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TNPSC SANGAMAM

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SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS

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sivarajaveliasacademy@gmail.com

HEAD OFFICE

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

BRANCHES

TIRUNELVELI

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

TRICHY

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

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INDIA'S FIRST AMBULANCE FOR STREET ANIMALS LAUNCHED IN TAMIL NADU

- India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "Four Paw".
- Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth launched the ambulance.
- The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
- The ambulance will include a treatment table, two fans, an inverter, a fridge, and drawers for sterile products and bandages.
- It will also come with a washbasin, an anti-skid shock-absorbing mat, a stretcher trolley, a retractable doctor's seat, a retractable tarpaulin, dog-catching equipment, two movable cages to hold dogs, and overhead cupboards.
- There will also be a provision to administer intravenous fluids and oxygen on board.

TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER MK STALIN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY "UNGALIL ORUVAN" LAUNCHED

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) in Chennai.
- The first part of the autobiography contains his early life experiences. In it, he traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA struggle, recalling 23 years up to 1976.



SOLAR POWER PLANT AT SPIC

- The Chief Minister also inaugurated a unique model of floating solar power plant at the SPIC complex in Thoothukudi.
- The park, established at a cost of Rs 150.40 crore, is part of SPIC's Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Progress towards commitment to producing renewable energy.
- According to the officials, the 22 MW facility would produce 42 million units every year.
- The solar plant had come up on an investment of ₹150.40 crore.

Benefits of floating solar park

- It would produce more power than the traditional land-based solar parks because water cools the panels while producing power.
- It also prevents evaporation of water. It conserves 60% of water and makes the environment free of pollution

Note

- India's biggest floating solar power plant by generation capacity (100MW) is being developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana.
- The project is in line with India's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2022 including 100 GW of solar installed capacity.

Key Points

Floating Solar Plants:

- It refers to the deployment of photovoltaic panels on the surface of water bodies. They are a viable alternative to land-based solar arrays with applications in India.
- There are a large number of major reservoirs in the Southern Region which provides a huge opportunity to go for renewable energy in the floating solar method.

'NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR' TAMILNADU

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for the years 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of

International Women's Day on March 08, 2022, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- Jaya Muthu and Tejamma
- (Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu) The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to them for their extraordinary contribution for preserving and promoting the age-old intricate Toda Embroidery of Nilgiris.
- Thara Rangaswamy
- (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her innovative and relentless efforts to create awareness about and cure for mental disorders.



NAM PALLI, NAM PERUMAI' TO REVAMP SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

- The School Education Department launched the 'Nam Palli Nam Perumai' (Our School Our Pride) initiative on Tuesday. It is aimed at restructuring school management committees at government schools.
- The revamped committee will aim to understand and assess the needs of a school, ensure community participation and chalk out the steps to be taken to ensure quality education is accessible to students.
-

The SMC will have 20 members, and a parent will head it. Fifty per cent of the committee should be women, and a parent of a child with special needs should be part of the committee as an office-bearer

KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT (KKNPP)

After Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to halt the construction of the 'Away From Reactor' (AFR) facility at the Kudankulam Nuclear

Power Project (KKNPP) site for storing nuclear waste, the Kudankulam Village Panchayat, under which the project site falls, has passed a resolution against setting up the facility.

About:

- In the resolution, the ward members also condemned the KKNPP administration for going ahead with the construction of the facility despite opposition from the State government to storing highly radioactive nuclear fuel waste.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Kudankulam in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- Construction on the plant began on 31 March 2002, but faced several delays due to opposition from local fishermen.
- KKNPP is scheduled to have six VVER-1000 reactors built in collaboration with Atomstroyexport, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), with an installed capacity of 6,000 MW of electricity.



TAMILNADU PETROPRODUCTS BECAME WORLD'S FIRST LAB MANUFACTURING COMPANY TO GET BIS CERTIFICATION

- TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.) is the world's first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company to be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). TPL's 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country. TPL's position as the market leader and the only authorised seller of the chemical in India will be bolstered by the certification. LAB can be used to make biodegradable detergent, making it a more sustainable option than conventional detergent formulations.

KEY POINTS:

- In a notable step, Chennai-based petrochemicals manufacturer Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) has been awarded IS12795:2020 certification by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government of India for its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB).

- TPL is part of AM International's petrochemicals sector, a diversified, international conglomerate with a federated operating architecture based in Singapore.
- The company is India's leading LAB manufacturer and the only one in the state of Tamil Nadu. LAB is a key component in the production of synthetic detergents and industrial cleansers. TPL's products account for over 40% of all fabric detergents used in Indian homes. Its 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country

About Tamilnadu Petroproducts:

- Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd is a company based in Tamil Nadu, India.
- With its headquarters in Chennai, India, Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited (TPL), a subsidiary of Singapore-based AM International, is a significant maker of industrial intermediate chemicals.
- The company was founded in 1984 with the goal of establishing a cutting-edge Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB) manufacturing facility. TPL's product portfolio now includes caustic soda, propylene oxide, and chlorine.

About AM international:



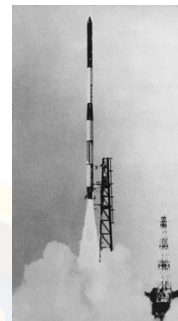
- AM International is a company based in the United States.
- AM International is a federated operating architecture with a diversified worldwide collection of firms. It has been trusted by millions of clients for over six decades and is headquartered in Singapore.
- Many group companies are market leaders today, with operations in Southeast Asia, India, and the United Kingdom.

UNIQUE KIND OF DIGITAL SCHOOL HEALTH PLATFORM LAUNCHED IN PUDUCHERRY

- Under the National Digital Health Mission, Puducherry is creating a digital public health ecosystem. By the second week of August, four-building pieces of the digital ecosystem would have been established and implemented in the

first phase. These include creating a health identity database for the entire population, similar to Aadhaar, the 'digi doctor,' a listing of health professionals from various medical systems, the National Health Infrastructure Registry, and a personal health record for each individual that maps past and present data.

KULASEKARAPATTINAM



- A small town panchayat in the southern district of Thoothukudi, known for its religious fervour during the Dussehra festival, will soon be on the global scientific map.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sets up its second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam from where ISRO will launch satellites weighing less than 500 kg on board its Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).
- Currently, the ISRO has two launchpads at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, closer to Chennai, from where it launches satellites on the PSLV and the GSLV.

Aim

- SSLV was launched from Sriharikota carrying a 500-kg satellite to orbit, the capacity of the vehicle will be zero and the entire payload capacity would be lost. The launchpad at Kulasekarapattinam is aimed at eliminating this disadvantage.
- The Kulasekarapattinam launchpad will also enhance employment opportunities for the local population and lead to economic growth in the region

FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022 WILL BE HELD IN CHENNAI

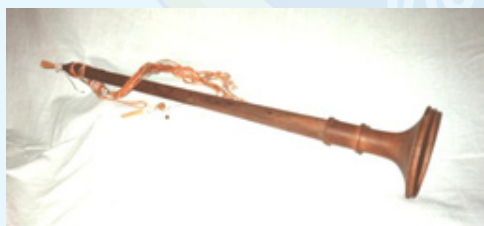
- India has been picked as the host nation for the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022. The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai, from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.



- India has been picked as the host nation for the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022. The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai, from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022. This is the first time that India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Russia, but FIDE pulled out from there following the Ukraine invasion.
- The venue will be the Four Points by Sheraton Mahabalipuram Resort & Convention Center, 60 kilometres south of central Chennai. It is located in Mamallapuram, one of the famous tourist sites in India and a UNESCO World Heritage Site of seventh- and eighth-century Hindu monuments.

TAMIL NADU'S NARASINGAPETTAI NAGASWARAM GOT GEOGRAPHICAL IDENTIFICATION TAG

- Geographical Indication tag has been awarded to the Narasingapettai Nagaswaram under the category of musical instruments of class 15. Narasinghapettai nagaswaram is a classical wind music instrument that is traditionally made in a village near Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.



- On behalf of Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Limited, the application for receiving the GI tag was filed by Tamil Nadu's Nodal Officer for GI Registration of Products.

About the Narasingapettai Nagaswaram:

- The nagaswaram that is being used by artists nowadays is named pari nagaswaram and that is longer than the thimiri. This musical instrument has a body that is cylindrical in shape and takes

the shape of a bell at the bottom. This form of the nagaswaram provides volume and tone. The instrument's length is two and a half feet.

MEKEDATU WATER PROJECT

- Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are at loggerheads over the Mekedatu drinking water project across river Cauvery.



About:

- Tamil Nadu's Assembly has passed a resolution against the project, while Karnataka's legislative assembly is set to counter it with a resolution seeking the project's early implementation and clearance.
- Mekedatu is a drinking water cum power generation project proposed by Karnataka across the river Cauvery. The ₹9,000 crore balancing reservoir at Mekedatu on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border envisages impounding of 67.15 tmc (thousand million cubic feet) ft. of water.
- Karnataka has argued that since the project falls inside its own jurisdictional limit, Tamil Nadu's permission is not needed.

IRULAS GET PERMISSION TO SELL SNAKE VENOM

- the State forest department has permitted the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society to sell venom worth Rs 57 lakh, and issued licences for the Irulas to catch snakes.
- The livelihood of hundreds of Irulas, who are globally renowned snake catchers, had been crippled as the forest department delayed granting permission to catch snakes. Besides, orders for venom were gathering dust at the Office of the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- The Irula Society is the only authorised supplier of venom to produce anti-snake venom in India.



About

- Irula, also known as Iruliga, are a Dravidian ethnic group inhabiting the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka
- Traditionally, the main occupation of the Irulas has been snake, rat catching and honey collection. They also work as labourers (coolies) in the fields of the landlords during the sowing and harvesting seasons or in the rice mills. Fishing and cattle farm is also a major occupation.
- Rats destroy a quarter of the grain grown on Tamil Nadu-area farms annually. To combat this pest, Irula men use a traditional earthen pot fumigation method.



NATIONAL NEWS

ASSAM GOVERNMENT DECLARED THE ENTIRE STATE AS A “DISTURBED AREA”

- The Assam government has extended the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months.
- The notification came into effect from February 28.
- Initially, it was the Assam Disturbed Area Act of 1955 during the agitation by Nagas in undivided Assam.
- This Act gave freehand to some extent to the Army that was repealed with the incorporation of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958. AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the government.



About the AFSPA:

- AFSPA, which gives sweeping powers to the security forces to maintain public order in ‘disturbed areas’, has been a contentious issue in the north-east states. Civil society members and activists have claimed that AFSPA gives security personnel a free hand to carry out excesses

GOI THINK TANK, NITI AAYOG DEVELOPING NATIONAL GENDER INDEX

- NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index.
- The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.

- It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India’s States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.
- Niti Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as discoms’ viability and competition; access, affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; generation capacity; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives.
- The index will help states to efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access to energy to the people.

AROGYA VANAM

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a newly developed ‘Arogya Vanam’ at the President’s Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi.
- The objective of this Arogya Vanam is to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.

About the Arogya Vanam:

- Spread in 6.6 acres, the Arogya Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.
- It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda. Some of the other features of this Vanam are water fountains, Yoga platform, water channel, lotus pond and a viewpoint. This Vanam will be now open for public viewing.

OPERATION GANGA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high level meeting to review the ongoing efforts under Operation Ganga to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.



About:

- As Russian invasion into Ukraine has left its major cities, including its capital Kyiv, under siege, India is making efforts to evacuate its citizens stuck in the war-torn country.
- 'Operation Ganga' is the initiative launched by the government of India to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.
- Under this, India has already successfully brought back more than a 1,000 of its nationals from the country. It has also set up 24x7 control centres to assist in the evacuation of Indians through the border crossing points with Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovak Republic.
- A Twitter handle, 'OpGanga Helpline', has also been dedicated to the mission, where all information regarding evacuation process and advisories of embassies are shared to keep everyone up-to-date.
- Thousands of Indians, especially students studying medicine in Ukraine, have been stuck in the country since it closed its airspace as a security measure after Russia launched "special military operations".

ARTICLE 80

- The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend Article 80 of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha.

About:

- Article 80 of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House and Rajya Sabha (Upper House).
- In the case of Chandigarh, the Private Member Bill was introduced by Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, Manish Tewari, who is a resident of Chandigarh.
- Tewari has sought the adding of a provision "provided that the 'representative of the UT of Chandigarh in the council of states shall be elected by an electoral college consisting

of elected members of Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh constituted under the Punjab Municipal Corporation (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994" in Article 80 of the Constitution in clause (5).

- MP Tewari has also sought amendment of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution with 'Entry 32, Chandigarh.'

Note

Private Member Bill

- The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in February (for sales in January) rose 17.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.33 lakh crore, data released by the Finance Ministry showed.

About:

- This marks the fifth consecutive month of GST collections being more than Rs 1.30 lakh crore, coming on the back of anti-evasion measures and a pickup in economic activity.
- Experts said GST collections remaining at this level indicate the revenues may cross the revised targets set for FY22 in the Budget.
- While on an overall basis the collections are 17.6 per cent higher than the same period last year, there is significant divergence amongst states, from the range of 2 per cent to 23 per cent.
- GST Compensation Cess collections crossed ₹10,000 crore in a month for the first time in February, which the Ministry said "signifies recovery of certain key sectors, especially, automobile sales".
- The cess collections in February were ₹10,340 crore, and included ₹638 crore collected on import of goods.

ROORKEE WATER CONCLAVE 2022

Union Minister for Jal Shakti inaugurated the 2nd edition of the 'Roorkee Water Conclave' at IIT, Roorkee and addressed the conference in virtual mode.



About:

- The Conclave is being jointly organised from 2nd March to 4th March 2022 by Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee and National Institute of Hydrology.
- Focusing on the theme, 'Water Security for Sustainable Development', this year's Conclave would focus upon understanding water security and its multiple facets underpinning sustainable water resource management as a key component of social development.

GENDER ROLES IN FAMILIES AND SOCIETY

While Indians accept women as political leaders, they mostly favour traditional gender roles in family life, says a report titled "How Indians view gender roles in families and society" and released by the Pew Research Center, a Washington DC-based non-profit.

About:

- According to the report, while 55% of Indians believed that men and women make equally good political leaders, "nine-in-ten Indians agree with the notion that a wife must always obey her husband".
- Indian women were only slightly less likely than Indian men to agree with this sentiment (61% versus 67%).
- Although most Indians expressed egalitarian views on gender roles, with 62% saying that both men and women should be responsible for child care, traditional norms still held sway, with 34% convinced that child care "should be handled primarily by women".
- Similarly, while a "slim majority (54%) says that both men and women" should be responsible for earning money, as many as 43% believed that earning an income is mainly the obligation of men.
- Also, 80% of Indians agreed with the idea that when there are few jobs, men should have more rights to a job than women.

- While Indians valued both sons and daughters, nearly 94% said it is very important for a family to have at least one son, with the corresponding figure for daughters being 90%.
- About 64% of Indians also said that sons and daughters should have equal rights to inheritance from parents. But while four-in-10 adults said that sons should have the primary responsibility to care for ageing parents, only 2% said the same about daughters.

VILLAGE DEFENCE COMMITTEES (VDCs) IN JAMMU

The Union government will re-establish village defence committees (VDCs) in Jammu to fight militancy, provide hi-tech weapons and ensure equal salary to its members.

About:

- VDCs will be re-established with a changed nomenclature. They will be called 'village defence groups' now.
- A formal order is expected soon from the Union Home Ministry.
- The VDCs were constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of the Jammu region to fight militants in far-off places. Around 26,567 locals were recruited into them. Most of the VDCs were disbanded after its members were accused of violence.

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh High Court directed the State government to construct and develop Amaravati, the capital city of the State, and the capital region within six months.



About:

- In a significant observation, the High Court held that the State legislature lacked the competence to make any legislation for shifting, bifurcating or trifurcating the capital.
- A three-judge Bench gave the final verdict after hearings in a case relating to a bunch of writ petitions filed by landowners of Amaravati

to declare that the State government had no legislative competence to change the capital or remove Amaravati from being the capital of the three civic wings — legislature, executive and judiciary — of the State.

Key facts

- Amaravati is the capital of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located on the banks of river Krishna in Guntur District.
- Amaravati, formerly known as “Dhānyakatakam” was an important Buddhist holy learning site.
- Its history dates back to 2nd Century BCE when it was the capital of the Satavahana Dynasty of the (Andhras), one of the earliest Indian empires and the ancestral dynasty of Andhra Pradesh.

HOLLONGI AIRPORT

Considering the importance of air connectivity to the capital city of Arunachal Pradesh, Airport Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the work of constructing a Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, 15 Kms from Itanagar



About:

- Itanagar Airport is an under-construction greenfield airport that is being constructed at Hollongi, which is situated 14 kilometres south of Itanagar, in the Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is being built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) over an area of 320 hectares.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project in 2019. The airport is planned for operationalization on 15th August 2022.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of International Telecommunication

Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi on 3rd March 2022

About:

- International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.
- ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions.
- Area Office and the Innovation Centre
- The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.
- The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for establishment and operations of the Area Office.
- The Area Office and the Innovation Centre is expected to be operational by mid 2022.

World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20)

- The agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony during the World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- WTSA is a four-yearly global conference of ITU dedicated to standardisation of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).
- India has proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024



RAJASTHAN GOVT ANNOUNCES 'CAMEL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY'

Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23. According to the government figures, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan and in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh

since 2012. There were about 2.5 lakh camels left when counted last in 2019.



- Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan and their number is continuously decreasing. The Rajasthan government had declared the camel as the state animal in 2014. About 85 per cent of the country's camels are found in Rajasthan followed by Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

Other Info:

World Camel Day is observed every year on 22 June to recognize the importance of camels to the livelihood of a large population.

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FUND (NDRF)

The High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, has approved additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five States and one Union Territory, which were affected by floods/landslides during 2021.

About:

- The NDRF was set up in accordance with Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It is meant to "meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation" for any disaster situation.
- The NDRF is placed in the "Public Account" of GOI under "reserve funds not bearing interest".

KAVACH

Union Minister of Railways inspected the trial of 'Kavach' working system between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway



About:

- The KAVACH is an indigenously developed ATP system by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry.
- KAVACH is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Danger (Red) and avoid collision.
- It activates the train braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions. In addition, it prevents collision between two Locomotives equipped with functional KAVACH system.
- It is a state of the art electronic system of Safety Integrity Level - 4 standards.
- 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4) certified technologies with the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MATERIALS (SAMat)

The foundation stone of the School of Advanced Materials (SAMat) was unveiled to bring together all the materials research activity of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research (JNCASR).

About:

- The setting up of new building facility will lead to new ideas, new thought processes, new facilities. SAMat in Sanskrit stands for equanimity. The idea of creating the SAMat was realized in 2018 and it consists of 28 faculty members drawn from several units.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) is a multidisciplinary research institute located at Jakkur, Bangalore.
- It was established in 1989 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India, to mark the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India.

- It is an autonomous institution under DST and an institution Deemed-to-be-University.

TELANGANA TOPPED THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF PER CAPITA NET STATE 2022

- Telangana became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

According to the MoSPI:

- The Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) of Telangana increased from Rs 359434 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22. It recorded GSDP growth by 31.12 per cent from 2011-12. It is one of the highest growth rates for any state in the country.
- In terms of the percentage growth in GSDP, Telangana has shown the most rapid increase in its growth rate by around 17% from 2020 to the present.
- Major projects include Rythu Bandhu scheme for farmers, the world's largest lift irrigation Kaleshwaram project to provide water to the fields, and the Arogya Laxmi scheme for pregnant and lactating women.

INDIA GLOBAL FORUM ANNUAL SUMMIT HELD IN BENGALURU

- India Global Forum's (IGF) annual summit is being organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The summit will bring together eminent faces of tech-driven disruption and those who have joined the unicorn club along with Union ministers, policymakers, and global business leaders.
- The previous editions were hosted in Dubai and the UK and addressed by esteemed speakers like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the PM of the UK Boris Johnson amongst other leaders from Governments and industry across the globe
- This is the first-ever edition of IGF at Bengaluru.



3RD NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL (NYPF) BEGINS IN NEW DELHI

- The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) has been organised jointly by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on March 10 and 11, 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the valedictory function on March 11.
- Objective of NYPF
- The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in the coming years, including public services. The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.

National Youth Parliament provides a platform for the youth to voice their thoughts opinions and dreams for the country and enable the youth to voice their concerns and local problems.

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the building of Rashtriya Raksha University near Gandhinagar in Gujarat on March 12, 2022. He also attended the 1st Convocation Ceremony of RRU-Gandhinagar as a Chief Guest.

About:

- Rashtriya Raksha University- an institution of National Importance is established by the Indian Parliament Act. The University aims to become an academic-research-training ecosystem for national security and police.
- Its endeavors focus on highly professional national security, police education, research, and training through its qualified civilian and security faculty.
- A total 1090 students will receive their degrees; out of which 13 students will get their honorary doctorate degrees, as well as 38 students, will be awarded Gold Medal.

Note

- Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh, a state-level sports programme at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad this evening.

PUSA KRISHI VIGYAN MELA

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry has said that more than forty thousand farmers across the country benefited from the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela held from 9th to 11th of March.

About:

- The mela has been organised by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on the theme 'Self-reliant farmer with technical knowledge' in New Delhi.
- During the festival, IARI gave live exhibitions on drone technology, precision farming, wheat varieties, fruits, vegetables, flowers, different agricultural models and farmer advisory services to them.

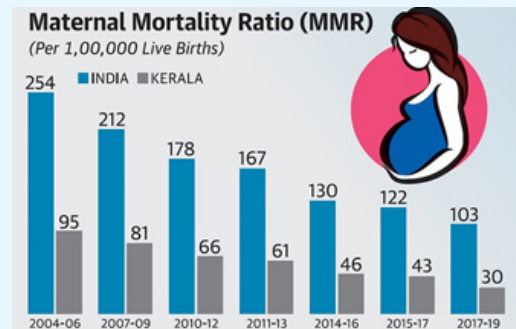


- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), commonly known as the Pusa Institute, is India's national Institute for agricultural research, education and extension.
- The name Pusa Institute is derived from the fact that the institute was originally located in Pusa Bihar as the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911.
- It was then renamed as the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute in 1919 and following a major earthquake in Pusa, it was relocated to Delhi in 1936.
- The current institute in Delhi is financed and administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The IARI was responsible for the research leading to the "Green Revolution in India" of the 1970s.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR)

Kerala has yet again emerged on top in maternal and child health, recording the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in the country.

About:



- According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017-19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, Kerala's MMR has dropped by 12 points.
- The last SRS bulletin (2015-17) had put the State's MMR at 42 (later adjusting it to 43).
- This puts Kerala way ahead of the national MMR of 103. Another State which has made significant gains is Maharashtra, whose MMR dipped from 55 to 38.

GENDER SAMWAAD

Over 3000 State Mission staff and Self-Help Group (SHG) members logged in from 34 states to attend the third edition of 'Gender Samwaad' organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development on the 11th of March 2022.

About:

- It is a national virtual initiative under the DAY-NRLM to generate greater awareness on the mission's interventions across the country with a gender lens.
- The theme for this edition was 'Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives'.
- The event enabled National and State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLM) to listen to voices from SHG women and for SRLMs to share and learn from best practices.

FIRST VIRTUAL SMART GRID KNOWLEDGE CENTRE INAUGURATED OF INDIA IN MANESAR, HARYANA

- The Union minister for power has inaugurated the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park in yet another digitisation effort aimed at advancing smart grid technologies and building capacity in the power distribution sector.

- The Minister requested that all distribution and transmission firms come to the SGKC, both physically and virtually, to take advantage of the technology.
- “The government will provide help to engineers and inventors with innovative smart system technology ideas,” Singh stated.
- The Union government’s new Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre, which is housed within the POWERGRID centre in Manesar, is the first of its type. This platform also hosts the solutions that are physically present at SGKC’s Manesar headquarters. This comprises advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), smart houses, microgrids, and the Outage Management System (OMS), among other things.

EATSMART CITIES CHALLENGE

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced eleven winning cities for the EatSmart Cities Challenge.



About:

- These cities will now enter the deep engagement stage of the challenge wherein projects undertaken in pilot stage will be scaled up in a sustainable manner.
- The challenge was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 15th April, 2021, to scale up the Eat Right India approach to city level.
- The EatSmart Cities Challenge has the objective of motivating Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment.
- The Challenge is envisioned as a competition among cities to recognize their efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under Eat Right India.
- All cities under the Smart Cities Mission, capitals of States/UTs and cities with population of more than 500,000 were invited to participate in the challenge.

INDIAN STANDARDS PERTAINING TO DRINKING WATER

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs informed Lok Sabha that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has made two Indian Standards pertaining to drinking water.

About:

- These are namely
- IS 10500:2012 on Drinking Water – Specification and
- IS 17482:2020 on Drinking Water Supply Management System - Requirements for Piped Drinking Water Supply.
- BIS quality standards are not mandatory for civic agencies engaged in supplying drinking water to houses across the country.
- Water Supply is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/Urban Local Bodies to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain the water supply systems.

HIJAB BAN

The Karnataka High Court upheld the ban on the wearing of hijab (head scarf) by students in schools and colleges in the State

The dress row | A brief timeline of events around the hijab controversy in Karnataka

December 2021: Muslim students of Government PU College for Girls, Udupi seek not to wear hijab in classes	February 10: The Bench restrains all the students from wearing hijabs, saffron shawls, and religious flags in classrooms until further orders
January 2022: Hijab row spreads to other districts of Karnataka	March 15: HC upholds legality of the State's guidelines
February 5, 2022: Karnataka government issues guidelines on uniforms	February 9: Four girls file petitions challenging the guidelines; Chief Justice sets up a three-judge Bench
Tightened vigil: Police outside the Karnataka HC after the hijab ban was upheld. • #11	There is sufficient intrinsic material within the scripture itself to support the view that wearing hijab been only commendatory, if at all it is

About:

- It held that wearing the hijab is not an essential religious practice in Islam and is not, therefore, protected under by the right to freedom of religion guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution.
- The court said it was a reasonable restriction that was constitutionally permissible.
- The Bench also upheld the legality of the Karnataka government’s February 5, 2022, order prescribing guidelines for uniforms in schools and pre-university colleges under the provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, after a row over hijab in Udupi and other districts.
- The Bench also spoke about the possibility of

some “unseen hands” behind the hijab row to engineer social unrest and disharmony, and expressed dismay over the issue being blown out of proportion. The court said that school uniform will cease to be a uniform if hijab is also allowed.

REJUVENATION OF 13 MAJOR RIVERS THROUGH FORESTRY

The Centre envisages a RS 19,000–crore project to rejuvenate 13 major rivers by planting trees, officials in the Environment and the Jal Shakti Ministries said

About:

- These ‘forestry’ interventions are expected to increase the cumulative forest cover by 7,417.36 sq. km. in the vicinity of these 13 rivers and would prevent 50.21 million tonnes of CO₂–equivalent in 10–year–old plantations and 74.76 million tonnes CO₂–equivalent in 20–year–old plantations.
- They would help recharge groundwater, reduce sedimentation, generate ₹449.01 crore from non-timber and other forest produce as well as provide employment of 344 million man–days.
- The rivers are the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Luni, Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Cauvery funded by the National Afforestation & Eco-development Board, (MoEF&CC).
- The two Ministries made public multiple voluminous Detailed Project Reports, for each of these rivers, prepared by the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun, (ICFRE).

INDIA'S SOLAR CAPACITY

India added a record 10 Gigawatt (GW) of solar energy to its cumulative installed capacity in 2021. This has been the highest 12-month capacity addition, recording nearly a 200% year-on-year growth.

About:

- India has now surpassed 50 GW of cumulative installed solar capacity, as on 28 February 2022.
- This is a milestone in India's journey towards generating 500 GW from renewable energy by 2030, of which 300 GW is expected to come from solar power.
- India's capacity additions rank the country fifth in solar power deployment, contributing

nearly 6.5% to the global cumulative capacity of 709.68 GW.

- However, there are some areas of concern to highlight.
- First, of the 50 GW installed solar capacity, an overwhelming 42 GW comes from ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, and only 6.48 GW comes from roof top solar (RTS); and 1.48 GW from off-grid solar PV.
- Despite significant growth in the installed solar capacity, the contribution of solar energy to the country's power generation has not grown at the same pace. In 2019-20, for instance, solar power contributed only 3.6% (50 billion units) of India's total power generation of 1390 BU.

MV RAM PRASAD BISMIL

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways achieved a landmark when the MV Ram Prasad Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra

About:

- The 90 meters long flotilla is 26 meters wide, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters.
- With this, it successfully completed the aspiring pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Haldia Dock in Kolkata after it anchored at Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The significance of this pilot run lays down the path for commencement of barging operation from Kolkata to Guwahati via Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBRP).
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) as well as Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) worked together so that this historic cargo movement can move smoothly.

INDIA'S 1ST DIGITAL WATER BANK 'AQVERIUM' LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU

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

some common development challenges.

- The digital water data bank also provides insights and evidence from research and analytics thereby providing fundamental reliable information for tackling water pollution.
- Data, in any field, facilitates building a broader picture that further enables us to harness the best evidence and make informed decisions. When it comes to making a water-secure world, data-driven decisions can greatly improve service delivery, sustain water resources and build resilience.

Accurate Data can help India:

- Water Crises is not as much of a problem as 'Water Management Crisis'. The key to managing water efficiently is having accurate, real-time data. Measuring can aid in managing.
- From looking at how much water the country has, to where it has, when it has and how this water is being used, is the only way various sectors could pursue the demand and harness water from every possible source. Accordingly, this way, a roadmap will be made for judicious use.
- With the inauguration of the first digital data bank in India, AI will aid in putting voluminous data for better understanding.

MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED IS NOW THE BIGGEST COAL-PRODUCING FIRM OF INDIA

- The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India, has announced that it has become the country's largest coal producer. In the financial year 2021-22, the company reported it produced 157 million tonnes of coal.
- KEY POINTS:
- The business also generated 7.62 lakh tonnes of dry fuel on March 12. In a statement, the corporation stated that it was the largest production in a single day during the current fiscal year.
- OP Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the firm, complimented all officials, workers, contracted company employees, and other stakeholders for their contributions in making MCL the country's biggest coal producer.
- In his congratulatory message to the employees, the CMD stated, "MCL has to play a bigger role in maintaining energy security for the nation."
- MCL has delivered over 166 MT dry fuel to consumers, a 22 percent increase over the

previous financial year, and has removed 195 MCuM (million cubic metres) of overburden, a 19 percent increase over the previous financial year, according to a statement.

NATION'S FIRST AI & ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY PARK (ARTPARK) LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU

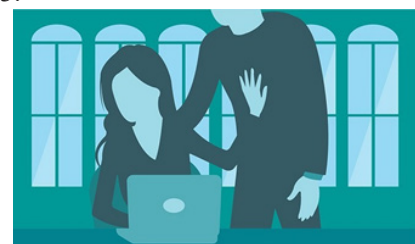
- The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs. 230 crore from the State and Central governments.
- ARTPARK (AI and Robotics Technology Park) along with AI Foundry is going to launch a \$100 million venture fund to support AI and robotics innovations in India. The fund will be backed by the government, private companies, and VCs.

About the ARTPARK:

- ARTPARK intends to use futuristic technologies to connect the unconnected will work with a focus on creating a globally leading Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in India.
- The ARTPARK has the objective of channelizing innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT OF 2013

- Kerala High Court asked organisations associated with the film industry to take steps to constitute a joint committee to deal with cases of sexual harassment of women, in line with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013.



About:

- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act was passed in 2013.
- It defined sexual harassment, lay down the procedures for a complaint and inquiry, and the action to be taken. It broadened the Vishaka guidelines, laid down by the Supreme Court in a judgment in 1997.
- The 2013 Act mandated that every employer must constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- It lay down procedures and defined various aspects of sexual harassment, including the aggrieved victim, who could be a woman “of any age whether employed or not”, who “alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment”.
- This meant that the rights of all women working or visiting any workplace, in any capacity, were protected under the Act.

BARC INDIA

Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India has resumed ratings for individual news channels, with the release of data for Week 10 of 2022.

About:

- The BARC India had temporarily suspended the viewership ratings of news channels in October 2020, amid the allegations of a Television Rating Point (TRP) scam.
- Following an industry-wide consultative process, the BARC Team, along with BARC TechComm, developed the Augmented Data Reporting Standards for News and Special Interest genres, aligned with the industry’s needs.
- As per revised approved standards, audience estimates will only be released based on a four-week rolling average, every week.

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNALS (AFT)

Members of the armed forces, including the Air Force, the Navy and the Army, can approach the High Courts to challenge the final decisions of the Armed Forces Tribunals (AFT) involving issues of pay, pension, promotion and discipline, the Delhi High Court has held.

About:

- The Delhi HC’s ruling is likely to provide reprieve to a large section appellants whose

only remedy until now was to petition the Supreme Court against the final order passed by an AFT.

- Armed Forces Tribunal is a military tribunal in India established under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007.
- The Principal Bench is located at Delhi with ten other benches across the country.

DRONE-BASED MINERAL EXPLORATION

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), Country’s largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel signed a MoU with IIT Kharagpur for drone-based mineral exploration



About:

- NMDC would be the first CPSE in India to conduct Drone-based Geophysical Surveys and Hyperspectral Studies for Mineral Exploration in the country.
- NMDC is conducting exploration for various minerals in the State of Madhya Pradesh and also in the Beloda-Belmundi block in Chhattisgarh for Diamonds.
- NMDC is also the first CPSE to use Space Geophysics in Central Indian Diamond Province and the first to use online monitoring of exploration of data on the BHUVAN platform.

ZOJI LA PASS

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened the gateway between Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir - the Zoji La Pass - for traffic on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh road at 11,650 feet on March 19, 2022, setting up an all-time record of the pass being opened after just 73 days of its closure this year.

About:

- This is the first time BRO has been able to achieve the feat, after it had kept the pass open till January 05, 2022 through relentless snow clearance operations amidst tough weather conditions.
- Since February 15, 2022, the snow clearance operations were undertaken from both sides

of the pass by Project Beacon and Vijayak, located in J&K and Ladakh respectively. After sustained efforts, the connectivity across Zoji La Pass was initially established on March 04, 2022.

- Usually, the Zoji La Pass used to remain closed for around 160-180 days during winters on account of heavy snowfall.

Note

- Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in Ladakh.
- Located in the Dras, the pass connects the Kashmir Valley to its west with the Dras and Suru valleys to its northeast and the Indus valley further east.

PAR TAPI NARMADA RIVER-LINKING PROJECT

On March 21, 2022, the tribals in Gujarat will hold a public meeting in Kaprada in Valsad district to protest against the Centre's Par Tapi Narmada river-linking project

About:

- The Par Tapi Narmada link project was envisioned under the 1980 National Perspective Plan under the former Union Ministry of Irrigation and the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- The project proposes to transfer river water from the surplus regions of the Western Ghats to the deficit regions of Saurashtra and Kutch.
- The excess water in the interlinked Par, Tapi and Narmada rivers which flow into the sea in the monsoon would be diverted to Saurashtra and Kutch for irrigation.
- It proposes to link three rivers — Par, originating from Nashik in Maharashtra and flowing through Valsad, Tapi from Saputara that flows through Maharashtra and Surat in Gujarat, and Narmada originating in Madhya Pradesh and flowing through Maharashtra and Bharuch and Narmada districts in Gujarat.
- The link mainly includes the construction of
 - seven dams (Jheri, Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar and Kelwan),
 - three diversion weirs (Paikhed, Chasmandva, and Chikkar dams),
 - two tunnels (5.0 kilometers and 0.5 kilometers length),
 - the 395-kilometre long canal (205 kilometre in

Par-Tapi portion including the length of feeder canals and 190 km in Tapi-Narmada portion), and

- six powerhouses.
- Of these, the Jheri dam falls in Nashik, while the remaining dams are in Valsad and Dang districts of South Gujarat

NEON GAS

The Ukraine-Russia conflict is expected to further impact the already stressed global semiconductor supply as raw material exported from the two countries such as neon gas, chemical C4F6 and palladium are critical for semiconductor manufacturing.

About:

- This has also put the Indian electronics and automobile manufacturing industry in a wait-and-watch mode.
- Neon prices had witnessed a tenfold increase during the 2014 Crimean crisis in Ukraine even as the semiconductor industry cut the total usage of the gas by 20% to 40% after adjusting software logic and optimising the purging process of the gas filling procedure.
- Two of Ukraine's leading suppliers of semiconductor-grade neon have halted their operations.
- The unavailability of crucial upstream raw materials can have a cascading impact through the supply chain, and impacting especially those manufacturers in Asia, who are reliant on Ukraine.
- Ukraine caters to almost 70% of the world's neon demand and the neon gas is a by-product of Russian steel plants, which is then filtered and supplied by Ukrainian companies.

Neon

- Neon is a chemical element with the symbol Ne and atomic number 10. It is a noble gas.
- Neon is a colorless, odorless, inert monatomic gas under standard conditions, with about two-thirds the density of air.

KASHMIRI PANDITS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the progress of rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants, including Kashmiri Pandits, during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu.

About:

- According to the Home Ministry, only 17% of the proposed accommodation for Kashmiri Pandits has been completed in the past seven years.
- The Union government, under the Prime Minister's Development Package announced in 2015, had approved the creation of 3,000 government jobs for Kashmiri migrants in the erstwhile State of J&K. So far, 1,739 migrants have been appointed and 1,098 others selected for the jobs.
- A similar package for migrants was announced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2008 under which 2,905 jobs had been filled out of the 3,000 jobs approved.
- In 2015, as many as 6,000 transit accommodation units were announced for the members who were to be provided jobs by the J&K administration at a cost of ₹920 crore. According to the Ministry data, till February 2022, construction of only 1,025 units had been partially or fully completed while work at more than 50% units was yet to start.

Background

- A large number of Pandits were forced to leave the Kashmir Valley from 1990 onwards due to rising terrorist attacks and calls for violence against the community.
- According to the Home Ministry, several Kashmiri migrants reside at existing transit accommodation at Vessu (Kulgam), Mattan (Anantnag), Hawl (Pulwama), Natnusa (Kupwara), Sheikhpura (Budgam) and Veerwan (Baramulla) in the Kashmir Valley other than the camps in Jammu.
- According to a 2020 parliamentary panel report, there are 64,827 registered migrant families in J&K — 60,489 Hindu families, 2,609 Muslim families and 1,729 Sikh families.
- Of the 64,827 families, 43,494 are registered in Jammu, 19,338 in Delhi and 1,995 families are settled in other States and Union Territories. Of the 43,494 migrant families, 5,248 are living in migrant camps.

TAX FREE MOVIE

With The Kashmir Files emerging as a crowd-puller and receiving political support, several states, including Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, have declared the movie tax-free.

About:

- There are no fixed criteria for a film to claim or enjoy tax exemption.
- As a general rule, when a film deals with a socially-relevant and inspiring subject, state governments may at times exempt it from tax with the intention of making it accessible to a wider audience.
- In the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, two slabs were introduced — 12 per cent GST on tickets costing less than Rs 100, and 18 per cent on more expensive tickets.
- The revenue is shared between the central and state governments. So when a state declares a film tax free now, only the SGST component is waived, while the CGST continues to be levied. Depending on the ticket price, the exemption could be 6 per cent or 9 per cent.
- Filmmakers look at a tax free tag as an endorsement from the government, and a boost to the film's image and publicity, even if it does not make a huge difference to the money that the film makes.



ASSAM ACCORD

Last week, the Assam government informed the Assembly that nearly 1.44 lakh illegal foreigners had been identified in the state until January 31 this year based on the 1985 Assam Accord, and around 30,000 of them had been deported to their country of origin.



About:

- The government added that definitions of phrases mentioned in the Accord such as 'Axomiya janagan' (Assamese people), 'khilonjia' (indigenous) and 'adi basinda' (original inhabitants) were yet to be determined.

- The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 by the Centre and the Assam government with the All Assam Student Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, which had spearheaded the 1979-85 Assam Movement against migration from Bangladesh.
- The Accord set March 24, 1971 as a cut-off. Anyone who had come to Assam before midnight on that date would be an Indian citizen, while those who had come after would be dealt with as foreigners. The same cut-off was used in updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, promises “constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people”, but doesn’t provide clear cut definitions to identify who would be the “Assamese people”.

ARCTIC REGION

India aspires to have a permanent presence with more research and satellite ground stations in the Arctic region, suggests a perusal of its Arctic Policy document officially unveiled last week.

Arctic Council

- Eight nations — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Russia, Sweden and the United States — make up the Arctic Council.
- India has the status of ‘Observer’ member — 12 other countries have such a status — in the Arctic Council and participates in several meetings that are mostly themed around research. Beyond science, India also expects business opportunities.

Significance



- Arctic weather influences the Indian monsoon and hence has been of interest to Indian

researchers for decades.

- Climate change and the melting of ice caps imply changes to the Arctic weather.

Activities by India

- India has had a research base in the region since 2008 and also has two observatories.
- India now has a single station, Himadri, in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, where research personnel are usually present for 180 days. India is in the process of procuring an ice-breaker research vessel that can navigate the region.
- India has sent 13 expeditions to the Arctic since 2007 and runs 23 active science projects.

NAGALAND BECAME FIRST PAPERLESS ASSEMBLY BY IMPLEMENTING E-VIDHAN APPLICATION

- Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.

About the NeVA:

- NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner.
- NeVA is a device neutral and member-centric application created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their handheld devices/ tablets and equip all Legislatures/Departments to handle it efficiently.

36TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI

- On a virtual platform, the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) will be placed here on March 20-22, 2022, with the topic Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future. The 36th International Geophysical Congress

is a collaboration between the Ministries of Mines and Earth Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

INDIAN PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE BEGINS IN VISAKHAPATNAM

- The 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) has been organized in Visakhapatnam from today to the 26th of March. Experts from various parts of India and a few from abroad are participating in the three-day conference held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam.



INDIAN
PSYCHIATRIC
SOCIETY

- The theme is chosen for ANCIPS – 2022 ‘Bridging minds ... Connecting generations’ was very appropriate in view of the growing generation gap and its impact on society

GOVERNMENT SET THE TARGET TO CREATE 220 NEW AIRPORTS BY 2025

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the Government has set a target of building 220 new airports by 2025, citing the Civil Aviation industry as a critical component of India’s economy.
- In response to the Civil Aviation Ministry’s requests for grants for 2022-23, Scindia stated that India has made progress in both domestic and foreign travel during the COVID-19 period. “Cargo flights for perishable food items will be boosted by 30% in the next few years, with 133 new flights,” he stated.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION & FICCI ORGANIZED ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’ IN HYDERABAD

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI are jointly organizing Asia’s largest event

on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’. WINGS INDIA AWARDS will also be conferred during this event. The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity. It is being held from 24th to 27th March 2022, at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

- The theme of the event: India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry.

BIPLOBI BHARAT GALLERY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata today on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas (March 23).

About:

- The Gallery displays the contribution of the Revolutionaries in the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to British colonial rule.
- The purpose of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947 and highlight the important role played by the Revolutionaries. Biplobi Bharat Gallery depicts the political and intellectual backdrop that triggered the Revolutionary movement.
- It showcases the birth of the revolutionary movement, formation of significant associations by revolutionary leaders, spread of the movement, formation of Indian National Army, contribution of Naval Mutiny, among others.

ASSAM – MEGHALAYA BORDER PACT

Assam and Meghalaya have partially resolved a 50-year-old border dispute in six of the 12 sectors along their 885-km boundary.

About:

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma signed a “historic” agreement for a closure in six disputed sectors that were taken up for resolution in the first phase.
- The pact was inked in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.
- The six disputed sectors are Tarabari, Gizang, Hahim, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pillangkata and Ratacherra under the Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro) and Cachar districts of Assam and the West Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi and East Jaintia Hills districts of Meghalaya.
- Out of the disputed 36.79 sq. km land, Assam will get 18.51 sq. km of the disputed areas and Meghalaya will get the remaining 18.28 sq.km.

About 70% of the inter-State boundary has now become dispute-free with the signing of the agreement.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

- The Rajya Sabha approved the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to remove the Bhogta caste from the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs).

About:

- The Bhogta caste will be included instead as a Scheduled Tribe in the State.
- The Bill also amends the schedule to the Scheduled Tribes order to include the Deshwari, Ganjhu, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia, Khairi (Kheri), Tamaria (Tamadia) and Puran communities on the ST list.

SAINIK SCHOOLS

Defence Ministry has approved setting up of 21 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs, private schools and State Governments.



About:

- These schools will be set up in the initial round of the Government's initiative of setting up of 100 new Sainik schools across the country in partnership mode.
- They will be distinct from the existing Sainik Schools.
- These new Sainik Schools, besides their affiliation to respective education boards, will function under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society and will follow the Rules and Regulations for new Sainik schools in partnership mode prescribed by the Society.
- The objectives behind setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools is to provide quality education to the students in tune with National Education Policy and give them better career opportunities,

including joining the Armed Forces.

- It also gives an opportunity to the private sector to work hand-in-hand with the Government towards nation building by refining today's youth to become responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Dare2eraD TB

Union Minister of Science & Technology announced the launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- "Dare2eraD TB" by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day.

About:

- The Minister said that Dare2eraD TB will be the umbrella TB program of DBT comprising of following key initiatives-
- InTGS - Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium;
- InTBK Hub- Indian TB Knowledge Hub- Webinar Series;
- Host Directed therapies against TB and developing an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- Union minister also said that Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium (InTGS) is proposed on lines of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) for Whole Genome Sequencing, (WSG) TB surveillance.

MALABAR REBELLION

- The Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the 1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs, including Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji and Ali Musliyar, from the list of India's freedom fighters.

About

- The panel was of the view that the rebellion that took place at Malabar was a one-sided attack on Hindus. Just two Britishers were killed during the unrest and hence the rebellion could not be considered as part of the freedom struggle.
- The subcommittee had recommended the removal of the Malabar Rebellion leaders, mostly Muslims, from the list. This is viewed by some as an attempt to distort history.

- The Malabar rebellion or Mappila riots occurred between August 1921 and 1922 in the southern part of the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency (now part of Kerala).
- The uprising was by the Mappila peasantry (mainly Muslims) against the prevailing feudal system in the region controlled by upper-caste Hindus, whom the British had also appointed in positions of authority for their support





US, EU, UK DECIDED TO ELIMINATE SELECTED RUSSIAN BANKS FROM SWIFT

- Canada, U.S.A. and their European allies have come to a conclusion to remove the key Russian banks from the Interbank messaging system (IMS) of SWIFT.
- This is a very big step that will cut off the country from much of the worldwide financial system.

What is SWIFT?

- SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications and is an independent enterprise, which is based in Belgium.

SWIFT serves as an internal communication mechanism between around 11,000 banks and financial institutions for more than 200 countries and territories.

JAPAN AND INDIA RENEWS THE BILATERAL SWAP ARRANGEMENT (BSA)

- Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) the size of which is up to USD 75 billion.
- The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar
- The interest rate charged in this case is fixed at the time of signing the agreement and hence it reduces the risk caused due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.



- The actual Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was signed between the Bank of Japan and the Reserve Bank of India in 2018.

What does BSA between India and Japan mean?

- It means that Japan and India can borrow money from each other in either their currency i.e Indian Rupee or Japanese Yen or US Dollar. This can be further explained as mentioned below:
- When India wants to borrow money from Japan it can borrow in US Dollars or Japanese Yen up to the limit of \$75 billion.
- When Japan wants to borrow money from India it can borrow in US Dollars or Indian Rupees up to the limit of \$75 billion.
- The countries will pay interest on the amount actually borrowed at an interest rate fixed at the time of borrowing the money.

28TH DST-CII INDIA- SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2022



- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GoI hosted the 28th edition of the DST – CII Technology Summit on 23rd and 24th of February 2022. The Summit was held virtually.
- Singapore is the Partner Country for this year's Technology Summit. Technology Summit has been very crucial in providing significant opportunities to build and improve bilateral technology partnerships over a period of more than two decades. Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, GoI.

RUSSIA DESTROYED THE LARGEST PLANE IN THE WORLD 'MRIYA'

- Russian invasion to Ukraine, Russia destroyed the largest plane in the world called "Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane".

- The plane was destroyed outside Kyiv. According to weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom, restoring “AN-225 Mriya” would cost over USD 3 billion and could take over five years.
- The aircraft was unique to the world. The An-225 aircraft was located at Hostomel Airport when Russia launched an attack on the Ukrainian airport on February 24, 2022. It was destroyed on February 27.



About the plane:

- The aircraft was designed to airlift Energia rocket’s boosters and Buran-class orbiters for Soviet space program. It was developed to replace the Myasishchev VM-T.
- The original mission and objectives of An-225 are almost similar to that of the United States’ Shuttle Carrier Aircraft. The lead designer of the An-225 was Viktor Tolmachev.
- It was 84 meters long and could transport up to 250 tonnes of cargo at a speed of 850 kilometres per hour

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

Ukraine has filed an application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), instituting proceedings against the Russia concerning “a dispute relating to the interpretation of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” (the “Genocide Convention”).

About:

- Ukraine has accused Russia of falsely claiming that “acts of genocide have occurred in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine”, and of using that as a pretext to recognise the independence of these regions and of going to war against Ukraine.
- The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- Like the PCIJ, the ICJ is based at the Peace Palace in The Hague. It is the only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City.
- The ICJ has 15 judges who are elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately.

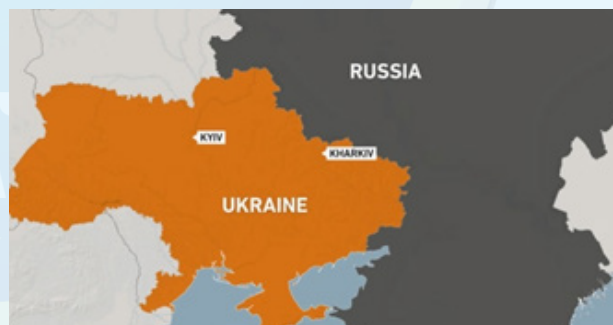


Timeline

- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.
- The court is the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ). The PCIJ was formally dissolved in April 1946, and its last president, Judge José Gustavo Guerrero of El Salvador, became the first president of the ICJ.
- The first case, which was brought by the UK against Albania and concerned incidents in the Corfu channel — the narrow strait of the Ionian Sea between the Greek island of Corfu and Albania on the European mainland — was submitted in May 1947.

KHARKIV

India’s evacuation exercise faces a challenge after the death of an Indian student during shelling in Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second largest city which has been attacked by Russia.



About:

- The death also complicates New Delhi’s diplomatic hand — it had been projecting itself as a neutral actor, refusing to take sides.
- Suddenly, the safety and security of around 8,000 Indian nationals still there has become an issue of urgent concern.

Kharkiv

- Kharkiv, also known as Kharkov, is the second-largest city and municipality in Ukraine.
- Located in the northeast of the country, it is the largest city of the historic Slobozhanshchyna region.

- Kharkiv is located at the banks of the Kharkiv, Lopan, and Udy rivers, where they flow into the Seversky Donets watershed in the north-eastern region of Ukraine.

INDIAN AND RUSSIAN DEFENCE TIES

With tensions escalating between Russia and the West over the Ukraine crisis, India, which has major defence cooperation with Moscow and Kyiv, faces uncertainty over timely deliveries in the near future in addition to the lingering threat of the U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) over the S-400 deal.



About:

- Russia is the second largest arms exporter in the world, following only the United States. In the five-year period between 2016 and 2020 America's share in the global arms trade was 37 per cent, compared to 20 per cent of Russia's, as per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which tracks the global arms trade and military expenditure.
- For Russia, India is the largest importer, and for India, Russia the largest exporter when it comes to arms transfer.
- Between 2000 and 2020, Russia accounted for 66.5 per cent of India's arms imports. Of the \$53.85 billion spent by India during the period on arms imports, \$35.82 billion went to Russia.
- During the same period imports from the US were worth \$4.4 billion, and from Israel it was worth US\$ 4.1 billion.
- Russia's share in Indian arms imports was down to about 50 per cent between 2016 and 2020, but it still remained the largest single importer.

MONTREUX CONVENTION

Turkey is set to implement an international convention on naval passage through two of its strategic straits, which would allow them to limit the movement of Russian warships between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.



About:

- Turkey said that the situation in Ukraine had become a war, a declaration that authorises Turkey to activate the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara. It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.

Montreux Convention

- According to the 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits, often referred to simply as the Montreux Convention, Turkey has control over both the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits.
- In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict.
- Russia's location on the Black Sea complicates the situation. Article 19 of the treaty contains an exception for the countries on the Black Sea that can effectively undermine Turkey's power in blocking the Russian warships entering or exiting the Black Sea.

KHERSON

Ukrainians are battling on in the port of Kherson, the first sizeable city Russia claimed to have seized, while air strikes and bombardment caused further devastation in other cities, especially Kharkiv in the east.



About:

- Russia said it had captured Kherson, a southern provincial capital of around 2,50,000 people strategically placed where the Dnipro River

flows into the Black Sea.

- Also in the south, Russia was bombarding the port of Mariupol, which it says it has surrounded in a ring around the Sea of Azov.

ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

The Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said it was putting on hold and reviewing all projects in Russia and Belarus.



About:

- The move comes amid sweeping sanctions and other financial measures aimed at Russia from a number of countries over its invasion of Ukraine.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia. AIIB is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- When was AIIB established?
 - January 16, 2016.
- AIIB has 105 members. China is the AIIB's largest shareholder with a 26.5% voting share. India is the second-largest, with 7.5%, followed by Russia, which has a 5.97% voting share. Belarus is also a member.
- All powers of the Bank are vested in our Board of Governors, which is the highest decision-making body under its Articles of Agreement.
- The bank is headed by China's Jin Liqun. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel is a Vice-President of the bank.

ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR PLANT

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station, Europe's largest nuclear power plant was hit by Russian shelling, sparking a fire and raising fears of a disaster that could affect all of central Europe for decades, like the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown.

About:

- Concerns faded after Ukrainian authorities announced that the fire had been extinguished, and while there was damage to the reactor compartment, the safety of the unit was not affected.
- But even though the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is of a different design than Chernobyl and is

protected from fire, nuclear safety experts and the International Atomic Energy Agency warn that waging war in and around such facilities presents extreme risks.

- Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is located in Enerhodar, Ukraine, on the southern shore of the Kakhovka Reservoir on the Dnieper river.
- It is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. The plant has 6 VVER-1000 pressurized light water nuclear reactors (PWR).

KEELADI EXCAVATIONS: IVORY DICE UNEARTHED

- A rectangular dice made of ivory has been unearthed by the Tamil Nadu state archaeology department which is carrying out the eighth phase of excavation at the Keeladi ancient site.
- The archaeologist discovered the ivory dice, measuring 4.5 cm x 0.9 cm x 0.9 cm, on Thursday.
- People who lived in Keeladi had used circles to indicate the numbers on the dice. One side has a single circle, another two, then three and four.
- Four beads were also found in a quadrant at the site at a depth of two feet.

PAKISTAN AGAIN PLACED ON FATF'S GREY LIST

- The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), retained Pakistan in the grey list and asked the country to work on money laundering investigations and prosecutions. FATF also added the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to its grey watchlist.
 - FATF grey list is the list in which jurisdictions under increased monitoring are placed. If a jurisdiction is placed under increased monitoring, this means that jurisdiction is committed to resolving strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes.
 - Jurisdictions under the FATF grey list actively work with FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regime to fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

HYBRID FORM UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA

- The United Nations Environment Assembly was hosted by the UN Environment Programme. It brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member countries, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on

policies to address the world's most serious environmental concerns.

- Aim
- The aim of UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” emphasising the importance of nature in our lives as well as in social, economic, and environmental sustainability.
- Its goal was to give nations the impetus they needed to build on and catalyse global environmental initiatives to safeguard and restore the natural world on which our economy and societies rely.

MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT (MVA)

With Bhutan continuing to sit out the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) of the sub-regional Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping, a meeting of the other three countries was held to discuss the next steps in operationalising the agreement for the free flow of goods and people between them.



About:

- The original BBIN MVA was signed by all four countries in June 2015, but after objections in Bhutan over sustainability and environmental concerns, the Bhutanese Parliament decided not to endorse the plan.
- The then Tobgay Tshering government agreed to allow the other three countries to go ahead with the project for vehicular movement (BIN-MVA) in 2017.
- Officials said that while India remained “hopeful” that Bhutan could change its position on the project, it was decided at a meeting in November 2021 to go ahead for now, given that there are no new signals from Thimphu on the project.
- Progress on the seven-year-old project has been slow, despite several trial runs being held along the Bangladesh-India-Nepal road route for passenger buses and cargo trucks. There are still some agreements holding up the final protocols.
- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Colombo at the end of March to attend the summit of another sub-regional grouping, BIMSTEC (Bay of

Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), which includes Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan as well.

GERMANY TO HOST G7 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS VIRTUAL MEETING

- The German government has stated that it will hold a virtual meeting of G7 agriculture ministers to explore the implications of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on global food security. The meeting, according to Cem Zdemir, Germany's Minister of Agriculture and Food, will also focus on ways to stabilise food markets.

KEY POINTS:

- According to the government, Germany will hold a virtual meeting of G7 agricultural ministers to address the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on global food security and how to best stabilise food markets.
- Food security in Germany and the European Union is assured, but bigger shortages are likely in some countries outside the EU, particularly where scarcity already exists due to concerns such as drought.
- Price increases for agricultural items cannot be ruled out in developed countries.”
- This year, Germany is the rotating president of the Group of Seven advanced economies.
- Russia refers to its efforts in Ukraine as a “special operation,” claiming that they are not intended to take territory but rather to damage Ukraine's military capabilities and catch those it considers to be dangerous nationalists.

WHO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO).

About:

- The WHO GCTM will be established in Jamnagar under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- This would be the first and only global outpost Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization announced the establishment of WHO GCTM in India

on the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on 13th November, 2020

- A Joint Task Force (JTF) is constituted for coordination, execution and monitoring of activities for the establishment of this Centre. JTF comprises representatives from the Government of India, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and the World Health Organization.

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

Joint Statement was issued at the conclusion of the 5th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment held in New Delhi on March 11, 2022.

About:

- The Ministers agreed to formally re-launch the negotiations for India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and also consider an Interim Agreement or Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) that could bring early commercial gains to both the countries.
- The Interim Agreement would include high level commitments in goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and dispute settlement, and may also cover any other areas mutually agreed upon.
- Canada also agreed to examine expeditiously the request for Conformity Verification Body (CVB) status to APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) for facilitating Indian organic export products.
- India-Canada Bilateral Center will be set up for dedicated science and technology activities between the two countries. India has already established such bilateral centres in countries like US, Germany and France.

MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS

The United States, the European Union, Britain, Canada and Japan are planning to jointly revoke Russia's "most favoured nation" (MFN) status over its invasion of Ukraine.

About:

- The World Trade Organization's 164 members commit to treating other members equally so they can all benefit from each other's lowest tariffs, highest import quotas and fewest trade barriers for goods and services.
- This principle of non-discrimination is known as most favoured nation (MFN) treatment.
- There are some exceptions, such as when members strike bilateral trade agreements or when members offer developing countries

special access to their markets.

Removal of MFN status

- There is no formal procedure for suspending MFN treatment and it is not clear whether members are obliged to inform the WTO if they do so.
- India suspended Pakistan's MFN status in 2019 after a suicide attack by a Pakistan-based Islamist group killed 40 police. Pakistan never applied MFN status to India.

What does losing MFN status mean?

- Revoking Russia's MFN status sends a strong signal that the United States and its Western allies do not consider Russia a economic partner in any way, but it does not in itself change conditions for trade.
- It does formally allow the Western allies to increase import tariffs or impose quotas on Russian goods, or even ban them, and to restrict services out of the country.
- They could also overlook Russian intellectual property rights.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

As the Russian military continues to sweep through Ukraine there is growing concern surrounding the issue of violations of human rights and Geneva Conventions

About:

- The Geneva Conventions are a set of four treaties, formalised in 1949, and three additional protocols, which codify widely accepted ethical and legal international standards for humanitarian treatment of those impacted by war.
- The focus of the Conventions is the treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war, and not the use of conventional or biological and chemical weapons, the use of which is governed respectively by the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Protocol.
- The Geneva Conventions have been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states. The three Protocols have been ratified by 174, 169 and 79 states respectively.

List

- The First Geneva Convention protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during war.
- The Second Geneva Convention protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war.
- The Third Geneva Convention applies to

prisoners of war, including a wide range of general protections such as humane treatment, maintenance and equality across prisoners etc.

- The Fourth Geneva Convention protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

Adani Group has signed a deal for two large power projects in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, six months after it bagged a strategic port terminal project in Colombo that it is now executing with majority stakes.

About:

- The two renewable energy projects, involving the Adani Group, were aimed at generating combined capacity of 500 MW, at a cost of \$500 million.
- Both projects are in the Northern Province, where India objected to a Chinese energy project last year, citing proximity to the Tamil Nadu coast.
- The agreement was inked the same day that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) agreed to set up a 100 MW solar power project in Sampur, in the eastern Trincomalee district.

Background

- Sri Lanka has a daily peak demand of over 2000 MW, and is currently experiencing a severe fuel and power shortage, resulting in right hour-long power cuts across the country that citizens' groups have been protesting.
- Sri Lanka is also in the midst of its worst economic crisis in years, prompting the government to tap assistance from different sources.

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Amid mounting calls to prosecute Russian president Vladimir Putin, the International Criminal Court (ICC) earlier this month launched an investigation into the alleged war crimes committed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

About:

- HQ: The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent judicial body based at The Hague in the Netherlands.
- Background: It was created by the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (its founding and governing document), and began functioning on 1 July 2002 when the Statute came into force.
- Mandate: The forum was established as a court of last resort to prosecute offences that would otherwise go unpunished, and has jurisdiction over four main crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- Members: 123 nations are States Parties to the Rome Statute and recognise the ICC's authority; the notable exceptions being the US, China, Russia, and India.
- Judges: 18; Elected for 9-year term.
- Relation with UN: While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations. When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC granting it jurisdiction.

MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

The Museum of the Future in Dubai was recently thrown open to the public.



About:

- The Museum of the Future is an exhibition space for innovative and futuristic ideologies, services, and products. The goal of this museum is to promote technological development and innovation, especially in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI).
- The museum reportedly takes the visitors on an experiential journey, transporting them to the year 2071, to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the UAE.
- Located in the Financial District of Dubai, UAE, the Museum of the Future has three main elements: green hill, building, and void.
- Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation, it was opened on 22nd February of 2022. The choice of the date was officially made because the 22nd of February 2022 is the Palindrome date.

Palindrome

- A palindrome is a word, number, phrase, or other sequence of characters which reads the same backward as forward, such as madam or racecar.
- Tuesday, 22 February 2022 is considered a palindrome day (22022022 using dd-mm-yyyy format) as it can be read from left to right or vice versa.

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONITOR (GEM)

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) is an international project which seeks to provide information on the entrepreneurial landscape of countries.

About:

- GEM carries out survey-based research on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship ecosystems around the world and is being led by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad.
- As per Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)

India Report (21-22), India's entrepreneurial activity expanded in 2021, with its Total Entrepreneurial Activity rate (percentage of adults (aged 18–64) who are starting or running a new business) increased to 14.4% in 2021, up from 5.3% in 2020.

- Further, Established Business Ownership rate (percentage of adults (aged 18–64) who are currently the owner-manager of an established business, i.e. owning and managing a business that has paid salaries, wages or any other payments to the owners, for more than 42 months) increased to 8.5%, from 5.9% in 2020.

BANGLADESH TOP IN SOUTH ASIA IN TERMS OF WOMEN ON BOARD OF LISTED COMPANIES

- Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies, says a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- According to the latest figures, there was an increase in the percentage of women who are independent directors on listed companies from five per cent in 2020 to six per cent, despite the impact of COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected women, said a press release issued by the IFC.
- The findings were revealed at an event marking International Women's Day. The IFC, DSE, UN Women, and United Nations Global Compact organised the programme.
- The IFC has partnered with the DSE, UN Women, and United Nations Global Compact for the seventh consecutive year to "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality"

INDIA – SRI LANKA RELATIONS

India extended a \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka to assist the island nation through its worst foreign exchange crisis and enable it to procure food, medicines and essential items.

About:

- An agreement to this effect was signed between the State Bank of India and the government of Sri Lanka, during a visit of the country's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa to New Delhi. "Neighbourhood first."
- In 2022, so far India has extended \$1.4 billion support to Sri Lanka, through a \$400-million RBI currency swap, deferral of a \$0.5 billion loan and another half a billion as a line of credit for the country to sustain its essential fuel imports.

Background



- Sri Lanka is facing its worst financial crisis, and had declared an emergency in August last in the face of a crippling foreign exchange crunch. The nation is still facing significant fuel and gas shortages, and high inflation in essential goods as well as food items.
- Sri Lanka is due to repay foreign debt totalling nearly \$7 billion this year, amid a persisting shortage of dollars to import food, medicines and other essentials. It has already sought China's help to restructure its loans that amount to 10% of its total foreign debt.
- Much of Sri Lanka's external borrowings are though sovereign bonds in the international money market.

KINZHAL MISSILE

Russia said that it had unleashed hypersonic missiles against an arms depot in Ukraine, the first use of the next-generation weapons in combat.



About:

- Russia's new Kinzhal (Dagger) hypersonic missile is a nuclear-capable air-launched ballistic missile that flies at 10 times the speed of sound and can overcome air-defence systems. Kinzhal means 'dagger'.
- The missile has a range of approximately 1,500-2,000km and can carry a nuclear payload or conventional payload of 480 kg.
- They are normally defined as fast, low-flying, and highly manoeuvrable weapons designed to be too quick and agile for traditional missile defence systems to detect in time.

- Unlike ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons don't follow a predetermined, arched trajectory and can manoeuvre on the way to their destination.
- The term "hypersonic" describes any speed faster than five times that of sound, which is roughly 760 miles (1,220 kilometers) per hour at sea level, meaning these weapons can travel at least 3,800 miles per hour.
- At hypersonic speeds, the air molecules around the flight vehicle start to change, breaking apart or gaining a charge in a process called ionization. This subjects the hypersonic vehicle to "tremendous" stresses as it pushes through the atmosphere.
- There are two main types of these weapons — glide vehicles and cruise missiles.
- Analysts say Russia is leading the hypersonics race, followed by China and the U.S.

INDIA – JAPAN SUMMIT

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrived in India for his first visit to the country as the head of government. He met PM Narendra Modi for bilateral talks.



About:

- India and Japan set an investment target of "five trillion yen" (\$42 billion) in the next five years, the leaders announced after a meeting in New Delhi for the 14th annual summit, where several agreements were signed.
- The two sides also exchanged six agreements on cybersecurity, economic partnerships, waste-water management, urban development, a clean energy partnership and an agreement on promoting bamboo-based products from the northeast region.
- The "2+2" meeting of Foreign and Defence Ministers in the next few months is due to take forward agreements on the strategic partnership and PM Modi is expected to visit Tokyo in May or June, where he will also attend the Quad summit with the U.S. President and Australian Prime Minister.

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

Japan has still not given up hope that India might reconsider joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) from which it opted out in 2019, a senior Japanese official said.



About:

- This indicated that India-Japan collaborations in other countries may be impacted if India continues to stay out.
- The RCEP “Rules of Origin” clause could also make it more difficult for products that have an Indian component to be sold easily among the 15-member grouping countries in future.

RCEP

- The 15-nation RCEP is the world’s largest trade deal and includes China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand and 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and represents about 30% of global GDP and population.
- It came into force on January 1, 2022.
- India was a founding member at the negotiations that began in 2012, but PM Modi announced his government was walking out of the agreement in 2019, after being unable to resolve concerns on dumping from China and allowing Indian services free access in the region.
- Since then, Japan and Australia, two countries that continue to convene the trilateral trade dialogue they started during RCEP negotiations with India, have said that they would welcome India back to the agreement if it decides to re-join, which was accepted by the RCEP grouping as well.

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (LAS)

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla spoke at a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

About:

- The Arab League, formally the League of Arab States, is a regional organization in the Arab world, which is located in Northern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, and Western Asia.
- The Arab League was formed in Cairo on 22

March 1945 initially with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (renamed Jordan in 1949), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

- Currently, the League has 22 members, but Syria’s participation has been suspended since November 2011.
- Administrative centre: Cairo, Egypt

INDIA-RUSSIA ENERGY TIES

- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha that India imported less than 1% of its crude oil requirement from Russia.



About:

- He was responding to a query whether the new energy cooperation agreements, including a contract for Rosneft signed in December 2021, may be impacted by the Ukraine-Russia conflict and whether the exit of British Petroleum from Rosneft impacted the Indian Oil Corporation’s investment.
- Puri observed that Indian oil companies had invested \$16 billion in Russia, and some of those investments were profitable.
- For example, Sakhalin-1 where OVL [ONGC Videsh Ltd.] has a 20% stake, the investment of \$337 million has led to an overall revenue of \$3.7 billion and we still have 20 years of assets left.

INDIA – SRI LANKA RELATIONS

India will set up hybrid power projects in three islands off Jaffna, effectively replacing the Chinese venture cleared by Colombo last year.



About:

- The MoU for the project was among those signed during a meeting between visiting External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his Sri Lankan counterpart G.L. Peiris.
- It is the third Indian energy project coming up in Sri Lanka’s north and east, after the recent

agreements for National Thermal Power Corporation's solar venture in the eastern Sampur town, and the Adani Group's renewable energy projects in Mannar and Pooneryn in north.

- In January 2021, Sri Lanka's Cabinet decided to award renewable energy projects in Nainativu, Delft or Neduntheevu, and Analaitivu islands to Chinese firm Sinosoar-Etechwin.
- India was quick to express concern over the Chinese project coming up in the Palk Bay, barely 50 km off Tamil Nadu. India offered to execute the same project with a grant rather than a loan.
-
- Meanwhile, India and Sri Lanka have also agreed to set up a Maritime Rescue Coordination Center. The initiative, involving Bharat Electronics and a \$6 million Indian grant, obtained Cabinet approval last week.
- India will also help develop fisheries harbours in Point Pedro, Pesalai and Gurunagar in the Northern Province, and Balapitiya, south of Colombo, apart from supporting schools in the southern Galle district with computer labs, extending a grant for Sri Lanka's Unique Digital Identity project.

BIMSTEC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for strengthening the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), and welcomed the unveiling of the Charter of the organisation that connects the littoral countries of the Bay of Bengal.



About:

- The summit concluded in Colombo.
- The signing of the Charter was the main outcome of this summit. Under this Charter, the members were expected to meet once in every two years.

- With the Charter, the BIMSTEC now has an international personality. It has an emblem, it has a flag. It has a formally listed purpose and principles that it is going to adhere to. It represents significant evolution of the grouping.
- India will be the "security pillar" of the BIMSTEC. For developing the organisation into a formal structure, the leaders of the member-countries had agreed to divide the working of the grouping into seven segments, with India providing leadership to the security pillar.
- The Prime Minister called for a Free Trade Agreement among the member countries.
- The summit saw the declaration of the Master Plan for Transport Connectivity that would provide a framework for regional and domestic connectivity.
- He mentioned the necessity for coastal shipping ecosystem and electricity grid interconnectivity, as two of the necessary components of the evolving shape of the BIMSTEC.

RUBLE

On March 23, Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that European countries must pay for all natural gas imports in rubles instead of the US dollar or the euro. The European Union imports 40 per cent of its natural gas requirements.

About:

- The Russian ruble or rouble is the official currency of the Russian Federation. The ruble is subdivided into 100 kopeks.
- Russia would not accept natural gas payments in currencies that have "compromised". This list of currencies included dollars and euros.
- The move to accept payments only in rubles has been done to increase the demand for rubles in the international market.
- The ruble had been weakening against the dollar in the weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine.

SMOKING BAN

As per the estimates of WHO (and the FDA of the US) 1.3 billion people (among the 7.9 billion across the world) who smoke, and 80% of them live in low and middle- income countries.

About:

- A recent article by Dr. Smiljanic Stasha points out that smoking causes over seven million deaths every year,
- 6 million young Americans might die because of smoking

- Second hand smoking causes 1.2 million deaths worldwide
- Smoking is one of the world's leading causes of impoverishment, and
- In 2015, 7 out of 10 smokers (68%) reported that they wanted to quit completely.
- And a recent issue of Nature Medicine points out that after the WHO adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2003, it has been included as a Global Development Target in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD).
- If all the 155 signatory countries adopt smoking bans, health warnings, advertising bans and raise cigarette costs, this sustainable development is indeed possible.

INDIA, UAE TRADE PACT

The free trade agreement between India and the UAE is likely to come into effect from May 1 this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.



About:

- Under this, domestic exporters of as many as 6,090 goods from sectors such as textiles, agriculture, dry fruits, gem and jewellery would get duty-free access to the UAE market.
- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February which aims to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next five years from current \$60 billion.
- The two countries have agreed to set up a technical council on Investment, Trade Promotion and Facilitation, as part of the agreement signed.
- Overall, the UAE is offering duty elimination on over 97% of its products which account for 99% of Indian exports here in value terms.
- Immediate duty-free access covers all labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles and apparel, agricultural and fish products, leather, footwear, and sport goods, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and many engineering products.
- Currently, India is exporting about \$26 billion worth of goods to the UAE, almost 90% of

them will get total tariff (or customs duty) elimination on Day 1 itself. Going forward, the rest of the 9.5% (about 1,270 goods) will also get zero duty.

MALDIVES - INDIA RELATIONS

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar was on a two-day official visit to the Maldives till March 27, where he engaged in the review of the progress of various areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries

About:

- During the visit, the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPL) in Addu City, was inaugurated in the southernmost atoll of the Indian Ocean archipelago, that was established under Indian grant assistance.
- The establishment of the police academy had, till recently, been India's largest grant-funded project prior to the Greater Male Connectivity Project for which India extended a \$400 million line of credit in 2020.
- In addition to the inauguration of this academy, an MoU was signed between the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), the prestigious training institute in Hyderabad, and the Maldives Police Service.

Comment

- On the domestic level in the Maldives, the training academy would help strengthen law enforcement abilities to counter drug trafficking and growing Radicalisation, a major concern in the country.
- Defence security cooperation between India and the Maldives has been happening for some time now and a large number of their personnel travel overseas for training, including to India.
- the Colombo Security Conclave, a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, where intelligence sharing is also a part of this trilateral security cooperation.



CDSL BECOMES FIRST DEPOSITORY TO REGISTER MORE THAN 60 MILLION DEMAT ACCOUNTS

- On the 1st of March, 2022, the Central Depository Services (India) announced that it now has more than six crores (i. e. equivalent to 60 million) active Demat accounts.
- A Demat account is a kind of account that can be used to keep online copies of securities and shares.
- A Demat account is a dematerialized account in its entire form.
- The main purpose of a Demat account is to keep shares that have been bought or dematerialized (that means conversion from physical to electronic form of shares), making online share trading easier for users.

KEY POINTS:

- The sole listed depository in India is Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL).
- Ananta Barua, Whole Time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India, said at a ceremony to commemorate the achievement that Dematerialisation has arose as a result of the issues that physical shares had with them.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES "PROJECT BANKSAKHI" IN ODISHA

- Public sector lender, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced the launch of "Project Banksakhi" in Odisha in collaboration with Mahagram & Sunivesh India Finance Services Pvt. Ltd. for Online Bank Account opening.
- It will provide doorstep and hassle-free access to the people of Odisha for opening bank accounts.
- The people of Odisha using our innovative customer-friendly financial services and best in class customer experience across digital and physical touchpoints.

NSO PROJECTS GDP GROWTH FOR INDIA IN 2021-22 AT 8.9%

- National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the second advance estimates of national accounts. The GDP growth rate projection

as per NSO for 2021-22 (FY22) and 2020-21 (FY21) is given below:

- For 2021-22 (FY22)= 8.9% (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates)
- For 2020-21 (FY21)= -6.6% (earlier it was -7.3%)
- According to NSO data, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector growth remained almost flat at 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22, compared to a growth of 8.4 per cent a year ago.

INDIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 8.9% in 2021-22 instead of the 9.2% estimated earlier, with year-on-year growth during October-December 2021 slipping to 5.4% from 8.5% in the previous quarter, as per the second advance national income estimates released



About:

- Gross Value-Added (GVA) in the economy is expected to grow by 8.3% this financial year, from a 4.8% contraction in 2020-21, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said.
- Barring the contact-intensive segment of trade, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting, all sectors are expected to surpass pre-pandemic GVA levels this year.
- India's GDP shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, with the first half of the year recording a sharp contraction before GDP resurfaced to clock 0.7% growth in the October-December 2020 quarter.

- Economists expect the full year growth hopes for this year to be pared further from the 8.9% projected by the NSO, especially in light of the high oil prices as well as inflation trajectories.
- The GDP growth rates for the first and second quarters of 2021-22 were revised upwards marginally by the NSO from 20.1% to 20.3% and 8.4% to 8.5%, respectively.

MINIMUM ASSURED RETURN SCHEME (MARS)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), which operates the National Pension System (NPS), is preparing to launch a guaranteed return scheme, Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS), which will provide savers and people from the salaried class an option for their investments.

About:

- The regulator has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant to help design the proposed MARS under the NPS. This will be the first scheme from the pension regulator that will offer a guaranteed return to investors.
- The PFRDA wants to launch the scheme before the end of the current calendar year.
- The actual returns will depend on the market conditions. Any shortfall will be made good by the sponsor, and the surplus will be credited to the subscribers' account.
- Two options are likely to be on offer.
- Under the fixed guarantee option, the guaranteed return is fixed along the accumulation phase.
- Under the floating guarantee option, the guaranteed rate of return is not fixed along the savings phase. The floating guarantee depends on the development of the 1-year interest rate until retirement.

UPI123PAY

- Reserve Bank of India has launched two initiatives related to digital payments. One is UPI123pay- which provides a UPI payment facility on feature phones and the second is "DigiSaathi" which is a 24x7 Helpline for Digital Payments.

The details of the two initiative is given below:

- 1. UPI123pay- UPI payment facility on feature phones



- The UPI123pay will provide the users of feature phones the option to use Unified Interface Payments (UPI) for making payments.
- improve the payments ecosystem for more than 40 crore users of feature phones in India.

RBI'S \$5 BILLION DOLLAR-RUPEE SWAP

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted a \$ 5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction as part of its liquidity management initiative, leading to infusion of dollars and sucking out of the rupee from the financial system.

About:

- The RBI sold \$5.135 billion to banks on March 8 and simultaneously agreed to buy back the dollars at the end of the swap settlement period.
- When the central bank sells dollars, it sucks out an equivalent amount in rupees, thus reducing the rupee liquidity in the system. Dollar inflow into the market will strengthen the rupee which has already hit the 77 level against the US dollar.
- The swap auction can be done in the reverse way also when there is shortage of liquidity in the system. The RBI then buys dollars from the market and releases an equivalent amount in the rupees.

Comment:

- The central bank's move will reduce the pressure on inflation and strengthen the rupee.
- With the rupee under pressure and inflation posing a big risk to the economy, the central bank is expected to come out with more such measures to rein in inflation and prevent a big slide in the rupee.

NABFID TO BE REGULATED AS AIFI UNDER RBI ACT

- Reserve Bank of India has announced that

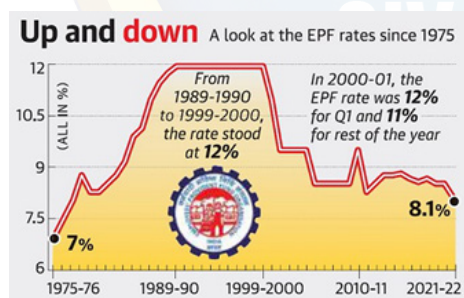
National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised by it as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934. NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.



- Presently RBI has four AIFIs under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI.
- NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

EPFO INTEREST RATE

Union Minister for Labour & Employment announced the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) interest rate for the year 2021-2022 after chairing the two-day long meeting of the 230th Central Board of Trustees (CBT) at Guwahati.



About:

- The return on workers' retirement savings parked with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has been slashed to 8.1% for 2021-22 from the 8.5% rate credited to members' accounts in the past two years.
- The last time the EPF savings were paid an annual return this low was in 1977-78, when the rate was 8%, but that marked the highest EPF rate at the time since the EPFO's inception in 1952.
- Since then, the EPF rate has been lower than 8.5% in three years — 1979-80, 1980-81 and

2011-12 — when an 8.25% return was paid on balances.

- The rate will have to be ratified by the Finance Ministry before it is notified and credited to members' accounts.
- The cut in the EPF rate, at a time when inflation is resurging, attracted criticism from the central trade union representatives on the Board who called for the 8.5% return to be retained.

EXPORTS BY INDIA

India's annual goods exports crossed the \$400-billion mark for the first time ever, the government announced, buoyed by an increase in shipments of merchandise, including engineering products, apparel and garments, gems and jewellery and petroleum products.

About:

- Marking the "first time ever" development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the manufacturers, farmers and weavers for achieving this target.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asserted that neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor the global uncertainties following the Ukraine crisis had affected India's ability to reach its export goals.
- Exports had reached \$331.02 billion in the pre-pandemic fiscal year of 2018-19. Shipments have so far increased by \$25.19 billion during the month of March and by March 31, the total figure is expected to be \$410 billion, the government said.
- The boost in the exports was likely to bolster India's position in the ongoing negotiations for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with several trade partners.
- The agriculture sector too had recorded its highest-ever export during 2021-22 with the help of export of "rice, marine products, wheat, spices and sugar".

RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB (RBIH)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru which is intended to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up.



About:

- The RBI has set up hub as a wholly owned subsidiary with an initial capital contribution of ₹100 crore. The new unit has an independent board with S. Gopalakrishnan as Chairman.
- RBIH aims to create an ecosystem that focusses on promoting access to financial services and products for the low-income population in the country.

GEO-TAGGING OF PAYMENT SYSTEM TOUCH POINTS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points, issuing instructions to bank and non bank payment system operators to maintain and submit to it the geographical locations of their touch points on a regular basis.

About:

- Geo-tagging of payment system touch points will enable proper monitoring of availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes.
- In turn, such monitoring will support policy intervention to optimise distribution of payment infrastructure.
- The payments ecosystem in India had witnessed rapid developments with a bouquet of payment systems, platforms, products and services available for consumers

LOCAL FOR GLOBAL

After his 'vocal for local' pitch, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 87th edition of the Mann ki Baat radio broadcast, made a call for 'local for global' while lauding the quantum jump in exports of Indian products.

About:

- Praising India for achieving the export target of \$400 billion, Mr. Modi said that at first instance, it might come across as a matter related to the economy, but more than that, it was related to the capability of India, the potential of India.

- Our export figures stand at 400 billion dollars today and this means that the demand for items made in India is increasing all over the world.
- Today new products from all corners of the country were reaching foreign shores, let them be leather goods from Hailakandi in Assam or handloom products from Osmanabad, or fruits and vegetables from Bijapur, he said.
- He attributed the success of "Make in India" drive to farmers, artisans, weavers, engineers, small entrepreneurs and MSME sector, among others, and pitched for making the local 'global' and augment the prestige of Indian products further.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PRIVATE LIMITED (BRBNMPL)

Shaktikanta Das lays Foundation Stone of Learning and Development Centre of BRBNMPL in Mysuru

- Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) in Mysuru, Karnataka. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.

About the Learning and Development Centre:

- LDC is being established with active collaboration from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) and Bank Note Paper Mill India Private Limited (BNPMIPL).
- LDC will act as a forum for robust knowledge dissemination, thus ensuring that the best practices, experiences, and innovations are shared efficiently in a congenial environment to ensure uniformity in banknote production, quality and supply.



PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

APPSCALE ACADEMY PROGRAMME

- The MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google have announced a cohort of 100 early to mid-stage Indian startups as a part of Appscale Academy programme.
- Appscale Academy is a new growth and development programme for startups launched by MeitY and Google to help and train early-to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps and games for a global audience.



About the programme:

- These 100 startups were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process.
- Under the six-month Appscale Academy programme, the 100 startups will be trained through a customised curriculum which includes virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions with local and global industry professionals.

INDUSTRY CONNECT 2022

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers has inaugurated the seminar on “Industry Connect 2022”: Industry and Academia Synergy. The stress is on the importance of innovation & technology for the progress of the country and it is for the greater industry-academia partnerships.
- The innovative zeal and manufacturing quality products at scale will help the Prime Minister’s vision of Make in India and Make for the World.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR:

- The first objective is to focus on R&D – Laboratory to Industry.
- The second objective is to do the Skill Gap Analysis for the Human Capital in Petrochemicals Sector.
- Another objective is to Support Aatmanirbhar Bharat by providing the Indigenous Technology and Aatmanirbhar CIPET with the assistance of the Industry Connect.
- The final objective is for the Support of Technology with the assistance of the Technology Development Board to establish coordination between industry and academia for this sector.

SAGAR PARIKRAMA

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying will inaugurate the ‘Sagar Parikrama’ on 5th Feb 2022.

About:

- The Parikrama, starting from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava’, is an endeavour to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.
- It will be organised in other districts of Gujarat and other State/UTs in subsequent phases.
- The Parikrama shall be accompanied by the State Fisheries officials, Fishermen representatives, Fish-Farmers entrepreneurs, stakeholders, professionals, officials and Scientists from across the nation.

PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI PARIYOJANA (PMBJP)

On the 2nd Day of Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrations, Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers flagged off Jan Aushadhi Rath, Jan Aushadhi Mobile Vans and Jan Aushadhi E-rickshaws from New Delhi as a part of the weeklong celebration across the country.

About:

- The Jan Aushadhi Rath will travel 7 days

covering 4-5 States and Vans and E-rickshaws will travel across Delhi up to 7th March to raise awareness at the grassroot level about the benefits of the Pariyojana and Jan Aushadhi generic medicines which are available at affordable prices for all.

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is organizing the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022 to spread awareness about the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in 2008.
- Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.

SABKA VIKAS MAHAQUIZ

In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series, on 1st March, 2022.



About:

- This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes, all hosted at Quiz.MyGov.in
- “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz series” aims to sensitise the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives.
- The quiz will be available in Hindi & English and all other major languages.
- Every week, top 1000 winners will be announced and every winner will receive Rs 2000/- each
- At the end of 52 weeks, there will be a bumper prize for those who took part in all the quizzes
- This is a timed quiz with 20 questions to be answered in 700 seconds
- The first quiz is on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). PM-GKAY is a pro-poor package intended to reduce the challenges encountered by the poor as a result

of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UMBRELLA SCHEME FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF MIGRANTS AND REPATRIATES

Centre has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates

About:

- The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of 1,452 crore rupees.
- The umbrella scheme enables migrants and repatriates, who have suffered on account of displacement, to earn a reasonable income and facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the move will ensure that assistance continues to reach beneficiaries. The Central government at different points of time had started different such schemes. They include
 - the Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb,
 - the relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees,
 - the relief assistance to Brus lodged in relief camps in Tripura and
 - the enhanced relief to 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Victims.
- The government is also providing grants-in-aid to West Bengal government for infrastructure development in 51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in India, situated in Cooch Behar District and for resettlement of 922 returnees from erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

MOWCD LAUNCHES ‘STREE MANORAKSHA’ PROJECT

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and NIMHANS Bengaluru launched the ‘Stree Manoraksha Project’ on Wednesday with the goal of improving women’s mental health in India.
- The project would concentrate on increasing the ability of OSC (One-Stop Center) officials in terms of tools and procedures for dealing with women who come to One-Stop Centers, particularly those who have experienced

violence and distress, with compassion and care.

KEY POINTS:

- One-Stop Center performed admirably during the COVID time. There are already over 700 One-Stop Centers operating across the country.
- People who work in these one-stop shops will be taught how to appropriately operate the Self Defense Shaheed Women Helpline and counsel them.
- The advanced training programme will be delivered in all of the regional languages that they want to be able to comprehend. NIMHANS has also built a website dedicated to this, which contains a wealth of information on training.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The project, which has been painstakingly described by NIMHANS based on the Ministry's expected requirements, will be delivered in two formats.
- All OSC functionaries, including security guards, cooks, helpers, caseworkers, counsellors, centre administrators, paramedical staff, and others, will receive basic training in one format.
- The second format will emphasise the advanced course, which will focus on various components such as multi-generational implications and lifetime trauma in cases of violence against women as well as professional principles in counselling.

SWACCHAGRAHA

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with Sulabh International is organizing an event "Swachhagraha" under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage the mass awareness with the core thought of "Swachhta, Swadhinta and Sulabh" on March 5, 2022 in New Delhi.

About:

- During the event, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh Sanitation, Social Reform & Human Rights Movement will address the audience.
- The event will also feature a performance by Dhruva –The Sanskrit Band.
- This is the world's only music band that is based on India's oldest own tradition of Vedic-

gaan and Stotra-gaan in Sanskrit language.

Stotra

- Stotra is a Sanskrit word that means "ode, a eulogy or a hymn of praise."
- It is a literary genre of Indian religious texts designed to be melodically sung, in contrast to a shastra which is composed to be recited.

DONATE A PENSION' SCHEME

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry launched the "donate a pension" scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme

About:

- The pension scheme, which was launched in 2019, allows unorganised sector workers between the age of 18 and 40, who earn up to ₹15,000 a month, to enroll by paying a premium amount between ₹55 and ₹200, depending on the age, that would be matched by the government.
- On reaching the age of 60, the beneficiaries would get a ₹3,000 monthly pension. As of March 3, the scheme had 46.34 lakh enrolments.
- "Donate a pension" scheme allows a citizen to "donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, care givers, nurses, in their household or establishment.
- The donor can pay the contribution for a minimum of one year, with the amount ranging from ₹660 to ₹2,400 a year, depending on the age of the beneficiary.
- The premium amount can be paid through maandhan.in or by visiting a Common Service Centre anywhere in the country.

SWATANTRATA SAINIK SAMMAN YOJANYA (SSSY)

The Government of India has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) and its components beyond 31.03.2021 for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total financial outlay of Rs.3,274.87 crore.



About:

- The proposal for continuation of the SSSY was received from the Ministry of Home Affairs under Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah.
- Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension and presently, there are 23,566 beneficiaries across the country covered under this scheme.
- The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and Dearness Relief is also given since 15.08.2016.

KANYA SHIKSHA PRAVESH UTSAV

On the eve of International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, launched a landmark campaign Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav.

About:

- It's objective is to bring back out of school adolescent girls in India to the formal education and/or skilling system.
- The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls.
- The campaign will be rolled out under the umbrella of MoWCD's BBBP initiative by targeting more than 400,000 out of school adolescent girls as primary beneficiaries.

PLI SCHEME FOR WHITE GOODS (ACs AND LED LIGHTS)

The Union Cabinet had given approval for the PLI Scheme for White Goods for manufacture of components and sub-assemblies of Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED Lights on 7.04.2021.

About:

- The Scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, from FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29 and has an outlay of Rs. 6,238 crore.
- The Scheme was notified by DPIIT on 16.04.2021.
- The Scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales for a period of five (5) years subsequent to the base year and one year of gestation period. Only manufacturing of components of ACs and LED Lights will be incentivized under the Scheme.
- As of now, 42 applicants with committed investment of Rs 4,614 crore have been provisionally selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme.
- Additional applications are invited under Clause 9.2 of the Scheme Guidelines for investments under the Scheme on the same terms and conditions as stipulated in the Scheme Guidelines issued on June 04, 2021, as amended from time to time.

START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).

About:

- SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors. The partnership will enable the rural community by helping them set up their trades and provide complete support till they are stabilized.
- Under the partnership rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support for starting their enterprises, including support from MUDRA bank. Integrated ICT techniques and tools will also be provided for training and capacity building along with enterprise advisory services to augment the entrepreneurship ecosystem in India's villages.

- The beneficiaries of the project are from the Self-Help Group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the scheme not only supports existing enterprises but new enterprises as well.
- National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

SAMARTH

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women named –“SAMARTH”. The drive was launched by Union Minister for MSME,

The objective of SAMARTH:

- To provide Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and to train more than 7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas in the FY 2022-23.
- Under the Samarth initiative of the Ministry, the following benefits will be available to aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs:
- 20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs organized under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women. More than 7500 women will be benefitted.
- 20% of MSME Business Delegations sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by Ministry will be dedicated to women-owned MSMEs.
- 20% Discount on annual processing fee on NSIC's Commercial Schemes Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration.

STITCHING AND TAILORING SERVICES

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Government eMarketplace [GeM] has launched a new service vertical “Stitching and Tailoring Services” on the GeM portal in partnership with USHA International Ltd., through its Silai School Programme.

About:

- The service will open new opportunities for Usha Silai Women and self-help groups in urban and rural areas to enhance their livelihood incomes through sewing orders placed by various Government departments and agencies and fulfil the 3 percent procurement target set aside for women MSE entrepreneurs.

- Government e Marketplace is a 100 percent Government owned Section 8 company setup under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for procurement of goods and services by State Government and Central Government organizations.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE ORGANISE PAN-INDIA PROGRAMME “JHAROKHA”

- Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organising a programme called “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture” to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture. To begin with, the first event under this celebration has been organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, on March 08, 2022, which also marks International Women's Day.



Key points:

- Jharokha is a PAN India programme that will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav .
- The event in Bhopal will celebrate womanhood and the contribution of women in the field of art, craft and culture.
- Kamlapati Railway Station is named after the brave and fearless Queen Kamlapati of the Gond kingdom of Madhya Pradesh.

NATIONAL LAND MONETIZATION CORPORATION (NLMC)

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.

About:

- Department of Public Enterprise, Ministry of Finance, will set up the company and act as its administrative ministry.
- NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus

land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies.

- The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2021-22.
- With monetization of non-core assets, Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetizing unused and under-used assets.
- At present, CPSEs hold considerable surplus, unused and under used non-core assets in the nature of land and buildings. For CPSEs undergoing strategic disinvestment or closure, monetization of these surplus land and non-core assets is important to unlock their value.

RSETIs (RURAL SELF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INSTITUTES)

Marking International Women's Day 2022, new batches of women-centric courses were started by RSETIs (Rural Self Employment Training Institutes) across the country.

About:

- RSETI (Rural Self Employment Training Institutes) programme is a three-way partnership between the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GoI, State Governments and Sponsor Banks.
- The Banks are mandated to open at least one RSETI in their lead district to provide training to rural youth to take up self-employment/ entrepreneurship ventures. RSETI program runs with an approach of short-term training & long-term handholding of entrepreneurs.
- Rural poor youth between the age group of 18-45 years are eligible to join the training.
- The RSETIs have become established as pioneers in capturing the aspirations of the rural poor youth and turning them into profitable entrepreneurs by training them in the domain and entrepreneurial skills.
- A total of 39.9 lakh candidates have been trained under RSETIs in 64 courses and 28.11 lakh candidates have been settled into self-employment till 31st January 2022.
- The programme is currently being implemented in 28 States and 7 UTs with 585 functioning RSETIs sponsored by 23 leading Banks.

MSME INNOVATIVE SCHEME (INCUBATION, DESIGN AND IPR)

Union Minister for MSME launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design

and IPR) along with the MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.

About:

- The MSME Innovation Scheme will act as a hub for innovation activities facilitating and guiding development of ideas into viable business proposition which benefits society directly.
- MSME Innovative is a holistic approach to unify, synergize and converge 3 sub-components and interventions with a single purpose.

Details of the sub-schemes are as under:

- Incubation: The primary objective of the scheme is to promote and support untapped creativity and to promote adoption of latest technologies in MSMEs that seek the validation of their ideas at the proof-of-concept level. Financial assistance up to Rs. 15 lakh per idea and up to Rs. 1.00 crore for relevant plant and machines will be provided.
- Design: The objective of this component is to bring Indian manufacturing sector and Design expertise/ Design fraternity on to a common platform. Financial assistance up to Rs. 40 lakh for design project and up to Rs. 2.5 lakh for student project will be provided.
- IPR (Intellectual Property Rights): The objective of the scheme is to improve the IP culture in India with a view to enhance the awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) amongst the MSMEs and to encourage creative intellectual endeavor in Indian economy.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' 1st GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINAL

In pursuance to Prime Minister's vision "Gati Shakti" and Ministry of Railways' Policy regarding 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT), Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar.

About:

- This is the FIRST such GCT commissioned in Indian Railways since publication of GCT policy in Dec.'2021.
- The Maithan Power Project was initiated in the year 2009 and subsequently the power generation was started in the year 2011.

WOMEN@WORK' PROGRAMME

- The government of Karnataka has launched

‘Women@Work’ program to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.

- The program aims to focus on the efforts of corporate programs on attracting women workforce.
- It has been developed by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.
- It will act as an enabler for women to actively participate and join the workforce through industry upskilling.

UNION MINISTER OF POWER LAUNCHES VIRTUAL SMART GRID KNOWLEDGE CENTER

- As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Program, Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) and Innovation Park. Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Power, was also in attendance.

Note

- POWERGRID established the Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) to demonstrate and advance cutting-edge smart grid technologies.
- SGKC aspires to be one of the world's top centres of excellence for smart grid technology innovation, entrepreneurship, and research, as well as building capacity in the power distribution industry.
- The Virtual SGKC, which was introduced today, allows for a digital footprint of the real SGKC, which was needed during the COVID-19 epidemic.

SVAMITVA SCHEME

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched SMS sending functionality to inform MPs and MLAs about the commencement of drone flying in their constituency under SVAMITVA Scheme.

About:

- The functionality will provide important nudge to Elected Representatives and will help in timely implementation of the Scheme.
- SVAMITVA scheme uses the combination of

Survey Grade Drones and CORS (Continuously Operated Reference Stations) network to accurately survey large areas in a very short span of time

- The maps generated through the drone survey are of very high accuracy i.e. up to 5 cms which the conventional methodology does not provide.

NUTRACEUTICALS

Aimed at providing accessible, standardised and affordable generic medicines, the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras have added nutraceuticals products, including protein powder and bar, malt-based food supplements and immunity bar for its customers.

About:

- Nutraceuticals are products, which other than nutrition are also used as medicine.
- A nutraceutical product may be defined as a substance, which has physiological benefit or provides protection against chronic disease.

PMBJP Kendras

- Currently, 8,675 PMBJP Kendras function in districts across the country with three IT-enabled warehouses in Gurugram, Chennai and Guwahati and another one ready to start operations in Surat.
- Under the PMBJP being implemented by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, a medicine is priced on the principle of maximum of 50% of the average price of the top three brands of the said medicine. Thus, the prices of Jan Aushadhi medicines are cheaper at least by 50% and in some cases, by 80% to 90% of the market price of the branded medicines.
- In India, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the Department of Pharmaceuticals regulates the prices of all drugs, whether branded or generic.
- While it fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines specified in the first schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, in case of non-scheduled medicines, the manufactures are free to fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of the drug.

YUVIKA

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organizing a special programme for school children called “YUva VIgyani KArYakram” (YUVIKA) or “Young Scientist Programme”.
- Aimed at creating awareness about emerging trends in science and technology, this programme is expected to encourage more students to pursue research and a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



Programme details:

- The ISRO Young Scientist Programme is a residential programme and will span over two weeks during the summer vacations from May 16, 2022, to May 28, 2022.
- This program includes invited talks, experience sharing by eminent scientists, experimental demonstrations, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- A total of 150 class 9 students across the country will be selected for the programme.
- The programme is planned at five centres of ISRO i.e. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Space Application Centre, National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and North-East Space Application Centre.
- Students will be taken to visit Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, towards the end of the project.

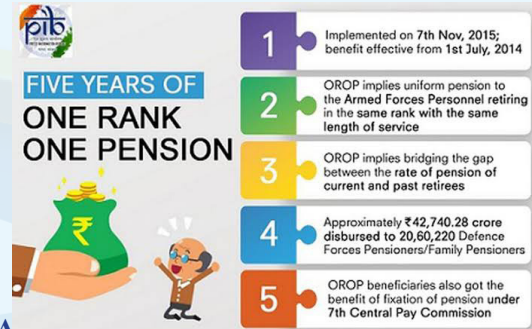
MISSION INDRADHANUSH: ODISHA TOPPED IN FULL IMMUNIZATION WITH 90.5% COVERAGE

- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha became the top state in the list of full immunizations in India with 90.5% coverage under Mission Indradhanush.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 (IMI) was rolled out on 7 March 2022, in Odisha to provide preventive health care for mothers and children and for boosting full immunization coverage.

ONE RANK, ONE PENSION (OROP) SCHEME

The Supreme Court upheld the Centre's one rank, one pension (OROP) scheme for the armed forces



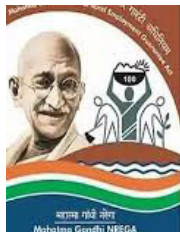
About:

- The Bench held, “We find no constitutional infirmity in the OROP principle as defined in the government’s communication of November 7, 2015, on the implementation of the pension scheme.”
- The OROP scheme stipulated that benefits would be effective for pensioners from the cut-off date of July 1, 2014. Pensions of past pensioners would be refixed on the basis of pensions of retirees in the calendar year 2013.
- The Centre had promised that pensions of “all pensioners would be protected.” Finally, the scheme mandated the re-fixation of pension every five years.
- The judgment dealt with a petition filed by the Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement, complaining that pensioners of the same rank, who were a “homogeneous class”, were arbitrarily being given varying pensions under the OROP scheme.
- The amount of pension, they argued, should be uniform across armed forces personnel who retired with the same rank. They contended that the OROP had created a separate class among the personnel equally situated in rank and length of service. However, the court did not accept the argument.

MGNREGA SCHEME

According to a Parliamentary Standing Committee report submitted to the Lok Sabha, various issues are hampering the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme.

About:



Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- Some of these issues are Fake job cards, widespread corruption, late uploading of muster rolls, huge pending payments for wages and materials and insufficient funding.
- Genuine labourers not getting their dues while money keeps changing hands due to collusion of unscrupulous elements surrounding the implementation of scheme at ground level is a bitter truth of the time.
- The Committee said that study visits and observations had shown that “rozgar sevak-s are in the habit of filling up kachha muster at the start and go to the Block once a week for online uploading of muster-rolls”.
- It noted that if the muster-roll is not updated and uploaded within the stipulated time, it could not be backdated, causing a loss in payment.
- Pending wages amounted to ₹4,060 crore, while material component payments are pending to the tune of Rs. 9,000 crore.
- The panel found it “alarming” that in such a scenario, the budget estimates for the scheme for 2022-23 were reduced from the ₹78,000 crore sought by the Department of Rural Development, to Rs. 73,000 crore.

PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOGNA (PMFBY)

Maharashtra is the latest state to threaten to withdraw from the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yogna (PMFBY) if changes to it are not carried out.



About:

- Introduced in the 2016-17 kharif season, PMFBY is a central-state scheme which aims to cushion farmers against crop loss.
- The central and state governments pay more than 95 per cent of the premium amount while the farmer bears 1.5-5 per cent of the premium.
- As extensive usage of technology is used to settle the claims of farmers within a stipulated time period, farmers are required to fill loss reports online which are validated by insurance companies before the compensation amount is paid directly in their accounts.
- Prior to 2020, the scheme was mandatory for farmers who availed institutional finance, but that was changed and made voluntary for all farmers.

Criticism

- Since the beginning, farm leaders across the state have criticised the scheme for various reasons.
- One of the main arguments against it is that it helps insurance companies more than the farmers. Farm leaders claim insurance companies have made windfall gains at the behest of the public exchequer and farmers.
- Delayed payouts and denial of claims are other common complains against insurance companies.

NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION

The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC), the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, to carry out monetisation of government and surplus land holdings of public sector undertakings (PSU).

About

- The National Land Monetisation Corporation will be a firm, fully owned by the government,

to carry out the monetisation of government and public sector assets in the form of surplus, unused or underused land assets.

- It will fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance and will be set up with an initial authorised share capital of ₹5,000 crore and a paid-up capital of ₹150 crore.
- Apart from monetising underutilised or unused land parcels of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), the Corporation will also facilitate the monetisation of assets belonging to PSUs that have ceased operations or are in line for a strategic disinvestment, with the aim of unlocking the value of these land holdings
- The surplus land and building assets of such enterprises are expected to be transferred to the NLMC, which will then hold, manage and monetise them.
- Besides managing and monetising, the NLMC will act as an advisory body and support other government entities and CPSEs in identifying their surplus non-core assets and monetising them in an efficient and professional manner, maximising the scope of value realisation.

NATIONAL AIDS AND STDs CONTROL PROGRAMME

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National AIDS and STDs Control Programme, a scheme funded by the Centre from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with an outlay of Rs. 15,471.94 crore by approving Phase 5 of the programme.



About:

- The national AIDS response was initiated by the Government of India in 1992 with the launch of the first phase of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme. Since then, four phases of NACP have been successfully completed. The Phase-IV (Extension) of NACP concluded on March 31, 2021
- The national AIDS response under NACP is globally considered to be an extremely

successful programme. The annual new HIV infections in India has declined by 48 per cent against the global average of 31 per cent (the baseline year of 2010).

- Due to the efforts under the scheme, the HIV prevalence in India continues to be low with an adult HIV prevalence of 0.22%, the government stated.

PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA (PM-GKAY)

The Union Cabinet extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) by another six months till September 2022.

Relief package

The government has extended the PM-GKAY to provide 5 kg of foodgrains free of cost to the poor by six months till September 30. This is in addition to the normal quota of highly subsidised grain at ₹2-3 per kg

■ About 759 lakh tonnes of free foodgrains distributed at the cost of around **₹2.6 lakh crore**

■ Another 244 lakh tonnes free foodgrains allocated for next 6 months at an estimated cost of **₹80,000 crore**



■ The scheme was announced in March 2020 in the wake of disruption due to COVID-19

■ This will be the sixth phase of PM-GKAY. The fifth phase of the scheme was coming to an end on March 31

About:

- The scheme was originally introduced in April 2020 a month into the first lockdown during the initial onset of the COVID pandemic.
- This will be the sixth phase of PM-GKAY. The Phase-V of the scheme was to end in March 2022.
- The government has spent approximately ₹2.6 lakh crore so far and another ₹80,000 crore will be spent over the next six months till September 2022, taking the total expenditure under PM-GKAY to nearly Rs 3.4 lakh crore.
- The ration card portability has also helped in extending the schemes to the migrant workers.
- The benefit of free ration can be availed through portability by any migrant labourer or beneficiary under One Nation One Ration Card plan from nearly five lakh ration shops across the country. So far, over 61 crore portability transactions have benefitted the beneficiaries away from their homes.”

BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHATA

The ten-day mega Red Fort Festival -Bharat Bhagya Vidhata has started at the iconic 17th-century monument Red Fort in Delhi. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the festival.

About:



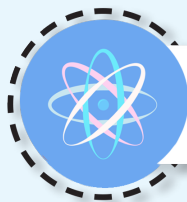
- Irani recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invocation from the Red Fort to join hands for making a New India.
- The Red Fort mega festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is being organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by Ministry of Culture.
- The festival aims to commemorate the heritage of the country and culture of every part of India.
- The festival Bharat Bhagya Vidhata will help everyone to appreciate the diversity of India. More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.

ODF PLUS VILLAGES

India has crossed a milestone of 50 thousand open defecation-free (ODF) Plus villages.

About:

- ODF plus village is defined as “a village which sustains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean.”
- Among the top performing States are Telangana with 13 thousand 960 ODF Plus villages followed by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.
- Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II was launched in February 2020 with the aim to ensure that all villages in the country can declare themselves as ODF Plus by the end of 2024.
- The mission towards becoming ODF Plus has several components including biodegradable waste management including the GOBARdhan Scheme, Grey water management, Plastic waste management and Faecal sludge management.
- ODF Plus villages have been divided into three categories, Aspiring, Rising, and Model, to showcase their progress.



NASA LAUNCHES NEXT-GENERATION GOES-T SATELLITE TO TRACK HAZARDOUS WEATHER

- US space agency, NASA, successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.
- The satellite is named as GOES-T. Once the satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to GOES-18.
- GOES-T will be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.

Phase 5 of the programme.



CHINA'S LONG MARCH-8 ROCKET LAUNCHES 22 SATELLITES INTO SPACE

- China's second Long March 8 rocket launched carrying a domestic record 22 satellites for a range of commercial Chinese space companies.
- The Long March 8 lifted off from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center at 10:06 p.m. Eastern Feb. 26, with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) later confirming launch success.
- These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation. The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier rockets.

FIRST 'SMART MANAGED EV CHARGING STATION' COMMISSIONED BY BSES

- A subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure, SES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) has commissioned India's first 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' in the New Delhi.
- BYPL is backed by Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES). It is executed by Fortum Charge & Drive, and it will be the first ever BYPL managed Smart EV Charging Station.

What is EV Charging?

- An EV or Electric Vehicle Charging Station or network is a system of recharging electric vehicles at a developed infrastructure.
- Many governments, car manufacturers, and charging infrastructure providers are looking forward to create such networks. As of November 2020, the largest fast-charging location was in California with 56 charging points.

QUANTUM KEY DISTRIBUTION TECH TESTED BY DRDO SUCCESSFULLY BETWEEN VINDHYACHAL & PRAYAGRAJ

- A team of scientists, for the first time in the country, from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi successfully demonstrated a Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, spanning over 100 kilometres.

KEY POINTS:

- This technological breakthrough was accomplished using a commercial-grade optical fibre that was already on the market. The country has shown domestic safe key transfer technology for bootstrapping military grade communication security key hierarchy, according to the DRDO.
- This technological advance was made possible by the use of a commercially available optical fibre. According to the DRDO, the country has shown a domestic secure key transfer technique for bootstrapping military grade communication security key hierarchy.

- G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary of Defense R&D and Chairman of DRDO, thanked the scientists and professors of DRDO and IIT Delhi for the successful demonstration of this technology. He noted this in his speech to the scientific community as one of the shining examples of synergistic research between the DRDO and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- Professor Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi, also commended the DRDO faculty and scientists involved in this breakthrough for their dedicated initiatives to strengthen the country's technological capability.

Quantum key distribution:

- Quantum key distribution is a secure communication tech method that uses quantum physics to construct a cryptographic protocol. It allows two parties to generate a shared secret key that is only known to them and can be used to encrypt and decrypt messages.

INTERNATIONAL MONSOONS PROJECT OFFICE

Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) on the occasion of National Science Day 2022

About:

- The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years.
- It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
- Both the World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme are international programmes coordinated by the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).



Phase 5 of the programme.

- The IMPO would support activities of the Monsoons Panel, jointly established by the World Climate Research Programme's CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability, and Change) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Exchanges) projects.

FACILITY FOR LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT (FLCTD)

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), commemorated its 20th Foundation Day by organising the National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies. On this occasion, a compendium of the FLCTD Accelerator was released.



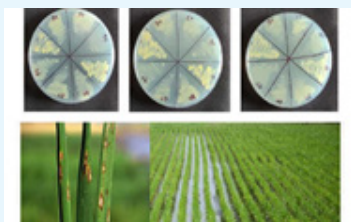
About:

- Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) Project was launched in 2016 with an objective to identify innovative energy efficiency and low carbon technology solutions that address the existing technology gaps in Indian industrial and commercial sectors.
- FLCTD project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- FLCTD has identified six priority technology verticals for 'Innovation Challenge'. FLCTD project have already developed 18 new techniques and of which 12 have been commercialised.

BIODEGRADABLE NANOPARTICLE DEVELOPED BY IIT KANPUR

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have created a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based insecticides to protect crops from bacterial and fungal illnesses. Abhay Karandikar, who is the director of IIT Kanpur said that because farmers suffer a variety of issues, IIT Kanpur has worked tirelessly to

improve the farming environment as a whole. Nanoparticles would reduce the risk of crop infection while also increasing agricultural productivity.



KEY POINTS:

- The nanoparticle, dubbed Biodegradable Carbonoid Metabolite (BioDCM), can be active at low concentrations and be as effective as pesticides while having no detrimental effects on soil or consumer health. It operates quickly because it is administered in bioactive form and can resist high temperatures.
- The nanoparticle was produced in collaboration with C. Kannan and D. Mishra of ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, and also with R Balamurugan and M. Mandal of the Hyderabad University's School of Chemistry.
- Given the nanoparticle developed by IIT Kanpur's biodegradable and non-harmful nature, it is likely to attract a lot of interest from farmers looking to reduce their use of chemicals in farming, particularly pesticides.

PROBLEMS FACED:

- According to a report released by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in June 2021, farmers around the world lose up to 40% of their crops to insects and illnesses each year, resulting in a \$290 billion loss to the global economy.
- Natural ingredients are increasingly being used in organic farming and exporting goods.

NOTE:

- IIT Kanpur has devised a number of ways to increase agricultural output and address many of the issues that plague Indian agriculture.
- In December 2021, the institute released Bhu Parikshak, a soil testing equipment that can detect soil health in 90 seconds. It was created to address the issue of time spent having soil health examined in labs. In most cases, farmers must wait days for lab results

DAYLIGHT HARVESTING TECHNOLOGY

The only Start-up company in India for Daylight Harvesting Technologies "Skyshade Daylights Private Limited" Hyderabad signed an MoU with Technology Development Board, a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology on Daylight Harvesting Technology in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building energy efficiency.



About:

- Daylighting is basically bringing natural sunlight inside the rooms.
- The solar energy spectrum has 45% energy as visible light and this can be used to harvest building illumination for about 9-11 hours a day.
- The proposed technologies, harvest huge quantities of sunlight for a building and make available for building illumination which reduces electrical lighting energy consumption by 70-80%, besides reducing air-conditioning (cooling load) consumption.

SARAS 3 RADIO TELESCOPE

Indian researchers have conclusively refuted a recent claim of the discovery of a radio wave signal from cosmic dawn, the time in the infancy of our Universe when the first stars and galaxies came into existence.

About:

- In 2018 a team of researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) and MIT in the US detected a signal from stars emerging in the early universe using data from the EDGES radio telescope. The study published in the journal Nature created much excitement in the astronomy community around the world.
- ASU/MIT team had claimed the discovery of a radio wave signalling the birth of the First Stars, which was also hailed by Harvard astrophysicist Avi Loeb as worthy of two Nobel prizes. However, the world awaited confirmation from independent researchers.

- Utilising the indigenously invented and built SARAS 3 radio telescope, researchers from Raman Research Institute refuted this claim. The SARAS 3 radio telescope is invented and built by the astronomers at RRI. The RRI findings are now published in Nature Astronomy.

Note

- Raman Research Institute (RRI) is an institute of scientific research located in Bangalore, India.
- It was founded by Nobel laureate C. V. Raman.
- It is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.

GLYCOSMIS ALBICARPA

A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new gin berry species from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu



About:

- The species, *Glycosmis albicarpa*, with a distinct large white fruit, is endemic to the southern Western Ghats. The species belongs to the Orange family Rutaceae.
- Many of the related plants of these taxonomic groups are being utilised for their medicinal values and food. Most commonly related species of these plants are collected from the wild, mainly for local use as food and medicine.
- Berries of the *Glycosmis* species have the unique characteristic of 'gin aroma' and gained in popularity as an edible fruit. The species is also a larval host plant for butterflies like other species of *Glycosmis*.
- The species, an evergreen small tree, was found as undergrowth in the Tirunelveli semi-evergreen forests at the Panagudi forest section of the wildlife sanctuary.

HANSA-NG

India's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March, 2022.



About:

- HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite light weight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, electrically operated flaps etc.
- CSIR-NAL further said that HANSA-NG is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. NAL has already received more than 80 nos. of LoIs (Letter of Intent) from various flying clubs

FUSOBACTERIUM NUCLEATUM

Researchers at ACTREC-Tata Memorial Centre have identified the presence of a bacteria, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, in the oral tumours at a significantly higher burden than in the oral cavity of healthy individuals.

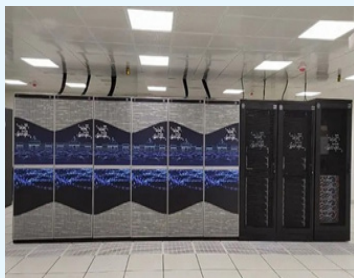
About:

- Interestingly, *Fusobacterium nucleatum* is known to play a vital role in colorectal cancer, wherein its presence affects the spread of the disease and the patient's response to chemotherapy. However, a similar role of *Fusobacterium* in oral cancer was not known earlier.
- The presence of the bacteria was found in Indian and Caucasian oral cancer patients, with a much higher incidence among the Indian patients.
- Moreover, oral cancer patients positive for *Fusobacterium* were found to be negative for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection, suggesting they are present in a mutually

exclusive way.

PARAM GANGA

The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed “PARAM Ganga”, a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.



About:

- The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM.
- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is being steered jointly by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The four major pillars of the NSM are, namely, Infrastructure, Applications, R&D, HRD.
- C-DAC has been entrusted the responsibility to design, development, deployment and commissioning of the supercomputing systems under the build approach of Mission.
- Till now C-DAC has deployed 11 systems at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC under NSM Phase-1 and Phase-2 with a cumulative compute power of more than 20 Petaflops.

MANDATORY TESTING & CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT (MTCTE)

Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC) in collaboration with industry has organised a skill development training program for girl students from rural background.

About:

- Government of India has notified Mandatory Testing & Certification of communication Equipment (MTCTE) in 2017.
- Under the scheme, all telecom equipment,

whether imported or indigenously manufactured, are to be tested and certified before their induction/ sale in India for Safety, EMI/ EMC and technical requirements.

- MTCTE for Phase -III and Phase-IV has been notified vide letter dated 22.09.2021.

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)

- Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is the designated authority for implementation of this scheme.
- TEC is a body under telecom commission and a nodal agency of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India with headquarters in New Delhi.

SPACE JUNK

A leftover piece of a spacecraft flying through space reportedly hit the surface of the moon, creating a new crater that may be around 65 feet wide.



About:

- The piece of space junk was is the third-stage booster of Chang'e 5-T1 – a lunar mission launched by the China National Space Administration in 2014.
- The object reportedly weighs around four tonnes and was racing towards the moon at a speed of 9,300 km an hour.
- This is the first recorded unintentional case of space junk hitting the moon.
-

Project Pluto

- American astronomer Bill Gray, who runs a blog called Project Pluto, predicted the collision by tracking the object. The speed, trajectory, and time of impact were calculated using earth-based telescope observations.
- Project Pluto also supplies astronomical software to amateur and professional astronomers. Gray is the creator of popular astronomy software called Guide.

Is the crater permanent?

- Both the earth and the moon have been hit by multiple objects like asteroids throughout their existence, but craters on the moon are of a more permanent nature than those on earth.
- This is because of processes like erosion, tectonics, and volcanism. These three processes keep the surface of the earth crater-free and remove traces of collisions that have happened in the past.

GenOMICC project

Scientists in the United Kingdom as part of a research project, GenOMICC (Genetics of Mortality in Critical Care), have identified 16 new genetic variants that make a person more susceptible to a severe COVID-19 infection.

About:

- The GenOMICC— reportedly the largest of its kind — is a research study that brings together clinicians and scientists from around the world to find the genetic factors that lead to critical illnesses.
- The scientists involved compare the DNA of critically-ill patients with members of the general population. However, ferreting out such differences requires a large number of people and comparing their genetic structures at multiple levels of resolution.
- Since 2015, the GenOMICC has been studying emerging infections such as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome), flu, sepsis, and other forms of critical illness.

GALLIUM NITRIDE (GaN)

Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology visited the Gallium Nitride Ecosystem Enabling Centre and Incubator (GEECI) facility at the prestigious Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru.

About:

- The facility has been jointly set up by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IISc Bengaluru aimed at establishing Gallium Nitride (GaN) based Development Line Foundry facility for strategic applications.
- Gallium nitride (GaN) is a very hard, mechanically stable wide bandgap semiconductor.
- With higher breakdown strength, faster switching speed, higher thermal conductivity and lower on-resistance, power devices based on GaN significantly outperform silicon-based

devices.

- Gallium nitride crystals can be grown on a variety of substrates, including sapphire, silicon carbide (SiC) and silicon (Si).

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY TESTED SOLID FUEL-BASED BOOSTER STAGE OF SSLV

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully completed the ground test of the solid fuel-based booster stage (SS1) of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota at Andhra Pradesh. It completes the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle. The vehicle is now ready for its first development flight, which is scheduled for May 2022.



- Other stages of SSLV like SS2 & SS3 have successfully undergone necessary ground tests and are ready for integration. At present, the launch of small satellites has been dependent on ‘piggy-bank’ rides with big satellite launches on the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) of ISRO, which has completed around 50 successful launches.

NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES TOYOTA “MIRAI” INDIA’S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN FUEL CELL EV

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the world’s most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai at New Delhi. Toyota Mirai is India’s first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen.

About the Toyota Mirai:

- Toyota Mirai has been launched by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) under a pilot project, to study and evaluate the performance of Toyota Mirai on Indian roads and climatic conditions. This is a first of its kind project in India which will create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country and

help India to become 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.

NIRMATRELVIR

Nineteen drugmakers in India have signed sub-licence agreements with the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) to manufacture the generic version of Pfizer's oral COVID-19 antiviral nirmatrelvir, which is to be used in combination with ritonavir.

About:

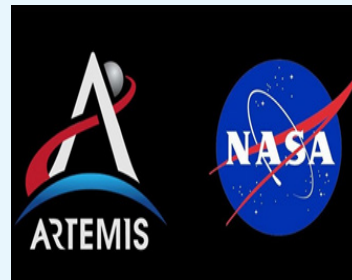
- The non-exclusive sublicenses allow the generic manufacturers to produce raw ingredients for nirmatrelvir and the finished drug itself co-packaged with ritonavir. The agreements follow the voluntary licensing agreement MPP and Pfizer signed in November 2021.
- Nirmatrelvir is an antiviral medication developed by Pfizer which acts as an orally active 3C-like protease inhibitor.
- It is part of the nirmatrelvir/ritonavir combination sold under the brand name Paxlovid.

ARTEMIS PROGRAMME

- On March 17, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) rolled out its Artemis I moon mission to the launchpad for testing at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, United States.

About

- The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion capsule of the mission were hurled out to the launchpad by NASA's Crawler-Transporter 2 vehicle.
- NASA's Artemis mission is touted as the next generation of lunar exploration, and is named after the twin sister of Apollo from Greek mythology. Artemis is also the goddess of the moon.
- Artemis I is the first of NASA's deep space exploration systems. It is an uncrewed space mission where the spacecraft will launch on SLS — the most powerful rocket in the world — and travel 2,80,000 miles from the earth for over four to six weeks during the course of the mission.
- The Orion spacecraft is going to remain in space without docking to a space station, longer than any ship for astronauts has ever done before.



- With the Artemis programme, NASA aims to land humans on the moon by 2024, and it also plans to land the first woman and first person of colour on the moon.
- With this mission, NASA aims to contribute to scientific discovery and economic benefits and inspire a new generation of explorers.

APHASIA

Aphasia, a brain disorder that leads to problems with speaking, reading and writing has sidelined actor Bruce Willis and drawn attention to a little-known condition that has many possible causes.

About

- Aphasia is an inability to comprehend or formulate language because of damage to specific brain regions.
- The major causes are stroke and head trauma. Aphasia can also be the result of brain tumors, brain infections, or neurodegenerative diseases, but the latter are far less prevalent.

FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (FCEV)

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari travelled to the Parliament House in a hydrogen-based Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), in what could be interpreted as a strong indication of a shift in stance by the Centre that has so far backed conventional battery-powered electric vehicles, or BEVs.

How is this car different from other electric vehicles?

- Typically, there are four broad categorisations of electric vehicles—conventional hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs), BEVs and FCEVs.
- FCEVs such as Toyota's Mirai, Honda's Clarity and Hyundai's Nexo use hydrogen gas to power an on-board electric motor.
- FCEVs combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, which runs the motor. Since they're powered entirely by electricity, FCEVs are considered EVs, but unlike BEVs, their range and refuelling processes are comparable

to conventional cars and trucks.

- The major difference between a BEV and a hydrogen FCEV is that the latter enables a refuelling time of just five minutes, compared to 30-45 minutes charging for a BEV.
- Also, consumers get about five times better energy storage per unit volume and weight, which frees up a lot of space for other things, while allowing the rider to go farther.

SPACE JUNK

With space junk posing increasing threat to Indian assets in space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project.

About:

- A space debris tracking radar with a range of 1,500 km and an optical telescope will be inducted as part of establishing an effective surveillance and tracking network under NETRA.
- The government has given the go-ahead for the deployment of the radar, which will be capable of detecting and tracking objects 10 cm and above in size, he said. It will be indigenously designed and built.
- Radars and optical telescopes are vital ground-based facilities for keeping an eye on space objects, including orbital junk.
- Space junk or debris consists of spent rocket stages, dead satellites, fragments of space objects and debris resulting from ASAT.
- Hurling at an average speed of 27,000 kmph in LEO, these objects pose a very real threat as collisions involving even centimetre-sized fragments can be lethal to satellites.
- For protecting its space assets, ISRO was forced to perform 19 collision avoidance manoeuvres (CAM) in 2021, of which 14 were in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and five in the geostationary orbit. The number of CAMs jumped from just three in 2015 to 12 in 2020 and 19 in 2021

GSAT 7B SATELLITES

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of a GSAT 7B satellite, along with equipment like Night Sight (image intensifier),

4X4 light vehicles, and Air Defence Fire Control Radar (light)



About:

- GSAT 7 satellites are advanced satellites developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to meet the communication needs of the defence services.
- The GSAT 7 satellite was launched in August 2013 from an Ariane 5 ECA rocket from Kourou in French Guiana.
- It is a 2,650 kg satellite which has a footprint of nearly 2,000 nautical miles in the Indian Ocean region. This satellite is mainly used by the Indian Navy for its communication needs.
- The GSAT 7 provides a gamut of services for military communication needs, which includes low bit voice rate to high bit rate data facilities, including multi-band communications.
- Named Rukmini, the satellite carries payloads in UHF, C-band and Ku-band, and helps the Navy to have a secure, real time communication link between its land establishments, surface ships, submarines and aircraft.
- The satellite was injected into a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) of 249 km perigee (nearest point to earth), 35,929 km apogee (farthest point to earth) and an inclination of 3.5 degree with respect to the equator.

INS VALSURA

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colour to INS Valsura, the Navy's premier technological training establishment.

About:

- The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.
- INS Valsura, is a premier technological training institution, of the Indian Navy based in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- INS Valsura trains officers and men on operation and maintenance of sophisticated and technologically advanced equipment on board

warships.

- The Navy was the first Indian armed force to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on May 27, 1951. INS Valsura, started on 30 acres of land as a torpedo school in 1942 under the British, has today grown into one of the foremost technological training institutions of the country spread over 600 acres.
- In 2018 a medium voltage laboratory was set up by Siemens, Germany, at INS Valsura to familiarise and train naval engineers in the nuances of medium voltage power generation, protection and distribution.

GSLV-F10/EOS-03 MISSION

The GSLV-F10/EOS-03 mission, which lifted off from Sriharikota on August 12 last year, failed due to 'deviation in the performance' of the cryogenic upper stage (CUS) of the launch vehicle, a national-level Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) has found.

About:



- Although the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) had a normal lift-off after a 26-hour countdown, the mission had to be aborted much to the dismay of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The FAC, consisted of experts from the space agency and the academia, submitted its findings.
- The FAC has concluded that a leak in a Vent and Relief Valve (VRV), probably triggered by damage in the soft seal, resulted in lower pressure in the LH2 (Liquid Hydrogen, the propellant) tank when the CUS engine ignited.
- This caused the Fuel Booster Turbo Pump (FBTP) to malfunction, ultimately leading to the failure of the mission.
- Recommendations include the incorporation of an active LH2 tank pressurisation system for guaranteeing sufficient pressure in the tank before the engine burns. Other recommendations include strengthening the VRV and associated fluid circuits to avoid leakage.

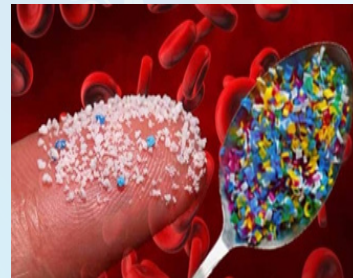
MICROPLASTICS

A study by researchers from The Netherlands found

the presence of Microplastics in human blood.

What are microplastics?

- Microplastics are tiny bits of various types of plastic found in the environment. The name is used to differentiate them from "macroplastics" such as bottles and bags made of plastic.
- There is no universal agreement on the size that fits this bill — the U.S. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the European Chemical Agency define microplastic as less than 5mm in length.
- However, for the purposes of this study, since the authors were interested in measuring the quantities of plastic that can cross the membranes and diffuse into the body via the blood stream, the authors have an upper limit on the size of the particles as 0.0007 millimetre.



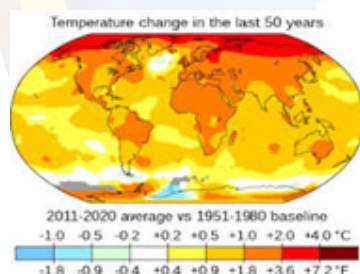
What were the plastics that the study looked for in the blood samples?

- The study looked at the most commonly used plastic polymers.
- These were polyethylene tetrathalate (PET), polyethylene (used in making plastic carry bags), polymers of styrene (used in food packaging), poly (methyl methylacrylate) and poly propylene. They found a presence of the first four types.



INDIA, PAKISTAN: MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- Extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in South Asia with escalated floods and droughts making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change, cautioned the latest IPCC report released.
- If emissions are not dramatically reduced, 'wet bulb' temperatures in India, which measure both heat and humidity, will exceed 31 degrees Celsius, which is fatal for humans, according to the paper.
- Despite the fact that India is one of the South Asian countries with the greatest urban adaptation measures, these plans are hampered by inequitable funding and "priority," with larger cities receiving more attention.
- According to the IPCC study, melting glaciers in the Hindu Kush mountain range may improve river water flow temporarily, but this will be short-lived due to a long-term loss in glacier mass.



- Changes in the monsoon will have a negative impact on agriculture and fishery, which account for around 20% of India's GDP.
- Climate change and human action have damaged 69 per cent of commercially important species in Indian fisheries, according to the report.
- By 2050, the production of rice, wheat, pulses, and coarse grains is expected to plummet by 8.62 per cent, having a "serious" impact on the Indian economy.
- By 2080, the golden apple snail, an invasive alien species, is likely to pose a danger to crop yields.

IPCC REPORT

The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with

global warming of 1.5°C, and even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional, severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible, according to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



About:

- Human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and damage to nature and people. Some development and adaptation efforts have reduced vulnerability.
- Lucknow and Patna, according to one of several studies cited in the IPCC report, are among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperature (a metric of humidity) of 35°C if emissions continued to rise.
- Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are identified as at risk of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32-34°C with continued emissions.
- Overall, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab will be the most severely affected, but if emissions keep rising, all States will have regions that experience wet-bulb temperature of 30°C or more by the end of the century.
- According to the IPCC report, global sea levels will likely rise 44-76 cm this century if governments meet their current emission-cutting pledges. With faster emission cuts, the increase could be limited to 28-55 cm.
- But with higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 m this century and 5 m by 2150.

RESOLUTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

World leaders at a United Nations conference in Kenya have agreed to work together in the biggest-ever push to stem the flood of plastic pollution.

About:

- The U.N. Environment Assembly has voted to adopt a resolution that paves the way for a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution by 2024.
- The vote was unanimous, with nations agreeing to create an intergovernmental committee to negotiate the terms of the treaty.
- Head of the U.N. Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, said that the plastics treaty would be the most significant environmental pact since the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- The details of the final treaty are yet to be negotiated, but could include a ban on producing new plastic, and will take into account all aspects of plastic pollution — including particles in the ocean, soil and food chain.
- The resumed session of fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) was held from 28th February 2022 to 2nd March 2022 in Nairobi.

NORTHERN RIVER TERRAPIN (BATAGUR BASKA)

Recently, forest officials installed GPS transmitters on the northern river terrapin in the Indian Sunderbans. However, In just six weeks after the release, at least three of the 10 turtles of the critically endangered Batagur baska species have travelled hundreds of kilometres and are now in Bangladesh.

About:

- The northern river terrapin (Batagur baska) is a species of riverine turtle native to Southeast Asia.
- It is one of Asia's largest freshwater and brackwater turtles, reaching a carapace length of up to 60 cm and a maximum weight of 18 kg. Its carapace is moderately depressed.
- The species is currently found in Bangladesh and India (in the Sunderbans), Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia.
- It is strongly aquatic but uses terrestrial nesting sites, frequenting the tidal areas of estuaries, large rivers, and mangrove forests.

- It is classified Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and considered extinct in much of its former range, principally due to exploitation as a food item (including egg harvesting).



TIGER DENSITY

Preliminary findings of a study by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) suggest that the density of tigers in the Sunderbans may have reached the carrying capacity of the mangrove forests, leading to frequent dispersals and a surge in human-wildlife conflict

About:

- Availability of food and space is the primary factor that determines how many tigers a forest can hold. And often, food is space for the tiger.
- In the Terai and Shivalik hills habitat — think Corbett tiger reserve, for example — 10-16 tigers can survive in 100 sq km. This slides to 7-11 tigers per 100 sq km in the reserves of north-central Western Ghats such as Bandipur, and to 6-10 tigers per 100 sq km in the dry deciduous forests, such as Kanha, of central India.
- The correlation between prey availability and tiger density is fairly established. There is even a simple linear regression explaining the relationship in the 2018 All-India Tiger report that put the carrying capacity in the Sunderbans “at around 4 tigers” per 100 sq km.
- A joint Indo-Bangla study in 2015 pegged the tiger density at 2.85 per 100 sq km after surveying eight blocks spanning 2,913 sq km across the international borders in the Sunderbans.



The ongoing WII study indicates a density of 3-5 tigers in the Sunderbans. Given that 88 (86-90) tigers were estimated in 2,313 sq km of the Sunderbans in 2018, the population has been close to its so-called saturation point in the mangrove delta for some time.

SYLLIPSIMOPODI BIDENI

For the roughly 300 known octopus species dwelling in the world's oceans, having eight arms is a defining characteristic. But that is not the way it started.



About:

- Scientists said a fossil unearthed in central Montana of a species named Syllipsimopodi bideni represents the oldest-known relative of today's octopuses and boasts 10 arms, with two being twice as long as the other eight.
- The fossil, so well preserved that it reveals two parallel rows of suckers up and down each arm, dates to about 328 million years ago.
 - Syllipsimopodi, about 4-3/4 inches (12 cm) long, had a torpedo-shaped body and squid-like appearance though it was not closely related to squids, which appeared much later.
- It also is the oldest-known creature with suckers, which enable the arms to better grasp prey and other objects.
- Syllipsimopodi pushes back by 82 million years the origins of a group called vampyropods that includes today's octopuses.
 - Syllipsimopodi represents the only member of the octopus lineage with 10 arms, meaning two were lost in later evolution. There are numerous similar examples in the history of life on Earth – such as the reduction in the number of digits seen in meat-eating dinosaurs or horses.

MUMBAI CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (MCAP)

The Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP), which was recently released has laid down a 30-year road map for the city to tackle the challenges of climate change by adopting inclusive and robust mitigation and adaptation strategies



About:

- The action plan has set short-, medium- and long-term climate goals aimed towards zero emission of greenhouse gas or a net-zero target for 2050.
- It has been said that actions must be taken on priority across six strategic areas—sustainable waste management, urban greening and biodiversity, urban flooding and water resource management, energy and buildings, air quality and sustainable mobility.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) prepared the plan with technical support from the World Resources Institute (WRI), India and the C40 Cities network.
- The plan throws light on the current climate of the city called Baseline assessment—climate and air pollution risks, greenhouse gas inventory.
- The plan throws light on the current climate of the city called Baseline assessment—climate and air pollution risks, greenhouse gas inventory.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022: QATAR FIFA WORLD CUP

- The FIFA World Cup 2022 is set to be the 22nd edition of the quadrennial international men's football championship, which will be contested by national teams from FIFA member countries.
- The new FIFA is modernising football in every manner possible to make it more global, accessible, and inclusive. Not just on a few continents, but around the globe.



- As part of our goal to make football truly global, we will help expand football worldwide so that at least 50 national teams and 50 clubs from all continents can compete at a high level.

BOMA CAPTURING TECHNIQUE

An uncommon experiment with Africa's Boma technique undertaken at Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district for capturing and translocating spotted deer is set to improve the prey base in Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, situated 450 km away.

About:

- The move will lead to herbivores populating the forests ahead of the proposed shifting of two tigers to Mukundara.
- The Boma capturing technique, which is popular in Africa, involves luring of animals into an enclosure by chasing them through a funnel-like fencing.
- The funnel tapers into an animal selection-cum-loading chute, supported with grass mats and green net to make it opaque for animals, which are then herded into a large vehicle for transport to another location.
- This old technique was earlier utilised to capture wild elephants for training and service.
- Following its adoption in Madhya Pradesh in recent years, Boma has been put to practice for the first time in Rajasthan for sending the ungulates to the prey-deficient Mukundara reserve as the kills for tigers and leopards.

Note

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) technical committee has approved a proposal to shift two tigers from Ranthambhore National Park to Mukundara, which lost two tigers and two cubs in 2020 and is now left with an eight-year-old tigress.
- The reserve, spread across 759 sq. km area, was created with the portions of Darrah, Chambal and Jawahar Sagar wildlife sanctuaries in south-eastern Rajasthan.

CHEETAH INTRODUCTION PLAN

The cheetah, which became extinct in India after Independence, is all set to return with the Union Government launching an action plan.



About:

- According to the plan, about 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years, from the Africa savannas, home to cheetahs, an endangered species.
- According to the Government, Kuno national park in Madhya Pradesh is ready to receive the cheetahs.
- The cheetahs are to be provided by the Cheetah Conservation Fund, an NGO, and not the Namibian government. Three to five cheetahs are expected to be part of the first group of cats and these are expected to arrive as early as May 2022 and released in the wild by August 15.
- It is recorded that the last cheetahs were shot in India in 1947, but there are credible reports of sightings of the cat till about 1967.

Supreme court verdict of 2013

- The 2013 order of the Supreme Court quashed plans to introduce African cheetahs in India and more specifically at Kuno national park in Madhya Pradesh.
- African cheetahs are not required to perform the role of the top predator in these habitats when the site (Kuno) that they have identified already has a resident population of leopards, transient tigers and is also the site for the translocation of Asiatic lions as ordered by the Supreme Court

CYCLONE ASANI

People living in coastal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands were evacuated to safety as the archipelago experienced heavy rain and strong winds due to Cyclone Asani on Sunday.

About:

- The depression over the southeast Bay of

Bengal intensified first into a deep depression and later into a cyclonic storm.

- Shipping services between the islands and those connecting Chennai and Visakhapatnam have been stopped and fishermen have been warned not to venture into the sea as the year's first cyclonic storm neared the archipelago.
- A total of 68 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel have been deployed in Port Blair, and 25 each in Diglipur, Rangat and Hutbay areas.
- The system is expected to move towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts.

VEDANTHANGAL BIRD SANCTUARY

The Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee has recommended grant of environment clearance for Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.'s expansion project in Tamil Nadu's Madurantakam taluk, around 3.7 km from the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary.



About:

- Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is a 74-acre protected area located in the Madurantakam taluk of the Chengalpattu District in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Vedanthangal is home to migratory birds such as pintail, garganey, grey wagtail, blue-winged teal, common sandpiper and the like.
- Vedanthangal is the oldest water bird sanctuary in the country. Vedanthangal in Tamil language means 'hamlet of the hunter'.

KUWAIT BECOMES HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH, RECORDS 53.2 DEGREE CELSIUS

- Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth. It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds

dropped dead from the sky. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.



- The country continues to burn oil for electricity and ranks among the top global carbon emitters per capita, according to the World Resources Institute. As asphalt melts on highways, Kuwaitis bundle up for bone-chilling air-conditioning in malls. Renewable energy accounts for less than 1 per cent of demand – far below Kuwait's target of 15 per cent by 2030.

IQAIR'S 2021 WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT: DELHI WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED CAPITAL

- New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report. New Delhi is followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman) as the top five most polluted capital cities respectively. Meanwhile, Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in India, followed by Ghaziabad, Delhi and Jaunpur.
- Globally:
- Bangladesh was the most polluted country, followed by Chad, Pakistan and Tajikistan. India was the fifth most polluted country.

Key points of the report:

- The 2021 World Air Quality Report by Swiss organisation IQAir is the first major global air quality report based on updated annual WHO air quality guidelines for PM2.5.

KERALA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO INTRODUCE CARBON-NEUTRAL FARMING METHODS

- Kerala is set to become the first state in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming

methods in selected locations, for which the government has set aside Rs 6 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.

- In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm. In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.

IMPORT OF PLASTIC BOTTLES FOR WASTE PROCESSING ALLOWED

After banning the import of plastic waste in 2019, the Environment Ministry has permitted containers made of polyethylene terephthalate, as plastic waste, to be imported for processing.

About:

- The decision to roll back the ban was taken last year after representations by several industries in the business of processing waste said there was too little waste available for them in India and this was causing them financial losses.
- An expert committee of the Environment Ministry, last December, recommended that firms which had applied for permission could import polyethylene terephthalate flakes and bottles up to 50% of their production capacity.
- Polyethylene terephthalate is a category of plastic, and nearly 90% of the domestic supply of containers using them is already recycled.
- However, this reprieve has not gone down well with environmentalist groups

INDIAN RHINOCEROS

The population of the greater one-horned or Indian rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has increased by 200 in four years, the latest census of the World Heritage Site's flagship animal has revealed.

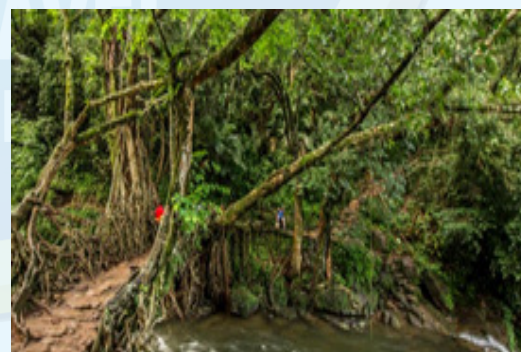


About:

- The last rhino census conducted in 2018 had put the number at 2,413.
- This year's census had a first — the use of drones for the recheck of 26 park compartments where the sample survey was done.
- The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), also called the Indian rhino, greater one-horned rhinoceros or great Indian rhinoceros, is a rhinoceros species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

LIVING ROOT BRIDGES OF MEGHALAYA INCLUDED TENTATIVE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- 'Jingkieng Jri or Living Root Bridge', found in over 70 villages in Meghalaya highlighting the socio-cultural, social and botanical links between people and nature, has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
- Villagers grow the living root bridges by training the 'ficus elastica' tree on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10 to 15 years where the roots form the bridge. At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state. Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.



- Other sites included in the list:
- The Geoglyphs of the Konkan region of Maharashtra, Sri Veerabhadra Temple and Monolithic Bull (Nandi) at Lepakshi of Andhra Pradesh have made it to the Tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites in 2022.

EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour was observed on March 26, 2022 (Saturday) from 8:30 to 9:30 PM.



About:

- It is the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment where people around the globe unite to take a stand against climate change by turning off non-essential lights for one hour.
- Starting out as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, it has come to be observed every year on the last Saturday of March in more than 180 countries uniting millions of people in the effort to decarbonise the planet both collectively and individually.
- The "theme for this year's global event was "Shape our Future", highlighting our collective responsibility towards the environment.

NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY

Environment Minister informed that October 5th has been designated as National Dolphin Day to be celebrated every year to create awareness for conservation of Dolphins.

About:

- He chaired the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in New Delhi today. Considering that generating awareness amongst the people on the benefits of conservation of Dolphins is important, the Standing Committee recommended that every year 5th of October should be celebrated as National Dolphin Day.
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems help in maintaining the overall health of the planet.
- Dolphins act as ideal ecological indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem and conservation of the Dolphins will benefit the survival of the species and people dependent on the aquatic system for their livelihood.

Gangetic Dolphin

- The Gangetic dolphin is categorised as

endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.

- A WWF-India and the Uttar Pradesh forest department assessment in 2012 and 2015 recorded 1,272 dolphins in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Betwa, Son, Sharda, Geruwa, Gahagra, Gandak and Rapti.

NASI BEACHES

About 2.45 lakh Olive Ridley sea turtles crawled ashore on the Nasi-II beach of the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary along the Odisha coast for laying eggs, marking one of the largest opening day arrivals of turtles at the site.



About:

- Gahirmatha is the world's largest rookery for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles. When the annual spectacle began on Friday, it was a sight to behold.
- Both Nasi-I and Nasi-II beaches are under the jurisdiction of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which conducts missile tests from the nearby Wheeler Island.
- Elaborate arrangements are in place to guard the eggs from dogs and hyenas, which are attracted to the mass nesting sites.

FIRST WILDLIFE BOND ISSUED BY WORLD BANK TO SAVE AFRICA'S BLACK RHINO

- The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) to support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino. Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as "Rhino Bond". It is a five-year \$150 million Sustainable Development Bond. It includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



- The bond will contribute to protecting and increasing black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa namely the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR).

ELEPHANT DEATHS

The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a “permanent” coordination committee that includes representatives of the Ministries of Railways and Environment to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks

About:

- This was stated by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in the Lok Sabha.
- Yadav said that 19 elephants were killed across the country on railway tracks in 2018-19, 14 in 2019-20 and 12 in 2020-21.
- A Standing Committee on the Railways in 2013 had recommended restricting the speed of trains at vulnerable locations to reduce collisions. This translated into trains slowing down to 50 kmph or less in vulnerable locations.
- Several steps were taken to reduce the number of elephants deaths, the Minister noted. These included –
- making permanent and temporary speed restrictions in identified elephant corridors and habitats
- making underpasses and ramps for movement of elephants at identified locations,
- providing fencing at selected locations,
- erecting signs to warn train drivers about identified elephant corridors,
- sensitising train crew and station masters to avoid train collisions with elephants and
- clearing vegetation on the sides of track within railway land.

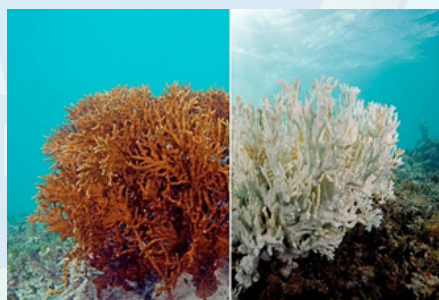
CORAL BLEACHING

- The management authority of the world’s largest coral reef system, Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, confirmed on March 25 that the reef is experiencing a mass coral bleaching event.



Coral reefs

- Corals are marine invertebrates or animals not possessing a spine. Each coral is called a polyp and thousands of such polyps live together to form a colony, which grows when polyps multiply to make copies of themselves.
- Corals share a symbiotic relationship with single-celled algae called zooxanthellae.
- The algae provides the coral with food and nutrients, which they make through photosynthesis, using the sun’s light. In turn, the corals give the algae a home and key nutrients. The zooxanthellae also give corals their bright colour.
- Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is the world’s largest reef system stretching across 2,300 km. It hosts 400 different types of coral, gives shelter to 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusc.



Coral Bleaching

- Coral Bleaching happens when corals experience stress in their environment due to changes in temperature, pollution or high levels of ocean acidity.
- Under stressed conditions, the zooxanthellae or food-producing algae living inside coral polyps start producing reactive oxygen species, which are not beneficial to the corals.
- So, the corals expel the colour-giving zooxanthellae from their polyps, which exposes their pale white exoskeleton, giving the corals a bleached appearance. This also ends the symbiotic relationship that helps the corals to survive and grow.



REPORTS AND INDICES

KNIGHT FRANK: INDIA RANKS 3RD IN BILLIONAIRE POPULATION GLOBALLY



- India is ranked 3rd in terms of most number of billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022.
- The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to 145 billionaires, the highest percentage growth in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- UHNWIs are individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m or more (Rs 226 crore).
- Globally:
 - The list has been topped by the United States (748) and China (554) respectively.
- Indian City-wise:
 - Bengaluru recorded the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs in 2021 at 17.1% to 352 billionaires. It was followed by Delhi (12.4% to 210) and Mumbai (9% to 1596) in 2021.

SDG INDEX 2021: INDIA RANKS 120TH POSITION

- India has been ranked at 120th position in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021.
- In this Index, countries are ranked by a score out of 100. India has a score of 60.07. Last year India's rank was 117.
- The Index measures the country's total progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Index has been topped by Finland.

The top 5 countries in this ranking are:

- 1- Finland;
- 2- Sweden;
- 3- Denmark;
- 4- Germany;
- 5- Belgium

- These 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:



GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and
Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

DEMOCRACY REPORT 2022

The V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg has come out with their annual democracy report. The study is titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'.
<https://www.v-dem.net/en/publications/democracy-report-2022-autocratisation-changing-nature/>



About:

- The report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy.
- It classifies India as an electoral autocracy ranking it 93rd on the LDI, out of 179 countries.
- The level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels, with the democratic gains of the post-Cold War period eroding rapidly in the last few years.
- More than twice as many countries (32) are undergoing autocratisation as are witnessing democratisation (15).
- Noting that India is one of the top ten ‘autocratisers’ in the world, the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) report classifies India as an autocracy (‘electoral autocracy’) rather than a democracy, ranking it 93rd on the liberal democracy index, out of 179 countries.
- One of the biggest drivers of autocratisation is “toxic polarisation”, a dominant trend in 40 countries, as opposed to 5 countries that showed rising polarisation in 2011.

FREEDOM OF THE WORLD 2022 REPORT: INDIA RANKED 'PARTLY FREE'

- For the second consecutive year, India has been termed as ‘partly free’ country in terms of democracy and free society, according to the annual report. The report titled “Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule” by Freedom House, a US-

based NGO that ‘assesses political rights and civil liberties. India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022. The country had scored 67 in 2021. India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.

- India scored a mere 49, the same score as that of Uganda. Here too, the score has come down. The reasons are – the increasing internet shutdowns by governments, low internet penetration and poor infrastructure.
- India's freedom scores are similar to that of Bolivia, Hungary and Albania. The countries that have scored the worst include South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea.

SKOCH STATE OF GOVERNANCE RANKING 2021

- Andhra Pradesh has retained its number one spot in the SKOCH State of Governance rankings for the second consecutive year. According to a release, the State retained the first rank for the second consecutive year. In 2020 too, Andhra Pradesh bagged top rank in governance. Andhra Pradesh was ranked at second position in 2018 and later it slipped to 4th position in 2019, according to Skoch.

Other state rankings:

- The second rank was bagged by West Bengal and Odisha was ranked 3, Gujarat was ranked 4 and Maharashtra was ranked 5. Neighbouring Telangana was ranked 6.

SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021:

- The SKOCH Group has released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021 in New Delhi, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district, and Email Article Print Article municipal levels.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL SHOPPING 2021: INDIA RANKED 2ND

- According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom. co-investment data, India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021. On a global scale, India came in second to the US last year, which attracted \$51 billion in investment, followed by China at third with \$14 billion and the UK at fourth with \$7 billion.
- Within India, Bengaluru comes out on top

globally with \$14 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021, followed by Gurugram at No. 7 with \$4 billion and Mumbai at No. 10 with \$3 billion.

Rank	Country	Investment
1	United States (US)	USD 51 billion
2	India	USD 22 billion
3	China	USD 14 billion
4	United Kingdom	USD 7 billion

FORTUNE INDIA THE NEXT 500 LIST 2022: RAILTEL RANKED 124TH

- RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), owned by the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, has ranked 124th in the 8th Edition Fortune India The Next 500 (2022 edition) of top midsize companies operating in India.
- It is the only Telecom Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) of the Government of India (GoI) on the list. It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India.

SIPRI REPORT: INDIA EMERGES AS LARGEST IMPORTER OF ARMS

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021. As per the report, India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21. Both two countries accounted for 11% of all global arms sales. Egypt (5.7%), Australia (5.4%) and China (4.8%) were the next three largest importers respectively in the top 5.
- The report placed India at the top of the list. 85% of India's overall imports were from three countries. Russia (46%), France (27%), and the USA (12%) were the top three largest exporters of arms to India during the period.

Largest Arms Exporters in 2017-21

- USA, with 39% share, retained its standing as the world's largest arms exporters during 2017-21.
- Russia (19%), France (11%), China (4.6%) and Germany (4.5%) were among the top 5 largest exporters respectively.
- India was 23rd largest exporter during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports

KNIGHT FRANK: INDIA PLACED 51ST IN GLOBAL HOUSE PRICE INDEX Q4 2021

- India has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at 51st position in the 'Global House Price Index Q4 2021' released by property consultant Knight Frank. India was placed at 56th position in Q4 of 2020. India witnessed a 2.1 per cent annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-December quarter of 2021 against Q4 of 2020.

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

Source: Knight Frank Research

- Globally
- Turkey saw the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 per cent in Q4 2021.
- New Zealand (22.6 per cent), Czech Republic (22.1 per cent), Slovakia (22.1 per cent) and Australia (21.8 per cent) are among the top 5 countries respectively in the latest research report.
- Malaysia, Malta and Morocco markets recorded a decline in housing prices by 0.7 per cent, 3.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively, in the year 2021.
- About the Knight Frank's Global House Price Index :

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

Source: Knight Frank Research

- Global House Price Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide using official statistics. The index tracks nominal and real price growth in local currencies. The rankings on the price movement have been accounted basis the nominal price growth change.

UN WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2022: INDIA RANKS 136TH

- India has improved its rank by three spots to acquire 136th position in the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022, which ranked 146 countries. In 2021, India's rank was 139. Finland has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year. Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, at 146th position.

Top 10 countries of the 2022 World Happiness Report:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	The Netherlands
6	Luxembourg
7	Sweden
8	Norway
9	Israel
10	New Zealand

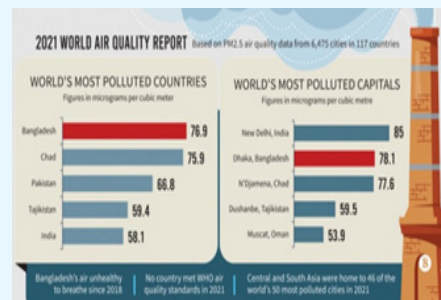
HURUN GLOBAL RICH LIST 2022: ELON MUSK TOPS

- SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk has bagged the top position on the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, with a total net worth of \$205 billion. The 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List is published by research and luxury publishing group Hurun India in association with realty firm M3M.
- From India, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani was the only Indian to feature in the top 10 list of 2022 Hurun Global Rich List' to emerge as India's as well as Asia's richest man. Ambani occupied the ninth rank globally with a net worth of \$103 billion.

WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT

- Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021, says the World Air Quality Report prepared by the Swiss-based air quality technology company IQAir in its latest report released.

About:



- In terms of particulate matter in the air, Bangladesh recorded an average PM2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021 against the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended maximum permissible level of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.
- Earlier, in 2018, 2019 and 2020 also Bangladesh was found to be the most polluted country in the world. However, the PM2.5 level has shown a decline in Bangladesh from 77.1 micrograms per cubic metre in 2020 which was even higher at 83.3 in 2019 and 97.1 in 2018.
- The data reveals that not a single country in the world managed to meet the WHO's air quality standard in 2021. All over the world, 93 cities reported PM 2.5 levels at 10 times the recommended level.
- Among the cities, Dhaka was the second most polluted city in the world with a PM 2.5 level of 78.1 just below New Delhi which had a PM 2.5 level of 85.1 in 2021.
- IQAir analysed data from 6475 cities across 117 countries for air quality in 2021 to arrive at the conclusion. Countries and regions in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia suffered from the highest annual average PM2.5 concentration weighted by population.

INDIA TB REPORT 2022

A 19% increase was witnessed in 2021 from the previous year in TB patients' notifications.



About:

- The number of incident TB patients (new and relapse) notified during 2021 was 19,33,381 against the 16,28,161 in 2020, noted India TB Report 2022 released recently.
- On World Tuberculosis Day. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reaffirmed the government's commitment to making India tuberculosis-free by 2025 and said this will be achieved by ensuring access to quality healthcare and advanced treatment.
- The government also released the National TB Prevalence Survey Report which was conducted from 2019 to 2021 to know the actual disease burden of TB. The reports said there has been an increase in the mortality rate due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 by 11%.
- The survey report said prevalence of microbiologically confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) among 15 years and above in India was 316/lakh population with the highest PTB prevalence of 534/lakh in Delhi and the lowest PTB prevalence of 115/lakh in Kerala.

EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX FOR 2021

- Gujarat has been named India's top State in terms of export preparedness for the second year in a row as per an index released by the NITI Aayog.

About:

- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu were ranked second, third and fourth in the index, as coastal States with higher industrial activity and access to sea ports account for a majority of India's exports.
- The Export Preparedness Index for 2021 is based on States' ratings on four major parameters pertaining to exports promotion and facilitation, including policy support, business and export ecosystem and the actual performance in outbound shipments



- The index identifies three major challenges to India's export promotion efforts. These are intra- and inter-regional differences in export infrastructure; weak trade support and growth orientation across States; and lack of R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.

UNEP REPORT: DHAKA IS WORLD'S MOST NOISE POLLUTED CITY

- Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has been ranked as the most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). As per the report, the city recorded noise pollution of 119 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021.
- Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad came second in the list with noise pollution of 114 decibels. Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is third, with maximum noise pollution of 105 dB.
- The quietest cities in the world as per the report are Irbid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB.
- The other four most noise polluted cities in India in the list are Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi (83 dB).
- A total of 61 cities from around the world have been ranked in the report, out of which 13 cities are from South Asia, while 5 among them are from India.
- Guidelines of WHO:
 - The WHO guidelines state that sounds with a frequency of over 70 dB are considered harmful to health. For residential areas, the sound limit of 55-dB are standard, while for traffic and business sectors, this limit is 70 dB.



SPORTS NEWS

STRANDJA MEMORIAL BOXING TOURNAMENT: NIKHAT ZAREEN & NITU WINS GOLD FOR INDIA



- Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) has won gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.

Nikhath Zareen

- Nikhat bagged her second gold medal at Europe's oldest international boxing tournament with a 4-1 win in the women's 52kg final. She had previously won the Strandja Memorial title in 2019.

Nitu

- Nitu outpunched the reigning Youth World Championships bronze medallist Italy's Erika Prisciandro 5-0 without breaking a sweat in the women's 48 kg final.

Nandini

- With Nandini also finishing on the podium in the 81kg category and signing off with a bronze medal, the Indian contingent concluded their campaign with three medals at the tournament, which was part of India's first exposure trip this year.

INDIAN SHOOTER SAURABH CHAUDHARY WINS 10M AIR PISTOL GOLD AT ISSF WORLD CUP

- Indian shooter, Saurabh Chaudhary has won the gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ongoing 2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.



- The silver medal has been won by Germany's Michael Schwald while Artem Chernousov of Russia claimed the bronze medal.
- In the women's 10m air pistol section, India's Esha Singh lost to Anna Korakaki of Greece to win the silver medal.
- Esha, who had shot better than Anna in the semifinal stage, pushed Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Antoaneta Kostadinova to the bronze.

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE SEASON 8

- Dabang Delhi K C defeated Patna Pirates by 36-37 in the final of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dabang Delhi beat three-time champion Patna Pirates. Pawan Sehrawat was awarded with the Raider of the season award for his 304 raid points in 24 matches. The winner of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 got a cash prize of 3 crores.

Other awardees:

- Defender of the season award: Mohammadreza Chiyaneh;
- Emerging Player of the season: Mohit Goyat;
- Most Valuable Player of the season award: Naveen Kumar.



31ST SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES TO BE HELD IN VIETNAM

- The 31st Southeast Asian Games will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022. It is the biggest sporting event of Southeast Asia and is a biennial event.
- The event was originally scheduled to take place in November 2021 however it was postponed due to the Covid pandemic.
- The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants, organisers announced at a press conference here.
- The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh, Xinhua news agency reported. Moto of 31st Southeast Asian Games- “For a Stronger South East Asia”.

Points to remember:

- In 2023, the Southeast Asian Games will be held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- The mascot of the 2021 Southeast Asian Games is “Sao La”, inspired by saola – a rare mammal native to central Vietnam.

IOC WITHDRAWS TOP OLYMPIC HONOUR FROM VLADIMIR PUTIN

- The International Olympic Committee has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine.
- International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia’s participation in the World Cup play-offs next month is also in doubt after FIFA plans to allow them to play on neutral territory were dismissed as “unacceptable” by rivals.
- The IOC last week urged all international sports federations to cancel forthcoming events in Russia, angry at Moscow violating an “Olympic Truce” with its attack on Ukraine.

POOJA JATYAN BECAME 1ST INDIAN TO WIN A SILVER IN PARA ARCHERY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Para-archer, Pooja Jatyán has scripted history

as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE.

- She lost to Italy’s Patrilli Vincenza in the final to be content with the silver medal. India ended its campaign with two silver medals, a first for the country.



- India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship. The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamy and Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India’s account by winning a silver medal.

FIFA

On February 28, 2022, FIFA and UEFA decided to indefinitely suspend all Russian teams, whether national representative teams or club teams, from participation in all competitions run by the two football bodies.

About:

- FIFA, Fédération Internationale de Football Association in French, is the highest global governing body of football (also known as soccer to distinguish it from American football), the world’s most popular game.
- FIFA is also the international governing body for futsal (a kind of mini football played indoors on a hard court between two teams of five players each) and beach soccer (five-a-side, played on a beach).
- FIFA is responsible for organising and promoting football’s major international tournaments, most importantly the football World Cup, which began in 1930, and the Women’s World Cup which began in 1991.
- The membership of FIFA now comprises 211 national football associations around the world.
- FIFA, which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, supports these national associations financially and logistically through various programmes.
- The FIFA Congress is the supreme legislative body of FIFA, in which each of the 211

members of the organization has a vote. The Congress ordinarily meets annually.

ISSF WORLD CUP: SHRI NIVETHA, ESHA, RUCHITA WIN GOLD IN WOMEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL



- India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver. Andrea Katharina Heckner, Sandra Reitz and Carina Wimmer of Germany settled for the silver medal.
- Germany and Italy are joint seconds on the table with one gold, two silver and one bronze medal each. A total of 17 countries have won medals so far.

ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP NEW ZEALAND 2022 BEGINS

- The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 has kicked off on March 04, 2022, in New Zealand.
- This is the 12 edition of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, being held in New Zealand from March 04 to April 03, 2022.
- The opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 was held at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui between West Indies and New Zealand, in which West Indies women beat New Zealand by 3 runs.
- India will open against Pakistan on the 6th of March.

PRIYANKA NUTAKKI BECOMES THE 23RD WOMAN GRANDMASTER OF INDIA

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

Pradesh. Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months.

- However, much like a lot of players, the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her title hopes

INTERNATIONAL OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT



India's S L Narayanan wins Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, S L Narayanan was declared the winner in the Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy. Meanwhile, his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second. Though Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds. But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score. The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the 41st Grandmaster from India.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION DUPLANTIS SETS POLE VAULT WORLD RECORD OF 6.19M IN BELGRADE



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

ISSF WORLD CUP 2022

KEY POINTS:

- On the final day of the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, Indian shooters took home two medals.
- Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala won the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team gold medal match against Thailand 17-7 in the tournament's final event.
- Earlier in the day, India's Gurpreet Singh, Anish Bhanwala, and Bhavesh Shekhawat were defeated 7-17 by Germany in the gold medal match of the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team competition.
- India won their third World Cup gold on Sunday, defeating Singapore 17-13 in the women's 25m pistol team event final. In the gold medal match, Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh, and Rhythm Sangwan defeated the Singaporean trio of Xiu Hong, Shun Xie, and Ling Chiao Nicole Tan.
- Esha Singh had won the women's 10m air pistol team event in addition to the silver she had earned in the women's 10m air pistol individual event, making this her second gold and third medal of the World Cup.
- Saurabh Chaudhary won India's first gold medal in Cairo last week. In the gold medal match of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event, the 19-year-old Indian defeated Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6.

SHREYAS IYER AND AMELIA KERR NAMED ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India's star all-format batter Shreyas Iyer and White Ferns all-rounder Amelia Kerr were voted ICC Players of the Month for February 2022.

Among the women category:

- New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the ICC 'Women's Player of the Month' award for February 2022. Amelia Kerr, the 21-year-old New Zealand all-rounder, was named the Women's POTM, following her supreme consistency with both bat and ball during the home white-ball series against India.
- Kerr was chosen ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Mithali Raj and all-rounder Deepti Sharma for the award.

GERMAN OPEN BADMINTON 2022: LAKSHYA SEN WON SILVER MEDAL

- Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen has settled for silver after losing to Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, 18-21, 15-21, in the men's singles final at the German Open 2022. The Thai player dominated from start to end, winning the match and the championship in just 57 minutes. German Open is an annual badminton tournament classified as BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

LAKSHYA SEN FINISHES RUNNER-UP; LOSES TO AXELSEN IN FINAL OF ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP'S

- Lakshya Sen, who won bronze at the World Championships, placed second at the 2022 All England Open Badminton Championships after losing to world number one Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final on Saturday.



Sen, rated No. 11 in the world, was defeated by reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen 10-21, 15-21. On his route to the top of the podium, the world No. 1 was unstoppable and didn't drop a single game.

NEERAJ CHOPRA OLYMPICS: THE MAN WITH GOLDEN ARM 2022

- Subedar Neeraj Chopra PVSM VSM, the reigning Olympic champion in the javelin throw, is an Indian track and field athlete. Chopra joined the Indian Army as a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and Naib Subedar in 2016, serving in the 4 Rajputana Rifles, one of the Army's oldest rifle units. JCOs acquire the rank of Naib Subedar after 20 years of service.

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra, became the country's first Olympic gold medalist in track and field on August 7, 2021.
- In his second attempt, he threw 87.58 metres to win the gold medal for India in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

- After Abhinav Bindra, he is the second Indian to win a gold medal in an individual event.

NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: SPORTSTAR ACES 2022

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

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: HYDERABAD FC WINS MAIDEN TROPHY

- Hyderabad FC has clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters in the penalty shoot-out in the summit clash. Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time.



F1 BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2022 WON BY FERRARI'S CHARLES LECLERC

- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 at the Bahrain International Circuit, a motor racing circuit in the west of Bahrain. Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain) came second while Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) came third. This was the first Formula One race of 2022.

PANKAJ ADVANI WON ASIAN BILLIARDS TITLE FOR 8TH TIME

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has defeated Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022. It was held in Doha, Qatar. Overall this is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown. Earlier, Advani had held off the stiff challenge of Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final. He managed a 5-4 win after his opponent fought back strongly to level the match at four frames each.



CANADA REACHES FOOTBALL WORLD CUP FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1986

- Canada has qualified for the Qatar 2022 football World Cup for the first time in 36 years, after thoroughly beating Jamaica 4-0 in Toronto.
- The North American nation have booked their place at the finals for the first time since Mexico in 1986.
- Canada is top of the CONCACAF qualifying group and has now secured its place at a World Cup finals tournament for the first time since 1986.

SAFF U-18 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE 2022 WON BY INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM

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

SWISS OPEN BADMINTON TITLE 2022: PV SINDHU WON THE TITLE

- India's P.V. Sindhu has defeated Busanan

Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to win the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament. Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth-seeded Busanan 21-16, 21-8 at the St. Jakobshalle.

- In the men's singles title of the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament, Indian badminton player HS Prannoy lost to Jonatan Christie (Indonesia). However, Prannoy suffered a 12-21, 18-21 defeat against Asian Games gold medallist and fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in a 48-minute summit clash to finish runner-up.

THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM HAS WON GOLD IN THE NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

- In Kohima, Darshan Singh of the Services and Varsha Devi of the Railways finally defended their men's and women's titles in the National Cross Country Championships by winning their 10 Km events on the picturesque but difficult course, which was made more difficult by 60 per cent humidity and wind gusts.

MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS 2022 SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia.



LEGENDARY AUSTRALIAN SPINNER, SHANE WARNE PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne has passed away at the age of 52. Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests.



- His career spanned over 15 years from 1992 to 2007. He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in 1999.
- He is regarded as one of the greatest-ever bowlers in the history of the sport as he was an integral part of the dominant Australian sides in the 1990s and early 2000s.

S F RODRIGUES

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of former Indian Army Chief General S F Rodrigues

About:

- General Sunith Francis Rodrigues (1933 – 2022) was an Indian army officer who was Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army from 1990 to 1993.
- After his retirement, he served two terms on the National Security Advisory Board.
- He was also the Governor of Punjab from 2004 to 2010.

MITHALI RAJ BECOMES FIRST WOMAN CRICKETER TO APPEAR AT SIX CRICKET WORLD CUPS

- Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj has become the first woman to appear in six World Cups.

- She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022. The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.



- In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketers, Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England.
- Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, Raj's India teammate for the longest time, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearances.

JYOTIRAO PHULE AND SAVITRIBAI PHULE

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has recently received flak for his remarks on the child marriage of the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule.

About:

- Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule stand out as an extraordinary couple in the social and educational history of India. They spearheaded path-breaking work towards female education and empowerment, and towards ending caste- and gender-based discrimination.
- In 1840, at a time when child marriages were common, Savitri at the age of ten was married to Jyotirao, who was thirteen years old at the time. The couple later in life strove to oppose child marriage and also organised widow remarriages.
- Together, by 1848, the Phules started a school for girls, Shudras and Ati-Shudras in Poona. The historic work was started by Jyotirao when

he was just 21 years old, ably supported by his 18-year-old wife.



- In 1853, Jyotirao-Savitribai opened a care centre for pregnant widows to have safe deliveries and to end the practice of infanticide owing to social norms. The Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide) started in their own house at 395, Ganj Peth, Pune.
- The Satyashodhak Samaj (The Truth-Seeker's Society) was established on September 24, 1873 by Jyotirao-Savitribai and other like-minded people. The Samaj advocated for social changes that went against prevalent traditions, including economical weddings, inter-caste marriages, eradication of child marriages, and widow remarriage.

YOON SUK YEOL

- Yoon Suk-yeol has been declared as the winner of the 2022 South Korean presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country.

MINA SWAMINATHAN

Mina Swaminathan, Distinguished Chair, Gender and Development, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), died in her home at Teynampet at the age of 88 due to natural causes.

About:

- A teacher-educator and writer on early childhood education (ECE), she was appointed in 1970, by the Central Advisory Board of Education, as Chairman of the Study Group on the Development of the Preschool Child.
- The report of this committee, submitted in 1972, became the basis for the scheme known as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in 1975, a landmark intervention in the field of early childhood care and development.
- She was a founder-member of the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, in 1980, and had been its Vice Chairman from

1987 to 1993.

- She is survived by her husband, agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan, and her daughter — Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization.

DIÉBÉDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ

Diébédó Francis Kéré has won the 2022 Pritzker Architecture Prize. Born in Burkina Faso, he is the first architect from Africa to win the prestigious award,



About:

- The Pritzker Architecture Prize is an award presented annually "to honor a living architect or architects who has contributed significantly to humanity through the art of architecture."
- Founded in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker and his wife Cindy, the award is funded by the Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation.
- It is considered to be one of the world's premier architecture prizes, and is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.
- The Pritzker Architecture Prize is said to be awarded "irrespective of nationality, race, creed, or ideology".
- The recipients receive US\$100,000, a citation certificate, and, since 1987, a bronze medallion.

DR. ASHISH JHA

US President Joe Biden appointed Indian-American public health expert Dr Ashish K Jha as the White House's next Covid-19 Response Coordinator.



About:

- Born in Pursaulia, Bihar in 1970, Jha migrated to Canada with his parents nine years later and to the United States in 1983. He graduated from Columbia University with a BA in economics and later received his MD from Harvard Medical School.
- Jha, a practising physician, has been serving as the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health since 2020.
- Jha recently advised the White House on the national Covid-19 preparedness plan. It outlines how people can eventually begin resuming normal activities as Covid restrictions are gradually lifted.

T.S. TIRUMURTI

Amid the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the government has decided to extend the tenure of India's envoy to the United Nations T.S. Tirumurti for three months

About:

- S. Tirumurti (born 1962) is an Indian civil servant who belongs to the Indian Foreign Service cadre.
- He is currently the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. On 19 May 2020, he took over as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations succeeding Syed Akbaruddin.
- While he was Permanent Representative to the United Nations, India was elected to the UN Security Council in July 2020. India entered the UN Security Council for a two-year term on 1 January 2021.
- India was also elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for 2021-2025 and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the term 2021-2023.

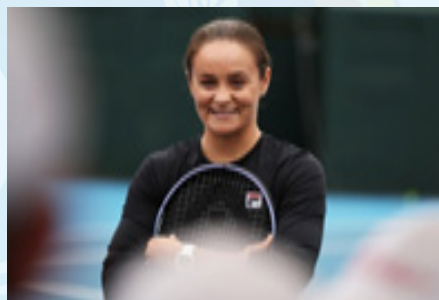


PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI TAKES OATH AS 11TH CM OF UTTARAKHAND

Pushkar Singh Dhami has taken oath as 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He will take over the reins of the state for the second time in a row. Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh administered him the oath of office and secrecy at the Parade Ground in Dehradun.

WORLD TENNIS NO.1 ASHLEIGH BARTY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in 2022. Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.



RAJ SUBRAMANIAM

Indian American corporate veteran Raj Subramaniam is set to replace Frederick W Smith as the new Chief Executive Officer of the delivery giant FedEx.



About:

- Subramaniam, 54, joined FedEx in 1991 and was elected to the FedEx Board of Directors in 2020.
- Originally from Trivandrum, he went to IIT Bombay in 1987 to study chemical engineering and later earned a master's degree in the same field from Syracuse University in 1989.
- FedEx Corporation, formerly Federal on NARI

Corporation and later FDX Corporation, is an American multinational conglomerate holding company focused on transportation, e-commerce and services based in Memphis, Tennessee.

- The name “FedEx” is a syllabic abbreviation of the name of the company’s original air division, Federal Express, which was used from 1973 until 2000.



MIRABAI CHANU BAGGED ‘BBC INDIAN SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR’ AWARD 2021

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, Mirabai Chanu won the 3rd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics. Chanu won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.



AWARDS

MOS ANNPURNA DEVI GIVES NATIONAL ICT AWARD 2020 & 2021

- Smt Annpurna Devi, who is the union MoS for Education has given National ICT Awards to 49 teachers from all over the country.
- In her speech on this event, she told that the NEP-2020 emphasizes on the efficient use of technology in the field of teaching, which will remove the language barriers and increase access for DIVYANG students

AIM OF ICT AWARDS:

- Recognition in the form of a National Award for ICT in Education for school teachers indirectly motivates instructors to utilise ICT extensively and significantly in their classrooms by combining content pedagogy and technology.
- It has now been foreseen to extend this Award to the Teacher Educators for the States & UTs for their best educational practices.
- These ICT Awardees are also given the task of serving as ICT Ambassadors, expanding the reach of ICT in Education through their ongoing efforts to mentor other teachers.

PROF DEEPAK DHAR BECAME THE FIRST INDIAN SELECTED FOR BOLTZMANN MEDAL

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

About Prof. Deepak Dhar:

- Prof Dhar was born in 1951 and completed his graduation in Science in 1970 from the University of Allahabad, then Masters's in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1972.
- Then he went to the US for PhD and after completing his PhD joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) as a research fellow in 1978.
- He worked at TIFR over the years as a full-time professor and retired in 2016. Since then, he has joined IISER Pune as a visiting faculty.

SWADESH DARSHAN AWARDS

In order to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and various implementation agencies, the Ministry of Tourism has constituted Swadesh Darshan Awards in different categories.

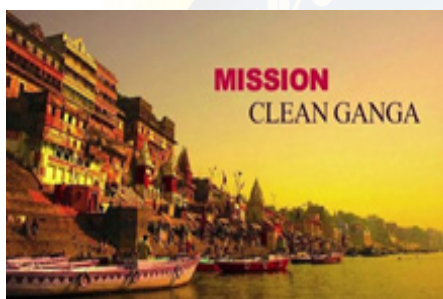
About:

- The awards will highlight best practices in planning, design and operations, efficient project monitoring, ability to attract private investments in peripheral development and efforts undertaken to ensure optimal operations and maintenance etc.
- To begin with, the Ministry of Tourism has decided to invite entries under the following categories:-
 - Best Tourist Interpretation Centre
 - Best Log Hut Facility
 - Best MICE Facility
 - Best Cafeteria
 - Best Craft Haat/ Souvenir Shop facility
 - Best Sound and Light Show
 - Best Waterfront Development (Beach/ River/ Lake etc.)
- The Ministry of Tourism under its flagship scheme of 'Swadesh Darshan' has sanctioned 76 projects in 31 States / Union Territories of India for more than Rs.5500 Crore.

- As part of this scheme, tourism related infrastructure has been developed at more than 500 tourist destinations

NMCG AWARDED 'SPECIAL JURY AWARD' FOR GANGA REJUVENATION

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been awarded the 'Special Jury Award' at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards.
- NMCG has been awarded for its effort in reviving River Ganga and bringing about a paradigm shift in water management.
- The 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards were organised at the FICCI's 7th India Industry Water Conclave, held virtually on March 02 and 03, 2022.



- The Citation underlines the complexity of the task of rejuvenation of the entire Ganga basin and the importance of engaging with diverse stakeholders particularly the people-river connect which forms the basis of NMCG's approach to the challenging task. G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

DEEPAK DHAR

Deepak Dhar, physicist, from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, has been selected for the Boltzmann medal, awarded by the Commission on Statistical Physics (C3) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.



About:

- He has been chosen for this award for his contributions in the field of statistical physics, including universal long-time relaxation in disordered magnetic systems, exact solutions in percolation and cluster counting problems and definition of spectral dimension of fractals.
- He becomes the first Indian to win this award, which was initiated in 1975, with Nobel laureate (1982) K.G. Wilson being the first recipient.
- He shares the platform with American scientist John J. Hopfield who is known for his invention of an associative neural network, now named after him.
- The award consists of the gilded Boltzmann medal with the inscription of Ludwig Boltzmann, and the chosen two scientists will be presented the medals at the StatPhys28 conference to be held in Tokyo, 7-11 August, 2023.
- The medal, which honours outstanding achievements in the field of statistical physics, has been given to one or two persons, once in three years, in the last 47 years.
- It is given only once to a person and on the condition that that person has not won the Nobel prize so far.

NARI SHAKTI PURASKARS

Nari Shakti Puruskar for the years 2020 and 2021 will be conferred by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind at a special ceremony to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 8th March, 2022. The award ceremony for the year 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to prevalent situation created by COVID-19 pandemic.

About:

- In all, 28 awards (14 each for the year 2020 and 2021) will be presented to 29 individuals in recognition of their exceptional work in rendering distinguished services towards empowerment of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.
- 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by individuals and institutions, to celebrate women as game changers and catalyst of positive change in the society.
- The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2020 are from fields as diverse as entrepreneurship, agriculture, innovation,

social work, arts and crafts, STEMM, and wildlife conservation, etc.

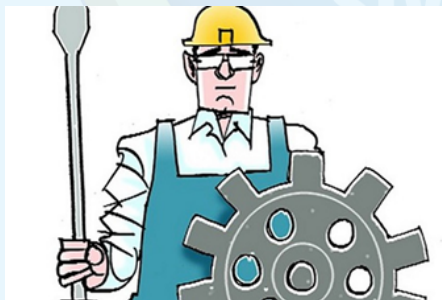
- The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2021 are from the fields of linguistics, entrepreneurship, agriculture, social work, arts and crafts, Merchant Navy, STEMM, education and literature, disability rights, etc.

NMDC RECEIVES 1ST PRIZE IN ISPAT RAJBHASHA AWARD FOR 2018-19 AND 2020-21

- National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel received 1st prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and company also received the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20.
- The award ceremony was held in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai on 3rd March 2022.
- The Union Minister of Steel, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, presented the accolades to Shri Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC.

AWARDS BY LABOUR MINISTRY

Union Minister of Labour and Employment presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2018 and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)] for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.



About:

- The Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been operating the "Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)" and "National Safety Awards (NSA)" since 1965 and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)] since 1983.
- VRP and NSA are operated by the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai and NSA (Mines) is operated by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Dhanbad. DGFASLI is an attached office whereas as DGMS is a sub-

ordinate office of the Ministry.

- To promote a competitive spirit amongst mine operators for the betterment of safety standards in mines, the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, instituted the National Safety Awards (Mines) in 1983.
- VRP is awarded in recognition of outstanding suggestions given by a worker or group of workers and implemented by the management during the performance calendar year resulting in improvement in quality, productivity and working conditions in the industrial undertakings where "Suggestion Schemes" are in operation.
- The NSA is given in recognition of outstanding safety performance of industrial establishments, construction sites, ports and installations under Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to stimulate and maintain the interests of both the management and the workers in accident prevention programs.

BANGLADESHI RIZWANA HASAN

- Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, Rizwana Hasan has been selected for the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.
- She is among the 12 women from around the world who will be honoured by the US Department of State with the award for showing exceptional courage and leadership to make a difference in their communities. The awards ceremony on March 14 in a virtual ceremony to honour the 12 women selected for the award.



About the award:

- The International Women of Courage (IWOC) award was established in 2007 by the US Department of State to honour women of exceptional courage, strength and leadership who work to bring change to their communities. Till now 170 women from 80 countries have been honoured under the IWOC programme.

SUSHMA SWARAJ AWARD

- Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, while presenting the state budget, has announced

a 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres.

- The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry an award money of Rs 5 lakh along with a commendation.

About the Sushma Swaraj:

- Sushma Swaraj was a lawyer of the Supreme Court as well as an Indian politician. She was a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, served as India's Minister of External Affairs during the first Narendra Modi government (2014–2019). After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to occupy this position.

SIX INDIAN AIRPORTS NAMED THE ACI WORLD'S ASQ AWARDS 2021

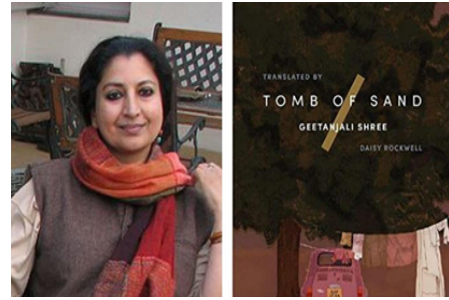
- From India, six airports have found a place among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region', by the Airports Council International (ACI), in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the year 2021

J&K BANK BAGGED NATIONAL AWARD FOR SHG BANK LINKAGE 2022

- Union Minister of Rural Development, Giriraj Singh honoured the Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) with the "National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21" in recognition of its best performance in Self-Help Group Bank Linkage. Kirti Sharma, Zonal Head, Delhi, J & K Bank, accepted the award on the bank's behalf from Union Minister Giriraj Singh.
- The award was presented during the event organized as a part of International Women's Day (8th March 2022) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi

INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE NOMINATION

- Author Geetanjali Shree's translated Hindi novel "Tomb of Sand" is among 13 books long-listed for the International Booker Prize.
- It is the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it to the long list of the prestigious literary prize.
- The book was originally published as 'Ret Samadhi' and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.
- It will compete for the GBP 50,000 prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.



75TH BAFTA AWARD 2022 ANNOUNCED

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



History of the awards:

- British Academy Television Awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding work in British Television. It is being given annually since 1955. It is mainly given to British programs.

CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN MEMORY OF BIPIN RAWAT

On the eve of the 65th birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, the Indian Army has instituted a Chair of Excellence in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI).



About:

- The formal announcement was made by Gen. Manoj Naravane, Chief of Army Staff and Officiating Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, at a ceremony organised at South Block.
- The aim of the proposed Chair of Excellence will be to conduct research on strategic issues of significance pertaining to the armed forces.
- The Chair will be open to veterans of the three Services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs.
- Naravane also handed over a cheque for ₹5 lakh to Maj. Gen. B.K. Sharma (retd), Director, USI, which will be paid as honorarium to the nominated Chair of Excellence.

NARAYAN PRADHAN NAMED FOR GD BIRLA AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences. He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.

About the award:

- Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

AXIS BANK WON 'ASIAN BANK OF THE YEAR' AT IFR ASIA AWARDS 2021

- India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.

OSCARS 22: INDIA'S 'WRITING WITH FIRE' NOMINATED IN BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE CATEGORY

- A documentary about the Dalit-led, all-woman newspaper Khabar Lahariya, "Writing With Fire" became the first Indian documentary to be nominated at the Oscars. 'Writing With Fire' had won Audience and Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival last year. It is produced by Ticket Films and directed by filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh. 'Khabar Lahariya' is a newspaper founded in May 2002 in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.
- Other nominees in the category are: "Ascension", "Attica", "Flee", and "Summer of Soul (Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)".

WORLD SPARROW DAY

Every year March 20 is observed as World Sparrow Day to raise awareness about the bird.

About:

- The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world.
- The theme for this year is "Monitor the Sparrows & other common birds".



- The World Sparrow Day secretariat is urging people to monitor sparrows and other common birds this year using the Common Bird Monitoring of India, a citizen science initiative of Nature Forever Society.
- Nature Forever Society is a non-government organisation (NGO) run by Mohammed Dilawar, who's an internationally acclaimed conservationist.

Threats

- The need for marking this day was felt due to the tremendous decrease in its population.
- The house sparrow is on the verge of extinction. Increased use of pesticides, change in the pattern of buildings and gardens missing from the houses have become the main factors why

the number of sparrows has declined sharply in the past few years.

- Also, the radiation from the mobile and the TV towers has also been a cause of the death of sparrows. Birds navigate by sensing the earth's magnetic fields and mobile radiations are known to disturb them and interfere with birds' ability to move around.

FRANCIS KÉRÉ BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN TO WIN PRITZKER PRIZE 2022

- Architect, educator and social activist Francis Kéré has been announced as the 2022 laureate of the Pritzker architecture prize 2022, the award often referred to as architecture's highest honour.
- He was born in the small village of Gando in Burkina Faso, Kéré is the first black architect to win the coveted award.

SURESH RAINA FELICITATED WITH 'SPORTS ICON' AWARD BY MALDIVES GOVERNMENT

- Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has been awarded the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022.
- The Maldives government felicitated Raina for his various achievements throughout his career. Raina was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids among others.

DEVENDRA JHAJHARIA BECAME 1ST PARA-ATHLETE TO RECEIVE PADMA BHUSHAN

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



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

ABEL PRIZE FOR 2022: AMERICAN MATHEMATICIAN DENNIS P. SULLIVAN

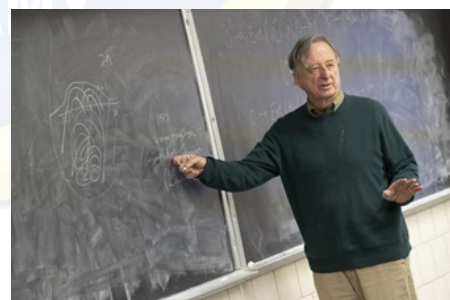
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the Abel Prize for the year 2022 to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan.
- The citation mentions that the award has been given, "For his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects."

What is Topology?

- Topology is a field of mathematics which was born in the nineteenth century and has to do with properties of surfaces that do not change when they are deformed.
- Topologically, a circle and a square are the same; similarly, surfaces of a doughnut and a coffee mug with one handle are topologically equivalent, however, the surface of a sphere and a coffee mug are not equivalent.

Numerous awards won by Dennis P. Sullivan:

- Dennis P. Sullivan has won numerous awards, among them the Steele Prize, the 2010 Wolf Prize in Mathematics and the 2014 Balzan Prize for Mathematics.
- He is also a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.



What is the Abel Prize?

- The Prize recognises extraordinary contributions to the sector of mathematics & is funded by the Norwegian Government & supported the recommendations of the Abel Committee, which consists of 5 internationally recognized mathematicians, the Abel Laureates is chosen.

PRESIDENT KOVIND CONFERS NATIONAL WATER AWARDS 2022

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has presented the 3rd National Water Awards in New Delhi. National Water Awards is given for exemplary work in the field of water resource management. The first National Water Award was launched in 2018, by the Jal Shakti Ministry. A total of 57 National Water Awards for 2022 have been conferred to states, organizations and others in 11 different categories.
- Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- The 'Best District' awards for the north zone was bagged by Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Punjab);
- For the south zone, it was Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh);
- For the east zone, East Champaran (Bihar) and Godda (Jharkhand) won the award;
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Vadodara (Gujarat) and Banswara (Rajasthan) won the awards in the west zone.
- Goalpara (Assam) and Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) won the awards for the northeast zone.
- South Zone
- Yelerampura Panchayat, Tumakuru District, Karnataka
- Vellaputhur Panchayat, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu
- Elappully Grama Panchayat, Palakkad District, Kerala

PROF WILFRIED BRUTSAERT BAGS STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE 2022

- Professor Emeritus Wilfried Brutsaert has been named as the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2022. He has been awarded for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation. Wilfried Brutsaert is Professor in Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University, USA. His innovative works on Evaporation and Hydrology are of lasting theoretical and practical importance, particularly in view of climate change. In addition, Wilfried Brutsaert has pioneered novel approaches to understanding changes in groundwater storage.

About the award:



- The Stockholm Water Prize is the world's most prestigious water award and is often described as the Nobel Prize of water.
- The prestigious Prize has been awarded since 1991 to people and organizations for extraordinary water-related achievements.
- The Prize is awarded by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

OSCARS AWARDS 2022: 94TH ACADEMY AWARDS 2022 ANNOUNCED

- Netflix's The Power of the Dog leads the race with 12 nominations followed by sci-fi epic Dune, with 10 nods. Indian documentary Writing With Fire is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).



- Best Actor in a Leading Role: Will Smith, "King Richard"
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- Best Picture: CODA
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car
- Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best Directing: Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Ariana DeBose (West Side Story)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Troy Kotsur (CODA)

- Best Makeup & Hairstyling: The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Cinematography: Dune
- Best Original Score: Hans Zimmer (Dune)
- Best Visual Effects: Dune
- Best Animated Feature Film: Encanto
- Best Animated Short Film: The Windshield Wiper
- Best Costume Design: Cruella
- Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Branagh (Belfast)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sian Heder (Coda)
- Best Live Action Short Film: The Long Goodbye
- Best Sound: Dune
- Best Documentary Feature: "Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)"
- Best Original Song: "No Time To Die" from "No Time to Die," music and lyric by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell
- Best Production Design: Dune
- Best Film Editing: Dune

INDIA'S NAMIT MALHOTRA ON OSCARS WIN FOR DUNE

- This year's Oscars was named to Dune as the Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya starrer sci-fi thriller bagged six wins. Dune was nominated in 10 categories and it won in 6 of them. This win was a proud moment for India as Namit Malhotra, the CEO and Chairman of Double Negative (DNEG), the studio that did the VFX for the film, brought home this honour.
- DNEG won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, beating Free Guy, Shang-Chi, Spider-Man: No Way Home and No Time to Die. Interestingly, this is DNEG's seventh win at the Academy Awards, with the studio winning big for Inception (2011), Ex Machina (2016), First Man (2019), Tenet (2021), Interstellar (2015) and Blade Runner 2049 (2018).

About the Namit Malhotra

- Namit is the son of Bollywood producer Naresh Malhotra and the grandson of cinematographer MN Malhotra and his company was behind the mind-blowing VFX.

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BAGGED 'COVID CHAMPION' AWARD AT WINGS INDIA 2022

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. The Covid champion award was received by CIAL Managing Director S Suhas IAS from Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia. CIAL has been awarded for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport.
- The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru won two the 'Best Airport' under the General Category and the 'Aviation Innovation' Award at the event.
- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) won the 'Aviation Sustainability & Environment' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices.



INDIAN AIR FORCE TO CONDUCT EXERCISE VAYU SHAKTI AT POKHARAN RANGE, RAJASTHAN

- Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in this exercise.
- Rafale aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise.
- Exercise Vayu Shakti is organised by Indian Air Force once in every three years. The last Vayu Shakti Exercise took place in 2019.



INS VISAKHAPATNAM

Jagan Mohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh dedicated INS Visakhapatnam, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam, in a formal ceremony held at Naval Dockyard on 27 Feb 2022.



About:

- The ship is on her maiden visit to the port for participating in the PFR and MILAN 2022.
- INS Visakhapatnam is the lead ship of P15B

class of guided missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on 21 Nov 2021.

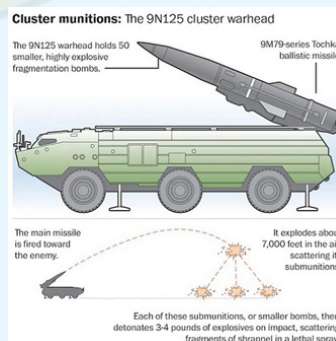
- The crew of the ship abides by her motto 'Yasho Labhasva' - a sanskrit phrase that translates to 'Attain Glory'.

CLUSTER BOMBS AND THERMOBARIC WEAPONS

Human rights groups Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch accused Russia of using cluster bombs and vacuum bombs in the ongoing war.

Cluster munitions

- According to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, a cluster munition means a "conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive submunitions".
- Essentially, cluster munitions are non-precision weapons that are designed to injure or kill human beings indiscriminately over a large area, and to destroy vehicles and infrastructure such as runways, railway or power transmission lines.
- They can be dropped from an aircraft or launched in a projectile that spins in flight, scattering many bomblets as it travels.
- Countries that have ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions are prohibited from using cluster bombs.



Thermobaric weapon

- Thermobaric weapons — also known as aerosol bombs, fuel air explosives, or vacuum bombs — use oxygen from the air for a large, high-temperature blast. A thermobaric weapon

causes significantly greater devastation than a conventional bomb of comparable size.

- Vacuum bombs are not prohibited by any international law or agreement, but their use against civilian populations in built-up areas, schools or hospitals, could attract action under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.

DEFENCE ACQUISITION PROCEDURE 2020

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has offered four projects to the Indian Industry for design & development under Make-I category of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020



Make-I category

- The industry will be provided financial support for prototype development of these projects.
- The list of projects which were accorded 'Approval In-Principle (AIP)' by Collegiate Committee of MoD is as follow:
- Indian Air Force: Communication Equipment with Indian Security Protocols (Routers, Switches, Encryptors, VoIP Phones and their software)
- Indian Air Force: Airborne Electro Optical pod with Ground Based System
- Indian Air Force: Airborne Stand-off Jammer
- Indian Army: Indian Light Tank
- This is for the first time since the launch of DAP-2020 that Indian Industry has been involved in development of big ticket platforms such as Light tank and Communication Equipment with Indian security protocols.

Make-II procedure

- In addition, AIP has also been accorded to following five projects under industry-funded Make-II procedure:
- Indian Air Force: Full Motion Simulator for Apache Helicopter
- Indian Air Force: Full Motion Simulator for Chinook Helicopter

- Indian Air Force: Wearable Robotic Equipment for Aircraft Maintenance
- Indian Army: Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System for Mechanised Forces
- Indian Army: Autonomous Combat Vehicle
- Projects under 'Make-II' category involve prototype development of equipment or their upgrades or their components, primarily for import substitution/innovative solutions, for which no Government funding will be provided for prototype development purposes.

19TH MILITARY COOPERATION MEET OF INDIA & US HELD IN AGRA 2022

- The 19th edition of the India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The discussion was co-chaired by Air Marshal BR Krishna,
- Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), and Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka, Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, represented the US side.

MODERNISATION PLAN-IV FOR CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPFs)

The Government has approved the scheme - Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in continuation of the scheme "Modernisation Plan-III for CAPFs.

About:

- The Modernisation Plan-IV will run from 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2026.
- Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,523 crore is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It aims to equip the CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres. Besides, upgraded IT solutions will also be provided to CAPFs.
- Implementation of the scheme will equip CAPFs to improve the overall operational efficiency/preparedness which will positively impact the internal security scenario in the country.

DEFEXPO

Amid the deepening crisis in Ukraine, the 12th edition of Defexpo scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 10th till March 14th has been postponed, the Defence Ministry announced.



About:

- Spread over 1 lakh sq m., this year's defexpo was to be the largest since its inception in 1996.
- It was to be held in Gujarat for the first time.
- Over 50 defence ministers or heads of armed forces from across the world were expected to attend the event

BRAHMOS LAND ATTACK MISSILE

The Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai, on 5th March, 2022



About:

- The missile hit its intended target with pinpoint accuracy after traversing an extended range trajectory and performing complex manoeuvres.
- Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built and highlight the cutting-edge of Indian missile and ship-building prowess.
- This achievement establishes the Indian Navy's ability to strike even deeper and influence land operations further away from sea, when and where required.

- BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.
- BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- The range of the advanced version of the missile is learnt to have been extended to around 350 km from the original 290 km.

SLINEX

The Ninth Edition of India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise) is scheduled at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022.



About:

- The exercise is being conducted in two phases; the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07-08 Mar 22 followed by the Sea Phase on 09-10 Mar 22 in the Bay of Bengal.
- Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette.
- The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Trincomalee in October 2020.
- SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- SLINEX is in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and PM Modis vision of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)'.

IRAN SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRE SECOND MILITARY SATELLITE NOOR-2

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth.

- This is the second military satellite launched by the Islamic Republic. The first military satellite, Noor, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Noor means light in the Persian language.



- Putting the second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about the country's nuclear and missile programs. The three-stage Qased, or "Messenger", the carrier launched the Noor 2, from the Shahroud spaceport.

EXERCISE DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

Ex DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, an annual exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Force which commenced on 27 February 2022 at Foreign Training Node, Belgaum successfully culminated on 10 March 2022.

About:



- The conduct of this exercise, which covered a vast spectrum from cross training & combat conditioning in field conditions, to sports and cultural exchanges has been a grand success.
- "Exercise Dharma Guardian" will enhance the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces.

EX-DUSTLIK BETWEEN INDIAN AND UZBEKISTAN ARMIES BEGINS

- The 3rd edition of the joint training exercise named EX-DUSTLIK between the Indian army and Uzbekistan army begins at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022. The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.



About the Exercise:

- The joint exercise would focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate. The training schedule will focus primarily on sharing of tactical level drills and learning of best practices from each other. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two armies.

5TH IN THE SERIES OF OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS "ICGS SAKSHAM" COMMISSIONED

- Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham. The fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa. The first four of the five ICGS which have already been commissioned in 2020 are ICGS Sachet (1st); ICGS Sujeet (2nd); ICGS Sarthak (3rd); and ICGS Sajag (4th) in 2021.
- The Indigenous Offshore Patrol Vessel Project was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2016 under which five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were planned to be launched.

9TH INDIA-SEYCHELLES JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'LAMITIYE-2022' BEGINS

- The 9th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) was held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles. The Indian Army contingent will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHARIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).

About the exercise:

- Exercise LAMITIYE is a biennial training event, been conducted in Seychelles since 2001. The objective of this joint training exercise is to build and promote bilateral military relations, sharing experiences gained during

various operations; exchanging skills and good practices between both armies.

CONDORS

Indian Navy formally commissioned its second squadron of P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, 'Condors', at INS Hansa in Goa.

- About:
- The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316, will operate four P-8I aircraft procured as part of the optional clause in 2016 in a deal worth over \$1 bn, deliveries of which were completed recently by Boeing.
- The Defence Ministry has already approved a proposal for procurement of six more P-8Is but that is now under review as part of an overall review of all imports.
- The squadron has been named 'Condors', one of the largest flying land birds with a massive wingspan. 'Condors' are known for excellent sensory capabilities, powerful and sharp talons and large massive wings symbolising the capabilities of the aircraft and envisaged roles of the squadron.
- The 'Game Changer' aircraft is a potent platform for maritime surveillance and strike, electronic warfare missions, search and rescue, providing targeting data to weapon platforms, time-critical surveillance information to the Army and the Air Force.

IONS MARITIME EXERCISE 2022 (IMEX-22) CONCLUDES IN ARABIAN SEA

- The first edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in Goa and in the Arabian Sea
- The objective of the exercise was to enhance the interoperability of the navies of member nations in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- The exercise is seen as a significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.

CORNER-SHOT WEAPON SYSTEM (CSWS)

A corner-shot weapon system (CSWS), designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is at an advanced stage of being inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police.



About:

- The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune.
- It can engage targets located around the corners as the system bends and captures video feed thus saving soldiers from any surprise counter attack and is best suited for urban, close quarter situations.

MALAYSIA TO HOST 4 NATIONS FOR BERSAMA SHIELD 2022 MILITARY EXERCISE

- Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise. The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) – a series of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements established in 1971. Bersama means together in Malay.

About the exercise:

- The exercise will involve sea and air drills, mostly in international waters but also in part of Malaysia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA)

SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES

Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired two Army-version Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAMs) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.



About:

- The flight tests were carried out as part of live-firing trials against high-speed aerial targets.
- The missiles intercepted the targets and destroyed them completely, registering direct hits at both the ranges. The first missile hit a medium-altitude long-range target and the second a low-altitude short-range one.
- This MRSAM version is developed jointly by the DRDO and the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the Army.
- The system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.

WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND CONDUCTS SECURITY EXERCISE 'PRASTHAN' IN MUMBAI OFFSHORE

- The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy organised an offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai. This exercise is conducted after every six months, to ensure offshore security. Apart from the Naval forces, the exercise saw participation from the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department and the Marine Police.

About the exercise:

- The exercise was conducted on the B-193 platform of ONGC located about 38 nm west of Mumbai.
- Contingencies such as terrorist intrusion, bomb explosion, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, man overboard, major fire, oil spill and mass evacuation were exercised.
- The exercise provided all stakeholders a realistic experience to assess their readiness to respond and combat contingencies in the Western ODA, as also to operate together in a coordinated and synergised manner.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

RAFAEL NADAL BOOK & RECORD 2022

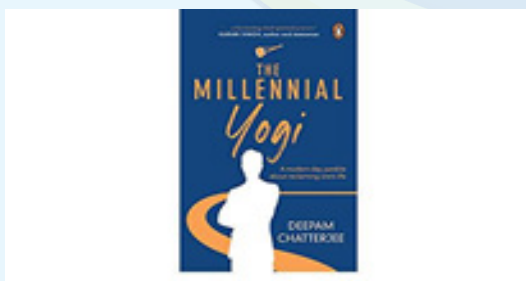
- Rafael Nadal was two sets down in the final of the Australian Open 2022. But he came back strongly to win a long five-set single match with Daniil Medvedev and claim a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final

RAFA'S NEW BOOK

- 'Rafa: My Story' is the new book launched by John Carlin and Rafael Nadal. It is his an autobiography of his international tennis career, in which he remembers his early years and tells about the things that gave him the strength to reach this position in international tennis.
- With honesty and intelligence, Rafa brings to the readers, his phenomenal and extraordinary journey in which he never lost sight of his target, as he values it above all others. For him his family is extremely important. He tells in his book the secrets of his brilliant game and shares his own inspirational story that played a key role in his success.

THE MILLENNIAL YOGI

- Former Indian Army Captain, Deepam Chatterjee has authored a new book titled "The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one's life".



- This is a book that mixes mysticism and music that takes readers on a journey of awakening.
- The book talks about Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay, who has a shady-yet-mercurial rise in his journey as an entrepreneur and Vini, a mystic monk. The book is published by Ebury Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

UDAAN EK MAJDOOR BACHHE KI

- Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota has released the book "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" by Captain AD Manek in a glittering program organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai
- The author of this book is Mithilesh Tiwari.
- This book is about the life journey of Captain AD Manek, how he travelled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph.

THE QUEEN OF INDIAN POP: THE AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY OF USHA UTHUP

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

The career of Usha Uthup:

- The 74-year-old pop icon, who completed 50 years as a professional singer in 2020, is widely known for evergreen hits such as "Hari Om Hari", "Rambha Ho" and "Jeete Hain Shaan Se". She has sung in several Indian and foreign languages including Bengali, Hindi, English, German, Italian and Sinhalese.

A BOOK TITLED 'THE BLUE BOOK' AUTHORED BY JOURNALIST AMITAVA KUMAR

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

well as words to depict the experience, both individual and collective, of the pandemic

- The Blue Book is a rare species of magical realism where words become paintings, and paintings turn into beguiling (charming) literary anthropology of 'reality and surreality' that leaves us stunned.

SHARAD PAWAR UNVEILED RATNAKAR SHETTY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY "ON BOARD: MY YEARS IN BCCI"

- A book titled "On Board: My Years in BCCI", an autobiographical account of Ratnakar Shetty's experiences as an administrator. The book was released by Sharad Pawar, the former president of the MCA, BCCI and International Cricket Council. Shetty, a Chemistry professor by profession, went on to be the BCCI's first Chief Administrative Officer after serving the Mumbai Cricket Association in various capacities.

SOLI SORABJEE: LIFE AND TIMES"

- A new biography, titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times" was announced, during the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee.
- It is authored by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud and will be released in April 2022.
- The book highlights the personal details of the life of Soli Sorabjee, his family background. He was the former Attorney General (AG) of India and served two times for the years 1989-90 and then from 1998- 2004

INDIA WATER PITCH-PILOT-SCALE CHALLENGE'

- Under the Ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'India WaterPitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge.'
- This comes after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's ceremonial launch of AMRUT 2.0 on October 1, 2021, stakeholder discussions in Lucknow (during MoHUA's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities), and Cabinet approval of the Mission on October 12, 2021.

KEY POINTS:

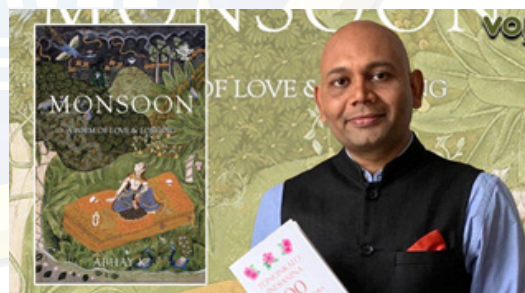
- Technology Sub-mission to engage startups as

'Technology Partners' has been approved by Cabinet under AMRUT 2.0, in keeping with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

- The Mission's goal is to help startups in the water/used-water sector thrive via innovation and design, resulting in long-term economic growth and job creation.
- The Ministry will select 100 start-ups to get Rs.20 lakhs in cash and mentorship as part of this project.
- At India Habitat Centre, MoHUA hosted the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave,' a first-of-its-kind networking platform for entrepreneurs, young innovators, industry partners, incubators, and states/cities. During the conclave, Union Minister HUA announced a startup challenge on the MyGov platform.

A POEM 'MONSOON' PUBLISHED BY SAHITYA AKADEMI

- Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters has published a book-length poem 'Monsoon' by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. Monsoon is a poem of 150 stanzas of 4 lines each that commence its journey in Madagascar and follows the path of the monsoon invoking the rich flora and fauna, languages, cuisine, music, monuments, landscapes, traditions, myths and legends of the places through which monsoon travels and acts as a messenger to carry the poet's message from Madagascar to his beloved in Srinagar in the Himalayas.



About the Sahitya Akademi:

- Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954. Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was its first President. The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956. It was a translation from Marathi into Hindi

A BOOK TITLED 'MODI@20: DREAMS MEET DELIVERY' RELEASED SOON

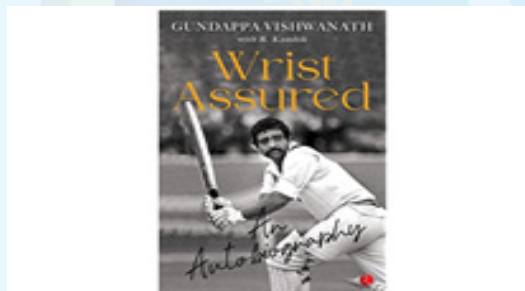
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced to release a book on the life of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi titled Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery. It is set to hit stands in April 2022. The book is a compilation of pieces written by intellectuals & experts and has been edited & compiled by BlueKraft Digital Foundation.

- The book captures the political life of PM Modi's past 20 years, ranging from his tenure as Gujarat CM to Prime Minister of India and has been compiled by eminent intellectuals and personalities from industry and politics.

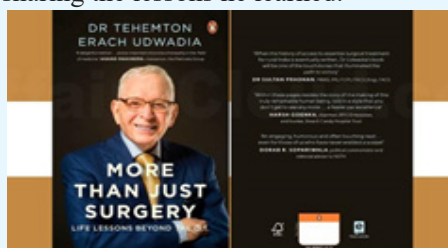
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF FORMER CRICKETER G.R. VISWANATH TITLED "WRIST ASSURED: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY"

- Former Indian cricket captain Gundappa Ranganatha Vishwanath has penned his autobiography titled "Wrist Assured: An Autobiography", co-authored by senior journalist R Kaushik. The book traces the cricketing journey of Gundappa Vishwanath who played Test Cricket for India between 1969 and 1986, making 91 appearances and scoring more than 6000 runs.



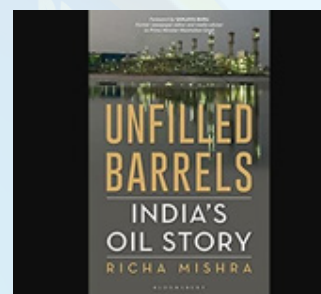
A BOOK TITLED "MORE THAN JUST SURGERY: LIFE LESSONS BEYOND THE OT" BY DR TEHEMTON ERACH UDWADIA

- Padma Awardee Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia has authored a new book titled "More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT", a personal account of people, incidents, mentors, failures, and absurdities against the backdrop of surgery. The book maps the journey of Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia from his student years through residency, research, surgical practice and surgical teaching as a means of sharing the lessons he learned.



A BOOK TITLED "UNFILLED BARRELS INDIA'S OIL STORY" AUTHORED BY RICHA MISHRA

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



NITI AAYOG AND FAO LAUNCH BOOK TITLED INDIAN AGRICULTURE TOWARDS 2030

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), Narendra Singh Tomar has released a book titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems", at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Indian Agriculture towards 2030 captures the outcomes of the deliberative process of national dialogue by NITI Aayog and the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and facilitated by FAO since 2019.

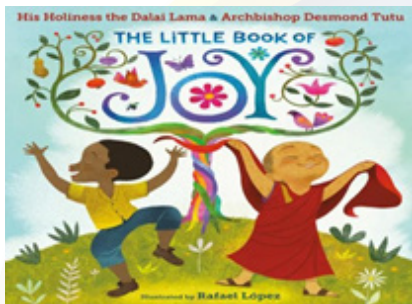
A BOOK TITLED 'SPOORTHI PRADATHA SRI SOMAYYA' AUTHORED BY K SYAM PRASAD

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, released a book titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya' authored by Syam Prasad. The book is based on the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a social worker from Andhra Pradesh. He inspired youth to dedicate their lives to social welfare.

- Somepalli Somaiah was born in 1927 in the “Parlamili” village of Prakasham district. He dedicated his life to reform and the betterment of society for 50 years. He participated in the Satyagraha of 1948 and was against the ban on RSS (Rashtriya Seva Sangh) and was jailed for the same

A CHILDREN’S BOOK ‘THE LITTLE BOOK OF JOY’ AUTHORED BY DALAI LAMA & DESMOND TUTU

- A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, titled “The Little Book of Joy” will be released in September 2022.



- The illustrations provided by artist Rafael López and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text. This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.



APPOINTMENT

MADHABI PURI BUCH

Former banker Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) — the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.



About:

- Buch (57), who was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term.
- She replaces Ajay Tyagi whose tenure as SEBI chairman ended recently.

PRESIDENT OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

- T Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency.
- His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on July 1. During the FATF plenary, he was chosen to succeed Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
- The FATF is an intergovernmental organisation set up by the G7 in 1989 to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

DEBASISH PANDA NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF IRDAI

- Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He is a former financial services secretary.

JUSTICE AK SIKRI NAMED AS CHAIRPERSON OF CHARDHAM PROJECT COMMITTEE

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

N CHANDRASEKARAN NAMED AS CHAIRMAN OF AIR INDIA

- The chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chairman of Air India. In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years. Tata Sons will soon announce a new MD and CEO for Air India to replace Ilker Ayci who was to take charge next month but resigned in the wake of controversies regarding his appointment



- Chandrasekaran also serves as the non-executive chairman of several other Tata Group companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Tata Consumer Products. He was reappointed Tata Sons' executive chairman last month for another five years.

CHIEF MINISTER OF MANIPUR

- Senior BJP leader N Biren Singh took the oath as Chief Minister of Manipur for a second consecutive five-year term on March 21, 2022. The ruling BJP party contested all 60 seats in

the Manipur Assembly election in 2022 and won 32 seats. Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh started his career as a footballer, then turned to journalism, before joining politics.

BHAGWANT MANN SWORN IN AS NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB

- Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Punjab at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh in the presence of Governor Banwarilal Purohit.



- The Aam Aadmi Party romped home winning 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine. Chanting 'Jo Bole So Nihal' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', Bhagwant Mann thanked the people who attended the swearing-in ceremony. Mann ended his speech with 'Inquilab Zindabad' (long live the revolution).

INDIAN ECONOMIST JAYATI GHOSH NAMED AS MEMBER OF UN'S ADVISORY BOARD

- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.
- Jayati Ghosh is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously a professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.

LT. GEN. VINOD G. KHANDARE APPOINTED AS ADVISER IN DEFENCE MINISTRY

- Lieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare (retired) has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence, providing strategic insights and advise on matters relevant to defence strategy.

Key Points:

- According to defence sources, he will collaborate closely with the Secretary of Defense.
- The role's mandate would be to provide strategic inputs and advise on matters relating to defence strategy, readiness, and associated activities, such as the International Defense Corporation, maritime security, and defence space.

GILBERT HOUNGBO NAMED NEXT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

- Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva.

PRAMOD SAWANT TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF GOA FOR 2ND TERM

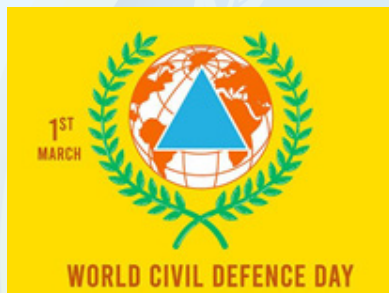
- Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa on March 28, 2022, for the second straight five-year term.



IMPORTANT DAYS

WORLD CIVIL DEFENCE DAY OBSERVED ON 1ST MARCH 2022

- World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it.
- The purpose of the Day is to promote public awareness about civil defence, civil protection and emergency management in order to better prepare the civilian population to protect itself in the event of an emergency and to reduce the risk of disaster.



The theme of the day:

- The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is “Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics”.

ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY OBSERVED ON 01ST MARCH

- The Zero Discrimination Day is held every year on the 1st of March. The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.
- Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.



The theme of the day:

- The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws.

History of the day:

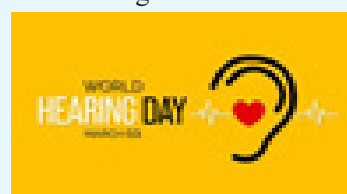
- Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014, and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director at Beijing after UNAIDS launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013.

46TH CIVIL ACCOUNTS DAY CELEBRATED ON 02 MARCH 2022

- The 46th Civil Accounts Day has celebrated on 2nd March 2022 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is the Chief Guest of the occasion.
- Finance Minister has launched a major e-governance initiative – the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system.
- A Budget 2022-23 announcement, the e- Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments. This will be a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency and a faceless- paperless payment system. Suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claims online which will be trackable in a real-time basis.

WORLD HEARING DAY

- World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year by World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.



- On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means

of maintaining good hearing across the life course.

- In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss. It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key H.E.A.R.I.N.G. interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds.

Theme of the day:

- The World Hearing Day 2022 with the theme “To hear for life, listen with care” will focus on the importance and means of hearing loss prevention through safe listening.

History of the day:

- The WHO, on March 3 in 2007, observed World Hearing Day for the first time. In 2016, they decided to declare this day as World Hearing Day.
- It was known as International Ear Care Day before that Communication is a fundamental human right and people with disorders and difficulties find it difficult to connect. Across the world, 360 million people suffer from disabling hearing loss. Educating people and teaching them about their rights will help them.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2022

- The World Wildlife Day is observed every year on March 3 to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.
- The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.



Theme of the day:

- World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”, as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them.

History of the day:

- The day was proposed by Thailand and recognised in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.
- World Wildlife Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- World Wildlife Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund: Carter Roberts.

NATIONAL SECURITY DAY OBSERVED ON 04TH OF MARCH

- In India, March 4 is celebrated as National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) every year, in the honor of the Indian Security Forces.
- The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, paramilitary forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country.
- Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from March 4 to March 10, 2022.

History of the day:

- 4 March also marks the day when the National Security Council (NSC) of India was established, in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India. The first National Security Day (NSD) was held in 1972.

NATIONAL SAFETY DAY 2022

IT is celebrated on March 4 every year, with a motive to create awareness and commitment to working safely.

HISTORY

In 1972, National Safety Day was commemorated for the first time on the National Safety Council's founding day.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

- The National Safety Council of India is a non-profit organization established to volunteer for the health, safety of citizens.
- Established on 4 March 1966 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to originate, develop, the Council educates citizens & encourages organizations to lead safety campaigns to educate people about industrial

safety. Through leadership, research, teaching, and advocacy, the National Safety Council works to eliminate needless deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road.

THEME

The theme for National Safety Day 2022, announced by the National Safety Council of India is “Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture”!

OBJECTIVES:

Here are the primary objectives of National Safety Day 2022

- Assist in the integration of safety and health into the workplace culture and lifestyle.
- Employees’ commitment to workplace safety and health should be renewed.
- Employee participation in health and safety activities should be increased.

WORLD OBESITY DAY 2022

- World Obesity Day is observed every year on March 04.
- It is observed to spread awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination.
- The day is organised by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body that is in official relations with the World Health Organisation.

World Obesity Day 2022 theme

- The theme of World Obesity Day 2022 is ‘Everybody Needs to Act’. The campaign aims to improve the world’s understanding, prevention and treatment of obesity.

World Obesity Day 2022 Significance:

- Obesity is one of the biggest health crises in the world, affecting 800 million people with millions more at risk, according to worldobesity.org. To spread awareness about the same and encourage action towards its elimination.

World Obesity Day 2022 History:

- World Obesity Day goes way back to the year 2015, wherein a non-profit organization worked closely with World Health Organisation and Lancet Commission in helping spread awareness.
- Later in 2016, the focus was shifted to childhood obesity, while later in 2017, the idea was to treat obesity now and avoid consequences later.

CISF OBSERVED ITS 53RD RAISING DAY ON MARCH 06

- The 53rd Raising Day ceremony of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) was organised on March 06, 2022, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has attended and addressed the Raising Day ceremony of CISF at Ghaziabad’s Indirapuram.
- The CISF, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, is a central armed police force and among one of the six paramilitary forces of India.
- Over 30 lakh passengers in Delhi Metro and 10 lakh passengers in airports across the country pass through the security of CISF.



Key points of CISF:

- CISF was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969, to provide security cover to industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India.
- Eventually, it was made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983.

CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in India and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY (IWD)

The United Nations observance of International Women’s Day will be held virtually on 8 March, 2022.



About:

- International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8 to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.

- Spurred on by the universal female suffrage movement that had begun in New Zealand, IWD originated from labor movements in North America and Europe during the early 20th century.
- IWD became a mainstream global holiday following its adoption by the United Nations in 1977.
- The theme for this year's observance is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".
- The year 2022 is pivotal for achieving gender equality in the context of climate change, and environmental and disaster risk reduction, which are some of the greatest global challenges of the twenty-first century. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach.

NO SMOKING DAY 2022 IS CELEBRATES ON 9TH MARCH

- No Smoking Day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9th March. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- No Smoking Day was first observed in the year 1984 in the Republic of Ireland on Ash Wednesday. It was on this day that the clergy determined that giving up cigarettes will be a good thing for Lent.

WORLD KIDNEY DAY

- World Kidney day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year. This year, it is being observed on March 10.
- World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.



The theme of the day:

- The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is "Kidney Health for All". The 2022 campaign will focus on efforts to increase education and awareness about kidney health and on reducing the stubbornly high CKD knowledge gap at all levels of kidney care.
- World Kidney Day was first celebrated in 2006.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN JUDGES: 10 MARCH

- March 10 marks the International Day of Women Judges. On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies and plans for the advancement of women in the judicial system and institution at the managerial and leadership level
- Women in the judiciary system are a key to ensuring that courts represent their citizens, address concerns and give out good judgments. Women's presence in the judiciary system enhances the legitimacy of courts and sends a powerful message saying that they're open and accessible to those who want to seek justice

WORLD ROTARACT DAY CELEBRATES ON 13TH OF MARCH

- World Rotaract Day is celebrated on the 13th of March every year to acknowledge the services provided by the rotaractors across the world.
- The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is "Rotary Making a Difference". World Rotaract Week will be held from 11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022.
- Rotary Club is the community service organization for young men and women. They take part in international service projects, in a global effort to bring peace and international understanding to the world.



What is Rotaract?

- Rotaract means rotary in action. Rotary is an organization of business and professional people who unite worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

- World Rotaract Day is commemorated to honour the beginning of the first such club, Rotary International, in 1968 at North Carolina, USA.
- Now it has transformed into a major Rotary-sponsored organization with more than 9,539 clubs spread around the world.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MATHEMATICS OBSERVED ON 14 MARCH 2022

- International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed globally on the 14th of March every year. It is also known as the Pi Day because the mathematical constant π (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development.
- This is a relatively new event that was created just a couple of years back. The theme for 2022 IDM is "Mathematics Unites!".

Role of Labour in India's Development"

- Minister of Labour and Employment and MoEFCC, Bhupender Yadav has launched a book titled "Role of Labour in India's Development". V V Giri National Labour Institute has published the book.
- The publishing of the book is part of the 'Iconic Week' celebrations of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

About the book

- 'Role of Labour in India's Development' book has 12 articles outlining the contribution of labour in the development journey of India. These articles are written by experts in this field and the book is published by V V Giri National Labour Institute.
- V V Giri National Labour Institute is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It was established in 1974 as a premier institute of Labour research, training and education. Dr H. Srinivas is the current Director General of the institution.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS 2022

- The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on the 14th of March. The year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers. The day aims to raise awareness about the value and importance of rivers as well as bring together people from across the world to discuss and spread awareness about conserving rivers, river management, pollution, and equitable access to clean and flowing water. The theme in 2022 is "The Importance of Rivers for Biodiversity"

The History

- The International Day of Action For Rivers was adopted by the participants of the First International Meeting of People Affected by Dams, March 1997 in Curitiba Brazil. The main aim is to raise voices in unison against destructive water development projects, reclaim the health of watersheds, and demand the equitable and sustainable management of rivers.

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATES GLOBALLY ON 15TH MARCH

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year. The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers' rights be recognised and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardise those rights. The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.
- This year the International Consumer Rights Day will be celebrated on the theme of "Fair Digital Finance." The Department of Consumer Affairs will commemorate this day with multiple events being held in New Delhi.

History of the day

- World Consumer Rights Day is inspired by President John F Kennedy's special message to the US Congress that was delivered on 15th March 1962. In this message he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights becoming the first world leader to do so. The consumer movement first marked that date in 1983 and now uses the day every year to mobilise action on important issues and campaigns.

There are some rights of consumers:

- Right to Safety; To be protected against the marketing of goods and services, which are hazardous to life and property. The purchased goods and services availed of should not only

meet their immediate needs but also fulfil long term interests.

- Right to be Informed; Right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices.
- Right to Choose: To be assured, wherever possible of access to a variety of goods and services at a competitive price. In the case of monopolies, it means the right to be assured of satisfactory quality and service at a fair price.
- Right to be Heard: Meaning that consumers' interests will receive due consideration at appropriate forums. It also includes the right to be represented in various forums formed to consider the consumer's welfare.
- Right to Seek redressal: To seek redressal against unfair trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers. It also includes the right to fair settlement of the genuine grievances of the consumer.
- Right to Consumer Education: To acquire the knowledge and skill to be an informed consumer throughout life. Ignorance of consumers, particularly of rural consumers, is the main cause behind their exploitation.
- The Right to satisfaction of basic needs; To have access to basic, essential goods and services: adequate food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, public utilities, water and sanitation.
- The right to a healthy environment; To live and work in an environment that is non-threatening to the well-being of present and future generations

Various Consumer Organisations (mentioned below) are functional in India that provide help against violation of Consumer Rights:

- Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat
- Consumer Guidance Society of India
- All India Consumer Protection Organization
- The Consumers Eye India
- United India Consumer's Association
- Grahak Shakti Bengaluru – Karnataka
- Consumer Awareness, Protection, and Education Council

INTERNATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA

As the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, India expressed concern over phobia against “one religion being elevated to the level of an international day”.



About:

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said in the General Assembly that India hoped the resolution adopted “does not set a precedent”, which will lead to multiple resolutions based on selective religions and divide the United Nations into religious camps.
- Hinduism has more than 1.2 billion followers, Buddhism more than 535 million and Sikhism more than 30 million spread out around the world. It is time that we acknowledged the prevalence of religiophobia, rather than single out just one.
- The 193-member General Assembly adopted a resolution, introduced by Pakistan's Ambassador Munir Akram under agenda item Culture of peace, to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
- Following the adoption of the draft resolution, Mr. Tirumurti said while India condemns all acts motivated by anti-semitism, Christianophobia or Islamophobia, such phobias were not restricted to Abrahamic religions only. He pointed to the emergence of anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist and anti-Sikh phobias.

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY CELEBRATES ON 16TH MARCH

- In India, the National Vaccination Day (also known as National Immunisation Day (IMD)) is observed on 16 March every year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- The day was first observed in the year 1995. In 2022, the National Immunization Day is important since the Government of India has

started the COVID-19 vaccination for children between 15 to 18 years of age and booster dose for senior citizens. The theme for National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day 2022 is “Vaccines Work for all”.

History of the day:

- It was in 1995 that India started the Pulse Polio Programme and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a process through which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against foreign harm causing agents.

What is Vaccination?

- Vaccination is the most effective method of preventing highly infectious diseases. Extensive immunity due to vaccination is mostly responsible for the worldwide eradication of smallpox and the restraint of diseases such as polio, measles, and tetanus from a large amount of the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) informs that licensed vaccines are currently available to prevent or add to the prevention and control of twenty-five preventable infections.

INDIA'S ORDNANCE FACTORIES' DAY: 18 MARCH

- The Ordnance Factories' Day is observed on the 18th of March every year. The production of India's oldest Ordnance Factory, which is at Cossipore of Kolkata, was started on the 18th of March, 1802. OFB is the 37th largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.
- The day is celebrated by displaying the rifles, guns, artillery, ammunition etc in exhibitions all over India. The celebrations start with a parade and the exhibition will also display the photographs of various mountaineering expeditions

History of Ordnance Factory Board

- OFB was founded in 1775 and its Headquarters is in Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata. OFB consists of 41 Ordnance Factories, 9 Training Institutes, 3 Regional Marketing Centres and 5 Regional Controllerates of Safety, which is spread all over India.

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY 2022 CELEBRATED ON 18TH MARCH

- The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on the 18th of March to recognise the

importance of recycling as a resource, not waste. The day strives to urge world leaders that recycling must be a global issue and encourage people to think resourcefully and not waste when it comes to the goods around us.

What is this year's theme?

- This year, the event's focus will be on the “recycling fraternity” – those who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns.
- **WORLD SLEEP DAY**
- World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep.
- This year, it falls on March 18. World Sleep Day is a celebration of sleep and a call to action on important issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects and driving.
- It is organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society with the objective to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

The theme of the day

- ‘Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World’ is the theme for World Sleep Day this year to raise awareness about the impact of sleep on the mind and body.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE (CRPF) CELEBRATES 83RD RAISING DAY

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has celebrated its 83rd Raising Day with zeal and ceremonial fervour on 19 March 2022.
- The 83rd Raising Day parade was organised at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital.

History of CRPF:

- The CRPF came into existence on July 27, 1939, as Crown Representative's Police. It was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on December 28, 1949, upon the enactment of the CRPF Act .
- On March 19, 1950, the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented Presidential colours to the CRPF for its commendable services, following which CRPF started celebrating the day as their Raising Day.

20TH MARCH CELEBRATES AS WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY

- The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20.
- The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives.
- The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: Be Proud Of Your Mouth.
- The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20.
- The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives.



The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: Be Proud Of Your Mouth.

History of the day:

- The FDI World Dental Federation launched World Oral Health Day in 2007. The day was originally celebrated on 12th September in remembrance of FDI founder, Dr Charles Godon. Later, it was changed to 20th March in 2013 to avoid conflict with the FDI World Dental Congress in September

WORLD SPARROW DAY 2022

- World Sparrow Day (WSD) is celebrated every year on March 20th. This day is meant to raise awareness about the house sparrow and the dangers it confronts. The purpose of World Sparrow Day is to raise awareness and protect the bird all across the world. A few years ago, house sparrows were commonly seen in people's homes. As a result of rising noise pollution, the bird is now on the edge of extinction.

World Sparrow Day 2022: Theme

- The theme of World Sparrow Day is "LOVE

Sparrows." More individuals are likely to join in a range of events and campaigns geared at sparrow conservation as a result of focusing on this issue.

World Sparrow Day 2022: History

- World Sparrow Day was established by Mohammed Dilawar, the founder of The Nature Forever Society. He started several projects, including the biodiversity Photo Contest, the annual Sparrow Awards, Project Save Our Sparrows, and the Common Bird Monitoring of India programme. The first World Sparrow Day was held in the year 2010.
- In 2011, the World Sparrow Awards were established. The award recognises persons who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation and ordinary species protection.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS 2022

- International Day of happiness is observed every year around the world on March 20. The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013, but the resolution for the same was passed on July 12, 2012. The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness.

International Happiness Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind.
- International Happiness Day: History and Significance
- Bhutan initially prioritized the value of National Happiness over National Income in the 1970s.
- Bhutan is known for adopting the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product at the 66th General Assembly.
- The country also hosted a High-level meeting on Happiness and Well-Being: Defining a New Economic Paradigm" during the session.
- When the UN launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, which included goals like putting an end to poverty, reducing inequality and protecting our planet.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination. The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme “VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM”.

History of the day:

- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960.

21ST MARCH OBSERVED AS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

- The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21. The main aim of the day is to raise awareness of the significance of all types of forests. The day is to celebrate to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.



- The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption.”

The theme for

WORLD POETRY DAY OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 21ST MARCH

- On 21st March, World Poetry Day is celebrated every year to recognise the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity’s most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.



- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted this day during UNESCO’s 30th session in Paris in 1999 with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.
- Some countries also celebrate World Poetry Day on October 15 to mark the birthday of Virgil, a Roman poet who is famous for his epic Aeneid.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY 2022: “INCLUSION MEANS”

- World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed every year on 21 March. It is a global campaign that is observed annually to spread awareness about Down Syndrome. The Day is commemorated as a global initiative to increase awareness about hereditary disorders. An individual with Down Syndrome has an extra chromosome.



Theme

- The theme of World Down Syndrome Day this year is “Inclusion Means”. It calls for making efforts to include people with down syndrome in all matters of life and not discriminate against them.

History

- The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006. Then the Brazilian Federation of Associations of Down Syndrome worked with Down Syndrome International and its members to launch an extensive campaign to generate international support. In November 2011, the General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day every year. The next month it declared March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day.

Down Syndrome

- Down syndrome occurs when an individual has an extra partial (or whole) copy of chromosome 21. It is not yet known why this syndrome occurs, but Down syndrome has always been a part of the human condition. It exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics and health.
- Babies with Down Syndrome have an extra copy of a chromosome, which changes how the baby's body and brain develop. People with this syndrome usually have an IQ (a measure of intelligence) in the moderately low range and are slower to speak than other children.

MARCH 22 OBSERVED AS BIHAR DAY

- Bihar Diwas 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of the state's founding. The annual Bihar Diwas is no longer limited to festivities hosted by the state government.

Key Points:



- Every year on March 22, the Bihar Diwas commemorates the British carving away of Bihar from the Bengal Presidency in 1912. Patna was designated as the new province's capital.
- Bihar Diwas has originally proclaimed a state initiative by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- The day was also observed by people from Bihar who resided in various regions of the country.

History of Bihar Diwas:

- The British Government in India at the time carved out the state of Bihar on March 22, 1912. The state was created from British India's Bengal Presidency.
- Bihar, notably Patna, had begun to rise to prominence during the British rule in India, and had established itself as an important and strategic centre of scholarship and trade in the country.

- Bihar was a part of the Bengal Presidency until 1912, when the province of Bihar and Orissa was established as a separate province.
- Patna was designated as the new province's capital when the Bengal Presidency was partitioned.
- Bihar is India's third-largest state by population and the 12th-largest by area.
- India's Bihar state is also the fourth most populous subnational entity in the world.
- Bihar is also the first place in India where the concept of non-violence was born, later rising to prominence in human history.
- Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavira are well-known for raising awareness about nonviolence roughly 2,600 years ago.
- Bihar has the second-lowest urban population in the country, after Himachal Pradesh, with only 11.3 percent of the population living in cities.
- Bihar has the highest percentage of young people of any state in India. Almost 58 percent of Biharis are under 25 years old.

22ND MARCH CELEBRATES GLOBALLY AS WORLD WATER DAY

- World Water Day is celebrated globally on 22nd March every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater.
- It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This 2022, the focus is groundwater, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere. Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change that are looked upon on this day.

World Water Day theme 2022

- The World Water Day theme 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible". Groundwater is a crucial resource that provides almost half of all drinkable water across the world.

World Water Day 2022: History

- The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year,

the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993

SHAHEED DIWAS OR MARTYRS' DAY OBSERVED ON 23RD MARCH

- Every year, the Nation was observed on March 23rd as Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day). The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India. Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.



Why is Martyr's Day celebrated on 23rd March?

- On March 23, three heroes of our nation were hanged to death, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar by the British.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2022: "EARLY WARNING AND EARLY ACTION"

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated globally on March 23rd every year. The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and it concentrates on the behaviour of Earth's atmosphere. The day also helps people be aware of their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere. World Meteorological Day is a significant day as it focuses on the global acknowledgement of different issues of planet earth. The day is conducted by raising awareness about multiple concerns of the Earth around the globe.

World Meteorological Day 2022: Theme

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated with a different motto every year. This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of Early Warning and Early Action.



- World Meteorological Day: History

World Meteorological Day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was established on March 23, 1950. Today, it's been 72 years of the organization, and it has made immense progress and helped the world to be a better place. WMO headquarters is situated in Geneva, Switzerland.

- The roots of the organization emerged from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO) and was inspected by Vienna International Meteorological Congress 1873. In the year 1950, WMO finally came into motion by the sanction of the WMO convention. Nearly a year after its establishment, WMO became a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN).

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH: 24TH MARCH

- United Nations has recognised March 24 to be observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year. The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.

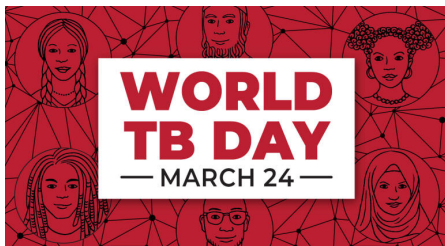
History of the day:

- This day is observed on 24th March every year to pay tribute to "Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero" as he was murdered on 24 March 1980. He was actively engaged in criticizing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador. The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in December 2010, to say no to all forms of violence, injustice and oppression against humanity.

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY OBSERVED ON 24TH MARCH

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis

(TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.



- The theme of World TB Day 2022 – ‘Invest to End TB. Save Lives.’ –conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp up the fight against TB and achieve the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.

What is Tuberculosis?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially serious infectious disease that mainly affects your lungs. The bacteria that cause tuberculosis are spread from one person to another through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneezes.
- Tuberculosis can also affect other parts of your body, including your kidneys, spine or brain. When TB occurs outside your lungs, signs and symptoms vary according to the organs involved. For example, tuberculosis of the spine may give you back pain, and tuberculosis in your kidneys might cause blood in your urine.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE 2022

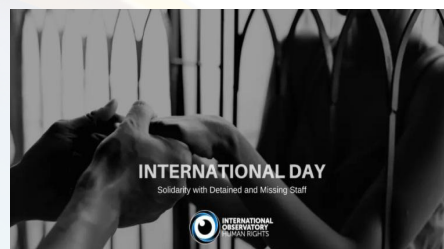
- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is marked on 25 March every year to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- The Day is observed with ceremonies and activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations offices around the world.



- 2022 Theme: “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINED AND MISSING STAFF MEMBERS 2022

- The United Nations observes the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on 25 March every year. This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press



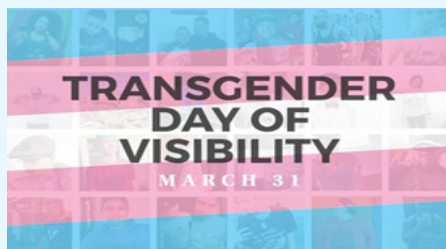
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members has taken on even greater importance in recent years, as attacks against the United Nations intensify.
- This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.

WORLD THEATRE DAY 2022 CELEBRATES ON 27TH MARCH

- World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27, promoted by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) through its centres, and supported by theatre communities all over the world.
- This year, the World Theatre Day celebration will focus on the young, the next generation, the emerging artists, who have been a strong special focus of ITI in the recent past.
- Through this 60-year-old ITI flagship event, ITI wishes to offer the next generation of artists and art professionals a platform to exchange ideas and present themselves to the world.



INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY 2022



- The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on March 31 to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.

WORLD BACKUP DAY 2022 OBSERVED ON 31 MARCH

- World Backup Day is marked every year on March 31. The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology.
- It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups.
- Originally, World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DRUG CHECKING 2022 OBSERVED ON 31ST MARCH

- The International Day of Drug Checking takes place on March 31 every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects.
- The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks.
- Along with it, it also marks promoting harm reduction actions of drugs and reduces drug-related risks.
- Their goal on the 31st of March is to raise public awareness of the availability of drug checking services and companies from across the planet.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WEEK BEGINS



- The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrates the International Women's Day week from the 1st of March as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- As a part of the week-long celebration, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women's safety and empowerment.
- This will mark an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equity and women's empowerment but also to critically reflect on accomplishments and strive for a greater momentum towards gender equality.
- It will kick off tomorrow in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development to raise awareness on the safety and security of women.

JANAUSHADHI DIWAS WEEK TO BE OBSERVED FROM 1ST MARCH TO 7TH MARCH

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022.
- On 7th March 2022, the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated. The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".
- The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.

The objective of Janaushadhi Week and Day:



- To create awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November 2008 to provide quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.
- Janaushadhi Kendras is the world's biggest retail pharma chain having around 6,200 outlets in 700 districts of the country.
- It also provides a good source of self-employment with sustainable and regular earnings. The first Jan Aushadhi Diwas was celebrated on 7th of March 2019.



IIT MADRAS AND NIOT CONDUCT OCEANS 2022

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, are jointly conducted OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition, the bi-annual event for global marine researchers, technologists and engineers, students, and policymakers.
- It is being in India for the first time and coordinated by the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society (IEEE OES) and Marine Technology Society (MTS).
- The conference is being held in a hybrid model
- 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain' is the main theme of the conference. The delegates will be sharing their experiences on topics related to climate change, global warming, vagaries of weather, combating coastal erosion, marine pollution and microplastics through nearly 400 presentations

SWISS TO BECOME WORLD'S FIRST AIRLINES TO USE SOLAR AVIATION FUEL

- Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines) and its parent company, Lufthansa Group have partnered with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, Synhelion SA (Synhelion) to use its solar aviation fuel.
- Swiss International Airlines will become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel) to help power its flights. SWISS will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.



INDIA'S FIRST FSRU HOEGH GIANT ARRIVES AT JAIGARH TERMINAL 2022

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

RIL OPENS INDIA'S BIGGEST BUSINESS AND CULTURAL HUB IN MUMBAI

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has announced the opening of the Jio World Centre, which will be India's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination.
- The Centre, which covers 18.5 acres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and was envisioned by Nita Ambani, Director Reliance Industries and Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, and it is set to become a historical business, commerce, and culture destination, which will provide the people of India with a world-class landmark.

MICROSOFT WILL SET UP INDIA'S LARGEST DATA CENTER REGION IN HYDERABAD

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



- The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft's cloud services from both the private enterprises as well as the government sector.

Study in India meet 2022 inaugurated in Dhaka

- The two-day-long Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.
- Education Minister of Bangladesh said the educational exchange between the two countries will further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

HARYANA GOVT ANNOUNCED MATRUSHAKTI UDAYMITA SCHEME

- Haryana government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme to provide support to women entrepreneurs, on International Women's Day.
- Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.
- Subsequently, the interest subvention of 7% will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.

SIKKIM STATE GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH AAMA YOJNA & BAHINI SCHEME

- Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement 'Aama Yojana, a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state. The complete details of the Aama Yojna and Bahini Yojana are given below

About the Aama Yojna scheme:

- Aama Yojna scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Government will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually. The scheme covers only those whose names are enrolled in the electoral roll of the state and a sum of Rs. 100 crores have been allocated for it in the budget.

About the Bahini Scheme:

- Bahini Scheme is to reduce the dropout rate of girl students due to the lack of accessibility/availability of Sanitary Napkins & also to ensure menstrual health and hygiene. Under this scheme, over 18,000 girl students who study in class 9 and above are provided with free sanitary napkins in the state.

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA INAUGURATES FIRST DRONE SCHOOL AT GWALIOR IN MADHYA PRADESH

- The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

INDIA'S FIRST FULLY OWNED BY WOMEN INDUSTRIAL PARK IN HYDERABAD

- India's first fully owned by women industrial park opened its doors in Hyderabad. The park, that is promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organization – FLO in collaboration with the State government, consists of 25 units which represent 16 different sectors of green category, and all of them are owned and controlled completely by women.

HUNGARY ELECTS FIRST-EVER FEMALE PRESIDENT

- The Hungarian parliament has elected Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, as the EU member's first-ever female president. Novak, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women.
- Hungary Capital: Budapest;
- Hungary Currency: Hungarian forint.

MANGALAJODI

The Odisha government has proposed to ban movement of mechanised fishing boats in the Mangalajodi area of the Chilika lake, an important haunt of migratory birds, to provide the winged guests an undisturbed ecosystem for six months every year.

About:

- Mangalajodi is an olden village under Tangi, Odisha block in Khordha district of Odisha at the northern edge of Chilika Lake.
- Mangalajodi is recognised as globally important for the conservation of birds. Migratory birds

arrive there for roosting.

- However, no statutory rules and regulations are there for protecting the 8.3-sq.km marshland with emergent vegetation.
- Many occasions and festivals are celebrated in Mangalajodi. Danda Yatra is one of the oldest ritual occasions celebrated in the month of Chaitra. Paika Akhada is another dance performed by some villagers.

INDIA'S FIRST MEDICAL CITY 'INDRAYANI MEDICITY' TO SET UP IN MAHARASHTRA

- The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place

INDIA'S 1ST EVER GI-TAGGED KASHMIR CARPETS FLAGGED OFF TO GERMANY

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet, to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets. The main objective of this QR Code attached to the GI tag is to help in reviving the sheen and glory of the Kashmiri carpet industry.

L&T LAUNCHES SUFIN, A MSMES E-COMMERCE PLATFORM

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has established the L&T-SuFin e-commerce platform. It is the country's first complete e-commerce platform for industrial products and services sold to other businesses.
- The platform's transaction cost is roughly 1.5 per cent. Through its B2B e-commerce platform, the company aimed to empower businesses, particularly micro, small, and

medium enterprises, by allowing them to obtain industrial items digitally and cost-effectively across India.

- "With digital technology, L&T SuFin is positioned to alter the Indian business landscape, resulting in the formalisation of traditional supply chains and a win-win situation for suppliers and buyers," the company said in a statement.

MAHATMA GANDHI GREEN TRIANGLE' UNVEILED IN MADAGASCAR

- Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' has been unveiled in Madagascar to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Ambassador of India to Madagascar,
- Abhay Kumar celebrated the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by inaugurating a Green Triangle, along with Mayor of Antananarivo Naina Andriantsitohaina.
- The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.

INDIA'S FIRST 'WORLD PEACE CENTER' WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN GURUGRAM

- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana. For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway. 'World Peace Center' will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.

About the peace centre:

- The voice of this centre of Gurugram will be heard all over the world by its work, including the United Nations and the World Religion Parliament.
- 'World Peace Center' will be a major world-class centre for personality building, where various dimensions such as Personality Development of Youth, Empowerment of Women and Sanskar Development in Children through Meditation, Yoga, Indian Culture and Jain lifestyle based scientific programs will also be conducted here.

KHATKAR KALAN

Aam aadmi party's Bhagwant Mann took over as chief minister of Punjab after taking the oath from Bhagat Singh's ancestral village, Khatkar Kalan in Nawanshahr district.



About:

- Khatkar Kalan is a village just outside Banga town in Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar district (recently named Nawanshahr earlier the part of Jalandhar district) in the Indian state of Punjab.

35TH SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA BEGINS IN HARYANA

- The Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar formally inaugurated the 35th edition of the world-famous Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad district of Haryana. The event is organized jointly by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- In 2022, the 'Theme State' in Jammu & Kashmir and Uzbekistan is the partner nation

FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM INTEGRATION COMPLEX INAUGURATED BY DEFENCE MINISTER IN BENGALURU

- Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, inaugurated a seven-story Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a DRDO laboratory in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Pilots of combat aircraft will also receive simulator training at the complex. It is one of the most essential components of the complex, according to Shri Rajnath Singh.

MISS WORLD 2021: POLAND'S KAROLINA BIELAWSKA CROWNED

- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021. She was crowned by 2019 Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica.

She beat the USA, Indonesia, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Cote d'Ivoire to clinch the coveted title. Indian-American Shree Saini from the United States bagged the first runner-up title, followed by Olivia Yace from Cote d'Ivoire.

Indian Contender

- Femina Miss India World 2020 Manasa Varanasi represented India at the Miss World 2021. Manasa Varanasi reached the Top 13 contestants but could not make it to the Top 6 finalists.

WB GOVERNOR UNVEILED PARAM SHAKTI, A PETASCALE SUPERCOMPUTER AT IIT KHARAGPUR

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a collaborative project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology, has dedicated PARAM Shakti, a Petascale Supercomputer, to the country at IIT Kharagpur (DST).

INDIA AND THE WHO HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CENTRE IN JAMNAGAR

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India signed a memorandum of understanding to create the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat. According to a WHO statement, the onsite opening of the new WHO global centre for traditional medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, will take place on April 21, 2022.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S GRAND DAUGHTER LAUNCHED A WEBSITE 'MODI STORY'

- The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi 'Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni' has inaugurated the web portal 'Modi Story'. The Modi story website is a volunteer-driven initiative which aims to bring together "inspiring" stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from those who have interacted with him during his life journey over the decades. The portal can be accessed at modistory.in

PVR & INOX LEISURE ANNOUNCED MERGER COMBINED ENTITY TO BE CALLED PVR INOX LTD

- Multiplex companies INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Ltd have announced the merger of their two companies. Inox will have a 16.66% stake in the new firm and PVR will have a 10.62% stake.



- The merger is subject to approval by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), stock exchanges, and other regulatory approvals as required.

INDIA'S FIRST STEEL ROAD FEATURED IN GUJARAT

- Surat, Gujarat, features a road created entirely of steel waste, which is one of the best instances of sustainable development. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India collaborated on the steel slag road with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) India, the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), and the government think tank Niti Aayog.





HERATH FESTIVAL CELEBRATED IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR 2022

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

About the festival:

- Herath Festival is celebrated on "Trayodashi" or the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna (Hindu calendar), between February and March. The Kashmiri Pandits celebrate the festival by distributing walnuts as a mark of respect to the Hindu deities. The rest of the nation celebrates the Maha Shivratri on Chaturdashi or the 14th of Phalguna.

Festivals of Jammu and Kashmir:

- Dosmoche
- Hemis Festival
- Kanchoth festival
- Tulip Festival
- Spituk Gustor
- Har Navami
- Chhari
- Bahu Mela

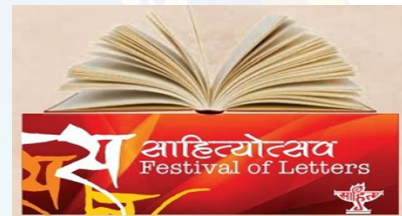
UJJAIN CREATES GUINNESS RECORD BY LIGHTING 11.71 LAKH DIYAS

- Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes.
- The diyas were lighted as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava' on the occasion of Mahashivratri.
- With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 03 November 2021.
- Ujjain is also known as the 'Land of Mahakal'. The certificate was received by Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



SAHITYOTSAV

Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival will be held from 10th to 15th March 2022 in New Delhi.



About:

- Festival of Letters 2022 will be a part of the celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- The Exhibition will showcase Akademi's achievements and seminal events held in the previous year. The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards will be presented to the 24 Award winners on 11th March 2022.

Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India.
- Founded on 12 March 1954, it is supported by, though independent of, the Indian government (Ministry of Culture).
- Its office is located in Rabindra Bhavan in Delhi.
- It initially functioned under executive order, but was subsequently registered as a society under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

INDIA'S LARGEST RECLINING STATUE OF LORD BUDDHA BEING BUILT AT BODH GAYA



- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.
- Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue.
- The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fibreglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata. Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism and is visited by devotees from all over the world.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

Twenty-four eminent writers, playwrights and novelists have been conferred Sahitya Akademi Awards- 2021 in New Delhi. These awards have been provided for best writings in twenty-four Indian languages.



About:

- Sahitya Akademi president DR. Chandrashekhar Kambar gave away the awards to them and handed a cheque of one lakh rupees, a shawl and memento to each of them.
- Those awarded with the Sahitya Akademi Awards are- Eminent Assamese novelist Anuradha sarma for her novel- Iyat Ekhan Aronya Asil, Bengali writer Bratya Basu, Bodo Poet Dr. Devakanta Ramchiary, Dogri Fiction writer Raj Rahi, English writer Namita Gokhale, Gujarati Poet Yagnesh Dave, Hindi playwright Daya Prakash Sinha and many more.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India, which the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, annually confers on writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 24 major Indian languages recognised by it.
- It was established in 1954.

WEST BENGAL CELEBRATED 'DOL UTSAV' OR 'DOL JATRA'

- West Bengal celebrated the 'Dol Utsav' or 'Dol Jatra', the festival of colours, marking the onset of the spring season. The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on full moon day. It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar. In the Eastern region of India, the festival of spring is celebrated as Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav, and Basanta Utsav.
- The majestic festival is celebrated by throwing 'gulaal' or 'aabir' on others and by singing and dancing in cultural programs.

MATUA COMMUNITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 at Shreedham Thakurnagar, Thakurbari in West Bengal on the occasion of 211th birth anniversary of Shree Shree Harichand Thakur.

About:

- Shree Shree Harichand Thakur ji devoted his life for the cause of betterment of the oppressed, downtrodden and deprived persons in undivided Bengal during the pre-independence era.
- The social and religious movement started by him originated from Orakandi which is now in Bangladesh in 1860 and led to the formation of the Matua Dharma.
- The Matua community has members on either side of the Bengal border. Today, Matuas constitute the second largest SC population of West Bengal. Government sources put their number at around 17% of the state's electorate.
- Matua Dharma Maha Mela 2022 is being organised by All India Matua Mahasangha from 29th March to 5th April 2022.

MES AYNAK

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has said it would protect the ancient Buddha statues in Mes Aynak, also the site of a copper mine where the Taliban are hoping for Chinese investment.



About:

- Mes Aynak, also called Mis Ainak or Mis-e-Ainak, is a site 40 km southeast of Kabul, Afghanistan, located in a barren region of Logar Province.
- Mes Aynak contains Afghanistan's largest copper deposit, as well as the remains of an ancient settlement with over 400 Buddha statues, stupas and a 40 ha (100 acres) monastery complex.
- The site of Mes Aynak possesses a vast complex of Buddhist monasteries, homes, and market areas.
- The site's orientation on the Silk Road has yielded a mixture of elements from China and India.

ISHAN MANTHAN' FESTIVAL ORGANISED IN NEW DELHI

- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER, G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called 'Ishan Manthan' at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi. The three-day Ishan Manthan programme will celebrate the rich ethnicity and colours of North East India, from March 25 to 27, 2022.
- The event will give an opportunity to know about the culture, art, music, folk dances, handicrafts and traditional cuisines of Northeast India.
- Ishan Manthan is an attempt to celebrate the plural expressions of northeast India. It can be understood as "North East Brainstorming". The inaugural session also witnessed the release of two books titled 'Lok Beyond Folk', a book on the Lok Culture which was edited by Shri J Nandalumar and 'Jewels of North East India'.



TAMIL NADU BUDGET

Tamil Nadu Budget 2022-23 Highlights :

- The revenue deficit has been reduced to Rs 7000 crore in the last one year.
- The fiscal deficit in the state's total production will come down from 4.61% to 3.80 in the coming financial year.
- The revenue deficit is likely to fall to more than 7,000 crore in the coming year.
- Tamil Nadu will suffer a tax loss of 20,000 crore after the gst compensation process comes to an end.
- Periyar's thoughts to be published in 21 languages announced rs.5 crore
- A committee will be constituted to look into the relationship between Tamil language and other international languages. A sum of Rs.2 crore will be allocated for the same.
- A sum of Rs.15 crores has been allocated for providing free textbooks to students studying in 1st-10th Standard Tamil medium in non-government schools.
- Museum to place antiquities at Ramanathapuram, Villupuram at a cost of Rs.10 crores
- Deep sea exploration to be carried out at a cost of Rs.5 crores in Korkai
- A sum of Rs.50 crore has been allocated for water conservation and restoration of government lands.
- A sum of Rs.4,816 crore has been allocated for social security pension schemes including old age pension and differently abled pension.
- Social media centre of excellence to be set up to curb mis-propaganda on social media
- Rs.4,130 crore allocated for loan to SHGs and crop loans to farmers
- Rs.496 crore allocated for Fire and Rescue Services Department
- Rs 10 crore allocated for development of weather forecasting structure
- Two radars, 100 automatic weather stations and 400 automatic rain gauges will be set up
- A sum of Rs.1,064 crore has been allocated for rehabilitation of 64 dams in Tamil Nadu.
- Rs.200 crore allocated for interest free crop loan scheme
- A sum of Rs.7,338.36 crore has been allocated for the Water Resources Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Vallalar Animal Husbandry Reserves to be set up at a cost of Rs.20 crores announced
- Plant Ayyal Park near Chennai will be constructed at a cost of Rs.300 crores.
- Vallalar Biodiversity Reserves Rs.20 crores for the maintenance of unsupported and abandoned animals
- A sum of Rs.849 crores has been allocated in the Budget for the Environment Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- A sum of Rs.13,000 crore has been allocated for construction of 18k classrooms.
- New scheme in the name of Prof. Anbazhagan to upgrade government schools
- 7 new Commercial Courts to be set up in Tamil Nadu
- Book shows will be conducted in all districts
- A sum of Rs.1.461.97 crore has been allocated in the Budget for the Department of Judicial Administration.
- A sum of Rs.5.6 crores has been allocated for conducting 4 literary festivals per annum.
- Rs.5.6 crore allocated in all districts to promote book reading
- A sum of Rs.36,895.89 crore has been allocated for school education.
- A sum of Rs.7500 crores has been allocated as food subsidy under public distribution system.
- Rs.293.26 crore allocated for Youth Welfare and Sports Department
- Rs 25 crore allocated for Olympic Games training
- Sports complex covering all sports will be constructed in North Chennai at a cost of Rs.10 crores
- A sum of Rs.1,547 crore has been allocated for the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.

- 17,901.23 crore allocated for medical sector in The Budget of The Government of Tamil Nadu
- Rs.162 crore allocated for free bicycle scheme
- Rs.12 crore allocated for rehabilitation of ancient darhas churches
- A sum of Rs.3,384 crore has been allocated for water management.
- In the first phase, 149 samathapuras will be revamped. Rs.190 crore allocated
- Rs.2800 crore allocated for MGNREGA
- Rs.500 crore allocated for Singarach Chennai 2.0 Project
- A sum of Rs.1620 crores has been allocated as subsidy for women's free bus travel scheme.
- Home Search Education Programme will be implemented this year also at a cost of Rs.200 crores.
- Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation limited announces rs.13,000 crore loss
- East Coast Road to be widened to 6 lane
- A sum of Rs.1,000 per month will be provided to prevent dropouts of girls studying in government schools from 6th to 12th standard. It has been announced that girls who are already receiving other scholarships can also avail this scholarship

1) **PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA** was implemented in the year

- a) 2020
- b) 2019
- c) 2018
- d) 2021
- e) Answer not known

2) **Earth hour** was celebrated on

- a) March 25
- b) March 26
- c) March 27
- d) March 28
- e) Answer not known

3) **RESERVE BANK INNOVATION HUB (RBIH)** is located at

- a) Mumbai
- b) Delhi
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Chennai
- e) Answer not known

4) **Dare2eraD TB** is implemented by

- a) Ministry of health affairs
- b) Minister of Science & Technology
- c) Ministry of social Justice
- d) Ministry of Home affairs
- e) Answer not known

5) **NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY** will be celebrated on

- a) October 4
- b) October 5
- c) October 6
- d) October 7
- e) Answer not known

6) The **Gangetic dolphin** is categorised as _____ on the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List**.

- a) Endangered
- b) Critically endangered
- c) Least concern
- d) Near threatened
- e) Answer not known

7) consider the following statements

- 1) Gahirmatha is the world's largest rookery for the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.
- 2) It is located in Odisha

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8) Who got the oscar award for Best Actor in a Leading Role?

- a) Will Smith
- b) Jane Campion
- c) Jack sparrow
- d) Troy Kotsur
- e) Answer not known

9) **Learning and Development Centre of BRBNMPL** is located at

- a) Mysuru
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Cochin
- d) New Delhi
- e) Answer not known

10) Consider the following statements

- 1) Microplastics are tiny bits of various types of plastic found in the environment.
- 2) These were polyethylene tetraphthalate (PET), polyethylene (used in making plastic carry bags), polymers of styrene (used in food packaging), poly (methyl methacrylate) and poly propylene.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

11) Consider the following statements

- 1) Corals are marine invertebrates or animals not possessing a spine.
- 2) Each coral is called a polyp and thousands of such polyps live together to form a colony, which grows when polyps multiply to make copies of themselves.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12) What are the causes of Coral Bleaching?

- a) Increase in sea temperature
- b) Climate change
- c) Pollution
- d) All are correct
- e) Answer not known

13) The Malabar rebellion or Mappila riots occurred at _____

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Mysore
- d) Madras
- e) Answer not known

14) Irula, also known as Iruliga, are a Dravidian ethnic group inhabiting the Indian states of _____

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) All the three
- e) Answer not known

15) International Court of Justice (ICJ) is located in _____

- a) New York
- b) Geneva
- c) Hague
- d) Washington
- e) Answer not known

16) What are the causes of sparrow death

- a) The radiation from the mobile and the TV towers
- b) Habitat loss and destruction
- c) Climate change
- d) All are correct
- e) Answer not known

17) Kuno national park is located in

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Jharkhand
- e) Answer not known

18) RCEP stands for

- a) Regional comprehensive economic partnerships
- b) Regional comprehensive economy partnership
- c) Region comprehensive economic partnerships
- d) Region Comprehensive economy partnership
- e) Answer not known

19) vedanthangal bird Sanctuary is located in _____ district

- a) Chengalpattu
- b) Ramanathapuram
- c) Chennai
- d) Thiruvavarur
- e) Answer not known

20) Narasinghapettai nagaswaram is a classical wind music instrument that is traditionally made in a village near _____

- a) Kumbakonam
- b) Thanjavur
- c) Madurai
- d) Coimbatore
- e) Answer not known

21) _____ has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report

- a) Ghaziabad
- b) Chandigarh
- c) New Delhi
- d) Pune

E. Answer not known

22) Shaheed Diwas is celebrated on

- a). March 22
- b) March 23
- c) March 24
- d) March 25
- e) Answer not known

23) World Meteorological Day is celebrated on

- a) March 23
- b) March 22
- c) March 21
- d) March 24
- e) Answer not known

24) World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on

- a) March 21
- b) March 22
- c) March 23
- d) March 24
- e) Answer not known

25) world water day is celebrated on

- a) March 21
- b) March 22
- c) March 23
- d) March 24
- e) Answer not known

26) which of the following country ranked first in UN World Happiness Report 2022

- a) Finland
- b) Denmark
- c) Iceland
- d) Switzerland
- e) Answer not known

27) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is celebrated on

- a) March 21
- b) March 22
- c) March 23
- d) March 24
- e) Answer not known

28) Government set the target to create 220 new airports by the year ____

- a) 2024
- b) 2025

- c) 2026
- d) 2027
- e) Answer not known

29) World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on ____

- a) 24 March
- b) 23 march
- c) 22 march
- d) 21 march
- e) Answer not known

30) Mekedatu Water Project is built by ____

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Telangana
- e) Answer not known

31) Consider the following statements

- 1) Dissolved oxygen (DO) is the amount of oxygen that is present in water.
- 2) Water bodies receive oxygen from the atmosphere and from aquatic plants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

32) Indian one-horned rhinoceros are distributed in

- a) Assam
- b) Odisha
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chattisgarh
- e) Answer not known

33) Living Root Bridges are located in

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

34) who bagged 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award 2021?

- a) P. V. Sindhu
- b) Avani lakhera
- c) Mira bhai chanu

- d) Mari kom
e) Answer not known
- 35) India and the WHO have agreed to establish a global traditional medicine centre at _____**
a) Maharashtra
b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Gujarat
d) Andhra Pradesh
e) Answer not known
- 36) SLINEX is the bilateral Maritime exercise between**
a) India and Singapore
b) India and Sri Lanka
c) India and Saudi Arabia
d) India and Switzerland
e) Answer not known
- 37) The Satyashodhak Samaj was started by**
a) Ambedkar
b) Jyotiba Phule
c) Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar
d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
e) Answer not known
- 38) India Global Forum annual summit held in _____**
a) Chennai
b) Bengaluru
c) Hyderabad
d) New Delhi
e) Answer not known
- 39) Which of the following country does not member of BBIN**
a) Bhutan
b) Bangladesh
c) Nepal
d) None of the above
e) Answer not known
- 40) Which country hosted the G7 agriculture ministers virtual meeting?**
a) United States of America
b) Germany
c) France
d) UK
e) Answer not known
- 41) Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar was presented by**

- a) Ministry of social justice
b) Ministry of labour
c) Ministry of culture
d) Ministry of education
e) Answer not known
- 42) India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha being built at _____**
a) Kushi Nagar
b) Amaravati
c) Bodh Gaya
d) Varanasi
e) Answer not known
- 43) No Smoking Day 2022 is observed on _____**
a) 9th March
b) 10th March
c) 11th March
d) 12th March
e) Answer not known
- 44) Consider the following statements**
1) RSETI (Rural Self Employment Training Institutes) programme is a three-way partnership between the Ministry of Rural Development.
2) Rural poor youth between the age group of 18-45 years are eligible to join the training.
Which of the above statements is/ are correct
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
e) Answer not known
- 45) EXERCISE DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022 is an annual bilateral exercise between**
a) India - Japan
b) India - France
c) India - United States
d) India - Russia
e) Answer not known
- 46) Which state had launched Women@Work' programme?**
a) Karnataka
b) Kerala
c) Andhra Pradesh
d) Telangana

e) Answer not known

47) The Sahitya Akademi Award was established in

- a) 1955
- b) 1954
- c) 1953
- d) 1952
- e) Answer not known

48) Rashtriya Raksha University is situated at

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

49) India's First fully owned by women industrial park in

- a) Pune
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Chennai
- d) Mysore
- e) Answer not known

50) Most favored nation status is related to

- a) World bank
- b) IMF
- c) World trade organization
- d) United Nations
- e) Answer not known

51) Which of the following is not correct regarding the impact of climate change?

- a) Change in monsoon will have a positive impact on agriculture
- b) Melting of Himalayan glaciers
- c) Reduction in crop productivity
- d) Droughts
- e) Answer not known

52) Consider the following statements

- 1) A Demat account is a kind of account that can be used to keep online copies of securities and shares.
- 2) Its purpose is to make online share trading easier for users.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

53) What is the purpose of the GOES-T satellite?

- a) To study mars Atmosphere
- b) To absorb space junks
- c) To forecast weather in the Western Hemisphere.
- d) Telescope to study black hole
- e) Answer not known

54) Consider the following statements

- 1) Exercise vayu Shakthi is the joint military exercise between India and France
- 2) Navies of both the countries participated in this exercise

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

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

55) Which of the following country took the initiative to observe World Wildlife day?

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

56) Who will develop the National Gender index ?

- a) Ministry of Women and Child development
- b) Ministry of Education
- c) Ministry of social Justice
- d) NITI Aayog
- e) Answer not known

57) Consider the following statements

- 1) SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications

2) SWIFT serves as an internal communication mechanism between banks and financial institutions

- 1) SWIFT
- 2) SWIFT

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

58) Which of the following states implemented India's first ambulance for street animals?

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

59) Ungalin Oruvan is the autobiography of _____

- a) Karunanidhi
- b) M. K. Stalin
- c) Ka. Anbazhagan
- d) Anna durai
- e) Answer not known

60) Where will be the 2022 South Asian games held?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia
- c) Thailand
- d) China
- e) ANSWER not known

61) When was Civil accounts day celebrated?

- a) 1st March
- b) 2nd March
- c) 3rd March
- d) 4th March
- e) Answer not known

62) Which of the following Ministry celebrated Janaushadhi Diwas?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture
- b) Ministry of Health
- c) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- d) Ministry of petroleum
- e) Answer not known

63) Consider the following statements

- 1) The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)
- 2) It is located in New York city

Which of the above statements is/are correct,?

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

64) What is the aim of Operation Ganga?

- a) To give medicinal aid to covid affected nation
- b) To bring Indian citizens from gulf
- c) To bring Indian citizens from Ukraine
- d) None of the above
- e) Answer not known

65) Consider the following statements

- 1) Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) Project was launched in 2016 with an objective to identify innovative energy efficiency and low carbon technology solutions
- 2) FLCTD project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

66) Consider the following statements regarding Minimum Assured Return Scheme

- 1) It will be Operated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- 2) It provides savers and people from the salaried class an option for their investments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

67) Where is Kharkiv located?

- a) Romania
- b) Russia
- c) Ukraine
- d) Georgia
- e) Answer not known

68) When was Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) implemented?

- a) 2006
- b) 2007
- c) 2008
- d) 2009
- e) Answer not known

69) Consider the following statements

- 1) Atom bomb are working under the principles of Nuclear fission
- 2) Hydrogen bombs are working under the principles of Nuclear fusion

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

70) What is the aim of the 'Stree Manoraksha' Project?

- a) To provide free education to girl child
- b) To improve the skill capabilities of the women
- c) To provide loan to women entrepreneurs
- d) To improve the women's mental health in India.
- e) Answer not known

71) What is the position of India in SDG index 2021

- a) 117

- b) 118
- c) 119
- d) 120
- e) Answer not known

72) Where was the 12th edition of Defexpo 2022 held?

- a) Gandhinagar
- b) Allahabad
- c) Ahmedabad
- d) Pune
- e) Answer not known

73) Where is Botanical survey of India discovered a new gin berry species "Glycosmis albicarpa"?

- a) Tamilnadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Odisha
- e) Answer not known

74) Where is Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station located?

- a) Russia
- b) Ukraine
- c) Georgia
- d) Belarus
- e) Answer not known

75) Which of the following state implemented Rythu Bandhu scheme for farmers, the world's largest lift irrigation?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Answer not known

76) Recently the Tamilnadu state government allowed the following tribe to catch the snakes for the collection of venom. Identify the tribe related to the statement

- a) Kurumba
- b) Kaanii tribes
- c) Irula tribes
- d) kattunayakan tribe
- e) Answer not known

77) where is the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO) setting up its second spaceport?

- a) Sriharikota
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d) Kulasekarapattina
- e) Answer not known

78) Which of the following city is the first South Asian city to set a target to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050'?

- a) Calcutta
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bengaluru
- e) Answer not known

79) where is India's first digital water bank located?

- a) Cochin
- b) Mumbai
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Calcutta
- e) Answer not known

80) Which of the following states has the topmost position in Maternal Mortality in India?

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Telangana
- e) Answer not known

81) What is the conservation status of Golden langurs distributed in the trans-boundary region of Bhutan and India?

- a) Critically endangered
- b) Endangered
- c) Least concern
- d) None of the above
- e) Answer not known

82) Consider the following statements

- 1) Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in Ladakh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct
- e) Answer not known

83) Identify the wrong statement

- a) Hypersonic describes any speed faster than five times that of light
- b) Unlike Ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons don't follow a predetermined, arched trajectory
- c) At hypersonic speeds, the air molecules around the flight vehicle start to change, by gaining a charge in a process called ionization.
- d) All statements are correct
- e) Answer not known

84) In which year was the first world sparrow day celebrated?

- a) 2011
- b) 2010
- c) 2009
- d) 2008
- e) Answer not known

85) Which of the following country is not a member of the Arctic council?

- a) Canada
- b) Denmark
- c) India
- d) Norway
- e) Answer not known

86) Which of the following animals are extinct from india?

- 1) Asiatic lion
- 2) Cheetah
- 3) Great Indian bustard

Choose the correct code

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above
- e) Answer not known

87) Which of the following countries are the members of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ?

- 1) Australia

- 2) United States
- 3) Russia
- 4) Thailand
- 5) South Korea

Choose the correct answer

- a) 1,2&3 only
- b) 14&5 only
- c) 2,3&4 only
- d) 1,2,3,4&5 only
- e) Answer not known

88) Which state has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless?

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

89) EX-DUSTLIK held between ___&___ EX-DUSTLIK ___&___

- a) Indian and Uzbekistan
- b) India and kazakhstan
- c) India and Maldives
- d) India and Mongolia
- e) Answer not known

90) When is World Meteorological Day celebrated?

- a) March 24
- b) March 23
- c) March 22
- d) March 21
- e) Answer not known

91) March 23rd Martyrs day is celebrated to commemorate the death of ____

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Bhagat Singh
- c) Lala lajpat rai
- e) Answer not known

92) Down syndrome is ____ disease

- a) Communicable disease
- b) Mosquito borne disease
- c) Genetic disease

- d) Viral disease
- e) Answer not known

93) When is World water day celebrated?

- a) March 24
- b) March 23
- c) March 22
- d) March 21
- e) Answer not known

94) What is the rank of India in the UN World Happiness Report 2022?

- a) 139
- b) 138
- c) 136
- d) 137
- e) Answer not known

95) International Day of happiness is observed every year around the world on ____

- a) March 21
- b) March 20
- c) March 18
- d) March 15
- e) Answer not known

96) who became the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan award?

- a) Devendra Jhajharia
- b) Avani Lekhara
- c) Bhavina Patel
- d) None of the above
- e) Answer not known

97) Which has become the first state to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim
- e) Answer not known

98) Consider the following statements

- 1) TB is a viral disease
- 2) TB mainly affects lungs
- 3) It spread from one person to another through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneezes.

Which of the above statements is/ are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) None of the above
- e) Answer not known

99) where was the Arab League formed ?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Kuwait
- c) Dubai
- d) Cairo
- e) Answer not known

100) Mekedatu is a drinking water cum power generation project proposed by Karnataka across the river _____

- a) Palar
- b) Pennar
- c) Cauvery
- d) Krishna
- e) Answer not known

Answers:

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