



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

TNPSC

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JANUARY 2022





SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS

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INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE PARK

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will lay foundation stone on January 11 for the country's first ever International Furniture Park, which is coming up on the outskirts of this town on 1,150 acres on an outlay of ₹1,000 crore.

About

- Thoothukudi, the country's third largest timber importer, imports logs from Myanmar, Australia, New Zealand and the African countries via VOC Port and sends the imported timber by road to the sawmills in various destinations.
- The proposed industrial complex will house a maximum of 100 furniture manufacturing units.

ESTABLISHING OF NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES ATTACHED WITH EXISTING DISTRICT/REFERRAL HOSPITAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 11 New Government Medical Colleges across Tamil Nadu on 12th January, 2022.

About

- The new medical colleges, with cumulative capacity of 1450 seats, are being established under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospital'.

- Under the scheme, medical colleges are established in districts, which do not have either a government or private medical college.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL TAMIL (CICT)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai

About

- The establishment of a new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Chennai is in line with the Prime Minister's vision to protect and preserve Indian heritage and promote classical languages.
- The new campus is fully funded by the Union Government and is built at a cost of Rs 24 Crore.
- CICT, which was operating from a rented building so far, will now operate from a new 3 storey campus.
- An autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Education, CICT is contributing to the promotion of classical Tamil by doing research activities so as to establish the ancientness and uniqueness of Tamil language.
- To promote classical Tamil and support its students, the Institute indulges in academic activities like holding seminars and training programmes, granting fellowship etc. It also aims to translate and publish 'Thirukkural' in various Indian as well as 100 foreign languages.

VINISHA UMASHANKAR

- Ms. Vinisha Umashankar, a student innovator turned environmentalist from Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu, has been selected as a “changemaker” and Batonbearer for the ongoing 16th official Queen’s Baton Relay (12-15 January 2022) in India.

About

Mobile ironing cart

- Vinisha Umashankar received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India, an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology for her mobile ironing cart.
- The cart uses solar panels to power a steam iron box and turned out to be an inspiration for the world after her speech at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2021 at Glasgow, Scotland.
- A key benefit of Vinisha’s solar ironing cart is that it eliminates the need for coal for ironing bringing about a welcome shift towards clean energy. End-users can move around and offer services at doorstep for increasing their daily earning.
- The ironing cart can also be fitted with a coin-operated GSM PCO, USB charging points, and mobile recharging, which can fetch extra income.
- India is committed towards solving the global climate change problem through Science, Technology, and Innovation based solutions.
- It’s the next generation of innovators like Vinisha who provide the nation a strong hope that “Tomorrow can be better

than today” by virtue of their scientific thinking, societal focus, and institutional support mechanism like the one offered by NIF in India, which could be replicated in other parts of the world.

NEW MOBILE-BASED LEAVE APP FOR CHENNAI POLICE PERSONNEL ROLLED OUT

- A new mobile-based app has been launched for police personnel in Chennai to apply for leave and to get it sanctioned immediately, without any hassle.
- The new mobile app, called CLAPP (Complete Leave APP) has been designed to eradicate delays, summary rejections or favoritism by the sanctioning authority and is aimed at ensuring more transparency in the leave process.
- The sanctioning authority must process and sanction the leave within three hours. If there is delay for more than three hours, it will be escalated to the superior officer above the sanctioning officer

TIRUVALLUVAR AND KAMARAJAR AWARDS

- The state government of Tamil Nadu announced the recipients of Tiruvalluvar and Kamarajar awards .
- Chief Minister MK Stalin issued orders to confer Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award for the year 2022 on **former president of Bengaluru Tamil Sangam, M Meenakshi Sundaram** who was instrumental in erecting the statue of Tiruvalluvar in Bengaluru.
- A statement said that Perunthalaivar Kamarajar award for the year 2021 would be conferred on veteran politician Kumari Ananthan, who has also served as MP and MLA.

PADMA AWARDS FROM TAMIL NADU

- Seven achievers from various fields from Tamil Nadu and one from Puducherry have been chosen for the Padma Shri awards
- Sirpi Balasubramaniam (Literature and Education), S Ballesh Bhajantri (Art), S Damodaran (Social Work), Sowcar Janaki (Art), R Muthukanammal (Art), AKC Natarajan (Art), Dr Veerasamy Seshiah (Medicine) Thavil Kongampattu AV Murugaiyyan (Art)

Sirpi Balasubramaniam

- Distinguished Tamil Poet, scholar and a two-time Sakitya Akademy winner. Balasubramaniam had served as the head of the Department of Tamil at Bharatiar University in Coimbatore. He has won several awards including the Bharathidasan award, Government of Tamil Nadu award among many others. Some of his finest works include Siritha Muthukkal, Sooriya Nizhal, Oru Gramathu Nadhi, etc. His poems have been translated into English, Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam, etc.

R Muthukannamal

- Muthukannamal is among the last Devadasi Sathir dancer from Viralimalai, Trichy. Sathir, is an ancient dance form. She served the deity at the Murugan temple in Viralimalai. In 2018, she was honoured with DakshinaChitra Virudhu, an annual award presented by the Friends of Dakshinachitra to honour the folk performing artists

AKC Natarajan

- Hailed as the Clarinet Everest, Natarajan is a recipient of the Madras Music Academy's Sangeetha Kalanidhi in 2008.

He even received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1994. Considered a legendary icon, he had performed in various leading Sabhas in Chennai and other cities and been part of several concerts.



NATIONAL NEWS

DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has observed the 64th Foundation Day of its establishment on January 01, 2022.

About

- DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector
- DRDO is working in multiple cutting edge military technology areas, which include aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation, engineering systems, missiles, materials, naval systems, advanced computing, simulation, cyber, life sciences and other technologies for defence.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958

DRAFT NATIONAL AIR SPORTS POLICY (NASP 2022)

- Ministry of Civil Aviation has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback.
- The key features of the Draft National Air Sports Policy are:
- NASP 2022 covers sports like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding and paragliding; microlighting and paramotoring; skydiving and vintage aircraft.

- The vision is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030. The mission is to provide a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.
- NASP 2022 seeks to leverage India's huge potential for air sports given its large geographical expanse, diverse topography and fair weather conditions.
- An Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) will be established as the apex governing body. Associations for each air sport will handle day to day activities e.g. Paragliding Association of India or Skydiving Association of India etc.
- The air sports associations shall be accountable to ASFI with respect to the regulatory oversight and for providing safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable conduct of their respective air sport.
- ASFI shall represent India at FAI and other global platforms related to air sports. Greater participation and success of Indian sportspersons in global air sports events will be facilitated.
- Domestic design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment will be promoted in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland is the world governing body for air sports. All competitions in India will be conducted as per the guidelines laid down by FAI.

- Air sports by their very nature involve a higher level of risk than flying a regular aircraft. NASP 2022 places strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety.

SMALL-VALUE DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN OFFLINE MODE

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with the framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode, a move that would promote digital payments in semi-urban and rural areas.

About

- The framework incorporates feedback received from the pilot experiments on offline transactions conducted in different parts of the country between September 2020 and June 2021.
- An offline digital payment does not require Internet or telecom connectivity.
- Under this new framework, such payments can be carried out face-to-face (proximity mode) using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets and mobile devices.
- Such transactions would not require an Additional Factor of Authentication. Since the transactions are offline, alerts (by way of SMS and / or e-mail) will be received by the customer after a time lag.
- There is a limit of ₹200 per transaction and an overall limit of ₹2,000 until the balance in the account is replenished. The RBI said the framework took effect 'immediately'.

KALPANA CHAWLA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SPACE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (KCCRSST)

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University on January 03, 2022.

About

- It is established with the objective of training students in space science, satellite development and meet future challenges in space research.
- KCCRSST would be the Ground Control Station for the Chandigarh University's Student Satellite (CUSat), an in-house developed nano-satellite being designed by the students of the university and a Geo-Spatial Centre for research, besides other projects.
- The CUSat will be among the 75 student-built satellites to be launched into space on the eve of the 75th Independence Day in 2022.
- The Chandigarh University has joined the list of 13 institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT Bombay and became the first university in North India to design and develop its own satellite.
- With the launch of CUSat, Punjab will become the first border state in India to have its own satellite in space.
- The launch of the university's nanosatellite - CUSat will prove to be an important step for the country, as it will collect data related to border intrusion detection, agriculture, weather forecasting, natural disaster forecasting, which will be helpful in research and study of various problems in these areas.

NAI TALIM

- Addressing the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha, the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu recalled that the “Nai Talim” proposed by Mahatma Gandhi in Wardha in 1937 laid emphasis on making mother tongue as the medium of instruction in addition to free compulsory education and skill training to the students.

About

- Nai Talim is a concept of basic education system by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Basic Education is a principle which states that knowledge and work are not separate. Mahatma Gandhi promoted an educational curriculum with the same name based on this pedagogical principle.
- The three pillars of Gandhi’s pedagogy were its focus on the lifelong character of education, its social character and its form as a holistic process.
- For Gandhi, education is ‘the moral development of the person’, a process that is by definition ‘lifelong’.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS)

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) completed 75 glorious years of its existence on 6th January 2022. BIS came into existence as Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in 1947.



About

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India under Department of Consumer affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food

& Public Distribution, Government of India.

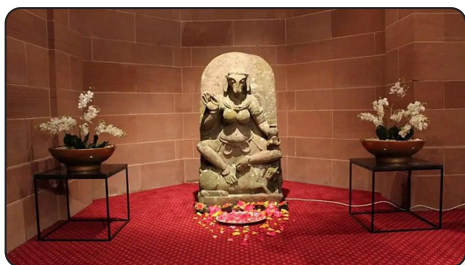
- It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.
- A new Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 which was notified on 22 March 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017. The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.

AROMA MISSION

- The Aroma Mission launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), has led to the well-known “Purple Revolution” in India.
- The CSIR had, to begin with introduced high-value essential oil bearing lavender crop through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) for cultivation in districts Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and later also in the other districts including Ramban, Pulwama, etc.
- In addition to IIIM, CSIR-IHBT, CSIR-CIMAP, CSIR-NBRI and CSIR-NEIST are also now participating in the Aroma Mission

GOAT HEAD YOGINI

- Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy announced that a 10th century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini that had been illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Banda, Uttar Pradesh is being returned to India.



About

- Earlier, the High Commission of India in London announced the recovery and repatriation of the 10th century stone idol that had been illegally removed.
- The sculpture is of a goat headed Yogini that originally belonged to a group of stone deities in sandstone and installed in Lokhari temple.
- The sculpture had briefly surfaced in the art market in London in 1988.
- In October last year, High Commission of India received information about the finding of a goat-headed Yogini Sculpture that had matched the description of the Lokhari set, in the garden of a private residence near London.

INDIA'S COVID-19 VACCINATION

- India marks the first anniversary of the nationwide vaccination drive against Covid-19 on January 16, 2022

About

- It was on this day last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the world's largest vaccination drive to combat the pandemic.
- Vaccination began with health workers on 16th January last year.
- Then it opened for frontline workers on 2nd February last year, followed by the 60-plus age group and those above 45-years and comorbid from 1st March

and for all above 18 years from 1st May in 2021.

- The drive for administering precautionary dose to the healthcare workers, frontline workers and sixty plus individuals commenced on 10th this month.
- Vaccination of children in the age-group of 15-18 years was started from 3rd of this month.
- Meanwhile, India's Covid vaccination coverage has crossed 156 crore 63 lakh mark.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAL STAMP



- GoI launches stamp to mark 1 year of Covid vaccination
- The government of India has released a commemorative postal stamp on the Covid-19 vaccination on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the country's national immunization programme against the virus.
- The commemorative stamp design features a healthcare worker inoculating a senior citizen with COVID-19 vaccine, along with an image of 'COVAXIN' vial.
- This stamp signifies the remarkable work done by our frontline healthcare workers and scientific community across the country in protecting the people against the COVID pandemic.

NEAT 3.0

- Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched NEAT 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.

About

- Pradhan said NEAT will be a game-changer in bridging the digital divide, especially among the economically disadvantaged students and also in fulfilling the knowledge-based requirement of India and the world.
- National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.
- These solutions use artificial intelligence for a personalised and customised learning experience for better learning outcomes and skill development in the niche areas.
- The minister informed that 58 global and Indian start-up ed-tech companies are onboard NEAT and are offering 100 courses and e-resources for bettering learning outcomes, developing employable skills and overcoming learning loss.
- The minister expressed his happiness that, more than 12 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged students have received free ed-tech course coupons worth over Rs 253 crore under NEAT 3.0.

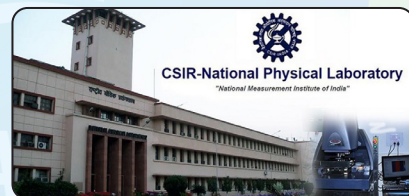
CSIR-NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY (NPL)

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches

the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) New Delhi, which is one of the earliest CSIR laboratories that was set up around the time of independence and its 75th year coincides with the 75th year of India's independence.

About

- The CSIR- National Physical Laboratory of India, situated in New Delhi, is the measurement standards laboratory of India.
- It maintains standards of SI units in India and calibrates the national standards of weights and measures.
- It was one of the earliest national laboratories set up under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone of NPL on 4 January 1947.
- K. S. Krishnan was the first Director of the laboratory.



- Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND) or Indian reference materials are reference materials developed by NPL which derive their traceability from National Standards.

LED PHOTOMETRY LABORATORY

- The Minister also dedicated the nation 'LED Photometry Laboratory' at CSIR-

National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to develop energy-efficient illumination technology.

- This national level facility would contribute to making India 'Atma-Nirbhar' in the apex level calibration and testing of LED lighting products.
- These will not only save the foreign exchange spent on availing testing and calibration services from abroad but also significantly reduce turn-around time.
- Difference between LCD and LED
- LCD stands for liquid crystal display.
- LED stands for light-emitting diodes
- All LCDs are not a subset of LED TV. All LEDs are a subset of LCD TV.
- LCDs primarily use fluorescent lights. LEDs use light-emitting diodes.
- Fluorescent lights used are usually placed behind the screen. Light-emitting diodes are usually placed behind the screen or around the edges.
- LCDs are usually thicker and lack energy efficiency compared to LEDs. LEDs are much thinner and are much more energy-efficient.

INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA URAN AKADEMI (IGRUA)

- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) sets a new record of 19000 flying hours in 2021.

About

- During the year 2021, IGRUA piled up 19000 hours of flying as against an average yearly flying output of 15000 per year during the previous five years while it was 11641 hours in 2020.

- IGRUA achieved this milestone of 19000 hours despite continued effect of pandemic and inclement weather conditions due to Tauktae Cyclone in 2021.
- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was established by the Government of India in the year 1986 at Fursatganj Airfield, presently in the district of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.
- IGRUA is an Autonomous Body established under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and is administered by a Governing Council under the Ex-officio Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

25TH NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports unveiled the Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival to be held in Puducherry from 12th -16th January 2022

About

- Shri Anurag Thakur also unveiled the tag-line of the National Youth Festival, Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth.
- National Youth Festival is organized by the Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States from January 12th to 16th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12th January.
- The basic objective of the NYF is to bring the youth of the country together in an attempt to showcase their talents in various activities to cover almost all socio-cultural aspects of life, providing an opportunity to amateur young artists to express themselves.

PM CHOSE PUDUCHERRY AS HOST OF NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

- Puducherry has been handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to host the 25th National Youth Festival. The 25th National Youth Festival is going to be held in Puducherry from 12th to 16th January 2022.

History

- National Youth Festival started in 1995 as a major activity under the programme held by National Integration Camp (NIC).

EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR CANDIDATES IN PARLIAMENTARY AND ASSEMBLY POLLS

- The Election Commission has enhanced the existing election expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies.

About

- These limits will be applicable in all upcoming elections.
- The ceiling on parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from 70 lakh to 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and 54 lakh to 75 lakhs in smaller states.
- The bigger states include Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka, and the smaller states include Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and UTs.
- The ceiling on poll expenditure in UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised to 95 lakhs.
- For Assembly constituencies, expenditure limits have been enhanced from 28 lakh rupees to 40 lakh rupees in bigger states and from 20 lakhs to 28 lakhs in smaller

states.

- Last major revision in the election expenditure limit was carried out in 2014, which was further increased by 10 percent in 2020. EC had formed a Committee to study the cost factors and other related issues, and make suitable recommendations.

INTRA-STATE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM - GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE-II

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the CCEA has approved the Intra-State Transmission System - Green Energy Corridor Phase-II.

About

- The scheme will add approximately 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and around 27, 500 Mega Volt-Ampere transformation capacity of substations.
- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy power projects in seven states.
- These states are Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The scheme is targeted to be set up with a total estimated cost of over 12 thousand 31 crore rupees and Central Financial Assistance at 33 percent of the project cost, that amounts to over 3970 crore rupees.
- The transmission systems will be created over a period of five years from the Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26. The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2030.

24th CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE 2020-21

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad

About

- The two-day conference themed 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World' will be organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with the Government of Telangana.
- During the event, National Awards for e-Governance 2021 will be presented under 6 categories to 26 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels and also to Academic and Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertakings.
- This includes 12 Gold, 13 Silver and 1 Jury Award.
- Delegates from 28 States and 9 Union Territories along with academia, research institutions, IT Industry would be participating in the conference through Virtual Mode.

STC (SCHEDULED TRIBE COMPONENT) PROJECT AT ATTAGATTI IN ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE (ATR)

- ICAR – Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI), Coimbatore in collaboration with Anamalai Tiger Reserve, conducted a campaign on "Knowledge empowerment of tribals" and launched its STC (Scheduled Tribe Component) project at Attagatti in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)

About

- Unlike other tiger reserves, the Anamalai Tiger Reserve has diverse groups of indigenous people, he mentioned.
- The 'Malasar' tribes are of great help to the Forest Department in training the elephants with their profound knowledge and skill on handling Asian elephants, the Deputy Director said that saving tribals is akin to saving forests.
- This is the first time this project is being implemented in ATR.
- The interventions by the Institute for implementing STC, was finalized based on a systematic need assessment by conduct of Focus groups among two tribes viz., 'Malasar' and 'Malai malasar' tribes belonging to the tribal settlements of Nagaroothu -1, Nagaroothu – 2, Old Sarkarpathy, Chinnarpathy, Koomaatti and Paalakinaru.
- Since over 47 lakhs of Indian tribal children suffer from chronic nutrition deprivation, the tribal community in these settlements, will be educated on setting up and maintaining a nutrition garden and kitchen garden seed kits will be distributed during this campaign on 'knowledge empowerment of tribals'.

INDIA'S FIRST OPEN ROCK MUSEUM

- Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated India's first unique "Rock" Museum and later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).

About

- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses

about several lesser known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.

- These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kms of distance from the surface of the earth.
- "Big Earth data" occupies the strategic high ground in the era of knowledge economies and India is fully exploiting this new frontier contributing to the advancement of Earth science.

INDIA'S FIRST MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ADVENTURE SPORTS EXPEDITION

- Minister of defence flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in France

About

- The expedition was conducted in November 2021 and the team was led by Director NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh, comprising 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The expedition team carried out over 250 kilometres of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges, which included Tour De Mont Blanc trek covering the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.

Mont Blanc

- Mont Blanc (meaning "white mountain") is the highest mountain in the Alps and the European Union, rising 4,807.81 m above sea level.
- It is the second-most prominent mountain in Europe, after Mount Elbrus.
- The mountain stands between the regions

of Aosta Valley, Italy, and Savoie and Haute-Savoie, France.

MOBILE HONEY PROCESSING VAN

- **Chairman KVIC Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena** launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, UP.

About

- The Mobile Van has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokehra, at a cost of Rs 15 lakh.
- This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours.
- The van is also equipped with a testing laboratory that would instantly examine the quality of honey.
- The Mobile Honey Processing Van comes as a major development under KVIC's Honey Mission which aims at training beekeepers, distributing Bee Boxes to farmers and helping rural, educated as well as unemployed youth to earn extra income through beekeeping activities.
- In line with the Prime Minister's dream of "Sweet Kranti" (Sweet Revolution) through honey production, the KVIC has come up with this unique innovation to enable beekeepers and farmers to get fair prices for their honey produce.

3rd NATIONAL WATER AWARDS

- Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced 3rd National Water Awards-2020. In the Best State category, Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu



About

- The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.
- National Water Awards have provided a good opportunity to start-ups as well as leading organizations to engage and deliberate with senior policymakers on how to adopt the best water resources management practices in India.
- The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is giving 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories.
- These are: Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Media (Print & Electronic), Best School, Best Institution/RWA/Religious organization for Campus usage, Best Industry, Best NGO, Best Water User Association, and Best Industry for CSR Activity.

Background

- India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year, projected to go up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050.
- While India has more than 18% of the world's population, it has only 4% of world's renewable water resources.
- It is in this backdrop that the National

Water Awards (NWA) were instituted to recognize and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by States, Districts, individuals, organizations, etc across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.

2 VS 2 AGRI MARKET ACCESS ISSUES

- In pursuant to the 12th India – USA TPF meeting held on 23 Nov, 2021 Department of Agriculture and farmer's welfare (DAC&FW) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) have signed a framework agreement for implementing the 2 Vs 2 Agri market access issues.

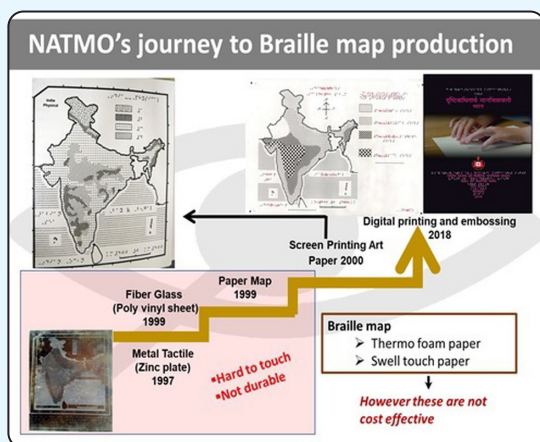
About

- 2 Vs 2 Agri market access issues involves inspection / oversight transfer for Indian mangoes & pomegranate and market access for pomegranate arils from India and market access for US cherries and U.S Alfalfa hay.
- Mango and pomegranate exports will start from Jan – Feb 2022 and pomegranate aril exports from Apr 2022. Exports of Alfalfa hay and cherries from the USA will begin in Apr 2022.
- In addition, based on the ministerial discussions, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) also conveyed its readiness to provide market access for U.S pork and requested the U.S side to share a signed copy of final sanitary certificate for finalizing the same.

NATIONAL ATLAS & THEMATIC MAPPING ORGANISATION (NATMO)

- Visually challenged students from all over the country will have the access soon to Braille Maps designed and developed

using Digital Embossing Technology, enabling them for ease of use, user friendly, better feeling and durable in terms of quality.



About

- The digital embossing technology is a technology which eliminates the need for printing plates, moulds, chemicals, and solvents, emitting no pollutants or waste and reduces overall energy usage.
- This innovative technology has been introduced, designed and implemented first time in India by National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) functioning as the Attached Office of the Department of Science & Technology.
- The maps produced using this technology is not only useful for high-speed production of the maps but can also produce Braille Maps that can be used by more people for years together.
- NATMO started the journey in the year 1997, however, it has become popularized with the publication of Braille Atlas for Visually Impaired (India), edition 2017 in English Braille Script which received a huge response from the visually impaired community.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

conferred National Award on “Science & Technology Intervention for Physically Challenged” to NATMO for this publication which was officially released on 10th February 2017 at New Delhi.

KHADI HANDMADE PAPER SLIPPERS

- The devotees visiting the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi and hundreds of temple workers will no longer need to enter the temple premises barefoot.

About

- Starting 14th January, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is beginning the sale of Khadi handmade paper “Use & Throw” slippers for the use of the devotees and the workers.
- The slippers will be sold by Kashi Hastkala Pratisthan, a registered Khadi Institution in Varanasi.
- The development comes in wake of the jute slippers sent by the Prime Minister for the workers of Kashi Vishwanath Temple after he learnt that most of the people working at the temple performed their duty barefoot. It is forbidden to wear footwear made of leather or rubber on the temple premises.
- The “use & throw” slippers made of handmade paper will maintain the sanctity of the temple and at the same time will also save devotees from heat and cold during harsh weather conditions. Also, these slippers will prevent any kind of pollution as they are made of natural fibres.
- Notably, Khadi’s handmade paper “use & throw” slippers have been developed for the first time in India. These handmade paper slippers are 100% eco-friendly and cost-effective.

- The Handmade paper used in making these slippers is completely wood-free and made of natural fibers like Cotton & Silk rags and agro waste and hence, suitable for use in places of worship.

WATER PURIFICATION

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence-driven Start-Up by IIT alumni for water purification through innovative technology.

About

- The facility aims to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price.
- A MoU was also signed between Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and M/s Swajal Water Private Limited, a tech Start Up company founded by ex-IITians based in Gurugram.
- The company is focused on innovative technologies to make reliable clean drinking water accessible to communities at affordable price, for their project on IoT enabled point of use Solar Water Purification Unit for slums, villages and High Utility Areas.
- The Minister said, apart from the Centre's initiatives like National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Jal Jeevan Mission, Private Sector should come forward in a big way with state of the art tech solutions to cover nearly 14 Crore households where clean drinking water is yet to reach.

INDU MALHOTRA COMMITTEE

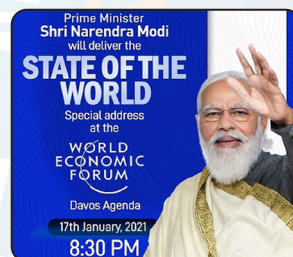
- The Supreme Court has appointed former SC Judge, Indu Malhotra, as the Chairperson to head the inquiry committee, along with other members.

About

- The inquiry committee will look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit on 5th January this year.
- The committee headed by Justice (Retired) Indu Malhotra will also comprise DG- NIA, DG Security of Punjab and Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- The Apex court has passed the order after hearing a petition filed by NGO, Lawyers Voice, seeking appropriate directions and or orders in the alleged security breach of the Prime Minister, who was on his way to Punjab to address a rally.

STATE OF THE WORLD' SPECIAL ADDRESS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda.



About

- The Prime Minister said that today, India is providing a record number of software engineers. More than 50 lakh software developers are working in India.
- As compared to mere 100 start-ups in 2014, India has more than 60 thousand start-ups today. Out of which 80 are unicorns and more than 40 unicorns emerged in 2021 itself.

- He also talked about India's huge, safe and successful digital payments platform and informed that in the last month itself more than 4.4 billion transactions took place through Unified Payments Interface.
- India has deregulated areas like Drones, Space, Geo-spatial mapping and has brought reforms in the outdated telecom regulation related with the IT and BPO sectors.

The Davos Agenda 2022

- The Davos Agenda virtual event offers the first global platform of 2022 for world leaders to come together to share their visions for the year ahead.
- The week-long virtual event, taking place on the World Economic Forum website and social media channels 17-21 January 2022, will feature heads of state and government, CEOs and other leaders.

OPEN DATA WEEK

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the initiation of the Open Data Week to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

CENTRE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT, REHABILITATION & EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRC), KOZHIKODE

- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD) is going to launch its first bi-monthly E-Newsletter during the inauguration of main building of Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC),

Kozhikode

About

- The function is being organized at CRC Campus at Chevayur, Kozhikode, Kerala.
- CRC in Kozhikode was established in 2012 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India under the administrative control of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai (an autonomous Institute under the administrative control of DEPwD) as its outreach/ extension centre.
- At present, the services of the Centre are being operated from rented building with a total area of 5000 sq ft of space with 12 rooms available for services.
- Government of Kerala has allotted 3 acres of land at Chevayur, Kozhikode in 2013 for establishment of CRC. This newly constructed building of CRC Kozhikode is a 48,000 sq. ft. structure, built at a cost of around 20 crores.

ACTIVISION BLIZZARD

- Microsoft Corp announced on January 18 that it would buy Activision Blizzard, the maker of superhit video games Call of Duty and Candy Crush, for \$68.7 billion in cash.

About



- This is the largest deal in the sector, and makes Microsoft, maker of the Xbox gaming console, the third-largest gaming company by revenue after Tencent and

Sony, the company said.

- The acquisition underlines the importance Microsoft attaches to video games in the coming digital world dominated by virtual and augmented reality.
- The deal is expected to boost Microsoft against Facebook, the biggest player in the metaverse. By adding Activision, Microsoft is betting that people would want to play major games on not just phones, consoles, or computers, but also in VR.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (NCSK)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years

About

- The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.
- Impact: The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the MS Act Survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58098.
- The NCSK was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993 initially for the period upto 31.3.1997.
- Later the validity of the Act was initially extended upto 31.3.2002 and thereafter upto 29.2.2004. The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 29.2.2004.
- After that the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions. The tenure of the present Commission is

upto 31.3.2022.

- As per the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act

SOMNATH TEMPLE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Circuit House at Somnath



About

- Somnath Temple is visited by lakhs of devotees from India and abroad every year. The need for the new Circuit House was felt as the existing government facility was located far off from the temple.
- The new Circuit House has been built at a cost of over Rs 30 crore and is located near the Somnath Temple. It is equipped with top class facilities including suites, VIP and deluxe rooms, conference room, auditorium hall etc.

Note

- The Somnath temple, also called Somanātha temple or Deo Patan, is located in Prabhas Patan, Veraval in

Gujarat, India.

- One of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for the Hindus, they believe it to be the first among the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- It was reconstructed several times in the past after repeated destruction by several Muslim invaders and rulers.
- After India's independence, those ruins were demolished and the present Somnath temple was reconstructed in the Māru-Gurjara style of Hindu temple architecture.
- The contemporary Somnath temple's reconstruction was started under the orders of the first Home Minister of India Vallabhbhai Patel and completed in May 1951 after his death.
- Presently the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi is the chairman of Shree Somnath Mandir trust.

JUSTICE CLOCK

- Supreme Court e-Committee chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated two digital services for Gujarat High court — a 'Justice Clock', and electronic payment of court fee.

About

- What is the 'Justice Clock' ?
- An LED display of 7 feet by 10 feet, placed at a height of 17 feet from the ground, has been erected at a busy crossroad near the Gujarat High Court premises.
- This 'Justice Clock' will exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system in Gujarat, to "maximise outreach and visibility" of the work done by the state judiciary.
- The interface has been designed and developed in-house and will display data

from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) in real-time.

- A similar format of Gujarat judiciary-related statistics will also be available on the Gujarat HC website under a tab of 'Virtual Justice Clock', accessible to all.
- What is e-court fee and how will it help?
- While the online e-Courts fee system was already available for the Gujarat High Court, which was tested on a pilot basis allowing advocate and parties to procure judicial stamps online through electronic payment and upon submission of a PDF receipt, this platform now stands expanded to all district and taluka courts.
- The payment platform is of StockHolding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL) as empanelled by the Gujarat government.
- A PDF receipt of the fee paid will be generated and submitted to the court registry concerned.
- It will then be verified from within the digital case information system and locked as 'consumed', wherein the receipt will be defaced, so as to avoid its reuse or misuse.

BANKING ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN INDIA

- NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India released a report, titled 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India', which outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in the electric mobility ecosystem.

About

- The report provides considerations and recommendations to inform the inclusion of EVs in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) priority-sector lending (PSL) guidelines.

- Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore (USD 5 billion) by 2025 and Rs 3.7 lakh crore (USD 50 billion) by 2030. However, retail finance for EVs has been slow to pick up.
- Priority-sector lending aims to expand financial access and support employment opportunities in India. In order to meet these goals, the report highlights that the RBI may consider various EV segments and use cases based on five parameters:
 - ◆ socio-economic potential,
 - ◆ livelihood generation potential,
 - ◆ scalability,
 - ◆ techno-economic viability, and
 - ◆ stakeholder acceptability.
- ◆ The report indicates that electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and commercial four-wheelers are early segments to prioritize under PSL.

NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM (NSWS)

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal has said simplicity of operations and transparency should be the focus of the National Single Window System (NSWS).

About

- The digital platform of NSWS facilitates investors to identify and apply for approvals.
- It supports information across 32 Central Ministries/ Departments and the platform has 14 States onboard namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The process for inclusion of 6 more States is in progress.

- The Know Your Approvals (KYA) service is live on the NSWS with 544 approvals across 32 Central Ministries/ Departments. A total of 3,259 approvals are listed.
- The first approval through the NSWS portal has been granted on 11 January 2022 to M/s CMR-Kataria Recycling Private Limited for the Vehicle Scrappage Facility RVSF, Kheda, Gujarat with a capacity of 67,000 vehicles.

AMAR JAWAN JYOTI

- The government has put out the eternal flame of the Amar Jawan Jyoti underneath India Gate and merged it with the one instituted at the National War Memorial in 2019 a few hundred meters away.



About

- The eternal flame at the Amar Jawan Jyoti underneath India Gate in central Delhi was an iconic symbol of the nation's tributes to the soldiers who have died for the country in various wars and conflicts since Independence.
- Established in 1972, it was to mark

India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh. The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had inaugurated it on Republic Day 1972, after India defeated Pakistan in December 1971.

- The key elements of the Amar Jawan Jyoti included a black marble plinth, a cenotaph, which acted as a tomb of the unknown soldier. The plinth had an inverted L1A1 self-loading rifle with a bayonet, on top of which was a soldier's war helmet.
- The installation had four urns on it, with four burners. On normal days one of the four burners were kept alive, but on important days like the Republic Day, all four burners were lit. These burners were what is called the eternal flame, and it was never allowed to be extinguished.
- For 50 years the eternal flame had been burning underneath India Gate, without being extinguished. But on Friday, the flame was finally put off, as it was merged with another eternal flame at the National War Memorial.
- Since 1972, when it was inaugurated, it used to be kept alive with the help of cylinders of liquified petroleum gas, or LPG. One cylinder could keep one burner alive for a day and a half.
- In 2006 that was changed. Though a project that cost around Rs 6 lakh the fuel for the flames was changed from LPG to piped natural gas, or PNG. It is through this piped gas that the flame marking the tribute to Indian soldiers had been kept alive eternally.

DEEP OCEAN MISSION

- Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar called on Union Minister

Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed the modalities to deepen cooperation in "Deep Ocean Mission" which is to be the torchbearer of India's "Blue Economy"

About

- The Modi Government had approved the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) in June, 2021 to be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of Rs. 4077 Crore for 5 years.
- DOM is a multi-ministerial, multi-disciplinary programme with emphasis on development of deep-sea technology that includes development of manned Submersible rated for 6000 metre water depth along with technologies for deep sea mining, exploration of deep-sea mineral resources and marine biodiversity, acquisition of a research vessel for ocean exploration, deep sea observations, and capacity building in Marine Biology.

Role of Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy is a member of Deep Ocean Council and it will be involved in launching and recovery of Man submersible in deep water, which will be developed under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences and Indian Navy are to soon sign a MoU for knowledge sharing in the areas of design and development of underwater vehicles.

MATSYA

- Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the preliminary design of the manned submersible MATSYA 6000 is completed and realisation of vehicle is started with various organization including ISRO, IITM and DRDO roped-in to support the development.
- It is designed to carry 3 people to a depth of 6000 metres in the ocean with suit of

scientific sensors and tools.

Samundrayaan

- Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's First Manned Ocean Mission Samundrayaan at Chennai in October, 2021 and thus joined the elite club of nations such as USA, Russia, Japan, France and China to have such underwater vehicles for carrying out subsea activities.
- This niche technology shall facilitate Ministry of Earth Sciences, MoES in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulphides and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 metres.

INDIAN TECH START-UP ECOSYSTEM: YEAR OF THE TITANS

- Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID-19 levels, according to a new study by NASSCOM and Zinnov.

About

- According to the study, 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans', more than 2,250 start-ups were added in 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year.
- The study said: "Start-ups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels. In comparison to 2020, there was a 3X increase in the number of high value deals (deals > USD 100 million), demonstrating investor confidence with a pool of active angel investors of 2400+ and a readiness to take significant risks."
- It added that while the U.S. remains

the leading source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in start-ups, worldwide involvement is also growing. About 50% of the deals had at least one India-domiciled investor.

- The study added that the start-up ecosystem saw a 2X gain in cumulative valuation from 2020 to 2021, with an estimate of \$320-\$330 billion, demonstrating the sector's development and recovery throughout the pandemic.
- The industries that saw the most net new job creation were BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), ed-tech, retail and retail tech, food-tech, supply chain management, and logistics and mobility.
- On the back of Internet commerce, freelancers, and service industries, indirect jobs have also recovered.

LIVING ROOT BRIDGES OF MEGHALAYA

- The Zoological Survey of India has underlined some green rules for the living root bridges of Meghalaya to get the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag. Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma pitched for UNESCO recognition as the hill State marked its 50th year of creation.

About



- A living root bridge is like a suspension bridge formed by guiding the pliable roots of the rubber fig tree (*Ficus elastica*) across a stream or river and allowing the

roots to grow and strengthen over time.

- They are common in the southern part of the Northeast Indian state of Meghalaya.

ABIDE WITH ME

- A day after the eternal flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti was shifted to the National War Memorial, the government has dropped Abide With Me, the sombre highpoint of the conclusion of the Republic Day celebrations.

About

- Penned in the pre-modern world by Henry Francis Lyte, a Scottish Anglican minister and son of a naval captain, the hymn, which is known for its simplicity and sombre theme, is often sung to English composer William Henry Monk's evocative tune Eventide, and has been a fixture in the Indian Beating Retreat ceremony since 1950.
- It is always the last piece to be played by the brass bands before the troops recede up Raisina Hill to the tune of poet Allama Iqbal's Saare jahan se achha.
- Played at dusk, this is also the last piece before the retreat buglers bring down the Indian flag.
- In 2020, reports had emerged about the hymn being dropped from the Beating Retreat Ceremony and being replaced by poet Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Vande Mataram. Following criticism, the hymn was played in 2020 and retained in 2021.

View of Gandhi

- Abide With Me was one of Mahatma Gandhi's personal favourites. The Father of the Nation first heard the piece played by Mysore Palace Band, and could not forget its tenderness and serenity.
- At Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad,

the ashram bhajanavali — the first and probably the only cross-religion hymnal anywhere — with the bhajans 'Vaishnav Jan Toh' and the well-known Ram Dhun by Tulsidas, 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' in it, Abide With Me, along with Lead Kindly Light, was put together under Gandhi's watch.

Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon

- Abide With Me has been replaced by Kavi Pradeep's seminal piece Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon, which was written in the wake of the Sino-Indian War, and went on to become a tableau of Indian nationalism.
- The song was first sung on January 27, 1963. Composed by C Ramachandra and sung by Lata Mangeshkar, it was first performed at Delhi's National Stadium in a fundraiser organised by the film industry for Indian war widows

CONSTRUCTION OF ADI BADRI DAM

- Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have signed an MoU at Panchkula, for the construction of Adi Badri Dam that would come upon 77 acres in Himachal Pradesh near the Adi Badri area of Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana.
- The proposed dam aims for the rejuvenation of the Saraswati river

BLOCK CHAIN TECHNOLOGY

- During the function, PM Modi gave digital certificates to the 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using a Block Chain-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the National Blockchain Project.
- The digital certificates are stored on digital wallets installed on the mobile

devices of the recipients.

- The digital certificates issued using the blockchain driven technology are unforgeable, globally verifiable, selectively disclosable and sensitive to user content.
- Block Chain Technology is being used for the first time for giving certificates to the awardees.

PROJECT MONITORING GROUP (PMG) PORTAL

- Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal reviewed the pace of implementation of infrastructure projects being monitored through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal.

About

- PMG portal of Invest India is a unique institutional mechanism to facilitate resolution of bottlenecks in infrastructure projects with investments upward of ₹ 500 crores and do milestone-based project monitoring of the same.
- Projects of infrastructure ministries such as Road, Transport and Highways; Railways; Petroleum and Natural Gas; New and Renewable Energy; Power; etc are listed on the portal.
- The PMG mechanism allows project proponents to raise issues with concerned government agencies which are causing hindrances in implementation of projects.
- Presently, PMG is monitoring 1,351 under implementation projects with total anticipated investment of approximately INR 48.94 lakh crore.
- Issues raised on PMG portal pertain primarily to land acquisition (about 40%); grant of right of use/ right of way (25%); and forest, environment and

wildlife clearances (14%).

- In 2021, PMG also incorporated milestone based monitoring of projects. This feature will allow for forecasting delays in projects to avoid time and cost overruns and identify agencies and authorities responsible for delays.

AIR INDIA

- The Air India strategic disinvestment transaction has been completed with Government receiving a consideration of Rs 2,700 crore from the Strategic Partner (M/s Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s Tata Sons Pvt Ltd), retaining debt of Rs 15,300 crore in Air India and AIXL and transferring shares of Air India (100% shares of Air India and its subsidiary AIXL and 50% shares of AISATS) to the Strategic Partner.

About

- It is pertinent to mention that following Government's approval of the highest price bid of M/s Talace Pvt Ltd for strategic disinvestment of Air India, the Letter of Intent was issued to the winning bidder on 11 October 2021.
- The Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed on 25 October, 2021. Thereafter, Strategic Partner (M/s Talace Pvt Ltd), Air India and the Government worked towards satisfying a set of conditions precedent defined in the SPA including approvals from anti-trust bodies, regulators, lenders, third parties, etc.
- These conditions have since been met to mutual satisfaction.

ZAID CROPS

- Union Agriculture Minister addressed the 4th National Conference on Agriculture

for Summer Campaign 2021-22

About

- Union Agriculture Minister said that summer crops not only provide extra income but also create employment opportunities in between Rabi and Kharif for the farmers thereby increasing crop intensity.
- The Government has taken new initiatives through various programmes for cultivation of summer crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, and oilseeds.
- He highlighted that area under cultivation of zaid crops including rice has increased progressively 2.7 times from 29.71 lakh hectares in 2017-18 to 80.46 lakh hectares in 2020-21.
- The objective of Zaid conference is to review and assess the crop performance during the preceding crop seasons and fix crop-wise targets for summer season in consultation with State Governments.

Zaid crops

- Zaid crops are summer season crops. They grow for a short time period between kharif and rabi crops, mainly from March to June.
- They require warm dry weather as major growth period and longer day length for flowering.
- Some of the crops produced during zaid season are watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (NIPER)

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya

launched NIPER Research Portal.

About

- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Research Portal has been created with the aim to disseminate the information about all the NIPERs and their research activities, patents filed and Publication information at one place so that a industry and other stakeholders know about them.
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) are a group of national level institutes of pharmaceutical sciences in India.
- The Government of India has declared the NIPERs as Institutes of National Importance.
- They operate as autonomous bodies under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Established in: 1998

- They are located in 7 cities in India: Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, S.A.S. Nagar and Raebareli.

VILLAGES OF EXCELLENCE

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar expressed happiness on the completion of 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

About

- The Minister expressed satisfaction at the functioning of 29 Centers of Excellence in 12 States which are producing more than 25 million vegetable plants, over 387 thousand quality fruit plants and can train more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year.

- Union Minister Shri Tomar informed that it has been decided to convert 150 villages around the Centers of Excellence into Villages of Excellence with technical assistance from Israel, out of which 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence where India and Israel will work together.
- These Centers of Excellence (CoEs) are a great example of cooperation between the two countries.

TIWA COMMUNITY

- Almost 250 members of two extremist organisations in Assam laid down their arms before Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a formal programme in Guwahati.



About

- The organisations are the Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA) and the United Gorkha People's Organisation (UGPO).
- Formed in 2014 to cater to the aspirations of the Tiwa community, the TLA was active in Morigaon, Nagaon and West Karbi Anglong districts of central Assam.
- The UGPO, formed in 2007, was mostly active in the Bodoland Territorial Region and Biswanath district.

Important Info

Tiwa

- Tiwa (Lalung) is an ethnic group mainly

inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya in north-eastern India.

- They are also found in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.
- They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.
- They were known as Lalungs in the Assamese Buranjis and in Colonial literature and in the Constitution of India, though members of the group prefer to call themselves Tiwa (meaning "the people who were lifted from below").

SWACHHATA START-UP CHALLENGE

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, in partnership with Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) launched the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge.

About

- It aims to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to come forward and drive catalytic transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.
- The Challenge seeks to promote an enabling environment for enterprise development under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).



- The Swachhata Start-Up Challenge launched today aims to capitalise on the start-up movement by providing opportunities for entrepreneurship to

young innovators to create socially impactful and market ready business solutions.

- The Challenge, which is open to start-ups registered in India and French actors collaborating with an Indian start-up (as a joint venture), invites solutions across four thematic areas viz. (i) social inclusion, (ii) zero dump (solid waste management), (iii) plastic waste management and (iv) transparency through digital enablement.

CONDITIONAL MARKET AUTHORIZATION

- The National Regulator, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), has given nod to market authorization of two COVID19 vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield subject to certain conditions.

About

- The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) had recommended for upgradation of status for the vaccines from restricted use in emergency situations to grant of new drug permission with conditions in the adult population on 19th January 2022.



- The market authorization of two COVID19 vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield, in the country by DCGI is subject to the following conditions:
- Firm shall submit data of overseas

ongoing clinical trials of the product with due analysis on six monthly basis or as and when available, whichever is earlier.

- The vaccine shall be supplied for programmatic setting and all vaccinations done within the country to be recorded on CoWIN platform and Adverse Event Following Immunization [AEFI], Adverse Event of Special Interest [AESI] shall continue to be monitored.

Important Info

- “Conditional Market Authorization” is a new category of market authorization that has emerged during the current global pandemic of COVID19.
- The approval pathways through this route are fast-tracked with certain conditions to enhance the access to certain pharmaceuticals for meeting the emerging needs of drugs or vaccines.
- It may be noted that of the global Stringent Regulatory Authorities, only the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of the UK have granted “conditional market authorization” to Pfizer and AstraZeneca, respectively, for their COVID19 Vaccines.

FAMILY PENSION

- Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions Jitendra Singh said that mentally retarded child of a deceased Government employee/Pensioner is entitled to Family Pension and the spirit of this provision needs to be understood and respected.

About

- This reiteration was necessitated by the fact that it has come to the notice of the Department of Pension & Pensioners’

Welfare that in some cases the Banks are not allowing Family Pension in respect of a mentally retarded child through the person nominated by the Pensioner or his/her spouse and they insist for a Guardianship Certificate issued by a Court of Law.

- The provision for nomination for Family Pension is intended to avoid any hassle to the child suffering from a mental disability in obtaining Guardianship Certificate from the Court or in claiming Family Pension after the death of his/her parents.
- Therefore, insisting for a Guardianship Certificate by a Bank in such cases defeats the very purpose of such nomination and also amounts to violation of the statutory provisions of Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 2021.
- The Department has, therefore, reiterated the provisions of the above rules.

SPMCIL OPENS NEW BANK NOTE PRINTING LINES AT NASHIK AND DEWAS

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

About the SPMCIL

- SPMCIL, a Government of India owned Miniratna company, is engaged in the manufacture/production of Currency

and Bank Notes, Security Paper, Non-Judicial Stamp Papers, Postal Stamps, Passport, Visa, Cheques, Bond, Warrant, Special Certificates with security features, Security Inks, Circulation & Commemorative Coins, Medallions, Refining of Gold & Silver, and Assay of Precious Metals among others.

VEER BAAL DIWAS

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has declared that starting from the year 2022, December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Baal Diwas' every year. The day will be commemorated as a tribute to the courage of the 4 Sahibzades (the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji), who attained martyrdom in the 17th century.

History of the day

- 26 December marks the day on which Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji (younger pair of Sahibzade) attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall, at the tender age of 6 and 9 years. Sahibzada Ajit Singh Ji and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh Ji (older pair of Sahibzade) attained martyrdom on December 21, 1705, fighting the enemy in battle at Chamkaur Sahib at the young age of 18 and 14 years.



COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO)

- A Moscow-led military alliance dispatched troops to help quell mounting unrest in Kazakhstan as the police said dozens were killed trying to storm government buildings.

Key facts

- The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is an intergovernmental military alliance in

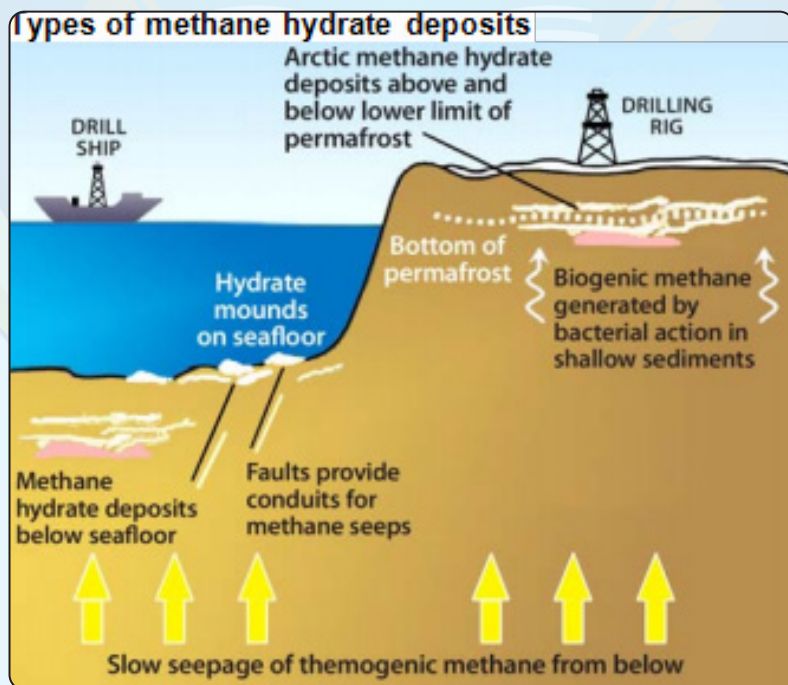
Eurasia that consists of select post-Soviet states.

- Membership: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.
- Headquarters: Moscow, Russia.

NATURAL GAS HYDRATE

- Bangladesh has discovered huge potential natural gas hydrate deposits of 0.11 to 0.73 trillion cubic feet (TCF) in its exclusive economic zone area.

About



- It is equivalent to 17-103 TCF of natural gas reserves. The finding of the huge reservoir of the natural gas hydrate is a landmark event in resolving the energy crisis in future.
- The production technology of methane gas from the hydrates is fundamentally different from the extraction of oil and natural gas which flows naturally through the pores of the reservoirs to the well.
- Hydrates are solids and need to be dissociated through techniques like hot water pumping, depressurisation and Carbon Dioxide injection to release the methane gas from the hydrates.
- Work is going on in the world to develop economically viable technology to extract gas from the hydrates.

DEVELOPING COUNTRY STATUS (WTO)

- China's status as a 'developing country' at the World Trade Organization (WTO) has become a contentious issue with a number of countries raising concerns over the upper middle-income nation deriving benefits reserved for developing countries under WTO norms.

About

- What are the benefits of 'developing country' tag?
- Certain WTO agreements give developing countries special rights through 'special and differential treatment' (S&DT) provisions, which can grant developing countries longer timeframes to implement the agreements and even commitments to raise trading opportunities for such countries.
- WTO pacts are often aimed at reduction in government support to certain industries over time and set more lenient target for

developing nations and grant them more time to achieve these targets compared to developed ones.

- The classification also allows other countries to offer preferential treatment.
- How is a 'developing country' decided?
- The WTO has not defined 'developed' and 'developing' countries and therefore member countries are free to announce whether they are 'developed' or 'developing'

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY' (LDC) STATUS

- Concerns have been raised at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the 'least developed country' (LDC) status, with Bangladesh potentially losing this tag after surpassing India in terms of GDP per capita.

About

- Benefits of LDC classification?
- The WTO recognises LDCs relying on a classification by the UN based on a criteria that is reviewed every three years. LDCs are often exempted from certain provisions of WTO pacts.
- Bangladesh, currently classified as an LDC, receives zero duty, zero quota access for almost all exports to the EU.
- It is, however, set to graduate from the LDC status in 2026 as its per capita GDP has risen sharply surpassing that of India in FY21.

INDIA-SOUTH KOREA TRADE RELATIONS

- Minister for Trade of South Korea, Yeo Han-Koo met with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.

About

- Both the Ministers held wide-ranging discussions covering the whole gamut of Bilateral Trade and Investment related aspects.
- The Ministers agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement up-gradation negotiations.
- India and Korea aim to achieve the trade target of 50 Billion dollars before 2030.
- They agreed to address difficulties expressed by industry from both sides and instructed their respective negotiating teams to meet on a regular basis in order to conclude the CEPA up-gradation negotiations as soon as possible.
- The Ministers agreed to boost bilateral trade between India and Korea to achieve growth in a fair and balanced manner to the mutual advantage of both sides.

INDIA-UK FTA

India and UK Launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations.

About

- The FTA is expected to facilitate the target of doubling bilateral trade between India and United Kingdom by 2030, set by the Prime Ministers of both the nations, Shri Narendra Modi and Mr. Boris Johnson in May 2021.
- The FTA with UK is expected to provide certainty, predictability and transparency and will create a more liberal, facilitative and competitive services regime.
- The FTA negotiations with the UK is expected to increase our exports in Leather, Textile, Jewellery and processed Agri products.

- India is also expected to register a quantum jump in the export of Marine Products through the recognition of 56 marine units of India.
- The Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on Pharma could provide additional market access. There is also great potential for increasing exports in service sectors like IT/ITES, Nursing, education, healthcare, including AYUSH and audio-visual services. India would also be seeking special arrangements for movement of its people.

NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL (NRC)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Russia discussed the ongoing situation in Ukraine and its implications for security in Europe.

About

- The talks happened at the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) which took place at the NATO headquarters in Brussels.
- NRC is a forum for consultation with Russia on security issues and cooperation.
- NATO was founded in 1949, and is meant to ensure collective protection for its members — the United States, Canada, and American allies in Europe — against the threat of possible post-War communist expansion and aggression by the Soviet Union.
- The Soviet Union too, formed its own defence and political alliance with Eastern European nations as a counterbalance to NATO — the Warsaw Pact that was signed in 1955. This alliance was disbanded after the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991.
- Since April 2014, practical civil and military cooperation under the NRC with Russia has been suspended.

- This happened in response to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, which NATO allies do not recognise and have referred to as "illegal" and "illegitimate".
- This was the first time since WWII that a European nation had annexed territory from another country. The region that Russia annexed in 2014 is now under Russian-backed separatists and even today fighting continues there.

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA

Bilateral trade between India and China crossed 125 billion USD in 2021, according to Chinese customs data released.

About

- Despite a protracted border standoff, Two-way trade between India and China in 2021 stood at 125.66 billion USD, up 43.3% from 2020 when bilateral trade was worth 87.6 billion USD.
- In 2021, China's exports to India were 97.52 billion USD, up 46.2%, while China imported 28.14 billion USD worth of goods from India, up 34.2%, according to statistics released by the General Administration of Customs (GAC).
- Trade deficit between the two countries remained in favour of China – at \$69 billion. The deficit in trade has been a constant source of friction between New Delhi and Beijing, with India complaining that China hasn't given Indian companies access to sectors like pharmaceuticals.
- The widening trade deficit with China can be attributed to two factors: narrow basket of commodities, mostly primary, for exporting to China and the lack of market access for most India's agricultural

products and the sectors where India is competitive in, such as pharmaceuticals, and IT.

- The USA maintained its place as China's third-largest trade partner following ASEAN and the European Union.
- In pre-pandemic times in 2019, the bilateral trade was 92.8 billion USD and both countries were aspiring to touch the mark of 100 billion USD. Due to COVID, India-China trade in 2020 declined to 87.6 billion USD, the lowest since 2017.

HUNGA TONGA



- The Pacific country of Tonga experienced a large volcanic eruption followed by a tsunami that flooded parts of the capital, Nuku'alofa, which lies just 65km north of the volcano.

About

- The eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano sent shockwaves across the South Pacific.
- Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai is a volcanic island in Tonga, located about 30 km south of the submarine volcano of Fonuafo'ou and 65 km north of Tongatapu, the country's main island.
- The volcano is part of the highly active Tonga-Kermadec Islands volcanic arc, a subduction zone extending from New Zealand north-northeast to Fiji.

- The island arc is formed at the convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts under the Indo-Australian Plate.

INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

India confirmed a \$400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka while deferring another \$500 million due for settlement to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), in a move aimed at helping the island nation witnessing an unprecedented economic crisis.

About

- India's assistance follows a request from Sri Lanka during Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa's visit to New Delhi in December, for emergency financial assistance, including Lines of Credit for importing essentials and a currency swap to boost Sri Lanka's draining foreign reserves.
- Sri Lanka is facing a severe dollar crunch that economists say might lead to a default on external debt and create a food shortage in the imports-reliant nation.
- Colombo must service over \$7 billion outstanding debt in 2022, including bond repayments of \$500 million in January and \$1 billion in July.
- In July 2020, the RBI extended a similar swap facility — of \$400 million — to help Sri Lanka cope with the impact of the first wave of the pandemic, and later provided a three-month roll over until February 2021, when the Central Bank of Sri Lanka settled it.
- The recent announcement on RBI assistance includes deferring the payment of \$500 that Sri Lanka owes to the ACU, a regional initiative with the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- Significantly, India's confirmation of the swap comes a week after the two countries signed a long-pending agreement on jointly developing the strategically located Trincomalee oil tank farm along the north-eastern coast of the island.

NUSANTARA

- Indonesia's parliament passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on the jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara".

About

- The House of Representatives vote provides the legal framework for the move, which was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java island.
- Home to more than 30 million people in its greater metro area, Jakarta has long been plagued by serious infrastructure problems and flooding exacerbated by climate change.
- The new capital will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo.

INDIA-DENMARK COOPERATION ON GREEN FUELS

India & Denmark agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen, during the Joint S&T Committee meeting on 14th January 2022.

About



- The Joint Committee discussed national strategic priorities and developments in Science, Technology, and Innovation of both countries with a special focus on green solutions of the future - strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation at the virtual meeting.
- The committee emphasised on development of bilateral collaboration on mission-driven research, innovation, and technology development, including climate and green transition, energy, water, waste, food, and so on as agreed by the two Prime Ministers while adopting the Green Strategic Partnership – Action Plan 2020-2025.

FOURTH ASIA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON TIGER CONSERVATION

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav delivers India's statement at the Fourth Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation, an important event for

reviewing progress towards the Global Tiger Recovery Programme and commitments to tiger conservation.

About

- The Government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum (GTF) organized the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation. India is one of the Founding members of the intergovernmental platform of Tiger Range Countries – Global Tiger Forum.
- He appreciated the efforts of the Government of Malaysia in creating a role model for mitigation measures with respect to linear infrastructure in tiger habitat, in the form of “Central Spine and landscape level planning.
- The Minister said that India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries towards finalisation of New Delhi declaration for the Global Tiger Summit to be held at Vladivostok, Russia later this year.
- A “Pre-Tiger Summit” meeting was held at New Delhi in 2010, wherein the draft declaration on tiger conservation for Global Tiger Summit was finalised.
- India has achieved the remarkable feat of doubling the tiger population in 2018 itself, 4 years ahead of the targeted year 2022.
- He informed that the model of success of India's tiger governance is now being replicated for other wildlife like the Lion, Dolphin, Leopard, Snow Leopard and other small wild cats, while the country is on the threshold of introducing Cheetah in its historical range.
- The budgetary allocation for tiger conservation has increased from Rs 185 crore in 2014 to Rs 300 crore in 2022 and informed that 14 Tiger Reserves in

India have already been awarded with international CA|TS accreditation and efforts are on to bring in more Tiger Reserves under CA|TS accreditation.

INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA VIRTUAL SUMMIT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format on 27 January 2022, which was attended by Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

About

- This first India-Central Asia coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- During the Summit, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.
- They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
- An India-Central Asia Secretariat in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.
- The Leaders discussed far-reaching proposals to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and, in particular, on cultural and people to people contacts.

INDIA-ASEAN DIGITAL WORK PLAN 2022

The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held on a virtual platform.



About

- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and dialogue partner countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.
- The meeting discussed and deliberated various matters relevant to strengthening regional digital cooperation in the spirit of digital inclusion and integration.
- The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022.
- The workplan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Advanced Satellite etc.

INDIA-OMAN DEFENCE RELATIONS

India is laying out the red carpet for Oman's top defence official Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, who will be in India from January 30 to February 4 on an official visit.

About

- Zaabi will be in Delhi to co-chair the Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) with Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.
- The JMCC is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defence that evaluates and provides guidance to the overall framework of defence exchanges between the two sides.
- The JMCC is expected to meet annually, but could not be organised since 2018 when the meeting of the 9th JMCC was held in Oman.
- Why is Oman important from a defence and strategic point of view?
- Oman is India's closest defence partner in the Gulf region and an important anchor for India's defence and strategic interests.
- Defence cooperation has emerged as a key pillar for the robust India-Oman strategic partnership. Defence exchanges are guided by a Framework MOU which was recently renewed in 2021.
- Oman is the only country in the Gulf region with which all three services of the Indian armed forces conduct regular bilateral exercises and staff talks, enabling close cooperation and trust at the professional level. Oman also provides critical operational support to Indian naval deployments in the Arabian sea for anti-piracy missions.
- Bilateral training cooperation between the two sides is also robust with Omani forces regularly subscribing to training courses in India both at professional as well as higher command level.
- Indian armed forces also subscribe to the Staff and Command courses conducted at NDC, Oman. Oman also actively participates in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).



ECONOMY NEWS

GDP GROWTH

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 9.2% in the current financial year following last fiscal's 7.3% contraction, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in its first advance estimates of economic output released, amid concerns over the likely impact of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About

- The NSO, however, made clear that these were "early projections" that did not factor in actual performance of various indicators as well as measures that may be taken to contain the spread of the pandemic.
- GDP at constant prices (2011-12) in the year 2021-22 is estimated at ₹147.54 lakh crore, as against the provisional estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of ₹135.13 lakh crore, adding that growth in real GDP is pegged at 9.2%.
- Real GVA at Basic Prices is estimated at ₹135.22 lakh crore in 2021-22, as against ₹124.53 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.6%.
- The implicit GDP growth of 5.6% for H2 FY2022 built in by the NSO may not fully factor in the admittedly evolving impact of Omicron," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ltd.
- Our sense is that after a 6.0-6.5% rise in Q3 FY2022, the GDP expansion is set to slip below 5% in the ongoing quarter.

Signalling a rebound

The first advance estimates showed that India's GDP may grow at 9.2% in FY22. The assessment is based on data for the first eight months of FY22



- The NSO's GVA estimates show the mining sector outpacing others with growth of 14.3% following last year's 8.5% contraction, followed by manufacturing which is seen expanding by 12.5% after shrinking 7.2% in the previous 12-month period.

UN PROJECTS INDIA GDP AT 6.5% IN FY22

- The GDP growth forecast of India in fiscal 2022 is estimated to grow at 6.5 per cent as per the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report.
- On a calendar year basis UN has projected India's GDP as follows:
 - 2021 – 9 per cent
 - 2022 – 6.7 per cent
 - 2023 – 6.1 per cent

Globally

- 2021 – 5.5 per cent
- 2022 – 4.0 per cent
- 2023 – 3.5 per cent

BAD BANK

A key proposal announced in 2021 Budget, a bad bank to deal with stressed assets in the loss-laden banking system, has received all regulatory approvals.



What is the structure of the bad bank?

- NARCL will acquire and aggregate the identified NPA accounts from banks, while IDRCL, under an exclusive arrangement, will handle the debt resolution process, State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara said.
- Padmakumar Nair, a Chief General Manager from SBI's Stressed Assets vertical, will manage NARCL, while Manish Makharia, Head of Alternate Investment Fund, SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd, will head IDRCL.
- Subrata Biswas, the nominee director on the Board of NARCL, will be the interim Chairman, and Diwakar Gupta will continue as the Chairman of IDRCL.
- Majority-owned by state-owned banks, the NARCL will be assisted by the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), in turn majority-owned by private banks, in resolution process in the form of a Principal-Agent basis.

How will the bad bank work?

- NARCL and IDRCL will have an exclusive arrangement that will be

as per the scope defined in the 'Debt Management Agreement' to be executed between these two entities.

- This arrangement will be on a 'Principal-Agent' basis and final approvals and ownership for the resolution shall lie with NARCL as the Principal.

REVERSE REPO NORMALISATION

In a recent report, State Bank of India, which is the largest public sector bank in the country, has stated: "...we believe the stage is set for a reverse repo normalisation."

Background

- The reverse repo is the interest rate that the RBI pays to the commercial banks when they park their excess "liquidity" (money) with the RBI. The reverse repo, thus, is the exact opposite of the repo rate.
- Under normal circumstances, that is when the economy is growing at a healthy pace, the repo rate becomes the benchmark interest rate in the economy.
- But imagine a scenario where the RBI pumps more and more liquidity into the market but there are no takers of fresh loans.
- In such a scenario, Banks are more interested in parking their excess liquidity with the RBI. And that is how the reverse repo becomes the actual benchmark interest rate in the economy.

What does reverse repo normalisation mean?

- Simply put, it means the reverse repo rates will go up.
- Over the past few months, in the face of rising inflation, several central banks across the world have either increased interest rates or signaled that they would do so soon.

- In India, too, it is expected that the RBI will raise the repo rate. But before that, it is expected that the RBI will raise the reverse repo rate and reduce the gap between the two rates.

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2022: KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF ECONOMIC SURVEY

- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has presented Economic Survey 2021-22 in the Parliament on 31st January 2022.
- Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has presented Economic Survey 2021-22 in the Parliament on 31st January 2022. The pre-budget Economic Survey, which is tabled in Parliament ahead of the Union Budget to present the state of the economy and suggest policy prescriptions. The pre-Budget Economic Survey is authored by a team led by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Days before the presentation, the Centre appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the new CEA.

What is the Economic Survey?

- Economic Survey is an annual document of the Ministry of Finance. It reviews the economic progress of the country and issues in the last 12 months.
- The survey provides information related to the performance of key developmental schemes launched by the government. The document also explains the performance of major government policies and their impact.
- The Economic Survey discusses major fiscal developments, macroeconomic factors, inflation, and other economic factors. The document also highlights the impact of agriculture, climate change, and employment on the economy of the country.

- The 1st Economic Survey was tabled in 1950-51. However, till the year 1964, it was presented along with the budget.

State of the Economy

- Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2 per cent in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21.
- GDP is projected to grow by 8- 8.5 per cent in real terms in 2022-23.



PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

PADHE BHARAT

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'.
- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which lays emphasis on the promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring the availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal language.

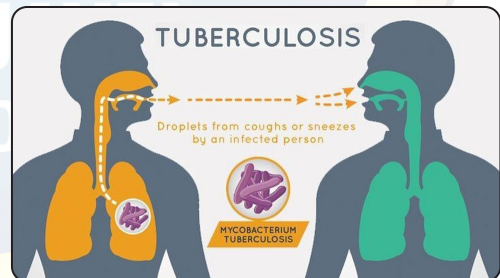
About

- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1st January 2022 to 10th April 2022.
- This Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which emphasises on promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring availability of age appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal Language.
- The 100 days reading campaign will also focus on Indian languages including mother tongue/local/regional languages. It is in this regard, 21st February which is celebrated as International Mother Tongue Day, has also been integrated with this campaign.

- This day will be celebrated with the activity of Kahani Padho Apni Bhasa Main (Reading story in own language) across the country by encouraging children to read in their mother tongue/local language. This will help in promoting the local language and culture of our society.

NATIONAL TB ELIMINATION PROGRAM (NTEP)

- IndianOil has committed to support the National TB elimination Program (NTEP) in India by providing an enabling environment through integrated and prioritised intervention with City Coordination Committees, District Health Societies, Technical support groups, etc., in each of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 23 districts in Punjab



About

- The program's key objective will be to screen and test the entire population of UP & Punjab every year for the next three years. Once patients are notified, their treatment will continue as per the protocol of the National TB Elimination Program.

- In 2018, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had given a clarion call to End TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030.
- To fulfill the Prime Minister's vision, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is joining the "Jan Andolan" of "TB Mukht Bharat".
- Uttar Pradesh is the state with the largest population in India (accounting for about 20% of the population of India). In 2020, Uttar Pradesh, with a population of over 23.4 crores, had the highest share of tuberculosis notifications in India (over 20%).
- Punjab caters to a large number of migrant labourers from many states and ensuring cascade of care to TB patients among migrants is a challenge.

PRADHAN MANTRI FORMALISATION OF MICRO FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES (PMFME) SCHEME

Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries and senior officials of NAFED today launched six, One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi.

About

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing 10 brands of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme. Out of these, six brands namely Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra,

Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes were launched recently.

- The brand Amrit Phal for amla juice has been exclusively developed under the ODOP concept for Gurugram, Haryana.
- Cori Gold brand has been developed for coriander powder which is the identified ODOP for Kota, Rajasthan.
- Brand Kashmiri Mantra brings out the essence of spices from Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Brand Madhu Mantra has been developed under the ODOP concept for honey from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Whole wheat cookies, is the second product developed under the brand Dilli Bakes.
- Brand Somdana has been developed under the ODOP concept of millets from Thane, Maharashtra.

PMFME Scheme

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

SMART CITIES AND ACADEMIA TOWARDS ACTION & RESEARCH (SAAR)

- The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched “Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program.

About

- It is a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart



Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.

- The documents will capture the learnings from best practices, provide opportunities for engagement on urban development projects to students, and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.
- The Smart Cities Mission’s urban projects are lighthouse projects to other aspiring cities. Since the start of the Mission in 2015, the 100 Smart Cities have been developing a total of 5,151 projects with an investment of Rs. 2,05,018 crore.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart City Mission.

UJALA SCHEME

The flagship UJALA programme of the Ministry of Power has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights on January 05, 2022. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme was launched by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on January 05, 2015.

About the initiative

- UJALA initiative is the world’s largest zero-subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.
- As on 5th January 2022, 47,778 million (48 billion) kilowatt-hour (kWh) per annum energy has been saved. The

demand of 9,565 Megawatt (MW) has been avoided, along with 386 crore tonnes of reduction in CO2 emissions.

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in India. The companies that are interested are invited by the Centre for the development of the semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India

About the mission

- The financial support of up to 50 per cent of the project cost (ceiling of Rs 12,000 crore per fab) will be provided for the scheme for setting up display fabs.
- Fiscal support will be provided on 'pari-passu' basis for a period of six years from the date of approval both for semiconductor fabs and display fabs.

SMART CITIES, SMART URBANIZATION

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organizing a series of 30 events under the clarion call of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by Prime Minister to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence

About

- The events will culminate in a grand finale of 'Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' conference, wherein 6 main events will be organized in Surat tentatively on the 4th and 5th of February, 2022.
- A formal release of an illustrated brochure themed 'Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' was done by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri virtually.

- He said that it is befitting that the entire country has come together to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- He added that only 17 percent of Indians lived in urban areas at the time of independence and this percentage has more than doubled now. He said government is committed to provide first-grade living spaces to its citizens.

Important Info

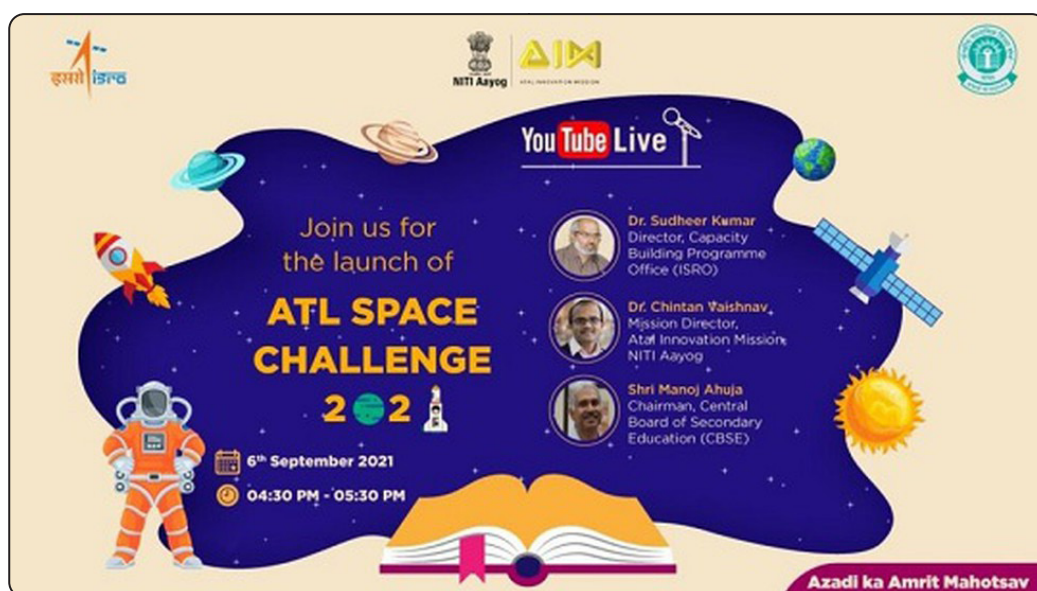
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations were inaugurated by Mr Modi in March last year which marked a 75-week countdown to the 75th Anniversary of India's independence in August this year.
- The celebrations will continue till August, 2023.

ATL SPACE CHALLENGE 2021

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog declared the results of the 'ATL Space Challenge 2021'.

About

- The Challenge was launched in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- The ATL Space Challenge witnessed over 2500 submissions from both ATL and Non-ATL students across the country from which 75 top innovators were selected. It was the first time that an ATL challenge open to both ATL and non-ATL students.
- The ATL Space Challenge 2021 was launched on 6th September 2021 with an objective to enable innovation among young school students to create something in space sector that will not only help them learn about the space but create something that space programme can use itself.



- The Challenge also aligned with the World Space Week 2021, which is observed from 4 to 10 October each year at the global level in order to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology.
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MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day.

About

- This World Class Technology Centre set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 crore is spread across 10 acres, will train 20,000 youth, support 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 Start Ups, thereby propelling the local economy to great heights.
- The Technology Centres across the country developed under the flagship Technology Centre Systems Program are supporting existing and prospective MSMEs by developing production facilities, manpower, providing consultancy and developing competitive edge through adoption of best practices.
- The MSME Ministry through its various initiatives and programs is revving up the sector to achieve inclusive growth, provide sustainable employment

opportunities and thereby attain the Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

SWACHH VIDYALAYA PURASKAR 2021 – 2022

- Shri Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education virtually launched Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022. The schools have been given sufficient time till March 2022 to apply for the awards so that they can do so at an appropriate and safe time.



About

- The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar recognise, inspire and award the schools who have undertaken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene and also provides a benchmark and roadmap for schools to make further improvements in future.
- In order to create self-motivation and awareness about sanitation the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) was first instituted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, in 2016-17.
- The SVP 2021-22 is open to all categories of schools. i.e. Government, Government aided and Private schools in both rural and urban areas.

Criteria

- The schools will be assessed through an online portal & mobile app in 6 sub-categories.

- These are: Water, Sanitation, Hand Washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, Behaviour Change and Capacity Building and the newly added category on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response and the system will generate the overall score and rating automatically.

Awards

- Schools shall be awarded at the District, State and National level based on an internationally recognized five star rating system.
- Also, every school will get a certificate of participation showing the category-wise scores and overall rating of the school.
- At the National level, 40 schools will be selected for awards this year under the overall category.
- The award money for the schools has been enhanced this year from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per school, under Samagra Shiksha scheme. Also, 6 sub-category wise awards have been introduced for the first time, with award money of Rs. 20,000/- per school.

STREETS FOR PEOPLE CHALLENGE; NURTURING NEIGHBOURHOODS CHALLENGE

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised an online event wherein it announced eleven winning cities for the Streets for People Challenge, and ten winning cities for the pilot stage of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge.

About

- These cities will now enter the scale up stage of the challenge wherein the projects undertaken in the pilot stage will now be scaled up in a sustainable manner.

- At the event, the Ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change and Streets for People Challenges and a book titled ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field’.
- Since 2020, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has been anchoring inter-city challenges to make public spaces more people-friendly. This is in line with the 2006 National Urban Transport Policy, which called for a paradigm shift from car-centric roads to people-centric streets.
- Over the past 18 months, these challenges vis. Cycles4Change and Streets for People, have transformed into a nationwide movement beyond the 100 Smart Cities.
- Under the ‘Streets for people Challenge’, 38 cities piloted re-imaginings of an important street each by prioritizing them for pedestrians.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME (CGHS)

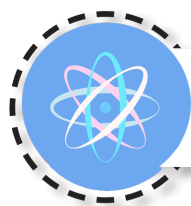
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally launched the revamped CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) website (www.cghs.gov.in) and mobile app, “MyCGHS”.
- The various features of the upgraded CGHS website are as follows:
- The Website has been developed in accordance with GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites). These standards and guidelines make the website 3U compliant i.e., Usable, User-Centric and Universally Accessible.
- As mandated by the GIGW, the site has been made Bilingual (Hindi and English) with provision to make it multi-lingual in future.

- There is a direct link to the eSanjeevani Teleconsultation facility through the CGHS website.

Do you know?

- The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) is the nodal healthcare provider to Central Government employees, pensioners and certain other category of beneficiaries and their dependents enrolled under the scheme.
- It caters to the healthcare needs of eligible beneficiaries covering all four pillars of democratic set up in India namely Legislature, Judiciary, Executive and Press and is unique of its kind due to the large volume of its beneficiary base and pan India presence providing healthcare through allopathic as well as indigenous systems of medicine.





OMISURE

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a testing kit for detecting the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2.

About

- The kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics and is named OmiSure.
- The kit will be used to confirm Omicron in patients with its S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy.
- The kit currently in use to detect Omicron in India has been developed by the U.S.-based scientific instrumentation company Thermo Fisher. It, too, uses the SGTF strategy to detect the variant.

IHU' VARIANT OF COVID-19

Even as the Omicron variant of the coronavirus continues to infect people in large numbers across the world, news about the emergence of another highly-mutated variant spread rapidly on January 4, 2022, raising fears of yet another wave of infections

About

- This variant, B.1.640, has been found mostly in France so far, although it has also been detected in several other countries. The variant was reported to have 46 mutations, including some in the spike protein.
- The B.1.640 variant is not new. It has been around for at least three months.

- The sudden discussion around it was triggered by the circulation of a week-old study by researchers from Méditerranée Infection in Marseille, part of France's Instituts hospitalo-universitaires (IHU, or University Hospital Institutes).
- The study reports the detection of a new variant in November last year among 12 people living in the same geographical area of southeastern France, the first of which had returned from a trip to Cameroon.
- The IHU variant that the researchers mention is B.1.640 which, according to global databases, was first discovered way back in January last year. The one that the French researchers found among people in November has now been classified as a sub-lineage B.1.640.2.
- While the large number of significant mutations in this variant has attracted the interest of researchers, and raised concerns among the public, the B.1.640 is not spreading at a rate that is unnerving. It is certainly not as alarming as the spread of Omicron.

SYNAPSES

- Neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain connect by means of junctions known as synapses through which they transmit signals. Recent work by researchers at the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, has thrown light on what stimulates these synapses to form

Types of synapses

- There are two types of synapses – chemical and electrical.
- In chemical synapses, there is a space of about 20 nanometres between two neurons, and the way they communicate is this: One neuron converts electrical signal into chemical signals and this chemical is released into the synaptic space and the receiving neuron converts the chemical signal back into an electrical signal.
- As far as the electrical synapse goes, this is not the way it operates. In these synapses, the two neurons have a physical connection and the conversion of electrical to chemical need not occur, and they communicate directly.
- Electrical synapses are like a physical wire, communication is faster but they are also fewer in number.

Zebrafish

- Researchers from TIFR-National Centre of Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, have chosen Zebrafish as a model organism to study this process.
- Zebrafish are transparent and neuron development in larval zebrafish can be observed from day to day by injecting a dye or by engineering the fish to express fluorescent proteins.

LIQUID MEDICAL OXYGEN (LMO)

Indian Railway has transported more than 14 thousand tons of Medical Liquid Oxygen, LMO to the Hospitals and Covid care centers in the state of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi through its 8 hundred 58 Special freight trains run by Northern Railway.

About

- Oxygen is crucial for the treatment of patients with severe COVID-19, since the disease affects lung functioning.
- One of the ways in which this oxygen can be supplied is through Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO). LMO is nothing but high purity oxygen used for medical treatment, and is developed for use in the human body.
- Why in liquid state? Due to its low melting and boiling points, oxygen is in a gaseous state at room temperature. Liquification enables storage in larger volume and easier transportation.

How Liquid Medical Oxygen is produced?

- There are several methods. The most common production method is separation of oxygen in what are known as Air Separation Units or ASUs.
- ASUs are basically plants that separate large volumes of gases. They use a method called Fractional Distillation Method to produce pure oxygen from atmospheric air, which consists mostly of nitrogen and oxygen - 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and remaining 1% other gases including argon, carbon dioxide, neon, helium, and hydrogen.
- In this method, gases from the air are separated into various components after cooling them into a liquid state and then liquid oxygen is extracted from it.
- Atmospheric air is first cooled to -181°C . Oxygen liquifies at this point. Since, the boiling point of Nitrogen is -196°C , it remains in a gaseous state. But Argon has a boiling point similar to that of oxygen (-186°C) and hence a significant amount of Argon liquifies along with Oxygen.

- The resultant mixture of Oxygen and Argon is drained, decompressed and passed through a second low-pressure distillation vessel for further purification.
- We then get the output as final purified liquid oxygen, which is then transported using cryogenic containers

BARICITINIB; SOTROVIMAB

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended two drugs, baricitinib and sotrovimab, for treatment of Covid-19.

Baricitinib

- Baricitinib, which is also used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, has been “strongly recommended” for patients with severe or critical Covid-19 in combination with corticosteroids.
- It is part of a class of drugs called Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors that suppress the overstimulation of the immune system.
- It is an oral drug, and provides an alternative to other arthritis drugs called Interleukin-6 receptor blockers, recommended by WHO in July 2021.

Sotrovimab

- Sotrovimab, developed by GlaxoSmithKline with US partner Vir Biotechnology Inc, is an investigational monoclonal antibody for use in treating conditions caused by coronavirus.
- The WHO has conditionally recommended its use for treating mild or moderate Covid-19 in patients who are at high risk of hospitalization.
- These include patients who are older, are immunocompromised, and have underlying conditions like diabetes, hypertension and obesity, and are unvaccinated

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) too has approved an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the therapy for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 in patients above 12 years.

CDRI DEVELOPS OMICRON TESTING KIT NAMED “OM”

- CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, ‘Om’, for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.

About “Om”

- Om enables quick and cost-effective detection of omicron variants over genome sequencing for a large population. It was made within two months and will cost around Rs 150.
- India’s Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival
- P S Vinothraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.
- The list of the award for different categories are:
- The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.
- The Best Script Writer Award went to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for Indranil Roychowdhury-directed India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal.
- The special audience award was given to Aimee Baruah Directed film Semkhor.

- Sujit Bidari directed film Aina Jhyal Ko Putali from Nepal got the best director award.
- In the Women film maker's section, the best feature film award was given to Maryam Bahrololumi directed film Shahrbanoo (Lady from the City) from Iran.
- Two Bangladeshi films, Nurul Alam Atique directed Lal Moroger Jhuti and N Rashed Chowdhury directed Chandrabati Kotha got the Audience Award.

ORAL CANCER

Scientists from IIT Kharagpur have developed a portable, user-friendly, and non-invasive device for detecting oral cancer in resource-constrained clinical settings.

About

- Experts from the Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences and Research in West Bengal supervised the clinical trials, and have established the efficacy of the new method in differentiating cancerous and precancerous stages of suspected oral abnormalities, as verified by high-standard biopsy reports.
- The research has been published recently in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), USA.
- This is a low-cost, handheld imaging device to screen oral cancer and precancer based on measured change in blood flow rate of the tissue from thermal imaging and analytics.
- The handheld unit combines various sensors and controllers that feed the measured data to a computer simulation engine to classify normal, precancer and cancer cases in the oral cavity without needing referral to specialised medical

centres for resource-intensive diagnostic procedures.

Oral cancer

- Cancer of the oral cavity remains one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in socially-challenged and underserved communities.
- There is an 80 per cent chance on average of a five-year survival rate if diagnosed early; the survival rate drops to 65 per cent or less in more advanced stages of the disease.
- In reality, most oral cancers remain undetected until they have reached an advanced stage.

ULTRA-LONG PERIOD MAGNETAR

Scientists have detected what appears to be an incredibly dense star behaving unlike anything else ever seen - and suspect it might be a type of exotic astrophysical object whose existence has been only hypothesised until now.

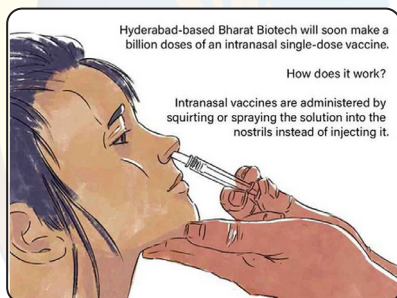
About

- The object, spotted using the Murchison Widefield Array telescope in outback Western Australia, unleashed huge bursts of energy roughly three times per hour when viewed from Earth during two months in 2018.
- It may be the first known example of what is called an "ultra-long period magnetar."
- This is a variety of neutron star - the compact collapsed core of a massive star that exploded as a supernova - that is highly magnetised and rotates relatively slowly, as opposed to fast-spinning neutron star objects called pulsars that appear from Earth to be blinking on and off within milliseconds or seconds.

- It is located relatively close to Earth in cosmic terms, roughly 4,200 light years away, where a light year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km.
- Neutron stars including pulsars are among the universe's densest objects.
- They are roughly 12 km in diameter - akin to the size of a city - but with more mass than our Sun.
- A neutron star with an extreme magnetic field, a magnetar, could potentially power the radio pulsations, the researchers said.

INTRANASAL VACCINES

The Drugs Controller General of India Friday approved the trials of intranasal booster doses against Covid-19 that is being manufactured by Bharat Biotech, the maker of Covaxin.



About

- Vaccines are usually given through different routes, with the most common being injectable shots delivered into the muscles (intramuscular) or the tissue just between the skin and the muscles (subcutaneous).
- Other routes of delivery, especially in some vaccines for infants, include administering the liquid solution orally instead of injecting. In the intranasal route, the vaccine is sprayed into the nostrils and inhaled.

The importance of such vaccines

- Many viruses, including the coronavirus, enter the body through mucosa — wet, squishy tissues that line the nose, mouth, lungs and digestive tract — triggering a unique immune response from cells and molecules there. Intramuscular vaccines generally fail at eliciting this mucosal response, and instead rely on immune cells mobilised from elsewhere in the body flocking to the site of infection.
- Experts believe an intranasal vaccine will act against the virus from the time it tries to break the body's barrier, thereby making it more effective than the intramuscular ones in many cases.
- Experts believe an intranasal vaccine will act against the virus from the time it tries to break the body's barrier, thereby making it more effective than the intramuscular ones in many cases.
- These vaccines aim to overcome potential difficulties with mass vaccination and reduce the cost by doing away with the need for needles and syringes. Intranasal vaccines are also expected to cut down on the dependence on various trained personnel to administer the vaccine.

BA.2 SUB-VARIANT OF OMICRON

In the last couple of weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in the discovery of BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron from several countries, leading to fresh worries about the possibility of another surge in cases.

About

- Last week, the UK Health Security Agency flagged this sub-variant and designated it as a 'variant under investigation'.
- This sub-variant has been present in substantial numbers in India as well, but

India is not amongst the countries where the recent increase has been noticed.

A sub-variant of Omicron

- 2 is one of the several sub-variants of the Omicron which has spread rapidly across the world since November.
- The Omicron name was given to the B.1.1.529 lineage after it was designated as a variant of concern.
- Later, it was found that this lineage had small variations of its own, and the three most common were named B.1.1.529.1, B.1.1.529.2, and B.1.1.529.3. For ease of reference, however, these sub-lineages were later re-classified as BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3.
- The Omicron sub-variant that has been most common in circulation till now is BA.1. This continues to be the case even now, though the proportion of BA.2 is on the rise.

SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SSLV)

The new chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation Dr S Somanath indicated at a meeting with the minister of state for space Jitendra Singh Tuesday that ISRO's indigenous new launch rockets, called the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), will have its much-delayed, maiden development flight this April.

About

- The ISRO chairman has mentioned the launch of an "SSLV-D1 Micro SAT in April 2022."
- The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private

corporations, and universities for small satellites.

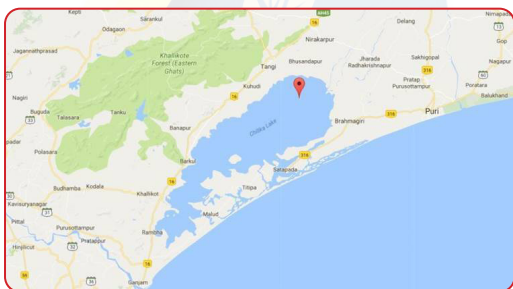
- The launch of small satellites has until now been dependent on 'piggy-back' rides with big satellite launches on ISRO's work-horse – the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle which has had over 50 successful launches so far.
- The launch of small satellites as a consequence has been dependent on the finalising of launch contracts for the larger satellites by ISRO.
- The SSLV can carry satellites weighing up to 500 kg to a low earth orbit while the tried and tested PSLV can launch satellites weighing in the range of 1000 kg.
- The SSLV is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO. It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle.
- Only six people will be required to do the job, instead of 60 people. The entire job will be done in a very short time and the cost will be only around Rs 30 crore. It will be an on-demand vehicle.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

CHILIKA LAKE

Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of birds in the Indian subcontinent, saw a million birds, including the uncommon Mongolian gull, visiting the waterbody this year.



About

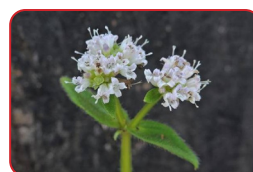
- As per the Water Bird Status Survey-2022 conducted in the Chilika, 10,74,173 water birds (107 species) and 37,953 individuals (76 wetland dependent species) were counted in the entire lagoon.
- Last year, the count in the Chilika was over 12 lakh. Members who were part of the census also reported sighting the Mongolian gull.
- The census was undertaken jointly by the Odisha State Wildlife Organisation, the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and the Bombay Natural History Society.
- The increase in numbers for the greater flamingo at Nalabana mudflat indicates that the restoration at Nalabana is effective. This year's greater flamingo count was the highest in the last decade. It

is largely due to appropriate management of mudflats.

Chilika Lake

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km².
- It is the biggest lake of India. It is the largest salt water lake in India.
- Chilika Lake hosts birds migrating from thousands of miles away from the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Mongolia, Central and Southeast Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas.
- FIMBRISTYLIS SUNILII; NEANOTIS PRABHUII
- **Researchers from SNM College Maliankara, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and the Payyanur College have reported two new plant species from the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats regions in Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts of Kerala. They have been christened Fimbristylis sunilii and Neanotis prabhuii.**

Fimbristylis sunilii



- Collected from the grasslands of Ponnudi hills, Thiruvananthapuram, *Fimbristylis sunilii* has been named after plant taxonomist C.N. Sunil, retired professor and research guide of Botany, SNM College.
- A perennial plant of the Cyperaceae family, it stands 20-59 cm tall and was collected from an elevation of 1,100 metres.
- *Fimbristylis sunilii* has been provisionally assessed as data deficient (DD) under the IUCN Red List categories.

Neanotis prabhuii

- *Neanotis prabhuii* is a prostrate perennial herb named after K.M. Prabhukumar, Senior Scientist at CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, in recognition of his research on flowering plants of the Western Ghats.
- Discovered in the Chembra Peak grasslands of Wayanad, it hails from the family Rubiaceae and grows on high-altitude grasslands.
- *Neanotis prabhuii* grows up to 70 cm in length and is many-flowered with the petals pale pink in colour.

GANODERMA

Researchers from Kerala have identified two new species of fungi from the genus *Ganoderma* that are associated with coconut stem rot.

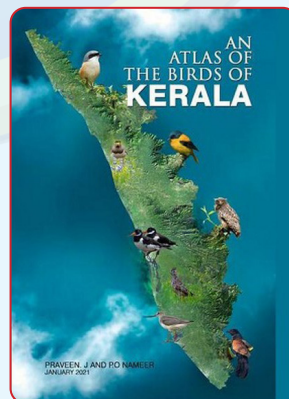


About

- They have also genotyped the two fungi species, named *Ganoderma keralense* and *G. pseudoapplanatum* and identified genetic biomarkers.
- The DNA barcodes have been made publicly available in DNA sequence repositories so that future studies can use it for early detection of the pathogen. The research was published in the journal *Mycologia*.
- The butt rot or basal stem rot of coconut is known by several names in different parts of India: *Ganoderma* wilt (Andhra Pradesh), *Anabero* (Karnataka) and *Thanjavur wilt* (Tamil Nadu), to mention a few.
- The infection begins at the roots, but symptoms include discolouration and rotting of stem and leaves. In the later stages, flowering and nut set decreases and finally the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) dies.

KERALA BIRD ATLAS (KBA)

The Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA), the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies.



About

- Conducted as a citizen science-driven exercise with the participation of over 1,000 volunteers of the birdwatching community, the KBA has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020.
- The KBA accounts for nearly three lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.
- It is arguably Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists.
- It was found that the species count was higher during the dry season than in the wet season while species richness and evenness were higher in the northern and central districts than in the southern districts.
- Most of the endemics were concentrated in the Western Ghats while the threatened species were mostly along the coast.
- The survey ignored the short duration passage of migrant species.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCIES (SEIAA)

A proposal by the Union Environment Ministry to “rank” and “incentivise” States on how quickly they could give environmental clearances to proposed infrastructure projects has drawn fire from environmentalists on the grounds that it contravenes basic principles of environmental regulation.

About

- A note to States by the Union Environment Ministry on January 17 spells out seven criteria to rate State Environmental Impact Assessment Agencies (SEIAA) on “transparency, efficiency and accountability”.
- On a scale of seven, a SEIAA, for instance, gets two marks for granting a clearance in less than 80 days, one mark for within 105 days and no marks for more.
- If less than 10% of the projects for scrutiny prompted a site visit by committee members, to examine ground conditions, a SEIAA would get one mark.
- More than 20%, on the other hand, would be a demerit or zero marks. SEIAA with a score of seven or more would be rated ‘five star.’
- Ministry officials said that the ranking criteria was not intended to accelerate the speed with which clearances were accorded but to encourage the SEIAA to take quicker decisions on approving or rejecting a project, and adhere to timelines already specified by the provisions of the Act.
- The project appraisal process is an online process where aspirant companies must upload documents on a portal called Parivesh.

TIGER ESTIMATION

Tiger census will commence at Bandipur and at Nagarhole as part of the All-India Tiger and Mega Herbivore Estimation.

About

- This is part of the nation-wide enumeration that is held once in four

years and is the fifth such exercise being taken up — the earlier ones being held in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018.

- In the 2018 census, there were 125 tigers in Nagarahole whereas there were 72 tigers in the 2014 exercise which was a big jump.
- Nagarahole Tiger Reserve is located in Kodagu district and Mysore district in Karnataka.
- Bandipur National Park is located in Chamaraajnagar district in It was established as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1973. It is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve since 1986.

MSTRIPES

- This year's enumeration exercise entails the use of MSTRIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) app and apart from the tiger counts, the exercise will also throw up data on mega herbivores, including elephants and gaurs.
- The use of apps ensures that the data is not only digitised but is uploaded on a real-time basis and is robust.

RAMGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY SET TO BE NOTIFIED AS 4TH TIGER RESERVE OF RAJASTHAN

- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is among the proposed five sites in the country, is expected to be formally notified as tiger reserve (TR) soon before the Global Tiger Summit, which is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia.
- The Centre has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.

About the Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary

- The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary will be spread across 1,071 sq kms. A 302 Sq Km area in the proposed tiger sanctuary will be left as critical habitat for Tigers and the rest of the area will act as a buffer zone for the Ranthambore National Park.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1982.
- The core areas of the sanctuary have 8 villages and are home to large numbers of wild animals like sambhars, caracals, wild boars, nilgai, and striped Hyena.

SEPTEMERANTHUS

A new genus of a parasitic flowering plant has recently been discovered from the Nicobar group of islands.

About



- The genus Septemeranthus grows on the plant species *Horsfieldia glabra* (Blume) Warb.
- The parasitic flowering plants have a modified root structure spread on the stem of the tree and are anchored inside the bark of the host tree.
- The plant was found on the periphery of the tropical forest in one of the biodiversity hotspots referred to as the Nicobar group of islands separated from the Andaman group of Islands by a wide gap of 160 km with heavy tidal flows.

- The genus *Septemeranthus* has a distinct vegetative morphology, inflorescence architecture and floral characters.
- The leaves of the plant are heart-shaped with a very long tip and the ovary, fruit and seeds are 'urceolate' (earthen pot-shaped). The flowers have five persistent bracts having conspicuous margins.
- The name *Septemeranthus* is derived from the Latin word 'septem' meaning 'seven', referring to the arrangement of flowers. The genus belongs to the family Loranthaceae, a hemi-parasite under the sandalwood order Santalales and is of widespread importance.





REPORTS AND INDICES

WORLD ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REPORT

WORLD BANK PROJECTS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH AT 8.3% IN FY22

- The World Bank has projected the Indian economy to grow at the following rate in its 'Global Economic Prospects' report released on January 11, 2022.
- The World Bank retained its FY22 growth forecast for India at 8.3 per cent but upgraded it to 8.7 per cent for FY23, from 7.5 per cent estimated earlier, citing improving growth prospects, especially a reviving private capex cycle.
- The Bangladesh GDP will grow at 6.4 percent in the FY 2021-22 ending June 2022, due to increasing services activity and firming exports of readymade garment, says the World Bank.
- GDP growth rate is forecast to go up to 6.9 percent in 2022-23. Bangladesh economy is estimated to have grown at 5 percent in the current fiscal 2020-21 up from 3.5 percent in 2019-20.
- In its latest Global Economic Prospects report announced on Wednesday, the WB noted that growth prospects in South Asia have improved since June 2021 because of improved prospects in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- Regional growth is expected to accelerate to 7.6 percent in 2022 as pandemic related disruptions fade. However, it will decelerate to 6.0 percent in 2023. Despite the upward revision to growth, output in 2023 is still projected to be almost 8 percent lower than projected before the pandemic.
- The World Bank noted that the emergence of the Omicron variant could hinder economic activity by requiring additional restrictions on mobility. It says that climate risks are becoming more prevalent in South Asia as cyclones, floods, and droughts have become more frequent.
- The region is one of the most vulnerable to climate-induced increases in poverty, disease, child mortality and food price, says the World Bank.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2022

- India has improved its position by seven places to rank at 83rd place among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index, released for Q1 of 2022. India ranked at 90th spot among 116 countries in Q4 of 2021 in October.
- Oman and Armenia are the latest destinations where Indian passport holders can visit without obtaining a visa.

On a global level

- Japan and Singapore have retained the joint top position in the Henley Global Mobility Report 2022 Q1. Their passports holders are allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries. Afghanistan has the world's least powerful passports, with a visa-free score of 26.

INDIA FOREST SURVEY REPORT 2021

- The Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the 'India State of Forest Report 2021' prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country.

Major Findings

- The total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.9 million hectares which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country.
- As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of 2,261 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country. Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km.
- Increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest followed by very dense forest. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km) followed by Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).
- Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.90%).
- 17 states/UT's have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these states and UT's, five states/UTs namely Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover.

- Total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km. An increase of 17 sq km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2019. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Odisha (8 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km).
- Total carbon stock in country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes and there an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country as compared to the last assessment of 2019. The annual increase in the carbon stock is 39.7 million tonnes.

DIGITAL PAYMENT INDEX

- The RBI's Digital Payment Index, which shows the deepening of payments through digital modes in India, rose by 39.64 per cent to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.

UNCTAD REPORT: FDI FLOWS TO INDIA FALLS BY 26% IN 2021

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India fell by 26 per cent in 2021, compared to 2020, as per the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Investment Trends Monitor published.
- UNCTAD said that low FDI in India was mainly because large cross-border mergers & acquisitions (M&A) deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated.
- The global FDI flows increased by 77 per cent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion in 2021, from USD 929 billion in 2020.
- CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) 2021: INDIA RANKS 85TH
- Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40).

- The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88).
- This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be.
- The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). 180 countries are ranked in it.
- Last year (for 2020) India was ranked 86th with a score of 40.
- This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals that corruption levels are at a worldwide standstill.
- The global average remains unchanged for the tenth year in a row, at just 43 out of 100 points.

List of India's Rank Different Index 2021-22:

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

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- IMF down India's FY22 growth forecast to 9% from 9.5%
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) to

9 per cent, in its latest world economic outlook report.

- According to the IMF, India's prospects for 2023 are marked up on expected improvements to credit growth and, subsequently, investment and consumption, building on the better-than-anticipated performance of the financial sector.



SPORTS NEWS

JASPRIT BUMRAH ACHIEVES MILESTONE OF PICKING 100 TEST WICKETS

- Jasprit Bumrah has achieved the milestone of picking 100 wickets away from home in 22 Test matches. Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions. The 28-year-old now has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home. Bumrah, who made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, has played 25 Tests, 23 of which have come on the road.

2022 MELBOURNE SUMMER SET TENNIS TOURNAMENT

- Rafael Nadal won the men's singles tennis title at 2022 Melbourne Summer Set 1. Nadal beat American qualifier Maxime Cressy 7-6(6), 6-3 to earn his 89th career ATP title
- In the women's singles, Simona Halep beat Russia's Veronika Kudermetova 6-2, 6-3 to win her 23rd career WTA title

BHARATH SUBRAMANIAM: INDIA'S 73RD CHESS GRANDMASTER

- Tamil Nadu's Bharath Subramaniam became India's 73rd chess Grandmaster. He secured the third and final Grandmaster norm at an event at Cattolica in Italy
 - ♦ 70th: Raja Rithvik (Telangana)
 - ♦ 71st: Sankalp Gupta (Maharashtra)
 - ♦ 72nd: Mitrabha Guha (West Bengal)

WORLD RAPID CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

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

VIRAT KOHLI

- Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team. The decision comes after the series defeat against South Africa.

About

- Kohli replaced MS Dhoni as the captain of Indian team in 2015 and became the most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches.



- Virat Kohli is the most successful full-time Indian captain in Tests both in terms of number of matches won and in terms of win percentage.
- Kohli holds the record for most Test appearances as India Test captain (68) and he also holds the record for most Test wins by an Indian captain (40). Only Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting, and Steve Waugh have won more matches than Kohli as captain in Test cricket.

- Under his dynamic captaincy India became a formidable force and dominated every team at home. He became the first-ever Asian captain to win a Test series in Australia.
- Under him, the team reclaimed the top spot in the ICC test rankings, and also qualified for the final of the first ever ICC World Test Championship.
- Kohli also holds the record for scoring most Test centuries (20) as India captain.

CAPTAIN OF INDIA WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

- Goalkeeper Savita Punia will lead India at the upcoming women's Asia Cup in Muscat as Hockey India
- Since regular skipper Rani Rampal is recovering from an injury in Bengaluru, Savita will lead the side in the tournament, which is scheduled to be held between January 21-28.

TASNIM MIR

- Tasnim Mir became the first Indian to grab World no 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles category with 10,810 points in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings.
- She is followed by Mariia Golubeva from Russia and Lucia Rodriguez from Spain
- The World No.1 position in Boy's Singles is shared by Lakshya Sen, Siril Verma and Aditya Joshi.

INDIA TO HOST AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL ASIAN CUP 2022

- Place - Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Pune.
- Japan are the defending champions of the Women's Asian Cup, having won it in 2018.

THE BEST FIFA FOOTBALL AWARDS 2021

- Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas and Poland/Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski were awarded the Best FIFA Players in women's and men's football respectively.
- Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020.

PAKISTANI SKIPPER BABAR AZAM NAMED CAPTAIN OF ICC MEN'S T20I TEAM OF THE YEAR

- The ICC Team of the Year recognises the 11 best players in men's cricket who have impressed one and all with their performances in a calendar year, either with the bat, ball or their all-round performance.
- No Indian male player has found a place in the team of 11.
- However, in ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021, Smriti Mandhana is the only Indian women player named in the 11 member team.

INDIA'S FIRST PARA-BADMINTON ACADEMY LAUNCHED IN LUCKNOW

- India's first para-badminton academy has been set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It has all the advanced equipment and facilities.
- India's first para-badminton academy has been set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- It has all the advanced equipment and facilities.
- The set-up will improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics to be

held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.

- The badminton centre has been launched by the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.

SYED MODI BADMINTON 2022

- PV Sindhu has bagged the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament in Lucknow.
- Sindhu beat fellow Indian Malvika Bansod

Winners in other categories

- Men's singles: Final was declared a 'No Match' between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout, after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19.
- Men's doubles: Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)
- Women's doubles: Anna Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)
- Mixed Doubles: Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Castro (India).

WOMEN NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

- The women's team from Ladakh has lifted the 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship in Himachal Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL ANNOUNCED ICC AWARDS 2021

- ♦ Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-Smriti Mandhana (India)

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

RAFAEL NADAL

- Rafael Nadal won a five-set duel with Daniil Medvedev and claimed a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final.



About

- Nadal moved ahead of era rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the all-time list of men's Major winners.

- Djokovic missed his chance to improve on his nine Australian Open wins when he was deported over vaccination issues on the eve of the tournament, while Federer is injured.
- Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice and the third oldest man in the Open Era (since 1970) to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.
- It was held from January 19 to 29, 2022 in Santiago, Chile. With this win both Argentina and Chile have sealed automatic qualification spots at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup, Spain and Netherlands 2022.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2022: RAFAEL NADAL BEATS DANIIL MEDVEDEV

The winners list of Australian Open Tennis Title 2022:

Events And Winners

Men's Singles Rafael Nadal

Women's Singles - Ashleigh Barty

Men's Doubles - Thanasi Kokkinakis
and Nick Kyrgios

Women's Doubles- Barbora Krejčíková
and Kateřina Siniaková

Mixed Doubles - Kristina Mladenovic
and Ivan Dodig

6TH PAN AM WOMEN CUP HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

- Argentina defeated Chile, 4-2 to win its 6th women's field hockey championship title at the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup.
- The Women's Pan American Cup is the quadrennial international championship of the Americas organized by the Pan American Hockey Federation.
- The 2022 Women's Pan Am Cup was the sixth edition of the championship.



SINDHUTAI SAPKAL

Renowned social worker Sindhutai Sapkal, fondly known as ‘orphan children’s mother’, died following a heart attack.

About

- Sapkal, who had received the Padma Shri last year, had completed 74 years in November.
- Born on November 14, 1948, in Wardha district of Maharashtra, Sapkal was forced to drop out of school after she had passed Class IV.
- Sapkal, who grew up in extreme poverty, went on to set up institutes for orphan children.
- Having raised over 1,050 orphan children, she could boast of having 207 sons-in-law and 36 daughters-in-law.

FATIMA SHEIKH

- On 9 January 2022, Google honoured Fatima Sheikh with a doodle on her 191st birth anniversary.

About

- Fatima Sheikh was an Indian educator, who was a colleague of the social reformers Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule.
- Fatima Sheikh was the sister of Mian Usman Sheikh, in whose house Jyotiba and Savitribai Phule took up residence.
- One of the first Muslim women teachers of modern India, she started educating Dalit children in Phules’ school.

- Jyotiba and Savitribai Phule along with Fatima Sheikh took charge of spreading education among the downtrodden communities.
- Sheikh met Savitribai Phule while both were enrolled at a teacher training institution run by Cynthia Farrar, an American missionary.



- She taught at all five schools that the Phules went on to establish and she taught children of all religions and castes. Sheikh took part in the founding of two schools in Bombay in 1851.

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

Lal Bahadur Shastri was India’s second Prime Minister, who breathed his last at the age of 61 on January 11, 1966. His famous slogan “Jai Jawan Jai Kisan” captures the spirit of India and inspires all generations. He promoted the White Revolution and Green Revolution in India, which led to an increase in the production of milk supply and food grain, respectively.

Key facts about him

- Lal Bahadur Shastri was only 16 when Mahatma Gandhi called upon the countrymen to join the Non-Cooperation Movement. Lal Bahadur Shastri at once responded to Mahatma Gandhi’s call.

He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi.

- He was minister in the Union Cabinet from 1951 to 1956 when he resigned taking responsibility for the railway accident and later from 1957-1964.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' during the 1965 war boosted the morale of the soldiers as well as farmers amid food scarcity.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri promoted the White Revolution, a countrywide campaign to increase milk production. He supported the Amul milk co-operative at Anand in Gujarat and created the National Dairy Development Board.
- To boost India's food production, Lal Bahadur Shastri promoted the Green Revolution in India in 1965, which led to an increase in food grain production, especially in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- He signed an agreement with then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) on persons of Indian origin there, in 1964 — an endorsement of the importance of the neighborhood.

Death

- Shastri's Prime Ministership came to an abrupt end on 10th January 1966, when he suddenly expired in Tashkent, then in the USSR and currently the capital of Uzbekistan. He was there to discuss and sign an agreement (Tashkent Agreement).

Legacy

- He was the first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966).

NARAYAN DEBNATH

- Legendary Bengali comics artist, writer and illustrator, Narayan Debnath, has passed away after a prolonged illness.

- The celebrated cartoonist was the creator of popular Bengali comic strips like Handa Bhonda (1962), Bantul the Great (1965) and Nonte Phonte (1969).
- In 2021, Debnath was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India

POET MAYA ANGELOU

- The US Treasury has minted coins featuring poet Maya Angelou – the first black woman ever featured on the US 25-cent coin known as a quarter. Angelou, a poet and activist, was the first black woman to write and perform a poem at a presidential inauguration.
- In 2010, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award by President Barack Obama.

M. K. PRASAD

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

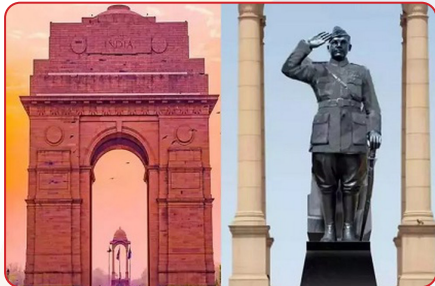
JAHNAVI DANGETI

- Jahn timer Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP) at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US.
- She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA)

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

- In order to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and as part of the year-long celebrations, the government has decided to install a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

About



- The statue, made of granite, shall be a fitting tribute to the immense contribution of Netaji in our freedom struggle, and would be a symbol of the country's indebtedness to him.
- Till the work for the statue is completed, a hologram statue of Netaji will be present at the same place. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will unveil the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate on 23rd January, 2022.
- The hologram statue will be powered by a 30,000 lumens 4K projector.
- An invisible, high gain, 90% transparent holographic screen has been erected in such a way so that it is not visible to visitors. The 3D image of Netaji will be projected on it to create the effect of a hologram. The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width.

Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars

- During the programme, Prime Minister will also confer the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the investiture ceremony. A total of seven awards will be presented during the ceremony.
- Union government has instituted the annual Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe given Netaji Award 2022

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

THIRU R. NAGASWAMY

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed sorrow on the demise of eminent archaeologist Thiru R. Nagaswamy. The Prime recalled his contribution towards popularising the vibrant culture of Tamil Nadu.

About

- Ramachandran Nagaswamy (1930 – 2022) was an Indian historian, archaeologist and epigraphist who was known for his work on temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu.
- He served as a Director of the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department.
- He was also instrumental in starting the annual Chidambaram Natyanjali festival in 1980.
- He was an authority in Chola Bronzes.
- He was awarded India's third highest civilian award the Padma Bhushan in 2018.

AYESHA MALIK

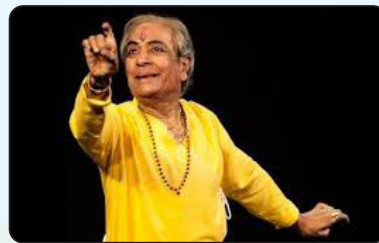
- In a historic moment for Pakistan's judiciary, Lahore High Court's Justice Ayesha Malik was sworn in as the Supreme Court's first female judge

About

- The swearing in of the first female judge of Pakistan's highest court – which was established in 1956 – is noteworthy.
- Compare this to India, where the Supreme Court (established in 1950) currently has four female judges out of a total of 34. Three of them were appointed in September 2021 and one of them, Justice BV Nagarathna could possibly become India's first female Chief Justice in 2027.
- India's first female judge Justice Fathima Beevi was appointed in 1989.

PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj.



About

- Pandit Birju Maharaj (1937 – 2022), better known simply as Birju Maharaj, was an Indian dancer, composer, singer and exponent of the Lucknow “Kalka-Bindadin” Gharana of Kathak dance in India.
- He was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers, which includes his two uncles, Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj, and his father and guru, Acchan Maharaj.
- He also practised Hindustani classical music and was a vocalist.
- After working along with his uncle, Shambhu Maharaj at Bhartiya Kala Kendra, later the Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, he remained head of the latter, for several years, till his retirement in 1998 when he opened his own dance school, Kalashram, also in Delhi.

Awards and honours

- ◆ 1964 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Award
- ◆ 1986 - Padma Vibhushan
- ◆ 1986 - Nritya Choodamani Award by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha
- ◆ 1987 - Kalidas Samman
- ◆ 2002 - Lata Mangeshkar Puraskar
- ◆ Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award



AWARDS

JC CHAUDHRY GETS FIRST EVER GUINNESS WORLD RECORD IN NUMEROLOGY

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

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

- The 79th Golden Globe Awards honored the best in film and American television of 2021, as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)



About

- While the **Power Of The Dog** movie won the two biggest awards, one of Best Film in Drama category and another of Best Director honored upon **Jane Campion**.

- Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe of Best Film Actor for his movie **King Richard**.
- Nicole Kidman won her fifth Golden Globe for Best Film Actress for **Being The Ricardos**.
- West Side Story directed by Steven Spielberg won major awards that included Best Film in Comedy/Musical segment, Best Film Actress for Rachel Zegler and Best Supporting Actress for Ariana DeBose.
- Andrew Garfield won Best Film Actor award in comedy/musical segment for **Tick, Tick... BOOM!**.

GLOBAL LIST FOR 'ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

- The Chennai International Airport is one of the top 10 large international airports in the world that ensures 'on-time' departures
- According to the latest traffic figures of Chennai Airport, it has recovered 80 % in domestic traffic. It is the sixth busiest airport in India.
- Besides that, Chennai airport is the only Indian airport to figure in the top 10 positions of the list. The first three positions have been bagged by
 - ♦ United State's Miami Airport,
 - ♦ Fukuoka Airport, and
 - ♦ Haneda Airport in Japan.

KERALA ARTS AND CRAFTS VILLAGE ORGANIZATION' WON 'INTERNATIONAL CRAFT AWARD 2021

- Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Organization (KACV) from Kovalam, Kerala was awarded the 'International Craft Award for 2021' for the best craft village in the world by the World Crafts Council International.
- It is the only award India received in the non-individual category.

GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH TECH AWARDS

Two start-ups supported by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council have received the World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards.

About

- The start-ups are NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd. and InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- These awards recognise innovative startups that leverage technology to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.
- NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd was selected for its novel software-based medical device that detects early-stage breast cancer in a simple and private way on women of all age groups and breast densities. The solution developed is a low cost, accurate, automated, portable, contactless, radiation-free, and painless cancer screening tool with no known side effects.
- InnAccel Technologies Pvt Ltd. was adjudged a winner for Fetal Lite. It is a next-generation, AI-powered fetal heart

rate monitor based on fetal ECG signal extraction technology for mothers in labour or post 37 weeks of gestation.

UNDP YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION

- Youtuber Prajakta Koli become India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion
- With this title, Prajakta will now have the responsibility to interact with the young generation to raise awareness around climate crisis, global warming and biodiversity loss and their impacts.
- She is also the global ambassador for YouTube's 'Creators For Change' initiative.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKING WOMEN AWARD

- Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen has been conferred with the International Association of Working Women Award at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021
- The former Miss Universe has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.

JAI BHIM' & MARAKKAR SHORTLISTED FOR THE OSCARS 2022

- Indian Movie's Jai Bhim and Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham have been officially shortlisted for the Oscars 2022.
- Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan. Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham has been also nominated for the Global Community Oscar Awards 2021.

PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR-2022

- 29 Children have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this Year, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories.

About

- There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs.
- The cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- was given to the awardees of PMRBP 2022.
- The award is given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development every year to recognize exceptional achievements of our children in various fields i.e., innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, sports and bravery.

JEEVAN RAKSHA PADAK

- The President of India has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards - 2021 on 51 persons which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 06, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 16 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 29 persons. Five awardees are posthumous.

About

- The Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for a meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person. The award is given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously.

- The decoration of the award (medal, certificate signed by the Union Home Minister and lump sum monetary allowance) is presented to the awardee in due course by the respective Union Ministries/Organizations/State Government to which the award belongs.

PADMA AWARDS

- This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).

About

- ♦ The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.
- ♦ 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- ♦ Padma Vibhushan (4)
- ♦ Prabha Atre (Art)
- ♦ Shri Radheyshyam Khemka - Posthumous (Literature and Education)
- ♦ General Bipin Rawat - Posthumous (Civil Service)
- ♦ Shri Kalyan Singh - Posthumous (Public Affairs)
- ♦ Padma Bhushan (17)
- ♦ Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad (Public Affairs)
- ♦ Shri Victor Banerjee (Art)
- ♦ Gurmeet Bawa – Posthumous (Art)
- ♦ Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (Public Affairs)
- ♦ Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Trade and Industry)
- ♦ Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella – Duo (Trade and Industry)

- ◆ Madhur Jaffery (Others-Culinary)
- ◆ Shri Devendra Jhajharia (Sports)
- ◆ Shri Rashid Khan (Art)
- ◆ Shri Rajiv Mehrishi (Civil Service)
- ◆ Shri Satya Narayana Nadella (Trade and Industry)
- ◆ Shri Sundararajan Pichai (Trade and Industry)
- ◆ Shri Cyrus Poonawalla (Trade and Industry)
- ◆ Shri Sanjaya Rajaram – Posthumous (Science and Engineering)
- ◆ Pratibha Ray (Literature and Education)
- ◆ Swami Sachidanand (Literature and Education)
- ◆ Shri Vashishth Tripathi (Literature and Education)

PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

- Olympian Neeraj Chopra will be honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal on the eve of Republic Day by President Ram Nath Kovind. He is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the Olympics

Other honour of Neeraj Chopra:

- Chopra was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018 and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2020 for his excellence in sports.
- The Haryana state will also showcase the life-size replica of Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra in the form of a tableau during the 2022 Republic Day parade.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

- President Ram Nath Kovind will honour 384 defence personnel with Gallantry and other awards at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

- The awards include 12 Shaurya Chakras, 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 4 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 13 Yudh Seva Medals, three Bar to Vishisht Seva Medals.
- The President will also honour the winners of 122 Vishisht Seva Medals, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 40 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), and 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty).

ASOM BAIBHAV AWARD

- The government of Assam has conferred its highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav' on Industrialist Ratan Tata.
- The Assam government conferred 'Asom Baibhav' to Ratan Tata for his contribution to setting up cancer treatment facilities in the state.

Other awards winners

- Assam Saurav award was conferred on Professor Dipak Chand Jain, Lovlina Borgohain, Professor Kamalendu Deb Krori, Dr Lakshmanan S, and Neel Pawan Baruah.
- Assam Gaurav award was conferred on Manoj Kumar Basumatary, Munindra Nath Ngatey, Dharanidhar Boro, Hemoprabha Chutia, Dr Basanta Hazarika, Kaushik Baruah, Khorsing Terang, Akash Jyoti Gogoi, Namita Kalita, Dr Asif Iqbal, Kalpana Boro, Bobby Hazarika, and Bormita Momin.

SATISH ADIGA GETS ICMR NATIONAL AWARD "DR SUBHAS MUKHERJEE AWARD"

- A professor in the clinical embryology department at Kasturba Medical College (KMC), under Manipal Academy of Higher education (MAHE), Dr Satish Adiga has been selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for its national award.



SEA DRAGON 2022 EXERCISE:

- India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2022 at Guam in the Western Pacific.
- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the
- United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.
- The focus of the exercise:
- Sea Dragon 22 focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training and excellence, which includes everything from tracking simulated targets to tracking a genuine US Navy submarine.

IAC VIKRANT



- After two successive high profile visits – the President and Vice President of India – within a span of less than two weeks, IAC Vikrant is heading out for the next set of sea trials.

About

- While the maiden sea trials in August last year were to establish propulsion, navigational suite and basic operations, the second sea trial later in October-November witnessed the ship being put through its paces in terms of various machinery trials and flight trials.
- INS Vikrant, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1), is an aircraft carrier constructed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for the Indian Navy.
- It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India.
- It is named ‘Vikrant’ as a tribute to India’s first aircraft carrier, Vikrant (R11).
- The name Vikrant (Sanskrit vikrānta, literally “stepping beyond”) means “courageous”.
- The motto of the ship is “Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhaḥ”, which is taken from Rigveda and means “I defeat those who fight against me”.
- Vikrant is scheduled to be commissioned into service by August 2022, with flight trials of aircraft expected to be completed by mid-2023.

FIRST COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

- The first Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Workshop on “Developing

Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark Web handling and Digital Forensics” was hosted.



About

- It was hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India in association with National Forensics Science University, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and the Secretariat of the Colombo Security Conclave, over two days on 10-11 January 2022.
- Delegates from Member and Observer States of the of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) including Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Bangladesh participated in the workshop.
- At the 5th Deputy NSA Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave held on 04 August 2021, Members and Observer States had agreed on four pillars of cooperation including
 - Maritime Safety and Security,
 - Terrorism and Radicalization,
 - Trafficking and Organized Crime and Cyber Security and
 - Protection of Critical Infrastructure.
- Participants agreed to identify key deliverables and continue to work on the way forward for cooperation on cyber security under the Colombo Security Conclave.

MAN-PORTABLE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE

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

About



- The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is low weight and fire & forget missile.
- The missile successfully destroyed the target during the test flight.
- The present test was to prove the consistent performance for the minimum range. All the mission objectives were met.
- The missile has miniaturised infrared imaging seeker and advanced avionics for on-board control and guidance. The missile performance has been proven for the maximum range in earlier test trials.

DEFENCE REFORMS

Defence Ministry launched three new initiatives for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day.

About

- The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare has allotted 320 crore rupees to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for the welfare veterans and their families. This will benefit over one lakh 66 thousand wards and widows of Ex-Servicemen.

- The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare also launched a dedicated Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal designed to speedily redress pension, including family pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen and their dependents.
- Directorate General of Resettlement has issued around seven thousand 900 job letters to freshly retired Ex-servicemen during the period of April to December 2021.

PASSEX EXERCISE

- Indian Navy and Russian Navy undertook PASSEX exercises at the port of Cochin, in the Arabian Sea. The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS Kochi, took part in the exercise. Russian Federation Navy was represented by RFS Admiral Tributs.

About the exercises

- These exercises are aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and this will involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations, Navy officials said, adding that these exercises are conducted regularly with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea.

BRAHMOS

- In the first export order for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system, the Philippines has approved a \$374.96 mn contract for the purchase of shore-based anti-ship variant of the missile from India, while discussions are ongoing with a few other Southeast Asian countries.

- BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with enhanced capability, successfully test-fired off Odisha coast.

About

- BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with increased indigenous content and improved performance, was successfully test-fired from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on January 20, 2022.
- The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The missile was equipped with advanced indigenous technologies and followed a modified optimal trajectory for enhanced efficiency and improved performance. The missile with the modified control system has been fine-tuned to achieve an enhanced capability.
- BrahMos Aerospace, the joint venture between DRDO and NPOM, Russia, has been continuously upgrading the powerful, highly versatile BrahMos to increase its effectiveness and lethality against sea and land targets. BrahMos is the potent missile weapon system already inducted into the Armed Forces.

'SEA TO SEA' VARIANT OF BRAHMOS MISSILE

- India successfully tested an advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile from INS Visakhapatnam.

About



- BrahMos, deployed by the Navy on its warships first in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon.
- The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, respectively.
- This version of the missile has been designed to launch either in a vertical or a horizontal mode from moving/stationary assets to target both land and sea targets.
- The missiles, fired at a speed of 2.8 Mach or nearly three times the speed of sound, significantly increase the capability of the ships in engaging long-range targets.
- BrahMos missiles are designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.

INDIA & JAPAN CONDUCTED MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE IN BAY OF BENGAL

- The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt while JMSDF Ships Uruga and Hirado participated from the Japanese side.
- Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.

'SAAB'

- Swedish defence company 'Saab' had been selected by the Indian Armed Force through a competitive programme for

the supply of single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4.

About the AT4

- AT4 will be operated by a single soldier and its single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures landing craft helicopters armoured vehicles and personnel. Its 84 mm calibre warhead offers enhanced power and performance to the Indian armed forces.
- The weapon can be fired with a range of projectiles, such as high-explosive anti-tank rounds, anti-structure tandem-warheads, and high explosive rounds. It can penetrate more than 17.5 inches (44 centimetres) of armour.
- The AT4 is equipped with an optical night sight for missions in low-light environments and has a minimum arming distance of 10 meters (32.8 feet), making it more accurate when hitting closer targets.

NATO PARTNERS TO HOLD MARITIME DRILLS IN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

- The name of the maritime exercise is "Neptune Strike '22". The naval drill will end on February 04, 2022. The main purpose of this exercise will be to demonstrate and test NATO's wide range of maritime capabilities.

INS KHUKRI

- INS Khukri, lead ship of the Indian Navy's Khukri class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel that had the distinction of being part of both, the Western and Eastern Fleets, is scheduled to be handed over to the Diu Administration

About

- Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, the ship was commissioned on 23 August 1989 in Mumbai.



- After more than 32 glorious years of service to the nation and having participated in all forms of naval operations, the ship was decommissioned in a solemn ceremony on 23 December 2021.
- The decommissioned vessel is the second ship of the Navy to carry the name INS Khukri, the first having been lost during the 1971 Indo-Pak War off the coast of Diu.
- As part of developing and revitalising the Khukri Memorial at Diu, the Diu Administration has plan to develop the ship as a full-scale museum.

S&T COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIAN AND FRANCE

- In an important milestone in S&T Cooperation between India and France an MoU was signed between CSIR and Institut Pasteur with a scope for cooperation in health research.

About

- CSIR and Institut Pasteur would be jointly researching and focusing on emerging and remerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders and enable delivery of effective and affordable healthcare solutions not only for the people of India and France but for the global good.

- The MoU provides for developing potential scientific and technological cooperation and networking in advanced and emerging areas of Human Health between scientists and institutes/ laboratories of CSIR and Institut Pasteur and its international network.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established by the Government of India in 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India.

EXERCISE PASCHIM LEHAR

- A joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) conducted by the Indian Navy off the West Coast

About

- The exercise was conducted over a duration of 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- The exercise was conducted under the aegis of FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command.
- The intra-theatre exercise included mobilization and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.

CHIRU-2Q22

- The Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies undertook naval exercises CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman.
- The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries.
- The participants practised various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze

vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical manoeuvres as a part of the drill.

- At least 140 warships and over 60 aircraft with nearly 10,000 military personnel would be taking part in the military exercises.

WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND CONDUCTS JOINT MARITIME EXERCISE PASCHIM LEHAR (XPL-2022)

- The exercise continued for 20 days and was conducted with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard

ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTER (ALH) MK III AIRCRAFT

- In a boost to maritime security, the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair



About

- The ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft.
- Till date, over 300 of these aircraft have been delivered by HAL and are being flown by the Armed Forces.

- Amongst its variants, the MK III variant is a maritime role variant encompassing state-of-the-art sensors and weapons that add punch to India's prowess at sea.
- The ALH MK III aircraft with its glass cockpit, Shakti engines, advanced Maritime Patrol Radar, Electro-optical payload and Night Vision Device will act as a force multiplier in keeping India's far eastern seaboard and Island territories safe.
- The state-of-the-art aircraft has multirole capabilities including maritime surveillance, support for Special Forces, medical evacuations besides search and rescue roles.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

GANDHI'S ASSASSIN: THE MAKING OF NATHURAM GODSE AND HIS IDEA OF INDIA

- Dharendra K. Jha, a Delhi-based journalist, has authored a new book titled "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India".
- The book explores Godse's relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse's resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

"MAMATA BEYOND 2021"

- A new book titled "Mamata: Beyond 2021", authored by political journalist Jayanta Ghosal and translated by Arunava Sinha.
- The book explores and examines why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost the 2021 West Bengal Election.

INDOMITABLE: A WORKING WOMAN'S NOTES ON LIFE, WORK AND LEADERSHIP"

- "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership" the autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya, retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India.
- Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya's life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector. She is the

chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of salesforce India, a cloud-based Software as a service (SaaS) company headquartered in San Francisco, California, United States of America.

BOSE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AN INCONVENIENT NATIONALIST"

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

FEARLESS GOVERNANCE

- The book titled 'Fearless Governance' authored by Dr Kiran Bedi has been released. She is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (retd).
- This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.
- The author demonstrates the right practises of responsible governance. She brought about team spirit, collaboration, financial prudence, effective policing, bonding in services and decision making through fearless leadership



APPOINTMENT

VS PATHANIA

- Director General VS Pathania, took over as the 24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard on 31 Dec 21. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi

Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- It is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
- **History:** it was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
- **Parent ministry:** It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Administration:** The organization is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG).
- **HQ:** Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) is located at New Delhi

UARJIT PATEL

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as a vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a Beijing based multilateral development bank.

About

- He will succeed outgoing Vice President DJ Pandian, who is in charge of sovereign and non-sovereign lending of the AIIB in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and South-East Asia.
- He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB with a three-year tenure.
- Pandian, a former Gujarat chief secretary, has been AIIB's vice-president since 2016, the year the bank was set up with India as its second largest shareholder after China. Mr. Pandian was also the bank's first chief investment officer.
- Urjit Patel is currently the chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. He had taken over as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) succeeding Raghuram Rajan in September 2016 and was with RBI till December 2018.

AIIB

- India has emerged as AIIB's biggest beneficiary by obtaining \$6.8 billion funding for 29 projects.



- In December, AIIB approved the \$150 million "Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Service Program"

aiming to strengthen institutions and improve the quality and financial sustainability of selected urban services in Chennai.

- Also, the AIIB and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila are processing a \$2 billion loan request from India to purchase 667 million Covid-19 jabs.
- Pandian has consistently sought to dispel the notion that the AIIB is a Chinese bank, saying that except the US and Japan, most of the developed and developing countries have joined the bank.
- In late December, the AIIB approved the application of Iraq to join, becoming the bank's 51st regional member to bring its membership to 105.
- As of October 22, AIIB has overall approved 147 projects in 31 countries valued at \$28.97 billion.

S. SOMANATH (ISRO CHAIRMAN)

- Eminent rocket scientist S. Somanath has been appointed Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Space Secretary.

About

- Somanath is taking over the reins of ISRO at a critical juncture when sweeping reforms and critical missions and projects — the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission included — are waiting in the wings.
- Somanath, at present, has been serving as the Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST).
- Somanath has played a major role in the development of the PSLV and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III (GSLV Mk-III). He joined the GSLV Mk-III project in 2003, and served as Project Director from 2010 to 2014.

- Later on, he had a two-and-a-half-year stint as Director, Liquid Systems Propulsion Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, where he contributed to the development of the indigenous cryogenic stages for the GSLV. Dr. Somanath took over as the Director, VSSC, in January 2018.

CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

- The Government has appointed Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor.



About

- Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore and has published extensively.
- He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University.
- He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021.
- He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.
- Other chief Economic advisors from Tamil nadu
- Aravind subramanian
- Krishnamurthy subramanian



IMPORTANT DAYS

WORLD BRAILLE DAY OBSERVED ON 04 JANUARY 2022

The day aims to recognize the right of access to braille by blind people and raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities. Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France

What is Braille?

- Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille (named after its inventor in 19th century France, Louis Braille) is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.
- Braille is essential in the context of education, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion, as reflected in article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

WORLD DAY OF WAR ORPHANS 2022: 6TH JANUARY

- World Day of War Orphans is marked on 6 January to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.

- In any conflict, children are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups present. Children who have been injured in a gunfight or separated from their families require particular care in order to heal the mental wounds of war, begin school, and restart normal life.

World day of war orphans 2022 history

- World Day of War Orphans was started by the French organization SOS Enfants en Detresses, which aimed to help children affected by conflict. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an orphan is defined as a "child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death"

World Day of War Orphans 2022 Significance

- On World Day of War Orphans, several awareness programmes are organized to create awareness about the trauma endured by orphaned children.
- The coronavirus pandemic has further led to issues like food insecurity and access to basic health and sanitation facilities for many children worldwide.

STARTUP INDIA INNOVATION WEEK

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to organize the Startup India Innovation Week from January 10th to 16th 2022.

About

- This week-long virtual innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.
- Startup India Innovation Week will have sessions ranging from topics such as Enhancing Market Access Opportunities, Discussions with Industry leaders, Best Practices by States, Capacity Building of Enablers, Reverse Pitching by Incubators, Technology Exhibitions, Corporate Connects and more.
- The programme is expected to bring together top policy makers, industry, academia, investors, startups, and all ecosystem enablers from across the globe. Stakeholders from all these segments are requested to register themselves on the portal.

PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted people, especially the Indian diaspora on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.



About

- January 9, 2022 is Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. It was on this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi Bharatiya, returned to India.

- India is proud of its largest diaspora across the globe which consists of around 31 million people.
- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan addressed the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conference 2022 through video conferencing.
- As per World Bank estimates India will be an economy with a GDP of 10 trillion dollars and the Youth will have a key role in it.
- Mr Muraleedharan said, from Sundar Pichai to Parag Agarwal and from Rajeev Suri to Leena Nair, several luminaries are proof of Indian youth leadership on the global stage.

WORLD HINDI DAY: 10 JANUARY

- World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 since 2006 to promote the language at the global stage. The day marks the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was inaugurated on January 10, 1975, by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. However, the celebration of first World Hindi Day was commenced on 10 January 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh
- The first World Hindi Day conference was organised on January 10, 1975, in Nagpur, a city in the state of Maharashtra.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY 2022: 11TH JANUARY

- The day aims at raising awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promoting and protecting their rights. Though the entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, this day is specifically

dedicated to awareness and prevention of illegal practice.

ARMED FORCES VETERANS DAY: 14 JANUARY 2022

- In India, the Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed each year on 14 January since 2017. The day aims to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation. 2022 marks the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day. It is observed as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa OBE, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14 January 1953.



About the day

- Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed to reiterate the resolve of services for the well being of veterans and assure them that their valuable suggestions are always welcome. Last year, Admiral Karambir Singh released the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' song dedicated to our brave and courageous soldiers of the 1971 war

THIRUVALLOVAR DAY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to the Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar on Thiruvalluvar Day (15 January).



About

- Thiruvalluvar is regarded as a cultural icon. His most popular work is a collection of couplets on politics, ethics, economy, and love, called "Thirukkuaaa".
- To honour his contribution, Thiruvalluvar Day is observed either on January 15 or 16 as a part of the Pongal celebrations.
- While a lot is not known about the life of Thiruvalluvar, it is believed that he used to live in the town of Mylapore, which in today's time is a neighbourhood in Chennai.

INDIAN ARMY DAY OBSERVED ON 15 JANUARY

- The Army Day in India is celebrated on 15 January every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens. This year marks the 74th Indian Army Day. The day is marked to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa took over the command of the Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army post Independence.

About Indian Army

- The Indian Army is one of the most powerful militaries of the world, competing with superpowers like the US, Russia and China. The motto of the Indian Army is 'service before self' and its mission is to ensure national security and national unity, defend the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and maintain peace and security within its borders. Salute to the brave soldiers, who risk and sacrifice their lives to protect us. Even the Prime Minister of India Lal

Bahadur Shastri in 1965 had given the slogan like “Jai Jawan Jai Kisan”.

NATIONAL START-UP DAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 16th January will be celebrated as National Start-Ups Day.



About

- PM Modi also put a spotlight on the importance of startups in India, and said that when we complete 100 years of Independence, startups will play a major role in shaping the future. He called them the backbone of new India.
- He said that this was a great “techade” for India, where innovation, entrepreneurship and a healthy startup ecosystem will help liberate innovation from government processes and bureaucratic silos.
- The Mahotsav which is scheduled from January 10-16, marks the 6th anniversary of India’s start-up initiative. The event showcases start-up’s across various sectors including Health, Agriculture, Space, Industry 4.0, Science and more.
- “More than 150 startups have been divided into six working groups based on themes including Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA; From Local to Global; Technology of Future; Building Champions in Manufacturing; and Sustainable Development,” read the Prime Minister Office (PMO) statement.

NDRF

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on January 19, since it came into existence on January 19, 2006.
- There are 12 NDRF battalions located in different parts of the country and as many as 13,000 NDRF personnel who work to build a safer country.

PARAKRAM DIWAS

- The Indian government has decided to celebrate January 23rd as ‘Parakram Diwas’ to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- This year is the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji was born on January 23, 1897.
- The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji’s indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation.

About Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

- Netaji’ was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack in Odisha. He acquired a degree in philosophy and was later selected for the Indian Civil Services. He refused to join as he did not want to serve the British Government.
- Netaji joined the Indian National Congress in 1921.
- Netaji started a newspaper called “Swaraj”.
- He had written a book called “The Indian Struggle”. The book covers the Indian Independence movement between 1920 and 1942.
- The term “Jai Hind” was coined by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

- With the slogan “Give me blood and I will give you freedom”, he awakened the country towards fighting against the British.
- Netaji in the Indian independence struggle
- Netaji was prisoned in 1925 for his nationalist activities. Later released in 1927.
- After his release, he became the general secretary of the Indian National Congress. He formed the All India Forward Bloc as a part of the Indian National Congress in 1939.
- During the second world war, Netaji protested the British Raj for not consulting the Indians before pulling them into the war. He was arrested for his protests. Later he was released and was kept under surveillance.
- In 1941, Bose escaped to Germany via Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.
- In Germany, Netaji met German leaders and other Indian students and European political leaders.
- Netaji built a force known as the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) giving the slogan of “Dilli Chalo”. Thousands of soldiers of his 60,000-strong army sacrificed their lives for the country. The Indian National Army supported the Japanese army in their invasion of Northeast India. They together took control of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

National Girl Child Day is celebrated in the country on January 24 every year with an objective to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India.

About

- It aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girl education, and their health and nutrition and also to promote the girls position in the society to make their living better among the society.
- National Girl Child Day was first initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Government of India has taken several steps over the years to improve the conditions of girls, some of them are:
 - ◆ Save the Girl Child,
 - ◆ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,
 - ◆ Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
 - ◆ CBSE Udaan Scheme
 - ◆ Free or subsidized education for girl child,
 - ◆ Reservation for women in colleges and universities
 - ◆ National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

- **The International Day of Education** is marked every year on 24 January globally to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development.
- The first-ever International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January 2019

Theme of the International Day of Education

- The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education.

- The celebration is led by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

NATIONAL VOTERS DAY CELEBRATED ON JANUARY 25

- India observes “National Voters’ Day” every year on January 25 to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.
- The National Voters’ Day is celebrated every year on January 25 to encourage the country’s voters to participate in the electoral process. This year, it is the 12th edition which is being celebrated.



Theme, 2022

- The theme for this year’s National Voters’ Day is ‘Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative’.

About Election Commission of India

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- ECI was established on 25th January 1950. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

Structure of the Commission

- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body. The commission presently consists of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs).

NATIONAL TOURISM DAY OF INDIA CELEBRATED ON 25 JANUARY

- The Indian government established January 25 as the National Tourism Day to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country’s economy.
- National tourism day India: The National Tourism Day in India is observed on January 25 every year by the Ministry of Tourism.
- This year, the day will be celebrated in the country under the aegis of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ which is a 75-week long grand celebration launched by Prime Minister Modi to mark the 75 years of India’s Independence.
- According to a FICCI- YES Bank report of 2019, the tourism industry generated 247.3 billion dollars in 2018 contributing to 9.2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of India and according to the World Travel & Tourism Council, tourism supported 39.5 million jobs or 7.7 percent of its total employment.

Number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- The country is home to 40 UNESCO heritage sites.
- The last site to be added to the World Heritage Site list is Dholavira, a Harappan city that is located in the city of Gujarat.

- The country currently has 32 cultural sites, 7 natural sites, and one mixed property.
- India has moved up six places to 34th rank on the World travel and tourism competitiveness index of the World Economic Forum report 2019 since India has a rich culture of varied traditions, customs, and festivals which attracts the tourists.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY OBSERVED ON JANUARY 26

- The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed on 26 January every year.
- The day is celebrated to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.
- This year, the theme chosen by WCO for ICD is 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.
- The International Customs Day's objective is to boost leadership, guidance, and support to customs administrations as WCO strongly opines that while borders divide, it is the 'customs' that establish a connection between countries.

History of the day

- The day was instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to commemorate the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium. In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO).

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY: 27 JANUARY

- International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on 27 January.
- In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "Memory, Dignity and Justice".
- The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.

History of the day

- A genocide occurred during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between 1941 and 1945.
- United Nations designated the day in 2005 to serve as a date for official commemoration of the victims of the Nazi regime and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.

ANTI-LEPROSY DAY

- In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year.

About

- 30th January is Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day. He was deeply committed to the cause of leprosy-affected persons.
- Leprosy is also one of the neglected tropical diseases.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

- National Leprosy Eradication Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme. Its vision is “Leprosy-free India”. Under this,

action is taken for early case detection, complete treatment of detected cases and to contain the onset of disease in close contacts.

ANTI LEPROSY DAY
30th January

Let us pay homage to the Father of the Nation by having **Leprosy Free India.**

Shri. Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Gandhi ji with Leprosy patient

Important information related to leprosy

- Complete treatment of Leprosy i.e. Multi Drug Therapy is available **free of cost** in all Government Dispensaries, Health Centres and Hospitals.
- Timely treatment prevents disability.
- Symptoms of Leprosy- light color patch, redness, swelling or nodule over the skin.
- On suspicion of Leprosy, immediately contact nearest Government Dispensary, Health Centre or Hospital.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India
www.gehmdia.gov.in | www.mohfw.nic.in | www.nfap.nic.in | www.gov.in

- Other initiatives under the programme include leprosy awareness campaigns and services for Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation such as provision of Microcellular Rubber footwear, Aids & Appliances and self-care kits.
- Under the programme, Reconstructive Surgeries are conducted and welfare allowance is paid to each patient undergoing Reconstructive Surgeries.

MARTYRS' DAY (SHAHEED DIWAS) IN INDIA 2022: KNOW HISTORY, SIGNIFICANCE AND FACTS HERE

- Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas 2022: It is observed in India on several dates. 23rd March is remembered as the day when three brave freedom fighters namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged by the

British. Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

Martyr's Day (Shaheed Diwas)

- Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas 2022: 30th January is observed as Shaheed Diwas annually to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Martyrs' Day is also known as Shaheed Diwas and in India, it is celebrated on two days namely on 30 January and 23 March, to pay homage to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their Motherland.
- As per sources, every year on 30 January, two minutes of silence is observed at 11:00 AM throughout the country, in the memory of those who sacrificed their lives during the struggle for India's freedom.



TNPSC BITS

WORLD'S LONGEST METRO LINE OPENED IN CHINA

- Shanghai has opened two new metro lines, upholding its rank as the city with the largest Metro network in the world.
- SUDHIR KUMAR SAXENA COMMITTEE
- Union Home Ministry has constituted a committee to enquire into the serious lapses in the security arrangements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.

FIRST BLACK MAN TO WIN BEST ACTOR OSCAR, SIDNEY POITIER PASSES AWAY

- Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964, has died at the age of 94. In 1963, Poitier had made a film in Arizona, Lilies of the Field.

FIRST INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMAN TO TREK SOLO TO SOUTH POLE

- Captain Harpreet Chandi, a 32-year-old Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.

SIKKIM CELEBRATED LOSOONG (NAMSOONG) FESTIVAL

- Losoong (Namsoong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Sikkim on the 18th day of the 10th month

of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar, which also marks the beginning of the harvest season. The Namsoong festival begins on the 1st day of the new moon phase Kurneet Lovo, as per the Lepcha lunisolar Calendar known as Dungkit Karchu.

INDIA'S FIRST HELI-HUB TO BE SET UP IN GURUGRAM

- The heli-hub will be the first of its kind in India to have all facilities at one place for helicopters. The heli-hub is proposed to be built in Gurugram & would be near the metro facility along with easy connectivity to industrial areas (Noida & Bhiwadi).

KOCHI BECAME INDIA'S FIRST CITY TO HAVE A WATER METRO PROJECT

- Kochi, Kerala has become India's first city to have a Water Metro Project after the launch of its first boat in December 2021, namely 'Muziris,' among the 23 battery-powered electric boats being manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- This launch is a part of the Rs 747-crore project which is operated by Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML). The boats will be called Water Metros.

DAVID BENNETT WORLD FIRST HUMAN RECEIVES A PIG HEART TRANSPLANT

- A US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.

- The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common.
- Pigs are increasingly becoming popular candidates for organ transplantation. This is because their organs are anatomically similar to those of humans.

KERALA'S KUMBALANGHI TO BE INDIA'S FIRST SANITARY-NAPKIN FREE VILLAGE

- Under this initiative, menstrual cups will be distributed to women aged 18 and above in Kumbalangi village. 5000 menstrual cups will be distributed under it.
- Defence Ministry sets up Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal
- An online Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)

WORLD'S LARGEST KHADI NATIONAL FLAG DISPLAYED AT LONGEWALA

- The world's largest national flag, made of Khadi fabric was put to display to celebrate the "Army Day" on January 15, 2022. It was displayed at Longewala, along the India – Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer. Longewala was the centre stage of the historic battle of 1971 between India and Pakistan. It will be the fifth public display of the Khadi flag.

Dimension of the flag

- The Monumental National Flag is 225 feet long and 150 feet wide. It is approximately 1400 kgs in weight.

- 4500 meters of hand-woven, hand-spun, Khadi cotton bunting has been used to make the flag. It covers an area of 33, 750 square feet.
- The Ashok Chakra in the flag has a diameter of 30 feet.

PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Kathak dancer, Pandit Birju Maharaj has passed away at the age of 83. A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, he was fondly called Pandit-ji or Maharaj-ji by his disciples and legions of followers and was one of India's best-known artistes.

IAMAI organises 16th India Digital Summit 2022

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal virtually addressed the 16th India Digital Summit, 2022. The two-day virtual event was organised on January 11 and 12, 2022 by the Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). The theme of the summit was "Supercharging Startups".

YES MUTUAL FUND RENAMED AS WHITE OAK CAPITAL MUTUAL FUND

- In November 2021, White Oak Capital Group, through its subsidiary, GPL Finance and Investments, acquired the mutual fund business, Yes Asset Management, of Yes Bank. The White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for Indian equity investors.

PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK BECAME MOST PREFERRED UPI BENEFICIARY BANK IN INDIA

- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) became the largest and fastest-growing UPI beneficiary bank in India. It becomes the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month.

DANIEL ORTEGA SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA FOR 5TH TERM

- Nicaraguan President José Daniel Ortega Saavedra, leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was sworn in for a new presidential term. This marks his 5th term and 4th consecutive term as the President of Nicaragua.

CYPRUS DETECTS NEW 'DELTA CRON' COVID VARIANT

- Cyprus has detected a new variant dubbed as "Deltacron", that has a similar genetic background to the Delta variant, coupled with 10 mutations from Omicron. The variant has already affected 25 people in Cyprus.

18TH KACHAI LEMON FESTIVAL

- The 18th edition of the two days long Kachai Lemon Festival began in Manipur at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in Ukhrul district. The Kachai Lemon Festival is organised annually to promote this unique kind of lemon fruit and to encourage lemon farmers
- Kachai Lemon of Manipur has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag and widely grown in the

Kachai Village of Ukhrul district. Unlike the other lemon varieties grown in other parts of the world, Kachai Lemon is considered to be unique as it is a rich source of ascorbic acid and famous for its juice content.

WORLD DEAF T20 CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

- The All India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10-20, 2023.
- A minimum of eight countries are expected to take part in the championship and this kind of international event is being held in India with the approval of the ICSD for the first time."

GLOBAL PRIVATE BANKING AWARDS 2021: HDFC BANK NAMED AS BEST PRIVATE BANK IN INDIA

- HDFC Bank was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021' which was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) in a virtual ceremony. PWM is a wealth management Magazine, published by the Financial Times Group.

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

- On the occasion of the National Youth Day 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated an 'MSME Technology Centre', which will function under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), in Puducherry.

DUBAI OPENS ITS INFINITY BRIDGE FOR TRAFFIC FOR THE

FIRST TIME

- Its design resembles a mathematical sign for infinity (∞).
- It represents the limitless, infinite goals of Dubai.
- It consists of six lanes in each direction and a combined 3-meter track for pedestrians and cyclists.
- It is 300 meters long and 22 meters wide.

AMBASSADOR OF INTERNET PANEL ON LANGUAGES UASG

- Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been roped in as the Ambassador of Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), a community-based team of industry leaders supported by global internet body ICANN.
- UASG works on developing and recommending standards for language scripts that are not currently used to access the internet.
- The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) aims to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. Its headquarter is based at California, United States

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS DECLARES 'ANXIETY' AS CHILDREN'S WORD OF THE YEAR 2021

- The Oxford University Press (OUP) has picked up 'Anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021, based on their recent research. Apart from "anxiety" (21%), "Challenging" (19%), "isolate" (14%), "Wellbeing" (13%) and

"resilience" (12%) were the children's top five words. In 2020, Coronavirus was the Children's Word of the Year by OUP.

UMANG RANGOLI UTSAV

Ministry of Culture is organizing a rangoli making event 'Umang Rangoli Utsav'

About

- The day is celebrated as 'National Girl Child Day' every year and to commemorate the day this year, a nationwide event celebrating the Girl Child is being organized under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- In the event, it is proposed that the participating teams will make Rangoli decorations for about one kilometer of length on the roads and squares that have been named after the female freedom fighters or the female role models of the country.
- The rangoli decorations are being done at more than 50 locations across the country.

KARNATAKA BECAME INDIA'S FIRST STATE TO LAUNCH AVGC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

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

set up such an AVGC CoE, it is also the biggest centre in Asia.

APNA KANGRA' APP

- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur has launched the 'Apna Kangra' app and hampers handcrafted by self-help groups (SHGs) at Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh.
- The app aims to provide a hassle-free experience for tourists and to boost sales of local handicrafts.
- While the app is bound to provide a unique experience for tourists on the one hand, on the other it will serve as an e-marketing platform for SHG products from the district.

PM MODI TO UNVEIL 216-FOOT STATUE OF SAINT RAMANUJACHARYA

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya in a sitting position in Hyderabad on February 5, 2022, to celebrate the 1,000th birth anniversary of the saint.
- Ramanujacharya was an 11th-century saint and a revolutionary social reformer. The statue will be called the 'Statue of Equality'.
- It is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Telangana.
- The Statue of Equality is the world's second-tallest statue in a sitting position. The Buddha statue in Thailand is considered as the world's tallest statue in a sitting pose.

AZADI KE AMRIT MAHOTSAV SE SWARNIM BHARAT KI ORE'

PROGRAMME LAUNCHED BY PM MODI

- The national-level program includes seven yearlong initiatives dedicated to the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Brahma Kumaris.
- More than 30 campaigns and over 15000 programs and events will be conducted under these initiatives by the Brahma Kumaris.
- Brahma Kumaris is organising the event on the occasion of the 53rd Ascension Anniversary of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma, Founding Father of Brahma Kumaris.

THE LEGEND OF BIRSA MUNDA

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released a book titled 'The Legend of Birsa Munda', authored by Tuhin A Sinha and co-authored by Ankita Verma.
- The Book is the story of a lesser-known tribal hero, Birsa Munda, who courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.

JERRI HAMLET DECLARED AS FIRST 'MILK VILLAGE' OF J&K

- Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.

KOKBOROK DAY

- Kokborok Day, also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on 19th January with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language.
- The day commemorates the initial

recognition of Kokborok as the official language in 1979. 19th January 2022 marks the observance of the 44th Kokborok Day. The Kokborok language, the official language of Tripura, is also known as Tripuri or Tiprakok. In 1979, Kokborok, along with Bengali and English, was declared an official language of the state of Tripura, India by the state government.

WORLD'S VALUABLE BRAND IN BRAND FINANCE 2022

- Apple has retained its position as the most valuable brand in 2022 as well, according to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report

1. Brands in the top 10
2. Apple
3. Amazon,
4. Google,
5. Microsoft,
6. Walmart,
7. Samsung,
8. Facebook,
9. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China,
10. Huawei
11. Verizon

AMALGAMATION OF PMC BANK WITH UNITY SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD

- The Government of India has sanctioned and notified the Scheme for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- After the amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity SFB, Unity SFB will pay the

customers of PMC Bank the amount it receives from DICGC (maximum up to the amount insured by DICGC i.e Rs 5 Lakh) in installments of 10 years.

- Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 empowers the Reserve Bank of India to prepare a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of banking companies (which include co-operative banks).

\$300-BILLION ELECTRONICS POWERHOUSE

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

RAILWAYS IN MANIPUR

- With the first freight train reaching Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this will enhance the state's commerce and connectivity as goods from there will reach all parts of the country.

About

- The freight train arrived at the Rani Gaidinliu station, Tamenglong in

Manipur on January 27, days after a passenger train from Silchar in Assam reached the Bongaichungpao railway station in Manipur, where assembly polls will be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

- Earlier this month, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw did an aerial survey of the Jiribam-Imphal new line project in Manipur. The project, which includes the country's longest train tunnel, will connect Imphal with Guwahati.

MAHARASHTRA HAS HIGHEST NUMBER OF SC ENTREPRENEURS

- Maharashtra has topped India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises.
- Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME.
- The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh (36,913 units), Karnataka (28,803 enterprises) and Punjab (24,503 units) respectively.

2022 JANUARY MONTH QUESTIONS

1. International Furniture Park is located in
 - a) Tamil Nadu
 - b) Karnataka
 - c) Kerala
 - d) Andhra Pradesh
 - e) Answer not known
2. Defence Research and Development Organisation foundation day is observed on
 - a) 1st january
 - b) 2nd January
 - c) 3rd January
 - d) 4 th January
 - e) Answer not known
3. DRDO was established in ____
 - a) 1959
 - b) 1960
 - c) 1961
 - d) 1958
 - e) Answer not known
4. consider the following statement
 1. Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
 2. This day will be celebrated with the activity of Kahani Padho Apni Bhasa Main (Reading story in own language) across the country by encouraging children to read in their mother tongue/ local language.
3. which of the following statement is are correct
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1&2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
 - e) Answer not known
4. The CUSat will be among the 75 student-built satellites to be launched into space in the yea
 - a) 2022
 - a) 2023
 - b) 2024
 - c) 2025
 - d) answer not known
5. Nai Talim is a concept of basic education system by____.
 - a) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - b) Mahatma Gandhi
 - c) Rajagopalachari
 - d) Dr. Rajendra prasad
 - e) Answer not known
6. Sindhutai Sapkal was known for
 - a) Environmental activist
 - b) Renowned politician
 - c) Social activist
 - d) Actor
 - e) Answer not known
7. omisure is an
 - a) A new covid varisant
 - b) New virus present in wild bat
 - c) Corona testing kit
 - d) Corona vaccine

e) Answer not known

8. consider the following statement

1. NEAT 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country
2. It is launched by ministry of education

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1&2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2
- e) Answer not known

9. Who among the following laid the foundation stone for CSIR National Physical laboratory?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- c) Lal bahadur shastri
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru
- e) Answer not known

10. National youth day is celebrated on ____

- a) 12th January
- b) 13 th January
- c) 14 January
- d) 16 January
- e) Answer not known

11. Which of the following state won the 3rd national water awards

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Answer not known

12. India plans to Eliminate TB by the year

- a) 2023
- b) 2024
- c) 2025
- d) 2030
- e) Answer not known

13. BIS came into existence as Indian Standards Institution (ISI) in the year

- a) 1948
- b) 1947
- c) 1949
- d) 1950
- e) Answer not known

14. The Collective Security Treaty Organization headquarters located at

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Russia
- c) Uzbekistan
- d) Turkmenistan
- e) Answer not known

15. Consider the following statement

1. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial,

technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises

Which of the above statement is are correct?

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1&2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2
- e) Answer not known

16. _____ has launched “Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program.

- a) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of information and broadcasting
- c) Ministry of science and technology
- d) Ministry of education
- e) Answer not known

17. UJALA scheme was launched in the year

- a) 2015
- b) 2014
- c) 2016
- d) 2018
- e) Answer not known

18. Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lake located in

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Answer not known

19. *Fimbristylis Sunilii*; *Neanotis Prabhuui* a new plant species founded in

- a) Eastern ghats
- b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- c) Sunderbans
- d) Western ghats
- e) Answer not known

20. World Braille Day is Observed on _____

- a) 04th January
- b) 5th January
- c) 6 th January
- d) 7 th January
- e) Answer not known

21. Start-up india Innovation week is celebrated from

- a) January 10-16
- b) January 1-7
- c) January 2-8
- d) January 11-17
- e) Answer not known

22. World’s longest Metro line opened in _____

- a) Russia
- b) India
- c) China
- d) America
- e) Answer not known

23. Natural gas hydrates are newly discovered in _____

- a) Myanmar
- b) Bangladesh
- c) India
- d) China
- e) Answer not known

24. Pravasi bharatiya diwas is celebrated on
- 9th January
 - 10 th January
 - 12 th January
 - 15 th January
 - Answer not known
25. Losoong (Namsoong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of ____
- Meghalaya
 - Manipur
 - Sikkim
 - Mizoram
 - Answer not known
26. MSME Technology Center is opened at
- Chennai
 - Thiruvananthapuram
 - Puducherry
 - Kochi
 - Answer not known
27. BrahMos missiles are designed and developed by
- India and France
 - India and Russia
 - India and Israel
 - India and US
 - Answer not known
28. Who popularized the term jai jawan jai kisan?
- Lal bahadur shastri
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
 - V. P. Singh
 - Moraji Desai
 - Answer not known
 - Ans. A
- 29) world economic Prospects report projects India's GDP growth at ____ in FY22
- 8.4%
 - 8.3%
 - 8.2%
 - 8%
 - Answer not known
- 30) who is newly appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Space Secretary?
- K. Sivan
 - S. Somanath
 - Mayilsami annadurai
 - None of the above
 - Answer not known
- Ans b
- 31) lokhari temple is located in
- Bihar
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - West Bengal
 - Rajasthan
 - Answer not known
- aa) Ans. B
- 32) Warsaw pact was signed in the year
- 1950
 - 1955
 - 1960

- d) 1965
- e) Answer not known

Ans. B

33) Hunga Tonga island is located in

- a) Pacific ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian ocean
- d) Mediterranean sea
- e) Answer not known

Ans. A

34) Thiruvalluvar day is observed on

- a) January 16
- b) January 15
- c) January 14
- d) January 18
- e) Answer not known

Ans. B

35) PASSEX exercises conducts between

- a) India and Russia
- b) India and US
- c) India and Japan
- d) India and Indonesia
- e) Answer not known

Ans. A

36) Kumbalangi to be India's first sanitary-napkin free village. It is located in

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

bi) Ans. A

37) World's largest Khadi National Flag displayed at ____

- a) Lucknow
- b) Longewala
- c) Ladakh
- d) Shimla
- e) Answer not known

Ans. B

38) KACHAI LEMON FESTIVAL is celebrated in

- a) Mizoram
- b) Nagaland
- c) Manipur
- d) Assam
- e) Answer not known

Ans c

39) World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship 2023 will be hosted by

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Odisha
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Answer not known

Ans a

40) Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed on

- a) January 14
- b) January 15
- c) January 16

- d) January 17
 - e) Answer not known
- Ans. A

41) The ____ announced the initiation of the Open Data Week to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem

- a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- b) Ministry of education
- c) Ministry of Home affairs
- d) Ministry of information and broadcasting
- e) Answer not known

Ans. A

42) Pandit Birju maharaj is a legendary ____ dancer

- a) Kathakali
- b) Kathak
- c) Kuchipudi
- d) Hindustani music
- e) Answer not known

Ans. B

43) India to host AFC Women's football Asian Cup 2022 in

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Haryana
- e) Answer not known

Ans b

44) National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on ____

- a) January 18
- b) January 19

- c) January 20
 - d) January 21
 - e) Answer not known
- Ans. B

45. The Somnath temple is located in

- a) Gujarat
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Answer not known

Ans. A

46 parakram Diwas is celebrated on

- a) 23rd January
- b) 22nd January
- c) 21 January
- d) 24 th January
- e) Answer not known

Ans. a

47) Amar jawan Jyoti is established in

- a) 1972
- b) 1973
- c) 1971
- d) 1980
- e) Answer not known

Ans. A

48) Parakram diwas is celebrated on

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
- c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- e) Answer not known

eo) Ans. B

49) living root bridges is located in

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Mizoram
- e) Answer not known

Ans. B

50) which of the following state created first State-level bird atlas in India?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Answer not known

Ans. C

51) India's first para-badminton academy launched in ____

- a) Agra
- b) Hyderabad
- c) lucknow
- d) Pune
- e) Answer not known

Ans. C

ANSWERS

1.	C	2.	C	3.	A	4.	C	5.	D	6.	B	7.	B	8.	B	9.	A	10.	B
11.	B	12.	C	13.	B	14.	C	15.	A	16.	D	17.	A	18.	A	19.	A	20.	B
21.	B	22.	C	23.	A	24.	A	25.	C	26.	D	27.	C	28.	B	29.	A	30.	C
31.	A	32.	B	33.	C	34.	C	35.	B	36.	A	37.	A	38.	A	39.	C	40.	A
41.	B	42.	D	43.	C	44.	C	45.	D	46.	D	47.	A	48.	A	49.	B	50.	C
51.	D	52.	B	53.	C	54.	A	55.	C	56.	D	57.	C	58.	C	59.	B	60.	A
61.	D	62.	B	63.	C	64.	A	65.	D	66.	D	67.	B	68.	D	69.	B	70.	A
71.	C	72.	B	73.	A	74.	D	75.	C	76.	C	77.	B	78.	D	79.	B	80.	A
81.	C	82.	B	83.	D	84.	C	85.	D	86.	A	87.	C	88.	B	89.	A	90.	D
91.	C	92.	C	93.	A	94.	D	95.	B	96.	C	97.	A	98.	D	99.	B	100.	C

