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TNPSC **SANGAMAM**

FREE
MONTHLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2022





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KALAINARIN ANAITHU GRAMA ORUNGINAINTHA VELAN VALARCHI THITTAM

- Aim - Increasing cultivable area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation, augmenting water resources, increasing productivity to benefit the farmers.
- Tamil Nadu Government launched the **'Kalaingar All Villages Integrated Agricultural Development Programme'** that proposes overall agriculture development in all the 15,525 village panchayats through a convergence of Union and State government schemes and externally-aided projects in five years.
- In the current year, the programme will cover 1,997 village panchayats at a cost of Rs 227.06 crore and benefit over nine lakh agricultural families

About



- Under the initiative,
 - borewells will be erected in fallow land clusters;
 - farm ponds established;
 - channels, tanks, and
 - ooranies desilted;
 - 11.916 lakh coconut seedlings distributed;
 - pulse seeds distributed for bund cropping;
 - 19,970 sprayers,
 - 2.5 lakh home garden kits,
 - incentive of Rs 5,000 for vegetable cultivation distributed;
 - fruit seedlings and tree saplings provided; micro-irrigation facilities installed for farmers from Adi Dravida community and inlet channels and ponds, etc will be desilted.
- The programme aims to bring 11.75 lakh hectares of land under net area cultivated in the next 10 years, increase the double-

cropping area to 20 lakh hectares, and make Tamil Nadu among the top three States in production of foodgrains, coconut, cotton, sunflower, and groundnut.

NAAN MUDHALVAN SCHEME

- On March 1, Tamil Nadu Government launched the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme for school and college students and youngsters.
- It is a comprehensive guidance and facilitation scheme to pave way for employment opportunities.
- The scheme includes skill development, identifying individual talent and nurturing it, training sessions on coding and robotics, mentoring, personality development, facilitation to learn foreign language, integrating coaching initiatives for various job opportunities and professional guidance.

HIGHER EDUCATION ASSURANCE SCHEME

- Under the Higher Education Assurance Scheme announced in the 2022-23 Budget, all girl students who studied from grade sixth to 12 in state-run schools would be paid Rs 1,000 per month.
- It would be remitted directly into their bank accounts till the uninterrupted completion of their undergraduate degree, diploma and ITI courses.

THANJAVUR DOLL

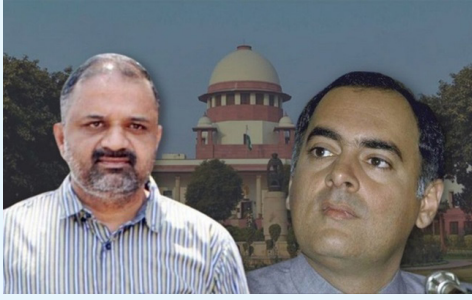
About:

- The Thanjavur doll is a type of traditional Indian bobblehead or roly-poly toy made of terracotta material.
- The centre of gravity and total weight of the doll is concentrated at its bottom-most point, generating a dance-like continuous movement with slow oscillations.
- These toys are traditionally handmade, finished with detailed, painted exteriors.
- They have been recognized as a Geographical Indication by the Government of India as of 2008-09.

ARTICLE 142

In ordering the release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A G Perarivalan on May 18, the Supreme Court invoked the extraordinary power conferred on

the court under Article 142 of the Constitution.
About Article 142 of Constitution:



- Title: Enforcement of decrees, orders of Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.
- Provisions: This article has 2 provisions –
- 142(1): The Supreme Court may pass an order for doing complete justice.
- 142(2): It confers three different powers on the Supreme Court. They are:
- Securing the attendance of persons before it.
- Discovery and production of documents and
- Investigation and punishment of contempt of itself.

About A-142(1): Doing Complete Justice

- The objective of Article 142(1) is that the Supreme Court must not be dependent on the executive for the enforcement of its decrees and orders.
- Such dependence would otherwise violate the principles of independence of the judiciary and separation of powers, both of which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- In Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India (1998), it was decided that this article
- Cannot be used to over-ride the existing law, but only to supplement the law and
- Can be invoked for procedure purposes only.

DEVASAHAYAM PILLAI

Devasahayam Pillai, who was born a Hindu in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and converted to Christianity in the 18th century, became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by the Vatican.

About:

- Pope Francis canonised Blessed Devasahayam during the Canonisation Mass in St Peter's Basilica.
- Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712 in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district, and went on to serve in the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore.
- After meeting a Dutch naval commander at the court, Devasahayam was baptised in 1745, and assumed the name 'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.

IRON USE IN TAMIL NADU

Carbon dating of excavated finds in Tamil Nadu pushes evidence of iron being used in India back to 4,200

years ago, the Tamil Nadu government announced on the basis of an archaeological report.



About:

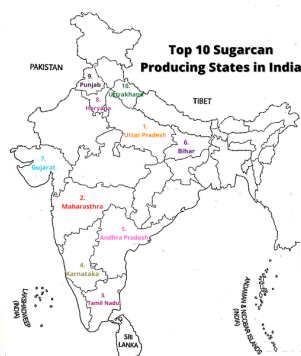
- Before this, the earliest evidence of iron use was from 1900-2000 BCE for the country, and from 1500 BCE for Tamil Nadu. The latest evidence dates the findings from Tamil Nadu to 2172 BCE.
- Chief Minister M K Stalin said in the Assembly that it has been established that Tamils who lived 4,200 years ago were aware of iron.
- Dense forests were converted into fertile lands only after humankind began realising the use of iron. This finding has answered questions relating to the start of agricultural activity in Tamil Nadu.
- The excavations are from Mayiladumparai near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu. Mayiladumparai is an important site with cultural material dating back between the Microlithic (30,000 BCE) and Early Historic (600 BCE) ages.
- The site is situated in the midst of several archaeological sites such as Tograpalli, Gangavaram, Sandur, Vedarhattakkal, Guttur, Gidlur, Sappamutlu and Kappalavadi. All these important archaeological sites lie within 10 km. of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.



NATIONAL NEWS

SUGAR PRODUCTION

After a five-year gap, Maharashtra has overtaken Uttar Pradesh to regain its position as India's top sugar producer.



About:

- The state's output for the 2021-22 crushing year (October-September) is expected at 138 lakh tonnes (lt). That is an all-time-high, beating the previous 107.21 lt of 2018-19.
- This record production is attributed to three factors.
- The first is the bountiful rainfall since the 2019 southwest monsoon.
- The second is higher yields from farmers taking extra care of their crop.
- The third factor is a huge jump in "unregistered" cane cultivation. The large "unregistered" area has meant that there is un-harvested cane still in the fields and mills will continue to crush till the first week of June.

GEN NEXT DEMOCRACY NETWORK

Indian Council for Cultural Relations's (ICCR) ten days programme Gen Next Democracy Network concluded.

About:

- Youth from democratic countries come to India under the Gen Next Democracy Network programme. During the programme, they get acquainted with India's heritage, culture and functioning of Indian democracy.
- In the closing ceremony, 27 delegates from six countries- Ghana, Bangladesh, Peru, Nepal, Brunei and Norway shared their

experiences of visiting India.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India. The ICCR Headquarter is situated in New Delhi.
- It was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India. It is involved in India's global cultural relations, through cultural exchange with other countries and their people.
- The council also operates missions internationally, with established cultural centres in various countries. It also administers the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, established by the Government of India in 1965, whose last award was in 2009.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (NCTE)

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) under Ministry of Education has launched an online portal to streamline the entire process of recognition of teacher education programs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).

About:

- This will streamline the entire process right from the time of inviting application for courses till the stage of issue of recognition orders including the inspection of institutions.
- The applications for the recently launched four years Integrated Teacher Education Programmes will be processed on this portal.
- This portal will bring a paradigm shift in the functioning of NCTE. It aims to provide an automated robust framework thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and ease of doing business.

DRAFT NATIONAL DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has issued a draft National Data Governance Framework to mobilise non-personal data of citizens for use by both public and private entities to improve services. About:

- It proposes the launch of a non-personal data based India datasets programme and addresses the methods and rules to ensure that non-personal and anonymised data from both government and private entities are safely accessible by the research and innovation ecosystem.
- The Framework will be of interest to artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups, AI research entities, and government departments.
- it would also accelerate digital government and digitisation of government with common standards, rules and guidelines for data storage and management across all departments.

BIOTECH PARK AT GHATTI

Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated North India's First Biotech Park at Ghatti, Kathua district, J&K.

About:

- This biotech park will carry out research on biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and it will also promote green category businesses.
- The biotechnology park at Kathua has a potential to produce 25 startups in a year which will be among its great contributions to this region.
- The work on the two Industrial Biotech Parks, one at Ghatti, Kathua, Jammu and other in Handwara, Kashmir jointly funded by department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, Ministry of Science & Technology and Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council was started in February 2019.
- CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of this project.

ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGE (ANIC)

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog organised 'National Outreach Meet' for the second edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) at International Centre Goa, hosted by AIC-GIM Foundation.

About:

- ANIC is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.

- Each ANIC winner will be eligible for a funding of up to INR 1 crore.
- The sectors in which ANIC 2.0 launched the challenges include E-mobility, Road Transportation, Space Technology and Application, Sanitation, Medical Devices and Equipment, Waste Management and Agriculture.
- The first edition of the ANIC program received more than 1000 applications for 24 challenges and is currently supporting 30+ startups through grants, partnerships, networking, tech support, mentorship, infrastructure and access to investors.

NATIONAL FACILITY FOR GENE FUNCTION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (NFGFHD)

The National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD) was inaugurated in Pune by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education.



About:

- The NFGFHD has been set up at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. It has been built by IISER Pune and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- This will be one-of-its-kind large facilities providing timely supply of animal models to researchers studying a range of diseases from cancer to diabetes.
- Rats, mice and rabbits will be housed here, doing away with the need to import them.
- Why it is needed? With a growing zoonotic disease burden on human health, there is an increased urgency to perform disease studies based on physiological evidence and methods.
- The facility houses molecular biology laboratories and micro-injection setups to generate mouse models, in which scientists will knock out existing genes and replace them with external or artificial genes that are linked to the disease under study. This is done through CRISPR / Cas9 systems.

INDIAN BUSINESS PORTAL

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry launched the Indian Business Portal - An International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers.



About:

- FIEO in partnership with GlobalLinker, has designed and developed the “Indian Business Portal”, an International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers.
- This is a B2B digital marketplace to empower SME exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally.
- Strategic objectives of Indian Business Portal:
 - Digitizing Indian Exporters and help them become discoverable online
 - Encouraging virtual meetings between buyers and sellers
 - Providing a trusted network of Indian Exporters to Foreign Buyers

LAVENDER

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's 'First Lavender Festival' in Bhaderwah.

About:

- He described Bhaderwah as the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution and said that Bhaderwah is the potential destination of Agri-tech StartUps of the country.
- India's first National Institute of High Altitude Medicine is also being built in Bhaderwah.
- Bhaderwah (also Bhadarwah Valley) is a town, tehsil and sub-division in the district Doda of Jammu.

Lavender

- Lavandula (common name lavender) is a genus of 47 known species of flowering plants in the mint family, Lamiaceae.
- The flowers may be blue, violet or lilac in the wild species, occasionally blackish purple or yellowish. Lavender has been used over centuries in traditional medicine

and cosmetics.

- CSIR-AROMA Mission, under the Ministry of Science & Technology aims to develop and disseminate the aroma-related science and technology to reach the end user/clients of CSIR: Farmers, industry and society.

GREEN HYDROGEN

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said India will emerge as the leader of green hydrogen by taking advantage of the current energy crisis across the globe.

About:

- The 'green' depends on how the electricity is generated to obtain the hydrogen, which does not emit greenhouse gas when burned.
- Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis using renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind or hydel power.

Steps in India

- In Apr Oil India Limited (OIL) commissioned India's first 99.99% pure green hydrogen plant in eastern Assam's Jorhat.
- India has just begun to generate green hydrogen with the objective of raising non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030.
- The National Hydrogen Mission was launched on August 15, 2021, with a view to cutting down carbon emissions and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy.

Hydrogen can be 'grey' and 'blue'

- Grey hydrogen is generated through fossil fuels such as coal and gas and currently accounts for 95% of the total production in South Asia.
- Blue hydrogen, too, is produced using electricity generated by burning fossil fuels but with technologies to prevent the carbon released in the process from entering the atmosphere.

PANGONG TSO

The Ministry of External Affairs of India has confirmed that China is building a second bridge on the Pangong Tso lake, not far from the site of one of the most intense friction points in the border standoff that began in May 2020.



About:

- The second bridge, which is still under construction, is a permanent structure. A previous bridge, which came up around January, seemed to have been built to facilitate work on the new one.
- After completion, this second bridge will allow swift movement of armoured vehicles between the north and the south banks of Pangong Tso.
- The site of the bridge is around 20 km east of Finger 8 on the lake's north bank – which is where the Line of Actual Control (LAC) passes.
- The construction site is just east of an old ruin called Khurnak Fort, where China has major frontier defence bases. China calls it Rutong Country.
- Although it is being built in territory that is under China's control since 1958, the exact point is just west of India's claim line, which means India considers it its own territory.
- Pangong Tso is a 135-km long landlocked lake. India has around 45 km of Pangong Tso under its control, while China has more than two-thirds. The site of the new bridge is near the halfway mark of the lake.

OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME (OVEP)

India's first 'Olympic Values Education Programme' (OVEP) by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was launched in Odisha by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in collaboration with the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust (ABFT).



About:

- OVEP will be integrated into the school education system of Odisha. It will be a values-based curriculum, to be implemented initially in 90 schools of Rourkela and Bhubaneswar, catering to about 32,000 children.
- The OVEP is a practical set of resources designed by the IOC to introduce young people to the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship.

- The OVEP was developed in 2006 to address the challenges of sedentary lifestyles, lack of concentration and adolescents dropping out of school.

BioRRAP

In keeping with the spirit of "One Nation, One Portal", Union Minister of Science and Technology launched Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and Start-ups.

About:

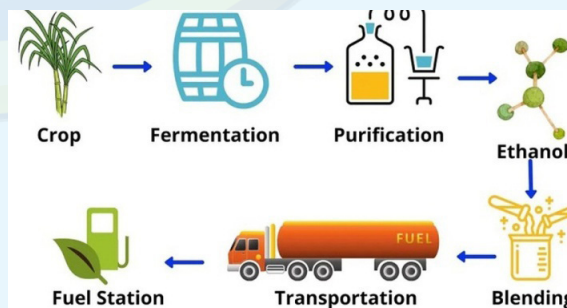
- The Portal "BioRRAP" will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research & development activity in the country.
- Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP) will also allow stakeholders to see the approvals accorded against a particular application through a unique BioRRAP ID.

Note

- India is among the top 12 destinations for biotechnology globally and 3rd largest biotechnology destination in the Asia Pacific region.
- By 2025, the contribution of the Indian biotechnology industry in the global biotechnology market is expected to grow to 19% from a mere 3% in 2017. The Bio Economy's contribution to the national GDP has also grown steadily in the past years to 2.7% in 2020 from 1.7% in 2017.

ETHANOL BLENDING

The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025.



About

- The policy to introduce 20% ethanol in petrol will take effect from April 1, 2023.
- India achieved 9.45% ethanol blending as on March 13, 2022. The Centre projects that this will reach 10% by the end of financial year 2022.

Benefits

- Immense Benefits could accrue to the country by 20% ethanol blending by 2025, such as saving ₹30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year, increased energy security, lowered carbon emissions, better air quality, self-reliance, better use of damaged foodgrains, increased farmers' incomes and investment opportunities.
- The new policy would allow more feed stock for producing biofuel and foster the development of indigenous technologies.

Challenges

- A 20% blend could require some changes and may even drive up the prices of vehicles.
- A greater percentage of blending could also mean more land being diverted for water-intensive crops such as sugar cane, which the government currently subsidises.

SELA TUNNEL PROJECT

The strategically-significant Sela Tunnel project in Arunachal Pradesh is nearing completion.



About:

- Location: Located in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, the tunnel project will provide an alternate axis to the Sela pass, which is at 13,700 feet. It will be on the BCT Road – the Balipara, Charduar and Tawang axis, which is more than 300 km long.
- Components:
- The project, being executed by the Border Roads Organisation, includes two tunnels and a link road.
- While Tunnel 1 will be 980 metres long single-tube, Tunnel 2 will be 1,555 metres with one bi-lane tube for traffic and one escape tube for emergencies running alongside.
- The link road between the two tunnels will be 1,200 metres. Tunnel 2 will be one of the longest tunnels to have been constructed above an altitude of over 13,000 feet.
- Significance: Upon completion, which

is likely by the end of this year, the Sela Tunnel above 13,000-ft will boost all-weather connectivity to the Line of Actual Control with China.

NATIONAL STARTUP ADVISORY COUNCIL (NSAC)

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal chaired the 4th meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi.

About:

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had constituted the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.
- Besides the ex-officio members, the council has non-official members, representing various stakeholders such as founders of successful startups.

NavIC Grand Challenge

- The Minister also launched NavIC Grand Challenge which aims at promoting adoption of NavIC as geo-positioning solution, a key proponent for digital Aatmanirbharta.
- The applications for the grand challenge are open on Startup India's website (www.startupindia.gov.in) and it aims to identify and handhold solutions of startups which are engaged in developing NavIC enabled drones.

PREFERENCE FOR SONS

The newly released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) reconfirms that a large number of Indians have a preference for sons. NFHS-5 covers the period 2019-21.

About:

- The number of married people (age 15-49) who want more sons than daughters is several times the number who want more daughters than sons. In spite of these preferences, most Indians still believe an ideal family should include at least one daughter.
- Among the states and UTs, men in Mizoram (37%), Lakshadweep (34%) and Manipur (33%), and women in Bihar (31%) show the strongest preference for more sons than daughters.

Meghalaya

- The only exception is women in Meghalaya, among whom the preference for more daughters than sons is more prevalent than the preference for more sons than daughters.
- The explanation for Meghalaya women's

preference for daughters is that it is a matrilineal society.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI)

About:

- TRAI was established in 1997 through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India.
- The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

5G Test Bed

- During the programme, Prime Minister will also launch a 5G Test Bed, developed as a multi institute collaborative project by a total of eight institutes led by IIT Madras.
- The Test Bed will enable a supportive ecosystem for Indian industry and startups which will help them validate their products, prototypes, solutions and algorithms in 5G and next generation technologies.

NATIONAL CYBER FORENSIC LABORATORY (NCFL)

Union Home and Co-operation Minister, Amit Shah has formally inaugurated the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) in Hyderabad.

About:

- He inaugurated the laboratory at the premises of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory located at Ramanthapur in the city.
- The Cyber and Information Security Division of the Home Ministry has set up the NCFL at the CFSL under Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Child scheme.
- The NCFL has created 4 specialized Hi-tech units to address issues in the field of digital forensics, which include a Mobile phone embedded system examination unit, a Digital storage Media Examination Unit, an Advanced Digital Forensic Unit, and Crime Scene Unit.

GATISHAKTI SANCHAR PORTAL

Minister of Communications, Electronics, and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Gatishakti Sanchar Portal in New Delhi.

About:

- This integrated and centralized portal will facilitate smooth deployment of digital communications infrastructure across the

country.

- This portal was envisaged to streamline the process and for faster clearance of Right of Way (RoW) with transparency, accountability, and effective monitoring of various digital-based projects,
- This portal will help in the rollout of 5G network across the country.
- Integration of various infrastructures on this portal will help get clearance of right-to-way applications within a span of 20 to 22 days.
- The portal has been developed by MP State Electronics Development Corporation on behalf of Department of Telecommunication.

MUSEUMS

Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, on the occasion of the upcoming International Museum Day (IMD) on 18th May 2022, the Ministry of Culture, will organise a week-long celebration across its museums from 16th May – 20th May 2022.

About:

- The following Museums are undertaking special initiatives throughout the designated week:
 - National Museum (New Delhi),
 - National Gallery of Modern Art (New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru),
 - Allahabad Museum (Prayagraj),
 - Indian Museum (Kolkata),
 - Victoria Memorial Hall (Kolkata),
 - Salar Jung Museum (Hyderabad) and
 - Science cities and centers under National Council of Science Museums (in 24 locations across India).
- Earlier, Ministry of Culture's renewed mandate of 'Reimagining Museums in India' a Global Summit was held in February this year.
- Ministry of Culture is also set to announce the launch of 'Museum' - a hackathon with museum-centric problem statements; and a 'Museums in India' mobile app containing a digital repository of their collections.

MADHYA PRADESH STARTUP POLICY

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Madhya Pradesh Startup Policy during the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave being held in Indore.

About:

- He also launched the Madhya Pradesh Startup portal, which will facilitate and help promote the startup ecosystem. He also

interacted with the startup entrepreneurs.

- He recalled that in 2014 when his Government was formed, the number of startups in the country was about 300-400. Today there are about 70000 recognized startups.
- He said about 50% of startups are from Tier II & Tier III cities and they cover many states and cities. They are associated with more than 50 industries.

NATIONAL DATA & ANALYTICS PLATFORM (NDAP)

NITI Aayog launched the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) for open public use.



About:

- The platform aims to democratize access to public government data by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform.
- It hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, presents them coherently, and provides tools for analytics and visualization.
- This public launch follows a beta release of the platform in August 2021 that had provided access to a limited number of users for testing and feedback.

FOOD PRODUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

India's food production could drop 16% and the number of those at risk for hunger could increase 23% by 2030 due to climate change, says a report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on climate change and food systems.

About:

- These projections are part of a IMPACT model that was used to evaluate the impact of climate change on aggregate food production, food consumption (kilocalories per person per day), net trade of major food commodity groups, and the population at risk of going hungry.

- IMPACT, as the model is called, simulates national and international agricultural markets
- It was developed with inputs from scientists from the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) and other leading global economic modelling efforts.
- The number of Indians at risk from hunger in 2030 is expected to be 73.9 million in 2030 and, if the effects of climate change were to be factored in, it would increase to 90.6 million.
- The aggregate food production index will, under similar conditions, drop from 1.6 to 1.5.
- On a positive note, climate change will not impact the average calorie consumption of Indians and this is projected to remain roughly the same at 2,600 kcal per capita per day by 2030 even in a climate change scenario.

MACOLIN CONVENTION

The 12th meeting of Interpol's Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF), in which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was one of the participants, concluded with a call for harmonised global efforts to curb competition manipulation.

About:

- The participants discussed the emerging uses of technology, big data and social media given that criminal syndicates were increasingly operating across betting and sports markets.
- They also acknowledged that match-fixers are still very much relying on tried and true methods of manipulation, such as targeting the entourage of athletes and grooming young players, pointing to a continued need for education.
- The members deliberated on various mechanisms to improve intelligence sharing "such as the establishment of national platforms, as outlined in the Macolin Convention, that centralise and analyse information on irregular and suspicious trends".
- The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, known as the Macolin Convention, is a multilateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing. It came into force on September 1, 2019.

SEDITION

The Supreme Court suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code, while allowing

the Union of India to reconsider the British-era law. About:

- All pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124A of the IPC be kept in abeyance,” a three-judge Bench ordered.
- It was argued in court that nearly 13,000 people were already in jail under the sedition provision.
- The court also made it clear that it “hopes and expects” the Centre and States to restrain from registering FIRs, continuing investigations or take coercive measures under Section 124A while the “reconsideration” of the colonial provision was on.
- Adding a fail-safe to protect civil liberties against any future misuse of Section 124A while it was under the Union’s microscope, the court ordered that the persons accused in fresh cases were free to approach courts.
- The court, meanwhile, gave the Union of India liberty to issue a directive to States and authorities to prevent the continued misuse of the sedition law.

RAMAGUNDAM FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS LIMITED (RFCL)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to dedicate to the nation the prestigious gas-based urea manufacturing plant of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) at Ramagundam this month-end.

About:

- The RFCL is a joint venture between National Fertilizers Limited, Engineers India Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India, which operated the unit until it stopped production on March 31, 1999.
- By a 2015 revival package, the plant was commissioned with an investment of ₹6,180 crore.
- It was targeted to complete the works by 2018 but quite a few deadlines were jumped since.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID (NATGRID)

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru.

About:

- The NATGRID CEO informed that the services of NATGRID solution will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all States and Union Territories.
- It will link user agencies with data holders,

giving them access to real-time information needed for intelligence services and investigations.

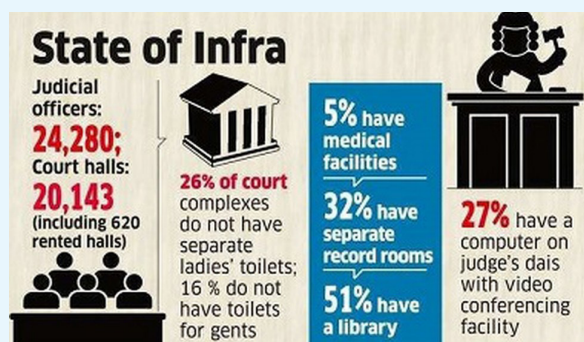
- C-DAC Pune has been roped in as Technology Partner and IIT, Bhilai as Plan Management Consultant for the development of NATGRID solution.
- The National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID is the integrated intelligence master database structure for counter-terrorism purpose connecting databases of various core security agencies under Government of India collecting comprehensive patterns procured from 21 different organizations that can be readily accessed by security agencies round the clock.
- NATGRID came into existence after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has informed that Judicial Infrastructure Development Authority will be formed at state level to strengthen the Judicial infrastructure of the country.

About:

- The resolution regarding this was passed during the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of High Courts in New Delhi.
- The body will be created at the state level with the involvement of the CMs and Chief Justices or their nominees.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9,000 crores including the central share of Rs. 5,307 crores.
- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has said lack of infrastructure is one of the main causes of delaying in delivering Justice. Chief Justice said, effective steps will be taken to ensure the clearing of cases pending for more than five years.





INDIA – U.S TRADE TIES

The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.



About:

- The bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at \$119.42 billion in 2021-22 as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21.
- Exports to the U.S. increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion from about \$29 billion.
- Experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the U.S. will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in strengthening economic ties.
- India has joined a U.S.-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further.

India-China trade

- During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at \$115.42 billion as compared to \$86.4 billion in 2020-21.
- Exports to China marginally increased to \$21.25 billion last fiscal year from \$21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to \$94.16 billion from about \$65.21 billion in 2020-21.
- Trade gap rose to \$72.91 billion in 2021-22 from \$44 billion in the previous fiscal year.

INDIA-BANGLADESH PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICES

The Bangladesh-India passenger train services resumed after two years with the flagging off of the Maitree Express train from Dhaka.

About:

- The Bandhan Express between Kolkata and Khulna was also resumed with the flagging off of the train at Kolkata. It reached Benapole railway station around 9.45 a.m. local time.
- The newly introduced train Mitali Express between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka will be flagged off jointly by the Railway Ministers of India and Bangladesh on June 1. The train will not have any commercial stoppage between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri.
- Passenger train services between the two countries had remained suspended for over two year after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
- The resumption of the train services was eagerly awaited in Bangladesh as it provides a convenient and cheap mode of connectivity for the people travelling from Bangladesh to India and back.

INDIA – UAE MOU ON CLIMATE ACTION

India and United Arab Emirates have signed an MoU to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.



About:

- The basic objective of this MoU is to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action, and also contributes towards implementing the Paris Agreement 2015.
- The Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 at the end of the annual climate change conference for global collective efforts at reducing carbon emissions to restrict global temperature rise to preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial area.

QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (QUAD)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has concluded his official visit to Japan for the 4th Quad leaders summit in Tokyo. This was the second in-person summit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad.

About:



Power point: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian and Japanese counterparts, Anthony Albanese (left) and Fumio Kishida (right), and U.S. President Joe Biden at the Quad summit at Kantei Palace in Tokyo, Japan, on Tuesday. -AP

- They announced the formation of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), which will build a “faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters.”
- It will allow tracking of “dark shipping” and other tactical-level activities, such as rendezvous at sea, as well as improve partners’ ability to respond to climate and humanitarian events and to protect their fisheries.
- The grouping would enhance the sharing of data as a part of the “Quad Satellite Data Portal” that would enhance cooperation among the satellites of the member countries.
- The summit welcomed the progress made regarding the J&J vaccine production at the Biological E labs in India under the Quad Vaccine Partnership.
- The Quad is an informal multilateral grouping of India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan aimed at cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

BOYEVAYA MASHINA PODDERZHKI TANKOV (BMPT)

Russia has deployed the Terminator tank support system – the BMPT, also known as the BMPT ‘Terminator’, and its new version the BMPT-72 – in the Ukraine war.

About:



- The Terminator or the Boyevaya Mashina Podderzhki Tankov (BMPT), is a tank support fighting vehicle developed by Russia.
- The tank support vehicles are designed to protect the Russian tanks against enemy infantry. They are basically a replacement for mechanised infantry troops in the urban battlefield.
- The list of potent weaponry that Terminator is equipped with are capable of firing in multiple directions in quick succession, thus suppressing firepower to prevent any attempt to take out the tank columns being protected.
- The BMPT destroys targets such as infantry personnel carrying anti-tank weapons, as well as lightly and heavily armoured targets, like tanks.

INDIA - USA INVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT (IIA)

The Government of India and the Government of the United States of America has signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) at Tokyo, Japan



About:

- This IIA supersedes the Investment Incentive Agreement signed between the two sides in 1997.
- Significant developments have taken place since the signing of the earlier IIA in 1997 including the creation of a new agency called DFC, a development finance agency of Government of USA, as a successor

agency of the erstwhile Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) after the enactment of a recent legislation of USA, the BUILD Act 2018.

- IIA has been signed, to keep pace with the additional investment support programmes, offered by the DFC, such as debt, equity investment, investment guaranty, investment insurance or reinsurance, feasibility studies for potential projects and grants.
- The Agreement is the legal requirement for DFC, to continue providing investment support in India. DFC or their predecessor agencies are active in India since 1974 and have so far provided investment support worth \$5.8 billion of which \$2.9 billion is still outstanding.

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK (IPEF)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in U.S. President Joseph Biden's unveiling of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in Tokyo, a U.S. initiative for trade partnerships in the region.

About:

- Modi's attendance at the event is a significant step towards building economic ties among Quad countries (India, the U.S., Australia and Japan) in the Indo-Pacific.
- But officials were hesitant to bill the IPEF as a counter to the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the 17-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that China is a member of.
- The IPEF would have a "very wide-ranging membership" and the programme was "designed to put workers at the centre with a focus on the digital economy, clean energy transition, infrastructure and resilient supply chains.
- India has not taken a decision on joining the framework, but is keen on understanding the "contours" of the American plan.

SRI LANKA GOES BANKRUPT

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has declared the country bankrupt as it faces a fuel crisis and food shortages.

About:

- Mr Wickremesinghe said, the last administration is to blame for the country has come to a point where it is bankrupt which has never happened before.
- We have no dollars, we have no rupees, we are not in a stable position, we are feeling the rise of the price of fuel, and we know it

will go higher, he added.

- Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's central bank has secured foreign exchange to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments that will ease crippling shortages.
- Most of Sri Lanka's petrol stations have run dry as the island nation battles its most devastating economic crisis since independence in 1948.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)

Finland and Sweden submitted a joint application to join NATO as Russia's invasion of Ukraine forces a dramatic reappraisal of security in Europe.



About:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European states, the United States, and Canada.
- The organization, headquartered in Brussels, implements the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed on 4 April 1949.
- The reversal of the Nordic countries' long-standing policy of non-alignment came amidst the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The membership push could represent the most significant expansion of NATO in decades, doubling its border with Russia.
- But the applications face resistance from NATO member Turkey, which accuses the Nordic neighbours of harbouring anti-Turkish extremists.

INDIA-FRANCE RELATIONS

The Navies of India and France concluded their second joint patrolling in the southwestern Indian Ocean last week, while an Australian P-8 maritime patrol aircraft is expected in India next month on a reciprocal visit, underscoring India's continued focus on expanding maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



About:

- During the five days from May 9 to 13, an Indian Navy P-8I aircraft was deployed from the French island of La Reunion to carry out “joint surveillance and patrolling operations” with the French Navy in the southwestern Indian Ocean.
- It is the second time that France and India have carried out “joint patrolling” out of La Reunion.

Réunion

- Réunion (French: La Réunion) is an island in the Indian Ocean that is an overseas department and region of France.
- It is located approximately 950km east of the island of Madagascar and 175 km southwest of the island of Mauritius.

INDIA-NEPAL AGREEMENTS

India and Nepal signed and exchanged six Memorandum of Understandings and Agreements after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba in Lumbini.



List of MoUs/Agreements signed and exchanged during Prime Minister's visit to Nepal:

- MoU between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Lumbini Buddhist University on the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies

- MoU between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and CNAS, Tribhuvan University on the establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies
- MoU between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Kathmandu University (KU) on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies
- MoU in collaboration between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), India
- Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology (IITM), India [For Joint degree program at Master's level]
- Agreement between SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for Development and implementation of Arun 4 Project

INDIA-BANGLADESH NUCLEAR COOPERATION

The India-Bangladesh joint committee meeting on peaceful uses of nuclear energy was held in Dhaka on 11-12 May 2022.

About:

- Both sides stated their desire for collaboration in societal applications of radiation technologies in areas such as cancer care, nuclear medicine and food preservation.
- The Bangladesh side expressed appreciation for the services being rendered by the Indian experts currently deployed at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.
- Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant will be a 2.4 GWe nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.
- The nuclear power plant is being constructed at Rooppur on the bank of the river Padma.
- In 2018, India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement to allow Indian firms in construction and installation works in the “non-critical” category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project in northwest Bangladesh.

SCO-RATS

Counterterrorism teams from Russia, China, Pakistan and Central Asian countries will gather in Delhi ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti-Terror Structure (SCO-RATS) meeting \hosted by India from May 16 to 19.

About:

- While both India and Pakistan have no bilateral engagement at present and have not attended other regional meets such as

the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meet, they both attended the Russia and China-led SCO meet.

- Last year, an Indian team also travelled to Pakistan to attend the SCO-RATS exercises in Pabbi.
- India is expected to host the SCO summit in 2023, which would see leaders of the eight-member grouping (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) travelling to New Delhi.
- In October, joint anti-terrorist exercises titled “Manesar-Antiterror-2022” will be held on the NSG training campus in Manesar, and will be followed by another joint border operation of the SCO member states called “Friendship Border-2022” in Kazakhstan later this year.
- Both exercises were decided at a meeting of SCO-RATS in Tashkent on March 25 this year, which was chaired by India.
- The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is the permanent body of the SCO RATS based in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Union Minister for Environment, Bhopender Yadav delivered National Statement at the 15th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Cote d'Ivoire.

About:



- The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

(UNCCD) is being held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022.

- The COP15 theme, ‘Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity’, is a call to action to ensure land, the lifeline on this planet, continues to benefit present and future generations.
- Several global developments indicate support to the objectives of UNCCD, such as the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) that aims at halting and reversing ecosystem degradation and loss.
- The importance placed on increasing area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems is visible in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- For the first time, an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD) was established by decision 23/COP.14. India held the 14th COP in Delhi in 2019.

INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.



About:

- The Summit provided an opportunity to review the progress of the India-Nordic relations since the 1st India-Nordic Summit, which was held in 2018 in Stockholm.
- Prime Minister Modi invited Nordic companies for investing in the Blue Economy sector, especially in India's Sagarmala project.
- India's partnership with the Nordic region in the Arctic Region was discussed. Prime Minister noted that India's Arctic Policy provides a good framework for expansion of India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic

region.

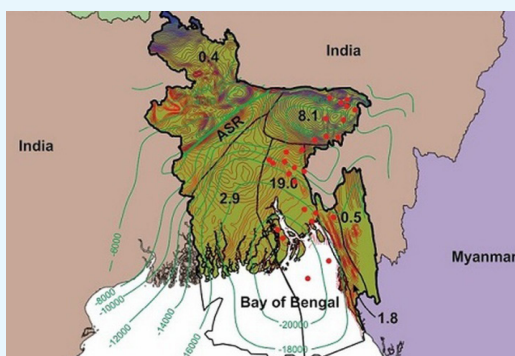
- Prime Minister invited the sovereign wealth funds of the Nordic countries to invest in India.
- The Nordic Countries reiterated their support for India's Permanent Membership of a reformed and expanded Security Council.
- India and the Nordic countries were committed to follow up on the historic decision at UNEA 5.2 for negotiating an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution with an ambition to completing the work by 2024.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (ICDRI)

- The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) is the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- It brings together member countries, organizations and institutions to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.
- In 2018 and 2019, the first and second International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure took place in New Delhi, India. ICDRI 2021 was hosted virtually. The fourth edition of ICDRI is being organized in partnership with the United States Government, from 4 to 6 May 2022 in New Delhi, in hybrid format.
- CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, at the 2019 UN Climate Summit.

KOILASTILA GAS FIELD

Bangladesh has discovered a new gas field with the capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) at the Koilastila Gas field.



About:

- Koilastila Gas Field is one of the five gas fields purchased from the Shell Oil

company by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975

- So far 7 wells have been drilled in the Koilastila gas field of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL).
- The first gas field in Bangladesh was made in Sylhet in 1955. Bangladesh currently produces 2370 MMCFD from its 26 commercial gas fields out of which 85 percent comes from the top 4 gas fields. Bibiyana Gas Field and Titas Gas field are its major locations for production of gas. It is estimated that Bangladesh has a remaining gas reserve of 11 trillion cubic

feet.FIRST

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will lead the Indian delegation for the First International Migration Review Forum being held under the auspices of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York from 17th to 20th of May.

About:

- It will serve as the primary inter-governmental global platform to review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).
- It will consist of four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables, a policy dialogue and a plenary.
- In the General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/195, Member States agreed to review the progress made at the local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the GCM in the framework of the United Nations.



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

India has recorded highest ever annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion in the Financial Year 2021-22.

About

- In terms of top investor countries of FDI Equity inflow, 'Singapore' is at the apex with 27%, followed by U.S.A (18%) and Mauritius (16%) for the FY 2021-22.
- 'Computer Software & Hardware' has emerged as the top recipient sector of FDI Equity inflow during FY 2021-22 with around 25% share followed by Services Sector (12%) and Automobile Industry (12%) respectively.
- Under the sector 'Computer Software & Hardware', the major recipient states of FDI Equity inflow are Karnataka (53%), Delhi (17%) and Maharashtra (17%) during FY 2021-22.
- Karnataka is the top recipient state with 38% share of the total FDI Equity inflow reported during the FY 2021-22 followed by Maharashtra (26%) and Delhi (14%).
- Further, India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector. FDI Equity inflow in Manufacturing Sectors have increased by 76% in FY 2021-22 (USD 21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (USD 12.09 billion).

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

The Supreme Court, in a judgment championing the importance of "cooperative federalism", held that Union and State legislatures have "equal, simultaneous and unique powers" to make laws on Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on them.

What next?

FOR BUSINESSES

■ Goods importers get some relief as they are no longer liable to pay GST on ocean freight charges; could seek refunds for past payments

reiterates the spirit in which the GST Council is functioning



■ "All but one decision of the Council has been reached by consensus so far"

FOR THE CENTRE AND STATES

■ Finance Ministry believes SC order only

■ The Council may be summoned soon to discuss SC verdict's implications

About:

- The apex court's decision came while confirming a Gujarat High Court ruling that the Centre cannot levy Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on ocean freight from Indian importers.
- The court emphasised that Article 246A (which gives the States power to make laws with respect to GST) of the Constitution treat the Union and the States as "equal units". It confers a simultaneous power (on Union and States) for enacting laws on GST.
- Article 279A, in constituting the GST Council, envisions that neither the Centre nor the States are actually dependent on the other.
- The judgment said that though the Centre may have a larger share of power in certain instances to prevent chaos and provide security, the States still wielded power.
- After all, the court said, "Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and un-cooperative federalism where the federal units are at liberty to use different means of persuasion, ranging from collaboration to contestation".

INTEROPERABLE CARD-LESS CASH WITHDRAWAL (ICCW) AT ATMS

Reserve Bank of India has directed banks and ATM operators to provide cardless cash withdrawal facilities at all ATMs.

About:

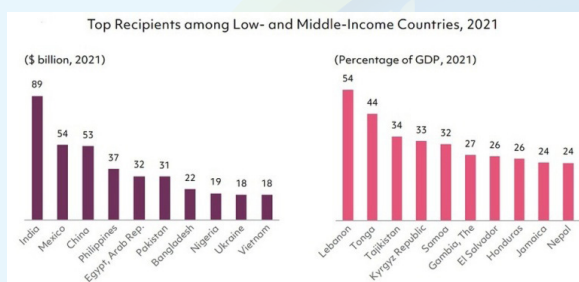
- In a circular, the RBI said, all banks, automated teller machine (ATM) networks, and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) may provide the option of ICCW at their ATMs.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.
- The RBI said, while UPI would be used for customer authorization in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) and ATM networks.
- The on-us and off-us ICCW transactions shall be processed without levy of any charges other than those prescribed under the circular on Interchange Fee and

Customer Charges, it added.

- In a bid to check fraud, RBI last month said, it has been decided to permit all banks to introduce card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs. According to the central bank, currently, cardless cash withdrawal through ATMs is offered by a few banks.
- A transaction carried out at an ATM of the card-issuing bank is called an On-Us transaction. A transaction carried out at any other ATM is called an Off-Us transaction.

REMITTANCES

Officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2 percent in 2022 to reach \$630 billion.



About:

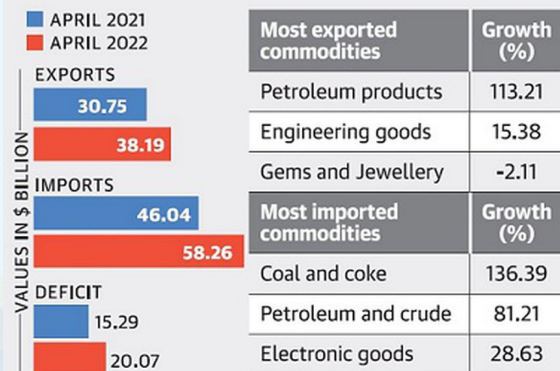
- This follows an almost record recovery of 8.6 percent in 2021, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief released today.
- Remittances to Ukraine, which is the largest recipient in Europe and Central Asia, are expected to rise by over 20 percent in 2022.
- The top five recipient countries for remittances in 2021 were India, Mexico (replacing China), China, the Philippines, and Egypt.
- India topped the list in the world receiving USD 89 billion in remittance followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion, and China at USD 53 billion last year.
- Among economies where remittance inflows stand at very high shares of GDP are Lebanon (54 percent), Tonga (44 percent), Tajikistan (34 percent), Kyrgyz Republic (33 percent), and Samoa (32 percent).

TRADE DEFICIT IN INDIA

India exported merchandise estimated at \$38.19 billion in April 2022, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier but 9.5% lower than the record \$42.2 billion shipped out in March, official estimates released

Trade tango

India's merchandise exports rose by 24% (year-on-year) to \$38 billion in April, while imports outpaced them by increasing 27% to \$58 billion



About:

- The trade deficit, however, expanded to \$20.07 billion from \$18.5 billion in March, as imports grew at a faster 26.6% pace to \$58.26 billion. Sequentially, goods imports declined 4.1% last month from March's level.
- Gold imports fell by a sharp 73% year-on-year to just \$1.7 billion, even as coal imports more than doubled to over \$4.7 billion from \$2 billion a year earlier.
- Petroleum imports comprising crude and products surged 81.2% to exceed \$19.5 billion, and made up a third of the total imports in the month.
- India's goods exports hit a record \$420 billion in 2021-22, while imports also hit an all-time high of about \$612 billion, leading to a \$192 billion deficit in the last financial year.
- Although the non-oil trade deficit remained stable in April, there was a shift in its composition, with a plunge in gold imports being offset by a rise in non-oil, non-gold imports such as coal and chemicals, an unsavoury yet expected fallout of the higher commodity prices engendered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Among India's top 10 export commodities, gems and jewellery exports dipped by a marginal 2.1% in April, while rice exports fell 14.24%.

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC)

The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved nomination of Rajiv Ranjan as ex-officio member of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

About:

- Background:
- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC.
- Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- The first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016.
- Functions: Section 45ZB lays down that “the Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target”, and that “the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank”.

Members:

- Section 45ZB says the MPC shall consist of the RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, an officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board, and three persons to be appointed by the central government
- The last category of appointments must be from “persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy”(Section 45ZC).



PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

SCHOLARSHIP FOR PM CARES CHILDREN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Scholarship for PM CARES Children Scheme on 30th May, 2022.

About:

- Prime Minister of India had earlier launched the PM CARES for Children Scheme in 2021.
- Under this Scheme, an initiative was started in Feb 2022 to provide financial assistance to support such children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to COVID-19 pandemic.
- In line with the above initiative, the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has decided to provide scholarship assistance to such Children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to COVID-19 pandemic to continue their education without any hindrance.
- Accordingly, a new Scheme was formulated for the purpose namely; SCHOLARSHIP FOR PM CARES CHILDREN as a Central Sector Scheme.
- Under the Scheme Scholarship allowance would be ₹20,000/- per child per annum which will comprise monthly allowance of ₹1,000 per month and Annual academic allowance of Rs. 8,000 to cover the entire school fees, cost of the books and uniform, shoes and other educational equipment.
- The Scholarship will be disbursed through DBT to the Children from Class 1st until they pass out the 12th std Class.



URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (USAF)

Posing a challenge for urban planners, UN-Habitat has identified multi-hazard vulnerabilities, urban sprawl, weak urban mobility and “green-blue disconnect” as the pressing issues for Jaipur city.

About:

- The global body has based its findings on a sustainable cities integrated approach pilot project, as part of which the “sustainable urban planning and management” component was implemented in collaboration with the Jaipur Development Authority and Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation.
- Jaipur has received an overall sustainability rating of three on the Urban Sustainability Assessment Framework (USAF) on the basis of data collected for 87 of its 131 parameters.
- Experts have identified urban sectors where the city needs to pay maximum attention, and made recommendations to increase its green cover, strengthen urban biodiversity, and enhance the quality of life for citizens.
- The project has received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF-6) to estimate the carbon sequestration potential of Indian cities.
- Mitigating urban sprawl remains a major challenge in the State capital, with the UN body emphasising the concept of a compact city with re-development and re-densification of the existing urban areas.
- As an indirect measure to curb development on the city’s outskirts, linking the distance from the main city to the development charges imposed on citizens could be considered.

MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Union Government has approved new guidelines for the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme.

About:

- The guidelines will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle.
- The scheme aims at enhancing the com-

petitiveness and productivity of Micro and Small Enterprises through interventions in Common Facility Centers and Infrastructure Development.

- Government grants for Common Facility Centers will be restricted to seventy percent of the cost of the project from five crore rupees to ten crore rupees and sixty percent of the cost of the project from ten crore rupees to thirty crore rupees.
- However, for North East and the Hill States including Island territories and Aspirational Districts, the grant will be given eighty and seventy percent of the cost of the project as per different project cost ranges.
- Grant for Infrastructure Development will be restricted to sixty percent of the cost of the project from five crore rupees to fifteen crore rupees for setting up of a new Industrial Estate, Flatted Factory Complex.
- Grant will be fifty percent of the cost of the project from five crore rupees to ten crore rupees for up-gradation of the existing Industrial Estate, Flatted Factory Complex.

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS)

The Union government has made capturing of attendance through its app, National Mobile Monitoring System, compulsory at worksites where 20 or more workers are employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

About:

- The Rural Development Ministry had started the exercise on a pilot basis in May 2021.
- Initially, the utilisation of application was to be voluntary, but from May 16, 2022, it has been made mandatory.
- The Ministry's directive claims that the app, which requires two time-stamped and geotagged photographs of the workers in a day, encourages transparency and increases citizen oversight.
- The decision comes despite many problems, including patchy Internet connectivity in rural areas and little or no technical support. In a majority of cases, the employees' families are averse to giving phones to women, especially smartphones. Hence, many women have dropped out.

MUKHYA MANTRI GHAR GHAR RATION YOJNA

The Delhi High Court Thursday halted a proposed scheme for doorstep delivery of ration in the national capital. In March 2018, the Delhi Cabinet

approved a scheme for delivery of ration at the doorstep of beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

About:

- It was called the 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna'. The scheme was notified in February 2021.
- The foodgrain stock for the scheme was to be lifted by millers empanelled with the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited and transported to milling units for processing and packaging.
- The packed items were then to be delivered at designated Fair Price Shops to be set up by Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store Ltd.
- The last step involved delivering the packaged items at the doorstep of beneficiaries through government-empanelled direct-to-home delivery agencies.
- From the moment the proposal was given a go-ahead by the Arvind Kejriwal government in 2018, it faced stiff opposition from the Lieutenant Governor as well as the central government on technical grounds.
- The Lieutenant Governor, said it may not eliminate corruption – one of the scheme's stated objectives – as it only sought to replace old service providers with new ones. The LG also advised the AAP government to place the matter before the Centre for approval.
- The Centre also said that it "will have no objection if a separate scheme is made by the state government without mixing elements of the NFSA (National Food Security Act) foodgrains".

MALVIYA MISSION

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan pitched in with an idea of a "Malviya Mission" to develop enabling ecosystem across the country for teacher education/faculty development.

About:

- Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861 – 1946) was an Indian educationist and a Freedom Fighter.
- Names: He was conferred the title of 'Mahamana' by Mahatma Gandhi. During his school days he started writing poems under the pen name 'Makarand' which were published in journals and magazines.
- Role in Freedom Movement: He was a moderate leader. He was elected as the president of Indian National Congress four times in 1909, 1918, 1932 and 1933, but owing to his arrest by the Government of India, he

could not preside over the 1932 and 1933 sessions which had been banned.

- As an Educationist: He founded Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Varanasi in 1916, which was created under the B.H.U. Act, 1915. He was Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University from 1919–1938.
- Journalism: He started the ‘Abhyudaya’ as a Hindi weekly in 1907 and made it a daily in 1915. He also started the ‘Maryada’ a Hindi monthly in 1910. He started the ‘Leader’ an English daily in 1909. He was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ‘Hindustan Times’ from 1924 to 1946.

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

With a view to conserve water for the future, the Prime Minister launched a new Mission on Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022.

About:

- The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023.
- In total, it would lead to creation of 50,000 water bodies of a size of about an Acre or more with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meter.
- This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach in which following Ministries/Department are involved: Dept of Rural Development, Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Environment.
- Also Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.
- The Mission works through the States and Districts, through refocusing of various schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, XV Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides States’ own schemes.

NATIONAL SAGARMALA APEX COMMITTEE (NSAC)

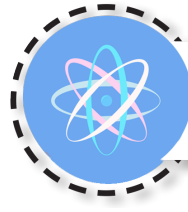
- The National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) is the apex body providing policy directions and guidance for port led devel-

opment-Sagarmala projects and reviews its implementation.

- The NSAC was constituted on 13.05.2015 by the Union Cabinet and is chaired by Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways with Cabinet Ministers from stakeholder central Ministries and Chief Ministers & Administrators of Maritime States and Union territories respectively as members.
- The committee shall review the Sagarmala program.
- Holistic development of coastal communities through a new initiative ‘Sagartat Samriddhi Yojana’ will also be taken up for discussion in the meeting.

Sagarmala Program

- Sagarmala is a National Programme to accelerate economic development in the country by harnessing the potential of India’s 7,500 km long coastline and 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways.
- It was announced by the Prime Minister in 2014 and approved by the Union Cabinet on 25th March 2015
- It holds a vision to reduce logistics cost for both domestic and EXIM cargo with optimal infrastructure investment.
- The projects under the scheme have been categorized into five pillars:
 - Port modernization & new port development,
 - Port connectivity enhancement,
 - Port-led industrialization,
 - Coastal community development and
 - Coastal shipping and Inland water transport



SKYROOT AEROSPACE SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRES ITS ROCKET ENGINE

- Private sector rocket maker Skyroot Aerospace Private Ltd successfully tested its Kalam-100 rocket that will power the Vikram-1 rocket's third stage/engine.
- The company announced the completion of the milestone of full duration test-firing of its Vikram-1 rocket stage.
- The third stage, named Kalam-100 after former President APJ Abdul Kalam, was fired for a duration of 108 seconds.



INDIA TO INTRODUCE MADE IN INDIA TB INFECTION SKIN TEST CALLED “C-TB”

- India will introduce a newly approved “made in India” TB infection skin test called ‘c-TB’, said Health Minister Man-sukh Mandaviya.
- This cost-effective tool will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well. A new initiative, “Adopt people with TB” will be launched this year, based on Indian values of collectivism, which will call upon corporates, industries, organisations, political parties and individuals to come forward and adopt TB-infected people and families and provide them with nutritional and social support

JAISALMER: ADANI GREEN COMMIS- SIONS INDIA'S FIRST WIND-SOLAR HYBRID POWER FACILITY

- Adani Green subsidiary Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited has commissioned a 390 MW wind-solar hybrid power facility in Jaisalmer, contributing signifi-

cantly to India's green energy effort.

- The plant will be India's first hybrid wind-solar power producing facility. The hybrid power plant, which combines solar and wind generating, unlocks the full potential of renewable energy by eliminating generation intermittency and providing a more stable option to meet rising power demand.



US FRONTIER OVERTAKES JAPAN'S FUGAKU AS WORLD'S MOST POWER- FUL SUPERCOMPUTER

- According to the 59th edition of the Top500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers unveiled by Germany, ORNL's Supercomputer Frontier from the US, a supercomputer built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) architecture and equipped with Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors, outperformed Japan's Supercomputer Fugaku to become the world's fastest supercomputer.



TOMATO FLU

- In a few parts of Kerala, a new virus known as tomato flu has been detected after the covid-19 pandemic.
- Almost 80 children in Kollam city of Kerala have been diagnosed with tomato flu and it is spreading rapidly. All the cases that are confirmed have been diagnosed in children below 5 years.
- They have been admitted to the local government hospitals.
- The number of children admitted to the private hospitals is not yet been included in the tally it may be higher than 80 cases.
- It is recognized as tomato flu because it causes tomato-shaped blisters on the body. The children diagnosed with tomato flu are experiencing fever, rashes, and skin irritation.
- Some children are also suffering from dehydration.

Symptoms of Tomato Flu

- There are several symptoms of tomato flu and some are still undiagnosed. The known symptoms are given below. If these symptoms are found in children, consult a doctor as soon as possible.
 - Rashes
 - Skin irritation
 - Tiredness
 - Joint pain
 - High fever
 - Body aches
 - Discoloration of knees, hands, and buttocks
 - Abdominal cramps
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Coughing
 - Sneezing
 - Runny nose

Cause of Tomato Flu

- Causes of tomato flu are still unknown and the health officers are investigating the undiagnosed fever children below the age of 5 are suffering from.
- Only children below the age of 5 are affected by tomato flu.
- The Bhruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika says that Bangalore has no cases of tomato flu in the City, till now only Kollam has reported the outbreak of tomato flu.

Preventions for Tomato flu

- As soon as the symptoms are diagnosed in children consult a doctor.
- Dehydration is also a cause of tomato flu so

the children are advised to drink water regularly and stay hydrated. Take care of the rashes with proper hygiene and cleanliness.

PARAM PORUL SUPERCOMPUTER

PARAM PORUL, a state-of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli was dedicated to the nation under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

About:

- A MoU was signed between NIT Tiruchirappalli and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM.



- NIT, Tiruchirappalli has been carrying out research in the areas of societal interest such as Health, Agriculture, Weather, Financial Services. The facility installed under NSM will strengthen this research.
- PARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost.

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

- National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Under NSM, till date 15 supercomputers have been installed across the nation with compute capacity of 24 petaflops. All these supercomputers have been manufactured in India and operating with indigenously developed software stack.

PARAM ANANTA SUPERCOMPUTER

PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer was commissioned on May 30, 2022 at IIT Gandhinagar.



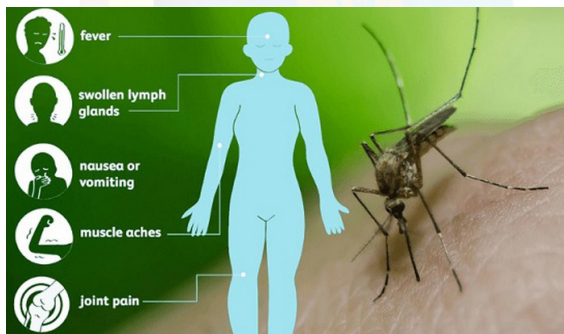
About:

- PARAM ANANTA supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It is a 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility and is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology.
- Under NSM, till date 15 supercomputers have been installed across the nation with aggregate compute capacity of 24 petaflops. All these supercomputers have been manufactured in India and operating on indigenously developed software stack developed by Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

WEST NILE VIRUS

The Kerala health department is on alert after the death of a 47-year-old from Thrissur due to the West Nile Virus. The virus was first reported in the state in Alappuzha in 2006 and then in Ernakulam in 2011

About:



- The West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne, single-stranded RNA virus.
- It is “a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese Encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae”.
- Culex species of mosquitoes act as the principal vectors for transmission.
- It is transmitted by infected mosquitoes between and among humans and animals, including birds, which are the reservoir host of the virus.
- WNV can also spread through blood transfusion, from an infected mother to her child, or through exposure to the virus in laboratories.
- It is not known to spread by contact with infected humans or animals. To date, no human-to-human transmission of WNV through casual contact has been documented.

- The disease is asymptomatic in 80% of the infected people. In rest of the 20% cases, the symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, body aches, nausea, rash, and swollen glands.
- This vector-borne disease can be prevented by protecting one-self from mosquito bites.
- Other steps are wearing clothing that acts as a barrier to exposure to bites, reducing breeding sites, covering water storage containers and eliminating puddles and drainage of places where water accumulates.

POLIO

Mozambique identified its first case of wild poliovirus Type 1 this week after a child contracted the disease. It is the country's first such case since 1992 and the second imported case of wild poliovirus in Southern Africa this year. An outbreak was reported in Malawi earlier this year.

About:

- Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly disease that affects the nervous system. Because the virus lives in the faeces (poop) of an infected person, people infected with the disease can spread it to others when they do not wash their hands well after defecating (pooping).
- People can also be infected if they drink water or eat food contaminated with infected feces.
- The virus multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis. Once that happens, the patient is crippled for life because there is no treatment for the affliction. That is why polio is so dreaded.
- Polio infection, however, is easily preventable by a vaccine.
- There are three variants of the poliovirus, numbered 1 to 3. For a country to be declared polio-free, the wild transmission of all three kinds has to be stopped. For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection have to be reduced to zero.
- India launched the Pulse Polio immunisation programme in 1995, after a resolution for a global initiative of polio eradication was adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 1988. India was declared polio-free in January 2014.

SOWA RIGPA

The Union Minister for Ayush announced major initiatives to boost the traditional medicinal practice including Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda and Naturopathy in the state of Sikkim.

About:

- An International Yoga & Naturopathy College will be set up in Sikkim which will boost the medical tourism sector in the Northeast India.
- A 30 bedded Sowa Rigpa Hospital is going to be set up in Sikkim.
- The Union Minister announced setting up of Yoga & Wellness centre at every Gram Panchayat level in the state along with an Ayurveda Medical College under Satellite Institute programme in Sikkim.
- The Union Ayush Minister also said that the Ministry is exploring the possibility to set up a Research Council for Sowa Rigpa.
- “Sowa-Rigpa” commonly known as Amchi system of medicine is one of the oldest living medical tradition of the world. It has been popularly practiced in Tibet, Magnolia, Bhutan, some parts of China, Nepal and Himalayan regions of India.

ASTROSAT

Astrosat, India's first dedicated astronomy mission, witnessed the birth of black holes for the five hundredth.

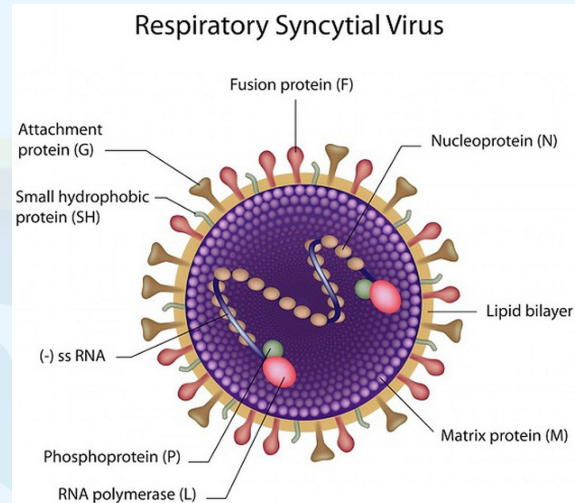
About:

- Black holes have been a subject of intense scrutiny from astronomers from all over the world. However, Indian scientists are making great headway in studying black hole births using the indigenously built space telescope - Astrosat.
- Calling it a landmark achievement, Prof. Dipankar Bhattacharya, the current Principal Investigator of CZTI said, the wealth of data obtained on Gamma Ray Bursts is making a big impact worldwide.
- It may be noted that astronomers study Gamma Ray Bursts, also called the mini big bangs and X-rays from such bursts to better understand formation of black holes.
- Astrosat with a lift-off mass of 1,515 kilogram was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on 28th of September 2015.
- It is the most sensitive space telescope in the world; consisting of five instruments that can simultaneously study the universe in ultraviolet, optical and X-ray radiation.
- One of these instruments is the Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager - CZTI, which discovers the birth of black holes. A unique aspect of CZTI is the ability to measure the polarisation of X-rays: an ability that is lacking in flagship missions like NASA's Neil Gehrels Swift Telescope or the US-Europe Fermi Space Telescope.

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS

(RSV)

Lower respiratory infection attributable to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was responsible for more than 1,00,000 deaths in children under five worldwide in 2019, according to a new estimate published in The Lancet.



About:

- The study is the first to examine RSV disease burden in narrow age brackets.
- According to the report the incidence rate in India is 53 per 1,000 children per year (5.3%) and there were an approximate 61,86, 500 episodes of RSV-associated acute lower respiratory infection in children below five years.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is also called human respiratory syncytial virus (hRSV) and human orthopneumovirus.
- It is a common, contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract.
- It is a negative-sense, single-stranded RNA virus, and its name is derived from the large cells known as syncytia that form when infected cells fuse.
- RSV is the most common cause of acute lower respiratory infection in young children.
- Globally, only 26% RSV-associated deaths occur in a hospital. This is particularly apparent in low- and middle-income countries.

PULLULAN

Scientists have developed a new biomaterial that can be used to disinfect wounds and hastens the process of healing, as seen in mouse models.

About:

- the work is a collaboration between scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, IIT Delhi and National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) in Bhubaneswar.
- The biomaterial is derived from the polymer pullulan which is secreted by the fungus *Aureobasidium pullulans*. It is an exopolysaccharide, that is, this polymer is secreted by the fungus itself into the medium on which it is growing.
- Pullulan is basically a polymeric chain of glucose. Pullulan as a biomaterial is already successful and widely used commercially.
- It is exploited in food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industry because of its non-toxic, non-mutagenic and non-immunogenic properties.

MADTSOIIDAE

Scientists have reported spotting of the fossil of a Madtsoiidae snake from the molasse deposits of Ladakh Himalaya for the first time indicating their prevalence in the subcontinent for much longer time than previously thought.



- Madtsoiidae is an extinct group of medium-sized to gigantic snakes, firstly appeared during the late Cretaceous and mostly distributed in the Gondwanan landmasses, although, their Cenozoic record is extremely scarce.
- From the fossil record, the whole group disappeared in the mid-Paleogene across most Gondwanan continents except for Australia where it survived with its last known taxon *Wonambi* till late Pleistocene.
- Now, scientists have reported for the first time a Madtsoiidae snake from the late Oligocene (part of the Tertiary Period in the Cenozoic Era, and lasted from about 33.7 to 23.8 million years ago) of India or the

molasse deposits of Ladakh Himalaya.

- The occurrence of Madtsoiidae from the Oligocene of Ladakh indicates their continuity at least to the end of the Paleogene (geologic period and system that spans 43 million years from the end of the Cretaceous Period 66 million years ago).

HS200 BOOSTER

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the static test of the HS200 solid rocket booster, taking the space agency one more step closer to the keenly awaited Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission.

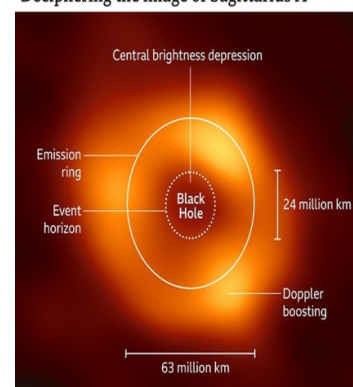
About:

- The test was held at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Designed and developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram for over two years, the HS200 booster is the 'human-rated' version of the S200 rocket boosters used on the geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle Mk-III (GSLV Mk-III), also called the LVM3.
- The GSLV Mk-III rocket, which will be used for the Gaganyaan mission, will have two HS200 boosters that will supply the thrust for lift-off.
- The HS200 is a 20-metre-long booster with a diameter of 3.2 metres and is the world's second largest operational booster using solid propellants.
- Since Gaganyaan is a manned mission, the GSLV Mk-III will have improvements to increase reliability and safety to meet the requirements of 'human rating.' Of the three propulsion stages of the GSLV Mk-III, the second stage uses liquid propellant while the third is a cryogenic stage.

SAGITTARIUS A*

Scientists from the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) facility revealed the first image of the black hole at the centre of the Milky Way.

Deciphering the image of Sagittarius A*



About:

- The image of Sagittarius A* (SgrA*) gave further support to the idea that the compact object at the centre of our galaxy is indeed a black hole, strengthening Einstein's general theory of relativity.
- In 2019, the Event Horizon Telescope facility, a collaboration of over 300 researchers, made history by releasing the first-ever image of a black hole, M87* — the black hole at the centre of a galaxy Messier 87, which is a supergiant elliptic galaxy.
- The ring-shaped image of SgrA*, which looked a lot similar to the one of M87*, occupied 52 microarcseconds in the field of view, which is as big a span of our view as a doughnut on the moon.
- The whole exercise was possible because of the enormous power of the Event Horizon Telescope, an ensemble of several telescopes around the world, which together were like a giant eye on the earth with a sight that is 3 million times sharper than the human eye.
- Sagittarius A* is 27,000 light years from us.

HYPERTENSION

A project called the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) finds that nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure.

About:

- The Health Ministry, the Indian Council of Medical Research, State Governments, and WHO-India began a five-year initiative in November 2017 to monitor and treat hypertension.
- Hypertension is defined as having systolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 90 mmHg or/and taking anti-hypertensive medication to lower his/her blood pressure.
- India has committed to a "25 by 25" goal, which aims to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by 2025.
- One of the nine voluntary targets includes reducing the prevalence of high blood pressure by 25% by 2025.

Note

- Southern States have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average, according to the latest edition of the National Family Health Survey.
- While 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have hypertension in the country, the prevalence is the highest in Kerala where 32.8% men and 30.9% wom-

en have been diagnosed with hypertension.

SHIGELLA

The Kerala health department identified Shigella bacteria as the cause for the food poisoning incident in Kasaragod, which claimed the life of a 16-year-old girl and led to 30-odd others being admitted to hospital.

About:

- The presence of the bacteria was confirmed in the blood and faeces of people undergoing treatment after they consumed chicken shawarma from an eatery at Cheruvathur in Kasaragod.
- Shigella is a bacterium that belongs to the enterobacter family — a group of bacteria that reside in the intestine, not all of which cause disease in humans. It mainly affects the intestine and results in diarrhoea, sometimes bloody, stomach pain, and fever.
- Shigellosis is not a very common infection. It is a food- and water-borne infection, and can happen when someone consumes contaminated food — like in the case from Kerala — unwashed fruit or vegetables.
- The disease is easily spread by direct or indirect contact with the excrement of the patient. You can get the infection if you swim or take a bath in contaminated water.
- There are four types of Shigella bacteria that affect humans — Shigella sonnei, Shigella flexneri, Shigella boydii, and Shigella dysenteriae. The fourth type causes the most severe disease because of the toxin it produces.

PK2

Researchers at IIT Mandi have identified a drug molecule that can be used to treat diabetes.

About:

- The molecule, called PK2, is able to trigger the release of insulin by the pancreas, and can potentially be used as an orally administered medicine for diabetes.
- The findings of the research have been published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.
- The researchers found that PK2 was rapidly absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract, which means that it can be used as an oral medication rather than an injection.
- After two hours of administration, PK2 was found distributed in the liver, kidney, and pancreas of the mice, but there were no traces of it in the heart, lungs, and spleen.
- There was a small amount present in the brain, which shows that the molecule may

be able to cross the blood-brain barrier. It was cleared from circulation in about 10 hours.

- Beyond increasing insulin release, PK2 was also able to prevent and even reverse beta cell loss, a cell essential for insulin production, making it effective for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.





ENVIRONMENT NEWS

HASDEO ARAND FOREST

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently expressed his disagreement with a decision taken by his party's government in Chhattisgarh to allow coal mining in the Hasdeo forest

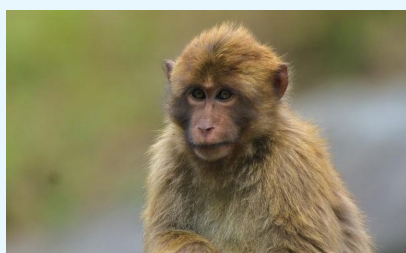
About:



- The state government had in March given a go-ahead for coal mining in an area of 1,136 hectares under the second phase of Parsa East-Kete Basan (PEKB) coal block.
- A sprawling forest in the northern part of Chhattisgarh, Hasdeo Arand is known for its biodiversity and also its coal deposits.
- The forest falls under Korba, Sujapur and Sarguja districts with sizeable tribal population.
- The Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi, flows through it.
- Released in 2021, a report on the region by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) termed Hasdeo Arand the "largest un-fragmented forests in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and teak forests

SELA MACAQUE

A new species of old world monkey recorded from Arunachal Pradesh has been named after a strategic mountain pass at 13,700 ft above sea level.



About:

- Sela macaque (*Macaca selai*), the new-to-science primate was identified and analysed by a team of experts from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the University of Calcutta.
- Their study has been published in the latest edition of Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution. Phylogenetics relate to the evolutionary development and diversification of a species or group of organisms.
- The phylogenetic analysis revealed that the Sela macaque was geographically separated from the Arunachal macaque (*Macaca munzala*) of Tawang district by Sela.
- This mountain pass acted as a barrier by restricting the migration of individuals of these two species for approximately two million years, the study said.
- Sela is situated between Dirang and Tawang towns in western Arunachal Pradesh.
- The study says the Sela macaque has a tail longer than the Tibetan macaque, Assamese macaque, Arunachal macaque and the white-cheeked macaque but shorter than the bonnet macaque and toque macaque.
- Sela macaque belongs to the sinica species-group of *Macaca*, but it differs from all other members of this group through attributes such as brown collar hair and muzzle, and the absence of chin whiskers, the study says.

COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCE (CFR) RIGHTS

The **Chhattisgarh** government has become only the second state in the country to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park.

About:

- The CFR rights of tribals living in Gudiyapadar, a hamlet inside the Kanger Ghati National Park in Bastar district, were recognised, giving the community power to formulate rules for forest use.
- Kanger Ghati National Park is the second national park, after Simlipal in Odisha, where CFR rights have been recognised.

What is a community forest resource?

- The community forest resource area is the common forest land that has been tradition-

ally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.

- The community uses it to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village; and for seasonal use of landscape in case of pastoralist communities.
- The Community Forest Resource rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act or the FRA) provide for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.

ALLIANCE OF CEO CLIMATE ACTION LEADERS

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched the India chapter of the Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders to supercharge India’s climate action and decarbonization efforts.

About:

- Part of the World Economic Forum’s Climate Action Platform, the alliance will continue efforts to achieve the vision outlined in the white paper released last year, ‘Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a Net Zero India’, on India’s low-carbon transition by 2070.
- It will bring together the government, businesses, and other key stakeholders to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ambitious ‘Panchamrit’ pledge, which includes the country’s net-zero target by 2070.
- A collaboration between the management consultancy Kearney and the Indian think-tank Observer Research Foundation, the alliance will serve as a high-level platform to support business leaders in planning and implementing plans and programmes to achieve climate targets, including net-zero economic growth.

SINKHOLES

A cave exploration team has discovered an ancient forest with trees nearly 40 metres high at the bottom of a giant karst sinkhole in Leye County in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

About:

- In Mandarin, giant sinkholes are called Tiankeng or “heavenly pit”.
- Sinkholes are depressions formed in the ground when layers of the Earth’s surface start collapsing into caverns.
- They can occur suddenly and without warning, because the land under the surface of the Earth can stay intact for a period of time until the spaces get too big.

How are sinkholes formed?

- Sinkholes can be formed due to natural processes or human activity.
- Typically, sinkholes form in areas of “karst” terrains, where the rock below the surface of the Earth can be easily dissolved by groundwater.
- Karst terrain is created from the dissolution of soluble rocks, mostly limestone and dolomite and is characterised by distinctive landforms such as caves, sinkholes and springs.
- Sinkholes can also be formed due to human activity due to broken land drains, water mains and sewerage pipes, increased rainfall, storm events, underlying limestone and diverted surface water, among other reasons.

TRIMERESURUS MAYAAE

Meghalaya, the land of the mythical evil spirit that takes the form of a giant serpent called U Thlen, has yielded a new-to-science, venomous green snake.



About:

- Recorded simultaneously in Mizoram, the snake has been named Maya’s pit viper after the deceased mother of an Army officer, one of seven authors of a study on it.
- The name of the pit viper is recognised as Trimeresurus mayaae.
- The new species was relatively common in Meghalaya, Mizoram and even in Guwahati (Assam).

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata

and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The past seven years were the warmest on record, and 2021 did not see record-breaking temperatures because of a La Niña event at the start and end of the year, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

About:

- La Nina is a cooling of surface temperatures in the Central Pacific. While this had a temporary cooling effect, it did not reverse the overall trend of rising temperatures. The average global temperature in 2021 was about 1.11 (\pm 0.13) degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.
- Four key climate change indicators — greenhouse gas concentrations, sea-level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification — set new records in 2021, according to the report.
- Extreme weather led to economic damage estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars and triggered shocks for food, water security and displacement that worsened in 2022.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.
- It was established in 1950 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

BIRDCOUNT

Uttarakhand reported the highest number of bird species, at 293, while the highest number of checklists (lists of birds seen and heard by birdwatchers), at 192, was uploaded from Jammu & Kashmir, according to the primary report from birdwatchers in the Himalayan regions of India, Nepal and Bhutan.

About:

- The exercise was undertaken on May 14 and a total of 607 species were documented in just one day. A checklist includes birds seen and heard.
- Bird Count India is an informal partnership of organisations and groups interested in documenting and monitoring India's birds. The initiative encourages birdwatchers to upload their bird lists to eBird (ebird.org/india), a global platform for bird observations.
- This first edition of the event was co-organised by Bird Count India, Bird Conserva-

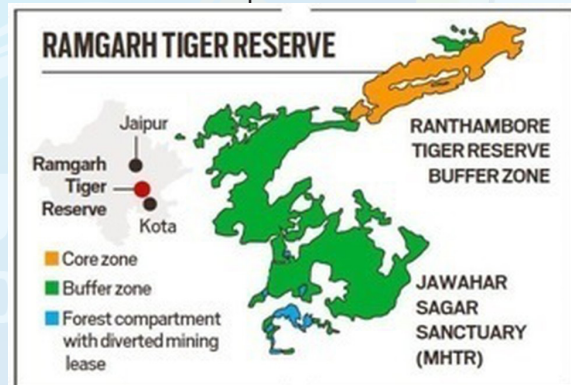
tion Nepal, and the Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan.

ENDOSULFAN

- Endosulfan is an organochlorine pesticide that is being phased out globally.
- Health and environment impact: Endosulfan became a highly controversial agrochemical due to its acute toxicity, potential for bioaccumulation, and role as an endocrine disruptor.
- Global scenario: Because of its threats to human health and the environment, a global ban on the manufacture and use of endosulfan was negotiated under the "Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants" in 2011. The ban has taken effect in 2012.
- Indian scenario: Supreme Court passed an interim order in 2011 in the backdrop of the incidents reported in Kasargode, Kerala, and banned the production, distribution and use of endosulfan in India.

RAMGARH VISHDHARI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as India's 52nd tiger reserve, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said.



About:

- This is Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas as tiger reserves on July 5 last year.
- The newly notified tiger reserve includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side and facilitates dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

- According to “Status of Tigers in India” report released in 2019, there are 2,967 tigers in 20 states across the country.

HIMACHAL PRADESH – FIRST SMOKE-FREE STATE IN INDIA

Himachal Pradesh is the first ‘smoke-free state’ in India.



About:

- This milestone has been achieved due to the effective implementation of Central Governments’ Pradhan Mantri ‘Ujjwala Yojana’(PMUY) and ‘Himachal Grihini Suvidha Scheme’ of the Himachal Pradesh government.
- Now, 100% of households in Himachal Pradesh have LPG connections in their houses.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 1, 2016 from Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households and the target to provide Eight crore deposit free LPG connections was achieved in September, 2019.
- With the implementation of PMUY, approx. 1 lakh people have got employment through the LPG distribution system all over India as of February 23, 2022.

CYCLONE ASANI

Severe cyclonic storm ‘Asani’, which is moving towards the east coast, packing winds above 105 kmph and setting off heavy rain, is likely to recurve in a north-eastward direction and weaken gradually into a cyclonic storm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.



- Asani is unlike cyclones Fani (April-May 2019) or Amphan (May 2020)
- Systems formed over the Bay of Bengal in the peak of summer in May are among the strongest in the North Indian Ocean region. Warm seas present ripe conditions for cyclogenesis, and to fuel these systems over the water.
- The ‘Extremely Severe’ cyclone Fani and ‘Super cyclone’ Amphan wreaked havoc in Odisha and West Bengal respectively. Cyclone Asani by contrast, is expected to only graze the coast, and not make landfall.

PANGOLINS

- Pangolins or scaly anteaters are mammals of the order Pholidota.
- The eight species: There are a total of eight pangolin species across Africa and Asia.
- Asian species: Sunda Pangolin, Philippine Pangolin, Chinese Pangolin and ‘Indian Pangolin’.
- African species: Long-tailed Pangolin, Tree Pangolin, Giant Pangolin and the Ground Pangolin.
- They have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin, and they are the only known mammals with this feature.
- They roll into a ball when threatened which can make them easy pickings for poachers.

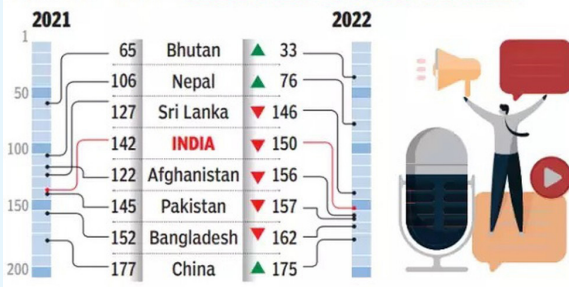


REPORTS AND INDICES

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

India has fallen eight places from 142 to 150 in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries.

HOW THE NEIGHBOURS FARE



About:

- India's ranking, as per the report, fell on the back of increased "violence against journalists" and a "politically partisan media", which has landed press freedom in a state of "crisis" in the world's largest democracy.
- The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, have also slid down, with the index placing Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position, the report released by Reporters Without Borders said.
- According to the RSF 2022 World Press Freedom Index, Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.
- This year, Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories ranked by the Reporters Without Borders.
- About the global scenario, the RSF said the 20th World Press Freedom Index reveals a two-fold increase in "polarisation" amplified by information chaos, that is, media polarisation fuelling divisions within countries, as well as polarisation between countries at the international level.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) IM-

PACT RANKINGS 2022:

- India ranked 4th
- The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the 2022 edition of its Impact Rankings. 8 Universities from India are placed in the top 300 universities in the world.
- The ranking is topped by Western Sydney University (Australia); followed by Arizona State University (The US), Western University (Canada).



- This year, a record 1,524 institutions from 110 countries participated in the rankings. Australia's Western Sydney University secured the top position globally in the overall ranking
- India is the joint fourth most-represented nation across the rankings, with 64 universities featuring in total (the same number as Turkey).
- Calcutta University has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country by Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022.
- Calcutta University grabbed 14th position globally in the 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' sub-category.

NSO SURVEY: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIA AT 8.7% IN OCTOBER-DE- CEMBER 2021

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) data has revealed that the unemployment rate for people above 15 years in urban areas slipped from 10.3% to 8.7% between October and December 2021. Joblessness or unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

Key points of the National Statistical Office data:

- Among males, the unemployment rate in

urban areas also dipped to 8.3% in October-December 2021 compared to 9.5% a year ago. It was 9.3% in July-September 2021.

- The data also showed that the joblessness or unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas also declined to 10.5% from 13.1% in the same period. It was 11.6% in July-September 2021.
- Labour force participation rate in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas for persons 15 years of age and above remained unchanged at 47.3% in the October-December quarter of 2021, compared to the same period a year ago. It was 46.9% in July-September 2021.
- Labour force refers to the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services.
- The work Population Ratio in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above stood at 43.2% in October-December 2021, up from 42.4% in the same period a year ago. It was 42.3% in July-September 2021.

INDIA OVERTAKES GERMANY TO BECOME 4TH LARGEST VEHICLE MARKET 2022

- According to the report released by Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India has surpassed Germany to become 4th largest vehicle market in the world. The 1st was occupied by China, followed by the US and Japan.

INDIA'S STATE OF INEQUALITY REPORT RELEASED

- Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman Dr. Bibek Debroy, launched the State of Inequality in India Report (EAC-PM).
- The Institute for Competitiveness authored the research, which provides a comprehensive examination of the level and type of inequality in India.

Report

- There has been significant progress in strengthening health infrastructure capacity, with a particular focus on rural regions. In 2005, there were 1,72,608 total health centres in India; by 2020, there would be 1,85,505.
- Between 2005 and 2020, states and union territories like Rajasthan, Gujarat,

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Chandigarh expanded the number of health centres (which include Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Community Health Centres).

- The top 1% earns 6-7% of all income, while the top 10% get one-third. Self-employed employees (45.78 percent) had the greatest percentage of self-employed workers in 2019-20, followed by regular paid workers (33.5 percent), and casual workers (33.5 percent) (20.71 percent).
- In the lowest income groups, the percentage of self-employed employees is also the largest. The unemployment rate in the country is 4.8 percent (2019-20), while the worker population ratio is 46.8%.

WORLD AIR POWER INDEX 2022

- World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) has released the World Air Powers Ranking of 2022.
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been placed at the third position on the World Air Power Index** in terms of the total fighting strength of the various air services of different nations of the world.



- This report has placed the Indian Air Force (IAF) above the Chinese Aviation based armed forces (PLAAF), Japan Air Self-Preservation Power (JASDF), Israeli Aviation based armed forces, and French Air and Space Power.
- The report says that the Indian Air Force (IAF) currently counts 1,645 total units in its active aircraft inventory.

WEF'S TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2021: INDIA RANKS 54

- The World Economic Forum's (WEF) ranked India 54th position (down from 46th in 2019) with a score of 4.1 in its Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021, but still, India remains the top performer in South Asia.
- Japan has topped (1) the global chart and the bottom position (117) is occupied by the

country Chad.

The five Sub indexes:

- Enabling Environment
- Travel and Tourism Policy and Enabling Conditions
- Infrastructure
- Travel and Tourism Demand Drivers
- Travel and Tourism Sustainability
- Countries in the Global Ranking:

Rank	Country	Score
1	Japan	5.2
2	United States of America (USA)-	5.2
3	Spain	5.2
4	France	5.1
5	Germany	5.1
54	India	4.1

KOLKATA BECOMES FIRST METRO CITY TO GET ITS BIODIVERSITY REGISTER

- Kolkata is the first metro city in the country to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity.
- Kolkata Municipal Corporation released the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), a document with details about the floral and faunal varieties in the city as well as its land use and human activities.
- The document is prepared by the biodiversity management committee (BMC) of the civic body under the supervision of the state biodiversity board and with help from NGOs.
- Chandigarh and Indore are other important cities which have prepared the document.

2022 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SYSTEMS

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations has issued a warning about an impending crisis: Climate change has triggered a code red for humanity, requiring immediate action.
- This dilemma is inextricably linked to food systems.
- Climate change has already begun to diminish agricultural output and disrupt supply chains in many countries, particularly in the poor world, placing strain on livelihoods and threatening to considerably increase hunger and malnutrition, making adaptation efforts critical.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN INDIA-2020

The report 'Road accidents in India — 2020',

prepared by Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), was released recently

Key findings of the report:

- Road accidents parameters registered a significant decline in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Total accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 per cent, the number of persons killed decreased by 12.84 per cent and the number of injuries decreased by 22.84 per cent over previous year's average.
- A total of 3,66,138 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3,48,279 injuries.
- The number of road accidents has been on decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase of 0.46 per cent in 2018. For the second consecutive year, the total number of road accidents fatalities has declined in 2020.
- Similarly, the number of persons injured has been on the decline since 2015.
- For the third consecutive year in 2020, the fatal road accident victims largely constitute young people in the productive age groups.
- Young adults in the age group of 18 - 45 years accounted for 69 per cent of victims during 2020.
- People in the working age group of 18 – 60 years share 87.4 per cent of total road accident fatalities.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS) 2021 REPORT

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report. The last NAS was held in 2017.

About:

- It assesses the health of school education system in the country by conducting comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years.
- The report also evaluated competencies of students in subjects such as mathematics, languages, and environmental studies (EVS) for Classes 3 and 5; language, mathematics, science and social science for Class 8; and language, mathematics, science, social science and English for Class 10.

Findings

- Nearly 80% students found learning at home during the pandemic “burdensome” and felt that they learnt better in school with help from peers.
- As many as 24% students said they had no digital device at home. Though 45% students found the experience “joyful”, 38% also said that they had difficulties in learning.
- Out of a score of 500, students across various classes performed better in languages, but lagged behind in subjects like mathematics and science.
- across various subjects and classes, SC, ST and OBC students perform worse than general category students.

LGBTIQ+ WORKERS

A document has been released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on “Inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) persons in the world of work”.

About:

- Around the world, LGBTIQ+ persons face harassment, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.
- Discrimination has an economic cost not just to LGBTIQ+ persons and their families but also to enterprises and national economies. Studies have shown that diversity in the workplace, including LGBTIQ+ persons, is better for business.
- It recommended member countries, employers’ organisations and representatives of workers to launch social protection programmes to remove barriers that LGBTIQ+ persons face in society.
- A national policy and labour law review will allow governments to assess their country’s work policy environment for LGBTIQ+ persons.
- Consultation with LGBTIQ+ communities and employers’ and workers’ organisations will allow the identification of barriers faced by LGBTIQ+ persons. when entering the labour market and accessing government schemes, including those on social protection.
- The ILO asked trade unions to help LGBTIQ+ workers to organise and exercise their right to freedom of association.

WORLD OF WORK REPORT

The “world of work” is being buffeted by multiple crises, says the ninth edition of the International

Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor.

About:

- After significant gains during the last quarter of 2021, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8 per cent below the pre-crisis benchmark (fourth quarter of 2019). This is equivalent to a deficit of 112 million full-time jobs.
- Multiple new and interconnected global crises, including inflation (especially in energy and food prices), financial turbulence, potential debt distress, and global supply chain disruption – exacerbated by war in Ukraine – means there is a growing risk of a further deterioration in hours worked in 2022.
- The gender gap in hours worked also grew during the pandemic.
- The report spells out a series of measures as a way forward, which are in line with ILO’s Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery, and the ILO-led UN initiative, the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection.

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS-5)

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the National Report of the fifth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

- Key results from NFHS-5 National Report:
- The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), an average number of children per women, has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5.
- There are only five States in India, which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1. They are Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) Manipur (2.17).
- Overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54% to 67% in the country.
- Institutional Births have increased substantially from 79 percent to 89 percent in India.
- The level of stunting among children under 5 years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 percent for India since the last four years.

YOUTH IN INDIA

India’s population remains young, with more than one-fourth aged under 15 years and less than an eighth over 60.

About:

- There has been only a slight dip in the young population's share in the last five years.
- Between the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21), the under-15 population has declined by 2 percentage points, from 29% to 27%, while the over-60 population has increased by as many points, from 10% to 12%.
- Over half the population (52%) is below 30, compared to 55.5% in NFHS-4.
- The NFHS divides the population into 5-year age groups from 0-4 years to 75-79, while those over 80 are counted in a single age group.
- The age pyramid shows India's population is young, which is typical of developing countries with low life expectancy.
- The pyramid also shows that the average household size has decreased slightly between 2015-16 and 2019-21 (from 4.6 persons to 4.4).
- Just over one-sixth of households (18%) have female heads, up from 15% in NFHS-4.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) for 2019-2021 has found that only 1% of women, aged 15-49, drink alcohol in the country, compared to 22% of men.

About:

- The percentage of women who consume alcohol is the highest in Arunachal Pradesh (18%), followed by Sikkim (15%).
- Alcohol use among men is the highest in Goa (59%), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (57%), and Telangana (50%), while it is the lowest in Lakshadweep (1%).
- Among women who drink alcohol, 17% consume it almost every day and 37% drink about once a week. Among men, while 15% consume almost daily, 43% drink about once a week, and 42% do less than once a week.
- Drinking alcohol is more common among women from Scheduled Tribes (4%) than from any other caste/tribe group. Consumption is also most common among Christian men (36%) and men belonging to "other" religions (49%).
- Overall the proportion of men who drink alcohol decreased from 29% to 22%

between NFHS-4 in 2015-2016 and NFHS-5 in 2019-2021. During that period, the proportion of women who drink has remained unchanged.

High and low

A look at top five and bottom five States and UTs in terms of alcohol prevalence

SHARE OF WOMEN WHO DRINK ALCOHOL

Top 5	
Arunachal	17.8
Sikkim	14.8
Assam	5.5
Telangana	4.9
Goa	4.8

Bottom 5	
U.P.	0.1
Bihar	0.1
Gujarat	0.1
Lakshadweep	0.1
Tamil Nadu	0.1

SHARE OF MEN WHO DRINK ALCOHOL

Top 5	
Goa	59.1
Arunachal	56.6
Telangana	50
Manipur	47.9
A & N Islands	42.1

Bottom 5	
Lakshadweep	0.8
Gujarat	5.9
J&K	10.5
Rajasthan	11.5
U.P.	16.5



SEX RATIO AT BIRTH

Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.

About:

- Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969), the report released by the Registrar-General of India said.
- The lowest sex ratio was reported by Manipur (880), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).
- In 2019, the highest sex ratio at birth was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1,024), followed by Nagaland (1,001), Mizoram (975) and A&N Islands (965), and the lowest sex ratio was reported by Gujarat (901), Assam (903), Madhya Pradesh (905) and Jammu & Kashmir (909).
- None of the States or UTs have recorded sex ratio at birth below 880.
- The report said that the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio was "not available." They had not provided the said data in 2019 as well.
- Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.



INDIA WIN FIRST EVER MEDAL AT THE IBSA JUDO GRAND PRIX

- In Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, India earned its first ever medal at the IBSA Judo Grand Prix.
- The Indian Blind and Para Judo Association's Judoka Kapil Parmar deserves heartfelt praising for bringing medals to the country

PRAGGNANANDHA WINS 36TH REYKJAVIK OPEN 2022

- Rameshbabu Praggnanandha born on 10th August 2005, is an Indian Grandmaster and chess epitome.
- At a young age, he has been traveling worldwide and traveled to 30 countries now to showcase his talent.
- At the age of 16, he became the youngest player ever to defeat the world champion, Magnus Carlsen, on 22nd February 2022 at Airthings Masters Rapid Chess Tournament.
- He again defeated Carlsen, at the Chessable Masters Online rapid chess tournament on 20th May 2022.
- It was his second win against the world champion Magnus Carlsen within 3 months.

SHIKHAR DHAWAN BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO HIT 700 FOURS IN IPL HISTORY

- Punjab Kings opening batter Shikhar Dhawan has become the first player to hit 700 fours in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Dhawan reached this feat during the last league stage match of IPL 2022, between PBKS and Sunrisers Hyderabad, here at the Wankhede Stadium.

THOMAS CUP

India won its first ever Thomas Cup title after beating title holders Indonesia 3-0 in the 2022 edition.



About:

- The Thomas Cup, sometimes called the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition among teams representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), the sport's global governing body.
- The first tournament was held in 1948–1949. The Thomas Cup competition was the idea of Sir George Alan Thomas, a highly successful English badminton player of the early 1900s, who was inspired by tennis's Davis Cup.
- The championships have been conducted every two years.

ODISHA WON THE 12TH HOCKEY INDIA SENIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

- Odisha women's team has won its first-ever gold in Senior Nationals as they defeat Karnataka 2-0 in the final of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship.

NIKHAT ZAREEN

On 19 May 2022, Nikhat Zareen won the gold medal in the 52kg category at the Women's World Championship defeating Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the fly-weight final in Istanbul, Turkey.



- Zareen became the fifth Indian women's boxer to win a gold medal at the World Championships, joining Mary Kom, Laishram Sarita Devi, Jenny R. L., and Lekha K. C..
- Nikhat Zareen (born 1996) is an Indian amateur boxer born in Nizamabad, Telangana.
- She won gold medal at the International Boxing Association (amateur) Women's Youth & Junior World Championships Antalya 2011.

ITALIAN OPEN 2022: CHECK THE COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

- World No.1 Serbia's Novak Djokovic has defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas to win the 79th edition of the Italian Open (Internazionali BNL d'Italia) in Rome.
- Men's singles-
 - Winner- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - Runner- Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
- Women's singles
 - Winner- Iga Świątek (Poland)
 - Runner- Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
- Men's doubles
 - winner- Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić (Croatia)
 - runner- John Isner (United States) & Diego Schwartzman (Argentina)
- Women's doubles
 - Winner- Veronika Kudermetova and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia)
 - Runner- Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) & Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)

MIAMI OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

- Men's single – Carlos Alcaraz defeated Casper Ruud, 7-5, 6-4
- Women's Single- IGA Swiatek defeated Naomi Osaka, 6-4, 6-0
- Men's doubles- Hubert Hurkacz and John Isner defeated Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski, 7-6, 6-4
- Women's Doubles- Laura Siegemund and Vera Zvonareva defeated Veronika

ANURAG THAKUR LAUNCHES MASCOT, LOGO AND JERSEY OF KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has launched the mascot 'Dhakad' along with the official logo and official jersey of the Fourth Khelo India Youth Games at Panchkula, Haryana



- Haryana will set an example by hosting the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games from June 4 to June 13 at Panchkula, Chandigarh, Shahabad, Ambala and Delhi.
- This was supposed to be held in the year 2021 but got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDIA'S AVINASH SABLE BREAKS 30-YEAR-OLD 5000 METRE RECORD

- India's Avinash Sable broke a 30-year-old record of Bahadur Prasad in 5000m, setting a new national record with a timing of 13:25.65 at the Sound Running Track meet in San Juan Capistrano, USA.

24TH DEAFLYMPICS: ABHINAV DESHWAL WON GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL

- Abhinav Deshwali has won the second gold medal for India in shooting at the ongoing 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

CARLOS ALCAZAR WON THE MEN'S SINGLES TITLE AT THE MADRID OPEN TITLE 2022

- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) has clinched the men's singles Madrid Open title 2022 after beating the defending champion Alexander Zverev (Germany).
- Alcaraz has also defeated Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic (world No.1) to reach the final.
- It is his second Masters 1000 crown after Miami 2022 and his fourth title of the year.

ASIAN GAMES 2022 IN CHINA POSTPONED TO 2023

- The Asian Games 2022, due to be held in Hangzhou, China in September, has been postponed to 2023 due to rising COVID-19 cases in the country.
- The Olympic Council of Asia, the governing body for the Asian Games, said it will announce the new dates for the 19th edition of the Games.
- The Asian Games 2022 were originally scheduled from September 10 to 25.

IWF JUNIOR WORLD WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIP

- Harshada Sharad Garud becomes the 1st Indian to win gold medal at IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championship
- Harshada Sharad Garud made history by being the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece.

PV SINDHU WON BRONZE AT ASIAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

- In Asia Badminton Championships, India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal after a heartbreaking three-game loss to top-seed and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila. She had won her first bronze in the Asia Badminton Championships 2014 Gimcheon edition.
- Sindhu has assured a medal in the championship when she defeated He Bingjiao of China by 21-9, 13-21 and 21-19 in the quarterfinal. She has won silver in 2016 Rio de Janeiro, and bronze in 2020 Tokyo



ANTHONY ALBANESE

In Australia, newly elected Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese has been sworn in as Prime Minister



About:

- Outgoing Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who was heading Liberal-National coalition was defeated in the recent elections.
- Mr Albanese, who will be heading Australia's first Labor government in almost a decade, has vowed a big shift in climate policy. Climate change has been a key concern for voters, after three years of record-breaking bushfires and flood events

PRINCESS BANNU PAN DEI

During his official visit to the Cannes Film Festival in France, Union Minister Anurag Thakur paid a visit to the Allard Square in Saint-Tropez.



About:

- Here, Thakur, a Lok Sabha MP from Himachal Pradesh, paid floral tributes to Maharaja Ranjit Singh (the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire), Jean-Francois Allard (a general in Singh's army) and Allard's spouse Princess Bannu Pan Dei.
- Saint-Tropez was a military stronghold and fishing village until the beginning of the

20th century.

- It was the first town on its coast to be liberated during World War II as part of 'Operation Dragoon'. After the war, it became an internationally known seaside resort because of the influx of artists of the French New Wave in cinema.
- Saint-Tropez has a historical connection with the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- General Jean-François Allard was born in Saint-Tropez. He served in the Napoleon army and fought in the Battle of Waterloo.
- Forced into exile after Napoleon's downfall, he served under Maharajah Ranjit Singh in Punjab, where he felt deeply in love with Princess Bannu Pan Dei, who was born in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh.
- They married and had seven children. On the family's return to Saint-Tropez in 1835, the general had an oriental-inspired Pan Dei Palais built as a token of his love for his wife.

RAM MOHAN ROY

Union Culture Ministry will commemorate the 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy till 22nd of May next year under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

About:



- Ram Mohan Roy (1772 – 1833) was an Indian reformer. He is considered to be the "Father of the Bengal Renaissance" by many historians.
- He crusaded against Hindu customs such as sati, polygamy, child marriage and the caste system. He demanded property inheritance rights for women.
- In 1830, Ram Mohan Roy travelled to the United Kingdom as an ambassador of the Mughal Empire to ensure that Lord

William Bentinck's Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829 banning the practice of Sati was not overturned.

- He who was one of the founders of the Brahmo Sabha in 1828, the precursor of the Brahmo Samaj, a social-religious reform movement.
- In 1817, in collaboration with David Hare, he set up the Hindu College at Calcutta.
- His most popular journal was the Sambad Kaumudi. It covered topics like freedom of the press, induction of Indians into high ranks of service, and separation of the executive and judiciary.
- He was given the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor.

MAME KHAN

A 11-member Indian delegation walked the red carpet at the inauguration of the Cannes Film Festival in France, where India has been named as the 'country of honour' at the Marche du Film, the business counterpart of the Cannes Film Festival.



About

- Mame Khan, a traditional Manganiyar singer from Rajasthan, became the first folk artiste to open the red carpet event for the Indian contingent. He will also perform at the festival.
- He belongs to the Manganiyar community, a Muslim community found in the desert of Rajasthan, mostly in the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer.
- Manganiyars along with the, Langha community, are known for their folk music.
- Their songs are passed on from generation to generation as a form of oral history of the desert.
- Their key Instruments are Kamaicha, Khartaal and Dholak.

YOON SUK YEOL

Yoon Suk Yeol was sworn in as President of South Korea, ushering in the country's first conservative government in five years.

About:

- One of Yoon's main challenges will

be dealing with North Korea, which is accelerating its nuclear and missile development.

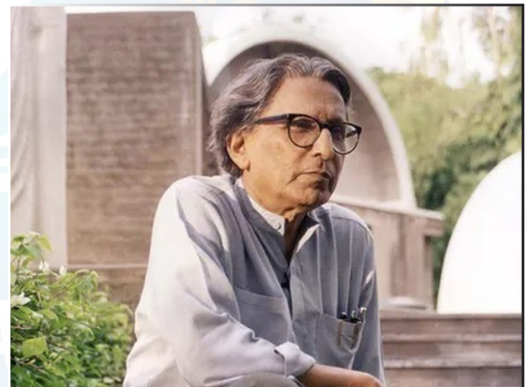
- South Korea is a country in East Asia, constituting the southern part of the Korean Peninsula and sharing a land border with North Korea. Its western border is formed by the Yellow Sea, while its eastern border is defined by the Sea of Japan.



B.V. DOSHI

Noted architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi has been conferred with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022, which is considered the world's highest honour for architecture.

About:



- The president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Simon Allford, presented the medal to the renowned architect in person at his residence in Ahmedabad.
- The Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Queen Elizabeth and is given to people who have had a significant influence on the advancement of architecture.
- The 94-year-old architect is among the rare people to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize in their lifetime.

PANDIT SHIVKUMAR SHARMA

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the demise of noted Santoor maestro, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma.



About:

- Pandit Shivkumar Sharma (1938 – 2022) was an Indian classical musician and santoor player who is credited with adapting the santoor for Indian classical music.
- As a music composer he collaborated with Indian flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia under the name Shiv-Hari and composed music for many Indian films.
- Sharma was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986, the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Bhushan in 2001.



AWARDS

WORLD FOOD PRIZE 2022: CYNTHIA ROSENZWEIG

- Cynthia Rosenzweig is an agronomist and climatologist who was awarded 250000 as prize money for her contribution to the innovation of modeling the impact of climate change on food production.

World food prize 2022

- World food prize is an international award given to the individuals who have contributed to human development by improving the quantity availability and quality of food in the world.
- In the field of food and agriculture, the world food prize is the highest honor.
- It was established in the year 1986 by Norman Borlaug with the support of general foods and from 1987 the price has been awarded and given to the deserving individuals.
- Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1970



INDIAN NOVEL 'TOMB OF SAND' WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE



- Indian writer Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell won the International Booker Prize for "Tomb of Sand,".
- Originally written in Hindi, it's **the first book in any Indian language to win the high-profile award, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English.**



- The 50,000-pound (\$63,000) prize money will be split between New Delhi-based Shree and Rockwell, who lives in Vermont

The essence of the book:

- The book tells the story of an octogenarian widow who dares to cast off convention and confront the ghosts of her experiences during the subcontinent's tumultuous 1947 partition into India and Pakistan.
- Shree's book beat five other finalists including Polish Nobel literature laureate Olga Tokarczuk, Claudia Piñeiro of Argentina and South Korean author Bora Chung to be awarded the prize at a ceremony in London.

About the International Booker Prize:

- The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction. The prize was set up to boost the profile of fiction in other languages, which accounts for only a small share of books published in Britain and to salute the often unacknowledged work of literary translators

SANGITA KALANIDHI AWARD

The Music Academy announced Sangita Kalanidhi award winners for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Madras Music Academy (MMA):

- It plays an important role in promoting the Carnatic Music.
- History: A music conference was held along with All India Congress Session held in Madras in 1927 and during the deliberations, the idea of a Music Academy emerged. Next year MMA was Inaugurated. Thus it's an offshoot of INC madras session, 1927.

It presents the following annual awards:

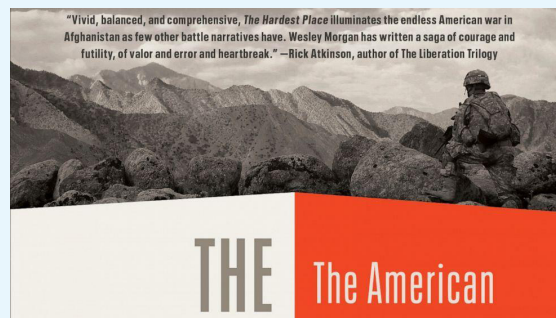
- Sangeetha Kalanidhi: Awarded to one person who has contributed to the field of Carnatic music. Considered as the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music; Since 2005, the Sangeetha Kalanidhi also receives the MS Subbulakshmi Award instituted by The Hindu.
- Sangeetha Kala Acharya: Awarded to two senior musicians who have contributed by bringing several disciples to the concert platform.
- Natya Kala Acharya: Awarded to a senior dancer at the inauguration of the annual dance festival.
- TTK Award: Awarded to two senior musicians who have made a mark in the music field as icons and gurus. It is named after TT Krishnamachari, former Union Minister and industrialist, who was a great patron of the arts and was Vice-President of the Music Academy.
- Papa KS Venkataramiah award: Awarded to a Violinist of merit; This award is named after Papa KS Venkataramiah (a great violinist of the past).
- Musicologist Award: Awarded to a musicologist; A scholar who participates in musical research is a musicologist.
- Indira Sivasailam endowment concert and medal: Awarded during Navaratri each year, it is given to the top-ranking performing artist in the concert organized at that time.

FRENCH RIVIERA FILM FESTIVAL:

- Nawazuddin Siddiqui honoured with Excellence in Cinema award
- Bollywood actor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui has been honoured with an international award for his contribution to cinema.

WESLEY MORGAN WON WILLIAM E. COLBY AWARD FOR HIS BOOK 'THE HARDEST PLACE'

- Author and journalist, Wesley Morgan has won the William E. Colby Award 2022 for his military and intelligence writing.
- He was cited for his book "The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley."
- The Colby Award, a \$5,000 prize named for the former ambassador and CIA director William E. Colby, is given for "a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs."
- The Colby Award is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. The Colby award was established in 1999.



ALL THAT BREATHES

Shaunak Sen's "All That Breathes" won the 2022 L'Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) for the best documentary at the 75th Cannes Film Festival, making it two in succession for India.



About:

- "All That Breathes" is about two Delhi brothers Nadeem and Saud who, amid the city's worsening air and deteriorating social fabric, devote their lives to saving migratory black kites that are at the mercy of mankind's unthinking ways.
- Sen's win is India's second in Cannes in two years. In 2021, Payal Kapadia's "A Night of Knowing Nothing", which played in the parallel Semaine de la Critique (Cannes Critics' Week) took home the L'Oeil d'Or.

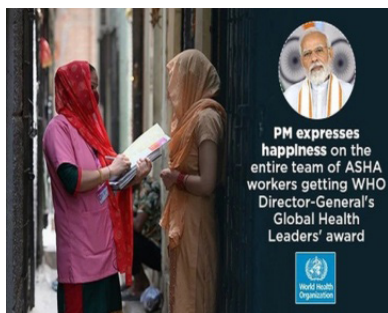
ASHA WORKERS

The World Health Organisation has recognised the country's 10.4 lakh ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers as 'Global Health Leaders' for their efforts in connecting the community to the government's health programmes.

About:

- ASHA workers are volunteers from within the community who are trained to provide information and aid people in accessing benefits of various healthcare schemes of the government.
- They act as a bridge connecting marginalised communities with facilities such as primary health centres, sub-centres and district hospitals.

- The role of these community health volunteers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was first established in 2005.



- ASHAs are primarily married, widowed, or divorced women between the ages of 25 and 45 years from within the community. They must have good communication and leadership skills; should be literate with formal education up to Class 8, as per the programme guidelines.

How many ASHAs are there across the country?

- The aim is to have one ASHA for every 1,000 persons or per habitation in hilly, tribal or other sparsely populated areas.
- There are around 10.4 lakh ASHA workers across the country, with the largest workforces in states with high populations – Uttar Pradesh (1.63 lakh), Bihar (89,437), and Madhya Pradesh (77,531).
- Goa is the only state with no such workers, as per the latest National Health Mission data available from September 2019.

PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

Army chief Gen Manoj Pande was given the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service of exceptional order by President Ram Nath Kovind at a Defence investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About:



- Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) is a military award of India.
- It was constituted in 1960 and since then it is awarded in recognition to peace-time service of the most exceptional order and

may be awarded posthumously.

- All ranks of the Indian Armed Forces including Territorial Army, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces, Nursing officers and other members of the Nursing services and other lawfully constituted Armed Forces are eligible for the award.

PULITZER PRIZE

A team of four Indian photographers from Reuters news agency — slain photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave — have won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography for their coverage of the Covid-19 crisis in India.



About:

- Arguably the most coveted award for journalists from across the world, the Pulitzer is announced by America's Columbia University and bestowed on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature and musical composition within the United States.
- It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of Joseph Pulitzer.
- Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories.
- Indians who have previously won the Pulitzer
- A member of the Ghadar Party in America, Indian-American journalist Gobind Behari Lal, was the first from India to win the



ABHILASHA BARAK: FIRST WOMAN COMBAT PILOT OF ARMY

Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman to join the Army Aviation Corps as combat aviator after completion of a six-month combat Army aviation course.

About:



- She has been awarded the coveted wings along with 36 Army pilots during a valedictory ceremony at the Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nashik.
- Barak hails from Haryana and was commissioned into the Army Air Defence Corps in September 2018.
- The Army Aviation Corps, the youngest Corps of the Army, was formed on November 1, 1986 and over the years, has expanded with addition of new units and equipment such as Cheetah and the advanced light helicopter Dhruv, weaponised Rudra and the light combat helicopter.
- In August 2021, Army Aviation got control of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), which were earlier with the Artillery, bringing all aviation assets under one roof.

EX BONGOSAGAR

- The third edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise ‘Bongosagar’ commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on 24 May 2022.
- Exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

INDIA LAUNCHING PROJECT WARDEC AI-POWERED WARGAME CENTRE

- Army Training Command and Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) inked a MoU to establish a Wargame Research and Development Centre in New Delhi.
- The project, dubbed ‘WARDEC’ as a prototype, will be India’s first simulation-based training centre, which will use artificial intelligence (AI) to create virtual reality wargames.

CORPAT

- The fourth edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) commenced. The patrolling drill commenced in the northern Bay of Bengal and would continue between May 22 and 23.
- Both units will undertake joint patrolling along International Maritime Boundary Line. The last IN-BN CORPAT was conducted in October 2020.
- Indian Navy’s indigenous warships, INS Kora and INS Sumedha along with Bangladesh Navy’s warships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah would touch the waters during patrolling.

RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHES INDIA- MADE WARSHIPS, INS SURAT AND INS UDAYGIRI

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh has launched two made-in-India warships INS ‘Surat’ and ‘Udaygiri’ at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai.
- This is the first time that the two indigenously built warships have been launched together, the Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL).
- Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at MDL, Mumbai.

BRO CELEBRATES ITS 62ND RAISING DAY ON 7TH MAY

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road

construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work) as its motto. On 7 May 2022 BRO celebrated its 62nd Raising Day (foundation day).



About BRO

- It is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- Its primary role is to provide road connectivity in India's border areas. It also creates upgrades and maintains infrastructure along borders to meet India's overall tactical and strategic goals.
- Apart from road construction it also executes maintenance works along Northern and Western frontiers mainly to meet the strategic requirements of the Indian Army. It is responsible for over 53,000 Km of roads.

INS VIKRANT

- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, will be handed over to the Indian navy



- The second sea trials of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant began, ahead of her anticipated induction into the Indian Navy in August next year.
- In August, the 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier, India's largest and most sophisticated warship, successfully conducted a five-day maiden sea cruise.
- Vikrant has a top speed of roughly 28 knots and a cruising speed of 18 knots, with a range of about 7,500 nautical miles.
- The IAC is 262 metres long, 62 metres wide, and stands 59 metres tall. It has been under construction since 2009.
- Cochin Shipyard Limited constructed the warship.

- INS Vikramaditya is India's only aircraft carrier at the moment.

LOGISEM VAYU – 2022

- A national seminar on Logistics Management 'LOGISEM VAYU – 2022' was held on 28 April 2022 at Air Force Auditorium, New Delhi.



- The Chief of the Air Staff Vivek Ram Chaudhari inaugurated the seminar and delivered the keynote address.
- He emphasized the need for exploiting advancements in digital technologies, which would aid in sustaining logistics stamina in support of operations.
- CAS also urged stakeholders in IAF to work towards achieving the broad aims of the National Logistics Policy (NLP) and Atmanirbharta goals of Govt of India.

INS GOMATI

INS Gomati was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.



About:

- INS Gomati derives her name from the vibrant river Gomti and was commissioned on 16 April 1988 by the then Defence Minister, KC Pant, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd, Bombay.
- The third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates, INS Gomati was also the oldest warrior of the Western Fleet when decommissioned.
- During her service, she participated in Operations Cactus, Parakram and Rainbow, and several bilateral and multinational

naval exercises.

- For her remarkable spirit and stellar contribution to national maritime security, she was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, once in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20.

TSIRKON HYPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE

Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from the Barents Sea, Russia's Defense Ministry said.

About:

- The missile hit a naval target about 1,000 kms away in the White Sea and the flight of the projectile corresponded to the designed parameters.
- The Tsirkon missile has been test-fired several times from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate and a nuclear-powered submarine.
- The Tsirkon missile is capable of flying at Mach 9 or nine times the speed of sound and striking a target over 1,000 kms away

NIRDESHAK

'Nirdeshak', the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project being built by GRSE in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for Indian Navy was launched on 26 May 2022 at Kattupalli, Chennai.

About:

- The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service in Dec 2014.
- Part construction of three out of four ships of SVL is being undertaken at L&T, Kattupalli as part of collaborative approach between GRSE and L&T shipbuilding.
- The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on 30 Oct 2018. The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 05 Dec 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata.
- The SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.

SHORE BASED TEST FACILITY (SBTF)

Two Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets fighter jets landed in Goa for trials on the Indian Navy's Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) to demonstrate their compatibility and suitability to operate from Indian aircraft carriers.



About:

- The demonstration is expected to continue up to the first week of June.
- These are part of demonstrations by the manufacturers to showcase the compatibility of their aircraft to fly from Indian Navy's aircraft carriers.
- Both the Rafale-M and F/A-18 are originally designed to operate from carriers with a catapult launch mechanism.
- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant, which is in advanced stages of sea trials, is scheduled to be commissioned in August.

NASM-SR MISSILE

The Navy recently tested an indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile (Short Range) or NASM-SR from a Sea King helicopter at the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha.



About

- The NASM-SR has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The NASM-SR has a range of 55 km and weighs 385 kg.
- This missile will replace the Sea Eagle missiles which are currently in use with the Navy. With the Sea King helicopters too being phased out, it is expected that the NASM-SR will be used with the new MH-60R multi-role helicopters, which are being inducted into the Navy.
- The NASM-SR carries a warhead of 100 kg and has sub-sonic capabilities, which means that it flies below the speed of sound at 0.8 Mach. The sub-sonic flight speed makes it difficult for the naval vessels on target to detect it.
- It has a launch altitude of maximum of 3 km and can skim 5 metres above sea level

when on final approach to the target.

- The NASM-SR can also be fired from the shore to target vessels in the sea.

INDIAN NAVY'S P8I AIRCRAFT

Rajnath Singh during his visit to Mumbai undertook a sortie on the Indian Navy P8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft.

About:

- During the mission, long range surveillance, electronic warfare, imagery intelligence, ASW missions and Search & Rescue capabilities employing the state-of-the-art mission suite and sensors were demonstrated.
- The induction of P8I aircraft commencing 2013, have significantly enhanced Indian Navy's persistent surveillance operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The P-8I's state-of-the-art sensors such as multi-mode radars, electronic intelligence system, sonobuoys, electro-optic, infrared camera and advanced weapons provide the Indian Navy with a very potent platform with significant capability to deter and destroy.
- These aircraft have been utilised along the International Border, the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control to keep an eye on adversaries' movement.

SARAS MARK 2

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) based in Bengaluru has successfully validated the digital anti-skid brake management system developed for SARAS Mark 2- 19 seat Light Transport aircraft.

About:

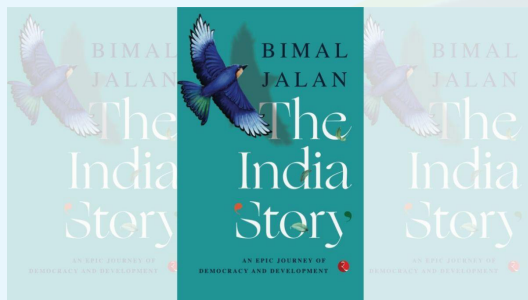
- The state-of-the-art brake by wire electro-hydraulic braking system is developed for the first time in India for civil aircrafts by NAL which is part of CSIR labs.
- Digital Anti-Skid Braking System integration on SARAS Mark 2 will benefit operation from airfields with short runways to boost regional air connectivity.
- SARAS Mark 2 aircraft is being developed by NAL. The Central Government had sanctioned the SARAS-Mk2-19 seat Light Transporter project to NAL in June 2019.
- The Indian Air Force has already committed to induct 15 SARAS Mk 2 aircraft.
- It is also considered the most versatile aircraft of its class for connecting remotely located Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and towns under UDAAN Scheme.
- The first flight of SARAS Mk 2 is planned for December 2024.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

THE INDIA STORY' BY BIMAL JALAN

- Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled 'The India Story'.
- The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.



- He traces India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy' to talk about the role of governance in implementing these policies.
- He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART: THE LONDON ADVENTURE

- A new book titled "Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure" authored by Ruskin Bond, was published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) on Ruskin Bond's 88th birthday (19th May 2022).
- Ruskin Bond, India's famous Children's book author, was born in Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) and grew up in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), New Delhi and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).



- Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure, to be released on his 88th birthday, gives readers a peek into the four years he spent in the Channel Islands and England.

- The fifth – and final – volume of his memoir, talks about how he muses over his loneliness, switches jobs, falls in love, befriends the ocean and relentlessly chases his big dream of becoming a famous writer.

'A PLACE CALLED HOME'

- Preeti Shenoy is set to publish a new novel titled "A Place Called Home", a story set in a coffee estate in Sakleshpur, Karnataka with a strong female protagonist at its core.
- The new novel is about secrets, family, and finding yourself.
- The book published by HarperCollins Publishers India is set to be released in June 2022.

THE STRUGGLE FOR POLICE REFORMS IN INDIA" BY EX-IPS PRAKASH SINGH

- Vice President (VP) of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, released a book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police" authored by a former IPS officer, Prakash Singh in New Delhi.

About the book:

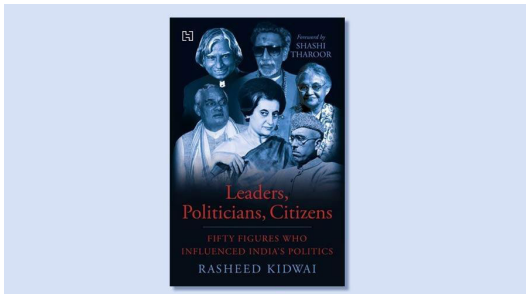
- This book documents the efforts made to bring about police reforms in India.
- The book provides the historical background to the origin of the Indian Police and traces the evolution during British Rule and subsequently since independence.
- The book focuses on the efforts of Prakash Singh to bring transformational changes in the Indian Police.

INDO-PAK WAR 1971- REMINISCENCES OF AIR WARRIORS'

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors' at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture organised by the Air Force Association in New Delhi, Delhi.

RASHEED KIDWAI AUTHORED A BOOK TITLED “LEADERS, POLITICIANS, CITIZENS”

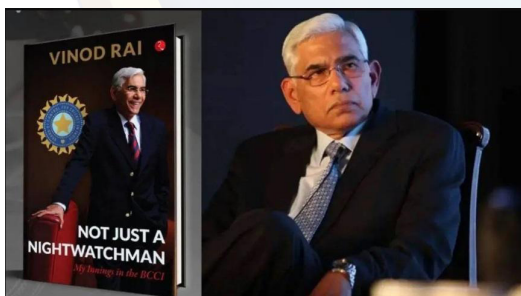
- Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India’s Politics” authored by author-journalist Rasheed Kidwai compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India’s political landscape.



- The 50 personalities featured in the book include Teji Bachchan, Phoolan Devi, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Jayalalithaa, APJ Abdul Kalam, and Karunanidhi among others.

NOT JUST A NIGHTWATCHMAN: MY INNINGS IN THE BCCI” BY VINOD RAI

- Padma Bhushan Vinod Rai, former(11th) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) India, has authored a new book titled “Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI”.



- The book features his 33-month stint as the Chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).



APPOINTMENT

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

The President of India has appointed Rajiv Kumar as the Chief Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India.

About:

- Rajiv Kumar will assume the charge of office of the Chief Election Commissioner with effect from 15th of May. Sushil Chandra will demit the Office of the Chief Election Commissioner on 14th of this month.
- View of Constitution: The power to appoint the CEC and the ECs lies with the President of India under Article 324(2) of the Constitution, which states that “the President shall fix the number of ECs in a manner he sees fit, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament”. Thus, Article 324(2) left it open for the Parliament to legislate on the issue.
- Procedure: But, in the absence of any Parliamentary law governing the appointment issue, the ECs are appointed by the government of the day, without pursuing any consultation process. There is no concept of collegium and no involvement of the opposition.



ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES (AAEA)

India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the recently held meeting of the Executive board and General Assembly at Manila, Philippines on May 7, 2022.

About:

- Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA. The new member in the Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and Philippines.
- In pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the Twenty First Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines, the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was established in 1998.
- Currently 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.
- Election commission of India (ECI) is a founder member EMB of the AAEA and also served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice Chair during 2011-13 and Chair during 2014-16.
- The mission of the Association of Asian Election Authorities is to provide a non-partisan forum in the Asian region for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities.
- AAEA is also an Associate Member of the 118 member Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).



IMPORTANT DAYS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY 2022 -1st MAY

- International Labour Day is observed globally on 1st May every year. It is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.
- The day is celebrated to spread awareness about Labour's rights and mark their achievements.
- The day aims to pay tribute to workers' sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.



Note

- In India, the **first Labour Day or May Day was celebrated in Madras (now known as Chennai) by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.**
- It was also the first time when the Red Flag which symbolises Labour Day was used in India for the first time.
- In Hindi, Labour Day is also known as Kamgar Din or Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas, Kamgar Divas in Marathi and Uzhaipalar Naal in Tamil.

WORLD TUNA DAY -2ND MAY

- World Tuna Day is observed globally on 2nd May every year. This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish.
- Tuna is a significant source of food for humans as the fish has several rich qualities such as Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins and other minerals.



WORLD LAUGHTER DAY

- World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of every May to remind people to laugh and make those around them laugh.
- This year the day is celebrated on 1st May.

WORLD LAUGHTER DAY 2022: HISTORY

- World Laughter Day was first celebrated in Mumbai in 1998 when Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement, highlighted a theory through that movement.
- He hypothesised that facial movements could reflect the mental state of a person. And so, slowly and gradually, parks and fields in the morning started filling up with roars of laughter.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2022 - 3RD MAY

- World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on 3rd May every year. It is also known as World Press Day.
- The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.
- This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "**Journalism under digital siege,**" spotlights the multiple ways in which journalism is endangered by surveillance and digitally-mediated attacks on journalists, and the consequences of all this on public trust in digital communications.



WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2022 - 3RD MAY

- World Asthma Day is observed every year on the first Tuesday of May to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world.
- This year it falls on 3rd of May 2022. An annual event is organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma.
- This year the theme is 'Closing Gaps in

Asthma Care’.

- Asthma, the chronic inflammatory disease of the airways, affects 300 million people worldwide and India alone has 15 million asthma patients.

Asthma

- Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs that causes breathing problems.
- Symptoms of asthma include breathlessness, coughing, wheezing and a feeling of tightness in the chest. These symptoms vary in frequency and severity.
- When the symptoms are not under control, the airways can become inflamed making breathing difficult.
- Whilst asthma can not be cured, the symptoms can be controlled enabling people with asthma to live full lives.
- It is a long-term disease, which makes your airways narrow and swell and may produce extra mucus. A person suffering from asthma can have difficulty in breathing, which can trigger coughing, wheezing and chest tightness.

INTERNATIONAL

FIREFIGHTER’S DAY 2022 - 4TH MAY

- International Firefighter’s Day is observed every year on May 4th to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- The main aim of this day is to recognise and honour professional firefighters across the world.
- They keep the community and the environment safe by sacrificing their lives for the riskiest jobs.

COAL MINERS DAY 2022 - 4 th MAY

- Coal Miners Day is observed on 4th May every year to honour the coal miners.
- The day is celebrated to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands.
- Below, we share a bit of the history of coal mining, the current energy scenario, and the role of coal miners in India.

Indian Laws That Protect Miners:

- The Mines Act 1952, Mine Rules 1955, Coal Mine Regulation-1957, among others, lay down the provisions for the health, safety and welfare of workers in coal, oil and metal mines.



- The act lays down the minimum wages for miners, extra wages for overtime, the working hours, employment of women, leaves, compensations and punishments for owners violating the laws. Meetings are held multiple times a year by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines to highlight violation

WORLD HAND

HYGIENE DAY 2022 - 5 th MAY

- World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) is annually observed across the globe on the 5th of May to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care.
- This year, WHO is marking the day with the theme – **Unite for safety: clean your hands**, with a focus on encouraging people to clean their hands at the right times with the right products that will help lead to high quality safer care everywhere.

WORLD ATHLETICS DAY 2022 - 7TH MAY

- World Athletics Day is celebrated every year globally on the 7th of May to raise awareness about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics.
- The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.
- The World Athletics Day gave a chance to schools, colleges and various other institutions to promote their children’s interests in various other sports from running to shot put and various other sports which require stamina.

WORLD RED CROSS DAY 2022 - 8TH MAY

- World Red Cross Day is observed globally on 8th May every year.
- The day aims to broaden the public’s understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- Red Crescent Societies are affiliated and work in cooperation with the World Red Cross to assist in the activities of the movement. National Red Crescent societies and Red Cross Societies are found in almost every nation worldwide.

The theme of World Red Cross Day 2022:

- The theme of World Red Cross Day 2022 is **#BeHUMANKIND** (Believe in the power of Kindness).
- The theme of World Red Cross Day 2022 focuses on the power of kindness and how it can impact the whole world

Note

- Henry Dunant was born on 8th May, 1828 and also was the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. World Red Cross Day is also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
- In 1863, Henry Dunant established the Red Cross Committee International in Geneva, Switzerland.

WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY 2022 - 08TH MAY

- World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that doesn't let the body create enough haemoglobin.
- The disease weakens and destroys the blood cells. There are two types of thalassaemia, alpha and beta, along with Thalassaemia minor, intermedia and major as its subcategories.



- The theme for this year's World Thalassaemia day is **'Be Aware.Share.Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge.'**

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2022 -11TH MAY

- National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th May across the country.

National Technology Day has significant historical importance in India. Every year on this day, officials pay honour to India's scientists for their achievements.

- This day is commemorated as an achievement of India's technical advances, since on May 11, 1998, the country successfully tested nuclear weapons in Pokhran.



- The theme for National Technology Day 2022 is **"Integrated Approach in Science and technology for sustainable future"**.
- The theme was launched by Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

National Technology Day: History

- It was on 11th May 1998, that India achieved a major technological breakthrough by successfully carrying out a series of nuclear tests at Pokhran.
- In addition, the first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was tested on this day, besides which, India also performed a successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day.
- Considering the technological advancements, the then Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, declared 11th May to be celebrated as National Technology Day every year.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH - 12th MAY 2022

- The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.



- The United Nations declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).
- The Year was extended until 1 July 2021 due to the postponement of some key initiatives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2022 - 12TH MAY

- May 12 is observed as International Nurses' Day across the world to honour the services of nurses.
- It is the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer, statistician and founder of modern nursing.
- She was also known as Lady with the Lamp.
- She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.
- The theme of International Nurses Day 2022:
 - The theme for this year's Nurses' Day is "**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health**".
- Many hospitals across the world are observing International Nurses Week from May 6 to 12. As part of it, several activities, including yoga sessions and seminars are being organised.

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2022 - 14TH MAY

- World Migratory Bird Day is marked twice a year since its inauguration in 2006. International Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated on 14 May and 8 October 2022.
- The day is celebrated with an aim to safeguard migratory birds' breeding, non-breeding as well as stopover habitats while preserving a healthy bird population.
- Theme - **LIGHT POLLUTION**



- As artificial lighting has been increasing globally by at least 2 per cent per annum, this has had an adverse impact on many birds.
- Light pollution is a major threat to migratory

birds as it leads to disorientation when they fly at night, this, in turn, leads to collisions and also interferes with their long-distance migrations

History of International Migratory Bird Day:

- International Migratory Bird Day was marked in 2006 when the United Nations decided that the world's population needs to be made aware of the worldwide migratory linkages.
- Since then, 118 countries participated in and organised the event. The United Nations (UN) Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds had envisioned the World Migratory Bird Day.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT 2022 - 16TH MAY

- The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
- This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development.
- The laser is a perfect example of how a scientific discovery can yield revolutionary benefits to society in communications, healthcare and many other fields.

NATIONAL DENGUE DAY 2022- 16TH MAY

- National Dengue Day is observed on the 16th of May every year in India. National Dengue day was an initiative of the Ministry of health and family welfare to make people aware of dengue and its prevention measures.
- It also has the people to know how to prepare and control dengue before the transmission season begins.

About dengue

- Aedes Aegypti, is the main cause of the spread of dengue. It is a female mosquito that bites and transmits dengue to human beings.
- Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease that is caused by the dengue virus of 4 distinct stereotypes, namely, DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4.
- Symptoms of dengue are severe muscle pain nausea and it may also lead to death if not cured properly.

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2022 – 17 TH MAY

- The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed each year on 17th May to increase awareness of the benefits and opportunities that the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) provide to nations, societies, and economies.
- It also hopes to raise awareness about how to close the digital divide.

Note

- The World Telecommunication Day was established in 1969 to commemorate the founding of the International Telecommunication Union on May 17, 1865.
- The World Summit on the Information Society, however, recommended the United Nations General Assembly to establish May 17 as World Information Society Day in 2005.



WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY 2022- 17TH MAY 2022

- World Hypertension Day is observed every year on 17th May, to raise awareness and encourage hypertension prevention, detection, and treatment. The major risk factor for cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure and hypertension is known as the “Silent Killer”.



Note

- Blood pressure is measured as a two-digit figure. When the heart contracts or beats, the first number (systolic) shows the pressure in blood vessels. The second number (diastolic) indicates the pressure in the arteries while the heart is at rest between beats.
- If the systolic blood pressure measurements on two distinct days are both 140 mmHg

and/or the diastolic blood pressure readings on both days are 90 mmHg, hypertension is diagnosed.

- Hypertension (high blood pressure) affects over one billion individuals globally and is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease and early mortality.

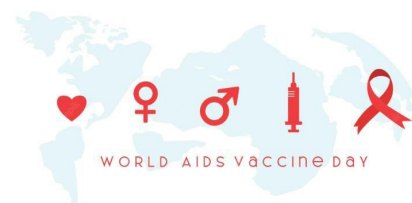
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2022 - 18TH MAY

- International Museum Day (IMD) is celebrated every year on 18 May.
- This day is observed to highlight the importance of museums in any culture. Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.
- This year, the theme for International Museum Day is ‘The Power of Museums’.



WORLD AIDS VACCINE DAY OR HIV VACCINE AWARENESS DAY 2022

- World AIDS Vaccine Day is also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD) is annually observed across the globe on the 18th of May to create awareness and provide information about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and its immunisation

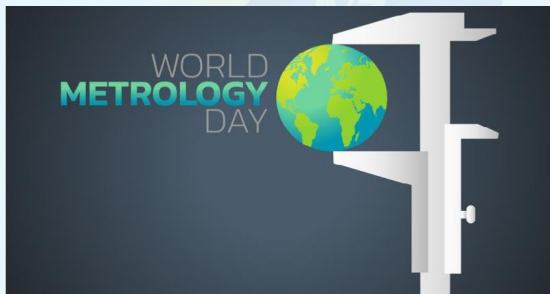


- World AIDS Vaccine Day was conceptualised by the speech of former United States President Bill Clinton on 18th May 1997, at the Morgan State University, Maryland, the United States of America(USA).

- The first-ever World AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Vaccine Awareness Day was observed on 18th May 1998, as a commemoration of U.S. President Bill Clinton's 1997 declaration.

WORLD METROLOGY DAY 2022: ANNUALLY - 20TH MAY

- World Metrology Day(WMD) is annually observed across the globe on 20th May to create awareness about the Metrology, the science of measurement and its application.
- The day highlights the use of Metrology in scientific fields, innovation, industries, trading and other fields. The day is an annual celebration of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20th May 1875.
- The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is **Metrology in the Digital Era**.



WORLD BEE DAY

This year, World Bee Day is being celebrated under the theme - 'Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems'.



About:

- World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20.
- On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born in 1734.
- The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.
- The UN Member States approved Slovenia's proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.

Beekeeping in India

- The centrally funded scheme, 'National Beekeeping and Honey Mission' aims to establish 5 big regional and 100 small honey and other Bee Products testing laboratories, out of which 3 world class state-of-the-art laboratories have been setup.
- The Government of India is also providing assistance for setting up of Processing Units.
- More than 1.25 lakh metric tonnes of honey is being produced in the country, out of which more than 60 thousand metric tonnes of natural honey is exported.

NATIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY 2022: 20TH MAY

- Every year on the third Friday of May, people across the globe observe National Endangered Species Day.
- This year the day is celebrated on May 20. This year, it marks the 16th National Endangered Species Day.
- National Endangered Species Day is celebrated with the main emphasis on conserving our planet Earth's flora and fauna.



- The day reminds human beings that they can do a lot to protect these species. National Endangered Species Day aim towards educating about the ways of conservation, restoration of the ecosystem and understanding of biodiversity.
- The theme of National Endangered Species Day 2022:

Endangered species in Tamil Nadu

- Grizzled Squirrel,
- Elephant, Tiger,
- Leopard,
- Nilgiri tahr,
- Gaur, Lion Tailed Macaque and
- Hyena.

The National Endangered Species Day

theme 2022 is **“Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”**. Every year the awareness campaign takes place around a theme.

History of the National Endangered Species

Day:

- On 28 December to lift up the importance of wildlife conservation and restoration efforts for all endangered species The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was signed into law.
- National Endangered Species Day was founded and started by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006. Since 2006 third Friday of May is observed as National Endangered Species Day.

INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY – 21ST MAY

The International Tea Day is observed on May 21 every year to raise awareness of the long history and the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world.

About:

-
- The first International Tea Day was held in Delhi, India in 2005. It was in 2015 that the Indian Government proposed to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation to expand this day globally.
- The day is observed in the month of May because it is during this time of the year that tea production begins in most countries.
- Tea is believed to have originated from the north-eastern parts of India and southwestern China. In these regions, tea production is one of the main sources of livelihood.
- The Tea Board of India was established by the enactment of the Tea Act in 1953 with its headquarters in Kolkata. It is under the administrative control of ministry of commerce and industry.
- The Government through the Tea Board is implementing Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TPDS) which provides financial assistance to the tea industry in the country.

ANTI TERRORISM DAY 2022 - 21ST MAY

- Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on 21 May, on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- He was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by the LTTE terrorists while campaigning for the Congress Party at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.
- Rajiv Gandhi became India's youngest PM

when he was sworn in at 40. He took over as the sixth PM of the country after Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984. He served from 1984 to 1989.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2022: 22 MAY

- International Day for Biological Diversity or World Biodiversity Day is observed on 22nd May every year to increase awareness and understanding of the issues of biodiversity.
- Biodiversity is essential for sustaining the balance of the planet. It is the cornerstone of ecosystem services, which are completely tied to human well-being.



- The theme of International Day for Biological Diversity 2022:
- The theme in 2022 is **“Building a shared future for all life”**.

INDIAN COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022-24TH MAY

- Commonwealth Day is traditionally commemorated on the second Monday of March in most of the 54 countries of the Commonwealth, with the British queen delivering a speech on the radio.
- However, India and a few other countries celebrate it on May 24.



- The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 is **‘Delivering a Common Future’** – which highlights how the fifty-four member countries in the Commonwealth family are ‘innovating, connecting and transforming’ to help attain goals like

fighting climate change, promoting good governance, and improving trade.

common symptoms of thyroid disorders and take the necessary steps to cure it.

WORLD TURTLE DAY 2022 - 23RD MAY

- World Turtle Day is observed on May 23 every year by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization.
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness among people to protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. Tortoises and turtles play an important role in the ecological design of Earth.
- These reptiles are known to survive and thrive across a range of diverse habitats around the globe.
- This year's theme for World Turtle Day is "Shellebrate". The theme asks "everyone to Love and Save Turtles".



WORLD THYROID AWARENESS DAY 2022 - 25TH MAY

- World Thyroid Day is observed on May 25 to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention, and treatments.
- The day came into existence in 2008 on a proposal by the European Thyroid Association (ETA).
- As per a report by Public Health Update, globally, more than 200 million people are estimated to be dealing with thyroid disorders and 50 per cent of these cases remain undiagnosed.



Theme,

- "It's not you. It's your thyroid."
- The theme focused on making sure that people understand the most

INTERNATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY 2022 - 25TH MAY

- International Missing Children's Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25th of May.
- The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children and also honour those who have never been found and celebrate those who have.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS - 29TH MAY

- International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed globally on 29th May.
- The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers also offers a chance to honour around 4,200 peacekeepers who lost their lives serving under the UN flag since, including 135 who lost the battle last year.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that this year, the focus is on the Power of Partnerships
- The theme for this year's Day is "People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships." Peacekeeping is one of the many tools used by the United Nations to secure global peace and security.
- UN Peacekeepers are also known as the Blue Helmets, is a collective enterprise, which aims to change lives for the better.

History of the day:



- The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 1948, May 29 when the Security Council deployed a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with the objective to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab

neighbours.

- Since 1948, more than 1 million people have served in the UN peacekeeping operations, which were 72 in number.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY - 31ST MAY

- World No Tobacco Day is observed on 31st May globally. This yearly celebration aims



RETINOBLASTOMA

The World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week was observed from May 15 to 21.

About:

- Retinoblastoma is the most common eye cancer (malignant tumor) occurring in young children.
- It can occur in one or both eyes and may be hereditary or sporadic. It can be life-threatening as well as take away vision if not treated timely and is detected by seeing White Reflex (WR).
- Nearly 1,500-2,000 children are diagnosed with retinoblastoma every year in India.

Symptoms

- White Reflex in the eye: Pupil that looks white or yellow instead of red when light hits it.
- Squinting: A crossed eye, looking either toward the nose or towards the ear.
- Poor vision with or without WR. The eye may be red or painful also.
- Treatment: Chemotherapy can be delivered intravenously or intra-arterial and is given by the paediatric oncologist and is the most common modality of treatment. This has to be followed up with local therapy, which is managed by the ophthalmologist using various modalities.



WORLD'S OLDEST CHESS GRANDMASTER YURI AVERBAKH PASSES AWAY



- Russian chess grandmaster, Yuri Averbakh who was among the world's best players for a decade, trained world champions and was the last surviving participant in one of the greatest competitions in history, has died in Moscow at 100.
- He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952.
- In 1954, he became the champion of the USSR. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

PRIYANKA MOHITE BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO CLIMB FIVE PEAKS ABOVE 8,000 METRES



- Priyanka Mohite from Maharashtra's Satara district has become the first Indian woman to climb five peaks above 8000 metres.
- Priyanka achieved the milestone after climbing Mount Kanchenjunga. The 30-year-old climbed the third highest peak on Earth on May 5 at around 4:42 pm.
- Priyanka works for a pharmaceutical research company in Bengaluru.

MAHARASHTRA GENE BANK PROJECT'

- Maharashtra Cabinet approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in India.
- To conserve genetic resources in Maharashtra including marine diversity, seeds of local crops, and animal diversity.
- In the next five years, an amount of Rs 172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas.

NATION'S FIRST ETHANOL PLANT IN PURNIA, BIHAR

- Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in Purnia district, Bihar.
- The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of Rs 105 crores.
- Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021. It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant.

RAJASTHAN TURNS OUT AS THE FIRST 10 GW SOLAR STATE

- According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, Rajasthan became the first state in India to reach 10 GW of cumulative large-scale solar installations.
- The state has a total installed power capacity of 32.5 GW, with renewables accounting for 55 percent, thermal energy for 43 percent, and nuclear energy accounting for the remaining 2%.
- Solar is the most common energy source, accounting for roughly 36 percent of total capacity and 64 percent of renewables.

About Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy:

- Rajasthan's Solar Energy Policy 2019 was issued in 2019, with the goal of achieving a 30 GW solar power target by FY 2024-25.
- Utility or grid-scale solar parks will account for 24 GW, distributed production will account for 4 GW, rooftop solar and solar pumps will each account for 1 GW.

HYDERABAD HOSTS INDIA'S FIRST-EVER UNIQUE KIND OF FLOW CHEMISTRY TECHNOLOGY HUB

- At Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS), a multi-industry-supported Flow Chemistry Technology Hub (FCT Hub) has been launched.
- While inaugurating the hub, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT), said that this is the first of its kind in our country and an enabler for the pharma business in India.
- This hub would usher in a paradigm shift in the pharmaceutical sector, including current methodologies from R&D through manufacturing and migrating to more environmentally friendly and sustainable procedures.

WORLD BANK SANCTIONED USD 350 MILLION FOR SRESTHA-G PROJECT TO GUJARAT

- World Bank has approved USD 350 million as financial aid for the Systems Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G) project.
- The SRESTHA-G project will be worth USD 500 million, with the World Bank contributing USD 350 million.
- The project will include transforming key health delivery systems in the state.

MANIK SAHA NAMED AS NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF TRIPURA

- Rajya Sabha MP and BJP state president Manik Saha is all set to take over as the new Chief Minister of Tripura.
- The decision was taken at a legislature party meeting following the resignation of CM Biplab Kumar Deb



ODISHA TO HOST INDIA'S FIRST TRIBAL HEALTH OBSERVATORY

- Odisha is planning to create India's only observatory, which will house data on the state's indigenous population's health.
- The ST and SC Development Department

and the RMRC, a regional institution of the Indian Council of Medical Research, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard.



About

- The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb) is the "first in the nation," according to the Information Department, and is aimed to be an effective, evidence-based, and policy-oriented centre.
- It will monitor illness burden, health-seeking behaviour, and the healthcare delivery system in relation to tribal health in the state in a systematic and continuing manner.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA: BIHAR HAS INDIA'S LARGEST GOLD RESERVES

- A survey by the Geological Survey of India has stated that a gold reserve of around 222.88 million tonnes including 27.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore are present in the Jamui district of Bihar.

UTTARAKHAND TO ROLL OUT DRONE IN HEALTHCARE 2022

Drone Healthcare 2022

- Drones being used commercially to deliver great healthcare to Indians in the most rural locations appears to be a possibility now. In the United States' Redcliffe Labs, a division of Redcliffe Lifetech, has completed its first commercial drone flight in the healthcare sector.
- Between Uttarkashi and Dehradun, the business just launched a commercial drone corridor.

INDIA'S FIRST STATE-OWNED OTT PLATFORM 'CSPACE'

- The Kerala government will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform on November 1, offering film lovers an array of movies, short films and documentaries of

their choice.

SEPARATE SEATS FOR NEWLY-BORN CHILDREN IN TRAINS

Indian Railways has introduced separate seats for newly-born children in trains.

About:

- The facility has been started by Northern Railways on a trial basis in Lucknow- New Delhi Mail.
- The lower berths already reserved for women have been placed next to baby berths so that young children can travel with their mother without any inconvenience.
- A baby berth has been introduced along with two berths in the AC coach of the train. No extra charge will be levied for baby berth.
- The facility will be extended in other trains after getting feedback.



PM-WANI

RailTel, a Mini Ratna PSU, has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based on access to its Public Wi-Fi services across 100 railway stations across the country.

About:

- To access this Wi-Fi network, android users can download the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' available on Google Play Store. This app has been developed in close coordination with C-DOT.
- This method of accessing Wi-Fi through the 'mobile app' will be in addition to the existing method of accessing Wi-Fi at these stations through the conventional method of selecting RailWire Service Set Identifier (SSID).
- PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom (DoT) to connect all silo Wi-Fi networks for ease of use and proliferate broadband usage for the masses.
- The government further plans to extend the PM-WANI-based access of RailTel's public Wi-Fi services to all 6,102 railway stations in a phased manner by the end of June 2022

OPERATION SATARK

RPF launches Focused effort under "Operation Satark" from 5th April to 30th April, 2022.

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India.
- It was formed in 1872 under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- It is the lead security agency in the field of railway security having a pan India reach. It is entrusted with the security of railway property, passenger area and passengers.
- Railway Protection Force has recently started "Operation Satark" with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold and any other items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling.

OPERATION DUDHI

The paramilitary Assam Rifles felicitated the surviving soldiers of Operation Dudhi, marked in the country's defence history as India's most successful counter-insurgency operation more than 30 years ago.

About:

- A team of 15 soldiers of the Assam Rifles' 7th Battalion led by Naib Subedar Padam Bahadur Chhetri had on May 5, 1991, gunned down 72 Pakistan-trained extremists and captured 13 others at 14,000 ft in J&K.
- Two Assam Rifles soldiers died during the six-hour gun battle.

OPERATION RAKTH CHANDAN

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered 14.63 MT of Red Sanders worth Rs. 11.70 crore under Operation Rakth Chandan

About:

- Red Sanders is a flora-species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Eastern Ghats region of Andhra Pradesh and fall under 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- Red Sanders is also listed in Appendix-II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Its rich hue and therapeutic properties are responsible for its high demand across Asia, particularly China, for use in cosmetics, medicinal products and high-end furniture/woodcraft.

- The export of Red Sanders from India is prohibited as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

OPERATION NAMKEEN

Under Operation Namkeen, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recovered 52 kg of cocaine, estimated to be valued at over Rs 500 crore in the international illicit market

About:

- Operation Namkeen was launched by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is an Indian intelligence agency. It is India's apex anti-smuggling intelligence, investigations and operations agency.
- The Directorate is run by officers from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- The DRI came into existence in 1957.



ART AND CULTURE

QUTUB MINAR



- The Qutub Minar complex are monuments and buildings from the Delhi Sultanate at Mehrauli in Delhi. Construction of the Qutub Minar “victory tower” in the complex, named after the religious figure Sufi Saint Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, was begun by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who later became the first Sultan of Delhi of the Mamluk dynasty.
- It was continued by his successor Iltutmish, and finally completed much later by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, a Sultan of Delhi from the Tughlaq dynasty (1320-1412) in 1368 AD.
- Apart from the Qutub Minar and the Quwwat ul-Islam Mosque, other structures in the complex include the Alai Darwaza gate, the Alai Minar and the Iron pillar. Inside the complex lie the tombs of Iltutmish, Alauddin Khalji and Imam Zamin.
- The iron pillar of Delhi was constructed by Chandragupta II (reigned c. 375–415 CE). It is famous for the rust-resistant composition of the metals used in its construction.

PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN

- Prithviraj belonged to the Chauhan or Chahaman dynasty of Ajmer which emerged after the decline of the Pratihar empire in the 11th century AD.
- He ascended the throne in 1177 or 1178, and very quickly expanded his kingdom, defeating many of the smaller Rajput states.
- However, he struggled against the Chalukyas of Gujarat, and was forced to look towards the Ganga valley instead.
- While Prithviraj’s army was able to

decisively defeat the invading Ghurids in the First Battle of Tarain (present-day Haryana) in 1191, he was defeated in the Second Battle of Tarain in the following year.

- The battle marked a watershed moment in the history of medieval India, paving the way for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of Muslim rule.
- Prithviraj was depicted in ‘Prithviraj Raso’, a poem in Brajbhasha attributed to Chand Bardai, which is thought to have been composed in the 16th century.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage during visit to Lumbini in Nepal on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti.

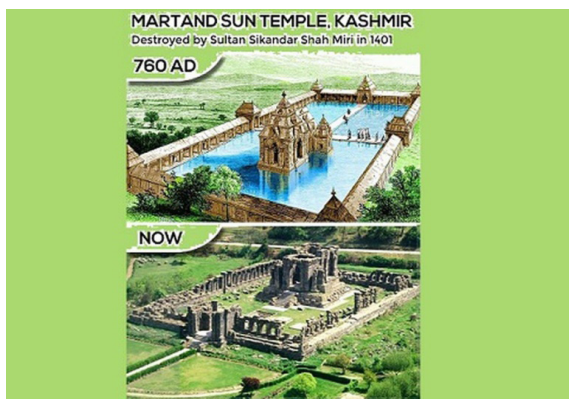
About:

- Lumbini is the place where Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born around 623 BC. He later attained enlightenment at Bodhgaya in Bihar district and came to be known as the Buddha.
- Modi will participate in the shilanyas [foundation stone laying] ceremony for the India International Centre and offer prayers at the Mayadevi temple that is dedicated to the mother of the Buddha.
- The work on the centre will be undertaken by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), which is a “grantee body” under the Ministry of Culture.
- The International Buddhist Confederation was registered on November 2, 2012, and is aimed at propagating and preserving the teachings and heritage of the Buddha across the world, and especially in India’s immediate neighbourhood.
- The Buddhist centre would be the first “net zero emission” building in Nepal.

MARTAND SUN TEMPLE

After prayers were held at the ruins of the eighth-century Martand Sun Temple in Jammu and Kashmir’s Anantnag last week, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has expressed its concern to

the district administration while refraining from lodging a formal complaint.



About:

- The ASI, which functions under the Ministry of Culture, is the custodian of the protected monument.
- According to ASI officials, prayers are allowed at its protected sites only if they were “functioning places of worship” at the time it took charge of them. No religious rituals can be conducted at non-living monuments where there has been no continuity of worship when it became an ASI-protected site.
- Although the Martand Sun Temple was once a thriving place of worship, commissioned by Lalitaditya Muktapida in the eighth century, it was destroyed by Sikandar Shah Miri in the 14th century.

RAKHIGARHI SKELETONS

DNA samples collected from two human skeletons unearthed at a necropolis of a Harappan-era city site in Haryana have been sent for scientific examination, the outcome of which might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.



About:

- The skeletons of two women were found a couple of months ago at mound number 7 (named RGR 7 by the Archaeological

Survey of India or ASI), believed to be nearly 5,000 years old.

- Pots and other artefacts were also found buried next to them in a pit, part of the funerary rituals back in the Harappan Civilisation era.
- Seven mounds scattered around two villages (Rakhi Khas and Rakhi Shahpur) in Hisar district are part of the Rakhigarhi archaeological site.
- RGR 7 is a cemetery site of the Harappan period when this was a well-organised city.
- At present RGR 1, RGR 3 and RGR 7 have been taken up for investigation.

VADNAGAR

On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his birthplace Vadnagar in Gujarat's Mehsana district had been a great centre for Buddhist learning centuries ago.



About:

- In 2006, the Gujarat state archaeology department began excavations in Vadnagar, a small town in Mehsana district of north Gujarat.
- In 2014, the excavation work was taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the combined efforts have thrown up Buddhist relics and around 20,000 artefacts, some dating back to the 2nd century.
- Among these, senior ASI officials revealed, are an elliptical structure and a circular stupa along with a square memorial stupa of 2×2 metres and 130 centimetres in height with a wall enclosure.
- Vadnagar is mentioned often in the Puranas and even in the travelogue of the great Chinese traveler, Hiuen Tsang (7th century), as a rich and flourishing town.

Note

- Gujarat government has also launched the Tana-Riri annual music festival at Vadnagar in the name of two sisters, who were gifted singers, and who, by Gujarati folk lore, gave up their lives instead of agreeing to sing in the court of Emperor Akbar.

1) Consider the following fact regarding Kalaigarin All Villages Integrated Agricultural Development Programme

- 1) Its aim is to increasing cultivable area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation,
- 2) The programme aims to bring 11.75 lakh hectares of land under net area cultivated in the next 20 years,

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

2) under Higher education assurance scheme all girl students who studied from grade sixth to 12 in state-run schools would be paid Rs _____ per month.

- a) 2000
- b) 1000
- c) 1500
- d) 2500

3) Under _____ Article The Supreme Court may pass an order for doing complete justice.

- a) 141
- b) 142
- c) 143
- d) 146

4) Devasahayam Pillai who was declared as a saint by pope Francis belongs to _____ century

- a) 17th
- b) 18th
- c) 16th
- d) 15th

5) Recently iron objects are excavated from which village of Tamil Nadu?

- a) Adichanallur
- b) Arikamedu
- c) Mayiladumparai
- d) Paiyampalli

6) _____ became the top sugar producer in india

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

7) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded by _____

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
- c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- d) Narashima Rao

8) The National Facility for Gene Function in Health and Disease (NFGFHD) is located in _____

- a) Nagpur
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Pune
- d) Mumbai

9) National Hydrogen Mission was launched in _____

- a) August 15, 2021
- b) January 1 2021
- c) October 2 2021
- d) July 15, 2021

10) India's first 'OlympicValuesEducationProgramme' (OVEP) by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was launched in _____

- a) New Delhi
- b) Odisha
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Karnataka

11) Strategically important Sela Tunnel project is located in _____

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

12) TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) was established in the year _____

- a) 1996
- b) 1997
- c) 1998
- d) 1999

13) Gas-based urea manufacturing plant is located at _____

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Nagpur
- c) Pune
- d) Ramagundam

14) _____ become the India's top trading partner in the year 2021-2022

- a) US
- b) UK
- c) China
- d) Japan

15) Mitali Express or maitree express runs between

- a) India and nepal
- b) India and Bangladesh
- c) India and Myanmar
- d) India and Bhutan

16) Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) is a bilateral agreement between india and _____

- a) US
- b) UK
- c) Japan
- d) France

17) Regional Anti-Terror Structure is related to

- a) SAARC
- b) BRICS
- c) SCO
- d) IBSA

18) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in _____

- a) Kenya
- b) Côte d'Ivoire
- c) South Africa
- d) Egypt

19) KOILASTILA GAS FIELD a new gas field is discovered in

- a) Maldives
- b) India
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh

20) _____ is the top recipient state with 38% share of the total FDI Equity inflow in india for the year 2021-2022

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

21) Which of the following is the constitution body ?

- a) Goods and services council
- b) National Commission for women
- c) Planning commission
- d) Niti Aayog

22) under _____ Article, GST Council is constituted.

- a) 280A
- b) 279A
- c) 288A
- d) 266A

23) Migration and Development Brief report was released by _____

- a) WTO
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) IMF

24) _____ topped the list in the world receiving remittance .

- a) Mexico
- b) China
- c) India
- d) UK

25) consider the following statement

- 1) Malaviya Mission" to develop enabling ecosystem across the country for teacher education/faculty development .
- 2) It was launched by ministry of education

Which of the above statement is /are correct

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

26) Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched with the aim to

- a) To promote girl children education
- b) To empower women
- c) To conserve water
- d) To provide all weather road to all villages in the country

27) Cynthia Rosenzweig won _____ award

- a) Nobel peace prize
- b) World food prize
- c) Pulitzer prize
- d) Gandhi peace prize

28) c-TB is related to

- a) Infection test kit
- b) TB vaccine
- c) Drug to cure TB disease completely
- d) None of the above

29) India's first wind-solar hybrid power facility is located in _____

- a) Jaipur
- b) Jaisalmer
- c) Kanyakumari
- d) Hyderabad

30) PARAM PORUL and PARAM ANANTA is

- a) Covid test kit
- b) Supercomputer
- c) Anti ballistic missile
- d) Unmanned Drones

31) India was declared polio-free in the year ____

- a) 2012
- b) 2013
- c) 2014
- d) 2015

32) Sowa Rigpa is the traditional medicine popular in the state of ____

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Assam
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Sikkim

33) ASTROSAT is the astronomy mission developed by ____

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Russia
- d) US

34) Pullulan is recently in the news . It is used

- a) To recycle sewage water
- b) To disinfect wounds and hastens the process of healing
- c) To detect the cancer cells at the earlier stage
- d) Newly developed covid vaccine

35) Madtsoiidae is an extinct group of medium-sized to gigantic snakes Fossils are spotted in

- a) Ladakh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

36) Sagittarius A is a ____

- a) Largest constellation
- b) Black hole
- c) Asteriod
- d) Star near to the earth

37) Shigella is in the news. It is

- a) Virus that cause tomato flu
- b) Bacteria that cause food poison
- c) Newly found fungi
- d) Algae that is used for consumption

38) Hasdeo Arand Forest is located in ____

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chattisgarh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

39) Which was the first state in the country to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Madhya Pradesh

40) Alliance Of Ceo Climate Action Leaders was launched by ____

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNDP
- c) UNEP
- d) World Bank

41) sinkholes are formed due to

- a) Deposition activity of groundwater
- b) Erosion activity of ground water
- c) Deposition activity of wind
- d) Erosion activity of wind

42) which of the following statement is in correct?

- a) The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- b) It was established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
- c) The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908,
- d) All the statement are correct

43) La Nina is a cooling of surface temperatures in the ____ ocean

- a) Central Pacific
- b) Arctic
- c) Atlantic
- d) Indian ocean

44) ____ has reported the highest number of bird species

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

45) First International Migration Review Forum was held at

- a) Paris
- b) New york
- c) San Francisco
- d) Jakarta

46) Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary which was designated as the India's 52nd tiger reserve was located in

- a) Haryana
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Gujarat

47) ____ declared as the first smokefree state in india

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Himachal Pradesh

48) India ranked ____ in world press freedom index

- a) 142
- b) 143
- c) 144
- d) 145

49) India ranked ____ in vehicle market 2022

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

50) IAF ranked ____ position in World Air Power Index

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

51) Travel And Tourism Competitiveness Index report was released by ____

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) UNDP
- c) UNEP
- d) World Bank

52) ____ BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO HIT 700 FOURS IN IPL HISTORY

- a) Shikhar Dhawan
- b) Rohit Sharma
- c) M. S. Dhoni
- d) Virat Kohli

53) India defeated ____ to win Thomas cup

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) Indonesia
- d) US

54) Italian open tennis was won by ____

- a) Novak Djokovic
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Andy Murray
- d) Roger Federer

55) Who is considered as the Father of the Bengal Renaissance

- a) Iswar Chandra vidhyasagar
- b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- c) C. R. Das
- d) Madan Mohan Malviya

56) Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi has been conferred with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022 .He is a renowned

- a) Nuclear scientist
- b) Micro biologist
- c) Agro scientist
- d) Architect

57) Manganiyar singer are known from ____ state

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Haryana
- d) Karnataka

58) Indian novel Tomb of Sand received International booker prize was written by

- a) Geetanjali Shree
- b) Arundati Roy
- c) Salman Rushdie
- d) Chetan Bhagat

59) PULITZER PRIZE was awarded to

- a) Journalist
- b) Authors
- c) Architect
- d) Scientist

60) ____ become the first woman combat pilot of army.

- a) Prethi sharma
- b) Abhilasha barak
- c) Pooja kumari
- d) Avani Chaturvedi

61) Exercise 'Bongosagar is the bilateral navy exercise between India and

- a) Nepal
- b) US
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Sri Lanka

62) INS 'Surat' and 'Udaygiri are indigenously developed

- a) Submarine
- b) Patrol vessel
- c) Warship
- d) Anti ballistic missile

63) The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was founded on ____

- a) 7th May 1960
- b) 18th May 1962
- c) 18th October 1953
- d) 26th January 1964

64) INS VIKRANT is an indigenously developed ____

- a) Submarine
- b) Patrol vessel
- c) Warship
- d) Air craft carrier

65) The book The India Story was written by

- a) Raghuram Rajan
- b) Bimal jalan
- c) Y. V. Reddy
- d) Manmohan Singh

66) Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure” was authored by ____

- a) Ruskin Bond
- b) Salman Rushdie
- c) Chet Bhagat
- d) Arundhati Roy

67) Who among the following fix the number of Election commission of India

- a) Prime minister of india
- b) President of India
- c) Incumbent chief Election commissioner
- d) Chief justice of India

68) Who has been appointed as the new chief election commissioner of india

- a) Rajiv Kumar
- b) Sushil kumar
- c) Sunil Arora
- d) Rajesh lakani

69) World Press Freedom Day 2022 is celebrated on ____

- a) 3rd may
- b) 1st may
- c) 10th may
- d) 18th may

70) world hand hygiene day is celebrated on

- a) 3rd may
- b) 5th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 19th may

71) world Red cross day is celebrated on

- a) 3rd may
- b) 8th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 19th may

72) Thalassemia is a ____ disease

- a) Viral
- b) Bacterial
- c) Genetic disorder
- d) Protozoan infection

73) National Technology day was celebrated on ____

- a) 10th may
- b) 11th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

74) world migratory birds day is celebrated on ____

- a) 10th may
- b) 14th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

75) National Dengue day is observed on

- a) 16th may
- b) 14th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

76) World Meteorology day is observed on

- a) 16th may
- b) 14th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

77) National Endangered Species Day 2022 is observed on

- a) 16th may
- b) 14th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

78) International Day for Biological Diversity or World Biodiversity Day is observed on ____

- a) 22nd May
- b) 14th may
- c) 20th may
- d) 21st may

79) World no Tobacco day is observed on

- a) 30th may
- b) 31st may
- c) 29th may
- d) 28th may

80) Which state approved India's first gene bank

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Telengana

81) India's first ethanol plant is located in ____

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Odisha

82) where is the India's largest solar power plant located?

- A) Bihar
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Chattisgarh
- D) Odisha

83) India's First Tribal Health Observatory is hosted by ____

- A) Bihar
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Chattisgarh
- D) Odisha

84) India's largest Gold reserves found in ____

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Odisha

85) which state used drone to deliver Health care services ?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chattisgarh

86) INDIA'S FIRST STATE-OWNED OTT PLATFORM 'CSPACE' was launched by ____

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

87) Operation Satark aims to

- a) Take action against illicit liquor
- b) Counter insurgency Operation
- c) Child labour tracking operation
- d) Trace illegal red Sanders smuggling

88) Operation Namkeen aims to

- a) Take action against cocaine smuggling
- b) Counter insurgency Operation
- c) Child labour tracking operation
- d) Trace illegal red Sanders smuggling

89) UN peacekeeping mission was established in the year ____

- a) 1947
- b) 1948
- c) 1949
- d) 1950

90) World Turtle day is observed on

- a) 22nd may
- b) 23rd may
- c) 24th may
- d) 25th may

91) which of the following species is Endemic to western ghats

- 1) Nilgiri Thar
- 2) LionTailedMacaque
- 3) Asiatic lion
- 4) Sambar deer

Choose the correct answer

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2&3
- c) 3&4
- d) 1&4

92) Anti terrorism day is observed on

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

93) NOT JUST A NIGHTWATCHMAN: MY INNINGS IN THE BCCI IS THE BOOK WRITTEN BY

- a) Vinod Kumar
- b) Bimal Jalan
- c) Vinod Rai
- d) N.K. Singh

94) Danish Siddiqui is a famous

- a) Photographer
- b) Artist
- c) Archeologist
- d) Scientist

95) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was first established in ____

- a) 2002
- b) 2003
- c) 2004
- d) 2005

96) Pandit Shivkumar Sharma is the noted

- a) Vocalist
- b) Violinist
- c) Santoor maestro
- d) Dancer

97) ASIAN GAMES 2022 will be held in

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Japan
- d) Indonesia

98) REYKJAVIK OPEN 2022 is related to

- a) Tennis
- b) Foot ball
- c) Chess
- d) Badminton

99) Which state has the highest sex ratio ?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Chattisgarh

100) world of work report was released by

- a) World bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) United Nations
- d) International Labour Organisation

Answers:

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