



**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

# TNPSC **SANGAMAM**

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

**JUNE 2022**





# **SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

**FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **HEAD OFFICE**

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

## **BRANCHES**

### **TIRUNELVELI**

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

### **TRICHY**

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

# INDEX

Sl.No	Content	Page No
1	TAMILNADU NEWS	5
2	NATIONAL NEWS	10
3	INTERNATIONAL NEWS	19
4	ECONOMY NEWS	24
5	PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS	25
6	SCIENCE AND TECH	29
7	ENVIRONMENT NEWS	35
8	REPORTS AND INDICES	39
9	SPORTS NEWS	41
10	PERSONALITIES	44
11	AWARDS	47
12	DEFENCE NEWS	49
13	BOOKS AND AUTHORS	52
14	IMPORTANT DAYS	53
15	TNPSC BITS	59
16	ART AND CULTURE	61
17	2022 JUNE MONTH QUESTIONS	62







## SEMICONDUCTOR PARK

Singapore-based IGSS signs MoU to set up 300-acre semiconductor park in Tamil Nadu

### ABOUT

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Friday between Guidance Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd, in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, for establishing a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park in the State with an investment and grants of Rs. 25,600 crore.
- IGSS Ventures has planned to be part of the India Semiconductor Mission and Project Surya, aimed at reducing air pollution and global warming by cooking with renewable sources.

## GOVT. CONSTITUTES STATE COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a State Committee on Dam Safety and a State Dam Safety Organisation under the provisions of Dam Safety Act, 2021.
- The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineer (General) of Water Resources Department will be the ex-officio Chairperson of the State Committee, constituted under Sub-section (1) of Section 11 of the Act.

## TAMIL NADU MOVES UP IN EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKING



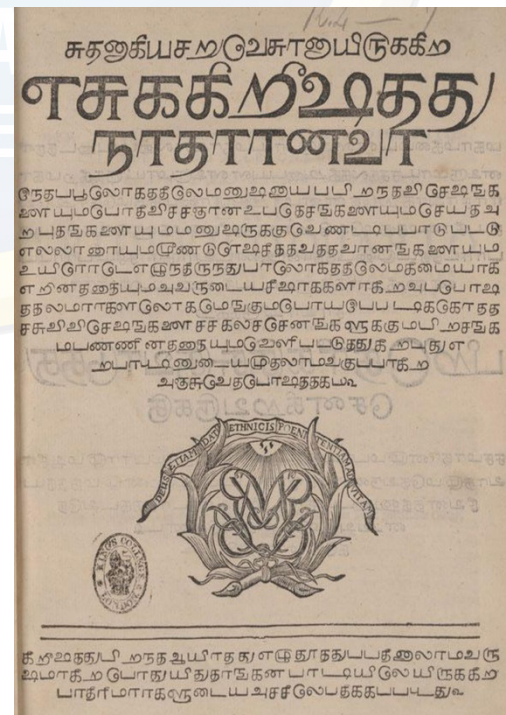
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin lauded Minister for Industries Thangam Thennarasu for the concerted efforts at promoting Tamil Nadu as the major hub of investments, as the State has moved up in the national ranking in the ease of doing business.
- Tamil Nadu has been adjudged as one of the top achievers in the Ease of doing Business Ranking.

- Tamil Nadu have leapfrogged from the 14th rank to the third rank, going by the point system.

## CM FLAGS OFF MOBILE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABS

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin flagged off 14 mobile forensic science laboratories procured at a cost of Rs. 3.92 crore to help officials of the Forensic Sciences Department in the speedy investigation at the scene of crime.
- The laboratories are to be used in the Chennai, Tiruchi, Salem, Tirunelveli and Tiruppur Police Commissionerates and in the forensic science units of Vellore, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Madurai, Villupuram, Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur districts.
- These laboratories would help investigators detect blood stains, explosives, psychotropic substances, among others, at the scene of crime without being affected by external and atmospheric factors,

## FIRST COPY OF TAMIL BIBLE STOLEN FROM SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY TRACED TO LONDON



- The copy of what is touted as the first

Tamil translation of the Bible, which was reportedly stolen from Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur, has been traced by Idol Wing CID Police to London.

- The theft was first reported in 2005 and later closed without any progress. Now, the case was reopened and reinvestigated by the Idol Wing CID Police officers led by Director-General of Police K.Jayanth Murali.
- The first Tamil translation of the New Testament was printed in 1715 by Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, a missionary.
- It was presented to Tulaji Rajah Serfoji by Schwartz, another missionary and a close friend of the King.
- After the takeover by the Tamil Nadu government, the antiquarian book became an exhibit in the Saraswati Mahal Museum for public viewing.
- On October 10, 2005, the Deputy Administrator of the Serfoji Palace filed a complaint at the Tanjore West Police station alleging the theft of the antique Bible.
- The case was closed citing that it was not traceable. However in 2017, the Idol Wing CID received a complaint on the disappearance of an antiquarian Bible from Saraswathi Mahal from E. Rajendran and it led to the registration of a case of theft and the Idol Wing CID took up the matter.

#### How The Book Reached Serfojis

- Danish missionary Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg was born in Saxony in 1682. He studied at the University of Balle, then the centre for the Pietistic movement in the Lutheran Church. Responding to an appeal from the King of Denmark for missionaries.
- In September 1706, he and Heinrich Plueschau arrived in Tranquebar (Tharangambadi), a tiny Danish colony on the east coast, close to Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, on the southeast coast of India, as the first Protestant missionaries in that country.
- He soon set up a printing press and published studies of the Tamil language and Indian religion and culture. His translation of the New Testament into Tamil in 1715 and the church building he and his associates constructed in 1718 are still in use today. He died on February 23, 1719, at age 37. He left behind a Tamil translation of the New Testament and Genesis through Ruth, many brief writings in Tamil, two church buildings, the seminary, and 250 baptized Christians.
- Another missionary named Schwartz became a close friend and advisor of Tulaji Rajah Serfoji. In commemoration

of their friendship, there is speculation that Schwartz handed over the first copy of the New Testament, which Ziegenbalg printed and left behind, to Tulaji Rajah Serfoji

### TB-FREE TAMIL NADU 2025: STALIN FLAGS OFF VEHICLES FOR X-RAY MACHINES



- As part of initiatives towards 'TB free Tamil Nadu - 2025', Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday flagged off 23 vans installed with digital X-ray machines at a total cost of Rs. 10.65 crores to many districts.
- These vehicles would join the 14 such vehicles that are already in service in the first phase.
- These vehicles would visit crowded residential areas, old-age homes, industries, and areas vulnerable for tuberculosis to find cases with the aid of equipment installed in each of them.
- The patients would be provided necessary medication, a financial assistance of Rs. 500, and counselling for continued medication, besides creating awareness in the locality.
- The vehicles are equipped to perform X-ray tests even in areas without electricity connection with the help of generators. "It has been planned to take tests from five lakh people during the current year with the help of these vehicles that could take 10 X-ray tests in an hour,

### RAJA SERFOJI, RENAISSANCE MAN OF THANJAVUR

- Celebration of the 225th anniversary of coronation of Maharaja Serfoji II begins
- A year-long commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the coronation of Maharaja



Serfoji II, the scion of the Bhosle dynasty, who ruled over the dominions of the Maratha principality of Thanjavur from 1798-1832, opened this week. The celebration has put the spotlight on the multi-faceted personality who made Thanjavur a byword for cultural and scientific accomplishments.

- The celebration, launched on June 29, is being hosted by Sri Jayamala Rani Charitable and Educational Trust (SJRCET), in collaboration with Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library and Raja's Chattram Administration. The erstwhile royal family of Thanjavur hopes the events will revive interest in Serfoji's prolific work as administrator and innovator.

## About

### Early years

- Born on September 24, 1777 in the household of Maratha ruler Chattrapati Shivaji, Serfoji II was formally adopted by Raja Thulajah, the king of Thanjavur, on January 23, 1787.
- Danish missionary Reverend Christian Frederick Schwarz was put in charge of the adoptive heir's education.
- However, after the death of Thulajah, his half-brother Amar Singh usurped the throne, leaving the young Serfoji under house arrest. It was with the help of British intercession that Serfoji came to power on June 29, 1798.
- The help came with a caveat: Serfoji was made to cede over administration of the kingdom to the British in return for a pension and a share in the land revenue. Despite being a titular head, Serfoji II devoted himself to uplifting his kingdom in a myriad ways.
- The archival repository of the Saraswathi Mahal Library, established by Nayakar kings in the 16th century, was greatly enhanced by Serfoji's personal collection. As one of the first native honorary members of Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, from 1824, Serfoji would receive a copy of every book published there, adding to his collection of over 5,000 volumes at the library.
- There are over 50,000 books and documents in the research library in various Indian and international languages.
- Serfoji's interest in medicine was seen in the multi-disciplinary hospital Dhanvantri Mahal, as also by his research into ophthalmology. Besides promoting women's education through the Navavidhya Kalanidhi Sala, he established a hand press

for the Devanagiri script in 1805.

- He wrote hundreds of songs in Tamil, Telugu and Marathi, set to be performed at music and dance recitals, and also experimented in fusing Western and Indian classical music traditions.
- Serfoji II had the history of the Bhosle dynasty inscribed on the south western wall of the Brihadeshwara Temple, a feat considered among the largest inscriptions in the world. The royal paid equal respect to all communities in his dominion, by building churches and mosques for Christians and Muslims, and patronising the upkeep of shrines built by other dynasties.

## SAGAR KAVACH

- The two-day comprehensive coastal security exercise, Sagar Kavach, involving all the land and maritime security agencies to check the efficacy and preparedness of security forces and security intelligence machinery along the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coast
- The exercise, supervised by the State government, was conducted by the Commander, Indian Coast Guard Regional Headquarters (East), Chennai.
- The aim was to provide seamless seaward cover along the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coast and security to the State assets. The exercise was also to assess the effectiveness of the fishing community as the "eyes and ears" for early warning of seaward threats.
- The security personnel were divided into two groups. One group, called the 'Red Force', was to make ingress from the sea to target the vital assets/vulnerable points, including the high-value targets on the coast. The other group, called the 'Blue Force', was tasked to intercept them, both at sea and on land.

## VALAVANUR POLICE STATION IN VILLUPURAM GETS ISO CERTIFICATE



- Valavanur Police Station in Villupuram has

obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification from Quest Certification Private Limited for regulating station records and processes;

- its success in enforcement of laws, prevention, detection, and investigation of crime; maintaining law and order and peace in the area of jurisdiction; and responding to emergencies
- The other police stations in the district have been asked to take the station as a model and obtain the same recognition.
- The station had also received the Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH) award from Quality Council of India for ensuring safety and hygiene in the workplace.

### **TAMIL NADU ENDED FISCAL 2022 WITH A NET BORROWING OF RS. 72,500 CRORE**

- The Tamil Nadu government ended fiscal 2022 with a net borrowing of Rs.72,500 crore, compared with Rs. 76,796 crore in 2021, according to the data from the Reserve Bank of India.
- Out of it, the State raised a net amount of Rs.4,500 crore in February 2022 and Rs. 23,300 crore in March.
- Tamil Nadu did not raise any amount in April 2022, the first month of fiscal 2022-23, amid changes in the Centre's guidelines for granting permission to the States to borrow. It started borrowing from May 2022 after permission was granted.
- According to the budget documents, Tamil Nadu plans to borrow a net amount of Rs. 90,116.52 crore during 2022-23. This sum excludes Rs. 6,500 crore anticipated from the Centre towards the back-to-back loan for the GST compensation shortfall.
- As per the information released by the RBI, Tamil Nadu indicated that it would borrow Rs. 23,500 crore in the first quarter (April-June) of fiscal 2022-23. States, including Tamil Nadu, borrow from the market through auction of bonds known as the State Development Loans.
- The Centre has allowed the States to borrow 3.5% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2022-23. An additional borrowing of 0.5% is allowed on fulfilment of power sector reforms and based on their contributions to the National Pension System for government employees.
- As per the norms, the States have to disclose the off-budget borrowings since 2020-21 and the over-utilisation against the borrowing limits.

- The State Public Sector Companies and Special Purpose Vehicles, among others, resort to off-budget borrowings in which the principal and/or interest are to be serviced out of the State budgets. The Centre will adjust such borrowings from this year's ceiling.
- While the State finances have been helped by higher tax devolution estimated by the Centre, there is uncertainty over the extension of the GST compensation period which ends on June 30. States, including Tamil Nadu, have sought an extension. Tamil Nadu has estimated a revenue loss of Rs.20,000 crore if the period is not extended.

### **KALLOORI KANAVU PROGRAMME**

- Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday launched 'Kalloori Kanavu', a career guidance initiative for school students to pursue their higher education after completing Class 12.
- The novel Kalloori Kanavu (College Dreams) initiative, launched under the Naan Mudhalvan programme by the Chief Minister offers guidance to the students to opt for courses and select the colleges, entrance exams, education loans and scholarships.

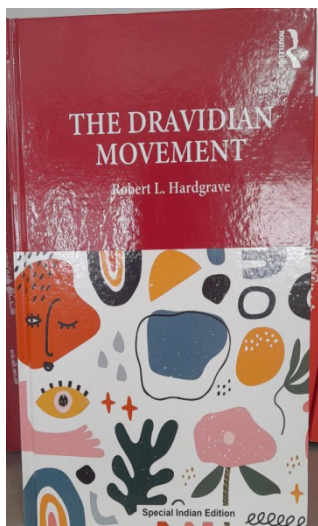
### **NAADHA VINODHINI AWARD PRESENTED TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ARTIST**

- The contours, the colours and the lines in the paintings showcase the dexterous hand of a painter at work, except that the paintings were not executed with a hand but with the mouth of physically challenged artist Sarita Dwivedi. Ms. Sarita who lost both her hands and one leg due to an electric shock in her childhood has overcome the odds of losing her hands and legs to become a prolific painter.
- The hundreds of paintings have won her one international award and four national awards.

### **A BOOK ON DRAVIDIAN MOVEMENT**

- The book by Robert L. Hardgrave Jr., first published in 1965, ready for fresh launch
- The Dravidian Movement, a pioneering book by Robert L. Hardgrave Jr, which offers insight into the formative years of the movement, is ready for a fresh release after a gap of 57 years.
-





- The book was based on material he gathered in India for his 1962 Master's Thesis.
- First published in 1965 by Mumbai-based Popular Prakashan, the book has been out of print for many years.
- The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation has acquired the copyright for it.

### CHESS OLYMPIAD



- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the mascot and the logo named 'Thambi' for FIDE Chess Olympiad in Chennai last evening. 'Thambi' in Tamil means younger brother.
- The international event will be held at Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28th July to August 10.
- Over two thousand players from 186 countries will be taking part in the event. The biggest ever contingent from India is playing in this edition.
- The Chess Olympiad torch will soon be taken around all the states in the country before being lit in the venue on the inaugural day of the event.
- This is the second major international chess event to be hosted by Chennai, after the World Championship match between India's Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen way back in 2013. Preparations for the international tournament are going on at a frenetic pace.

### MICROFINANCE LOAN

- Tamil Nadu Became The Largest State In Outstanding Microfinance Loan
- Tamil Nadu replaced Bihar and West Bengal to become the largest state in terms of outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans.
- According to MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22, a quarterly report published by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Tamil Nadu as of March 31, 2022 stood at RS.36,806 crore. It was followed by Bihar ( RS.35,941 crore) and West Bengal (RS. 34,016 crore)

### NEW CHAIRMAN OF TNPSC:

- TNPSC Chairman Balachandran Retired.C. Muniyanathan has been appointed as the New Chairman of TNPSC. Balachandran, who was the chairman of TNPSC, retired on the 9th. The Department of Human Resource Management has announced that C. Muniyanathan, who is already a member of the TNPSC, will continue to be the responsible of Chairman.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### IAF HERITAGE

- A heritage centre to showcase the role of the Indian Air Force in various wars and its overall functioning will come up at Chandigarh.
- The 'IAF Heritage Centre' will be set up jointly by the force and the Chandigarh administration.
- The ceremony was attended by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.

#### About the heritage centre:

- This heritage centre will have artefact, simulators and interactive boards to highlight various facets of IAF.
- It will also showcase the vital role played by the service in various wars and assistance rendered for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- This joint project of Administration of UT Chandigarh and IAF is planned to be completed by October.

### NATIONWIDE FIT INDIA FREEDOM RIDER CYCLE RALLY

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur has launched a nationwide 'Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle rally' on World Bicycle Day.
- World Bicycle Day is observed on June 3 every year to promote the use of bicycles and their benefits.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is of the opinion that providing bicycles to the world's poorest people and communities will help in the prevention of 1.5 million premature deaths and 5 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

### NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE SERVICE DELIVERY ASSESSMENT 2021 (NESDA 2021)

The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions released the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021 (NeSDA 2021).

#### About:

- The NeSDA 2021 report has been prepared covering the assessment of States, Union

Territories with a focus on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.



- NeSDA 2021 covers services across seven sectors: Finance, Labour and Employment, Education, Local Governance and Utility Services, Social Welfare, Environment and Tourism sectors.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) had constituted the NeSDA in 2019 as part of its mandate to boost the e-government endeavours and drive digital government excellence.

#### Findings

- Jammu and Kashmir, assessed for the first time, ranked the highest among Union Territories with an overall compliance of nearly 90 percent for NeSDA.
- Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading state portals with an overall compliance of more than 90 percent across all assessment parameters among the northeast and hill states.
- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 percent among the Remaining States category.
- Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.

### BOMBAY SAMACHAR (MUMBAI SAMACHAR)

Prime minister Narendra Modi addressed the bi-centenary celebration of Mumbai Samachar Newspaper.

#### About:

- The Bombay Samachar, now Mumbai Samachar, is the oldest continuously



- published newspaper in India.
- Established in 1822 by Fardunjee Marzban, it is published in Gujarati and English.
- The Bombay Samachar is also Asia's oldest continuously published newspaper.



## KRANTI GATHA (GALLERY OF INDIAN REVOLUTIONARIES)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Kranti Gatha' a newly created Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries inside an underground British - era bunker at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai and Jal Bhushan, the new residence and office of the Governor of Maharashtra.



### About:

- The Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries has been created in the bunker that was discovered below Raj Bhavan in 2016 by the then Governor of Maharashtra N Vidyasagar Rao. Built before the First World War, it was used by the British store arms and ammunition.
- The bunker has 13 rooms of various sizes and the different cells in it were known as 'Shell Store', 'Gun Shell', Cartridge Store, Shell Lift, Central Artillery Room, Workshop etc. Many of these rooms as well as the wall in the hallway have now been used for the 'Kranti Gatha - Gallery of Revolutionaries'.

- The 'Kranti Gatha' gallery commemorates many revolutionaries from Maharashtra from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the Naval uprising in Mumbai in 1946.
- In this Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Chaphekar brothers, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Babarao Savarkar, Krantiguru Lahuji Salve, Anant Laxman Kanhere, Rajguru, Madam Bhikaji Cama feature prominently.

## FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHIEF SECRETARIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the First National Conference of Chief Secretaries at HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

### About:

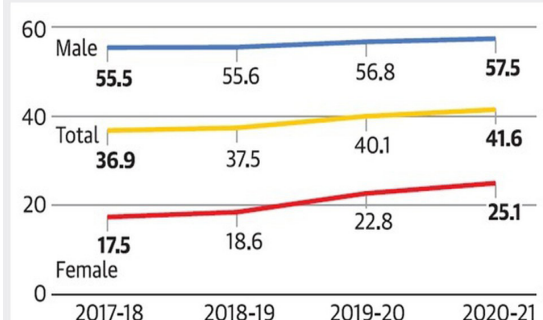
- The National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held from 15th to 17th June 2022.
- More than 200 people participated in the conference, representing the Central Government, all States/ UTs and domain experts. It was a significant step towards further strengthening the partnership between the Centre and the State Governments.
- Spread over three days, Three themes were discussed in the Conference:
- Implementation of the National Education Policy;
- Urban governance; and
- Crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities.

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

The unemployment rate saw a decrease of 0.6% and fell to 4.2% in 2020-21, compared with 4.8% in 2019-20, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2020-21 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

### About

**Looking for work** | The labour force participation rate (LFPR) has continued to improve further in 2020-21, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey. The graph shows LFPR over years across genders



- This means that only 4.2% of adults who looked for jobs could not get any work in rural and urban areas of the country in 2020-21.
- Rural areas recorded an unemployment rate of 3.3% and urban areas 6.7%.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), the percentage of persons in the labour force (that is, working or seeking work or available for work) in the population, was 41.6% during 2020-21. It was 40.1% in the previous year.
- The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) was 39.8%, an increase from 38.2% of the previous year. The WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- Migrants are defined in the survey as a household member whose last usual place of residence, at any time in the past, was different from the present place of enumeration. The migration rate, according to the survey, is 28.9%. The migration rate among women was 48% and 47.8% in rural and urban areas, respectively.

### **DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PwD)**

The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has invited public feedback on the new draft national policy on persons with disabilities (PwD), which proposes interventions in disability prevention, education, healthcare, social security and accessibility.

#### **About:**

- The draft said the current national programme on prevention of disabilities run by the Health Ministry focused on “traditional causes”, but there were other causes of disability, such as malnourishment, medical negligence, socio-cultural factors and impairment caused by disasters.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act, 2016, also expanded the number of disabilities from seven to 21.
- The policy said the States and Union Territories should add a provision on compliance with the RPD Act when granting permission or recognition to educational institutions. A module on disability should be included in MBBS and other medical courses.
- To make vehicles more accessible, the policy said: “The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will issue necessary guidelines for making modification in the personal vehicles being used by persons with disabilities as per requirement.”

### **BALIKA PANCHAYAT**

- India's first ‘Balika Panchayat’ constituted in five villages of Gujarat
- The country's first-ever, ‘Balika Panchayat’, has started in five villages of Gujarat's Kutch district. The initiative aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation in politics
- About the “Balika Panchayat”:
- “Balika Panchayat” is managed by people in the 11-21 age group and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system. The main objective of panchayat is that the girls should move forward in politics. In Balika panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat.

### **MIGRATION IN INDIA, 2020-2021**

A report named ‘Migration in India 2020-21’ was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

#### **About:**

- The ‘Migration in India’ report, which is based on first-time collection of additional data during the annual round of Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020-June 2021, separates the categories of ‘temporary visitors’ and ‘migrants’.
- ‘Temporary Visitors’ have been defined as the ones who arrived in households after March 2020 and stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months.
- ‘Migrants’ have been defined as those, for whom the last usual place of residence, any time in the past, is different from the present place of enumeration.

#### **Key findings of the report**

- After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, 0.7 per cent of India's population was recorded as a ‘temporary visitor’ across households during the July 2020-June 2021 period.
- Over 84 % of these 0.7 % ‘temporary visitors’ moved for reasons linked to the pandemic ranging from loss of job, closure of educational institutions and health related reasons.
- The all-India migration rate was 28.9 per cent for July 2020-June 2021, with 26.5 per cent migration rate in rural areas and



34.9 per cent in urban areas.

- Females recorded a higher share of migration rate of 47.9 per cent, with 48 per cent in rural areas and 47.8 per cent in urban areas. The migration rate for males was seen at 10.7 per cent, with 5.9 per cent in rural areas and 22.5 per cent in urban areas.
- Among females, the highest level of migration rate was seen at 86.8 per cent for marriage, while 49.6 per cent of the males migrated due to employment related reasons.

### INTER-STATE COUNCIL

In June 2022, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking that at least three meetings of the Inter-State Council should be held every year to “strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism”.

#### About:

- Inter-State Council is a mechanism that was constituted “to support Centre-State and Inter-State coordination and cooperation in India”. The Council is basically meant to serve as a forum for discussions among various governments.
- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which states that the President may constitute such a body if a need is felt for it.
- In 1988, the Sarkaria Commission suggested the Council should exist as a permanent body, and in 1990 it came into existence through a Presidential Order.
- The main functions of the Council are inquiring into and advising on disputes between states, investigating and discussing subjects in which two states or states and the Union have a common interest, and making recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
- The Prime Minister is the chairman of the Council, whose members include the Chief Ministers of all states and UTs with legislative assemblies, and Administrators of other UTs.
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Centre’s Council of Ministers, nominated by the Prime Minister, are also its members.
- Since its constitution in 1990, the body has met only 11 times, although its procedure states it should meet at least three times every year. That there has been no meeting since July 2016.

#### Reconstitution

- The Council was reconstituted in May 2022. The body will now have 10 Union Ministers as permanent invitees, and the

standing committee of the Council has been reconstituted with Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman.

### PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

- The Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh has denied any foreign funding in the construction of the Padma Bridge project. It asserted that the ‘Padma multipurpose bridge has been entirely funded by the government of Bangladesh.’



#### About

- It said that some quarters are trying to portray that the bridge which is to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 25 June has been constructed with foreign funds and is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China.
- The 6.15 kilometres long Padma Bridge is the largest bridge in Bangladesh. The bridge will help connect 19 south-western districts of Bangladesh with the rest of the country.

### NDPS

- Government to transfer NDPS from Ministry of Finance to Ministry of Home Affairs
- To bring all matters relating to narcotics under one department, the government is reportedly considering moving the administration of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 from the finance ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### About

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988 are currently administered by the Department of Revenue (DoR) in the finance ministry, while the Narcotics

Control Bureau is under the control of the home ministry.

- The transfer of DoR's administration of the two Acts to MHA is currently being discussed.
- Under the terms of the NDPS Act, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is a major law enforcement and intelligence organisation entrusted with preventing the use and trafficking of illegal drugs.

#### About the NDPS:

- A person is not allowed to produce, manufacture, cultivate, hold, sell, buy, transport, store, consume, or possess any narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, according to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985, or NDPS Act.
- To stop the unlawful trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act of 1988 allows for imprisonment in specific circumstances.
- The transfer was taken into account in accordance with the 1961 Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules.

#### UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL INAUGURATES MANGO FESTIVAL IN BELGIUM

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, inaugurated a "Mango Festival" in Brussels, Belgium to raise awareness among Europeans and establish a market for Indian mangoes in Europe. India is a big supplier of mangoes to the rest of the globe, but most of the mangoes end up in the Middle East rather than Europe.
- During the event, mangoes like Banganapalli from Andhra Pradesh, Malihabad Dasher from Uttar Pradesh, Amrapali from Odisha, Lakshman Bhog, Himsagar, Jardalu mango, Langra mangoes, as well as 12 GI-tagged items were on exhibit. The Indian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union (EU), Santosh Jha, spoke about the occasion and the "immense potential" of the Indian mango in the European market.

#### UNION MINISTER PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL INAUGURATES THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MILLETS

- Union Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated the National Conference

on Millets. The theme of the conference is 'The Future Super Food for India' in New Delhi, organised by industry body ASSOCHAM with the support of M/o Food Processing Industries. The conference has been organised to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security.

- The Union Minister said that the production of coarse cereals in the country has increased to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 and the production of bajra (pearl millet) has also increased to 10.86 million tonnes in the same period. The major millets producing states in India include Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

#### Extra Info:

- Millets all around the globe as India is now the 5th largest exporter of millets globally.
- The year 2023 will be the international year of millets that will create value generation and promotion of sustainable products in food choices.

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO HOST G-20 MEETINGS IN 2023

- Jammu and Kashmir will host the 2023 meetings of the G20, an influential group of the world's major economies. J&K government has set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination of G20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- India's representation at G20 summits has been led by Prime Minister Modi since 2014. The G20 countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom.

#### NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed former Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta the Director-General of the NIA.



#### About:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the primary counter-terrorist task force of India.
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- Headquartered in New Delhi, the NIA has branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai and Imphal.

#### MO BUS SERVICE

Mo Bus, the bus service of Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognised by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual Public Service Awards for 2022.

#### About

- The public transport service has been recognised for its role in "promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)".
- Mo Bus, the UN noted, has incorporated "real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing", and an e-rickshaw system called 'Mo E-Ride' has been introduced as a last-mile feeder service.
- The "impact" is that 57 per cent of the city's commuters now use the Mo Bus, the UN said. Mo E-Ride is estimated to reduce pollution by 30-50 per cent. Also, 40 per cent of Mo Bus conductors are women and 100 percent of Mo E-Ride drivers are women, transgender people, and people from disadvantaged communities.
- In 2019, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conferred a special award on CRUT, the Bhubaneswar City Bus Modernisation Project, popularly known as the Mo Bus service.

#### UN Public Service Award

- The UN describes its Public Service Awards as the "most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service". It is intended to reward "the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to

a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide".

- The first Awards ceremony was held in 2003.

#### ONGC VIDESH ANNOUNCES NEW DISCOVERY IN COLOMBIA

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), the National Oil Company of India, has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, Urraca-IX, in CPO-5 block, Llanos Basin, Colombia.



#### About:

- Well, Urraca-IX was spudded on 20th April 2022 and drilled to target depth (TD) of 10956 ft., encountering 17 ft thick oil-bearing sands at a depth from 10201ft -10218 ft.
- ONGC Videsh has earlier discovered commercial oil in the Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing @ 20,000 bbl oil per day.
- Block CPO-5 was awarded to ONGC Videsh Limited in the 2008 bid round of Colombia. ONGC Videsh holds 70% participating interest (PI) in the block along with operatorship, remaining 30% is held by partner Geopark.
- ONGC Videsh has a significant presence in oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).

#### INDIAN 5G TEST BED

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), will establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Army along the borders.

### About:

- The test bed will facilitate Indian Army to utilise the 5G technology for its operational use, especially along its borders. The collaboration would provide an impetus to the induction of systems, devices and equipment using niche technology and use of AI-based algorithms for enhancing capabilities of the Indian armed forces.
- Under the ambit of the MoU, IIT Madras will provide consultancy, duly supported by research for feasibility studies and prototype development on 5G enabled future communications.

### PIYUSH GOYAL: INDIAN GDP MIGHT REACH \$30 TRILLION IN COMING 30 YEARS

- India's economy, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, is among the fastest-growing in the world and is predicted to reach \$30 trillion in the next 30 years.
- Goyal remarked that if India grows at a compound annual growth rate of 8% annually, the economy will double in nine years while speaking to exporters in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu.
- According to the minister, the country's economy is currently worth approximately \$3.2 trillion and will be worth roughly \$6.5 trillion in nine years.

### OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC)

The Government of India announced the launch of the pilot phase of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in five cities in April 2022 with an aim to "democratise" the country's fast growing digital e-commerce space that is currently dominated by the two U.S.-headquartered firms — Amazon and Walmart.

### About:

- As per the strategy paper on ONDC, it is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
- It is neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network.

- The ONDC aims to enable buying of products from all participating e-commerce platforms by consumers through a single platform.
- Currently, a buyer needs to go to Amazon, for example, to buy a product from a seller on Amazon. Under ONDC, it is envisaged that a buyer registered on one participating e-commerce site (for example, Amazon) may purchase goods from a seller on another participating e-commerce site (for example, Flipkart).
- The ONDC model is trying to replicate the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the field of digital payments. UPI allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payment platforms they are registered on.
- The open network concept also extends beyond the retail sector, to any digital commerce domains including wholesale, mobility, food delivery, logistics, travel, urban services, etc.

### DIGITAL PAYMENTS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that transactions through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have crossed one trillion US dollar mark in financial year 2022 and today India is first in global digital transactions

### About:

- He said, India accounted for 40 percent of the total global digital payments in 2021 and BHIM-UPI are no longer just an Indian app but have become global.
- He said this while addressing the National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security in New Delhi.

### BHARAT-NCAP

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved the Draft GSR Notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests.

### About:

- Bharat-NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles.
- Star Rating of Indian Cars based on Crash Tests is extremely crucial not only to ensure structural and passenger safety in cars, but to also increase the export-worthiness of Indian automobiles.



- The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities.
- Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the Number one automobile hub in the world.

## INDIA FORUM FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



The National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners today launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland

About:

- The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions by
- Defining a shared language and by communicating benefits that inform actions at the local level including scaling up of existing NbS interventions.
- Driving investment and strengthening delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Mainstreaming urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions in India through informing policy, plans and project interventions
- 'India Forum for Nature-based Solutions' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI India) under the Cities4Forests initiative.
- It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of United Kingdom and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

## PRIMARY AGRICULTURE CREDIT SOCIETIES (PACS)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with the objective of increasing efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountability in their operations; facilitating PACS to diversify their business and undertake multiple activities/ services.

About:

- This project proposes computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of 5 years with a total budget outlay of Rs. 2516 crore with Government of India share of Rs. 1528 crore.
- The Primary Agricultural Cooperative credit societies (PACS) constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier Short-term cooperative credit (STCC) in the country comprising of approx. 13 Cr. farmers as its members, which is crucial for the development of the rural economy.
- PACS account for 41 % (3.01 Cr. farmers) of the KCC loans given by all entities in the Country and 95 % of these KCC loans (2.95 Cr. farmers) through PACS are to the Small and Marginal farmers.
- The other two tiers viz. State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) have already been automated by the NABARD and brought on Common Banking Software (CBS).

## EKNATH SHINDE

Shivsena rebel leader Eknath Shinde was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra.



About:

- Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari administered the oath of office to Mr. Shinde. He has become the 20th Chief Minister of the state.
- Besides, Mr Shinde, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn-in as Deputy Chief Minister.

- The trust vote of the new government will be held on Saturday. The special session of the Assembly will be held on July 2 and 3. The Speaker will be elected on the first day of the session.
- Shinde, who revolted against former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 20, was joined by 39 Sena MLAs and 11 Independents.
- The rebel MLAs had demanded that Mr. Thackeray quit the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and snap ties with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to return to the path of Hindutva.

Tripura have been clubbed under the Emerging Business Ecosystems category.

### **DAK KARMAYOGI E-LEARNING PLATFORM**

- The Dak Karmayogi, which is an e-Learning portal of the department of posts was launched by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav minister of communication, railways, electronics, and IT, and Shri Devusinh Chauhan minister of state for communications.
- The function was held at Stein auditorium Indian habitat Centre on 28 June 2022. This portal has been developed under the vision of mission Karmayogi which was initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with a view of bringing efficiency in the actions of all the employees of the Government of India and transforming the efficiency of bureaucracy with minimum Government and maximum governance.

### **BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN (BRAP)- 2020**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)- 2020 in New Delhi.

#### **About:**

- In the report, seven states have been identified as the top achievers based on implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan. The states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
- The report further mentioned that Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh figure under the Achievers category. While Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal have been placed in the Aspirers category.
- Andaman and Nicobar, Bihar, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry and

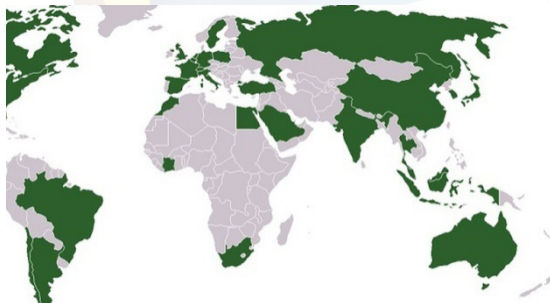


## TURKIYE

- The United Nations has changed the Republic of Turkey's country name at the organisation from "Turkey" to "Türkiye", following a request from Ankara for the change.
- Turkey began the move to change its internationally recognised official name in English to Türkiye in December after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan released a memorandum and asked the public to use Türkiye to describe the country in every language.
- Türkiye is the best representation and expression of the Turkish people's culture, civilization and values.

## G33

At the G33 Ministerial Meeting in Geneva, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal expressed his concerns over the stalemate in reaching a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding and special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for food security.



### About:

- The G33 Ministerial Meeting was held on the sidelines of the 12th World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in the Swiss town of Geneva.
- The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing and least developed countries. Despite the name, there are currently 48 member nations including China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan etc.
- It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference, that have coordinated during the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture.
- Dominated by India, The group has

"defensive" concerns regarding agriculture in relation to World Trade Organization negotiations, and seeks to limit the degree of market opening required of developing countries.

## PAKISTAN REMAINS IN FATF 'GREY LIST' FOR TERROR FINANCING, MONEY LAUNDERING

- Pakistan will continue to be on the "Grey List" of countries under increased monitoring of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), from the global money-laundering and terror-financing watchdog. Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.
  - FATF Headquarters: Paris, France;
  - FATF President: Marcus Pleyer;
  - FATF Purpose: Combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
  - FATF Founded: 1989

## MARIJUANA LEGALISED

Thailand becomes the first Asian country to legalise Marijuana.



### About:

- Thailand legalised the growing of marijuana and its consumption in food and drinks, the first Asian country to do so, with the aim of boosting its agriculture and tourism sectors but smoking pot is still against the law.
- Thailand, which has a tradition of using cannabis to relieve pain and fatigue,



legalised medicinal marijuana in 2018. The government, banking on the plant as a cash crop, plans to give away a million plants to encourage farmers to take up its cultivation.

- The possession and sale of cannabis extracts containing more than 0.2% of its psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is not allowed, which will mean smokers of the drug known as “pot”, “weed” and a host of other names, will struggle to get “stoned”.
- Those who break the law can still face jail and fines.

## NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDIA-EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

In a joint event held at the Headquarters of the European Union (EU) at Brussels, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, and Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of European Commission formally re-launched the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

### About:

- Besides, negotiations were also launched for a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and a Geographical Indicators (GIs) Agreement.
- While the proposed IPA would provide a legal framework for cross-border investments to enhance the confidence of investors, the GI pact is expected to establish a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, to facilitate trade of GI products including handicrafts and agri-commodities.

### Background

- Last year, in the India and EU Leaders' Meeting held in Porto on 8th May 2021, an agreement was reached for resuming negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA and starting fresh negotiations on the IPA and a separate agreement on GIs.
- Both partners are now resuming the FTA talks after a gap of about nine years since the earlier negotiations were left off in 2013 due to difference in the scope and expectations from the deal

### Significance

- This would be one of the most significant FTAs for India as EU is its second largest trading partner after the US.
- The India-EU merchandise trade has registered an all-time high value of USD 116.36 Billion in 2021-22 with a year-on growth of 43.5%. India's export to the EU jumped 57% in FY 2021-22 to \$65 billion.

India has a surplus trade with EU.

### Other FTAs

- India earlier this year has concluded FTAs with Australia and the UAE in a record time.
- The FTA talks with Canada and the UK are also underway.

## 14TH BRICS SUMMIT: MEMBERS OF BRICS TAKE A SIMILAR STANCE ON WORLD ECONOMY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a virtual summit of the five-nation grouping sponsored by China that the consequences of the Covid epidemic on the global economy are still apparent and that cooperation among the BRICS countries can be a beneficial part of its recovery. The BRICS member nations, according to the prime minister, share a similar approach to managing the world economy

### Note

- Five of the major developing nations in the world are represented by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), accounting for 41% of the world's population, 24% of its GDP, and 16% of its commerce.

## U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS ABORTION RIGHT

In a significant curtailment of women's rights, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a 1973 landmark decision giving women in America the right to have an abortion before the foetus is viable outside the womb — before the 24-28 week mark.

### About:

- It also overturned *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, a 1992 case that upheld *Roe*.
- Abortion rights — which have been available to women for over two generations — will now be determined by individual States.
- Some 20 States have laws (which were overruled by *Roe* until now) restricting or banning abortions. Thirteen States have laws banning the procedure, that come into effect, now that *Roe* has been overturned.

### View of U.S President Joe Biden

- Addressing the nation, President Joe Biden called the decision a “tragic error” and a “sad day” for the court and the country. “The court has done what it has never done before, expressly take away a constitutional right that is so fundamental to so many

Americans,” he said.

- Biden warned officials, “state or local” ,” high or low” not to interfere in the right of a woman to travel to a State where she could have an abortion.

### What is ‘Roe v. Wade’?

- The case, sometimes referred to simply as “Roe”, struck down laws that made abortion illegal in several states, and ruled that abortion would be allowed up to the point of foetal viability, that is, the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb.
- Foetal viability was around 28 weeks (7 months) at the time of the ‘Roe’ judgment nearly 50 years ago; experts now agree that advances in medicine have brought the threshold down to 23 or 24 weeks (6 months or a little less), and newer studies show this could be further pegged at 22 weeks. An average pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks.
- Foetal viability is often seen as the point at which the rights of the woman can be separated from the rights of the unborn foetus.

### INDIA-NEPAL JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) ON BORDER MANAGEMENT

The 12th India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG), which discusses several issues related to Border Management and security matters, was held in New Delhi in June 2022.



#### About:

- The two sides reviewed the decisions taken in the last JWG held in 2015 in Pokhara, Nepal.
- The Joint Working Group reviewed the Border District Coordination Committee (BDCC) meetings held earlier and also the progress made on the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, Extradition Treaty and other outstanding MoUs to be signed between the two sides.
- The Indian Delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Border Management) in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Nepali

side was led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal.

- The Nepalese delegation extended an invitation to the Indian delegation for the next JWG to be held in Nepal next year.

### UN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2022

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for the Government of India, left for Portugal to attend the Lisbon UN Ocean Conference, 2022. On the topic of Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stock taking, Partnerships and Solutions, he will give the conference’s keynote presentation. The Conference will have participants from more than 130 nations.

#### About

- Dr. Singh declared in his final remarks that, under the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India would offer collaborative solutions based on science and innovation for the realisation of Goal 14.
- In order to close the methodology and data gaps on SDG indicators, he claimed that India has well-established engagement and partnerships with UN agencies and research institutions.
- India is advancing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, according to the Minister, in order to create an ocean that is clear, healthy, productive, predictable, safe, and accessible.
- At the conclusion of the Conference, the leaders will also reiterate the statement titled Our ocean, our future: call for action.
- The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 endorsed the declaration.

### G20 COUNTRIES

Jammu and Kashmir will host the 2023 meetings of the G20, an influential group of the world’s major economies.





### About:

- The G20 countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021. India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- The participation of the delegates from G-20 countries will be a major boost to the efforts of the Centre to project the situation in J&K as normal, after J&K's special constitutional position was ended in 2019.

### TOGO AND GABON BECOME COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

- The Commonwealth of Nations now has 56 member nations after the admission of Togo and Gabon. The two historically French-speaking nations were formally admitted to the union at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was presided over by Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali, the country's capital. According to Patricia Scotland, the organization's secretary-general, admission is determined by evaluations of a number of standards, including the democratic process, effective leadership, and rule of law.

### INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

- The Union Cabinet was apprised of a Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Agreement was signed in January 2022.



### About:

- The aim of the Agreement is to drive ambition, leadership and knowledge on green energy transitions based on renewable energy in India. The Agreement will help India's energy transition efforts and will also help the world in combating climate change.
- The areas of cooperation as envisaged in the Strategic Partnership Agreement will support India in achieving its ambitious target of 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.
- The salient features of the Agreement include enhanced cooperation in the following areas:
  - Facilitating knowledge sharing from India on scaling-up renewable energy and clean energy technologies
  - Supporting India's efforts on long term energy planning
  - Collaborating to strengthen the innovation climate in India
  - Moving towards cost-effective decarbonisation through catalysing development and deployment of green hydrogen.
- Thus, the Strategic Partnership Agreement will help India's energy transition efforts and will also help the world in combating climate change.

### 'PARTNERS IN THE BLUE PACIFIC': NEW PROGRAMME STARTED BY US AND ALLIES



- The US and its allies, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the United Kingdom, have launched a new initiative called Partners in the Blue Pacific for effective and efficient cooperation with the region's small island nations in response to China's aggressive push to expand its sphere of influence in the Pacific.
- After China pushed for a broad, common cooperation pact with 10 Pacific states, it became obvious the planned extent of its



expanding influence and the geostrategic competition in the region increased.

#### About Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP):

- A five-nation informal framework, the PBP aims to support Pacific islands and strengthen regional political and economic ties.
- It calls for further cooperation to improve “prosperity, resilience, and security” in the Pacific. It simply means that these nations will contribute more resources through the PBP, both collectively and individually, to block China’s aggressive outreach.
- Members of the initiative have also promised to strengthen ties with the Pacific Islands Forum and promote regionalism in the Pacific.
- The five member countries said in a joint statement announcing the project that the forum “remains open to engaging with additional partners,” adding that “at every point, the Pacific Islands will be led and guided by us.”
- On the choice of the PBP’s lines of effort and its flagship projects, we shall look to the Pacific for advice.
- The climate issue, connectivity and transportation, marine security and protection, health, prosperity, and education are among the sectors where PBP seeks to improve cooperation.

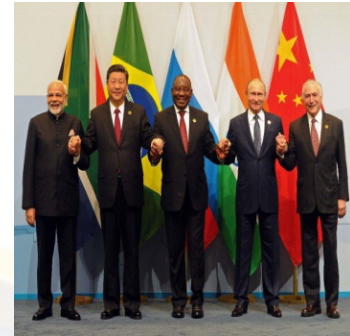
#### US and Allies: Measures to Stop China

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a trade-boosting initiative in the region with 13 countries as partners — Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Fiji — was started by the US and its allies before the PBP was unveiled this month.
- Away from the Pacific, the G7, unveiled a strategy called the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), which aims to compete with China’s Belt and Road Initiative by pledging to raise \$600 billion to finance development initiatives in low- and middle-income nations.

#### IRAN, ARGENTINA APPLIES TO JOIN CHINA AND RUSSIA IN BRICS CLUB

- Iran has submitted an application to become a member in the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS. Iran’s membership in the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, “would result in added values for both sides,” Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson. Argentina had also applied

to join the group. Argentina’s President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.



- Russia has long been pushing to forge closer ties with Asia, South America and the Middle East, but it has intensified its efforts recently to weather sanctions imposed by Europe, the United States and other countries over its invasion on Ukraine.

#### What is BRICS?

- BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Goldman Sachs economist Jim O’Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001, claiming that by 2050 the four BRIC economies would come to dominate the global economy by 2050. South Africa was added to the list in 2010.



## **GOVT RATIFIES 8.1 PC EPF INTEREST RATE FOR 2021-22**

- The government has approved 8.1 per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22, an over four-decade low for about five crore subscribers of retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Earlier in March this year, EPFO had decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 to 8.1 per cent from 8.5 per cent provided in 2020-21.

### **About EPFO:**

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is the statutory body under the Government of India's Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is responsible for regulation and management of provident funds in India.
- The EPFO administers the mandatory provident fund.

### **Payments Vision 2025'**

- The Reserve Bank's Payments Vision 2025 plan, which wants to triple the volume of digital payments, is progressive, according to industry players, and intends to build India as a worldwide payments powerhouse. In light of rising geopolitical threats, the RBI released its Payments Vision 2025 document, which discusses ring-fencing domestic payment networks, as well as the necessity to enforce domestic processing of payment transactions.

## **TDS ON TRANSFER OF VIRTUAL DIGITAL ASSETS**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on June 22 issued detailed guidelines on the tax deducted at source (TDS) rule for virtual digital assets (VDAs) such as cryptocurrencies, and laid down the various scenarios under which tax would be applicable and on whom the onus of deduction would lie.

### **About:**

- The Finance Act, 2022 introduced Section 194S in The Income Tax Act, 1961, under which a TDS of 1 per cent will be levied on the transfer of VDAs effective July 1 if the value of transactions exceeds Rs 10,000 in

a year.

- In cases where the transfer of VDA takes place on or through an exchange, and the VDA being transferred is not owned by the exchange, tax may be deducted by the exchange making the payment to the seller.
- However, when the payment between the seller and the exchange is being done through a broker, the responsibility to deduct tax shall be on both the exchange and the broker.
- The CBDT has defined four primary VDAs — bitcoin, ether, USD Tether, and USD Coin — for the purpose of tax deduction on lesser known cryptocurrencies.

## **EXTERNAL DEBT**

India's external debt rose to \$620.7 billion at end-March 2022, recording an increase of \$47.1 billion over the year earlier period, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

### **About:**

- The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 19.9% at end-March 2022, from 21.2% a year earlier.
- Valuation gains on account of the appreciation of the U.S. dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and major currencies including the Japanese yen and euro was estimated at \$11.7 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$58.8 billion instead of \$47.1 billion at end-March 2022 over end-March 2021, the RBI said.
- India's long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) rose to \$499.1 billion, recording an increase of \$26.5 billion over its level at end-March 2021, RBI data showed. During the same period, the share of short-term debt in total external debt increased to 19.6% from 17.6%.
- Similarly, the ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves increased to 20%. U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 53.2%.
- Separately, the RBI said net claims of non-residents on India increased by \$5.6 billion during the fourth quarter of 2021-22 to \$359.8 billion in March 2022.





## PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

### SHRESHTA

- Union Minister of social Justice and empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched the Scheme “SHRESHTA”- Scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas.
- The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been formulated with the objective to provide quality education and opportunities for even the poorest.

#### Objective of the SHRESHTA Scheme:

- Scheduled Caste students, as per the Constitutional mandate.
- The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects to inequality, were kept out of quality education and a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of lack of adequate education.
- The Governmental efforts to spread educational facilities without discrimination have worked well in achieving near universal access.
- However, the objective of providing access to quality education that provides a level playing field is still far from reality.
- Accordingly, the Department as a new initiative has introduced the scheme for providing quality education in top class private Residential Schools to the meritorious SC students who cannot afford the fee of such schools.

#### About the SHRESHTA Scheme:

- Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) provides for high quality education for meritorious but poor SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools across the country.
- Approximately 3,000 seats are provided each year for admission in class 9th and 11th and the entire cost of the school fee and residential charges are borne by the Department.
- The students, belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing the benefits of scheme are selected through a transparent mechanism through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA

(NETS), which is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission in class 9th and 11th.

- Students belonging to marginalized income group within the SC community, whose parental annual income is upto Rs.2.5 Lakh are eligible. Successful candidates, after following the e-counselling process, are given admission in the school of their choice anywhere in the Country for their academic persuasion.
- The Department shall bear the total cost of the school fee and hostel charges till completion of their academic upto class 12th. There after the students of the scheme may avail benefits of other schemes of the Department for their higher education

### ANCHAL CAMPAIGN

- In Rajasthan, a Special Health Care Abhiyan ‘Anchal’ has been launched in the Karauli district for pregnant women.
- More than 13 thousand women have benefited from this Abhiyan.

#### About the Anchal Campaign:

- This unique campaign was started on the initiative of District Collector Ankit Kumar Singh to ensure all necessary medical aid to pregnant women at the pre and post-natal stage so that maternal and infant mortality rates could be reduced.
- Under this campaign, it is also ensured that the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers in the district will keep in constant contact with the pregnant women of their respective areas and provide them with necessary counseling and treatment as and when required.

### PM NARENDRA MODI UNVEILS PM CARES FOR CHILDREN SCHEME

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the benefits of the PM CARES for Children scheme for children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- PM Modi has promised Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs, financial support for schooling, scholarship for higher education, and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.
- Prime Minister transferred scholarships to

school-going children.

- A passbook of PM CARES for Children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana were handed over to the children during the programme

### **PRADHAN MANTRI AADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA**

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has said that the government has started a scheme, “Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana” for faster development of tribal villages.

#### **About:**

- The focus of the scheme is on converging different programs of 41 ministries in the tribal villages to ensure their all-round development.
- Aim of the program is to turn the focus on such remote and backward villages of the country which are lagging behind due to lack of attention. Efforts are also being made to ensure the geo-tagging of and market linkages for the tribal products through TRIFED.

### **UNESCO RECOGNISES INDIA'S USE OF ICT UNDER PM eVIDYA SCHEME**

- Recently, UNESCO recognized the use of information and communication technology (ICT), under a comprehensive initiative called PM eVIDYA by the department of school education, Ministry of Education. The schooling models saw a paradigm shift during the unprecedented times of Covid-19. The technological interventions aided in building crisis-resilient learning systems.

### **NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF UPSKILLING OF NIRMAL WORKERS (NIPUN)**

Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called ‘NIPUN’ i.e. National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirmal workers.

#### **About:**

- The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work

opportunities in foreign countries also.

- The construction industry is poised to become the largest employer by 2022 and needs 45 million additional skilled workers over the next 10 years.
- To fulfil this mission, the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have joined Project NIPUN as industry partners and will identify training job roles of aspirational value in the construction sector in collaboration with the SSC.

### **PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has extended the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom by one year, and has amended the scheme to raise the incentive rate by an additional 1 per cent, aimed towards incentivising design-led manufacturing in the sector.

#### **About:**

- The guidelines for the PLI Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products have been amended to introduce design-led manufacturing with additional incentive rates.
- The design-led manufacturing scheme is open for both medium and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs) and non-MSMEs, including domestic and global companies.
- The DoT also said applications for design-led manufacturing will be prioritised over other manufacturers. The scheme requires an investment threshold of Rs 10 crore for MSMEs and Rs 100 crore for non-MSMEs, excluding land and building cost.
- The Centre will provide additional incentives of over Rs 4,000 crore under the amended scheme.
- The incentives will be based on incremental sales of the manufactured goods, and range between 4 per cent to 7 per cent for different categories over the years. MSMEs will get an additional 1 per cent incentive in the first, second, and third years.
- The DoT has also approved 11 new telecom and network products to the existing list of products that can be manufactured under the scheme.
- Investment made by successful applicants in India from 1st April 2022 onwards and up to Financial Year 2025-2026 shall be eligible, subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds.



## ESI SCHEME



Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Corporation under the Chairmanship of Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Labour & Employment, in its 188th meeting held has taken significant decisions to augment the medical care and service delivery mechanism across the country.

### About:

- It has been decided that ESI Scheme will be implemented in the entire country by the end of year 2022. Presently, ESI Scheme is fully implemented in 443 districts and partially implemented in 153 districts, whereas 148 districts are not covered under ESI Scheme.
- ESIC is going to start Certificate Courses in 10 disciplines in three of its Medical Colleges at Faridabad, Sanathnagar (Hyderabad) and K.K.Nagar (Chennai) for Health Care Link Workers, as a pilot project.
- It was decided that Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine Departments at three ESIC Medical College & Hospitals at Sanathnagar, Faridabad and Chennai will be established. It will be the for the first time that such services will be made available at ESIC owned facility.

## PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA (PMKSY)

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India is inviting applications under the various sub-schemes of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) to set up food processing related facilities / units.

These sub-schemes are:

- Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters (APC)
- Scheme for Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities [Unit Scheme] (CEFPPC)
- Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and

- Value Addition Infrastructure (Cold Chain)
- Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FTL)
- Operation Greens- long Term Interventions (OG)



## MEDISEP

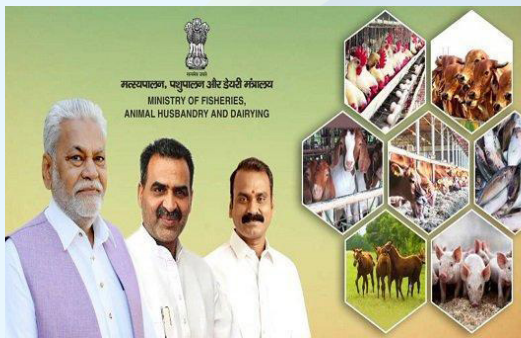
- Kerala state government has issued orders regarding the implementation of a medical insurance "MEDISEP" scheme for government employees and pensioners and the deduction of premium from the salary of June 2022 and pension of July 2022.
- MEDISEP scheme is applicable to government employees, pensioners/family pensioners and their eligible family members and employees and pensioners of universities that receive grant in aid from the state government and the local self-government institutions.

### About the scheme:

- The scheme provides cashless medical assistance through an insurance company selected through the competitive bidding process.
- As per the scheme, the premium on behalf of the employees and pensioners towards MEDISEP shall be paid by the government in advance and will be recouped from the salary of employees and pensioners.
- The annual premium of the employees and the pensioners will be Rs 4,800 + 18% GST for the policy period of 2022-24, and the monthly premium of Rs 500 would be deducted from the salary/pension. The scheme is applicable to universities and local self-government institutions as well.
- The scheme is also applicable to directly recruited personal staff of the chief minister, ministers, opposition leader, the chief whip, Speaker, deputy speaker and chairman of the financial committees.

## ONE HEALTH PILOT' INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) will be launching the One Health pilot in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The programme is aimed at bringing stakeholders from animal, human and environment health on a common platform to address challenges. DAHD in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as implementation partner is implementing the One-Health Framework undertaking project in the states of Karnataka and Uttarakhand, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.



### About the 'One Health Pilot':

- The Pilot project in Karnataka would be launched by Secretary Atul Chaturvedi, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Key dignitaries and stakeholders from the Centre and state level across livestock, human, wildlife, and environment sectors will also be a part of the inauguration. During the event, the capacity-building plan for Karnataka and the One Health brochure (Kannada) will also be unveiled.
- The 'One Health India' program initiated by the Department aims to work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance.

### 'One Health Pilot': Benefits

- Human health cannot be viewed in isolation and it is dependent on the environment it lives which includes animals too. The One Health project helps in realizing the interdependencies that animal and environmental health have on human life.
- It will develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation.
- This will be useful in preventing zoonotic disease outbreaks in the future and facilitate a better response mechanism. Earlier, Union

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had called for the need of creating vigilance and awareness on zoonotic diseases.

- The pilot project will institutionalize better management, and development of a targeted surveillance plan, integrate a network of laboratories, develop and implement communication strategy across sectors
- It will also integrate data with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission.
- Furthermore, it will also help in building a strong social infrastructure that supports the health of the people and the planet.

## UDYAMI BHARAT PROGRAMME

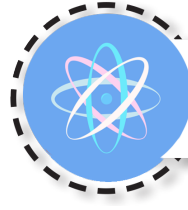
Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches several schemes and programmes at Udyami Bharat Programme in New Delhi.



### About:

- During the event, Mr Modi launched the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters Scheme and new features of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme PMEGP.
- He added that the Centre has increased the budget by more than 650 percent in the last eight years to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- A self-reliant fund of 50 thousand crore rupees has been released for the sector. The Prime Minister also asked MSMEs to register on the GeM portal for supplying goods to the government.
- Modi said the government has decided that for orders up to 200 crore rupees, no global tender will be undertaken and this is in some ways a reservation for the MSMEs.
- Under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, the central government has ensured 3.5 lakh crore rupees for the MSMEs.





### LIQUID MIRROR TELESCOPE

- The first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia – was commissioned atop Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand.
- This will now keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids.

#### About the Indian Liquid Mirror Telescope:

- The Indian Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) will help in surveying the sky, making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead.
- Built by astronomers from India, Belgium and Canada, the novel instrument employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.
- It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India in Nainital district, Uttarakhand.
- The scientists from the three countries spun a pool of mercury, which is a reflective liquid so that the surface curved into a parabolic shape. It is ideal for focusing light. A thin transparent film of mylar protects the mercury from the wind. The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi-lens optical corrector that produces sharp images over a wide field of view. A large-format electronic camera located at the focus records the images.

### NEW SPACECRAFT MANUFACTURING FACILITY

- Dr S Somanath, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park.
- The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four

large spacecraft simultaneously.

- This is a first of its kind facility in India, adding that since its establishment in 1992, Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built/launched by ISRO.

### MONKEYPOX VIRUS: HISTORY, OUTBREAK, SYMPTOMS

Monkeypox has made an appearance in the United Kingdom. The patient has a recent travel history from Nigeria, where they are suspected to have contracted the infection, before travelling to the UK, according to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which confirmed the case.

#### About

- Monkeypox is a viral disease caused by the Monkeypox virus, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family and is associated with diseases such as smallpox, cowpox, horsepox, and camelpox.
- Monkeypox has symptoms that are comparable to smallpox, which was proclaimed eradicated in the 1980s.
- It was first discovered in humans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1970, two years after smallpox had been eradicated from the area.
- According to WHO records, the majority of Monkeypox cases have been reported from rural, rainforest regions of the Congo Basin since 1970, mainly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it is currently considered endemic.

#### Monkeypox Virus History:

- According to a scientific report, the Monkeypox virus was initially discovered in a colony of Cynomolgus monkeys kept at the State Serum Institute in Copenhagen in 1958. "Monkeypox was first introduced into the Rotterdam Zoo in 1966.
- The disease first struck giant anteaters from South America, but it quickly spread to other ape and monkey species.
- The Congo Basin and West African clades of the Monkeypox virus are responsible

for the disease. Clades are collections of creatures that have a common ancestor. Coronavirus, for example, is a clade within the coronaviridae family.

- The Congo Basin clade of Monkeypox virus is the more virulent and transmissible of the two genetic clades.

#### About Monkeypox Virus Outbreak:

- According to the WHO, the first large Monkeypox outbreak was detected in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1996–97, with lower case fatality and a greater attack rate.

#### Symptoms of monkeypox:

- During a Monkeypox viral attack, the symptoms can be divided into two categories: invasion and skin rash.
  - Monkeypox typically takes 6 to 13 days to incubate.
- The incubation period is the time between when an infection occurs and when symptoms develop in a person.
- The patient has
  - fever,
  - acute headache,
  - lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes),
  - back pain,
  - myalgia (muscle aches), and
  - an intense asthenia during the invasion stage, which is within the first 5 days of the illness (lack of energy).

### PARAM ANANTA

- Param Ananta, is a state of the art supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar dedicated to the nation under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which was commissioned. This indigenous software stack is developed by C-DAC and is a Make in India initiative.

#### About the Param Ananta:

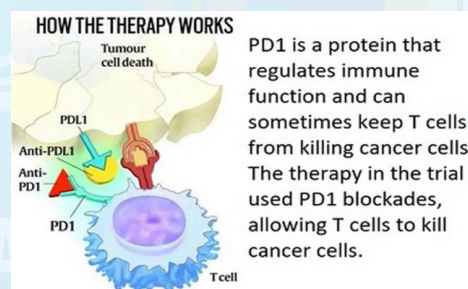
- The Param Ananta is based on direct contact liquid cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reduce the operational cost.
- The Param Ananta Supercomputing Facility will greatly benefit IIT Gandhinagar's R&D activities in multidisciplinary domains of science and technology, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data science;

computational fluid dynamics (CFD); bio-engineering for genome sequencing and DNA studies.

- Computational biology and bioinformatics are used in the prediction and detection of gene networks; atomic and molecular sciences that help in understanding how a drug binds to a particular protein; climate change and environment studies for extreme weather predictions and simulation of models which can predict the onset of a cyclone;
- Energy studies which will help in carrying out design simulation and optimization of energy conversion devices at various scales; fire dynamics simulation; nanotechnology; robotics; applied mathematics; astronomy and astrophysics; material sciences; quantum mechanics; and studies on civil engineering and structural mechanics to understand the dynamic behaviour of buildings, bridges, and complex structure

### CANCER THERAPY

In a medical trial, 12 patients in the United States were completely cured of rectal cancer without requiring any surgery or chemotherapy.



#### About:

- The trial used a monoclonal antibody called dostarlimab every three weeks for six months for the treatment of a particular kind of stage two or three rectal cancer.
- The trial showed that immunotherapy alone – without any chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery that have been staples of cancer treatment – could completely cure the patients with a particular kind of rectal cancer called ‘mismatch repair deficient’ cancer.
- ‘Mismatch repair deficient’ cancer is most common among colorectal, gastrointestinal, and endometrial cancers. Patients suffering from this condition lack the genes to correct typos in the DNA that occur naturally while cells make copies.

#### PD1 blockades

- The immunotherapy belongs to a category



called PD1 blockades that are now recommended for the treatment of such cancers rather than chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

- PD1 is a type of protein that regulates certain functions of the immune system, including by suppressing T cell activity, and PD1 blockade therapy looks to release the T cells from this suppression.

### FUJIAN

In June 2022, China launched its third aircraft carrier named 'Fujian', the country's most advanced as well as the first "fully domestically built" naval vessel, as an aggressive Beijing sought to project its naval power in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.



#### About:

- Fujian is the name of China's eastern coastal province of Fujian. Fujian, in the southeast, is the closest province to Taiwan, a self-ruling province that China says must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.
- China's first aircraft carrier, the 'Liaoning', was a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 followed by the indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier 'Shandong' in 2019. Liaoning and Shandong are names of two provinces of China.
- China plans to have around five aircraft carriers. The next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

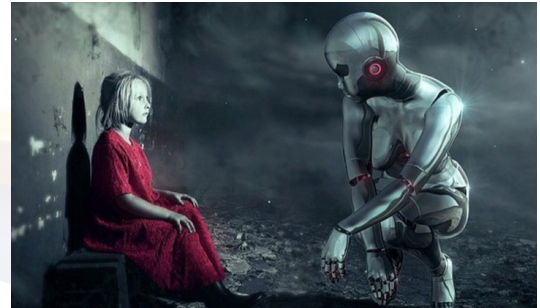
### LANGUAGE MODEL FOR DIALOGUE APPLICATIONS (LaMDA)

A senior engineer at Google claimed that the company's artificial intelligence-based chatbot Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA) had become "sentient".

#### About:

- LaMDA is a language model created by Google AI, a division of Google dedicated to artificial intelligence.

- LaMDA is an artificial intelligence system that creates chatbots — AI robots designed to communicate with humans — by gathering vast amounts of text from the internet and using algorithms to respond to queries in the most fluid and natural way possible.
- Google first announced LaMDA at its flagship developer conference I/O in 2021.



- In June 2022 the LaMDA chatbot received widespread coverage regarding claims about it having achieved sentience (i.e. the capacity to experience feelings and sensations).

### SEISMOLOGY OBSERVATORY

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Jammu and Kashmir, officially opened the Seismology Observatory in the Dandayal neighbourhood of the Udhampur district. The Ministry of Earth Sciences spent 20 lakh rupees to establish the third such Center in J&K.

#### KEY POINTS:

- The observatory will compile a comprehensive seismic record of Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, and many more districts.
- According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, the central government plans to open 152 earthquake observatories over the next four months, including three more in the Kashmir division.
- 100 additional seismological centres of this type will emerge nationwide over the next five years to enhance real-time data collection and monitoring.
- India is getting closer to being a key player in the development and knowledge of seismology. The J&K, particularly South and North Kashmir, are in the seismic zone and have such observatories set up.



## ARIANESPACE WILL LAUNCH AN INDIAN COMMUNICATION SATELLITE



- Two communication satellites from Malaysia and India will be launched into geostationary orbit by the European space agency Arianespace. The Ariane-5 rocket will launch the two satellites, which together weigh more than 10,000 kilograms, from the spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

### About the Communication Satellite:

- The commercial arm of ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL), created the Indian satellite GSAT-24 for Tata Sky, a television service provider. The GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite with Pan-India coverage that weighs over 4,000 kilograms and can accommodate DTH application requirements.
- The satellite is set up to have a 15-year mission life.
- Stéphane Isral, CEO of Arianespace, expressed his enthusiasm for working with ISRO once more in an official statement following the foundation of NSIL in 2019.

## GSAT-24: INDIAN COMMUNICATION SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED BY ISRO

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) launched GSAT-24, following the space reforms leasing the entire satellite's capacity to Direct-to-Home (DTH) service provider Tata Play. This was the company's first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission. The satellite, developed by the Indian Space Research Organization for NSIL, was successfully launched into geostationary orbit from Kourou in French Guiana by the Ariane 5 rocket (South America).
- Two satellites, MEASAT-3d for the Malaysian operator MEASAT and GSAT-24, were successfully launched into geostationary orbit by the Ariane 5 after being carried aboard an Ariane-V VA257 flight from the Guiana Space Centre, Europe's spaceport in Kourou.

## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

An experimental Alzheimer's drug – Crenezumab – aimed at slowing or preventing cognitive decline in people at risk of developing the disease early has failed in clinical trials, landing a blow to efforts aimed at finding a treatment to the neurodegenerative disease.

### What is Alzheimer's disease?

- Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disorder that slowly robs people of their memory and thinking abilities.
- Worldwide, it is the most common form of dementia or loss of cognitive functioning — thinking, remembering, and reasoning — contributing 60%-70% cases, according to the WHO.
- Progressive and irreversible, it usually begins with mild memory loss, and as symptoms grow severe, patients lose the ability to perform even simple tasks.
- The disease was discovered after Dr Alois Alzheimer examined a memory-loss patient's brain after her death in 1906 and found abnormal clumps (beta-amyloid plaque) and bundles of fibres (neurofibrillary tangles).
- Pathology of the disease is deposition of an abnormal protein called beta-amyloid in the brain. The plaque and tangles, along with loss of connections between the neurons to transmit messages inside the brain, are key markers of the disease.

### What is the India scenario?

- In India, only 1 in 10 people with dementia receive any diagnosis, treatment or care for the disease, according to the World Alzheimer's Report, 2021.
- An increasing prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is expected to drive up the incidence of dementia in India in the coming decades.
- According to the Global Burden of Disease study published this year in The Lancet, India could see a 197% jump in dementia, including Alzheimer's, from 3.84 million cases in 2019 to 11.44 million cases by 2050.

## CHINA LAUNCHED THREE NEW YAGON-35 REMOTE SENSING SATELLITES



- Three new remote sensing satellites were successfully launched by China from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the Sichuan Province in southwest China. The satellites were launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket at 10:22 a.m. (local time) as part of the Yaogan-35 family and successfully entered the intended orbit.

### Key Points:

- The satellites will primarily be utilised for scientific research, land resource assessments, agricultural production estimation, and disaster prevention and mitigation. The Long March series carrier rockets' 424th mission was this one.
- Three Yaogan-35 satellites were launched by China on November 6.
- The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation's Long March carrier rocket family, which accounts for around 96.4%.

## SOUTH KOREA SENT ITS FIRST SATELLITE INTO ORBIT USING A DOMESTIC NURI ROCKET

- South Korea launched its first satellite successfully using a homegrown rocket, boosting the nation's expanding aerospace ambitions and proving it has the necessary technologies to build larger missiles and launch spy satellites in the midst of tensions with rival North Korea. The Science Ministry reported that the three-stage Nuri rocket successfully launched a working "performance verification" satellite to a target altitude of 435 miles from South Korea's space launch facility on a southern island.

## IN-SPACE AUTHORISES INDIA'S FIRST SET OF SPACE START-UPS TO LAUNCH PAYLOADS



- The Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has started authorising Indian private firms, marking the beginning of private space sector launches in India. IN-SPACe is an autonomous, single window nodal agency; formed to promote, authorise, monitor and supervise the space activities of non-governmental private entities (NGPEs) in India

### GEMCOVAC-19

India's first home-grown mRNA Covid-19 vaccine — GEMCOVAC-19 — developed at Pune's Gennova Biopharmaceuticals has got a 'restricted emergency use' nod for the 18-and-above age group.



### About:

- Most vaccines contain a weakened or dead bacteria or virus. However, scientists have developed a new type of vaccine that uses a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) rather than part of an actual bacteria or virus.
- Messenger RNA is a type of RNA that is necessary for protein production.
- In cells, mRNA uses the information in genes to create a blueprint for making proteins. Once cells finish making a protein, they quickly break down the mRNA. mRNA from vaccines does not enter the nucleus and does not alter DNA.

- mRNA vaccines work by introducing a piece of mRNA that corresponds to a viral protein, usually a small piece of a protein found on the virus's outer membrane. (Individuals who get an mRNA vaccine are not exposed to the virus, nor can they become infected by the vaccine.)
- Using this mRNA blueprint, cells produce the viral protein. As part of a normal immune response, the immune system recognizes that the protein is foreign and produces specialized proteins called antibodies.

## CAPSTONE



NASA launched CAPSTONE, a microwave oven-sized CubeSat weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg). CAPSTONE, short for Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment, is designed to test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit.

### About:

- The satellite, launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1, is heading toward an orbit intended in the future for Gateway, a Moon-orbiting outpost that is part of NASA's Artemis program.
- As a pathfinder for Gateway, CAPSTONE aims to help reduce risk for future spacecraft by validating innovative navigation technologies, and by verifying the dynamics of the halo-shaped orbit.
- The orbit is known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO). It is significantly elongated, and is located at a precise balance point in the gravities of Earth and the Moon. This offers stability for long-term missions like Gateway, NASA said on its website.





## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### GREEN HYDROGEN

The Adani group said it had tied up with French energy major TotalEnergies SE to jointly create the 'world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem' in Gujarat's Kutch region.

#### About:

- As part of the tie-up, TotalEnergies would acquire a 25% stake in Adani New Industries Ltd. (ANIL), a unit of Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL).
- The joint venture aims to invest \$50 billion over the next 10 years to set up the green hydrogen ecosystem. In the primary phase, ANIL will develop green hydrogen production capacity of 1 million tons per annum at Mundra before 2030.
- Green hydrogen gas is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolyzer that may be powered by electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

#### India comes third in Renewable Energy Installations in 2021

- India ranked third globally for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021 with 15.4 GW, behind only China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW). According to a report, despite the Covid-19 pandemic's promise of a global green recovery, this historic opportunity has been lost. The world is unlikely to be able to achieve important climate goals this decade, according to REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022). This is because the global clean energy transition is not taking place

#### Note

- India was the third-largest market globally and the second-largest market in Asia for new solar PV capacity (13 GW of additions in 2021).
- In terms of overall installations, it came in at number four (60.4 GW), passing Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time.
- India was in third place overall for installed wind power (40.1 GW), trailing only China, the US, and Germany.

#### About the Renewable Energy Sources:

- Renewable energy sources now account for 11.2% of the total energy used for heating

and cooling, up from 8.9% in 2009.

- The lack of development is especially concerning in the transportation sector, which accounts for close to a third of worldwide energy consumption, where the renewable share increased from 2.4% in 2009 to 3.7% in 2019.
- A record 135 nations vowed to attain net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which will take place in November 2021.
- However, only 36 of these nations had targets for 100% renewable energy, and only 84 of these had targets for renewable energy across the entire economy.
- The COP26 declaration included reference to the need to limit coal usage for the first time in the history of UN climate summits, but it did not call for targeted cuts in either coal or fossil fuel consumption.

### MONGOLIA'S KHUVSGUL LAKE ADDED TO UNESCO WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

- Khuvsgul Lake National Park of Mongolia has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO. The decision was made during the 34th session of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme taking place in Paris, France.
- Khuvsgul Lake is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border, holding nearly 70 per cent of Mongolia's fresh water, or 0.4 per cent of the world's total.



#### About Khuvsgul Lake:

- The Khuvsgul Lake is located in northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul, near

to Russian border. It holds 70 per cent of freshwater of Mongolia or accounts for 0.4 per cent of world's total. The lake is 1,645 meters above sea level, 136 km long and 262 meters deep.

- A total of nine sites from Mongolia have so far been registered in the network, according to the ministry. It is the largest fresh water lake of Mongolia, by volume.
- In terms of area, it is the second largest lake in Mongolia. The lake is located at about 200 km west of Lake Baikal. It is nicknamed as "Younger sister" of two "sister lakes". It freezes over completely in winter.

### **WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES:**

- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO covers internationally designated protected areas called as biosphere reserves.
- There reserves are meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship between nature and people. They are created under Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- It comprises of dynamic and interactive network of sites. It works to foster harmonious integration of people and nature to attain sustainable development by means of participatory dialogue, poverty reduction, knowledge sharing, human well-being improvements, and respect for cultural values.

### **SINGLE-USE PLASTIC' USE TO BANNED BY UNION GOVT. FROM 1ST JULY, 2022**

- Single-Use Plastic' use to be outlawed from July 1st, 2022 by the Union government. Single-use plastics, particularly those made of polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, will be illegal to produce, import, stock, distribute, sell, and use starting on July 1, 2022, nationwide.
- A national task group has also been established by the Environment Ministry to make coordinated efforts in this area.

### **GLISCHROPUS MEGHALAYANUS**

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya.

About

- The species, found near the forested patch of Nongkhylliem Wildlife Sanctuary, has been named *Glischropus meghalayanus*. The present discovery is the first report of

a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also from South Asia.

- Thick-thumbed bats of the genus *Glischropus* are currently composed of four recognised species from Southeast Asia. The newly discovered species is small in size and has a dark brown colour with sulphur yellow belly.
- Bamboo-dwelling bats are a particular kind of bats living in the internodes of bamboos with specialised morphological characters that help them to adapt to the life inside a bamboo.
- With this new discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at 131.
- Meghalaya, a State with a small geographical area, harbours the highest bat diversity in the country with 67 species, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.

#### **Another species**

- From the same forested patches outside the Nongkhylliem Wildlife Sanctuary, scientist found another species of disk-footed bat *Eudiscopus denticulus* which was a new record in India.

### **DISCOVERY OF MICROPLASTICS IN ANTARCTICA**

For the first time, microplastics have been found in freshly fallen snow in Antarctica.

About:

- Researchers collected snow samples from 19 sites in the Ross Island region of Antarctica and found that all contained microplastics.
- While microplastics have been found across the world, from the world's deepest ocean floors to the peak of Mount Everest, researchers say that this is the first time that they have been found in freshly fallen snow in Antarctica.
- How did they reach Antarctica? These particles, due to their light weight and low density, might have travelled through air from more than 6,000 km away. However, there is also a possibility that the human presence in Antarctica created a microplastic 'footprint'.

#### **Why is this discovery troubling?**

- It shows that the spread of microplastics is so widespread, that even the remotest and least habitable places in the world are now infested by these particles.
- Microplastics are not biodegradable and can be toxic for plants and animals.
- The microplastics deposited in ice and snow



can accelerate the melting of the cryosphere — regions where water is in solid form, like the planet's North and South Poles. Dark-coloured microplastics are better at absorbing sunlight and retain more heat.

#### What are microplastics?

- Microplastics are tiny plastic debris that are smaller than 5 mm in length, tinier than even a grain of rice. There are two types of microplastics.
- Primary microplastics are tiny particles that are purposely designed as such for commercial use, like in cosmetics, nurdles-plastic pellets used in industrial manufacturing and in fibres from synthetic textiles like nylon.
- Secondary microplastics are formed through the degradation of larger plastic items like bottles, fishing nets and plastic bags. This occurs through exposure to the environment, like radiation from the sun, wind and ocean waves.

### SURYA NUTAN

IndianOil and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural gas have developed an indigenous indoor solar cooking system named “Surya Nutan”.

#### About:

- Surya Nutan is a Stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking.
- This is a patented product designed and developed by IndianOil R&D Centre, Faridabad.
- It works on a Hybrid Mode (i.e. can work on both solar & auxiliary energy source simultaneously) which makes the Surya Nutan a reliable cooking solution for all weather conditions.
- Surya Nutan can be used in all weather and seasons including when the Sun is not available for long durations or for continuous days, such as monsoons and extreme winters.

### INVASIVE WEEDS

A Vitamin D3-rich weed and a shrub with roots that wild boars love to gorge on are among the 18 invasive plants stifling the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, the best-known address of the greater one-horned rhinoceros on the Earth

#### About:

- The list released by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) did not contain the “usual culprits” of many protected areas in India

– parthenium and lantana that threaten more than 40% of India's tiger reserves, according to a global study in 2020.

- It did mention ipomoea (*Ipomoea carnea*) and mimosa (*Mimosa himalaica*) but marked them as largely controlled and not much of a worry now.



- Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is believed to have come to India as contaminants in a consignment of wheat imported from the U.S. in the 1950s while lantana (*Lantana camara*) was brought by the British as ornamental plants from South America two centuries ago.
- Some weeds have herbal properties, but their toxicity outweighs their utility. For instance, wild boars love to gorge on the succulent rootlets of the *Leea macrophylla* or ‘kukura thengia’ that is fast clogging the patrolling paths and grasslands.
- Another one is the *Cestrum diurnum* or day-blooming jasmine of West Indies origin “coming up gregariously” on the Brahmaputra sandbars. The plant is otherwise a source of Vitamin D3.

### LARGEST BACTERIA IN THE WORLD DISCOVERED IN CARIBBEAN MANGROVE SWAMP

- In a Caribbean mangrove swamp, researchers found the largest bacterium known to science. While the majority of bacteria are tiny, this one is so large that it can be seen with the unaided eye. It is by far the largest bacterium known to date, according to Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and a co-author of a paper reporting the finding in the journal Science. The thin white thread is about the



size of a human eyelash.

- The cell has a shape that is unusual for bacteria, according to the researchers, but they have not yet been able to develop it in lab culture

### **TATA POWER COMMISSIONS INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT**

- Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has accomplished a remarkable feat by commissioning India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala. On a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak. Tata Power Solar successfully built a scaffolding platform on the water body to make the entire solar plant float on water.
- This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category. This plant boasts a floating inverter platform having a 5 Megawatt (MW) capacity.

### **INDIA PROMISES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROTECT 30% OF LAND AND WATER**

- India gave the international community the reassurance that it will keep to its goal of protecting at least 30% of "our" lands, waters, and oceans by 2030 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India's Minister for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh, made the following remarks on behalf of the country at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon:
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all efforts are being made to achieve the 30×30 target in a mission mode as per the COP resolutions.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### COURSERA GLOBAL SKILL REPORT 2022: INDIA RANKED 68TH



- The Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022 by Coursera states that India's proficiency in data science has reduced from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022, leading to a 12-rank drop. In terms of overall skills proficiency, India has slipped 4 places to be ranked 68th globally and 19th in Asia.

#### About the report:

- The report is based on the data collected from over 100 million Coursera users from more than 100 countries who learned a new skill during the past year. The report benchmarks three of the most in-demand skill areas driving employment in the digital economy – business, technology, and data science.

#### Key points:

- West Bengal leads the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency with the state showing the highest levels of digital skills proficiency in the country. Andhra Pradesh is among the top three performing states with high proficiency in business and technology skills.
- For the second year in a row, Switzerland had the highest-skilled learners followed by Denmark, Indonesia, and Belgium.

### WORLD GOLD COUNCIL REPORT

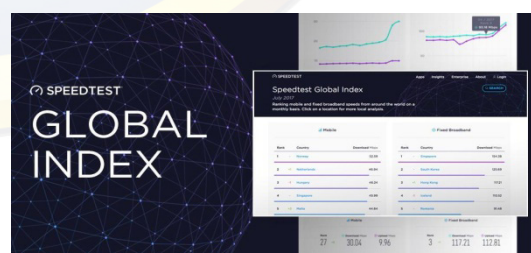
- According to World Gold Council Report, India has emerged as the 4th largest recycler in the world and country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021. According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', China topped the global gold

recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy in the second position with 80 tonnes and the US in the third rank with 78 tonnes in 2021.

#### Key points of the report:

- According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling' from 300 tonnes in 2013, India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500 per cent) in 2021.
- The report further noted that the gold refining landscape in the country has changed over the last decade, with the number of formal operations increasing from less than five in 2013 to 33 in 2021.
- On the other hand, tax advantages have underpinned the growth of India's gold refining industry like the import duty differential on dore over refined bullion has spurred the growth of organised refining in India. As a result, gold dore's share of overall imports has risen from just 7 per cent in 2013 to around 22 per cent in 2021, it noted.
  - World Gold Council Report Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
  - World Gold Council Report Founded: 1987

### OOKLA SPEEDTEST GLOBAL INDEX: INDIA RANKED 115TH



- The Speedtest Global Index released by network intelligence and connectivity insights provider Ookla showed that India recorded 14.28 Mbps median mobile download speeds in the month of May, slightly better than 14.19 Mbps in April 2022. With this, the country is now three notches up in its global ranking and is at 115th position.

- India also improved its global ranking for overall fixed median download speeds, from 76th in April to 75th in May, according to network intelligence and connectivity leader Ookla. In April, India had dropped four spots in rank globally for overall median fixed broadband speeds — from 72nd to 76th spot.

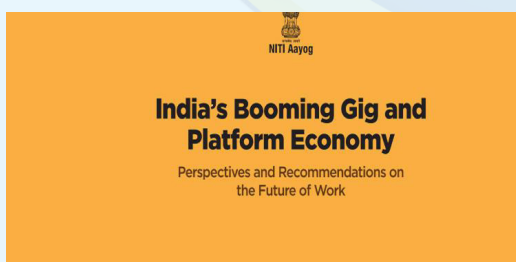
#### Key points:

- Norway and Singapore are on the top spots for global mobile speeds (median download speed of 129.40 Mbps) and fixed broadband speeds (209.21 Mbps)
- The African countries, namely Cote d'Ivoire and Gabon and Congo registered the highest growth in mobile download speeds and fixed broadband speeds respectively in the month of May, the report showed.

### GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2022

- The annual ranking of the world's most liveable cities has just been released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and 2022's Global Liveability Index shows some marked differences from the previous year. The EIU, which is a sister organization to The Economist, ranked 173 cities around the world on a variety of factors, including health care, crime rates, political stability, infrastructure and access to green space.
- The cities in India have fared poorly in the list of the world's most liveable cities. India's national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112th in the list of most liveable cities. While India's financial capital Mumbai is ranked at 117th position.

### NITI AAYOG RELEASES A REPORT ON INDIA'S GIG ECONOMY



- A report titled “India’s Booming Gig and Platform Economy” was released by NITI Aayog. Suman Bery, vice chairman of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, and Dr K Rajeswara Rao, special secretary, released the report. The study, which is a first of its kind, offers in-depth viewpoints and suggestions on the gig-platform economy in India

- According to the research, the gig economy employed 77 lakh (7.7 million) employees in 2020–21.
- They made up 1.5 percent of India’s total labour force or 2.6 percent of the non-agricultural workforce.
- By 2029–2030, there will be 2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers in the gig economy. By 2029–2030, it is anticipated that gig workers will account for 6.7 percent of India’s non-agricultural workforce and 4.1 percent of all income.
- Currently, medium-skilled occupations make up approximately 47% of gig labour, high skilled jobs make up about 22%, and low-skilled jobs make up about 31%.
- The trend indicates that the concentration of workers with medium skills is gradually decreasing while it is rising for those with low and high skills.
- The report suggests connecting self-employed people in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine, street food, etc., with platforms in order to enable them to sell their products to larger markets in towns and cities to accelerate access to finance through products specifically designed for platform workers.
- The report recommends platform-led transformational and outcome-based skilling, improving social inclusion through programmes that educate workers and their families about gender issues and accessibility, and extending social security measures in partnership as envisioned by the Code on Social Security 2020.

#### About the Report:





### **NATIONAL YOGA OLYMPIAD 2022:**

- The National Yoga Olympiad 2022 was inaugurated by the Union education and skill development and entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- The National Yoga Olympiad will start from 18th to 20th June 2022 which is being organized by the Ministry of Education and the National Council of educational research and training (NCERT).
- This year 600 students from 26 states and union territories have participated in the national yoga Olympiad and demonstration multipurpose schools of the regional institute of Education will be participating in the Olympiad. The Olympiad will be conducted at block district state and national levels, in all government and government edit schools of India.
- The NCERT has started the national yoga Olympiad in 2016.
- During the pandemic Covid-19, the national yoga Olympiad was organized as a quiz competition in which students of KVs, NVs, and students from Demonstration Multipurpose schools of regional Institutions of education participated in huge numbers. This year the theme of the national yoga Olympiad is "Yoga for Humanity".

### **OLYMPIC CHAMPION NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS GOLD AT KUORTANE GAMES IN FINLAND**



- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top podium finish of the season by winning the javelin throw event at the Kuortane Games in Finland, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada. The 24-year-old Chopra's opening throw of 86.69m turned out to be the winning distance. Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics champion Keshorn Walcott

was second with a first round throw of 86.64m. Peters was third with a best throw of 84.75m, which also came in the opening round

### **PM MODI LAUNCHES TORCH RELAY FOR 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi. This year, for the very first time, International Chess Federation, FIDE, has instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch, a part of the Olympic tradition. India is the first country to have the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay.

### **INDIAN WOMEN'S WRESTLING TEAM WINS UNDER-17 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP**



- Indian women's Wrestling team has won five medals to claim Under-17 Asian Championship title with a total of eight gold at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- India lifted the title with a total of 235 points from eight golds, one silver and one bronze. Japan had to be content with the runners-up trophy with 143 points and Mongolia finished third with 138 points.

### **CYCLIST RONALDO, FIRST INDIAN CYCLIST TO WIN SILVER AT ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

- At Asian Track Championship, by placing second in the sprint race on the final day of the Asian Track Championship in this city, Ronaldo Singh made cycling history

by becoming the first Indian cyclist to win a silver medal in a continental competition in the senior division.



- The feat accomplished by Ronaldo was the best in a continental competition by an Indian cyclist. Even though he fought hard against the skilled rider Kento Yamasaki of Japan, he won silver.

### **RANJI TROPHY 2022: MADHYA PRADESH BEATS MUMBAI BY SIX WICKETS**



- Madhya Pradesh wrote history as they won their maiden Ranji Trophy title, beating tournament heavyweights Mumbai by 6 wickets in the final at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Under the leadership of Aditya Shrivastava, the team defeated 41-time champions Mumbai. The team was coached by former India wicketkeeper-batsman Chandrakant Pandit.

#### **History of Ranji Trophy:**

- The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations. The competition currently consists of 38 teams, with all 28 states in India and four of the nine union territories having at least one representation.
- The competition is named after the first Indian cricketer who played international cricket, Ranjit Singh, who was also known as 'Ranji'. The first match of the competition was held on 4 November 1934 between

Madras and Mysore at the Chepauk ground in Madras in the final.

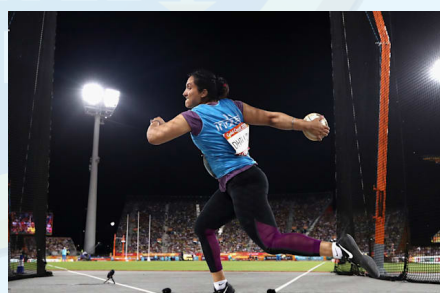
- Mumbai (Bombay) have won the tournament the most number of times with 41 wins including 15 back-to-back wins from 1958–59 to 1972–73.

### **DHANALAKSHMI BECOMES 3RD FASTEST INDIAN WOMAN IN 200M**



- Ace sprinter Sekar Dhanalakshmi ran her personal best time to win 200m gold at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics.
- Dhanalakshmi ran a creditable sub-23 second, clocking 22.89s to better her earlier personal best of 23.14s she had come up last year.
- Dhanalakshmi is only the third Indian woman to run sub-23s after national record holder Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).

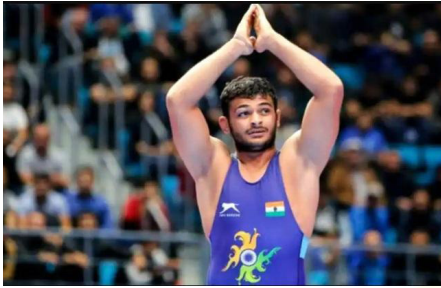
### **NAVJEET DHILLON WINS GOLD MEDAL IN DISCUS THROW AT QOSANOV MEMORIAL 2022**



- Indian women's discus thrower, Navjeet Dhillon won the gold medal at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Navjeet Dhillon, who is looking to seal her place in the Indian team for Commonwealth Games, won the women's discus throw with a 56.24m effort. Local athlete Karina Vasilyeva with 44.61m and Uzbekistan's Yulianna Shchukina with 40.48m followed Navjeet Dhillon on the podium.



### **U23 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022: DEEPAK PUNIA WON BRONZE**



- Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal after defeating Maksat Satybaldy (Kyrgyzstan) in the 86kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Despite a win, it was an unimpressive result from him as the Indian contingent was expecting a better outing from the world championships silver medalist in the tournament.

### **NOVAK DJOKOVIC BECOMES 1ST PLAYER TO WIN 80 MATCHES IN ALL FOUR GRAND SLAMS**



- Novak Djokovic became the first player in history to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams when he defeated Kwon Soon-woo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court his 80th win in Wimbledon.
- By virtue of his victory, the former world no.1 tennis players has created history winning his 80th match at the Wimbledon.
- The six-time champion has become the first male player in the Open Era to win 80 or more match at all four grand slams.

### **OLYMPIC CHAMPION SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN BREAKS OWN 400M HURDLES WORLD RECORD**

Olympic gold medallist, Sydney McLaughlin broke her own women's 400 metres hurdles world record at the U.S. championships in Eugene, Oregon, winning the final in 51.41 seconds.



The 22-year-old wrested the lead early and never gave the rest of the field a fighting chance, clinching her spot in the world championships in front of an adoring crowd. Britton Wilson finished 1.67 seconds behind with Shamier Little taking third in 53.92.





## ANJALAI PONNUSAMY

- Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy passes away
- Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy, who fought for India's independence from colonial Britain, died, aged 102.
- At the age of 21, Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment – the women's regiment of the Indian National Army – in the hopes of discarding the yoke of British colonialism from the Indian people.

### INA

- The Indian National Army was an armed force formed by Indian freedom fighters and Imperial Japan on 1 September 1942 in Southeast Asia during World War II.
- Its aim was to secure Indian independence from British rule.
- It fought alongside Japanese soldiers in the latter's campaign in the Southeast Asian theatre of WWII

## BHAJAN SOPORI

- Santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee, Bhajan Sopori has passed away at the age of 73.
- The santoor player was born in Sopore in Kashmir Valley in 1948 and belonged to the Sufiana Gharana of Indian classical music
- He was the great-grandson of Pandit Shankar Pandit, who had developed the style popularly known as the 'Sufi Baaj' (style), based on Sufiana Qalam and Hindustani Classical music.

### Work of Bhajan Sopori:

- Sopori composed music for over 6000 songs in various languages and dialects like Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Sindhi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Himachali, Rajasthani, Telegu, Tamil, etc. and also foreign languages like Persian, Arabic, etc and his work was part of films, commercials, documentaries, serials, operas and choirs among others.

## SKALZANG RIGZIN

Skalzang Rigzin, the first Indian Mountaineer to climb Mount Annapurna peak without supplemental Oxygen, received a warm welcome in Leh.



### About:

- With 16 days of gap between climb of Mt Annapurna on April 28 and Mt Lhotse on May 14, Skalzang Rigzin has set a record to summit two peaks without oxygen supplements.
- Annapurna is a mountain situated in the Annapurna mountain range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal. It is the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091 metres above sea level.
- Mt Annapurna is one of the most difficult among the 8000 meters height peaks in the world and is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate.

## GUSTAVO PETRO

Ex-guerrilla Gustavo Petro was elected the first ever left-wing president of Colombia, after beating millionaire businessman Rodolfo Hernandez in a tense run-off election.



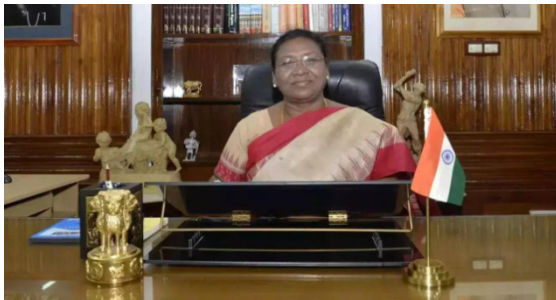
### About:

- Petro will succeed the deeply unpopular conservative Ivan Duque, who was barred by Colombia's Constitution from standing for re-election, in a country saddled with widespread poverty, a surge in violence and other woes.
- Colombia is a country in South America bordered by the Caribbean Sea to the north, Venezuela to the east, Brazil to the southeast, Ecuador and Peru to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the west and Panama

to the northwest. It is the only country in South America with coastlines and islands along both Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

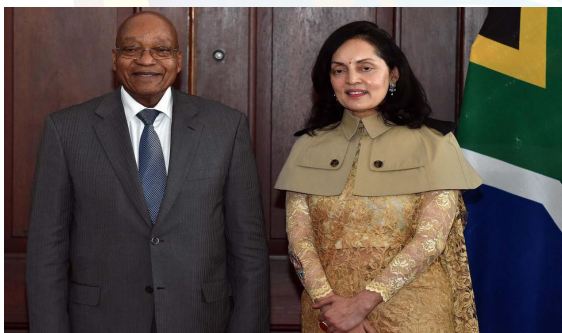
- Its capital is Bogotá. Colombia is one of the world's seventeen megadiverse countries.

### **DROUPADI MURMU**



- Droupadi Murmu may become India's First Tribal and Second Female President
- Droupadi Murmu, an Odisha-based Santhal, as its nominee for the highest constitutional position, India may ultimately elect its first tribal president. After the legislative board of the party endorsed what is widely seen as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pick for Rashtrapati Bhavan, BJP leader JP Nadda announced Murmu's candidacy.

### **RUCHIRA KAMBOJ**



- Ruchira Kamboj named as next Permanent Representative of India to the UN
- Senior Diplomat Ruchira Kamboj, currently Indian ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York.
- She will succeed TS Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the United Nation. Ministry of External Affairs said, Ruchira Kamboj is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

### **LISA STHALEKAR**

- Lisa Sthalekar becomes first female president of FICA
- Former Australia cricketer, Lisa Sthalekar has become the first female president of the Federation of International Cricketers'

Association (FICA), the sport's international player's association.

### **RADHA IYENGAR PLUMB**

U.S. President Joe Biden has nominated security expert Radha Iyengar Plumb to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the latest Indian-American to be named for a key position



#### **About:**

- Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Ms. Plumb was nominated for the top Pentagon position in June 2022.
- Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Ms. Plumb was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, leading their cross-functional teams on business analytics, data science and technical research.
- She has also previously served as the Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, where she focused on high-risk/high-harm safety and critical international security issues.

### **PARAMESWARAN IYER**



- Parameswaran Iyer appointed as CEO of NITI Aayog



- Former Drinking and water Sanitation Secretary, Parameswaren Iyer has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog for 2 years. He will succeed Amitabh Kant. Kant was appointed as the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was further extended for two years, till this month-end, in June 2019. In June 2021, Kant received another one-year extension.

#### Career of Parameswaren Iyer:

- Iyer took voluntary retirement from the Indian Civil Services in 2009. In the same year, he became the water resources manager at the World Bank. In 2016, he joined the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as its Secretary.
- He had also worked as a senior rural water sanitation specialist at the United Nations. In 2016, the government appointed Iyer to implement its Swachh Bharat Mission. In 2021, Iyer resigned as Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation at the Jal Shakti Ministry.
  - NITI Aayog Founded: 1 January 2015;
  - NITI Aayog Preceding: Planning Commission (15 March 1950)
  - NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi;
  - NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi;
  - NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson: Suman K Bery;
  - NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### DR. V KRISHNAMURTHY



- Father of Indian PSUs Dr V Krishnamurthy passes away
- Dr V Krishnamurthy, former chairman of public sector undertakings such as Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Steel

Authority of India (SAIL) and Maruti Udyog (now Maruti Suzuki), passed away. He served as Secretary of Industries for the Government of India, Member of the Planning Commission, and many other Prime Minister's Committees. He was conferred Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan for his services.

#### KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

The U.S. made history as Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the first Black woman to serve in the Supreme Court.



#### About:

- The 51-year-old's appointment by Democratic President Joe Biden means 'white men' are not in the majority on the nation's highest court for the first time in 233 years.
- Four of the Justices on the nine-member court are now women, making it the most diverse bench in history

#### FERDINAND MARCOS JR



- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. takes oath as Philippine president
- Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr, won the elections on 9th May with 31.6 million votes and was sworn as the 17th President of the Philippines. He took the oath at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila before the Supreme Court Justice, Alexander Gesmundo. The former President's daughter and his running mate, Sara Duterte Carpio, swore as vice president on 19th June. The





## AWARDS

### UN WORLD SUMMIT AWARD

- The Meghalaya government key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architect has won a coveted UN Award- World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) prize at Geneva in Switzerland.
- MeghEA is the only project from India to win the Winner Award this year.

#### About the MeghEA project:

- The MeghEA project is being implemented by the Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya.
- The project has several components such as Government to Citizen or Business services, Government to Employee services and Government to Government services.
- E-Proposal system, part of the Government-to-Government component, enables faster processing and tracking of schemes.

### WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY (WNTD) AWARD-2022,

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022, in recognition of the state's efforts to reduce tobacco usage.
- The award will be presented to the State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department in New Delhi in honour of World No Tobacco Day.
- The coveted award, which honoured the State Government's achievements in reducing tobacco usage, was given by the National Tobacco Control Program in Jharkhand.

#### Key Points:

- According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)-1 report, the NTCP was begun in Jharkhand in 2012, when the state's tobacco prevalence rate was 51.1 percent, with 48 percent of smokers.
- According to the GATS-2 study, tobacco users in the state decreased to 38.9%, with 35.4 percent of those using smokeless tobacco.

#### Impact of Tobacco on Land:

- Every year, 3.5 million hectares of land are destroyed throughout the world to plant tobacco. Tobacco farming also causes

20,000 hectares of deforestation and soil deterioration each year.

- Each year, over 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are not properly disposed of throughout the world, resulting in the production of 1.69 billion pounds of harmful waste and the release of thousands of chemicals into the air, water, and land.
- According to the WHO, 600,000,000 trees have been felled and 22,000,000,000 tons of water have been utilized in the production of cigarettes.

#### Tobacco Composition:

- Carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, benzene, formaldehyde, nicotine, phenol, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and tobacco-specific nitrosamines are among the many compounds found in tobacco smoke (TSNAs)

- World TB day- 24 March
- World No Tobacco day -31st May

### HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NAMED WORLD'S BEST AIRPORT 2022

- Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the second year running. The announcement took place at the Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards, held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris, France.

### US-CANADIAN AUTHOR RUTH OZEKI WINS WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION



- US-Canadian author, film-maker and Zen Buddhist priest, Ruth Ozeki has won the Women's Prize for Fiction this year for her novel 'The Book of Form and Emptiness'. Ozeki's fourth novel, 'The Book of Form

and Emptiness' tells the story of a thirteen-year-old boy who, after the tragic death of his father, starts to hear the voices of objects speaking to him. She was announced as the winner of the £30,000 prize at a ceremony in London, beating nominees including Elif Shafak, Meg Mason and Louise Erdrich.

### PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION FOR PROMOTION OF YOGA ANNOUNCED

- Two individuals Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, "The Divine Life Society" from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for award. They will also receive ₹25 lakh as cash prize, a trophy and a certificate.

### MISS INDIA WORLDWIDE 2022



- The winner of the longest-running Indian beauty pageant outside of India, Miss India Worldwide 2022, was announced as British biomedical student Khushi Patel. Shrutika Mane was named the second runner up, and Vaidehi Dongre from the US was named the first runner up. The top 12 competitors at the pageant were the champions of other international competitions.

### GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY ITF

- Indian tennis great, Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation.

#### About the award:

- The Golden Achievement Award is selected from a pool of nominations submitted by tennis federations and individuals from the around the world. The annual honouree is selected by the Golden Achievement Award Committee, which is comprised of tennis administrators.

### S M KRISHNA, NARAYANA MURTHY, PRAKASH PADUKONE SELECTED FOR 'KEMPEGOWDA INTERNATIONAL AWARD'

- Former Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, Infosys founder and IT industry veteran N R Narayana Murthy, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone, have been selected for the 'Kempegowda International Award', which has been instituted beginning this year. Chief Minister Basavaraja Bommai will present the awards to recipients during the grand celebration on the 513th birth anniversary of Kempegowda, the architect of Bengaluru city, on June 27 at Vidhana Soudha.

### ODISHA GOVT BAGS FIRST PRIZE IN NATIONAL MSME AWARD 2022

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Government of Odisha has been awarded first prize in the category "National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector" by virtue of various developmental initiatives taken up for the development of MSMEs. Bihar and Haryana were second and third respectively.

### GLOBAL AIRWARDS BEST DRONE ORGANIZATION AWARD WINS BY IG DRONES

- The Delhi-based leading Drone enterprise platform company IG Drones has been felicitated with the "Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category" by Airwards. IG Drones has been selected for the award for its approach of helping local communities and giving access to technology to various stakeholders during natural disasters and calamities.

#### About the IG Drones:

- IG Drones is developing new technology-based disaster response and mitigation to increase the efficiency and efficacy of first responders' aid in emergency response and catastrophe mapping. Using drone and GIS technology, they've saved hundreds of thousands of lives throughout national disasters such as the Assam Floods, Amphan Cyclone, Fani Cyclone, and Jajpur Flood in Odisha, Maharashtra Flood, and Uttarakhand CloudBurst.





## NEXT-GENERATION CORVETTES

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of next-generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs 36,000 crore.

### About:

- A Corvette is the smallest class of naval ships and it falls below the warship class of a frigate.
- These are highly agile ships and are categorised as missile boats, anti-submarine ships, coastal patrol crafts and fast attack naval vessels.
- Modern Corvettes can go up to 2,000 tons in displacement which helps in keeping them agile.

### What kind of Corvettes does the Indian Navy possess?

- The Indian Navy at present has the Kamorta Class Corvettes, which are also known as Project 28.
- These ships have an anti-submarine role and are manufactured at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.
- These vessels also have the 'Sanket' electronic warfare systems and 'Kavach' decoy launchers.
- The four Kamorta Class Corvettes that the Indian Navy possesses are named INS Kamorta, INS Kadmat, INS Kiltan and INS Kavaratti. The first of these was commissioned in 2014 and the last one in 2020.

### What new capabilities will the new generation Corvettes have?

- The next-generation Corvettes will be manufactured for various roles like surveillance missions, escort operations, deterrence, surface action group operations, search and attack and coastal defence. These roles will be in addition to the anti-submarine roles being already performed by the existing Corvettes in the Navy.

## ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTER SQUADRON 840 CG

- In the Indian Coast Guard, a new air squadron known as 840 Squadron was established in Chennai, with an Advanced

Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft as its first aircraft. In the presence of Inspector General AP Badola, Commander of the Eastern Coast Guard Region, the aircraft was greeted with the usual water cannon salute. This is the first time the defence force has deployed such a plane in the eastern region.

### Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft:

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) created and developed the HAL Dhruv utility helicopter (HAL).
- HAL Dhruv's development was confirmed in November 1984.
- The helicopter initially flew in 1992, although it took longer to build due to a number of issues, including the Indian Army's request for design improvements, funding constraints, and sanctions imposed on India after the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests.
- The ALH MK- III is powered by two Shakti engines and is equipped with surveillance radar, electro optic pod, medical urgent care unit, high-intensity searchlight, infrared suppressor, heavy machine gun, and glass cockpit.

### OP SANKALP

- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for OPERATION Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf for protection of India's Maritime Interests.



### About:

- In the milieu of the deteriorating security



situation in the Gulf region, post attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named 'Op SANKALP', in the Gulf Region on 19 June 2019 to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

- This operation is being progressed in close coordination with all stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and DG, Shipping.

### **PADMA**

Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA), an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Shri Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence, on June 28, 2022.



#### **About:**

- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- This module has been developed under the aegis of Defence Accounts Department and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.
- The launch marked the beginning of the Centralized Pay System (CPS), the foundation of which is being laid down by the Defence Accounts Department Headquarters to provide one stop pay accounting solutions for all organisations under the Ministry.

### **ADVANCED LIGHT HELICOPTER (ALH) MK III SQUADRON**

835 Squadron (CG), an indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III squadron, was

commissioned into Indian Coast Guard at its Air Enclave in Porbandar, Gujarat on June 28, 2022.



#### **About:**

- The commissioning of this squadron marks a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR) and maritime surveillance. The ALH MK III helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- They feature state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as SAR homer.
- The features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out SAR at extended ranges even while operating from ships during both day and night.
- So far, 13 ALH MK-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned at Porbandar.

### **HERMIT SPYWARE**

- Lookout, a cloud-based security company, has recently discovered a new spyware called "Hermit" that is capable of affecting both Android and iOS devices.

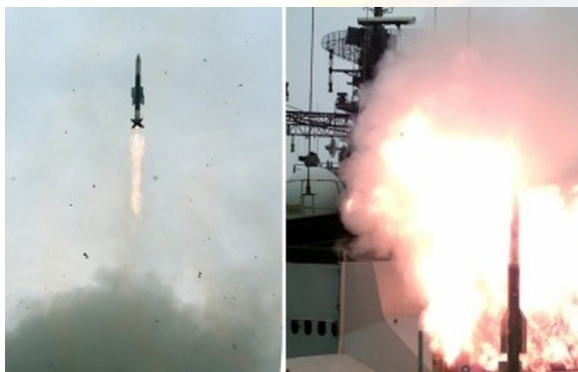
#### **About:**

- Hermit is a commercial spyware that is known to be used by governments with victims in Kazakhstan, Italy and northern Syria. The spyware was first detected in Kazakhstan in April 2022 after the government violently suppressed protests against government policies.
- Hermit is a modular spyware that hides its malicious capabilities in packages downloaded after it's deployed.
- These modules, along with the permissions the core apps have, enable Hermit to exploit a rooted device, record audio and make and redirect phone calls, as well as collect data such as call logs, contacts, photos, device location and SMS messages.

- Hermit tricks users by serving up the legitimate webpages of the brands it impersonates as it kickstarts malicious activities in the background.

## VERTICAL LAUNCH SHORT RANGE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE (VL-SRSAM)

- Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy from an Indian Naval Ship at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on June 24, 2022.



### About:

- The VL-SRSAM, a ship borne weapon system, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.
- The launch of the system was conducted against a high speed aerial target mimicking aircraft, which was successfully engaged. The development of this indigenous missile system will further strengthen the defensive capabilities of the Indian Navy.

## ABHYAS



- Successful flight testing of high-speed expendable aerial target ABHYAS in Odisha
- The Defence Research and Development Organization's (DRDO) Abhyas high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT),

which was created as a target for the testing of missile systems, underwent a successful flight testing from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), off the coast of Odisha. The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a DRDO unit with a Bengaluru location, created Abhyas.

### KEY POINTS:

- The DRDO recently conducted numerous tests on Abhyas in various configurations.
- Precision demonstrations of the aircraft's performance at low altitude, including prolonged level flight and excellent manoeuvrability, were made.
- The target aircraft was being tracked by a number of tracking sensors deployed by ITR, including radar and an electro-optical targeting system, as it was being flown from a ground-based controller in a predetermined low altitude flight route.

### About Abhyas

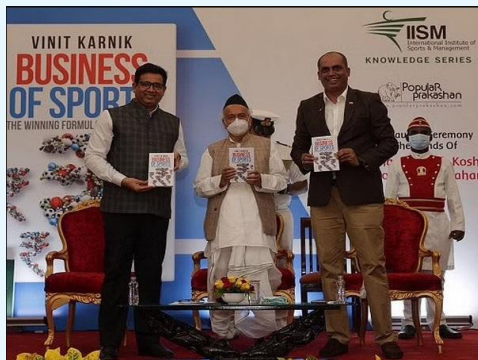
- Abhyas—a word derived from Sanskrit meaning “practise” or “preparatory exercise”—offers a realistic threat situation for training with different armament systems and has been built with an onboard autopilot system for autonomous flight.
- According to the DRDO, the vehicle was launched utilising two underslung boosters, which give it a quick start.
- It has a modest gas turbine engine that enables it to fly for an extended period of time at a fast subsonic speed.
- The target aircraft has an inertial navigation system based on micro-electromechanical systems as well as a flight control computer for guiding and control.
- The system has a built-in radio altimeter for very low altitude flight and a data link for secure communication between the target aircraft and the ground control station.
- According to a DRDO scientist, the Abhyas system has radar cross-section (RCS) and infrared signatures that may be utilised to simulate a variety of aircraft for anti-aircraft warfare training as well as for testing intended to hit aerial targets.





## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### IISM LAUNCHES “THE WINNING FORMULA FOR SUCCESS” INDIA’S 1ST SPORTS MARKETING BOOK



- India’s leading sports and Management institute, the International Institute of Sports & Management (IISM) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, launched India’s first-ever book on Sports Marketing titled “Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success” authored by noted Sports author Vinit Karnik.
- This is the first book in a series to be launched as a part of a knowledge series. The book has been published by Popular Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.
- The book was released by Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, the Governor of Maharashtra in the presence of Nilesh Kulkarni Founder & Director of IISM.

### UNION MINISTERS DHARMENDRA PRADHAN RELEASED BOOKS TITLED ‘LOKTANTRA KE SWAR’ & ‘THE REPUBLICAN ETHIC’



- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur released books ‘Loktantra ke Swar’ and ‘The Republican Ethic’, having selected speeches of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
- This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Ram Nath Kovind. The compilation includes speeches on a wide range of subjects. E-books were also released on the occasion.

### A BOOK TITLED “GAUTAM ADANI: THE MAN WHO CHANGED INDIA” BY RN BHASKAR

- The biography of billionaire industrialist, Gautam Adani, titled “Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India” will hit the stands in October, announced Penguin Random House (PRHI). The book written by journalist-author RN Bhaskar, claims to bring to light, for the first time, the unknown aspects of one of the richest men in the world.

### HARYANA CM RELEASES A BOOK ‘ASHTANG YOGA’ BY DR SONU PHOGAT

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on the eve of 8th International Yoga Day released a book titled Ashtang Yoga authored by Dr Sonu Phogat. Manohar Lal Khattar said that every person should have a resolution for Yoga and he has to connect himself with the resolution.
- He said that the Mantra of Yog to Sehyog will show us a new way to the future. Appreciating the efforts of writer Dr Sonu Phogat, it is a matter of pride that the book on Yoga was released on the eve of International Yoga Day. He said that it will benefit the people.





## IMPORTANT DAYS

### WORLD MILK DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 1ST JUNE

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted June 1 as World Milk Day.
- The day is marked to recognise milk as global food and to celebrate the dairy industry.
- The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.
- The day has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001

#### The theme of World Milk Day 2022:

- The theme of World Milk Day 2022 is to bring attention to the climate change crisis and how the dairy sector can reduce its impact on the planet.
- The aim is to achieve 'Dairy Net Zero' by reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years and improving waste management in order to make the dairy sector sustainable.

### WORLD BICYCLE DAY 2022 - 3RD JUNE

- World Bicycle Day is marked on 3rd June every year to recognise bicycling as a way to get a sustainable form of travelling that also ensures one's physical well being.
- The day celebrates the tradition of cycling and its significant role in keeping our health fit. Cycling is a multidimensional exercise with numerous health benefits.
- World Bicycle Day was first marked on June 3, 2018

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INNOCENT CHILDREN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION - JUNE 4

- Every year on June 4th, the United Nations (UN) observes the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression to raise awareness of the children who have been victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse around the world.
- On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to preserve children's rights.

#### Note

- The very first International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed on August 19, 1982.
- At the time, the day was focused on victims of the Lebanon War.

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - JUNE 5

- 50th World Environment Day 2022 observed on 5th June
- This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature granted.
- It is the biggest international day for the environment.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the nodal agency that organises and supports events across the world.
- Theme for the year 2022 "Only One Earth," focusing on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature.

#### Note

- Only One Earth was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference; 50 years on, the motto holds true – this planet is our only home, whose finite resources humanity must safeguard.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT 2022

- The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is an international event conducted by the United Nations (UN) on June 19 each year.
- The day is celebrated to raise the awareness about conflict-related sexual violence. Sexual violence, whose victims are primarily women, is one of the worst crimes committed against human beings or animals, which leaves lasting psychological and emotional damage to the victim apart from physical harm. It occurs both in times of peace and during armed conflict.
- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2022: Theme
- The theme for this year's observance of International Day for the Elimination of

Sexual Violence in Conflict is ‘Prevention as Protection: Enhancing structural and operational prevention of conflict-related sexual violence.’ The event is a ‘Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic, United Nations.’

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 20 JUNE



- World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June. World Refugee Day was designated as an International Day by the UN (United Nations).
- The day is being celebrated to honour the refugees around the world. Refugees are people who are being forced to leave their homeland due to terror, conflicts, wars, prosecutions, or any other crises.
- World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

### World Refugee Day 2022: Theme

- While the theme of World Refugee Day 2022 has not been rolled out, last year it was “Together we heal, learn and shine.” The 2021 theme highlighted the basic needs of displaced people, such as healthcare, nutrition and education.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2022: 21ST JUNE

- International yoga day is celebrated on the 21st of June of every year. The first international yoga day was observed on 21st June 2015. It is celebrated on the 21st of June because it is said to be the longest day of the year in the Northern hemisphere and it shares special significance in many parts of the world. The initiative of international yoga day was proposed by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on 27th September 2014.
- 2022: The theme for 2022 is “Yoga

for humanity“. This year’s theme of international yoga day will focus on the importance of yoga in serving better mental health in our life

## WORLD MUSIC DAY 2022: 21ST JUNE



- World Music Day is celebrated every year on June 21.
- The day gives respect to the art form of music that binds people across culture, region, language and religion. Music also gives a channel to various emotions like love, grief, loss, and is cathartic in nature.
- On this day, free concerts are organised for everyone to attend. It is a massive cultural exchange and also brings society closer. The theme for World Music Day 2022 is “Music on the intersections”

### World Music Day: History

- Music Day was first celebrated in the year 1982 on the Summer Solstice in France, when the former French minister of art and culture, Jack Lange, along with Maurice Fleuret started the Fête de la Musique in Paris. That is also why World Music Day is alternatively known as Fête de la Musique as well.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE SOLSTICE: 21 JUNE



- International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is observed globally on 21st June. This day bring awareness about solstices



and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures.

- The Summer Solstice is the day of the year when the sun reaches its highest point in the sky. It happens on June 21st this year.
- 
- The Summer Solstice is the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It occurs on June 21st this year.

### INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY CELEBRATES ON 23RD JUNE



- International Widows' Day is observed across the world on 23 June.
- The day aims to gather support for widows and to spread awareness about their situation.
- For several women, the hurtful loss of a partner is magnified by a long-term struggle for their basic rights and dignity. International Widows' Day is a day of action to address the "poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries".
- The main objective of the activities is to create awareness about the condition of widows and protect their rights

#### International Widows' Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for last year's International Widows' Day was "Invisible Women, Invisible Problems". This year's theme is – "Sustainable Solutions for Widows Financial Independence"

### UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE DAY CELEBRATES ON 23 JUNE



- With the aim to appreciate the value of public institutions and public servants, June 23 is observed as United Nations Public Service Day.
- It highlights the contribution and role of public service in the development of all sectors around the world. UN Public Service Day celebrates the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlights the contribution of public service in the development process; recognizes the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

#### United Nations Public Service Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for this year's event is "Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals."

### INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC DAY CELEBRATES ON 23RD JUNE



- International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23rd across the globe. The day is primarily celebrated to commemorate the birth of modern Olympic games. The day is also observed to celebrate the health and harmony aspect associated with sports. The day marks the foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

#### International Olympic Day 2022: Theme

- This year, the theme for the International Olympic Day is "Together For A Peaceful World." The theme represents the ability of sports to bring the world together and diminish the differences.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER 2022 - 25 JUNE

- The "Day of the Seafarer" is celebrated annually on June 25 to honour the vital contribution that seafarers make to global trade and the economy, frequently at considerable personal sacrifice to themselves and their families. Governments, shipping

associations, businesses, shipowners, and all other interested parties are asked to support and commemorate the Day in a meaningful and suitable way

- The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, Philippines, in June 2010, adopted a resolution that established the Day of the Seafarer and made significant revisions to the STCW Convention and Code.
- The resolution established the Day of the Seafarer, which was first observed in 2011.
- The annual list of United Nations Observances now includes the Day of the Seafarer.

### **MICRO-, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES DAY: 27 JUNE**



- Recognising the potential of the MSME and their role in strengthening economies, June 27 is celebrated as the Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day.
- The day is aimed at raising public awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development. MSME or Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are crucial for the growth of a country as they form the backbone of the economy.
- They are enterprises that usually employ not more than 250 employees but are responsible for creating more than two-thirds of all jobs globally.

#### **Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

##### **Day 2022: Significance**

- According to the United Nations, formal and informal MSMEs account for 70 per cent of the total employment and 50 per cent of the GDP. Moreover, the sector makes up for 90 per cent of all firms. With such significant contribution to the economy, MSMEs are essential for innovations, job creation, and productivity growth.
- Despite being a key player in generating jobs, MSMEs face challenges in working conditions, informality, and productivity.

The MSME day is celebrated to unlock the potential of the enterprise and utilise it for bolstering the global economy.

#### **Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

##### **Day: History**

- The Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day was marked by the United Nations General Assembly in its 74th Plenary on April 6 2017. The move came after the International Council for Small Business (ICSB) 2016 World Conference Declaration on the urgent need to recognise MSME's role in global development

### **UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE 2022- JUNE 26**



- The United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1997, adopted a resolution to proclaim June 26 as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The day is observed to call upon nations, civil societies and individuals all across the world to extend their support to victims of torture and those who are being tortured.
- United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: History
- On December 12, 1997, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution, declaring June 26 as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The first International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26, 1998, the UN appealed to all the governments, stakeholders, and the members of the global society to stand against this act, and to take action against the torture and those who execute it in every corner of the world.

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING 2022- JUNE 26**

- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is conducted by the United



Nations. It is observed on June 26 annually.

- The global event highlights the physical and psychological impact of substance abuse, drug overdose deaths and drug-related humanitarian crises with an aim to eliminate the menace from society.



#### Theme

- “Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises” is the theme for 2022’s celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

#### Significance

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has put forward a #CareInCrises campaign for this year’s celebration of World Drug Day. It highlights data from its annual World Drug Report and urges governments, world citizenry, international organisations and each stakeholder to prevent drug abuse, provide treatment, and restrict the illicit drug supply.

### NATIONAL INSURANCE AWARENESS DAY: 28 JUNE

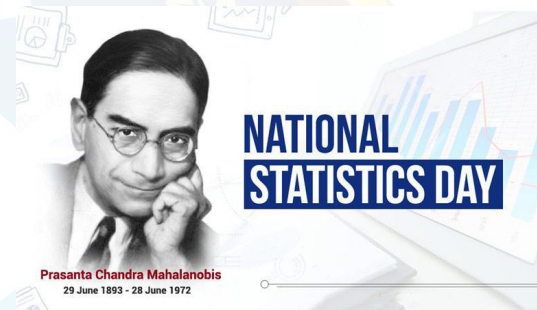


- The National Insurance Awareness Day is observed on 28 June. The main objective of the day is to make people aware about the several benefits of investing in an insurance plan or policy. Insurance policies offer financial cover in case of unfortunate happenings such as injury, accident or losses in business, among others, if one remembers to pay their premium regularly.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE TROPICS - 29 JUNE

- International Day of the Tropics is observed globally on 29 June.
- The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face.
- It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

### NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY 2022: 29 JUNE



- National Statistics Day is observed in India on June 29 each year.
- The day aims to raise public awareness of the value of statistics in everyday life as well as in the planning and development process.
- The celebrated statistician, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, is recognised on National Statistics Day for his contributions to economic planning and statistics. Additionally, the Indian Statistical Institute’s founder, Professor PC Mahalanobis, celebrates his birthday on 29 June.
- The theme of National Statistics Day 2022 is ‘Data for Sustainable Development’.

#### Significance

- To honour Professor Mahalanobis and promote the use of statistics in daily life. The Indian government observes National Statistics Day. The events’ main goal is to raise public awareness of the role statistics play in formulating and affecting public policy. The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation is in charge of planning the day (MOSPI).

## History

- It was initially observed on June 29, 2007, to honour Professor Mahalanobis' exceptional contributions to statistical research and economic planning. It was decided to designate his birthday as National Statistics Day. On June 5th, 2007, the Indian Gazette initially published a notification about this

## INTERNATIONAL ASTEROID DAY 2022: 30 JUNE



- World Asteroid Day (also known as International Asteroid Day) is an annual UN-sanctioned global awareness campaign event observed on June 30, which is the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event of 1908. To provide knowledge to the general public about the importance of asteroids in history, and the role they play in our solar system today. The theme of Asteroid Day 2022 is "small is beautiful."

## Significance

- The destructive effects that an asteroid's collision with the Earth can have are brought to light on World Asteroid Day or International Asteroid Day. The part asteroids played in the creation of our cosmos, potential uses for their resources, how asteroids pave the way for more research, and how we might shield the earth from asteroids' effects.

## History

- In December 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in order to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard." Tunguska event is the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth in recent history.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM 2022: 30 JUNE



- June 30 is observed as the International Day of Parliamentarism every year to commemorate the date on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded.
- The IPU, founded in Paris in 1889, is an international organisation of national parliaments to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.
- The International Day of Parliamentarism is a time to review the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and move with the times, including carrying out self-assessments, working to include more women and young MPs, and adapting to new technologies.

## Theme

- In 2022, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its Member Parliaments will mark the International Day of Parliamentarism under the theme of public engagement. This follows the recent launch of the Global Parliamentary Report on Public engagement in the work of parliament.





### **NEWS 1 -PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TO START E-STAMP INSTEAD OF PAPER STAMP**

- The Punjab government has decided to abolish the physical stamp papers in an attempt to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue.
- Stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via 'e-stamp', which includes computerised print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorized by the State government.

### **NEWS 2 TATA MOTORS INKS PACT FOR POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF FORD INDIA'S PLANT IN GUJARAT**

- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPML), a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd, and Ford India Private Limited (FIPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Gujarat (GoG) for the potential acquisition of FIPL's Sanand vehicle manufacturing facility.

### **NEWS 3- NEW DELHI TO HOST NATIONAL SUMMIT ON CYBER SECURITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

- At Vigyan Bhawan in the national capital, the Ministry of Home Affairs will organise a National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security (Cyber Apradh Se Azadi, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav). Union Minister Amit Shah will be the conference's Chief Guest, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The seminar is part of the country's efforts to raise public awareness about cybercrime prevention.

### **NEWS 4- SHABASH MITHU': A BIOPIC ON FORMER INDIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM CAPTAIN MITHALI RAJ**

- Filmmaker Srijit Mukherji has dropped the trailer of "Shabaash Mithu", a Taapsee Pannu-starrer biopic on former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj. The film is set to hit theatres on July 15.

### **NEWS 5- KARNATAKA BANK LAUNCHES "V-CIP" FOR ACCOUNT OPENING**

- Karnataka Bank has launched online savings bank (SB) account opening facility through 'Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)'. The facility enabled in the corporate website of the bank, empowers prospective customers to open an SB account through online process and complete KYC (know your customer) verification through a video call at their place of convenience.
- The end-to-end paperless digital process leverages the bank's API (Application Programming Interface) that auto fills the account opening form, validates PAN/Aadhaar number instantly and completes the KYC process through a video call. Online SB Account opening facility through V-CIP will take the customers experience to a new high as it reduces the turnaround time of account opening by eliminating the need of customer's physical presence at the branch to complete Know Your Customer (KYC) process."

### **NEWS 7- UTTARAKHAND: PROJECT TO BOOST RAIN-FED AGRICULTURE APPROVED BY WORLD BANK**

- In order to advance rain-fed agriculture in the steep areas of Uttarakhand, the World Bank has approved a project costing Rs. 1,000 crore. The watershed department will carry out the Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project.

#### **About**

- The initiative, which aims to lower greenhouse gas emissions, was offered to the World Bank for funding by the State government.
- The project will be financed by the World Bank.
- Additionally, it will encourage environmentally friendly agricultural practices so that young people and farmers have an economically feasible choice.

### **NEWS 8- NIRYAT:**

- As a “one-stop platform,” NIRYAT has been created to provide stakeholders with access to all the information they require regarding the country’s international commerce.

#### **Delhi airport becomes India’s first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy**

- Delhi Airport or Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first airport in the country to run entirely on hydro and solar power from this month in a major step toward achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.

### **NEWS 9 TELANGANA GOVERNMENT OPENS T-HUB FACILITY**

- Ratan Tata, an Industrialist, applauded the Telangana government’s most recent T-Hub opening in Hyderabad. The Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao received congratulations from the chairman emeritus of Tata Sons on the new T-hub facility in Hyderabad, which will significantly improve the Indian startup ecosystem.

#### **About Telangana T-Hub:**

- According to the Telangana government, the new structure has a total built-up area of more than 5.82 lakh square feet, making it the largest innovation campus in the world.
- The second-largest campus is startup incubator Station F, which is located in France.
- T-Hub (Technology Hub), a Hyderabad-based innovation hub and ecosystem enhancer, was founded in 2015.





### POST-MAURYAN SITE IN BARPALI

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought the intervention of the centre in regard to the excavation and preservation of a recently discovered post-Mauryan site in Barpali in Odisha



#### About:

- The 2000 year old post-Mauryan site which was discovered recently by the history department of the Sambalpur-based Gangadhar Meher University.
- The site, spread over 17 hectares of land, has yielded numerous priceless artifacts and antiquities. Hence, the minister has urged the union culture ministry to direct the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take over the excavation work of the site for better exploration.

#### 'SAO JOAO' FESTIVAL

- The people of Goa has celebrated the Sao Joao festival, the feast of St John the Baptist with traditional enthusiasm after a two-year coronavirus-induced gap. The festival is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan and is celebrated at the onset of monsoon. Siolim, a village in North Goa, hosts a traditional canoe parade on the occasion of Sao Joao.

#### AMBUBACHI MELA

- Four-day Ambubachi Mela at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati
- Devotees were finally permitted to take part in the annual Ambubachi Mela at Assam's renowned Kamakhya Temple after a two-year absence. The head priest of Maa Kamakhya Devalaya, or "Bor Doloi," Kabinath Sarma, explained that the "Pravritti" was used to symbolically close

the temple doors for four days as part of the rites. The door will be unlocked or Nivriti in the morning of the first day.



#### About Ambubachi Mela:

- An annual Hindu festival known as the Ambubachi Mela takes place at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam. This annual festival is held in the middle of June, when the Brahmaputra River is at its highest flow, during the monsoon season, which also happens to fall within the Assamese month of Ahaar.

#### KAPILVASTU RELICS



- Arjun Meghwal presented with the holy Kapilvastu relics brought back from Mongolia
- Following a 12-day exhibition at the Batsagaan Temple on the grounds of Gandan Monastery, Mongolia, in honour of Mongolian Buddha Purnima, the four Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha returned to India. The sacred relics were presented to Union Minister Shri Arjun Meghwal in Ghaziabad. Due to high demand from the Mongolian people, the presentation of the holy relics had to be extended by a few days

1) World Milk Day 2022 is observed on \_\_\_\_

- a) 1st June
- b) 2nd June
- c) 3rd June
- d) 4th June

2) World Bicycle Day was first marked on \_\_\_\_

- a) June 3, 2018
- b) June 4, 2018
- c) June 3, 2019
- d) June 4, 2019

3) The \_\_\_\_ is the nodal agency that organises and supports world environment day across the world

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) UNDP
- d) UNESCO

4) Stockholm Conference was held in the year

- a) 1973
- b) 1972
- c) 1971
- d) 1970

5) The very first International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed in the year \_\_\_\_

- a) 1985
- b) 1984
- c) 1983
- d) 1982

6) 'IAF Heritage Centre' will be set up in \_\_\_\_

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Amritsar
- c) Ludhiana
- d) Lucknow

7) Consider the following statements

- 1) "SHRESHTA"-Scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas.
- 2) The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been formulated with the objective to provide quality education and opportunities for even the poorest

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2 are correct

d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

8) Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' has been launched in \_\_\_\_

- a) Punjab
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Tamil Nadu

9) consider the following statement

- 1) PM CARES for Children scheme for children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) This scheme provides Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs, financial support for schooling, scholarship for higher education, and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- e) 1 only
- f) 2 only
- g) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- h) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

10) The government has approved \_\_\_\_per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22

- a) 8.1
- b) 8.2
- c) 8.3
- d) 8.4

11) The \_\_\_\_government key initiative of e-proposal system has won a coveted UN Award-World Summit.

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Assam
- c) Odisha
- d) Uttarakhand

12) World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022 was awarded to

- a) Chattisgarh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

13) Anjalai Ponnusamy is related to

- a) Civil disobedience movement
- b) Non cooperation movement
- c) Indian National army
- d) Quit India movement



**14) The first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia commissioned in**

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Assam
- c) Odisha
- d) Uttarakhand

**15) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Monkeypox is a viral disease caused by the Monkeypox virus, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family
- 2) Monkeypox has symptoms that are comparable to smallpox

**Which of the above statements is/ are correct?**

- i) 1 only
- j) 2 only
- k) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- l) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**16) Param Ananta, is a state of the art supercomputer developed by**

- a) IIT Gandhinagar
- b) IIT MADRAS
- c) IIT Kanpur
- d) IIT LUCKNOW

**17) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana” for faster development of tribal villages.
- 2) Aim of the program is to turn the focus on such remote and backward villages of the country which are lagging behind due to lack of attention.

**Which of the above statements is/ are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**18) Skalzang Rigzin, the first Indian Mountaineer to climb \_\_\_\_peak without supplemental Oxygen**

- a) Mount Annapurna
- b) Mount K2
- c) Mount Everest
- d) Mount Nanda Devi

**19) First National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held at**

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

**20) 44th Chess Olympiad is held at**

- a) Mumbai
- b) New Delhi
- c) Chennai
- d) Puducherry

**21) National summit on cyber security and National security held at**

- a) Mumbai
- b) New Delhi
- c) Chennai
- d) Puducherry

**22) Hamad International Airport is located at**

- a) Kuwait
- b) Madagascar
- c) Qatar
- d) Saudi Arabia

**23) Fujian most advanced domestically built aircraft carrier was launched by \_\_\_\_**

- a) Israel
- b) China
- c) India
- d) US

**24) World Refugee Day 2022 observed on \_\_\_\_**

- a) 20 June
- b) 21 June
- c) 22 June
- d) 23 June

**25) The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is an international event conducted by the \_\_\_\_**

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations
- c) IMF
- d) UNDP

**26) \_\_\_\_becomes the first Asian country to legalize Marijuana.**

- a) Vietnam
- b) Thailand
- c) Laos
- d) Cambodia

**27) Consider the following statement**

- 1) NIPUN Project will enable the construction workers to seek better job opportunities, increase their wages and even pursue overseas placements – an indication of a new eco-system.
- 2) NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission

**Which of the above statements is/ are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

28) Gustavo Petro was elected as the president of \_\_\_\_

- a) Vietnam
- b) Colombia
- c) Argentina
- d) Chile

29) The first international yoga day was first observed on 21st June \_\_\_\_

- a) 2014
- b) 2015
- c) 2016
- d) 2017

30) World Music Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_

- a) June 20
- b) June 21
- c) June 22
- d) June 23

31) India ranked \_\_\_\_ globally for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

32) \_\_\_\_ became the largest state in outstanding microfinance loan

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

33) Khuvsgul lake is located in

- a) China
- b) Mongolia
- c) Bhutan
- d) Russia

34) The World Network of Biosphere Reserves is the initiative of

- a) UNDP
- b) UNEP
- c) UNESCO
- d) World Bank

35) Single-Use Plastic' use to banned by Union Government from \_\_\_\_

- a) 1st July, 2022
- b) 2nd July 2022
- c) 3rd July 2022
- d) 15th July 2022

36) India's first 'Balika Panchayat' constituted in five villages of \_\_\_\_

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat

- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

37) Ruchira Kamboj is the new India's representative to

- a) IMF
- b) UN
- c) World Bank
- d) UNESCO

38) 'Migration in India 2020-21' was released by the Ministry of \_\_\_\_

- a) Finance
- b) Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- c) Urban affairs
- d) Home affairs

39) The Inter-State Council was established under \_\_\_\_ of the Constitution

- a) Article 262
- b) Article 263
- c) Article 264
- d) Article 265

40) Inter State council is headed by

- a) President of India
- b) Prime minister
- c) Home minister
- d) Defence minister

41) India ranked \_\_\_\_ in The Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022.

- a) 67
- b) 68
- c) 69
- d) 70

42) International Widows' Day is observed on

- a) 21st june
- b) 22 nd june
- c) 23rd june
- d) 24 th june

43) United Nations Public Service Day celebrates on

- A) 21st june
- B) 22 nd june
- C) 23rd june
- D) 24 th june

44) International Olympic Day celebrates on \_\_\_\_

- A) 21st june
- B) 22 nd june
- C) 23rd june
- D) 24 th june

45) GLISCHROPUS MEGHALAYANUS is the new species of

- a) Butterfly



- b) Bats
- c) Snake
- d) Lizard

**46) \_\_\_\_\_ airport becomes India's first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy**

- a) Mumbai
- b) Chennai
- c) Delhi
- d) Pune

**47) Ambitious goal of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport will be achieved by the year \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 2024
- b) 2025
- c) 2030
- d) 2050

**48) Government to transfer NDPS from Ministry of Finance to Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Home Affairs
- b) Urban affairs
- c) Defence
- d) None of the above

**49) International millets year will celebrated on**

- a) 2023
- b) 2024
- c) 2025
- d) 2026

**50) India has emerged as the \_\_\_\_\_ largest gold recycler in the world**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

**51) \_\_\_\_\_ to host G-20 meetings in 2023**

- a) Kerala
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Assam
- d) Uttarakhand

**52) consider the following statement**

- 1) Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disorder that slowly robs people of their memory and thinking abilities.
- 2) The disease was discovered after Dr Alois Alzheimer examined a memory-loss patient's brain after her death in 1906

**which of the above statement is/ are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) None of the above

**53) MO BUS SERVICE is the bus service of**

- a) Rajasthan

- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**54) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The UN describes its Public Service Awards as the "most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service".
- 2) The first Awards ceremony was held in 2003.

**which of the above statement is/ are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) None of the above

**55) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), has made an oil discovery in,\_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) Venezuela
- b) Colombia
- c) Brazil
- d) Australia

**56) Cyclist Ronaldo, first Indian cyclist to win silver at \_\_\_\_\_ Championship**

- a) Asian
- b) World
- c) South asian
- d) Commonwealth

**57) Nuri rocket was launched by**

- a) China
- b) South Korea
- c) North Korea
- d) United Kingdom

**58) International Day of the Seafarer 2022 is observed on**

- a) June 23
- b) June 24
- c) June 25
- d) June 26

**59) which country supreme court denies constitution guaranteed abolition rights?**

- a) US
- b) UK
- c) Sweden
- d) Denmark

**60) Which of the following statement is/ are correct?**

- A) Microplastics are tiny plastic debris that are smaller than 5 mm in length, tinier than even a grain of rice.
- B) Primary microplastics are tiny particles that are purposely designed as such for commercial use, like in cosmetics, nurdles-plastic pellets used in industrial manufacturing and

in fibres from synthetic textiles like nylon.

- C) Secondary microplastics are formed through the degradation of larger plastic items like bottles, fishing nets and plastic bags. This occurs through exposure to the environment, like radiation from the sun, wind and ocean waves.
- D) All are correct

**61) Surya Nutan is**

- a) Solar powered water heater
- b) Indoor solar cooking system
- c) Solar powered iron box
- d) Solar stove

**62) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) aims to**

- a) All weather road connectivity
- b) Set up food processing related facilities / units.
- c) Provide micro finance to self help group
- d) Promote women entrepreneurship

**63) 'Sao Joao' festival is celebrated in**

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Goa

**64) which of the following statement is/ are correct?**

- a) Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) is a ship-borne weapon system
- b) It is designed to eliminate close-range aerial threats such targets that skim the surface of the sea.
- c) A high-speed aerial target resembling an aeroplane was launched with the system, and it was effectively engaged.
- d) All are correct

**65) NITI Aayog was founded in the year**

- a) 2014
- b) 2015
- c) 2016
- d) 2017

**66) Global Liveability Index 2022 is released by**

- a) World economic forum
- b) World Bank
- c) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- d) United Nations

**67) Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is observed on**

- a) 26th june
- b) 27th june

c) 28 th june

d) 29 th june

**68) United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2022 is observed on**

- a) 26th june
- b) 27th june
- c) 28 th june
- d) 29 th june

**69) Ranji Trophy 2022 was won by**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

**70) The first match of the Ranji Trophy competition was held in the year**

- a) 1930
- b) 1931
- c) 1932
- d) 1934

**71) International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022 is observed on**

- a) 26th june
- b) 27th june
- c) 28 th june
- d) 29 th june

**72) Consider the following statement**

- 1) ONDC, it is a not-for-profit organisation that will offer a network to enable local digital commerce stores across industries to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled applications.
- 2) It is neither an aggregator application nor a hosting platform, and all existing digital commerce applications and platforms can voluntarily choose to adopt and be a part of the ONDC network

**Which of the above statement is/ are correct**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) None of the above

**73) India stand\_\_\_\_\_ in global digital transactions.**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

**74) "MEDISEP" scheme is the initiative of**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Kerala
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**75) Dhanalakshmi becomes \_\_\_fastest Indian woman in 200m**

- a) 1st
- b) 2nd
- c) 3rd
- d) 4th

**76) Largest bacteria in the world discovered in**

- a) Australia
- b) Caribbean
- c) India
- d) China

**77) Kamakhya Temple is located in**

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Bihar
- d) Chattisgarh

**78) consider the following statement**

- 1) PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- 2) This module has been developed under the aegis of Défense Accounts Department and will be operated by Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida

**Which of the above statement is/ are correct**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**79) National Insurance Awareness Day**

- a) 26th june
- b) 27th june
- c) 28th june
- d) 29th june

**80) \_\_\_releases a report on India's Gig Economy**

- a) World Bank
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) IMF
- d) Asian development Bank

**81) Honey Testing Lab is inaugurated in**

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Nagaland
- c) Tripura
- d) Maharashtra

**82) One health pilot' initiative launched in \_\_\_\_**

- a) Bengaluru
- b) Cochin
- c) Pune
- d) Puri

**83) International Day of the Tropics is observed on**

- a) 26th june
- b) 27th june
- c) 28th june
- d) 29th june

**84) \_\_\_becomes 1st player to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams**

- a) Serena Williams
- b) Novak Djokovic
- c) Rafael Nadal
- d) Roger Federer

**85) India promises International community to protect \_\_\_ of land and water**

- a) 25%
- b) 30%
- c) 35%
- d) 40%

**86) National Statistics Day 2022 is observed on**

- A) 26th june
- B) 27th june
- C) 28th june
- D) 29th june

**87) National Statistics Day 2022 is celebrated to honour**

- a) Sir. C. V. Raman
- b) Professor Mahalanobis
- c) Visvesvaraya
- d) C. N. R. Rao

**88) 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' started by**

- a) United States
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Russia
- d) China

**89) International Asteroid Day 2022 is observed on**

- A) 27th june
- B) 28th june
- C) 29th june
- D) 30th june

**90) International Day of Parliamentarism 2022 is observed on**

- a) 27th june
- b) 28th june
- c) 29th june
- d) 30th june



**91) \_\_\_ has submitted an application to become a member in the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS.**

- a) Iran
- b) Iraq
- c) Australia
- d) Indonesia

**92) South Africa was added to the BRICS in the year \_\_\_\_.**

- a) 2009
- b) 2010
- c) 2011
- d) 2012

**93) T-hub facility was opened by**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

**94) Udyami Bharat Programme aims to promote**

- a) Girls education
- b) Women empowerment
- c) MSME
- d) Sc and ST entrepreneur

**95) Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the first Black woman to serve in the Supreme Court of \_\_\_\_**

- a) United Nations
- b) United states
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Canada

**96) Ferdinand Marcos Jr elected as the president of \_\_\_\_**

- a) Philippines
- b) Indonesia
- c) Cambodia
- d) Thailand

**97) Singapore-based IGSS signs MoU to set up 300-acre semiconductor park in**

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**98) Tamilnadu ranked \_\_\_\_ position in Ease of doing business in india**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

**99) The first Tamil translation of the New Testament was printed in \_\_\_\_ by Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg**

- a) 1714
- b) 1715
- c) 1616
- d) 1690

**100) TB-free Tamil Nadu will be achieved by the year**

- a) 2024
- b) 2025
- c) 2028
- d) 2030

## Answers:

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