital, technology or labour intensive, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a slew of higher custom duties on items of daily use such as umbrellas, headphones, earphones, loudspeakers, smart meters, and imitation jewellery.

### **About:**

- The customs duty on umbrellas was doubled to 20 per cent, while exemptions provided on import of parts of umbrellas were withdrawn.
- Similarly, the customs duty on single or multiple loudspeakers, whether or not mounted in their enclosures was hiked to 20 per cent from 15 per cent.
- Apart from umbrellas, the customs duty on headphones and earphones, whether or not combined with a microphone, and sets consisting of a microphone and one or more loudspeakers, was also hiked to 20 per cent from 15 per cent, while those on smart meters was raised to 25 per cent from 15 per cent.
- Import duty, meanwhile, was reduced for cut and polished diamonds, asafoetida, cocoa beans, methyl alcohol and acetic acid along with proposing to phase out the concessional rates in capital goods and project imports gradually and apply a tariff of 7.5 per cent.

### **One station-one product**

- The decision falls in line with the other Budget announcement of popularising one station-one product to popularise local businesses and supply chains.
- One station-one product as a concept aims to promote a local product from each stop of the Indian Railways by making the railway station of that area a promotional and sales hub for the product.

## **VIRTUAL DIGITAL ASSETS**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget 2022 speech, announced a 30 per cent tax on income from virtual digital assets.

### **About:**



- She further clarified that no deduction in respect of any expenditure or allowance shall be allowed while computing such income except the cost of acquisition.
- Additionally, she also proposed a TDS on payment made in relation to the transfer of virtual digital assets at 1 per cent above a monetary threshold.
- Additionally, if a virtual digital asset investor incurs losses during the transaction, it can't be set off against any other income. The gifting of virtual digital assets has also been proposed to be taxed in the hands of the recipient.
- In the explanatory memorandum of the Finance Bill, the government stated, "To define the term "virtual digital asset", a new clause (47A) is proposed to be inserted to section 2 of the Act.

## **CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY (CBDC)**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of the Digital Rupee — a central bank digital currency (CBDC) — 2022-23 onwards.

### **About:**

- Who will launch the CBDC? The Reserve



Bank of India will launch the CBDC from the upcoming financial year. This follows the government's plans to launch the CBDC that will be backed by blockchain technology.

- What is a CBDC?

CBDC is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. It is similar to a fiat currency issued in paper and is interchangeable with any other fiat currency.

#### What is the need for CBDC?



- The goal is to provide users with convenience and security of digital as well as the regulated, reserve-backed circulation of the traditional banking system.
- The RBI has on several occasions flagged concerns of money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion, etc with private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ether, etc and had planned to announce its own CBDC.

#### UNION BUDGET 2022

- Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is presenting the Union Budget 2022 for the 4th time in a row.
- She will be presenting the financial statements and tax proposals for the fiscal year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023).
- A Made in India tablet has replaced the traditional 'Bahi Khata' as Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman leaves the Finance Ministry's office to go to the Parliament to present the Budget.
- The Economic Survey 2021-22 was released on 31st January 2022 by the Chief Economic Advisor of India, V Anantha Nageswaran. The government sees the Indian economy growing at 8-8.5 per cent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23).

#### Budget and Constitutional Provisions

- The Union Budget is the yearly financial report estimating the income and expenditure presented to outline future policies to be adopted by the government for sustainable growth and development.
- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
- It is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in a Financial Year (which begins on 1st April of the current year and ends on 31st March of the following year).
- The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget.
- The first Budget of Independent India was presented in 1947.

#### INDIA'S TRADE PARTNER IN 2021

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

#### India's list of top ten trading partners also includes:

1. USA
2. China
3. UAE
4. Saudi Arab
5. Switzerland
6. Hong Kong
7. Singapore
8. Iraq
9. Indonesia
10. South Korea

#### TULIP MANIA

A week after the budget 2022-23 proposed 30 per cent tax on gains made from cryptocurrency trades, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das termed it as a "threat to macroeconomic and financial stability".

#### About:

- Announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy outcome, Das cautioned investors by invoking

the 17th century 'tulip mania' -- which is widely considered to be the first financial bubble.

- The RBI governor said that investors must remember that cryptocurrencies have no underlying, not even a tulip.
- The central bank has always maintained a strong stance against private digital currencies. It had banned the banking system from aiding such trades, which was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2020.
- Cryptocurrencies are said to originate or 'mined' using complex algorithms built on the blockchain platform but critics say it lacks the 'value' of legal tender whose supply is regulated.

### What is 'tulip mania'?

- The 'tulip mania' of the 17th century is often cited as a classic example of a financial bubble where the price of something goes up, not due to its intrinsic value but because of speculators wanting to make a profit by selling a bulb of the exotic flower.
- It is also known as the Dutch tulip market bubble and occurred in Holland during the early to mid 1600s. It was one of the most famous market bubbles and crashes of all times.



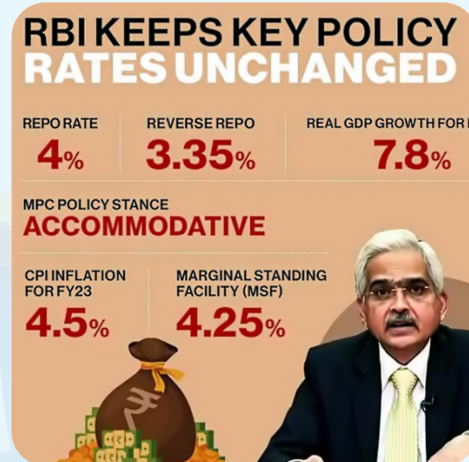
- Speculations drove up the value of tulip bulbs and they traded for an extensively higher price.
- In today's context, it serves as a parable for the pitfalls that excessive speculation can lead to

### MONETARY POLICY

- The Reserve Bank of India maintained status quo in policy rates as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at 4% to keep the stance accommodative.

### About:

- While announcing the Bi-monthly policy RBI Governor Shaktikant Das said, MSF rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25%.
- Reverse repo rate will also remain unchanged at 3.35%.



- MPC has voted 5-1 to continue accommodative monetary policy stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth and mitigate impact of #COVID19 on the economy, while ensuring inflation remains within target.
- He projected real GDP growth at 9.2% for 2021-22 and said that it is modestly above level of GDP for 2019-20. Real GDP growth for 2022-23 was projected at 7.8%.

### Other announcements

- He announced that Variable Rate Repo operations of varying tenures will henceforth be conducted as and when warranted.
- Variable rate repos and variable rate reverse repos of 14-day tenures will operate as the main liquidity management tool.
- He informed that from March 1, 2022, fixed rate reverse repo and MSF operations will be available only during 5.30 PM to 11.59 PM on all days, instead of from 9.00 AM to 11.59 PM.
- He also announced some additional measures like extension of On-tap Liquidity Facilities for Emergency Health Services and Contact-intensive Sectors, voluntary retention route (VRR) - Enhancement of Limits, Review of Credit Default Swaps (CDS) Guidelines, Permission for Banks to deal in Foreign Currency Settled - Rupee Derivatives Market etc.



### Some important instruments of Monetary Policy:

- The RBI's Monetary Policy has several direct and indirect instruments which are used for implementing the monetary policy. Some important instruments of Monetary Policy are as follows:
- **Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which banks can borrow overnight liquidity from the Reserve Bank of India against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India can absorb liquidity from banks on an overnight basis, against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** The LAF has overnight as well as term repo auctions under it. The term repo helps in the development of the inter-bank term money market. This market sets the benchmarks for the pricing of loans and deposits. This helps in improving the transmission of monetary policy. As per the evolving market conditions, the Reserve Bank of India also conducts variable interest rate reverse repo auctions.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** MSF is a provision that enables the scheduled commercial banks to borrow an additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank can do this by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest. This helps the banks to sustain the unanticipated liquidity shocks faced by them.

### RBI 2ND LARGEST BUYER OF GOLD IN 2021

- The largest buyer, the Central Bank of Thailand, bought 90 metric tonnes of gold while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021.
- When it comes to gold buying, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as

the second-largest buyer of yellow metal among the world's Central Banks in 2021.

- As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is the ninth-largest in the world.
- Goldhub is the official website of the World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metals.
- World Gold Council CEO: David Tait;
- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;
- World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky

### CRUDE PALM OIL (CPO)

With a view to check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils due to rise in the prices of edible oils globally, the Government of India has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5% with effect from 12th February, 2022



### Agri-Cess

- After reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%.
- The increase in the gap between the CPO and Refined Palm Oil will benefit the domestic refining industry to import Crude Oil for refining.

### Import Duty

- Another pre-emptive measure taken by the Government to check the prices of edible oils is to extend the current basic rate of import duty of zero percent on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil and Crude Sunflower Oil upto 30th September, 2022.
- The rate of import duty on Refined Palm Oils at 12.5%, Refined Soyabean oil and Refined Sunflower Oil at 17.5% will remain in force up to 30th September, 2022.

- The above steps will augment the earlier measure taken by the Government viz. the stock limit order dated 3rd February, 2022 vide which the Government had specified the stock limit quantities on edible oils and oilseeds for a period upto 30th June, 2022 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955

## AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

- India's export of Shallots sees a boom with a growth of 487% since 2013.

### Exports of Shallots

- Exports of Shallots rose from USD 2 Million in April-December 2013 to USD 11.6 Million in April-December 2021.
- Major export destinations during April-December 2021 were Sri Lanka (35.9%), Malaysia (29.4%), Thailand (12%), U Arab E (7.5%) & Singapore (5.8%).
- The shallot is a botanical variety (a cultivar) of the onion. Until 2010, the shallot was classified as a separate species. Its close relatives include garlic, scallions, leeks, chives, and the Chinese onion.

### Exports of Pineapple

- India's export of Pineapple also rose by almost 100% to USD 3.26 Million during April-December 2021 compared to USD 1.63 Million during April-December 2013.
- Major export destinations for Pineapple during April-December 2021 were U A E (32.2%), Nepal (22.7%), Qatar (16.6%), Maldives (13.2%) & U S A (7.1%).

## INFLATION

India's retail inflation accelerated past the 6% mark in January to hit 6.01%, breaching the central bank's tolerance threshold for consumer price inflation for the first time since June 2021. Retail inflation was 5.66% in December 2021.



### About:

- Rural India bore the brunt of the inflation spike

as per official data, with the pace of price rise touching 6.12% from 5.36% in December.

- Inflation in urban India was virtually unchanged at 5.91% in January, from 5.9% a month earlier.
- Food inflation is high mainly due to the higher edible oils component, but the overall basket is below the headline number at 5.6%.

### Inflation Targeting

- In a notification on March 31, 2021, the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, retained the inflation target at 4 per cent (with the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance level of 2 per cent) for the 5-year period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.

## INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING (IPO)

An IPO or initial public offering is the process by which a privately held company, or a company owned by the government such as LIC, raises funds by offering shares to the public or to new investors. Following the IPO, the company is listed on the stock exchange.

### About:

- While coming with an IPO, the company has to file its offer document with the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- The offer document contains all relevant information about the company, its promoters, its projects, financial details, the object of raising the money, terms of the issue, etc.

### Which companies can come out with an IPO?

- In order to protect investors, Sebi has laid down rules that require companies to meet certain criteria before they can go to the public to raise funds.
- Among other conditions, the company must have net tangible assets of at least Rs 3 crore, and net worth of Rs 1 crore in each of the preceding three full years, and it must have a minimum average pre-tax profit of Rs 15 crore in at least three of the immediately preceding five years.

### What are the advantages of listing a company?

- While listing on the stock exchange calls for additional disclosures by companies on a regular basis, leading thereby to more stringent compliance requirements, it may help a company raise capital, and diversify and broaden its shareholder base.
- Listing provides an exit to existing investors of the company. A listed company can raise share



capital for growth and expansion in the future through a follow-on public offering or FPO.

### **RETAIL INFLATION ROSE TO 6.01% IN JANUARY, JUST ABOVE RBI'S UPPER LIMIT**

- India's retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated to 6.01% in the month of January, breaching the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tolerance band of 6%, albeit marginally.
- The surge in inflation print was driven by higher consumer goods and telecom prices along with a comparatively low rate a year ago.
- Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.66% in the preceding month of December.
- The Central bank's monetary policy has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4% until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6% and a lower tolerance of 2%

### **WHOLESALE INFLATION**

India's wholesale inflation has eased to 12.96 % in January from 13.56 % in the previous month.

- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation has declined consistently in recent months.
- It fell from 14.87 % in November 2021 to 13.56 % in December 2021 and further to 12.96 % in January 2022.
- However, inflation still remains at an elevated level and is a matter of concern for economic policymakers.

### **MOSPI PROJECTED GDP DEFLATOR FORECAST FOR FY23 AT 3-3.5%**

- Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) has projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator for FY23 at 3 to 3.5%.
- The Government's own projection on real GDP growth for FY23 is at 7.6-8.1% and the union budget projected nominal GDP growth rate to be 11.1% for FY23.
- GDP Projection in the Budget is based on advance estimates of the 'National Statistical Office' (NSO).

- Economic Survey 2021-22 projected a real GDP growth rate of 8-8.5 per cent in FY23. RBI projected India's real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in FY23 and retail inflation of 4.5 per cent for FY23.
- The GDP deflator, or implicit price deflator, is a measure of inflation and is the difference between nominal GDP and real GDP.

### **SBI ECOWRAP REPORT: INDIA'S GDP PROJECTED AT 8.8% IN FY22**

- State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, Ecowrap, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to 8.8 percent. Earlier this was estimated at 9.3 per cent.
- The report projects the GDP to grow at 5.8 per cent in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2021-2022 (October-December).

### **NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANIES (NBFCs)**

The Reserve Bank of India extended the timeline by six months for Non-Banking Financial Companies to adhere to the new NPA recognition norms



About:

- Earlier the regulator had set March 31 deadline for non-bank lenders to upgrade NPAs only after all arrears and principal dues are paid. It said that NBFCs will have time till September 30 to put in place the necessary systems to implement this provision.
- The RBI also clarified that loans classified as NPA will be upgraded to standard category only if all dues are paid.
- In case of borrowers having more than one credit facility from a lending institution, loan accounts shall be upgraded from NPA to standard asset category only upon repayment of entire arrears of interest and principal pertaining to all the credit facilities.
- The new RBI rules require NBFCs to treat such accounts as NPA until the borrower updates the account by paying all the EMIs due.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC)

The 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

### About:

- **Background:** It was setup in 2010 by Indian Government as an executive body. It replaced the High Level Coordination Committee on Financial Markets (HLCCFM). The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
- **Status:** FSDC is not a statutory body. No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.
- **Objective:** Its objectives are to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and Enhancing inter-regulatory coordination. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- **Composition:** It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister of India. The other 12 members are
  - Governor, RBI,
  - Chairman, SEBI,
  - Chairman, IRDA,
  - Chairman, PFRDA,
  - Minister of state responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA),
  - Secretary of Department of Electronics and Information Technology',
  - Revenue secretary,
  - Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs;
  - Secretary, Department of Financial Services;
  - Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
  - Chief Economic Adviser and
  - Chairperson of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- **Sub-committee of FSDC:** A sub-committee of FSDC has also been set up under the chairmanship of Governor RBI. It discusses and

decides on a range of issues relating to financial sector development and stability including substantive issues relating to inter-regulatory coordination.

## UNION MSME RuPay CREDIT CARD

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane launched the Union MSME RuPay Credit Card of Union Bank of India in Sindhudurg at the two day MSME Conclave being held in the district.

### Fast track your business growth

Introducing the Union Bank MSME RuPay Credit card



### About:

- The card is being offered by Union Bank of India in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It provides a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses.
- The RuPay Card offers benefits like anytime digital payments, interest-free period and will carry interest rate similar to the rate charged for loans.
- MSME borrowers will be able to enjoy an interest-free credit period of up to 50 days on their business spends.

## FDI IN INSURANCE

The Union Cabinet approved changes to India's foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to allow global investors to participate in the initial public offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shares expected to be launched soon.

### About:

- Foreign investors will now be able to invest up to 20% in LIC shares under the automatic approval route.
- FDI in insurance ventures is already allowed up to 74% under the automatic



approval route, but the policy was silent on foreign equity investments into the country's largest insurer LIC, a statutory corporation set up under an Act of Parliament.

- As per the present FDI policy, the FDI ceiling for public sector banks is 20% on government approval route, so it has been decided to allow foreign investment up to 20% for LIC and such other bodies corporate.
- The approval has been made automatic for LIC so as to expedite the capital raising plan.
- The amendments to the FDI policy come less than two weeks after the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) was filed with the stock market regulator.

### MOODY'S REVISED INDIA'S GROWTH ESTIMATES TO 9.5% IN CY2022

- Moody's has revised India's economic growth estimates in the Current Year 2022 upwards to 9.5 per cent from 7 per cent on stronger than expected recovery after a lockdown in 2020 and Covid-19's Delta wave in 2021.
- It maintained a forecast for 5.5 per cent growth in CY2023. In its update on Global Macro Outlook 2022-23 today, Moody's said sales tax collection, retail activity and Purchasing Managers Index suggest solid momentum.
- However, high oil prices and supply distortions remain a drag on growth for India.

### FOOD EXPORTS

The export of guavas from India has seen a growth of 260% since 2013. Exports grow from USD 0.58 Million in April-January 2013-14 to USD 2.09 Million in April 2021-22.

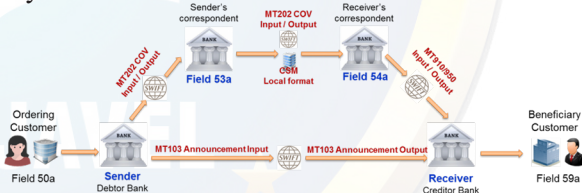


About:

- India's export of fresh fruits has also witnessed considerable growth. Fresh Grapes is the largest exported items among all fresh food category.
- India's major exporting destination of fresh fruits during 2020-21 were Bangladesh (USD126.6 million), Netherland (USD 117.56 million) and UAE (USD 100.68 million).
- Top ten countries accounted for 82 per cent in India's export of fresh fruits in 2020-21.
- The export of curd (yogurt) and paneer (Indian cottage cheese) has also seen a tremendous growth of 200% from USD 10 Million in April – January 2013-14 to USD 30 Million in April-January 2021-22
- It may be noted that dairy export is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 10.5 per cent in the last five years.
- India's major exporting destination of dairy products in 2020-21 were UAE (USD39.34 million), Bangladesh (USD24.13 million) and U S A (USD22.8 million).

### SWIFT

The European Union, US, UK and allies have agreed to exclude a number of Russian banks from Swift, an international payment system used by thousands of financial institutions.



### What is SWIFT?

- The SWIFT system stands for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication and is a secure platform for financial institutions to exchange information about global monetary transactions such as money transfers.
- While SWIFT does not actually move money, it operates as a middleman to verify information of transactions by providing secure financial messaging services to more than 11,000 banks in over 200 countries.
- Based in Belgium, it is overseen by the central banks from eleven industrial countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, besides Belgium.

### What does the move aim to achieve?

- Excluding Russian banks from the SWIFT platform is expected to hit the country's economy hard.
- While workarounds to SWIFT have been tried, none have proven to be effective.
- During the last seven years, Russia, too, has worked on alternatives, including the SPFS (System for Transfer of Financial Messages) — an equivalent of the SWIFT financial transfer system developed by the Central Bank of Russia

### **NSE, BSE STARTS T+1 STOCK SETTLEMENT FROM FEBRUARY 25**

- India has become the second country after China to implement the T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner from 25 February.
- The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to the fold. Instruction regarding this was issued by SEBI on January 01, 2022.

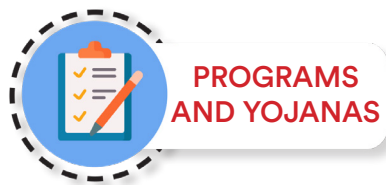
- Before this, the settlement period of stocks in India was T+2, i.e. two days after the actual buy/selling of stock.
- T means the trade/transaction day i.e. the day on which stock is brought/sold. and here T+1 means that the actual stock settlement will happen on the next day i.e +1 day. Ex: You buy a stock on Monday, you will get it in your Demat account Tuesday.

#### **Note**

- SEBI introduced the present T+2 settlement in April 2003. Before that settlement of T+3 was followed by stock exchanges.
- Stock exchanges like BSE and NSE have selected, the bottom 100 stocks based on market cap that will be settled using the T+1 mechanism starting February 25.
- Thereafter, 500 more stocks will be added every last Friday of subsequent months, until every stock is placed under the new settlement system.







## SEHAT SCHEME

Ministry of Defence had launched the Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) medical teleconsultation service for all entitled armed forces personnel and their families in May 2021.

### About the SeHAT scheme:

- SeHAT stay home OPD is a patient-to-doctor system where the patient can consult a doctor remotely through the internet using his Smartphone, laptop, Desktop or Tablet.
- The consultation occurs through video, audio and chat at the same time. It aims to provide quality healthcare services to patients from the comfort of their homes.
- Safe and structured video-based clinical consultations between a doctor in a hospital, and a patient within the confines of his or her home anywhere in the country, have been enabled.
- It is designed to be extremely simple and easy to use, which requires minimal effort from the users.
- The user does not need to pay anything to seek teleconsultation & can simply access the services by visiting <https://sehatopd.gov.in>, or by using the SeHAT apps available on the Play store & App Stores.

## SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

The Union Government has approved continuation of Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) with an outlay of Rs. 1575 crore for XV Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).

### About:

- The Scheme of Assistance to NSFs is the flagship Central Sector Scheme.
- It is the main source of funding for preparation of national teams for all major national and international competitions, including the Olympic Games, Para-Olympics, Asian Games, Para Asian

Games, Commonwealth Games (CWG) and other major international tournaments.

- The outlay in the cycle will be extended to NSFs to train and field national teams for national and international competitions between 2022 and 2026, prime among them, the Commonwealth and Asian Games of 2022, Olympics and Paralympics 2024 and Asian and Commonwealth Games in 2026.
- The financial support extended by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through this Scheme will be used by NSFs to conduct national coaching camps, procure sports equipment and consumables, provide training of international standards to athletes etc.

## PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA (PMMVY)

- The number of beneficiaries who enrolled for the maternity benefit programme, called Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), exceeded the government's target of 51.7 lakh per year in each of the last three years, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told Parliament.

### About:

- The total number of beneficiaries enrolled during each of the last three financial years under the PMMVY is more than the indicative target. The reply did not provide the exact number of enrolments.
- The PMMVY scheme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016.

| CASH TRANSFER  | CONDITIONS  | AMOUNT     |
|----------------|---|------------|
| 1st Instalment | Early Registration of Pregnancy   | Rs.1,000/- |
| 2nd Instalment | Atleast one antenatal check-up (After 6 months)   | Rs.2,000/- |
| 3rd Instalment | After Child birth is registered and the child has received first cycle of BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis B or its equivalent | Rs.2,000/- |

### About:

- The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched in 2017, provides ₹5,000 for the birth of the first child to partially compensate a woman for loss of wages.
- It also aims to improve the nutritional well-being of the mother and the child.
- The amount is given in three instalments upon meeting certain conditions.
- It is combined with another scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana, under which nearly ₹1,000 is given for an institutional birth, so that a woman gets a total of ₹6,000.
- Under the revamped PMMVY under Mission Shakti, the maternity benefit amounting to ₹6000 is also to be provided for the second child, but only if the second is a girl child, to discourage pre-birth sex selection and promote the girl child, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani told the Lok Sabha.

### PARAY SHIKSHALAYA

The West Bengal government on February 7 launched 'Paray Shikshalaya' – an open-air classroom in the neighbourhood programme – for students from class 1 to 7

### About:

- The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education.
- Initially, the initiative was meant for primary school students (1 to 5). However, students in classes 6 and 7 were also included as physical classes in schools did not reopen for them.
- Students are being called in batches. Arrangements for mid-day meals have also been made for the students taking neighbourhood classes.
- Schools which do not have open-air spaces conducted the classes in neighbourhood parks and grounds. Local councilors and MLAs helped set up infrastructure in such parks like putting up makeshift shades and chairs, besides making mid-day meal arrangements for the students. Schools which have open-air spaces held the classes there.

### POWERTHON-2022

Power Minister R K Singh virtually launched Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure

quality and reliable power supply.



### About:

- Mr Singh said, this program is much needed in the power sector.
- He encouraged technologists to come forward not only with solutions to existing problems but also with other problem statements and ideas for reliable power supply.
- He said that ideas and concepts will be rewarded with license and the development of prototypes will also be fostered.
- The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants from across the nation to create teams that hack for the future and develop solutions that contribute to creating a much more vibrant and efficient electricity network.

### PM AWAS YOJANA 2022 LIST:

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a government of India initiative, which aims at providing affordable housing to the urban poor by the year 2022.
- The scheme was first launched on 1 June 2015. The interest rate for the PMAY scheme starts at 6.50% p.a. and can be availed for a tenure of up to 20 years.
- The last date for availing the PMAY Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) categories has been extended to 31 March 2022.

#### Type of PMAY Scheme:

There are two sub-sections of the PMAY scheme which are divided on the basis of the area on which they focus:



### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) was previously known as the Indira Awas Yojana and was christened as PMAY-G in 2016.
- The scheme is aimed at the provision of affordable and accessible housing units to eligible beneficiaries in rural regions of India (excluding Chandigarh and Delhi).
- Under this scheme, the Government of India and the respective state governments share the cost of development of housing units in the ratio of 60:40 for plain regions and 90:10 for North-Eastern and hilly regions.

### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAYU), as the name suggests, is focused on the urban areas in India

#### PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

- PMKSY extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore.
- The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The scheme aims for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector.
- In May 2017, the Central Government had launched SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore.
- The scheme was renamed as PMKSY in August 2017.

#### About the scheme:

- The scheme will boost the growth of the food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the ministry like Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation /Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities and Operation Greens.

### SAMRIDH INITIATIVE

- NITI Aayog and USAID announces tie-up under SAMRIDH initiative
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.
- It aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.
- It aims to mobilize a capital pool of \$100+ million from the private sector and bilateral organizations.
- It leverages this fund to offer both grant and debt financing provision to support the expansion of market-based health solutions.

#### SMILE: SUPPORT FOR MARGINALISED INDIVIDUALS FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE

The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment is launching the Central Sector scheme “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” at BHIM Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.



#### About:

- This umbrella scheme is designed to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- This scheme includes two sub-schemes:
- ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and

- ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’.
- The scheme strengthens and expands the reach of the Rights that give the targeted group the necessary legal protection and a promise to a secured life.
- It keeps in mind the social security that is needed through multiple dimensions of identity, medical care, education, occupational opportunities and shelter.
- The Ministry has allocated Rs. 365 Crore for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

### **AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNT (ABHA)**

- The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) announced integration with health App - Aarogya Setu.

#### **About:**

- This integration takes the benefits of 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account-ABHA number to the Aarogya Setu user base and beyond.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, a user can generate their unique ABHA number.
- They can use this ABHA number to link their existing and new medical records including doctor prescriptions, lab reports, and hospital records.
- They can also share these records with registered health professionals and health service providers and also access other digital health services while maintaining a common pool of medical history.
- The user can generate their ABHA number using their Aadhaar number and some basic demographic details like Name, Date of Birth, Gender, and address. If the user does not wish to use their Aadhaar, they can use their Driving License or Mobile Number to generate the ABHA number.
- With the integration of Aarogya Setu with ABDM, we will now be able to make the benefits of ABDM available to the users of Aarogya Setu and enable them to join the digital health ecosystem, with their due consent.

### **“RASHTRIYA YUVA SASHAKTIKARAN KARYAKRAM (RYSK)”**

Government continued RYSK Scheme for another 5 years The Central Government of India has decided to continue the scheme of “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)” for another 5 years.



- The Central Government of India has decided to continue the scheme of “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)” for another 5 years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 2,710.65 crore.
- To develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.
- Beneficiaries of this scheme are the youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years (according to the definition of ‘youth’ in the National Youth Policy, 2014).

### **JIVA PROGRAMME’**

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the ‘JIVA programme’.
- To promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.
- To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming
- JIVA is an agroecology-based programme, an amalgamation of several projects under the watershed programme of NABARD and will be implemented in 11 states covering five agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas
- NABARD Formation: July 12, 1982;
- NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai;

### **NEW FRONTIERS**

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is conducting a program on Renewable Energy namely “New Frontiers” as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The program will be held from 16th February to 18th February 2022





#### About:

- As part of the program, the Ministry will conduct a physical event on the topic titled, “India’s Leadership in Energy Transition” at Vigyan Bhawan on 16th February 2022.
- The Ministry will organize three webinars on 17th February 2022, namely, “Women in RE- Call for Action”, “Role of ISA in Energy Transition”, and “Role of clean-tech start-ups and climate entrepreneur in providing clean and affordable energy”.
- On 18th February 2022, the final day of the program, a brainstorming meeting on “Roadmap to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070” will be organized on a virtual platform.

### SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTs (SEED)

The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, will launch the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) on 16th February, 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities.

#### About:

- The Scheme will have four components with an approximate cost of Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The four components are:

- To provide coaching of good quality for DNT/NT/SNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
- To provide health insurance to DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
- To facilitate livelihoods initiative at community level to build and strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions.
- To provide financial assistance for construction of houses to members of the DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
- The Scheme will be implemented through a

portal, developed by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.

- The funds will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries in their account.
- The other implementing agencies are Ministry of Rural Development, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and National Health Authority (NHA).

### SVAMITVA

India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said at an event to mark a year of the updated geospatial policy guidelines.

#### Surveying villages

The SVAMITVA scheme seeks to map land parcels using drone technology and providing 'record of rights' to those who own property

Drone survey completed for **1,08,337** villages

- Maps of 77,716 villages given to States
- 84,14,055 land parcels digitised
- Ownership cards prepared for 26,472 villages



#### About:

- An ongoing scheme, piloted by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, called SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2020.
- The updated guidelines help private companies prepare a variety of maps without needing approvals from a host of Ministries and make it easier to use drones and develop applications via location mapping.
- The “trinity of geospatial systems, drone policy and unlocked space sector will be the hallmark of India’s future economic progress”.
- The complete geospatial policy would be announced soon as the liberalisation of guidelines had yielded very positive outcomes within a year’s time.
- The geographical information based system mapping would also be useful in forest management, disaster management, electrical utilities, land records, water distribution, and property taxation.
- The size of the Indian geospatial market in 2020 to be ₹23,345 crore, including ₹10,595 crore of export which was likely to grow to ₹36,300 crore by 2025.

## NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

Government approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.



### Salient Features of the scheme

- School will be Unit for implementation of the scheme.
- Schools to be used for conducting survey of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs).
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above.
- Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs to implement the scheme and achievements on yearly basis by weighing both the physical and financial progress through UDISE portal.
- From now onwards the term “Education For All” will be used in place of “Adult Education” by the Ministry as the terminology “Adult Education” is not incorporating appropriately all non-literates of 15 years and above age group.

## PRAMARSH 2022

The Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the career counselling workshop ‘Pramarsh 2022’ for the students of the Bikaner District region.

### About:

- In this workshop one lakh students participated from more than thousands schools of Bikaner district mainly from rural area.
- Workshop was conducted with the support of The National Institute of Career Services (NICS) which comes under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and educational start-up Edumilestones.

- “Pramarsh2022” workshop was an extension of the efforts to bridge the industry academia gap and impart the knowledge about various choices available to the student.
- The ongoing workshop is not limited to training of teach-ers and career workshop for students, but it is also proposed that an offline and online career assessment and service of Edumilestones digital career library will be facilitated to all students.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier, subject to the adherence to Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations and the financial ceilings etc.

### About:

- The outlay approved for the continuation of the Scheme during 15th Finance Commission cycle is ₹3179 crore.
- The CD Scheme is an Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The Scheme comprises Capacity Development (Main) Scheme and two sub schemes viz. Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) and Economic Census (EC).
- The Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) is an ongoing sub scheme of the CD Scheme, which aims to improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics.
- Economic Census sub-scheme conducted periodically gives the complete count of all non-farm economic establishments located within the geographical boundary of India.

## FINTECH OPEN HACKATHON

As a part of the Fintech Open Month, NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all Hackathon event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the FinTech space

### About:

The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code





- Participants at the hackathon need to use any open-data APIs like PhonePe Pulse along with frameworks such as Account Aggregator as a foundation to power the following use cases:
- Alternate risk models for Lending, Insurance or Investments with focus on financial Inclusion
- Innovative Products that use the power data signals for various demographics and Geos for broader adoption of financial services
- Improved Visualisation and Derived intelligence based on the Digital payments data
- The final app that participants come up with must incorporate one of the above.

### **KUNSNYOM SCHEME FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS**

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

### **AGRI INFINITY' PROGRAMME**

- Private sector lender, Yes Bank has launched an 'Agri Infinity' programme for digital financing solutions in the food and agriculture sector ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in this field.
- Agri-fintech start-ups working on financial innovations across the food and agriculture value chain are eligible to apply under this programme and can work with Yes Bank for digital solutions.
- Through the initiative, a select cohort of startups will not only receive mentoring by veteran bankers for experiential co-development but also get access to YES BANK's digital banking infrastructure and network, collaborative opportunities to pilot new solutions and fundraising advisory

## **WASTE TO WEALTH CREATION' PROGRAMME 2022**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales. SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women indirectly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
- Under this programme, Later, these women are expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants. This is a part of mission Swavalamban of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.

### **SAUBHAGYA SCHEME: RAJASTHAN TOPS SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME**

- Under the Saubhagya scheme, Rajasthan has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system
- In hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had nil beneficiaries under the initiative.
- Under the Saubhagya Scheme, 2.817 crore households were electrified up to March 31 last year, including 4.16 lakh through solar-based standalone systems.
- Under the Saubhagya scheme, as many as 1,23,682 households were electrified through the solar-based standalone system in Rajasthan, followed by Chhattisgarh (65,373), Uttar Pradesh (53,234), Assam (50,754), Bihar (39,100), Maharashtra (30,538), Odisha (13,735), Madhya Pradesh (12,651), Power Minister R K Singh told the Lok Sabha.

#### **What is Saubhagya scheme?**

- The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Saubhagya scheme on 25th September 2017 to achieve universal household electrification covering every village and every district in the country.
- Universal household electrification requires the creation of electricity access through last-mile connectivity.
- Scheme outlay is 16,320 crore including Gross Budgetary Support of 12,320 crores.

## INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED HACKATHON NAMED “SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM”

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

## LABHARTHIYON SE RUBAROO

Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) chaired the ‘Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo’ initiative of Ministry.

About:



- Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo’ is an initiative of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The virtual/online campaign aims to
  - monitor the progress of PMAY (U) projects
  - bring about able governance and transparency by direct interaction with beneficiaries
  - create a platform for officials from MoHUA and respective SLNA of States/UTs to facilitate and expedite the construction of houses in their respective cities.

### Salient Features:

- The entire programme shall be for 25-30 minutes, wherein interactions would be done with five beneficiaries in five ULBs.
- Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo’ will be hosted virtually. The interaction is planned to be hosted with selected beneficiaries whose houses are under construction.

- Expected Outcome: Bottlenecks and challenges will be addressed resulting in achieving ‘Housing for All’ by 2022

## RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA) SCHEME

The Government of India has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier.

About:



- The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores. It has been envisaged to support around 1600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.
- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) by Ministry of Education.
- It is an overarching scheme, operating in mission mode for funding the state government universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence.
- New phase of RUSA targets to reach out the unserved, underserved areas; remote/ rural areas; difficult geographies; LWE areas; NER; aspirational districts, tier-2 cities, areas with low GER etc., and to benefit the most disadvantaged areas and SEDGs.
- Under the new phase of the scheme, State Governments will be supported for Gender inclusion, Equity Initiatives, ICT, Enhancing employability through vocationalisation & skill upgradation. States will also be supported for creation of new Model Degree Colleges.
- State Universities will be supported for Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research. Grants



will be provided for strengthening both accredited and non-accredited Universities and Colleges for undertaking various activities including teaching-learning in Indian languages.

### **MERI POLICY MERE HATH'**

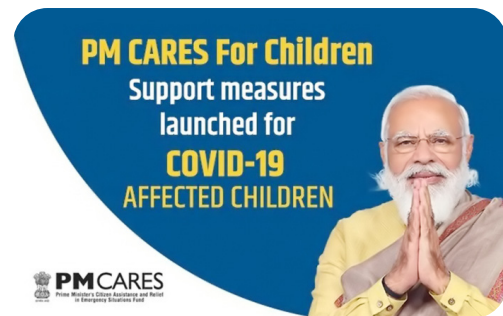
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare will launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.
- A flagship scheme of the Government of India, PMFBY aims to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities.
- Over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under PMFBY, with over INR 1,07,059 crores of claims have already being paid under the scheme as of 4th February 2022.

#### **About the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has completed 6 years of its implementation. It was launched by PM Modi on 18th February 2016 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Govt plans 'Heal by India' for positioning India as global source for health sector
- The government of India will be promoting the 'Heal by India' initiative to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector.
- The Union Health Ministry recently organized a Chintan Shivir — 'Heal by India' for two days.
- 'Heal by India' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.

### **PM CARES FOR CHILDREN**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development said that the PM CARES scheme for children orphaned by the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended till February 28, 2022.



#### **About:**

- The scheme was earlier valid till December 31, 2021.
- The scheme covers all children who have lost both parents, the lone surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parent or parents, due to COVID-19 after March 11, 2020.
- To avail the scheme, a child should not have turned 18 on the date of death of his or her parents.
- The scheme announced on May 29, 2021, provides gap funding for education and health and a monthly stipend from the age of 18 years, apart from a lump sum amount of ₹10 lakh when a beneficiary turns 23 years old.
- Till January 31, 2022, the government had received 6,624 applications, out of which 3,855 had been approved.

### **PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh will launch Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain on 22nd February, 2022 in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.



#### **About:**

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in the year 2000, with an objective to provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations throughout the nation.
- Later on upgradation and consolidation of through routes and major rural links was also included as its objective to give fillip to the

rural economy. Since inception, 7.83 lakh Km roads have been sanctioned and 6.90 lakh Km have been constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 2.69 lakh crores.

- As part of the implementation of PMGSY, GIS data for 800,000+ rural facilities as points, 1 Million + habitations and 25,00,000+ km of rural roads have been collected and digitised using GIS platform developed for the scheme. The collected rural connectivity GIS data will be available to the public.

### GATI SHAKTI

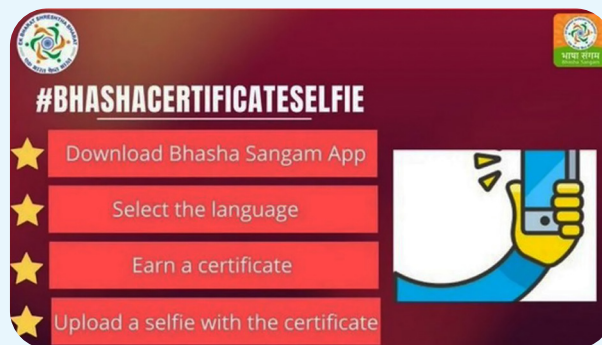
- NRIDA, the nodal implementation agency of PMGSY scheme will be signing MoU with 3 renowned GIS Firms & collaborating with Gati Shakti for releasing the Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain.
- Gati Shakti is a national master plan and digital platform to plan and execute infrastructure projects in India to reduce logistics costs and enhance infrastructure. NRIDA is collaborating with
- Gati Shakti with an objective to exchange the data for the better planning and implementation of both the schemes

### UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH RELEASES RURAL CONNECTIVITY GIS DATA IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

- Giriraj Singh, who is the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, has released the Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain.
- This data includes the GIS data for more than 8 lakh rural facilities which have been collected and digitised using the GIS platform developed for the PM-GSY scheme.
- Other than Giriraj Singh, other Union Ministers like Faggan Singh Kulaste and Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, were also present at the release event.

### BHASHA CERTIFICATE SELFIE CAMPAIGN

Ministry of Education launched a campaign 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.



#### About:

- Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- The initiative, under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages.
- To achieve this, a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.
- Bhasha Sangam mobile app was launched by Minister of Education while commemorating Rashtriya Ekta Diwas which is celebrated on October 31 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate from their social media accounts using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.

### AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

The Union Cabinet has approved the national roll-out of Central Sector Scheme, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with a budget of Rs.1,600 crore for five years.



#### About:

- The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to



create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.

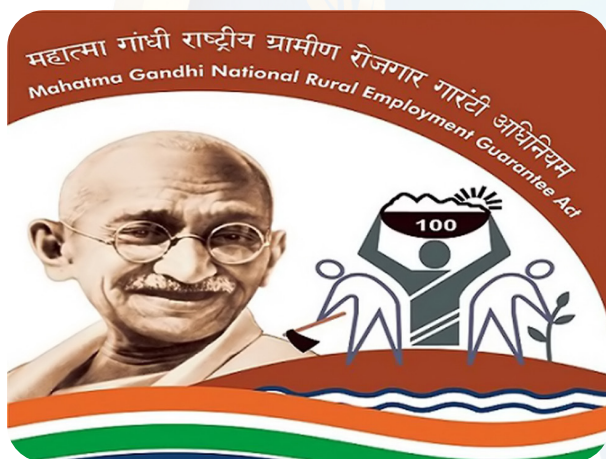
- This will enable creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers.

#### Present status

- The pilot of ABDM was completed in the six Union Territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with successful demonstration of technology platform developed by the NHA.
- As on 24th February 2022, 17,33,69,087 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in ABDM.

### OMBUDSPERSON APP FOR MGNREGA

Union Minister for Rural Development Giriraj Singh launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.



#### About:

- The Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme in the States/UTs.
- At present, the reporting of complaints, passing awards and disposal of complaints are in physical form. For the smooth reporting of complaints, passing awards and quick disposal of complaints Ombudsperson App is developed.
- This will strengthen Ombudsperson in the discharge of her/his duty in a hassle-free manner.

### SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDIA PROGRAM

The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

#### About:

- The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- The Forum and NIUA will adapt the Forum's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.
- The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity.
- As per the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2022, densely populated countries that are highly dependent on agriculture, such as India, are especially vulnerable to climate insecurity. Decarbonization in cities is a real opportunity to keep global warming well below 2°C and cities in India can make an enormous contribution in reaching this goal.

#### Do you know?

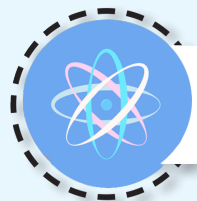
- The World Economic Forum's Net Zero Carbon Cities' mission is to create an enabling environment for clean electrification and circularity, resulting in urban decarbonization and resilience.
- Established in 1976, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India's leading national think tank on urban planning and development.

### PM-KISAN 3RD ANNIVERSARY, TRANSFERRED RS 1.80 LAKH TO FARMERS ACCOUNTS DIRECTLY

- About 11.78 crore farmers as of February 22, 2022, have been benefitted under the PM Kisan scheme. The amount worth Rs1.82 lakh crore have been disbursed to eligible beneficiaries across India in various intervals.
- During the current Covid 19 epidemic period, Rs. 1.29 lakh crore has been released.

#### About the PM Kisan scheme:

- PM-KISAN is a centre sector scheme which was launched on 24th February 2019 to substitute monetary needs of landholding farmers.
- The monetary benefit of Rs 6000/- per year in three equal instalments, every four-month, 3 times a year, it is transferred into the bank accounts of the families of the farmers across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer or DBT mode.
- The scheme was in the starting meant for small and marginal farmers having landholding upto 2 hectares but then the scope of the scheme was extended to cover all landholding farmers with effect from 01.06.2019.



## **SAMSUNG SURPASSES INTEL AS WORLD'S TOP SEMICONDUCTOR COMPANY IN 2021**

- South Korean electronics manufacturing giant, Samsung Electronics surpassed U.S. chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021, according to a report released by research firm Counterpoint Technology Market Research.
- While Intel posted relatively flattish results, Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021. Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year

## **CHANDRAYAN-3**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in August this year. This was stated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha.

### **About:**

- Chandrayaan-3 is a planned third lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Following Chandrayaan-2, where a last-minute glitch in the soft landing guidance software led to the failure of the lander's soft landing attempt after a successful orbital insertion, another lunar mission for demonstrating soft landing was proposed.
- Chandrayaan-3 will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 but will only include a lander and rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2. It will not have an orbiter.
- The spacecraft is planned to be launched in August 2022.

## **INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)**

NASA has announced that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease operations in 2031, after which it will fall out of orbit and plunge into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.

### **Point Nemo**

- According to NASA's budget estimates, the ISS' re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere will

take place in January 2031.

- Mission control will first lower its altitude, before the spacecraft begins its descent into the "South Pacific Oceanic Uninhabited Area (SPOUA)," in an area known as Point Nemo.
- Point Nemo has grown to become a sort of space cemetery, where decommissioned space debris is often brought to rest. Located about 2,700 km away from any land, it is named after a character in Jules Verne's novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."



### **Achievements of ISS**

- Several landmark firsts were recorded onboard the ISS in the last two decades.
- For instance, in 2018, NASA's Cold Atom Lab became the first facility to produce the fifth state of matter, called a Bose-Einstein condensate, in space. In 2016, a NASA astronaut was able to sequence DNA in space for the first time.

## **SEA TRIALS OF 1ST SEA SORTIE OF 5TH SCORPENE SUBMARINE 'VAGIR' BEGINS**

The Indian Navy's brand-new submarine, the fifth of the six French-designed Scorpene-class submarines, sailed out on its first sea sortie and will now undergo rigorous trials.

### **About**

- The Indian Navy's brand-new submarine, the fifth of the six French-designed Scorpene-class submarines named "Vagir", sailed out on its first sea sortie and will now undergo rigorous trials before it is delivered to the Navy later this year.
- The submarine-designated "Yard 11879" during



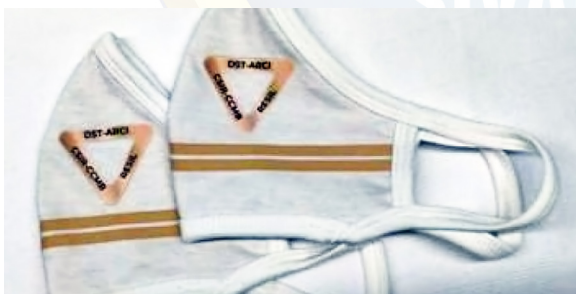
its construction by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with the Naval Group of France will be named “Vagir” after it is commissioned into service.

### **IISC. COMMISSIONS ONE OF INDIA'S MOST POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTERS 'PARAM PRAVEGA'**

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India.
- It is also the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution. Param Pravega has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 10<sup>15</sup> operations per second).
- The supercomputer has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). It has been developed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and implemented by C-DAC and IISc.

### **COPPER-BASED NANOPARTICLE-COATED ANTIVIRAL FACE MASK**

A team of Indian Scientists in collaboration with an industry partner have developed a self-disinfecting ‘Copper-based Nanoparticle-coated Antiviral Face Mask to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



#### **About:**

- The mask exhibits high performance against the COVID 19 virus as well as several other viral and bacterial infections, is biodegradable, highly breathable and washable.
- It has been developed by Scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Resil Chemicals, a Bengaluru based company.

- It has been developed under the DST sponsored Nano-Mission project, to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **SOWA RIGPA**

For the first time, the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NCISM-NEET, has conducted an entrance test to Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine and Surgery (BSRMS) (Menpa Kachupa).



#### **About:**

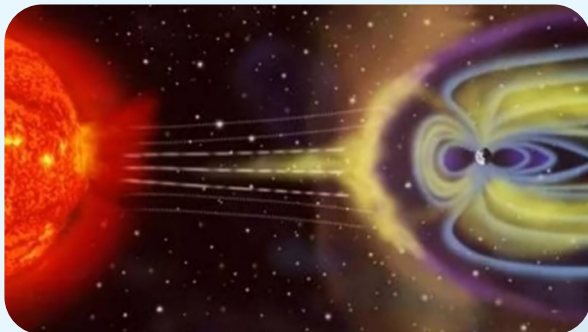
- Including Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, CIBS, and National Research Institute For Sowa Rigpa, NRISR, in Leh, the entrance is conducted in Dharamshala, Varanasi, Gangtok and Darjeeling.
- Sowa-Rigpa, the Science of Healing, is one of the seven Ayush systems, received UGC recognition in October last year. Sowa Rigpa is one of the oldest and well documented systems of traditional medicine in the world, and is popular in Himalayan region.
- The results of the entrance test will be declared on 8th of this month and academic sessions for first batch BSRMS will begin from March 14th this year.

### **INDIA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ADMINISTER COVID-19 DNA VACCINE**

- India has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.
- The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna.
- It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
- It is the second India-made vaccine to get emergency authorization in India after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

## SOLAR STORMS/FLARES

Elon Musk's Starlink has lost dozens of satellites that were caught in a geomagnetic storm a day after they were launched on February 3. Up to 40 of the 49 satellites were impacted, Starlink said, causing them to fall from orbit before they could be commissioned.



### About:

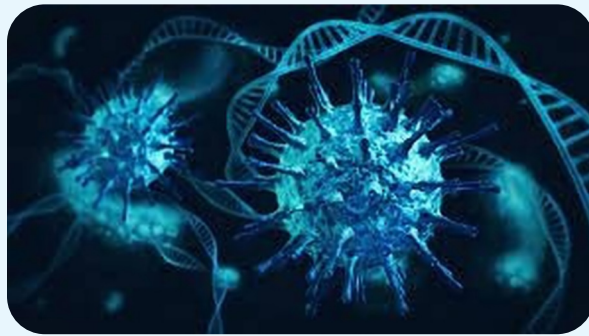
- Solar storms are magnetic plasma ejected at great speed from the solar surface.
- They occur during the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots ('dark' regions on the Sun that are cooler than the surrounding photosphere), and can last for a few minutes or hours.
- The solar storm that deorbited the satellites occurred on February 1 and 2, and its powerful trails were observed on February 3.

### Effect on Earth

- Not all solar flares reach Earth, but solar flares/storms, solar energetic particles (SEPs), high-speed solar winds, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that come close can impact space weather in near-Earth space and the upper atmosphere.
- Solar storms can hit operations of space-dependent services like global positioning systems (GPS), radio, and satellite communications.
- Geomagnetic storms interfere with high-frequency radio communications and GPS navigation systems. Aircraft flights, power grids, and space exploration programmes are vulnerable.
- CMEs, with ejectiles loaded with matter traveling at millions of miles an hour, can potentially create disturbances in the magnetosphere, the protective shield surrounding the Earth.

## mRNA VACCINE

Data from human trials of India's first homegrown mRNA vaccine against coronavirus are likely to be presented to authorities for evaluation by the end of the month, and company officials are aiming to roll out the product before April.



### About:

- The mRNA vaccine being developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals is currently in phase 2/3 trials to evaluate the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the candidate vaccine in healthy subjects. Around 4,000 volunteers have been recruited for the trial.
- India has so far approved at least six vaccines that can be manufactured locally but only two — Covishield and Covaxin — have been administered to over 99% Indians.
- Globally, mRNA vaccines have been at the vanguard of inoculation programmes in the U.S. and Europe because they exploit recent advances in molecular biotechnology and are said to be quicker to manufacture than older, well-established vaccine design principles.
- A limitation of the mRNA vaccines, or those made by Pfizer and Moderna, was that they were required to be stored in sub-zero conditions — a tough proposition in a country where such a degree of refrigeration is limited in availability.
- However, the prospective Gennova vaccine can be stored in ordinary refrigerators, the makers of Gennova have claimed earlier.
- The mRNA vaccine, can also purportedly be tweaked to be effective against newer variants, but so far, all the vaccines developed — including the prospective Gennova vaccine — have been customised to the original SARS-CoV-2

## NUCLEAR FUSION

Scientists in the United Kingdom said they have achieved a new milestone in producing nuclear fusion energy, or imitating the way energy is produced in the sun.





### About:

- Energy by nuclear fusion is one of mankind's long standing quests as it promises to be low carbon, safer than how nuclear energy is now produced and, with an efficiency that can technically exceed a 100%.
- A team at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility near Oxford in central England generated 59 megajoules of sustained energy during an experiment in December, more than doubling a 1997 record, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority said.
- A kilogram of fusion fuel contains about 10 million times as much energy as a kilogram of coal, oil or gas. The energy was produced in a machine called a tokamak, a doughnut-shaped apparatus. The JET site is the largest operational one of its kind in the world.
- Deuterium and tritium, which are isotopes of hydrogen, are heated to temperatures 10 times hotter than the centre of the sun to create plasma. This is held in place using superconducting electromagnets as it spins around, fuses and releases tremendous energy as heat.
- The record and scientific data from these crucial experiments are a major boost for the ITER, the larger and more advanced version of the JET
- The ITER is a fusion research mega-project supported by seven members — China, the European Union, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the U.S. — and based in the south of France. It seeks to further demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy

### ISRO DECOMMISSIONED INSAT-4B THROUGH 11 RE-ORBITING MANOEUVRES

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has decommissioned the INSAT-4B, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the Indian National Satellite System.
- INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.

### LACTOBACILLUS PLANTARUM JBC5

A team of scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, have developed a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging.

### About:

- A team of Indian Scientists has identified probiotic bacterium *Lactobacillus Plantarum* JBC5 from a dairy product that showed great promise in promoting healthy aging.
- The team has also developed a yogurt using this probiotic bacterium which can be consumed to derive all these health benefits.

### NOTE

- Probiotics are live microorganisms promoted with claims that they provide health benefits when consumed, generally by improving or restoring the gut flora.
- There is some evidence that probiotics are beneficial for some conditions, but there is little evidence for many of the health benefits claimed for them.

### JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

NASA's new space telescope has captured its first starlight and even taken a selfie of its giant, gold mirror

### About:

- All 18 segments of the primary mirror on the James Webb Space Telescope seem to be working properly a month-and-half into the mission.
- The telescope's first target was a bright star 258 light years away in the constellation Ursa Major.
- Over the next few months, the hexagonal mirror segments will be aligned and focused as one, allowing science observations to begin by the end of June.
- The \$10 billion infrared observatory — considered the successor to the ageing Hubble Space Telescope — will seek light from the first stars and galaxies that formed in the universe nearly 14 billion years ago.
- It will also examine the atmospheres of alien worlds for any possible signs of life.
- Webb's 6.5-metre, gold-plated mirror is the largest ever launched into space.
- Webb blasted off from South America in December and reached its designated perch 1.6 million kilometres away last month.

### MULTIDISCIPLINARY DRIFTING OBSERVATORY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCTIC CLIMATE (MOSAIC)

- The Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) will be

the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system.

- The project with a total budget exceeding € 60 Million has been designed by an international consortium of leading polar research institutions, under the umbrella of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).
- The results of MOSAiC will contribute to enhance understanding of the regional and global consequences of Arctic climate change and sea-ice loss and improve weather and climate predictions.
- As such it will support safer maritime and offshore operations, contribute to an improved scientific basis for future fishery and traffic along northern sea routes, increase coastal-community resilience, and support science-informed decision-making and policy development. Improved understanding of the impact of Arctic climate change on conditions worldwide will provide stakeholders and decision-makers with improved knowledge for adapting to climate change and develop target-oriented mitigation strategies.
- The Arctic is a key area of global climate change, with warming rates exceeding twice the global average.

### PSLV-C52 MISSION

The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.



#### About:

- The PSLV-C52 mission has also injected three satellites into the orbits.
- PSLV C52 placed an EOS-04 radar imaging satellite weighing 1710 kgs into orbit.
- EOS-04 is designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping.

- This satellite will be positioned into a Sun synchronous polar orbit gradually.
- As a co-passenger INS-2TD technology demonstrator satellite and INSPIRE sat 1 student satellite were also placed into orbit. INS-2TD is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite INS-2B.
- INS-2TD carries a thermal imaging camera to assess land and water surface temperature and thermal inertia at day and at night.
- INSPIRE sat-1 is a small satellite from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics at University of Colorado. This was PSLV-C52 launch vehicle's 54th launch in the series.

### LASSA FEVER

One of the three persons diagnosed with Lassa fever in the UK has died on February 11. The cases have been linked to travel to west African countries.

#### About:

- The Lassa fever-causing virus is found in West Africa and was first discovered in 1969 in Lassa, Nigeria.
- The fever is spread by rats and is primarily found in countries in West Africa including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Nigeria where it is endemic.

#### What are the symptoms of Lassa fever?

Symptoms of Lassa fever typically occur 2-21 days after coming into contact with the virus. Many people who are infected do not show symptoms.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest and muscle pain</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea</li> <li>• Facial swelling</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In severe cases, bleeding from the mouth, nose, vagina or gastrointestinal tract</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

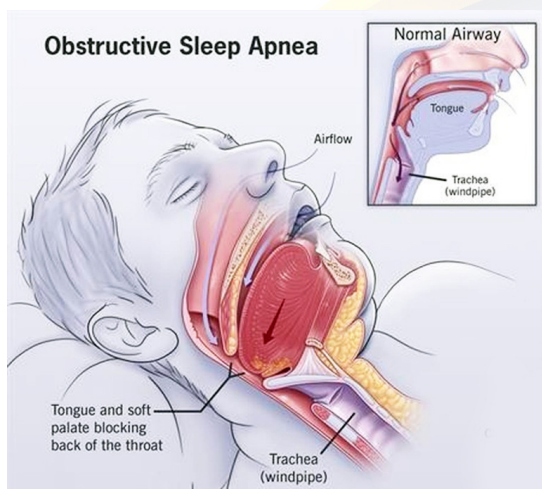
- A person can become infected if they come in contact with household items of food that is contaminated with the urine or feces of an infected rat.
- It can also be spread, though rarely, if a person comes in contact with a sick person's infected bodily fluids or through mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose or the mouth. Person-to-person transmission is more common in healthcare settings.
- Symptoms typically appear 1-3 weeks after exposure. Mild symptoms include slight fever, fatigue, weakness and headache and more serious symptoms include bleeding, difficulty breathing, vomiting, facial swelling, pain in the chest, back, and abdomen and shock.
- Death can occur from two weeks of the onset of symptoms, usually as a result of multi-organ failure.



- The best way to avoid getting infected is to avoid contact with rats.
- This means avoiding contact with rats not only in places where the disease is endemic, but also maintaining hygiene in other areas to prevent rats from entering the house, keeping food in rat-proof containers and laying down rat traps, the CDC advises.

## OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNOEA (OSA)

- Singer and music composer Bappi Lahiri (69) passed away following complications from Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA), bringing attention to a widely prevalent but under-diagnosed medical condition



### About:

- OSA is a disorder in which a person's breathing stops and starts repeatedly in their sleep.
- Obstructive sleep apnoea occurs when muscles in the throat and upper airway relax intermittently during sleep and block the airway.
- It usually happens in obese men, less commonly in women but it does happen. When a person is obese, they develop extra fat on their larynx and pharynx (muscles in the throat) that can close off their airway in sleep.
- Although the condition doesn't kill by itself, it can lead to heart attacks and strokes due to the low oxygen level. In the long run, it can also result in increasing blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms, and other metabolic disorders.
- It further leads to an increase in obesity, compounding the problem.
- OSA also leads to a lot of road traffic accidents as people with OSA tend to doze off while driving. OSA is the most common cause of road accident in the US.
- Snoring is one of the most common symptoms of OSA, but not everyone who snores has it.

## UK'S RESEARCHERS FOUND 180-MILLION-YEAR-OLD FOSSIL OF 'SEA DRAGON'



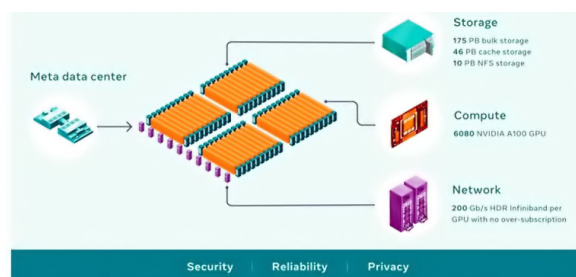
- United Kingdom researchers have found colossal 180-million-year-old fossilised remains of an Ichthyosaur, popularly known as a 'sea dragon'.
- The researchers show one of the most significant discoveries in the region as the fossil is the biggest and most complete skeleton of its kind found in the United Kingdom. Ichthyosaurs resembled dolphins in body shape and became extinct around 90 million years ago, after first appearing 250 million years ago.

## THE AI RESEARCH SUPERCLUSTER (RSC)

Meta announced in January 2022 that it is building an AI supercomputer, the AI Research SuperCluster (RSC).

### About:

- Meta considers the RSC as a powerful supercomputer capable of quintillions of operations per second. It can perform tasks like translating text between languages and help identify potentially harmful content on Meta's platform.
- The RSC, compared with Meta's legacy production and research infrastructure, can run computer vision workflows up to 20 times faster, and train large-scale natural language processing (NLP) models three times faster.
- Meta estimates that a model with billions of parameters can finish training in three weeks, compared to the nine weeks it was before.



- RSC today comprises a total of 760 NVIDIA DGX A100 systems as its compute nodes, for a

total of 6,080 GPUs.

- RSC's storage tier has 175 petabytes of Pure Storage FlashArray, 46 petabytes of cache storage in Penguin Computing Altus systems, and 10 petabytes of Pure Storage FlashBlade.

### Supercomputers

- A supercomputer can perform high-level processing at a faster rate when compared to a normal computer.
- Supercomputers are made up of hundreds or thousands of powerful machines which use better artificial intelligence (AI) models to improve operations that process huge amounts of data in less time than normal computers.
- Supercomputers require high-speed and specialised chip architectures. The chip performs 660 operations per cycle and thus run up to 230 gigaflops at 350 MHz.
- AI supercomputers are built by combining multiple graphic processing units (GPUs) into compute nodes, which are then connected by a high-performance network fabric to allow fast communication between those GPUs.

### ANIMATION, VISUAL EFFECTS, GAMING, AND COMICS (AVGC) SECTOR

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector in the country could become the content creation factory of the world.

#### About:

- Chandra said the announcement on an AVGC Task Force in the Budget speech by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was a momentous event that recognised the sector's importance and the role it played in creating employment.
- Although gaming startups in India have generated considerable investor interest over the years, the sector has not attracted enough attention from the government.
- Karnataka, one of the few states to have announced an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) policy, has been the notable exception.
- In January 2022, it launched its first centre of excellence for gaming, albeit nearly a decade after the policy announcement.

### DIPPY

Dippy the dinosaur, who famously stood in the entrance hall of London's Natural History

Museum for decades, returns to its home in May after concluding a four-year-long tour across the UK.



#### About:

- London's 26-metre-long Dippy is a plaster cast replica of the fossilised bones of a diplodocus carnegii skeleton.
- The original, also known as Dippy, is on display at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
- Dippy was the first Diplodocus to go on display anywhere in the world when it was gifted to the Museum in 1905.
- The fossilised skeleton from which Dippy was cast was discovered in Wyoming in 1899.
- Dippy is considered the most famous single dinosaur skeleton in the world.

### BLOATWARE APPS

- Bloatware apps are being criticized for taking up the storage of the device unnecessarily and affecting the system's battery life and overall performance.

#### About:

- Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUP), more popularly known as bloatware apps are needless programs that take a toll on your device's performance.
- Device manufacturers introduced these bloatware apps to provide users with additional programs that they might want to use, while making money on the way. Gradually, these apps, rather than being helpful, end up being a headache for users.
- Generally, these apps that run in the background are hidden and locating them becomes a tough job for the users. It could be any software on your computer, phone or tablet that consumes a lot of resources like — memory, storage and battery life.

#### Different types of bloatwares found on devices

- There are three most common types of bloatwares that can be found on any device.
- Utilities: These types of bloatwares come from manufacturers and third-party developers and



are usually pre-loaded on your device. These offer added functionality to your device.

- Trialware: Users can experience the app as most of them offer free trial modes in new devices. However, these programs keep on consuming your device's resources, even after the trial period is over.
- Adware: These types of bloatware typically gets downloaded while downloading softwares from the internet.

## QUANTUM KEY DISTRIBUTION (QKD)

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that a joint team of scientists and engineers from DRDO and IIT Delhi successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link for a distance of over 100 km between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh.

### About:

- The technological breakthrough was achieved over the commercial-grade optical fibre already available in the field.
- This technology will enable security agencies to plan a suitable quantum communication network with indigenous technology backbone.
- QKD is primarily a mechanism to undertake secure communication, which utilises a cryptographic protocol involving various components of quantum mechanics.
- The technology enables two communicating sides to come up with random secret keys shared by both of them and known exclusively to them, so only they can use it to encrypt and decrypt messages, thus achieving a very highly-secure communication.

## HIV

A US patient has become the third person in the world, and the first woman, to be cured of HIV, the deadly virus that causes AIDS.



### About:

- The woman, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2017, recovered after receiving a stem cell

transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to HIV.

- Human immunodeficiency virus or HIV is an infection that attacks the immune system by destroying the body's immune cells called CD4, which help it respond to infection.
- The umbilical cord (also called the navel string, birth cord or funiculus umbilicalis) is a conduit between the developing embryo or fetus and the placenta. The umbilical vein supplies the fetus with oxygenated, nutrient-rich blood from the placenta.

### Why is this significant?

- First, this was the first time an umbilical cord blood transplant was successfully carried out on an HIV patient.
- Second, the patient was a middle-aged mixed-race woman. This is significant since the majority of donors in the US are of Caucasian descent. Since this breakthrough treatment only requires partial matches and not exact matches, it opens up treatment options for people from diverse racial backgrounds.

## CORBEVAX

India's first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) protein sub-unit vaccine for COVID-19, CORBEVAX, developed by Biological E Limited, has received approval for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for 12-18 years age group.



### About:

- CORBEVAX™ is a 2-dose vaccine administered intramuscularly and can be stored at 2°C to 8°C.
- The recombinant protein sub-unit vaccine developed from the Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) of the spike protein on the viral surface is adjuvanted with CpG 1018 and alum.
- Biological E. Limited (BE), a Hyderabad-based Pharmaceuticals & Biologics Company founded in 1953.

### Do you know?

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through Mission COVID Suraksha launched under AtmaNirbhar Bharat package 3.0 being implemented by BIRAC, is committed to development of safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccines.
- This is the 2nd vaccine supported under the Mission, to have received EUA for the age group of 12-18 years.

### WIRELESS CHARGING

The convenience of wireless charging is rapidly making this tech a popular trend.

#### Working

- Modern smartphones use electromagnetic induction to transfer electric energy from the charger to the smartphone while wirelessly charging it.
- You need your smartphone to support wireless charging and a compatible wireless charger to use this tech. Both the phone and the charger need copper coils as well.
- A fast changing magnetic field interacts with the copper coil present inside the smartphone when you put a compatible smartphone on a wireless charger



- The magnetic field then produces electric energy in an enclosed loop that interacts with that magnetic field using electromagnetic induction. The battery gets charged by the electric current that is produced.
- This form of wireless charging is called tightly-coupled electromagnetic inductive charging.
- Two copper coils need to be placed in close proximity for this technology to function. The copper coils need to align for this type of wireless charging to work.
- There are other forms of wireless charging technologies that aim to solve this proximity issue.
- Radio Frequency (RF)-based charging can charge gadgets wirelessly at a few feet distance,

whereas loosely-coupled resonance charging can deliver a charge up to a few centimetres away. Users will be able to charge their phones without going near a charger in the near future using RF charging.

### CANADA APPROVED WORLD'S 1ST PLANT-DERIVED COVID-19 VACCINE

- Canada became the first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based COVID-19 vaccine.
- The two-dose vaccine of Medicago Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris), can be given to adults who are aged between 18 to 64, but little data is available on the shots received by people aged 65 and above
- The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study conducted on 24,000 adults that showed the efficacy rate of the vaccine is 71% at preventing COVID-19 – although the tests were conducted before the omicron variant emerged.
- Covifenz is the name given to this vaccine. Canada agreed to buy 20 million doses of this plant-based vaccine, with an option to purchase 56 million additional doses.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa;
- Canada Currency: Canadian dollar;
- Canada Prime minister: Justin Trudeau.





### NATIONAL ADAPTATION FUND FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (NAFCC)

The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established to support adaptation activities in the States and Union Territories (UTs) of India that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change

#### About

- NAFCC is implemented in project mode and till date, 30 projects are sanctioned in 27 States and UTs.
- The NAFCC projects implemented in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh include activities relating to coastal areas and these projects are –
- Promotion of integrated farming system of Kaipad in coastal wetlands of North Kerala
- Management and rehabilitation of coastal habitats and biodiversity for climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Livelihood in Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu and
- Climate Resilient interventions in Dairy Sector in coastal and Arid areas in Andhra Pradesh.
- Till date, a sum of Rs. 6,35,68,108/- has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under NAFCC.

#### Note

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has demarcated the Hazard Line for the entire mainland coast of India under its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project.
- Further, Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019 has been notified to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas to promote sustainable development.

### DEFINITION OF FOREST

Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change informed Rajya Sabha about the Definition under State of Forest Report.

#### About

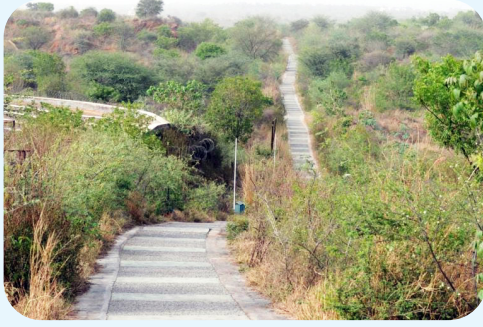
- As per decision 19/Conference of Parties (CP) 9-Kyoto Protocol, the forest can be defined by

any country depending upon the capacities and capabilities of the country as follows:-

- Forest is defined structurally on the basis of
- Crown cover percentage: Tree crown cover- 10 to 30% (India 10%)
- Minimum area of stand: area between 0.05 and 1 hectare (India 1.0 hectare) and
- Minimum height of trees: Potential to reach a minimum height at maturity in situ of 2 to 5 m (India 2m)
- India's definition of forest has been taken on the basis of above three criteria only and very well accepted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their reporting/communications.
- The forest cover is defined as 'all land, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such land may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm'.
- The definition of forest cover has clearly been defined in all the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) and in all the International communications of India.
- In ISFR 2021 recently published by the Ministry on 13th January, 2022, the forest cover figures are divided as 'Inside Recorded Forest Area' and 'Outside Recorded Forest Area'.
- At present, there is no plan to change the definition of forest cover and very dense forest. The definition of forest cover in ISFR represents true picture as described

### IUCN DESIGNATES ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK IN GURUGRAM 2022

The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, Haryana, has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site.



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

### What is OECM?

- OECM is a status for a place that has achieved effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside protected areas like forests. The park, which once was an abandoned mining pit, was transformed into a lush green forest patch in 10 years. Now, it has about 400 native species of plants.

### INDIA'S FIRST GEOLOGICAL PARK WILL BE BUILT IN JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

- The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining.
- Park will be constructed with an investment of Rs 35 crores, over five-acre land. The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view
- In 1928, William Henry Sleeman had discovered a Dinosaur fossil from this area.
- UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as a geo heritage site.
- Lameta Formation is also called Infratrappean Beds. It is a sedimentary geological formation found in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is associated with the Deccan Traps.
- It is of the Maastrichtian age and is known for dinosaur fossils.

### What is geopark?

- Geopark is a unified area, which advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable manner.
- It also promotes the economic well-being of the people living there

### WETLANDS

On the eve of the World Wetlands Day, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands designated Khijadia Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as wetlands of international importance.



### About:

- The Ramsar Convention, which came into existence in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands defines wetlands as "areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters."
- Globally, wetlands cover 6.4 per cent of the geographical area of the world.

### Indian scenario

- In India, according to the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), wetlands are spread over 1,52,600 square kilometres (sq km) which is 4.63 per cent of the total geographical area of the country.
- Of the 1,52,600 sq km, inland-natural wetlands account for 43.4% and coastal-natural wetlands 24.3%. Rivers/streams occupy 52,600 sq km, reservoirs/barrages 24,800 sq km, inter-tidal mudflats 24,100 sq km, tanks/ponds 13,100 sq km and lake/ponds 7300 sq km.
- India has 19 types of wetlands. In state-wise distribution of wetlands, Gujarat is at the top with 34,700 sq km (17.56 per cent of total geographical area of the state), or 22.7 percent



of total wetlands areas of the country thanks to a long coastline.

- It is followed by Andhra Pradesh (14,500 sq km), Uttar Pradesh (12,400 sq km) and West Bengal (11,100 sq km)

### NO-BUILD ZONE AROUND MONUMENTS

The 100-metre radius around Centrally protected monuments where construction is prohibited could be replaced with site-specific limits to be decided by an expert committee, as the Union Culture Ministry was working on amendments to the relevant Act.

#### About:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, was amended in 2010 to declare the 100-metre radius of protected monuments as prohibited areas and the next 300-metre radius as regulated areas.
- However, according to Ministry officials as well as a recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, there was no specific reason for the 100-metre and 300-metre limits.



- The proposed amendment would change Section 20A of the Act, which refers to the prohibited area, to rationalise the prohibited and regulated areas. Expert monument committees would decide the prohibited area around a monument.
- These areas could be as wide as 500 metres for some sites like the Taj Mahal.
- The amendment would also enable the ASI to act against encroachment by holding the relevant authorities liable in case of illegal buildings at a protected site, the official said. This would be similar to the enforcement powers under the Indian Forest Act.

### KOALAS

Once found in abundance, Australia's much-loved koalas have now been officially classified as 'endangered' after widespread bushfires,

drought and land clearing destroyed much of their eucalyptus-rich habitat.



#### About:

- Government upgraded the conservation status of the marsupials from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered' in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, based on the recommendation of the threatened species scientific committee.
- Koala species have inhabited parts of Australia for at least 25 million years, a WWF report states. But today, only one species remains — the *Phascolarctos cinereus*. They are found in the wild in the southeast and eastern sides of Australia — in coastal Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

### SOLAR WASTE

While India ramps up its solar power capacity, the nation does not yet have a firm policy on managing waste that results from used solar panels or from the manufacturing process.

#### About:

- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) last December estimated that the global photovoltaic waste will touch 78 million tonnes by 2050, with India expected to be one of the top five generators of such waste.
- India currently considers solar waste a part of electronic waste and does not account for it separately, according to a response to a question in the Rajya Sabha.
- Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) R.K. Singh said a committee had been constituted under the chairmanship of the Ministry's Secretary to propose an action plan to evolve a "circular economy" in solar panel, through reuse/recycling of waste generated.

#### IRENA

- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organization mandated to facilitate cooperation, advance knowledge, and promote the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.

- It is the first international organisation to focus exclusively on renewable energy.
- It was founded in 2009 and its statute entered into force in 2010.
- The agency is headquartered in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

A new study by the University of California Davis published in the journal Nature suggests that the difference between a scenario where the Earth will be warmed by upto 1.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century and a scenario where the Earth will be warmed by upto 3.6 degrees Celsius depends on the social system.

### About:

- In other words, public perceptions of climate change, the future cost and effectiveness of climate mitigation and technologies, and how political institutions respond to public pressure are important determinants of the degree to which the climate will change over the 21st century.
- The study says that there is a “strong probability” of warming between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius at the end of the century.
- The key drivers of how climate change will shape up include people’s perceptions and social groups, the improvements in mitigation technology over time and the responsiveness of political institutions. These key drivers trump individual actions.

### Note

- When it comes to global warming, one of the most prominent temperature-control goals is the figure of 1.5 degrees Celsius, which is the target set out by the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement that was signed by 195 countries in 2015.
- Net-zero, also referred to as carbon-neutrality, is a state in which a country’s emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere

## EXTENDED PRODUCERS RESPONSIBILITY ON PLASTIC PACKAGING

Ministry of Environment has notified the Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.



### About:

- The Guidelines provide framework to strengthen circular economy of plastic packaging waste, promote development of new alternatives to plastics and provide further next steps for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging by businesses.
- Reuse of rigid plastic packaging material has been mandated in the guidelines to reduce the use of fresh plastic material for packaging.
- The enforceable prescription of minimum level of recycling of plastic packaging waste collected under EPR along with use of recycled plastic content will further reduce plastic consumption and support recycling of plastic packaging waste.
- The EPR guidelines will give a boost forward formalization and further development of plastic waste management sector.
- In a significant first, the guidelines allow for sale and purchase of surplus extended producer responsibility certificates, thus setting up a market mechanism for plastic waste management.

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The first day of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) which kicked off in Mysuru, has reinforced the rich biodiversity of Kukkarahalli Lake and the imperatives of its conservation.



### About:

- The GBBC is a global event entailing backyard bird count and is being held for four days across the world from February 18 to 21 and the data uploaded will be harnessed for conservation.



- It is being coordinated in India by e-bird India and Birdcount-India.
- It is being held at Kukkarahalli Lake, Hebbala Lake, Karanji Lake, Muganahundi Lake, Lingambudhi lake and Thippaiyana Kere.
- The exercise helps to provide a “snap shot” of the bird population and throws light on the ecosystem supporting it.

## CRYPTODACTYLUS EXERCITUS

A team of herpetologists have recorded a new species of bent-toed gecko from a wooded part of the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya.



### About:

- Its scientific name is *Cryptodactylus exercitus* and English name is Indian Army's bent-toed gecko.
- *Exercitus* in Latin means army.
- The name was given to honour the Army for its services to the country. The military station where the bent-toed gecko was discovered was also a factor behind its name.

### Other species

- The finding of the study was published in the latest issue of the European Journal of Taxonomy.
- The paper recorded another new bent-toed gecko, the *Cryptodactylus siahaensis* named after Mizoram's Siaha district where it was found.
- These lizard specialists had in a separate study recorded the *Cryptodactylus lungleiensis*, a new species of bent-toed gecko named after Mizoram's Lunglei town.
- India is now home to 40 species of the bent-toed gecko with the northeast accounting for 16 of them.

## MOTHS

Moths are vital to pollination in the Himalayan ecosystem of northeast India, reveals a recent study. The study establishes 91 species of moths as potential pollinators of 21 plant

families in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeastern Himalayas.



### About:

- The results assume significance as a majority of the pollination-related studies are based on diurnal pollinators (bees and butterflies) and the role of nocturnal pollinators have so far received less scientific attention.
- The details of the study were recently published in Scientific Reports, a publication from the Nature group of journals.
- In the present study about 65% moths (91 species) carried sufficient quantities of pollen grains to be considered as potential pollinators. *Teliphasa* sp. (Crambidae) and *Cuculia* sp. (Noctuidae) are found to carry the highest quantity of pollen.
- Geometridae (geometer moths) and Erebidae (erebid moths, tiger moths, lichen moths, among others) turned out to be the most important moth families for pollen transportation in the Himalayan region.

### Moths

- Moths are a paraphyletic group of insects that includes all members of the order Lepidoptera that are not butterflies
- butterflies vs moths: While the butterflies form a monophyletic group, the moths, comprising the rest of the Lepidoptera, do not.

## CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION ACTION PLAN

An expert team of wildlife officials from Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India that visited Namibia for a site visit last week is reportedly “satisfied”, but a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the transfer is yet to be signed.



#### About:

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched an “action plan” at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on January 7 saying, “The cheetah that became extinct in independent India, is all set to return.”
- The action plan states that a cohort of 10-12 young cheetahs that are ideal for reintroduction would be imported from Namibia or South Africa as a founder stock during the first year.
- Around 35 cheetah would be needed over time to establish such a stock.
- The proposed site for introduction is the Kuno Palpur National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, though at least three other reserves in Central India are being considered.
- According to the plan, the Central government, along with the Environment Ministry and the Cheetah Task Force, will create a formal framework to collaborate with governments of Namibia and/or South Africa, through the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### Cheetah

- Scientific name: *Acinonyx Jubatus*.
- Common Name(s): Cheetah, Hunting Leopard.
- Speed: It is the fastest land animal. It can reach speeds of 30 m/s.
- Habitat: Cheetah lives in Dryland Ecosystem i.e. Grasslands, Scrublands and Open Forests.
- Indian scenario: Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. It is the only large mammal to have been declared extinct in our country in recorded history.





## REPORTS AND INDICES

### CRISIL REPORT: INDIA'S GDP EXPECTED TO GROW 7.8% IN FY23

- Domestic rating agency CRISIL has estimated FY23 real GDP growth at 7.8 percent as compared with the 8.5 per cent projected in the Economic Survey.

#### About

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation are aimed in the right direction.

### BRAND FINANCE REPORT

- LIC 10th most valued insurance brand globally
- As per a brand valuation report released by Brand Finance, Life Insurance Corporation has been ranked at 10th in the list.

LIC is the only Indian insurance company in the top 10 list. LIC has a valuation of USD 8.656 billion (around Rs 64,722 crore).

### WORLD OIL OUTLOOK 2021

The government said that the World Oil Outlook 2021, flagship publication by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC, has projected that the oil demand in India is expected to reach around 11 million barrels per day by 2045 as compared to approximately 4.9 million barrels per day in 2021



#### About:

- In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli informed this.

#### Note

- Rameswar said, the government has been taking up the issue, bilaterally with crude oil-producing countries with OPEC and with heads of other international fora to convey India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility, and India's strong preference for responsible and reasonable pricing for consumer countries.

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization or cartel of 13 countries.
- Founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela), it has since 1965 been headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member state.

### SALESFORCE GLOBAL INDEX

- Salesforce, a leading player in Customer Relationship Management (CRM), published the Global Digital Skills Index 2022.
- India has scored 63 out of 100, leads the digital skills readiness, and has the highest readiness index among the 19 countries. The average global readiness score was 33 out of 100.

### About the Global Digital Skills Index 2022:

- The 2022 Global Digital Skills Index, is based on a survey on around 23000 workers across 19 countries about digital skills, including their impact on the future of work, concerns about job readiness, and the significance of continuous learning.
- Three major skills gaps were identified in the 2022 global index: The everyday skills gap, The generational skills gap, and The leadership and workforce skills gap.

### INDIA PRESS FREEDOM REPORT 2021

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

Madhya Pradesh and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021.

### India Press Freedom Report 2021:

- The highest number of journalists or media organisations targeted was in J&K (25), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23), Madhya Pradesh (16), Tripura (15), Delhi (8), Bihar (6), Assam (5), Haryana and Maharashtra (4 each), Goa and Manipur (3 each), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (2 each), and Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala (1 each),” the report stated

### TOMTOM TRAFFIC INDEX RANKING 2021

As per the TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021, Mumbai has been ranked at 5th.

#### About

- As per the TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021, Mumbai has been ranked at 5th, Bengaluru at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021.
- Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index’s global top 25 lists. Istanbul, Turkey has been declared as the most congested city in the world as per the ranking, while Moscow came in second.
- The report said India’s congestion level in 2021 was 23% lower than pre-Covid times, with a decrease of 31% specifically during peak hours. In 2020, the traffic congestion in three Indian metros- Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi – made it to the top 10 list.

### INDIA RANKED 46TH IN EIU’S DEMOCRACY INDEX

- India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index’s global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit.

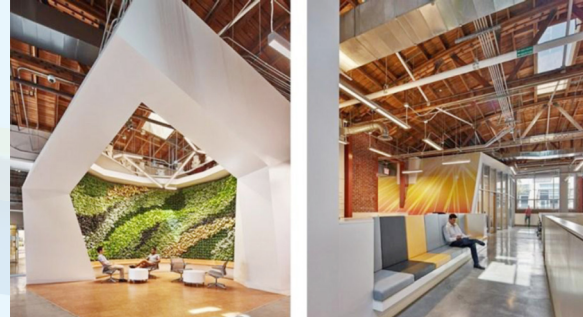


- India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index’s global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit. With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped

the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.

- Economist Intelligence Unit Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- Economist Intelligence Unit Founded: 1946

### INDIA RANKS 3RD IN 9TH US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL



- The US Green Building Council (USGBC) has released the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 in which India ranked 3rd with 146 projects.
- It has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, which is followed by Canada at 2nd position with 205 projects.
- The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.

### THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONITOR (GEM) 2021/2022 REPORT

- The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report, unveiled at the Dubai Expo, India is among the top five easiest places to start a new business.
- The survey of Indian respondents, who answered questions on their entrepreneurial activity, attitudes to enterprise and view of their local entrepreneurial ecosystem, found that 82% think it is easy to start a business, placing India fourth globally. It was topped by Saudi Arabia and followed by Netherlands & Sweden.
- India has topped amongst low-income economies (according to GDP per capita) on different Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions such as Entrepreneurial Finance, Ease of Access to Finance, Government Policy: Support and Relevance; and Government Support: Taxes and Bureaucracy; while Government Entrepreneurial Programmes was ranked second highest.



## HURUN INDIA WEALTH REPORT:

India's millionaire households rose 11% in 2021

- According to the latest Hurun India Wealth Report 2021, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India increased by 11 per cent to 4,58,000 households in 2021, as compared to 2020.
- A household having a net worth of at least INR 7 crore (\$1 million), is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household.
- The report has estimated that the number of dollar-millionaire households in the country shall increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households in 2026.

### Key points of the report:

- Meanwhile, in the list of cities with the most millionaires, Mumbai has topped with 20,300 millionaires households. Mumbai is followed by Delhi with 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500 millionaire households, respectively.
- The report is based on the survey on 350 Indian 'millionaires' (individuals with a personal wealth of \$1 million).

## INTERNATIONAL IP INDEX 2022: INDIA RANKS 43RD

- India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index 2022.
  - This index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
  - In July 2021, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce released a Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India.
  - This review is a welcome development and offers a comprehensive and detailed study of the strengths and weaknesses of India's national IP environment.
1. The top five countries in the ranking are:
  2. Rank 1- United States
  3. Rank 2- United Kingdom
  4. Rank 3- Germany
  5. Rank 4- Sweden
  6. Rank 5- France



## SPORTS NEWS

### PR SREEJESH WINS WORLD GAMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021

- Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh has won the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021.
- He is the second Indian after Rani Rampal to win this award.
- In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.
- A total of 24 athletes from 17 countries were nominated for the annual awards based on individual or team performance.
- Alberto Ginés López of Spain and wushu player Michele Giordano of Italy are the runners-up.
- In the FIH Stars Awards in October, Sreejesh was named the goalkeeper of the year for 2021.

### CHENNAI SUPER KINGS BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST UNICORN SPORTS ENTERPRISE

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK), has become the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 crores and its share in the grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band.
- The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which won its fourth IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements.
- India Cements' market cap stood at Rs 6,869 crores.

### UNNATI HOODA AND KIRAN GEORGE WINS 2022 ODISHA OPEN BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Indian teenager Unnati Hooda beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal, 21-18, 21-11, to claim the women's singles title at the 2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament.

### TATA STEEL CHESS 2022: MAGNUS CARLSEN BEATS FABIANO CARUA

- World Champion Grand Master Magnus Carlsen has secured his victory in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands) with a round to spare.

- The world champion defeated GM Fabiano Caruana and now leads the 2022 Tata Steel Chess Tournament by a full point.
- It was his 8th win, a unique achievement. Erigaisi Arjun (India) has won the Tata Steel Challengers.
- By doing so he has earned a spot in the Tata Steel Masters next year.
- The 85th edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament will take place from 13 – 29 January 2023.

### WINTER OLYMPICS HOST CHINA WELCOMES YEAR OF TIGER

- China is celebrating the Spring Festival, it's the most important annual festival as it entered the Lunar new "Year of the Tiger".
- Last year was celebrated as the Lunar Year of the Ox. According to the Chinese Zodiac calendar, the Year of the Ox has ended and the Year of the Tiger has begun from February 1, 2022, and will end on January 21, 2023.
- In Chinese culture, the tiger symbolizes bravery, vigor and strength and it is believed that it can lift people from adversity and usher in final auspiciousness and peace.
- Each year is named after one of 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle. This year, Spring Festival celebrations coincide with the Beijing Winter Olympics.

### 2022 ICC UNDER-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP

India won a record-extending fifth Under-19 World Cup title, beating England by four wickets in the final.





### About:

- India beat England in final to win 5th title
- India defeated England by four wickets to clinch a record-extending fifth title at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua. India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018.
- Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw.
- Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for 189 in 44.5 overs. India chases down the target of 190 with 2.2 overs to spare.
- India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022
- South Africa's Dewald Brevis who broke all records to score 506 runs in only six innings, the most for any batter in any Under19 World Cup ever

### AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS: SENEGAL BEAT EGYPT 2022

- Senegal has defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

### AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP INDIA 2022 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

- China PR (People's Republic) defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.
- India is hosting the 20th edition of the football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from January 20, 2022, to February 06, 2022. China now qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand.

### IOC APPROVES PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE NEW SPORTS AT 2028 OLYMPICS

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved a proposal to include Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing for the 2028 Summer Olympics Games that will be organized in Los Angeles, United States.
- The 2028 Summer Olympics are officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad,

or Los Angeles 2028 is a forthcoming event scheduled to take place from July 21 – August 6, 2028, in Los Angeles, California, US.

- The 2024 Summer Olympics Games will be organized in Paris, France.
- With this Paris becomes only the second city to host 3 Summer Olympic games. Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing had made their Olympic debut in Tokyo Olympics 2021 and will also be included in the "additional" list for Paris in 2024.
- Boxing, weightlifting and modern pentathlon also have the chance to be included in upcoming Olympics games.

### ARIF KHAN

India's Arif Khan has qualified for both, slalom and giant slalom, the two Winter Olympic skiing sports.

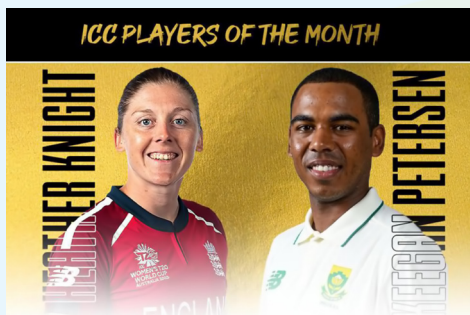


### About

- While Arif is not the first Indian to take part in the Winter Olympics, he is the only athlete from the country to be a part of the 2022 Beijing Games. He is also the only Indian skier to have ever qualified for both events together.
- Alpine skiing is a type of ski sport that is made up of five different events — the downhill, Super G, Alpine combined, slalom and giant slalom.
- What is the difference between slalom and giant slalom?
- While slalom is the shorter of the two events, it is the more technically challenging one since the gates are smaller and skiers have to focus on their zigzagging technique rather than their speed in this event.
- Giant slalom on the other hand combines the technical aspect of slalom with the speed of downhill skiing events. The giant slalom event sees skiers reach up to 80 kilometres an hour. The increase in speed means that the 'gates' have to be larger.

## KEEGAN PETERSEN, HEATHER KNIGHT ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

- South Africa's Test sensation Keegan Petersen and England women's team captain Heather Knight were voted ICC Players of the Month for January 2022
- South Africa's Test sensation Keegan Petersen and England women's team captain Heather Knight were voted ICC Players of the Month for January 2022.



- In the men's category, South African batter Keegan Petersen was a sensation during the home Test series against India. He ended the series as the highest run-scorer with 276 runs and was named the Player of the Series.
- For the women's award, England skipper Knight beat off competition from Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu and West Indies star Deandra Dottin to be named ICC Player of the Month for January 2022. Knight captained England in the one-off Ashes Test against Australia in Canberra and finished as the highest run-getter.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS TO SET UP COUNTRY'S BIGGEST WRESTLING ACADEMY



- Ministry of Railways has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at Kishanganj, Delhi.
- The wrestling academy will be the biggest in India and equipped with advanced training facilities to promote the sports of wrestling in the country.
- The project will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 30.76 crores.

## 2023 INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SESSION

Mumbai has been officially elected as the host for the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session, which could possibly see the election for the host country for the 2030 Winter Olympics and sports programme for LA 2028 Olympic Games



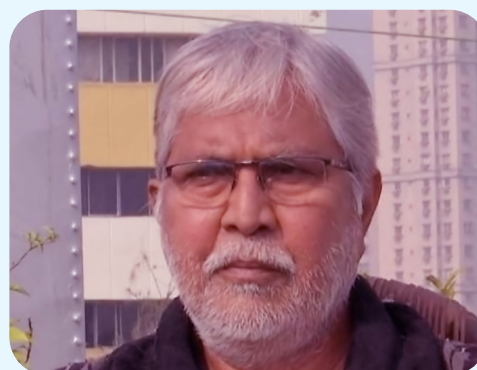
### About:

- The session will be held in May or June next year. An IOC session is the annual meeting of the members of the IOC, comprising 101 voting members and 45 honorary members.
- It discusses and decides on the key activities of the global Olympics movement including adoption or amendment of the Olympic Charter, the election of IOC members and office bearers and election of the host city of Olympics.
- The decision confirms India will be hosting this prestigious IOC meeting for the first time since 1983.

### What is the International Olympic Committee session?

- The IOC Session is the yearly meeting of the 101 voting members and the 45 honorary members where they come together to decide amendments to the Olympic Charter, the election of IOC members and office-bearers and so on.

## FOOTBALL LEGEND SURAJIT SENGUPTA PASSES AWAY





- The former India footballer Surajit Sengupta, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications.
- He was 71. At the club level, Sengupta had been associated with Kolkata's three big clubs, Mohun Bagan (1972-1973, 1981-1983), East Bengal (1974- 1979) and Mohammedan Sporting (1980).

He was part of the Indian national team that won a bronze medal in the 1970 Asian Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **CHELSEA WINS 2021 FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS**

- English club, Chelsea has defeated Brazilian club Palmeiras, 2-1, to win the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final.
- The decisive goal was scored by Kai Havertz with 3 minutes of extra time to go. Kai Havertz' nerveless 117th-minute penalty settled a gruelling Club World Cup final. The final was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.

### **HARYANA MEN'S & KERALA WOMEN'S TEAM WINS SENIOR NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**



- Haryana team defeated the Indian Railway 3-0, to win the Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22.
- Similarly, in the women's category, the Kerala team defeated the Indian Railway 3-1, to lift the trophy.
- The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.
- Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) & KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) attended the event and handed over the trophies to the winners.

### **INDIA'S R PRAGGNANANDHAA BECOMES YOUNGEST PLAYER TO BEAT WORLD NO 1 MAGNUS CARLSEN**



- India's teen chess Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, Magnus Carlsen, of Norway in an online chess tournament.
- The Airthings Masters is the first of the nine events of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, being held from February to November 2022.
- The 16-year-old Pragg achieved the feat in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament, in 39 moves with black pieces.
- Pragg is also only the third Indian grandmaster to win against Magnus Carlsen apart from Viswanathan Anand and Pentala Harikrishna.

### **TABLE TENNIS PLAYER MANIKA BATRA JOINS ADIDAS AS BRAND AMBASSADOR**

- The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports.
- With this association, the duo aims to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports, further fanning the aspirations of upcoming women sportspersons across the country

#### **About the Manika Batra:**

- Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- She is the first Indian player to reach the top 10 of the (International Table Tennis Federation) ITTF World rankings in women's doubles and top 15 in mixed doubles, and the first Indian woman to reach the top 50 of the ITTF Rankings.

## MIRABAI CHANU WINS GOLD AT SINGAPORE WEIGHTLIFTING INTERNATIONAL



- Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal in the 55kg weight category at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 on February 25, 2022.
- With this win, the 27-year-old Chanu has qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham in the 55kg weight category. She has also qualified for the CWG in the 49kg weight category on the basis of her Commonwealth rankings
- Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium.

## SAAF & NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD IN NAGALAND

- Nagaland is all set to host the South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF) cross country championship and 56th National Cross-Country athletics championships from 26th of next month in Kohima.
- Meanwhile, the official mascot of the South Asian Cross Country Championships and 56th National Cross Country is a joyous happy running 'Hornbill'.
- The name of the Mascot is Akimji—a connotation of the word AMBITION derived from Sumi dialect of Naga tribe which exemplifies the ambition of the new generation of Naga youth.

## THE 2ND LG CUP ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 WON BY THE LADAKH SCOUTS REGIMENTAL CENTRE

- 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. It was a very competitive game and full effort was put in by both the teams, but there's only one winner. The Ladakh

Scouts won in the end and they lifted the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship 2022.



## RAFAEL NADAL WINS MEXICAN OPEN 2022

- In tennis, Rafael Nadal (Spain) beat British number one Cameron Norrie 6-4 6-4 to win the singles title of Mexican Open 2022 (also known as Acapulco title).
- This is the 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season.
- This is the fourth time that Rafael Nadal has won the Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020.
- Men's double title winners are Feliciano Lopez (Spain) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).

## SINGAPORE WEIGHTLIFTING INTERNATIONAL 2022: INDIA SECURES 8 MEDALS

- 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, scheduled to be held in July-August.
- India now has total of 12 weightlifters qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mirabai Chanu             | women's 55kg  |
| 2. Bindyarani Devi           | women's 59kg  |
| 3. Popy Hazarika             | women's 64kg  |
| 4. Usha Kumara               | women's 87kg  |
| 5. Purnima Pandey            | women's +87kg |
| 6. Sanket Mahadev            | men's 55kg    |
| 7. Chanabam Rishikanta Singh | men's 55kg    |
| 8. Jeremy Lalrinnunga        | men's 67kg    |
| 9. Achinta Sheuli            | men's 73kg    |
| 10. Ajay Singh               | men's 81kg    |
| 11. Vikas Thakur             | men's 96kg    |
| 12. Ragala Venkat Rahul      | men's 96kg    |



## BHIMSEN JOSHI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has remembered Pandit Bhimsen Joshi on his 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.



### About:

- Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi (1922 – 2011), also known by the honorific prefix Pandit, was one of the greatest Indian vocalists from Karnataka, in the Hindustani classical tradition.
- He is known for the khayal form of singing, as well as for his popular renditions of devotional music (bhajans and abhangs).
- Joshi belongs to the Kirana gharana tradition of Hindustani Classical Music.
- In 1998, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.
- He received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2009.

## SACHINDRA NATH SANYAL

The Nation is remembering Revolutionary Sachindra Nath Sanyal on his 80th death anniversary.

### About:



- He was the founder of the Hindustan Republican Association also known as Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. It was created to carry out armed resistance against the British Empire in India.
- Sachindra Nath Sanyal was a mentor for revolutionaries like Chandrasekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh.
- He along with Rashbehari Bose attacked Viceroy Hardinge and injured him while he was entering new capital of Delhi.
- Sanyal was closely involved in the plans for the Ghadar Conspiracy. He was sentenced to life for his involvement in the conspiracy and was imprisoned at Cellular Jail.
- He was also jailed by the British for his involvement in Kakori Conspiracy.
- Sachindra Nath Sanyal passed away in Gorakhpur Jail on 7th February 1942.

## LATA MANGESHKAR

Lata Mangeshkar, affectionately called a “Nightingale of India”, passes away at 92. The Rajya Sabha will be adjourned for an hour on Monday morning in honour of the singer who was a member of the House from 1999 to 2005.



- Lata Mangeshkar (born as Hema Mangeshkar; 28 September 1929 – 6 February 2022) was an Indian playback singer and occasional music composer.
- She is widely considered as one of the greatest and most influential singers in India.
- Her contribution to Indian music industry in a career spanning seven decades gained her honorific titles such as the Nightingale of India, Voice of the Millennium and Queen of Melody.
- She recorded songs in over thirty-six Indian

languages and a few foreign languages, though primarily in Hindi, Bengali, Marathi.

### Awards

- She was the recipient of three National Film Awards.
- In 1987 the Dadasaheb Phalke Award was bestowed on her by the Government of India.
- In 2001, in recognition of her contributions to the nation, she was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour and is only the second female singer, after M. S. Subbulakshmi, to receive this honour.
- France conferred on her its highest civilian award, Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, in 2007.

### SANTISHREE PANDIT

Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a political science professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).



### About:

- She was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind, who is the University's Visitor.
- She will hold the job for the next five years.
- She succeeds M. Jagadesh Kumar, who was appointed Chairperson of the University Grants Commission last week.

### Do you know?

- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is a public central major research university located in New Delhi, India.
- It was established in 1969 and named after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister.

### QUEEN ELIZABETH II

- She marks 70th anniversary of her rule 2022
- The United Kingdom has marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy.
- She surpassed Louis XIV of France as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state.

She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007.

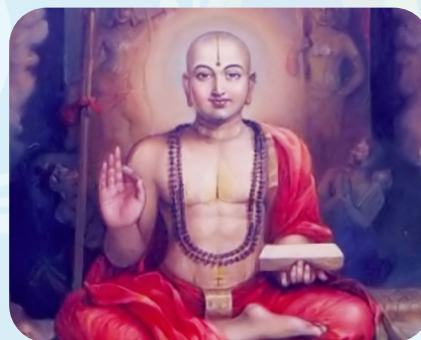
- In 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee.
- Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth became queen after the death of her father King George VI.

### R RAJAMOHAN

- R Rajamohan, who led the 1st Asteroid Discoveries In Independent India, passes away.
- He is best known for his Kalki Project, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India. This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.

### MADHVACHARYA

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid his obeisances to Sri Madhvacharya on the occasion of Madhva Navami.



### About:

- Madhvacharya (CE 1199-1278 or CE 1238–1317) was also known as Purna Prajna and Ānanda Tīrtha.
- He was a Hindu philosopher and the chief proponent of the Dvaita (dualism) school of Vedānta.
- Madhva called his philosophy Tattvavāda meaning "arguments from a realist viewpoint".
- His greatest work is considered to be the Anuvyakhyana, a philosophical supplement to his bhasya on the Brahma Sutras composed with a poetic structure.
- Madhvacharya was a critic of Adi Shankara's Advaita Vedānta and Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita Vedānta teachings.
- Madhva established the Krishna Mutt at Udupi with a murti secured from Dwarka Gujarat in CE 1285



## LUC MONTAGNIER

Nobel-winning virologist Luc Montagnier, who died in Paris, was a brilliant and controversial figure who often challenged the core principles of science and scientific discourse.



### About:

- The 89-year-old won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 for the discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.
- The Frenchman shared the award with fellow researcher Françoise Barré-Sinoussi. The duo had shared half of the Nobel with German scientist Harald zur Hausen for his discovery of human papilloma viruses that cause cervical cancer.

## AMBADWE VILLAGE

President Ram Nath Kovind said that Ambadwe village, the birthplace of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should guide the country towards self-reliance.



### About:

- He also said that the central government should include this village in the Panch Tirtha Yojana to preserve Babasaheb's memory.
- The President was speaking after visiting this village. He is the first President to visit

this village, the birthplace of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

• Ambadawe is a village in the Mandangad taluk of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra.

## RAHUL BAJAJ

Rahul Bajaj, 83, one of India's leading industrialists and chairman emeritus of Bajaj Auto Ltd., passed away in Pune.

### About:

- A grandson of the industrialist, freedom fighter and group founder Jamnalal Bajaj, Bajaj helmed the eponymous group of companies, which have a presence across industries including automobiles, general and life insurance, and consumer finance, for almost four decades till 2005.
- After assuming a leadership role in 1965, he steered the diversified entity during India's transition from a closed economy to a liberalised one.
- The Bajaj Chetak scooter became an aspirational symbol for middle-class Indian families, across the 1980s and '90s, with the 'Hamara Bajaj' ad jingle becoming synonymous with their hopes of a better future.
- Bajaj was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2006 and remained a member till 2010.
- Bajaj was a recipient of many awards, including the Padma Bhushan.
- He also held several other leadership positions, including as the chairman of the erstwhile Indian Airlines and chairman of the board of governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- Bajaj was a former chairman of the International Business Council, World Economic Forum and a former president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- Under Bajaj's stewardship, the first codification of corporate governance norms in the country happened way back in 1998, well before any regulation or law came into being in this important space.

## N CHANDRASEKARAN

- N Chandrasekaran reappointed as Chairman of Tata Sons
- The board of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has approved the re-appointment of N Chandrasekaran as the Executive Chairman of the company for the second five years term.



### Career of Chandrasekaran:

- Chandrasekaran's tenure in the last five years saw several mergers and acquisitions by the group in the steel, aviation and digital sectors and a complete exit from the cellular telephony industry.
- One of the first tasks of Chandra, as he is popularly known, was to get rid of Tata Teleservices which lost around Rs 60,000 crore in paying back bank loans apart from paying the AGR dues till date.
- Tatas sold the mobile phone business to Bharti Airtel while retaining debt and other liabilities of the company.

### TILKA MANJHI

The Nation is remembering revolutionary freedom fighter and tribal leader Tilka Manjhi on his 272nd birth anniversary.



About:

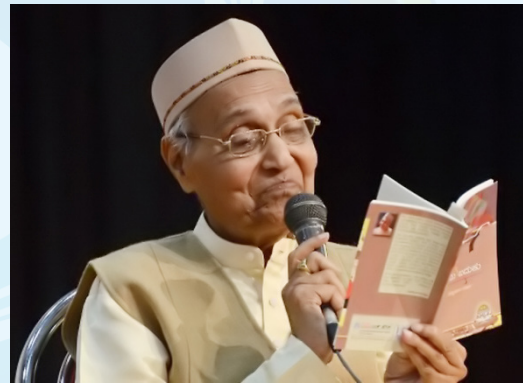
- He organized Adivasis into an army and led the famous Santhal Hool in 1784 against the exploitative British.
- In 1770, there was a severe famine in the Santhal region and people were dying of hunger. Tilka Manjhi looted the treasury of the Company and distributed it among the poor and needy.
- Inspired by this noble act of Tilka, many other tribals also joined the rebellion. With this began his Santhal Hool, the revolt of the Santhals. He

continued to attack the British and their allies.

- From 1771 to 1784, Tilka Manjhi never surrendered. Tilka Majhi attacked Augustus Cleveland, an East India Company administrator and fatally wounded him.
- The British surrounded the Tilapore forest from which he operated but he and his men held them at bay for several weeks.
- When he was finally caught in 1784, he was tied to the tail of a horse and dragged all the way to the Collector's residence at Bhagalpur, Bihar, India. There, his lacerated body was hung from a Banyan tree.

### CHENNAVEERA KANAVI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the demise of noted Kannada writer and poet, Shri Chennaveera Kanav



About:

- Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi (1928 – 2022) was an Indian writer.
- He was considered one of the major poets and writers in the Kannada language and received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work Jeeva Dhwani (Poetry) in 1981.
- He was popularly known as "Samanvayada Kavi" and "Soujanya Kavi".
- In 2011, he was honoured with the Sahitya Kala Kaustubha Award.

### LEGENDARY SINGER AND MUSIC COMPOSER BAPPI LAHIRI PASSES AWAY

- Veteran singer and composer, Bappi Lahiri has passed away at the age of 69.
- He was lovingly called Bappi Da in the industry is known for delivering iconic songs in several films of the late 1970s-80s like Chalte Chalte, Disco Dancer, and Sharaabi. His last Bollywood song was Bhankas for the 2020 film Baaghi 3.



- The singer is known for his gold chains. His real name was Alokesh Lahiri. He joined BJP in 2014.
- He was declared a BJP candidate from Srerampur (Lok Sabha constituency) in West Bengal for the 2014 Indian general election and lost.

### U. V. SWAMINATHA IYER

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to 'Tamil Thatha' U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer on his birth anniversary.



#### About:

- Uttamadhanapuram Venkatasubbaier Swaminatha Iyer (1855 – 1942) was a Tamil scholar and researcher who was instrumental in bringing many long-forgotten works of classical Tamil literature to light.
- His singular efforts over five decades brought to light major literary works in Tamil and contributed vastly to the enrichment of its literary heritage.
- Iyer published over 90 books in his lifetime, on a variety of matters connected to classical Tamil literature, and collected over 3,000 paper manuscripts, palm-leaf manuscripts and notes of various kinds.
- He is affectionately called Tamil Thatha (literally, "Tamil grandfather").

### INDIAN HOME RULE SOCIETY (IHRS)

Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Government of India organized an event to recall the foundation of IHRS in London on 18 Feb, 1905 which sought to promote the cause of self-rule in British India.

#### About:

- The organisation was founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma, with support from a number of prominent Indian nationalists in Britain at the time including Bhikaji Cama, Dadabhai Naoroji and Sardarsinhji Ravaji S. R. Rana.

- It was intended to be a rival organisation to the British Committee of the Indian National Congress that was the main avenue of the loyalist opinion at the time.



- The Indian Home Rule Society was a metropolitan organisation modelled after Victorian public institutions of the time. It had a written constitution and the stated aims to secure Home Rule for India and to carry on a genuine Indian propaganda in this country by all practicable means.
- The IHRS was open for membership to Indians only and found significant support amongst Indian students and other Indian populations in Britain. It recruited young Indian activists and maintained close contact with revolutionary movements in India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had brought the ashes of Shyamji Krishna Varma back to India from Switzerland in 2003 when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. Mr Modi got the reinstatement certificate of Shyamji Krishna Varma from UK when he visited there in 2015.

### NABIN CHANDRA SEN

The nation is remembering revolutionary Bengali poet and writer Nabin Chandra Sen on his 175th birth anniversary.



#### About:

- He described the battle of Plassey and the arrival of British rule in India as “A Night of Eternal Gloom”.
- Nabin Chandra Sen’s novel-in-verse Bhanumati and memoir of his travels ‘Prabaser Patra’ brought him fame.
- His five-volume autobiography, Aamar Jiban-My Life is an important document chronicling the politics and social aspirations of the Bengali literati in the late nineteenth century.

### SHAKUNTALA CHOUDHARY

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of noted Gandhian Shakuntala Choudhary Ji.

#### About:

- Shakuntala Choudhary (1920 – 2022), also known as Shakunthala Baideo, was an Indian social worker. Born in Assam, she was known for her commitment and devotion to the popularization of the Gandhian way of life.
- At an early age, in 1947, Choudhary joined the Assam branch of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust (KGNMT) and continued her association with the Trust for the rest of her life.
- Shakuntala Choudhary was closely associated with Vinoba Bhave who was the initiator of the Bhoodan Movement.
- At Vinoba Bhave’s instance, who was interested in promoting Devanagari script among different linguistic groups, Shakuntala Choudhary started a monthly magazine “Asomiya Vishwa Nagari” in Devanagari script which she edited for many years.
- Choudhary was also associated with of the “Ban Cow Slaughter Satyagraha” started by Vinoba Bhave in 1978.
- In 2022, the Government of India conferred the Padma Shri award



### S H RAZA

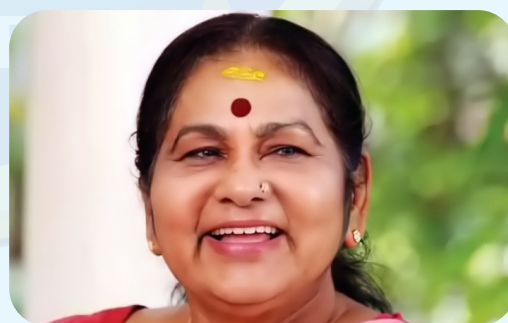
Birth centenary of Syed Haider Raza was observed on February 22.



#### About:

- Sayed Haider Raza (22 February 1922 – 23 July 2016) was an Indian painter who lived and worked in France from 1950 until his death, while maintaining strong ties with India.
- In 1947, he co-founded the revolutionary Bombay Progressive Artists’ Group (PAG) (1947–1956) along with K. H. Ara and F. N. Souza. This group set out to break free from the influences of European realism in Indian art and bring Indian inner vision (Antar gyan) into the art.
- The ‘Bindu’ is S.H. Raza’s most iconic symbol, one that featured in many of his artworks made during the last three decades of his life.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri and Fellowship of the Lalit Kala Academi in 1981, Padma Bhushan in 2007, and Padma Vibhushan in 2013.
- He was conferred with the Commandeur de la Legion d’honneur (Legion of Honour) in 2015.

### RENOWNED MALAYALAM ACTRESS KPAC LALITHA PASSES AWAY



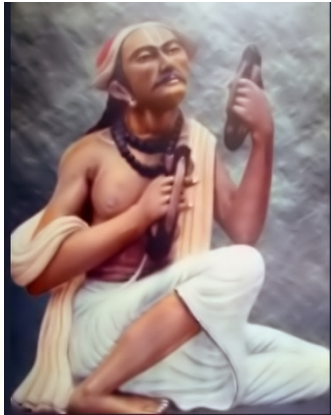
- Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, KPAC Lalitha has passed away at 74. In a career spanning five decades, she starred in over 550 films in Malayalam and Tamil.
- Born as Maheswari Amma in Kayamkulam



of Alappuzha, the actress had joined K.P.A.C (Kerala People's Arts Club), a prominent drama troop in Kerala.

### **NARSINH MEHTA**

Recently, researchers of Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University (BKNMU), Junagadh, discovered a new species of spider and named it Narsinhmehtai in honour of Narsinh Mehta, the 15th century poet who was a devotee of Lord Krishna.



#### **About:**

- Mehta is believed to have been born in Talaja in present-day Bhavnagar district in 1410 and died in Junagadh in 1480s.
- Mehta used to spend time in Krishna-bhakti (devotion to Lord Krishna) even after his marriage to Manekba, paying little attention to family duties.
- Mehta penned more than 750 poems, called padd in Gujarat.
- They mainly deal with devotion to Lord Krishna, gyan (wisdom) vairagya (detachment from worldly affairs). Others like Shalmshano Vivah, Kunvarbainu Mameru, Hundi and Harmala are believed to be autobiographical accounts of different occasions in his life.
- Vaishnavajna to tene kahiye, Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajan is Mehta's creation.



## AWARDS

### TELUGU SHORT FILM 'STREET STUDENT' WINS NHRC'S SHORT FILM AWARD COMPETITION

- A Telugu short film 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep depicting the story of a street urchin with a strong message on right to education has bagged the first prize in a competition organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep has been selected for the first prize worth Rs 2 lakh in the seventh Short Film Award Competition. It is in Telugu with subtitles in English.
- The film shows the story of a street urchin to send across a strong message on the right to education and how society needs to support it.

### NEERAJ CHOPRA NOMINATED FOR LAUREUS WORLD BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the prestigious 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.
- The other 5 nominees are Daniil Medvedev (Australian Open runner-up), Emma Raducanu (British tennis star), Pedri (Barcelona and Spain footballer), Yulimar Rojas (Venezuelan athlete) and Ariarne Titmus (Australian swimmer).
- The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.

### ICC SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD 2021

- New Zealand cricketer, Daryl Mitchell has been named the winner of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Spirit of Cricket Award 2021.
- This award is given to him for his gesture of refusing to take a single in the high-pressure 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Semi-Finals against England as he felt he had "obstructed" the way of bowler Adil Rashid at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.
- He has become the 4th New Zealand player to win the award after Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.

### About the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award:

- The ICC Spirit of Cricket Award is annually awarded by the ICC to recognise the player most notable for "upholding the 'Spirit of the Game'".

### 18TH LATE MADHAVRAO LIMAYE AWARD

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award.
- This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanik Vachanalay. Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.

### Majhi Vasundhara' Campaign

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

### About the Majhi Vasundhara':

- Majhi Vasundhara' is an initiative of the Government of Maharashtra's Environment and Climate Change Department to empower citizens with knowledge on the impacts of climate change and environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards improvement of the environment.
- To empower citizens with knowledge on the impacts of climate change and environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards the improvement of the environment.

### RAILTEL GETS ICAI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

RailTel has bagged the ICAI award for excellence in financial reporting for the year 2020-21 in



Public Sector Entities Category.

- Financial Reporting includes the preparation and presentation of financial information. Effective Financial Reporting plays a significant role in accelerating the economic growth of a country as the information provided through annual reports enables the management and other relevant stakeholders in taking various effective business, investment, regulatory decisions.

#### About the award:

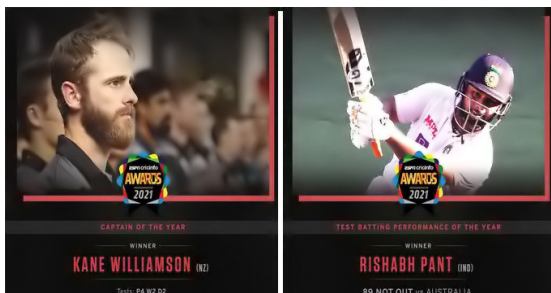
The award was given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the premier accounting body which has been holding the annual competition for these awards since 1958.

This award has been instituted with a view to promote better standards in the preparation and presentation of information in the financial statements.



- The 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) is scheduled to take place from 29 May to 4 June, 2022 at the Films Division complex, Mumbai.
- Those films which were completed between September 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021, are eligible.
- The best documentary of the festival will receive a Golden Conch and 10 lakh in a cash award. As India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the current edition has instituted a special award for the best short film on the theme India@75.

#### RISHABH PANT WON ESPNCRICINFO 'TEST BATTING AWARD' 2021



- In the 15th Edition of ESPNCRICINFO Awards, India's wicketkeeper-batsman, Rishabh Pant wins the 'Test Batting' award by scoring 89 not out, helped India to win the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2021 by (2-1) and shattered Australia's unbeaten record at Gabba after 32 years. Rishabh Pant was the top scorer of the series for the Indian team, scoring (274 runs).

#### Other awardee's:

- New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged 'Captain of the Year'.
- The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson (New Zealand) for his 5 wickets leaving just 31 runs, which helped New Zealand in becoming the first World Test champions (2019-2021).
- England fast bowler Ollie Robinson was named Debutant of the Year.
- Saqib Mahmood's 4 for 42 in a nine-wicket win over Pakistan got him the top ODI bowling prize.
- Jos Buttler won the T20I batting award.
- The ODI batting and T20I bowling awards went to Pakistan. Fakhar Zaman won the top batting prize. Shaheen Afridi won the T20I bowling award for his annihilation of India in the 10-wicket win for Pakistan at the T20 World Cup.

#### 17th IBA'S ANNUAL BANKING TECHNOLOGY AWARDS 2021 ANNOUNCED

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

#### Best Technology Bank of the Year

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

#### Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives

- Large Banks: State Bank of India
- Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

## Best Payments Initiatives

- Public Banks: State Bank of India
- Private Banks: ICICI Bank

### INDIA'S MOST TRUSTED PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANY' AWARD

- Maharatna company of the Government of India, Coal India Limited has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.
- Coal India received this honor at the "Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata.
- The company got this honor at a time when Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.

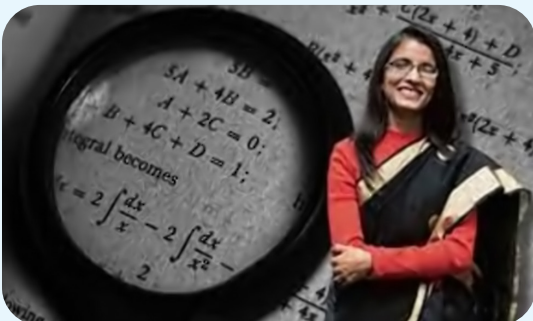
## DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS 2022

The prestigious ceremony of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 was held on February 20. The event was held in Mumbai and the best performances from last year were honoured in the event this time.

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

### RAMANUJAN PRIZE FOR YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS

The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians was awarded to Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, in a virtual ceremony on 22nd February 2022.



## About:

- She received the award for the year 2021 for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
- The prize is awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India in association with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- It is given to young mathematicians less than 45 years of age who have conducted outstanding research in a developing country.
- It is supported by DST in the memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a genius in pure mathematics who was essentially self-taught and made spectacular contributions to elliptic functions, continued fractions, infinite series, and analytical theory of numbers.
- Professor Gupta's solution for solving the Zariski cancellation problem, a fundamental problem in Algebraic Geometry, earned her the 2014 Young Scientists Award of the Indian National Science Academy (NSA).





### **SCORPENE SUBMARINE 'VAGIR'**

The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 February 2022.

#### **About:**

- The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning.
- The submarine will now undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, including propulsion systems, weapons and sensors. The submarine is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after completion of these trials.

### **ICGS 'SAKSHAM'**

India's Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project ahead of contractual schedule.

#### **About the vessels:**

- All the five CGOPVs will be the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the coast guard.
- Also, the 2,400 tonnes vessels are fitted with additional features including quick response boats for rescue and anti-piracy and gunnery simulators.
- The hull is designed to provide fuel efficiency, crew comfort and enhanced sea keeping qualities.
- With computerised control systems, they are the most advanced patrol vessels in service with the Coast Guard. It has an indigenous content of about 70% and weighs around 2400 tonnes

### **COPE SOUTH 22**

- The air forces of Bangladesh and the United States will conduct a joint tactical airlift exercise 'Cope South 22'.
- The six days exercise has been sponsored by Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). The bilateral exercise will be held at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- The goals of the Pacific Air Forces-sponsored bilateral tactical airlift exercise include

improving interoperability with the Bangladesh Air Force and supporting the armed forces of Bangladesh's long-term modernisation efforts in order to maintain regional stability. The goal of the exercise is bolstering bilateral ties between the two countries through tactical airlift sorties and subject-matter expert exchanges

### **EASTERN BRIDGE-VI AIR EXERCISE**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organized a bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.



#### **About:**

- This would be the sixth edition of the exercise.
- It will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the Air Forces of India and Oman.
- Participation of IAF and RAFO in this exercise will promote professional interaction, exchange of experiences and enhancement of operational knowledge, besides strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

### **EX COBRA WARRIOR 2022**

In a first, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will deploy the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas for multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior' at Waddington, U.K. Five Tejas aircraft will fly to the U.K.



### About:

- The multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior' will also see the participation of Air Forces of Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and the U.S.
- The exercise is aimed at providing operational exposure and sharing best practices amongst the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and forging bonds of friendship.
- The exercise is scheduled from March 6 to 27.

### THIRD INDIA-JAPAN JOINT EXERCISE 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022'

- The third edition of the joint military exercise "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022" between India and Japan will be conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.
- The 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) are participating in this 12 days long joint exercise.

### About the exercise:

- The military exercise will focus on operations in Jungle & Semi-Urban/Urban terrains.
- The exercise aims at enhancing the interoperability and foster mutual understanding between the two Armies.
- Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual military training event, being conducted in India since 2018.

### MILAN EXERCISE:

Indian Navy's multilateral exercise Milan 2022 kick-off

- The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 is commencing from 25 Feb 22 in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam.
- MILAN 22 is being conducted over a duration of 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March.
- India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence in 2022, and MILAN 22 provides an opportunity to commemorate this milestone with our friends and partners
- The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large.

- The aim of the exercise is to hone operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain, through professional interaction between friendly navies.

### History of MILAN exercise:

- MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise incepted by the Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command. Since its inception, the event has been held biennially except for 2001, 2005, 2016 and 2020.
- While the 2001 and 2016 editions were not held due to International Fleet Reviews, the 2005 editions was rescheduled to 2006 due to the 2004 Tsunami. 2020 edition of MILAN was postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19.

### ADVANCED MEDIUM COMBAT AIRCRAFT (AMCA)

India and France are close to concluding a deal, likely in the next couple of months, for the joint development of a 125KN engine for the indigenous fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) under development.

### About:

- The collaboration is between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and French engine maker Safran.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed this issue with French Defence Minister Florence Parly during his visit to Paris.
- Last year, the government had informed Parliament that it is proposed to develop indigenous engines for powering aircraft such as the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) variants and AMCA in association with an international engine house.
- The initial design of the AMCA started way back in 2009 and is envisaged as a twin engine stealth aircraft with internal weapons bay, which has been developed for the first time and for which the design is complete, as reported by The Hindu earlier.
- The manufacturing and production of the aircraft is planned through a Special Purpose Vehicle, which will also involve private industry.

### IAF PULLS OUT OF MULTILATERAL AIR EXERCISE 'COBRA WARRIOR 22' IN UK AMID UKRAINE CRISIS

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided not to send its aircraft in the multilateral air exercise



‘Cobra Warrior-22’ in the United Kingdom, 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.
- The announcement by the IAF comes just three days after it confirmed its participation in the drills.

Why does this happen?

- The announcement by the IAF came hours after India abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution on the Russian military aggression against Ukraine.
- India retained the option of reaching out to all relevant sides to find a middle ground and foster dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis.





## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### ‘OPERATION KHATMA’

- A book titled ‘Operation Khatma’ authored by R C Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar
- The book is based upon the operation by the Special Operations Group of Jammu & Kashmir Police which led to the killing of 22 terrorists of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).
- It is a graphic first-hand thriller on terrorism in Kashmir.
- The blood-splattered rivalry between JKLF and HM, and the short, sharp surgical strike -OPERATION KHATMA- that broke the back of terrorism in the Valley.

### INDIA, THAT IS BHARAT: COLONIALITY, CIVILISATION, CONSTITUTION’ AUTHORED BY J SAI DEEPAK

A Trilogy book series titled, ‘India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution’ is authored by J Sai Deepak and published by Bloomsbury India.

- It is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy, which examines the impact of European ‘colonial consciousness’ (or ‘coloniality’), on Bharat (India). It highlights how colonialism changes the socio-religious culture, history, education, language and racial patterns in India.

#### The essence of the book:

- India, That Is Bharat, the first book of a comprehensive trilogy, explores the influence of European ‘colonial consciousness’ (or ‘coloniality’), in particular its religious and racial roots, on Bharat as the successor state to the Indic civilisation and the origins of the Indian Constitution.

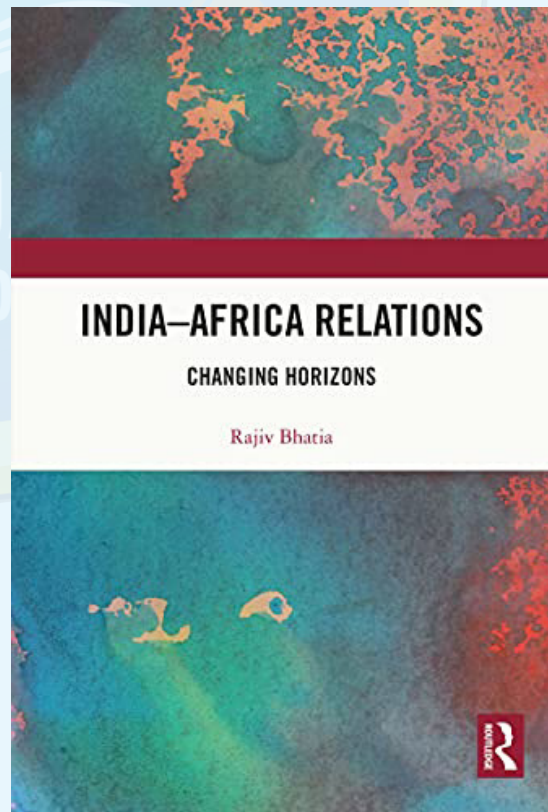
### ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

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

### INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONS: CHANGING HORIZONS”

- Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons” which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.
- The book also provides a detailed exploration of India–the Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.
- The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualise the evolution of the India – Africa engagement.

### INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONS: CHANGING HORIZONS”



- Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled “India-Africa

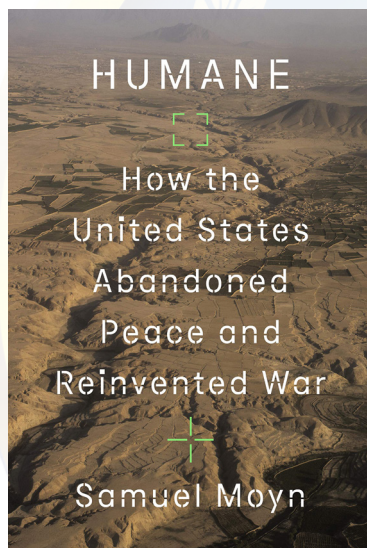


Relations: Changing Horizons” which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.

- The book also provides a detailed exploration of India–the Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.
- The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualise the evolution of the India – Africa engagement.

### **HUMANE: HOW THE UNITED STATES ABANDONED PEACE AND REINVENTED WAR'**

A new book titled “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War” authored by Samuel Moyn was released.



- Samuel Moyn is the Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School and a professor of History at Yale University.
- This provocative book argues about the endless wars the USA created in the past including Vietnam War (1955-1975), Korean War (1950-1953), World War II (1939-1945) etc and this development might not represent progress at all.
- The book highlights the United States of America (USA) strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.

### **DIGNITY IN A DIGITAL AGE: MAKING TECH WORK FOR ALL OF US**

- A new book titled “Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us” has authored by Ro Khanna released.

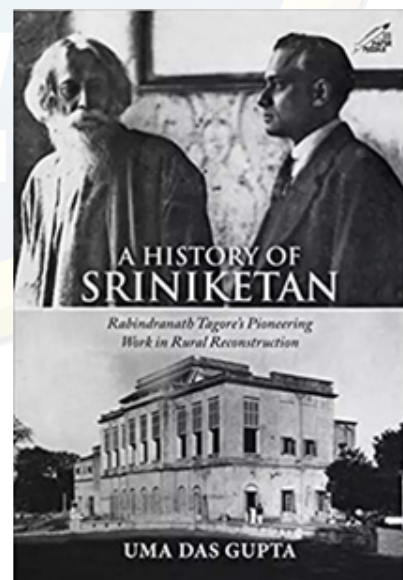
- The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress. It also mentioned about the digital divide i.e., unequal access to technology and revenue, as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.
- Ro Khanna is an Indian-American who is a US Congressman representing the California district that includes the Silicon Valley region.

### **THE FOUNDERS: THE STORY OF PAYPAL"**

- A new book titled “The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley ”, authored by Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster released soon
- It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today.
- It also offers colorful anecdotes about famous people like Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and Reid Hoffman.

### **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

The book titled “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” was authored by Uma Das Gupta and published under Niyogi Books ‘Paper Missile’ released



- The book contains Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s work in ‘village reconstruction’ by setting up ‘Sriniketan’, a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922, which is also popularly known as a university town. It is situated in West Bengal.

- The book highlights the efforts of Rabindranath Tagore in improving the condition of the peasantry by using scientific methods of cultivation through laboratory experiments where the expert and the peasant collectively participated.

### **NATION TO PROTECT**

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

### **THE GREAT TECH GAME’**

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



#### **The essence of the book:**

- In this book, the author provides a coherent framework outlining the key drivers that will determine the ability of a nation to succeed in this technology-dominant era.
- He lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan for success. Leaders must develop a new set of capabilities to understand and take advantage of these trends and create enabling environments for their nations to not be left behind.
- A particularly challenging aspect will be the

ability of countries to define and manage the roles of state and non-state actors in a global race for technological leadership and success.





## APPOINTMENT

### **RAVI MITTAL NAMED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA**

- The former secretary, Department of Sports, Ravi Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- He is a 1986 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre. He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.

#### **About the IBBI:**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professionals and Information Utilities in India.

### **ANTONIO COSTA RE-ELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL**

The Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Costo has been re-elected after his centre-left Socialist Party

- Portugal President: Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa;
- Portugal Capital: Lisbon;
- Portugal Currency: Euro.

### **EX-CONSULTANT TO WORLD BANK PRADIP SHAH NAMED AS PFIZER INDIA CHAIRMAN**

- Pfizer India has appointed Pradip Shah as the chairman of its board following the resignation of RA Shah.
- He is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil. Prior to founding Crisil, he assisted in founding HDFC in 1977.
- He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

### **MUNISHWAR NATH BHANDARI NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF MADRAS HIGH COURT**

- According to the Law Ministry, Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed

Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

- Justice Bhandari had taken over as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after the transfer of Justice Sanjib Banerjee to the Meghalaya High Court in November last year.
- The Law Ministry also notified the appointment of a total of 13 advocates and three judicial officers as judges of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh High Courts.

### **ILKER AYCI**

The Tata Group Monday announced the appointment of former Turkish Airlines Chairman Ilker Ayci as the Managing Director and CEO of Air India, which it took over from the government last month



#### **About:**

- Ilker Ayci was chairman of Turkish Airlines since 2015, and his resignation from the post was announced by the airline on January 27 this year — the same day the Centre handed over Air India to the Tatas.
- Ayci was born in Istanbul in 1971. During his professional career, Ayci has been an advisor to the then Mayor of Istanbul, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Erdoğan is currently the President of Turkey.

### **DEBASHIS MITRA TAKES OVER AS PRESIDENT OF ICAI**

- Debashis Mitra has been elected as the President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of

India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23.

- Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years. Apart from being a Chartered Accountant, he is also a Cost Accountant and a Company Secretary.
- He holds a master's degree in commerce and is also a law graduate as well as a qualified Information Systems Auditor.

### **G ASHOK KUMAR NAMED AS INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY COORDINATOR**

- Retired Vice Admiral, G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as India's first national maritime security coordinator by the government.
- The government of India has taken the decisive move to ensure reliability on security and its objective to strengthen the country's maritime security.
- The appointment of G Ashok Kumar, who is a former Navy vice chief, is seen as part of India's consistent efforts to bolster its maritime security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack 14 years back when a group of sea-borne terrorists struck at the heart of the country's financial capital.
- The NMSC (National Maritime Security Coordinator) will be working with coordination with the National Security Council Secretariat which is headed by NSA Ajit Doval.
- The main task will be given to NMSC to make coordination among the Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, security agencies those tangled in coastal and maritime security and 13 coastal states and Union Territories.

### **INDIAN BUSINESSES RANK 5TH IN THEIR CONCERN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

- As per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact', Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change.
- According to the report, 80 per cent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change compared with just 53 per cent eight months ago.

Significance of the Report:

- The report examines business leaders' and companies' concerns and actions related to climate change and sustainability.
- The report also explores the disconnect between

company ambition and impact, as well as steps CxOs can take to start to bridge the gap

### **SANJEEV SANYAL NAMED FULL-TIME MEMBER OF ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PM**

- Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor, Sanjeev Sanyal has been inducted as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), the panel's chairman Bibek Debroy announced.
- The appointment is for a tenure of two years. He had advised the finance ministry to devise economic policies during the pandemic.
- The EAC-PM is an independent body constituted by the Union government to advise the prime minister on economic matters.

### **27<sup>TH</sup> CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF: M M NARAVANE**

- In April, 2022, General Manoj Mukund Naravane will be retiring from the post of 27th chief of the Indian Army.
- General M M Naravane will be leaving behind a strong legacy that would be clear only with time.
- He worked as an Army Chief without any showoff or publicity, even though he was directly responsible for many important strategic decisions and tactics that will be changing the shape of the Army's outlook in the coming years.

### **MADHABI PURI BUCH NAMED AS FIRST WOMAN CHIEF OF SEBI**

- 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. She has over three decades of experience in the financial markets and was SEBI whole-time member (WTM) between April 5, 2017, and October 4, 2021.
- During her tenure at SEBI, she handled portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management.

#### **About the Madhabi Puri Buch**

- Buch is an alumna of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad and has a graduate degree in mathematics from St Stephen's College, New Delhi.



- She has nearly three decades of financial market experience.
- She started her career in 1989 with ICICI Bank where she worked in corporate finance, branding, treasury and loans, before moving to ICICI Securities.
- She was also a consultant to the New Development Bank, set up by the BRICS bloc of nations.

### **CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD ON CULTURE (CABC)**

The Ministry of Culture has appointed Sudha Ragnathan as a member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC).



#### **About:**

- The members will provide policy advice to the Culture Ministry on developing programmes which would focus on creativity at different levels in various regions.
- The members of the board aid in having a participative process of decision making and give an integrated view of the different ideas and interests from various domains of culture.
- From advising the Ministry on policies to giving inputs on the development of new need-based cultural programmes, the members will provide guidance on the work of the Ministry's national missions.
- The Board would be meeting once a quarter and presided by the Minister for Culture.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 46<sup>th</sup> Raising Day 2022

- Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on 01 Feb 2022. As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations in the Maritime Zones of India.
- The ICG was formally established on February 1, 1977, by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- From a modest beginning with just 07 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.
- One of the primary duties of the Indian Coast Guard is prevention of smuggling through maritime routes in its area of responsibility. In the last one year, it has seized drugs and contraband worth nearly four thousand crore rupees.

### NPCI ANNOUNCES UPI SAFETY AND AWARENESS WEEK

NPCI and the UPI ecosystem will observe February 1-7 as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Week' and the whole of February as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Month'.



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

Awareness Week' and the whole of February as 'UPI Safety and Awareness Month'.

- Under this programme, NPCI urges all the customers to follow the concept of UPI Safety Shield, which the company has derived to educate customers all about UPI payments.
- The UPI Safety and Awareness initiative will help vulnerable and first-time customers in overcoming their fears of adopting digital payments and guide them to pursue safe payments on the UPI platform.

### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN FOUNDATION DAY

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has addressed 30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022,
- The event was organised to celebrate the achievements of women in different fields. The theme of the programme was 'She The Change Maker'.

#### National Commission for Women (NCW):

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India.
- NCW was set up on 31 January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- Its basic objective is to advise the government on all policy matters affecting women. The incumbent Chairperson of NCW is Rekha Sharma since 30 November 2018.
- Its first head was Jayanti Patnaik.

### WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Union Minister for Environment, Bhupender Yadav, addressed the national level celebration of World Wetlands day 2022 held at Sultanpur National Park, a Ramsar site of Haryana.





## About

- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2nd all over the world.
- It is celebrated to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.
- This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.
- This year's theme of World Wetlands Day is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature", which highlights the importance of actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for humans and planetary health.

## New Ramsar sites

- Two new Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance), Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in U.P were also announced on the occasion by Shri Yadav.
- India now has a network of 49 Ramsar sites covering an area of 10,93,636 hectares, the highest in South Asia. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in UP provides a safe wintering and staging ground for a large number of species of the Central Asian Flyway.
- Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is a coastal wetland with rich avifaunal diversity providing a safe habitat to endangered and vulnerable species.

## National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas

- On the occasion, "National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas" prepared by the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad was also released highlighting the changes which have happened in Wetlands across the country in the past decade.
- The original Atlas was released by SAC in 2011 and has over the years been used extensively by all the State Governments also in their planning processes.

## WORLD CANCER DAY

World Cancer Day is observed every year globally on 4th February by the Union for International Cancer Control.



- World Cancer Day is observed every year globally on 4th February by the Union for International Cancer Control.
- By raising worldwide awareness, improving education and catalysing personal, collective and government action, we are all working together to reimagine a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved and access to life-saving cancer treatment and care is equitable for all – no matter who you are or where you live.
- So this year's World Cancer Day's theme, "Close the Care Gap", is all about raising awareness of this equity gap that affects almost everyone, in high as well as low- and middle-income countries, and is costing lives.

## History of the day:

- The day came into existence on February 4, 2000, during the World Cancer Conference for the New Millennium in Paris, France.
- Every year since then, people across the world observe World Cancer Day with a different theme to improve the quality of lives of cancer patients and to continue spread awareness on cancer, its prevention and treatment.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY

- The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on 4th February.
- The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance; and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- It also aims to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021.
- The Day is a part of the 'World Interfaith Harmony Week', observed during the first week of February, as proclaimed by UN General Assembly in 2010.

## WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK: 1-7 FEBRUARY

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February (1-7 February), after General Assembly designation in 2010

## About

- World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), was conceived to promote cultural peace and nonviolence. The World Interfaith Harmony Week is based on the pioneering work of The Common Word initiative.
- This initiative, which started in 2007, called for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in a dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments; Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour, without nevertheless compromising any of their own religious tenets.
- The Two commandments are at the heart of the three Monotheistic religions and therefore provide the most solid theological ground possible.

## History of the week:

- World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), conceived to promote culture, peace and nonviolence, was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2022



- Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked.
- This year February 8 is being celebrated as Safer Internet Day across the world.

## The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day:

- This year, the occasion is being marked under the theme 'Together for a better internet', calling upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

## History of the day:

- Safer Internet Day started as an initiative of the European Union's (EU's) SafeBorders project in 2004 and was taken up by the Insafe network as one of its earliest actions in 2005, according

to its website.

- It is now celebrated in nearly 200 countries across the world. From cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK 2022: FEBRUARY 14-18

- The Reserve Bank of India will observe February 14-18, 2022 as Financial Literacy week 2022.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
- Banks have been advised to disseminate the information and create awareness among its customers and the general public.

## This year theme:

- The theme of Financial Literacy week 2022 is: "Go Digital, Go Secure".
- The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.
- The focus of Financial Literacy Week this year will be on the following three topics with a view to ensure safe and secure Digital Transactions:
  - The convenience of digital transactions
  - Security / feel secure and no fear for digital transactions
  - Protection to customers

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is observed on 6th February globally.
- This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation.

## About the Female genital mutilation:

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.



- Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine, as well as long-term consequences for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: 11 FEBRUARY**

- The 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, taking place on 11 February 2022, aims to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change, including in view of accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
- The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.
- The 2022 theme of the Day is “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us”.

### **History of the day:**

- In 2016 is the first time it was celebrated. The idea behind this day is to ensure equal participation and involvement of women and girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

## **WORLD PULSES DAY 2022: OBSERVED ON 10 FEBRUARY**



- The United Nations designated World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February.
- The day has been established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.
- This year World Pulses Day's theme: “Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems”.
- The celebration of the year, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), increased the public awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses

as part of sustainable food production.

### **What are pulses?**

- Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for food. Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.

## **NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY DAY OBSERVED ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2022**

- National Productivity Day is observed every year in India on February 12. The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country. The main observance of the day is to encourage all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.
- The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productivity culture in India. National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India is a premier institution for propagating productivity movement in India. NPC works for providing solutions towards accelerating productivity, enhancing competitiveness, increasing productivity.

### **NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY 2022**

- National Deworming Day is observed on February 10, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children from 1 to 19 years of age.
- The Day was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015. The main aim of the Day is to raise awareness on intestinal worms and to attain complete eradication of Soil-Transmitted Helminths in children. Around 24% of the world's population is infected with soil-transmitted helminths (worms).

## **NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF INDIA 2022: OBSERVED EVERY YEAR ON 13 FEB**

- Indian National Women's Day is observed every year on 13 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- This year Nation celebrates its 143rd Birth Anniversary.

- She was born on February 13, 1879. She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems.
- Sarojini Naidu is well-known across the globe for her contributions to literature.

#### About Sarojini Naidu:

- Sarojini Naidu, born in Hyderabad and educated in Cambridge was the powerful face of Women in the Indian Independence struggle.
- Anti-imperialistic, Universal Suffragist, Women rights activist Mrs. Naidu paved the path for women's movements in India.
- Indian Nightingale Sarojini Naidu shines both as an activist and as a poet.
- In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the president of the Indian National Congress.
- Sarojini Naidu was one of the forefront leaders who led the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.
- When she graces the United Provinces as Governor in 1947, she rewrites the history by becoming the first woman to hold the office of Governor in the Dominion of India.
- For Women's Rights, suffrage and representation in organizations and assemblies she established the Women's India Association in 1917.

#### WORLD RADIO DAY 2022 CELEBRATED ON 13 FEBRUARY

- World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- The day was Proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day, February 13 became World Radio Day (WRD)

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER DAY 2022

Every year, February 15 is observed as International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) to raise awareness about the evil that entails this issue and the ways to deal with the same.



- The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.
- The most common types of childhood cancers include leukemias, brain cancer, lymphomas, solid tumours, such as neuroblastoma, Wilms tumour and bone tumours.
- The day promotes increased appreciation and deeper understanding of issues and challenges relevant to childhood cancer and impacting on children/adolescents with cancer, the survivors, their families and the society as a whole.
- It also spotlights the need for more equitable and better access to treatment and care for all children with cancer, everywhere.

#### History of the day:

- This annual event was created in 2002 by Childhood Cancer International, a global network of 176 parent organizations, childhood cancer survivor associations, childhood cancer support groups, and cancer societies, in over 93 countries, across 5 continents.

#### FICCI CASCADE LAUNCHES 'ANTI-SMUGGLING DAY' 2022

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

#### SIGNIFICANCE

- Anti-Smuggling Day will gather momentum and bring together policymakers, international institutions, enforcement agencies, industry members, media, and consumers for their commitment to take action to fight against the global menace of smuggling.
- 'Anti-Smuggling Day' will represent a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling.
- With no country immune to the impact of smuggling and no single sector can be said to be an exception, this day will highlight the mounting hazard of smuggling. It will not only call for attention for creating awareness on this issue, but will also evaluate what more needs to be done at a national and international level in mitigating this challenge.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;



- FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta;
- FICCI Secretary General: Arun Chawla.

## INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY DAY 2022: FEBRUARY 14



#EPILEPSYDAY

## International Epilepsy Day

Second Monday in February

- International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on the Second Monday of February across the world. In 2022, International Epilepsy Day falls on February 14, 2022.
- International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.
- The day is organised jointly by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) to raise awareness about epilepsy and highlight the kinds of problems faced by victims, their friends and family.
- Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that makes a person go through sudden and recurrent episodes of sensory disturbances.

## 7TH SOIL HEALTH CARD DAY



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

### About the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:

- The card would provide details about the

nutritional deficiencies in the soil so that the farmers can supplement the soil with suitable fertilizers and increase the yields.

- The scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country.
- It provides information to farmers on the nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on the appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

## WORLD PANGOLIN DAY 2022



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

### Some facts about Pangolin:

- Pangolins are the only mammal to be covered in scales.
- To protect themselves, they curl into balls like hedgehogs.
- Their name comes from the Malay word ‘pengguling’ meaning ‘something that rolls up’.
- They are the most smuggled mammal in the world because people want their meat and scales.
- A pangolin’s tongue can be longer than its body when fully extended is can be 40 cm long!

## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



- World Day of Social Justice is celebrated annually all over the world on 20 February.
- The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.
- World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment.

### History of the Days:

- The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008.
- This is the third major statement of principles and policies adopted by the International Labour Conference since the ILO's Constitution of 1919.
- It builds on the Philadelphia Declaration of 1944 and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998.
- The 2008 Declaration expresses the contemporary vision of the ILO's mandate in the era of globalization.

### VIGYAN SARVATRA PUJYATE

As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, The Government of India is holding a week-long commemoration titled Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate from February 22 to 28 simultaneously in 75 locations across the length and breadth of the country.



### About:

- As a feather in the cap, a science & technology mega expo, National Science Book Fair are being held in New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru stadium.
- This event is jointly organised by Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, CSIR, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Indian Council of Medical Research, AICTE and DRDO under the leadership of the office of the Principal Scientific Officer to the Government of India and the Ministry of Culture.

- Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization of DST with a mandate to promote science communication in the country, is the coordinating agency.
- The programmes have been grouped under four themes.
- The first theme is 'from the annals of the history of S&T'.
- The second theme is, 'Milestones of Modern S&T'.
- The third theme is 'Swadeshi Paramparik Inventions and Innovations'.
- The fourth theme is 'transforming India'.

### WORLD THINKING DAY OBSERVED ON 22ND FEBRUARY



- World Thinking Day, originally known as Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide.
- The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future

### WORLD NGO DAY 2022: 27TH JANUARY



- World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27th February in several countries across the world. Non-Governmental Organizations or NGOs work in the upliftment of society.



- It is an international day to recognise, celebrate and honour non-government and non-profit organisations and also those who contribute their time and efforts in making society a better place to live in.

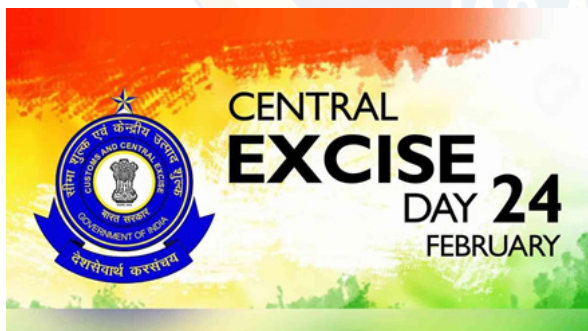
#### Aim of the day:

- World NGO Day aims to create awareness about the sector and encourage people across the world who work in the sector for a good cause.
- One interesting fact about World NGO Day is that the Government of each country, appreciate these people working selflessly in their official state languages.

#### WORLD NGO DAY: HISTORY

- The Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic Sea State officially recognised this day on April 27, 2010.
- It was adopted in the forum's Final Statement Resolution two years later. In 2014, February 27 was declared as World NGO Day and it became a historic day for the NGO community across the globe.
- An international calendar day, which is now known as 'World NGO Day,' was inaugurated for the first time on this day.
- The Baltic Sea NGO Forum have member countries like Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway and Sweden. Overall, World NGO Day is observed in around 89 countries and 6 continents.

#### CENTRAL EXCISE DAY 2022



- Central Excise Day, which is observed on February 24 commemorates the Central Excise and Salt Act which was enacted on 24th February 1944.
- This annual event is celebrated to highlight the essential role played by the Central Excise Department in the industrial development of the country.
- The purpose of celebrating the day is to inform the common public of the country about the

importance of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

- Several events are organized by the central board on this day, which includes seminars, workshops, educational and cultural programmes, awareness programmes, competitions, and award ceremonies.

#### Note

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is a branch of the Department of Revenue which lies under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Work done by it is the calculations of policy related levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise duties, CGST and IGST, prevention of smuggling and administration of matters relating the above mentioned subjects, and Narcotics to the extent under CBIC's purview.
- The subordinate organisations of the Board are the administrative authority and consists of Custom Houses, Central Excise and Central GST Commissionerate, and the Central Revenues Control Laboratory.

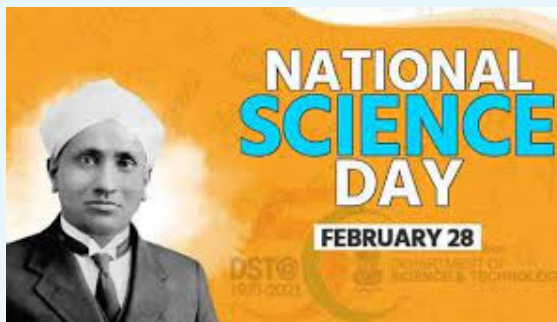
#### POLIO NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

- In 2022, the Government of India has organised the Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) (also known as "Polio Ravivar") on February 27, 2022, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five.
- Over 15 crore children will be covered under the drive across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.
- The National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022 was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandavia on February 26, 2022.

#### Polio history in India:

- In India, one nationwide NID and two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNIDs) for polio is held every year to maintain population immunity against wild poliovirus and to sustain its polio-free status.
- India was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries in 2012 and in 2013 the entire Southeast Asia Region was declared Polio free.
- The last case of wild poliovirus reported in India was on 13th January 2011.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2022: 28 FEBRUARY



- The National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people.
- On this day, Sir CV Raman had announced the discovery of the Raman Effect for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- The government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.
- The National Science Day theme for 2022: 'Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future'. The day also commemorates the discovery of the Raman effect.

### Significance of the day:

- National Science Day is celebrated to raise awareness on the importance of science.
- Educational institutions celebrate National Science Day by organising public speeches, radio, TV, science movies, science exhibitions on themes and concepts, debates, quiz competitions, lectures and science model exhibitions.
- Here are nine lesser-known facts about Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman:
  - CV Raman, a gifted child, was born in 1888 in Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchi, and completed his schooling in Visakhapatnam before enrolling in The Presidency College, which was part of the University of Madras, for a B.A. programme in 1903 when he was just 14 years old.
  - While working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Kolkata, physicist CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect.
  - On February 28, 1928, Indian Scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect.'
- CV Raman received the coveted Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery.

- To honour the renowned scientist, India has commemorated this day as National Science Day since 1987.
- In 1954, CV Raman was awarded the Bharat Ratna, which is the highest civilian honour in India.
- CV Raman was an expert in the field of light scattering and was always engaged in research.
- Professor Raman was a top student for most of his academic career, and he went on to make significant contributions to the fields of acoustics and optics.
- CV Raman was also a remarkable teacher, and in 1917 he was named the first Palit Professor of Physics at the Rajabazar Science College.

## Rare Disease Day observed on 28 February 2022



- The Rare Disease Day (RDD) is observed every year on the last day of February.
- This year in 2022 it falls on February 28, 2022. The day is observed to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families. Rare Disease Day was first launched by European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) and its Council of National Alliances in 2008.

## The Rare Disease Day theme 2022: "Share Your Colors."

### History of the day:

- The first Rare Disease Day was coordinated by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) and held on February 29, 2008 in numerous European nations and in Canada through the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders. The date was chosen because February 29 is a "rare day."





### **XIOMARA CASTRO SWORN IN AS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS**

- In Honduras, the Freedom and Refoundation Party (Libre) member Xiomara Castro has been sworn in as the first female President of the country.
  - Honduras Capital: Tegucigalpa
  - Currency: Honduran lempira
  - Continent: North America

### **DUBAI WILL LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED FLYING BOAT 'THE JET'**

- Dubai firm, THE JET ZeroEmission announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat 'THE JET' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- 'THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots and also has a capacity of carrying 8-12 passengers.

### **GLOBAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

- The Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy was recently launched at IIT Dharwad.
- The center will enhance the research in affordable and clean energy.
- The center will create, incubate technologies, physical infrastructure.
- Also, it will create clean energy solutions. The solutions will target the livelihoods of rural communities.

### **TORGYA FESTIVAL**

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

which marks a special occasion as every 3rd year, the festival is organized on a broader level with the name Dungyur Festival during which Dalai Lama offers blessings (also known as Tse-Boom) to other lamas by sending Feb Jum which is a holy item to be used in rituals.

### **SPITUK GUSTOR FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN LADAKH 2022**

- Spituk Gustor Festival, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated.
- Spituk Gustor Festival, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on 30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory.
- To witness the colourful festivities, devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colourful mask dance locally called "Chams".
- Spituk monastery is 8 km from Leh. It is a celebration of peace and prosperity that is celebrated at the Spituk Monastery in Leh and Ladakh UT.

### **KANCHOTH FESTIVAL**



- It is celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir
- The ancient festival of Kanchoth is annually celebrated, mainly by the Nag followers, during the Shukla Paksha of Magh month which usually falls in January or February.
- The festival is celebrated with religious fervour across the Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- Kanchoth or Gauri Tritiya is widely celebrated in hilly Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda of Jammu province.

- The festival is celebrated across Bhaderwah (also known as mini-Kashmir), Kotli, Mathola, Ghata, Khakhal, Gupt Ganga, Chinnote, Kapra, Bhalra, Bheja, Chinchora and other regions.

### **SOURAV GANGULY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST CRICKET STADIUM**

- Currently, Narendra Modi Stadium (former Motera Stadium) in Ahmedabad is the world's largest stadium with a capacity of 132,000 spectators.
- The second-largest stadium is Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) which has a capacity of 1,00,024 spectators.

### **SWARAJABILITY: INDIA'S FIRST AI-BASED JOB PLATFORM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs.
- The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible.
- A platform that addressed this challenge would help this vulnerable section of the population.

### **CHINTAMANI PADYA NATAKAM**

Earlier this year, the Andhra Pradesh government banned a 100-year-old play named 'Chintamani Padya Natakam'.



#### **What is Chintamani Natakam?**

- 'Chintamani Padya Natakam' was written in 1920 by playwright Kallakuri Narayana Rao, who was also a social reformer.
- The play is about Chintamani, a courtesan and a devotee of Lord Krishna, who finds salvation by singing bhajans.
- She is courted by Subbi Shetty, a businessman from the Arya Vysya community, who loses his wealth and family due to his attraction to Chintamani.

### **Objection**

- The original play had a social message, but over the years, it has been modified purely for entertainment.
- Much of the play sees central character Subbi Shetty made fun of, especially for losing all his wealth to his vices.
- The Arya Vysya community has been petitioning governments for several years to ban the play, saying it portrays them in a negative light. The play is exhibited across the state, mainly in rural areas, during festivals and fairs.
- After reviewing the contents of the play, the state government had banned it on January 17 this year.

### **J&K BECAME FIRST UNION TERRITORY TO BE INTEGRATED WITH NSWS**

- Jammu & Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to integrate with the National Single Window System (NSWS) which marks a major leap in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in the UT.
- NSWS is linked with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K that will help Investors to discover available land parcels in J&K.

### **SURAT TO GET INDIA'S 1ST BULLET TRAIN STATION**

- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will be India's first bullet train route.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.
- The cost of the project is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore of which Rs 88,000 crores will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### **INSTAGRAM ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO 'TAKE A BREAK' FROM SOCIAL MEDIA**

- This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with 'We The Young', called 'Break Zaroori Hai'. 'Take a Break' was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.

#### **What is 'Take a Break'?**

- 'Take a Break' is a feature that will show up for people, as they have been scrolling for a certain amount of time.



- They will be asked to take a break from Instagram and suggest that they set reminders to take more breaks in the future.
- They will also be shown expert-backed tips to help them reflect and reset.
- To make sure that young people are aware of this feature, they will be shown notifications suggesting they turn these reminders on.
- The 'Take a Break' reminders build on Instagram's existing time management tools including Daily Limit, which lets people know when they've reached the total amount of time they want to spend on Instagram each day, and offers the ability to mute notifications from Instagram

### INDIA'S FIRST BIOMASS-BASED HYDROGEN PLANT TO COME UP AT MADHYA PRADESH

- Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.
- The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs 24 crore.

### FM SITHARAMAN LAUNCHES FIRST COLOUR SOUVENIR COIN ON 'PANCHTANTRA

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' on the occasion of the 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).

### MARU MAHOTSAV OR JAISALMER DESERT FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN RAJASTHAN

- The renowned Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City started from 13 to 16 February 2022 at Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- It is a four-day-long annual event started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions. Regional folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair will be performed.

### CBI FINDS INDIA'S BIGGEST BANK FRAUD OF RS 22,842 CR, BOOKS ABG SHIPYARD

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

- The case pertained to funds gotten and misused during the 2012-17 period. Rishi Agarwal, the then CMD of ABG Shipyard has been named in the FIR.

### HOW TO PREVENT THE NEXT PANDEMIC' BY BILL GATES

- A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' has authored by Bill Gates will be published this year in May 2022.
- In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world.
- His last book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need", was released in February 2021.
- The book, to be published by Penguin Random House internationally and Knopf in the US.

### WATER TAXI SERVICE IN MUMBAI

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways virtually flagged off the 'Most Awaited' Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty.



#### About:

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Udhav Thackeray presided over the on-ground function where he inaugurated the newly constructed Belapur Jetty. The Water Taxi service will connect the twin cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai for the first time.
- The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT. The service promises a comfortable, stress-free journey, is time-saving and promotes eco-friendly transport.
- The Water Taxi services are going to give huge impetus to the tourism sector, especially travel to the historic Elephanta caves from Navi Mumbai.
- The newly constructed Belapur jetty, built at

a cost of Rs. 8.37 crore was funded in the 50-50 model under the Sagarmala scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

### **KERALA'S FIRST CARAVAN PARK TO COME UP IN VAGAMON**

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

### **JPMORGAN BECOMES FIRST BANK TO ENTER THE METAVERSE**

- JPMorgan has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse.
- The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened 'Onyx Lounge' after its suit of Ethereum-based services. The lounge also features a digital image of the bank's CEO Jamie Dimon.

#### **What is Metaverse?**

- Metaverse is a virtual universe where users can do multiple activities like socialising, shopping or even attending events through their avatar.
- Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) headsets are becoming more pocket-friendly, and both technologies have together contributed to a significantly enhanced user experience.

### **INDIAN RAILWAYS GIVES GLIMPSE OF INDIA'S 1ST CABLE STAYED RAIL BRIDGE IN J&K**

- The Indian Railways has shared new images of the country's first cable-stayed bridge on the Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.
- The under-construction Anji Khad bridge, part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, will connect Katra and Reasi areas through rail links.
- The bridge will stand at a height of 331 metres above the river bed – higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The total length of the bridge is

473.25 metres and it is supported by 96 cables

#### **About the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project:**

- The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link is deemed to be one of the most difficult projects undertaken in the Indian subcontinent.
- The bridge has been designed to withstand storms and strong winds. Given the complex geology of the high-altitude region, constructing the bridge is very challenging.
- The Railways has divided the 272-km rail link into three subsections.

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH GETS 1ST BIODIVERSITY PARK AT MANDI**

- Himachal Pradesh gets the first biodiversity park to make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered Himalayan herbs.
- This park is set to come up at Mandi's Bhulah valley.
- With the cost of Rs 1 crore, the biodiversity park is set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP's forest department.
- The aim of the park is to link tourism activities along with extending new opportunities for researchers to conduct in-depth exploration of various medicinal herbs found in the Himalayas that are on the verge of extinction.

### **MADHYA PRADESH: 48TH KHAJURAHO DANCE FESTIVAL BEGINS**



- Madhya Pradesh Governor, Mangu Bhai Patel has inaugurated the 48th 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022' at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The event will be organized till 26 February.
- This year a 5-km 'Dil Khel Ke Ghoomo' marathon was also organized under the banner of 'Safe Tourism Project for Women' at the event.
- It aims to create a sense of security among



women in tourist destinations with the slogan 'Hindustan Ke Dil Mein Aap Safe Hain'.

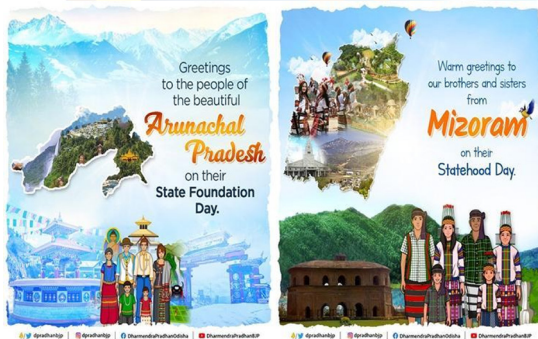
### History of the festival:

- The Khajuraho dance festival was started in 1975 from the temple premises itself.
- It was not allowed to be performed in the temple premises only after two-three years, as a result, this ceremony was performed outside the temple premises.
- Last year, the Culture Department's effort to organize this program in the temple premises was successful and this year also this function is being done in the temple premises itself.

### INDIA'S FIRST BIOSAFETY LEVEL-3 MOBILE LABORATORY INAUGURATED IN MAHARASHTRA

- The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR. The newly launched lab will be able to access remote and forested areas of the country, to investigate outbreaks using samples from humans and animal sources.

### MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH FOUNDATION DAY: 20 FEBRUARY



- Northern States Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have celebrated their Foundation Day on February 20, since 1987.
- Arunachal Pradesh is the extreme northern part of the country, which is also known as the 'land of the rising sun'.
- The state at the edge of the Himalayas is proud to be called the land of dawn and lit mountains. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India.
- Mizoram was declared as a separate UT in 1972 under the Northeast Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971. It became the 23rd state of India after the 53rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution, 1986.
- Mizoram, as well as the state of Arunachal

Pradesh, came into existence on 20 February 1987.

### BIHAR'S SAKIBUL GANI BECAME 1ST PLAYER TO HIT TRIPLE TON ON FIRST-CLASS DEBUT

- Bihar's Sakibul Gani become the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his first-class debut.
- He scored 341 off 405 balls, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground, Jadavpur, Bengal.
- Gani has played List A cricket before this, scoring 377 runs from 14 matches including a century. In 11 domestic T20s, he has made 192 runs.

### HILAL-E-PAKISTAN

- Microsoft founder and philanthropist, Bill Gates has been conferred with Hilal-e-Pakistan
- Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also visited the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) that oversees efforts to curb Covid-19.

### IIT ROORKEE LAUNCHED 'KISAN' MOBILE APP IN UTTARAKHAND

- The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee has organized a regional farmers' awareness programme as part of the 'Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa' (GKMS) project and launched KISAN mobile application for the farmers.
- The app will provide agro-meteorological services to the farmers. Farmers from Haridwar, Dehradun, and Pauri Garhwal districts participated in the program.

### CHAMBA DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH BECOMES 100TH 'HAR GHAR JAL' DISTRICT

- Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved the significant milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts across the country.
- Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh, has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' district, the fifth aspirational district to be covered under the initiative.
- The other four Har Ghar Jal Aspirational districts are Bhadrachal Kothgudem, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli, Komram Bheem Asifabad (all in Telangana) and Mewat in Haryana.
- To translate Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi's vision of providing clean tap water to every home in the country by 2024, in a short span of two and half years and despite COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown disruptions, Jal Jeevan Mission, has provided tap water supply to more than 5.78 Crore rural households.

- As a result, today 100 districts in the country are enjoying the benefits of clean tap water supply and Jal Jeevan Mission is on track to fulfil the Government's resolve to provide tap water supply to every rural household by 2024.

### **INDIA TO SET UP ITS FIRST IIT OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY IN UAE**

- The Indian Institute of Technology will establish its first branch outside India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the India-UAE trade deal signed.
- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.
- The two nations will also set up an India-UAE cultural council to facilitate and promote cultural projects, cross-cultural exchanges and exhibitions.

### **DELHI CABINET APPROVED INDIA'S FIRST' E-WASTE ECO-PARK**

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved setting up India's first of its kind electronic-waste eco-park. It has also agreed to devise 'Delhi Film Policy 2022', as a thrust to promote tourism.
- The electronic waste eco-friendly park is to be built on 20 acres of land in Delhi.
- Nearly, 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste are thrown by Delhi every year.
- This eco-park will recycle, refurbish and dismantle e-waste in a scientific and safe way.

### **COCHIN AIRPORT TO BECOME POWER-POSITIVE WITH NEW SOLAR PLANT**

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is set to commission a 12 MWp solar power plant on March 6 near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala. With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport.
- In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy.

- The power plant boasts of 12 megawatt capacity on a 35-acre land where CIAL introduced a concept of terrain-based installation where the geographical characteristics of the area are retained and no changes are made in the gradient of the land.

**About the power plant:**



1) **Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 1st February
- b) 2nd February
- c) 3rd February
- d) 4th February
- e) Answer not known

2) **consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India.
- 2) NCW was set up on 31 January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

3) **Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) medical teleconsultation service for all entitled armed forces personnel and their families (SeHAT scheme) is implemented by**

- a) Ministry of Defence
- b) Ministry of Home affairs
- c) Ministry of health
- d) Ministry of finance
- e) Answer not known

4) \_\_\_\_\_ as a concept aims to promote a local product from each stop of the Indian Railways by making the railway station of that area a promotional and sales hub for the product

- a) One district one product
- b) One station-one product
- c) One state one product
- d) One village one product
- e) Answer not known

5) **Consider the following statement**

- 1) CBDC is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
- 2) It is not similar to a fiat currency issued in paper and is non interchangeable with any other fiat currency

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

6) **World Wetlands Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world.**

- a) 1st February
- b) 2nd February
- c) 3rd February
- d) 4th February
- e) Answer not known

7) **Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is a new Ramsar site located in which state?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Haryana
- e) Answer not known

**8) Identify the personality associated with the statement**

- 1) He was born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu
- 2) He revived the Bhakti movement, and his preachings inspired other Bhakti schools of thought.
- 3) His greatest contribution is the propagation of the concept of “vasudhaiva kutumbakam”, which translates as “all the universe is one family

Choose the correct answer

- a) Adi Shankaracharya
- b) Ramanuja
- c) Kabir
- d) Guru nanak dev
- e) Answer not known

**9) Consider the following statement**

- 1) National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) has implemented the monetization of the land and other non-core assets.
- 2) It is being set up as a 100 per cent Government of India owned entity.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**10) World's first Hydrogen-powered Flying Boat 'The Jet' will be launched in**

- a) Maldives
- b) Dubai
- c) New york
- d) Beijing
- e) Answer not known

**11) Torgya Festival is celebrated at**

- a) Assam
- b) Manipur
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Tripura
- e) Answer not known

**12) India's first geological park will be built in\_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Assam
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Odisha
- e) Answer not known

**13) Identify the scheme associated with the following statement**

- 1) The scheme will boost the growth of the food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
- 2) This is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the ministry like Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities and Operation Green

Which of the following is/are correct answer?

- a) Pradhan mantri kisan sinchai yojana
- b) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- c) Pradhan mantri awas Yojana
- d) Pradhan mantri gram sadak Yojana
- e) Answer not known

**14) Financial Literacy week 2022 is observed between**

- a) February 14-18
- b) February 13-17



- c) February 15-19
- d) February 14-19
- e) Answer not known

**15) ZyCoV-D in news**

- a) It is the new covid test kit
- b) World's first plasmid DNA vaccine
- c) New drug developed for treating Covid 19
- d) New corona variant
- e) Answer not known

**16) International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat) Is Located in**

- a) Pune
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Chennai
- d) Tiruchirapalli
- e) Answer not known

**17) World Cancer Day is observed on**

- a) February 1
- b) February 2
- c) February 3
- d) February 4
- e) Answer not known

**18) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched in 2017, provides ₹5,000 for the birth of the first child to partially compensate a woman for loss of wages.
- 2) It also aims to improve the nutritional well-being of the mother and the child.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

மேற்கண்ட கூற்றுகளில் சரியான கூற்றினை தேர்வு செய்க

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

**19) World oil outlook report is released by**

- a) WTO
- b) World bank
- c) Oil and petroleum exporting countries
- d) United Nations organization
- e) Answer not known

**20) Madhvacharya was a Hindu philosopher and the chief proponent of the \_\_\_\_\_ school of Vedanta.**

- a) Advaita
- b) Vishishtadvaita
- c) Dvaita
- d) Ajivika
- e) Answer not known

**21) International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed on**

- a) February 10
- b) February 11
- c) February 12
- d) February 13
- e) Answer not known

**22) India has ranked \_\_\_\_\_ position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking**

- a) 42nd
- b) 43rd
- c) 45th
- d) 46th
- e) Answer not known

**23) Indian National Women's Day is observed every year on 13 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) Mother Teresa
- b) Savitri bhai phule
- c) Sarojini Naidu
- d) Rani lakshmi bai
- e) Answer not known

**24) consider the Statement regarding Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**

- 1) This scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for DNT/NT/SNT candidates

- to enable them to appear in competitive examinations.
- 2) To provide health insurance and financial assistance to DNT/NT/SNT Communities.

Which of the above statements is/ are incorrect?

- a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2 are correct  
d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct  
e) Answer not known

**25) A program on Renewable Energy namely "New Frontiers" is launched by**

- a) Ministry of coal  
b) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy  
c) Ministry of finance  
d) Ministry of education  
e) Answer not known

**26) Consider the following statement regarding PSLV-C52 mission .**

- 1) It positioned satellites in a Sun synchronous polar orbit  
2) PSLV C52 placed an EOS-04 radar imaging satellite weighing 1710 kgs into orbit.

Which of the following statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2 are correct  
d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct  
e) Answer not known

**27) Medaram Jatara is celebrated by**

- a) Kurumba tribes  
b) Koya tribes  
c) Irulas tribes  
d) Katnayakas tribes  
e) Answer not known

**28) Lassa fever is caused by**

- a) Bacteria  
b) Virus  
c) Fungi

- d) Protozoa  
e) Answer not known

**29) Which of the following Public sector companies were recently privatized by the Government of India?**

- a) BHEL  
b) GIC  
c) LIC  
d) SAIL  
e) Answer not known

**30) New Frontiers is a program that aims to**

- a) Free legal aid to the deprived sections தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட  
b) Promote Renewable Energy  
c) Promote girls education  
d) Promote afforestation  
e) Answer not known

**31) Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) is implemented by**

- a) Ministry of education  
b) Ministry of finance  
c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
d) Ministry of minorities affairs  
e) Answer not known

**32) World Sustainable Development Summit is conducted by**

- a) World Bank  
b) United Nations organization  
c) The Energy and Resources Institute  
d) United Nations development programme  
e) Answer not known

**33) In which of the following year India is going to replace diesel by renewable energy in agriculture**

- a) 2025  
b) 2024  
c) 2026  
d) 2030  
e) Answer not known



34) Which of the following states ranked first in the saubhagya scheme?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

35) Who has been appointed as the chief justice of the Madras High court?

- a) Ravindar
- b) Raghavan
- c) Munishwar Nath Bhandari
- d) Ravi Kumar
- e) Answer not known

36) Part XIV-A of the Indian constitution deals with இந்திய அரசியலமைப்பின் பகுதி XIV-A எவற்றைப் பற்றி விவரிக்கின்றது

- a) Election commission
- b) Administrative tribunal
- c) Panchayat Raj
- d) Municipality
- e) Answer not known

37) Gobardhan bioGas plant was inaugurated at

- a) Nagpur
- b) Indore
- c) Pune
- d) Nashik
- e) Answer not known

38) Consider the following statement

- 1) Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) by the Ministry of Education.
- 2) This scheme aims at providing strategic funding to secondary educational institutions throughout the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

39) Bent-toed gecko a new species was discovered at

- a) Eastern ghats
- b) Western ghats
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Jammu and Kashmir
- e) Answer not known

40) Identify the personality related to the following statement

- 1) He was a Tamil scholar and researcher who was instrumental in bringing many long-forgotten works of classical Tamil literature to light.
- 2) He is affectionately called Tamil Thatha

Which of the following is the correct answer?

- a) Subramaniya Bharathiar
- b) Subramaniya siva
- c) U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer
- d) V. O. Chidambaram
- e) Answer not known

41) 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session was held at

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Hyderabad
- e) Answer not known

42) Soil health card day is observed on

- a) 18th February
- b) 19th February
- c) 20th February
- d) 21 February
- e) Answer not known

43) Which of the following became the 1st country to deploy India's UPI platform ?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Maldives
- c) Myanmar
- d) Nepal
- e) Answer not known

44) Who among the following is the youngest player to beat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen ?

- a) Vishwanathan Anand
- b) R. Praggnanandhaa
- c) Geetha Narayanan Gopal
- d) Abhimanyu Puranik
- e) Answer not known

45) Eastern Bridge-VI is a bilateral exercise held between

- a) India and US
- b) India and UK
- c) India and Oman
- d) India and UAE
- e) Answer not known

46) Which of the following took the initiative to celebrate International mother language day ?

- a) India
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Myanmar
- d) Pakistan
- e) Answer not known

47) Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematician was awarded to

- a) Carolina araujo
- b) Neena Gupta
- c) Ritabrata Munshi
- d) Amalendu krishna
- e) Answer not known

48) Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) Financial Stability and Development Council was set up in 2010
- b) It is a statutory body
- c) Its objectives are to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability
- d) It is headed by Finance Minister
- e) Answer not known

49) Consider the following statement regarding Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

- 1) The National Health Authority

(NHA) will be the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

- 2) This will enable creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

50) National protein day is celebrated on

- a) 25th February
- b) 26th February
- c) 27 th February
- d) 28th February
- e) Answer not known

51) India' first geological park is located at

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andhrapradesh
- e) Answer not known

52) FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC) headed by

- a) Union Finance Minister
- b) Prime minister
- c) President
- d) RBI governor
- e) Answer not known

53) Sayed Haider Raza is famous for

- a) Painting
- b) Writer
- c) Actor
- d) Politician
- e) Answer not known

54) Bhasha Certificate Selfie is an initiative of

- a) Union Education ministry
- b) Union Home ministry



- c) Union Finance ministry
- d) Union Health Ministry
- e) Answer not known

55) 'Carnaval' festival is celebrated at

- a) Mizoram
- b) Goa
- c) Manipur
- d) Andhrapradesh
- e) Answer not known

### Answers:

|    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | a | 11 | c | 21 | b | 31 | c | 41 | b | 51 | b |
| 2  | c | 12 | c | 22 | d | 32 | c | 42 | b | 52 | a |
| 3  | a | 13 | b | 23 | c | 33 | b | 43 | d | 53 | a |
| 4  | b | 14 | a | 24 | d | 34 | c | 44 | b | 54 | a |
| 5  | a | 15 | b | 25 | b | 35 | c | 45 | c | 55 | b |
| 6  | a | 16 | b | 26 | c | 36 | b | 46 | b |    |   |
| 7  | b | 17 | d | 27 | b | 37 | b | 47 | b |    |   |
| 8  | b | 18 | c | 28 | b | 38 | a | 48 | b |    |   |
| 9  | c | 19 | c | 29 | c | 39 | c | 49 | c |    |   |
| 10 | b | 20 | c | 30 | b | 40 | c | 50 | c |    |   |