



**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF **SMART LEADERS IAS**

**TNPSC**  
**SANGAMAM**

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**MONTHLY**  
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# **SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**

**FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS**

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### **Arittappatti and Meenakshipuram Villages**

- The Tamil Nadu government recently issued a notification declaring Arittappatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.

#### **About:**

- It aims to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage, the government, as recommended by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, has declared Arittappatti a biodiversity heritage site.
- The site, comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittappatti village (in Melur taluk) and 53.58 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk), will be known as the Arittappatti Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- Arittappatti, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds, including three important raptors — Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*), Shaheen Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*).
- It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Python (*Python molurus*) and Slender Loris (*Loris spp*).
- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs, that serve as a watershed, charging “72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check-dams”.
- The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings in the 16th century, is one of them.
- The site also features various megalithic structures, Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions, Jain Beds and 2200-year-old rock-cut temples adding to its historical value.

### **Tamil Nadu: Anamalai Tiger Reserve launched 'jumbo trails' in Coimbatore**

- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) has launched 'jumbo trails' at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, a programme aimed to educate visitors to the tiger reserve about elephants, the flora, and fauna of ATR and the aboriginal tribes who live in the hills.

- An initiative by ATR Field Director S. Ramasubramanian and Deputy Director (Pollachi Division) Bhargava Teja, the first jumbo trail will happen on November 26.
- According to Assistant Conservator of Forests V. Selvam, the jumbo trails start at 'Anamalaiyagam', a newly-established forest interpretation centre at Sethumadai.
- The programme is organised by the Advanced Wildlife Management Training Centre (Attakatti) and implemented by Keelponachi Eco Development Committee.

### **India's first elephant death audit framework introduced by Tamil Nadu**

- Elephant Death Audit Framework (EDAF):
- Tamil Nadu's Forest Department has introduced an elephant death audit framework to put in place a more detailed and transparent process for recording and monitoring elephant deaths in the State.
- Presently, identifying the cause of mortality in the field remains critical for many questions related to population and conservation of elephants.
- The framework will improve transparency, assist all stakeholders in assessing the results and ultimately facilitate standardisation and more credible comparisons of cause of mortality.





## NATIONAL NEWS

### Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurates north India's first data centre at Greater Noida

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated North India's first hyper-scale data centre Yotta Yotta D1 built at the cost of Rs 5,000 crore and spread over an area of 3,00,000 square feet at the upcoming Data Centre Park in Greater Noida.
- Memorandums of Understanding worth Rs 39,000 crore were also signed between the Yogi Government and Hiranandani Group to be spent on projects in the next five years on the occasion.

### Arunachal Pradesh to get Northeast's first fish museum

#### Northeast's first fish museum:

- A fish museum, the first of its kind in the Northeast, would soon be built in Arunachal Pradesh, Fisheries Minister Tage Taki.
- The museum in the NorthEast region (NER), with all fish species across the district from Tawang to Longding, to attract tourists, fish lovers and the museum will also serve as a training centre for fish farmers.



### Electronics Manufacturing Cluster

- Union Minister of State for Electronics



and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced that an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster is to be developed in the Ranjangaon area of Maharashtra.

- The Electronics Manufacturing Clusters will be developed for ₹500 crores. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters are expected to generate thousands of jobs in the coming years and will attract an investment of over ₹2,000 crores.

### 7 Indian states & 2 UTs celebrated their formation day on November 1st

- On November 1st, Seven of the 28 Indian states and two Union Territories observed their formation day.
- The states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab besides the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry were formed on this day, though in different years. Besides 28 states, India has eight Union Territories.
- While Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1956,
- Punjab and Haryana were carved out as separate states in 1966
- Chhattisgarh was granted statehood in 2002.
- It was the first time in 1956 that several states were formed on linguistic grounds under the State Reorganisation Act.
- All these states and the Union Territory of Puducherry celebrate their formation days on November.

### Indore Plans India's First Retail Municipal Green Bond for Solar Plant

- Indore with a strong environmental record is planning to issue the nation's first local government bond targeting individual investors, with proceeds used to fund a solar power project.

### Har Ghar Gangajal Project

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Har Ghar Gangajal Project in Rajgir.
- The Har Ghar Gangajal Project is a unique and ambitious initiative to provide Ganga

water on tap in the parched areas of the state.

- The Har Ghar Gangajal Project will help to harvest the excess water of the Ganga during the monsoon season.
- The water will be stored in reservoirs in Rajgir and Gaya before being channeled to three treatment-and-purification plants.

### **AMLAN**

- In a bid to ensure complete eradication of anaemia problem among women and children in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched AMLAN- 'Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan' in the state.
- The state has formulated a multi-pronged approach for accelerated reduction of anaemia among targeted groups.
- The programme will be rolled out in 55,000 government and government aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi Centres across the state.

### **RE-HAB Project**

- KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar Inaugurated RE-HAB Project
- The Chairman of KVIC informed that the Re-Hab Project is running under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission which is under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Re-Hab Project is running in 7 states including Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, and Odisha.
- Fencing of Bee boxes on the routes of movement of elephants blocks the path of wild elephants.
- This was through the bees; elephants can be prevented from attacking humans and destroying farmers' crops.
- The Re-Hab Project will be run by the KVIC at a selected location for a period of one year.

### **Nai Chetna' Gender Campaign**

- Nai Chetna', is a month-long campaign envisioned as a 'Jan Andolan' or people's movement.
- The 'Nai Chetna' campaign is launched by the Ministry of Rural Development and involves sensitizing women, especially in rural areas.
- It seeks to enable women to acknowledge, prepare, and take support in situations of comprise.
- The 'Nai Chetna' campaign was launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women on 25th November 2022.

- The campaign aims to raise awareness about the institutional mechanisms available for women to fight gender-based violence.

### **G20 Sherpa Meeting**

- Udaipur is gearing up to host the first G20 Sherpa Meeting in India from 4 to 7 December.
- The meeting is aimed at fostering growth and building bonds amongst the member nations.
- Among the highlights will be the depiction of Indian culture with wall paintings and illumination of heritage sites across the city.

### **About Udaipur:**

- It was founded in 1559 by Udai Singh II of the Sisodia clan of Rajput's. It is popularly known as the "City of Lakes". It has seven lakes surrounding the city.
- The 7 lakes of Udaipur are:-
  - Fateh Sagar Lake,
  - Lake Pichola.Udaisagar Lake,
  - Jaisamand Lake (Dhebar Lake),
  - Rajsamand Lake,
  - Badi Lake (Jiyan Sagar),
  - Doodh Talai (Milk Pond),
  - Swaroop Sagar Lake (Khumaria Talab).

### **Egypt's President invited as chief guest for Republic Day 2023**

- India has invited Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as the chief guest for the Republic Day in 2023, reflecting New Delhi's continuing focus on the Arab world as it prepares for a year of high-profile diplomatic engagements.
- The formal invitation was handed over when external affairs minister S Jaishankar met Sisi in Cairo on October 16 during an official visit to Egypt, the people said.
- Egypt is among the nine guest countries invited to the G20 Summit under India's presidency in 2023.

### **Prasar Bharati celebrates its Silver Jubilee or 25 years of its establishment**

- Prasar Bharati celebrated the silver jubilee or 25 years of its establishment on 23 November, 2022.
- It was on this day in 1997, that it came into being as a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament.
- It comprises the Doordarshan and All India Radio.
- Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi said, Prasar Bharati has stood firmly with the people during the challenges faced by the country and the world.





### Mumbai Becomes the First City in South Asia to Top CDP's Climate Action List

- Mumbai has become the first Indian city to be added to the A-list in the 5th Annual Cities Report published by CDP, a non-profit organisation that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, and regions – recognises the important role that cities play in taking bold actions to mitigate and adopt to climate change.

### Karnataka has Highest Installed Grid-interactive Renewable Power Capacity in India

- Karnataka came at the top position while comparing the total installed capacity of grid-interactive renewable power of all the states of the country.
- The state had a total installed capacity of 15,463 megawatts (mw), according to an RBI publication.
- Maharashtra was followed by Rajasthan (10,205 mw), Andhra Pradesh (8,969 mw), Madhya Pradesh (5,206 mw), Telangana (4,378 mw), Uttar Pradesh (3,879 mw), Punjab (1,617 mw) and Himachal Pradesh (988 mw) and Uttarakhand (713 mw) in that order.

### GeoSmart India 2022

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed that the country is spearheading a new wave of socioeconomic prosperity fueled by cutting-edge technology and innovation.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the GeoSmart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad.
- Geospatial information has emerged as a key tool for development in the country.
- The country is advancing towards an era of sustainable development right from the grassroots level and aimed at eradicating poverty, combating climate change, and improving business and living standards.
- The government released the guidelines for geospatial data paving way for its usage across various sectors of the economy.

### National Commission for Women Launched Digital Shakti 4.0

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in cyberspace.

#### More About The Campaign:

- Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- The Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand-up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.
- NCW launched the campaign in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.
- Through this project, over 3 Lakh women across India have been made aware of cyber safety tips and tricks.
- It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits.

#### About NCW:

- The National Commission for Women was established on January 31, 1992, under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate grievance redress, and advise the government on all policy matters affecting women.

### India Becomes the World's Second Largest Producer of Steel

- India has emerged as the second-largest producer of crude steel by replacing Japan.
- The biggest steel producing country is currently China, which accounted for 57% of world steel production.
- The eastern states of India – Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal – and the northern part of Andhra Pradesh hold about 80 per cent of the national iron ore reserves and nearly 100 per cent of coking coal as well as vast reserves of chromite, bauxite, and dolomite.

### PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit to be held in Varanasi

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to inaugurate the two-day PM Gati Shakti



Multimodal Waterways Summit.

- The PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit will be held at the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul (Trade Centre and Museum) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The primary objective of the summit is to bring together greater awareness about the PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan with a focus on infrastructure development in the waterways.

#### 42nd International Congress of the INCA Inaugurated in Dehradun

- Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.) inaugurated the 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) in Dehradun.
- The 42nd International Congress is being organized by the National Hydrographic Office from 9th November to 11th November 2022 at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The theme of the 42nd International Congress of the Indian National Cartographic Association is Digital Cartography to Harness Blue Economy.

#### India Chem 2022

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers will inaugurate the India Chem 2022 on 2nd November 2022.

**About:**



- Theme: “Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India”.
- India Chem 2022 will showcase the Government’s policy for sustainable growth in the sector and provide a platform for national and international players to interact, exchange knowledge and forge alliances.
- The event will also highlight the investment opportunities especially in Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and focus on the “Make in India” initiative for making the country Atmanirbhar in sector.
- India Chem, the flagship event of the Department, is one of the largest composite events of the industry in the Asia-Pacific region and this comprises of an International Conference and Exhibition.
- Department is organizing the 12th edition of INDIA CHEM in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

#### Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry:

- The Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry is the backbone of the Indian economy and plays a vital role in the growth of various key sectors like automotive, construction, electronics, health care, textiles and FMCG.
- Export of Indian Chemicals has registered an overwhelming growth of 106% in 2021-22 over 2013-14.
- India’s export of chemicals for 2021-22 has hit a record at US\$ 29,296 Million, whereas in 2013-14, India’s chemical export was US\$ 14,210 Million.

#### Warehousing and Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR)

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) recently organised a seminar on “e-NWR – An Effective Tool for Promoting Pledge Financing”.

**About:**



- The negotiable warehouse receipt (NWR) system was launched in 2011 allowing the transfer of ownership of a commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver it physically.
- These receipts are issued in negotiable form, making them eligible as collateral.
- This has been enabled by enabling the financing of warehouse receipts through the Warehouse (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
- The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) regulates the entire operation under NWR.

**Salient features of e-NWR:**

- An e-NWR is available only in electronic form.
- The single source of information for the e-NWR is the repository system where e-NWR is issued by registered warehouses.
- Confidentiality, integrity and availability of the e-NWR information is provided by the Repository system.

- An e-NWR has time validity.
- All e-NWRS can be traded through off-market or on-market in Commodity Exchanges platforms.
- An e-NWR can be auctioned under certain conditions such as loan not repaid, on expiry and delivery not taken, and on likely damage or spoilage of the commodity in the warehouse.
- e-NWR can be transferred fully or in part.

#### Benefits:

- Electronic-Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) will help farmers/FPOs to have access to a large number of buyers across the country.
- It will help them get better bargaining powers and realise higher prices by selling graded produce.
- It will provide them with the facility to get their prices quoted and receive immediate payment, besides avoiding distress sales by helping them get loans from banks against warehouse receipts.

#### Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA):

- WDRA was constituted in 2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
- It is under the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD).

#### HARIT Aaykar (Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax) Initiative

HARIT Aaykar initiative recently launched by Income Tax Department for increasing greenery and creating micro forests

#### About:



- It was launched on the occasion of National Unity Day to increase greenery and create micro forests.
- Under this initiative, the Income Tax Department resolves to increase the green cover by planting trees and creating micro-forests in and around Income Tax

Department's buildings and other public areas.

#### Micro forests:

- A micro-forest is a small, planted forest that maximises tree density and biodiversity.
- The Miyawaki method, which was devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980s, is a technique to create micro forests over small plots of land.
- Achieving this goal requires planting a wide variety of plants in a fairly dense manner so that the plot of land has different layers of a forest such as shrubs and canopies and not just trees.
- Plants typically require anywhere between eight to nine months of care before reaching a point where the micro forest becomes self-sustaining.

#### Morbi

More than 141 people lost their lives when the cable bridge over the Machhu river collapsed in Morbi, Gujarat.

#### About:



- Morbi is a major hub of small and medium industry and India's ceramics factory.
- The more than a century old bridge across the Machchhu river has long been a major tourist attraction.
- Morbi district was created on August 15, 2013, along with several other new districts.
- This district is flanked by Kutch district in the north, Surendranagar district in the east, Rajkot district in the south, and Jamnagar district in the west.

#### Ceramic industry:

- Morbi is famous for its ceramic industry.
- The district is dotted by several hundred ceramic producing factories, mainly medium and small scale units.
- Around 70 per cent of India's ceramics are produced in Morbi, and ceramic tiles manufactured here are exported to countries in the Middle East, East Asia, and Africa.
- The major competition to the Morbi ceramic industry comes only from China.
- Machchhu:



- Machchhu is a small river that rises in the Madla Hills and flows 130 km into the Rann of Kutch.
- In 1979, a major tragedy occurred after a dam on the river failed, inundating Morbi town and killing a large number of people.

### **Machchhu:**

- Machchhu is a small river that rises in the Madla Hills and flows 130 km into the Rann of Kutch.
- In 1979, a major tragedy occurred after a dam on the river failed, inundating Morbi town and killing a large number of people.
- The ‘Jhulto Pul’ on the river:
- The suspension bridge, “Jhulto Pul”, was a pedestrian suspension bridge that was inaugurated in 1879, during the reign of Sir Waghji Ravaji, the Thakur Sahib of Morbi (1858-1922).
- Sir Waghji is credit with planning and building the entire city of Morbi, which included India’s first art deco palace, and a European-style central square known as Green Chowk.

### **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**

Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav recently inaugurated the 70th Foundation Day of EPFO.

**About:**

- It was established in 1952.
- It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment.

**Mandate:**

- It is tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees in implementing the following three schemes for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India:
- EPF Scheme 1952;
- Pension scheme 1995 (EPS); and
- Insurance scheme (EDLI).
- It is also the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries on a reciprocal basis.
- In 2014, union government launched Universal Account Number (UAN) for Employees covered by EPFO to enable PF number portability.

### **One nation, One ITR form**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has proposed a single income tax return (ITR) form for all taxpayers.

**About:**

- According to the proposal, all taxpayers,

barring trusts and non-profit organisations, can use the common ITR form, which also includes a separate head for disclosure of income from virtual digital assets.

- The draft ITR form aims to bring ease of filing returns and reduce the time for filing the ITR by individuals and non-business-type taxpayers considerably.
- It proposes to introduce a common ITR by merging all the existing returns of income except ITR-7. However, the current ITR-1 and ITR-4 will continue.
- This will give an option to such taxpayers to file the return either in the existing form (ITR-1 or ITR-4), or the proposed common ITR, at their convenience.

**Current Scenario:**

- There are seven kinds of ITR forms, which are used by different categories of taxpayers. They are as follows:
- ITR Form 1, called ‘Sahaj’, is for small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj forms can be filed by individuals who have an income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- ITR-2 is filed by people with income from residential property.
- ITR-3 is intended for people who have income as profits from business/ profession
- ITR-4 (Sugam) is, like ITR-1 (Sahaj), a simple forms, and can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession.
- ITR-5 and 6 are for limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and businesses respectively.
- ITR-7 is filed by trusts and non-profit organisations.

### **Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO)**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently asked the States/Union Territories to appoint a Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPO) in every police station to exclusively deal with children, either as victims or perpetrators.

**About:**

- According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, there should be at least one officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, as CWPO in every station.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had requested that a Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city, which is headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent



of Police, be established.

- The unit would comprise CWPOs and two social workers having experience of working in the field of child welfare, of whom one shall be a woman, to co-ordinate all functions of police in relation to children.
- The contact particulars of the CWPOs should be displayed in all police stations for the public to contact.

### Article 142 of Constitution of India

The Supreme Court recently upheld the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014 of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as "legal and valid" while reading down certain provisions. The court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to allow eligible employees who had not opted for enhanced pension coverage prior to the 2014 amendments, to jointly do so with their employers within the next four months.

#### 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.

#### Article 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.

### Governor

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader TR

Baalu has recently urged "all like-minded MPs" to support a proposal to remove Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi.

#### About:

#### Governor's appointment, removal:

- Article 155 and 156: Under Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution, a Governor is appointed by the President and holds office "during the pleasure of the President".
- If this pleasure is withdrawn before completion of the five-year term, the Governor has to step down.
- As the President works on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister and the council of ministers, in effect, the Governor can be appointed and removed by the central government.
- Thus, a Governor is a representative of the Union government in states.
- Article 163: Article 163 of the Constitution says the Governor will normally be aided and advised by the Council of Ministers except in those functions which require his discretion.
- While the Governor's duties and responsibilities lie in a particular state, there is no provision for impeaching the Governor.

### National Population Register (NPR)

According to the Union Home Ministry Annual Report, there is a need to update the National Population Register (NPR) again to incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration for which demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are to be collected.

#### About:

- The National Population Register (NPR) is a register of usual residents of the country.
- It includes both Indian citizens as well as a foreign citizen.
- According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, a usual resident is a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

#### Timeline:

- The first National Population Register was

prepared in 2010 and updation of this data was done during 2015 by conducting door to door survey.

- The next update of the NPR will take place next year from April to September 2020 in all the States/UTs except Assam along with the Houselisting phase of the Census 2021.

#### Details required for NPR:

- The demographic details of every individual are required on 21 points which includes 'date and place of birth of parents', last place of residence, Permanent Account Number (PAN), Aadhar (on a voluntary basis), Voter ID card number, Driving License Number and Mobile Number.
- In the last NPR done in 2010, the data was collected on the 15 points and it did not include 'date and place of birth of parents' and last place of residence.

### Mother Tongue Survey of India

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has completed the Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) with field videography of the country's 576 languages.

#### About:

- According to the report, the Mother Tongue Survey of India is a project that "surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades".
- It also documents the linguistic features of the selected languages.
- The report states that the NIC and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) will be documenting and preserving the linguistic data of the surveyed mother tongues in audio-video files.
- Video-graphed speech data of Mother Tongues will also be uploaded on the NIC survey for archiving purposes.
- Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) is a regular research activity in the country since the 6th Five Year Plan.

#### How many "mother tongues" does India have, and what is spoken the most?

- As per an analysis of 2011 linguistic census data in 2018, more than 19,500 languages or dialects are spoken in India as mother tongues.
- The category "mother tongue" is a designation provided by the respondent, but it need not be identical with the actual linguistic medium.
- After subjecting the 19,569 returns to linguistic scrutiny, edit and rationalisation,

they were grouped into 121 mother tongues.

- According to the 2011 linguistic census, Hindi is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with 52.8 crore people or 43.6 per cent of the population declaring it as the mother tongue.
- The next highest is Bengali, mother tongue for 9.7 crore individuals, and accounting for 8 per cent of the population.

#### Mother tongue in the education of children:

- The new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the foundational stages of education, has recommended that mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction in schools for children up to eight years of age.
- The focus on mother tongue as the medium of instruction, especially for primary schooling, has been a feature of education policies for years.
- The new NCF, which deals with pre-school and classes I-II, emphasises the virtues of the mother tongue as the primary medium of instruction, saying that by the time children join pre-school, they acquire significant competence in the "home language".
- According to the NCF, evidence from research confirms the importance of teaching children in their mother tongue during the foundational years and beyond.
- NCF also states that since children learn concepts most rapidly and deeply in their home language, the primary medium of instruction would optimally be the child's home language/ mother tongue/ familiar language in the Foundational Stage.

### Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) recently announced setting up the Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF).

#### About:

- It is a multi-donor trust fund, established with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- It will be managed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO) to support global action on disaster resilience of infrastructure systems, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Around \$50 million in financial commitments have already been announced for IRAF over an initial duration of five years.



- IRAF will play a crucial role in equipping the Coalition to deliver improved infrastructure governance, inclusive infrastructure services, diversified knowledge, and financing for resilient infrastructure globally.
- One of the first initiatives to be supported by the IRAF is the Infrastructure for the Resilient Island States (IRIS).
- Supported by the Governments of India, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the European Union, IRAF's multi-pronged program focus will offer customised technical assistance, capacity building, research, knowledge management, and advocacy across the infrastructure life cycle for countries at all stages of development.

### Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

- CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019.
- It is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
- It aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.
- CDRI promotes rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals' imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.



### Central Counterparty Clearing House (CCP)

Recently, the European Union's financial markets regulator European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) said it will withdraw recognition of six Indian clearing bodies or central counterparties (CCPs).

### About:

- These six CCPs are
- Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL),
- Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL),
- NSE Clearing Ltd (NSCCL),
- Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing (MCXCCL),
- India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd (IICC) and
- NSE IFSC Clearing Corporation Ltd (NICCL).
- As per the European Market Infrastructure Regulations (EMIR), a CCP in a third country can provide clearing services to European banks only if it is recognized by the ESMA.

### Reason for derecognition:

- The ESMA said it reviewed the recognition of all third country CCPs (TC-CCPs) that had been recognised prior to September 21, 2020, as per the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) regime.
- The decision to derecognise Indian CCPs came due to 'no cooperation arrangements' between the ESMA and Indian regulators — the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- The EU regulator said it will defer the application of the withdrawal decisions until April 30, 2023 to mitigate the adverse impact of the move on EU market participants.
- The ESMA wants to supervise these CCPs, which the Indian regulators are not in favour of as they feel that these entities have robust risk management and there is no need for a foreign regulator to inspect them.

### Grid Controller of India Limited

India's National Grid Operator "Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)" recently announced that POSOCO has changed its name to "Grid Controller of India Limited".

### About:

- The change in name has been made to reflect the critical role of Grid Operators in ensuring integrity, reliability, economy, resilience and sustainable operation of the Indian Electricity Grid.
- "Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India)" operates the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) and five (5) Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs).
- Grid-India is also designated as the nodal agency for major reforms in the power sector such as implementation and operation of Green Energy Open Access



Portal, Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Mechanism, transmission pricing, short term open access in transmission, Deviation Settlement Mechanism, Power System Development Fund (PSDF), etc.

### Central Counterparty Clearing house (CCP):

- A central counterparty clearing house (CCP) is an entity that helps facilitate trading in various European derivatives and equities markets.
- Typically operated by the major banks in each country, CCPs strive to introduce efficiency and stability into various financial markets.
- It reduces counterparty, operational, settlement, market, legal, and default risk for traders.
- A CCP acts as a counterparty to both sellers and buyers, collecting money from each, which allows it to guarantee the terms of a trade.

#### CCPs perform two main functions as the intermediary in a market transaction

- clearing and settlement and
- guarantee the terms of a trade.

A CCP is authorised by the RBI to operate in India under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007



### Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS)

Insurance regulator IRDAI has rejected Fairfax proposal to convert the company's holdings in compulsory convertible preferred shares (CCPS) issued by Go Digit Infoworks into equity shares.

#### About:

- CCPS, or Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares, are a key element of startup financing.
- It gives the assurance of a fixed rate of return plus the opportunity for capital appreciation.
- These shares carry certain terms—if an early investor has CCPS, he can have more

rights than other investors who come in later at a higher valuation.

- It also helps investors maintain their stake and have a say even if their stake gets diluted later.
- However, these shares get converted to ordinary equity shares after 10-15 years.
- That is more than sufficient time for most startups to give their investors an exit.
- CCPS also helps founders keep control of a company even if their stake is lower than that of investors.

### Millet

The Central government has recently formulated an action plan to promote exports of millet. The government has planned to facilitate participation of exporters, farmers, and traders in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meet for exports and promotion of Indian millets across the globe.

#### About:

- According to the action plan, Indian missions abroad would be roped in branding and publicity of Indian millets.
- This include, identification of potential buyers such as departmental stores, supermarkets, and hypermarkets for organizing business-to-business meetings and direct tie-ups.
- As part of the promotion of Indian millets, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has planned to showcase millets and its value-added product on various global platforms.

#### International Year of Millets:

- The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- India is one of the leading producers of millet in the world with an estimated share of around 41 percent in global production.
- The country recorded 27 percent growth in millet production in 2021-22 which stood at 15.92 million metric tonnes.
- The country's top five millet-producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
- It is estimated that the millets market is set to grow to 12 billion US dollars by 2025 from the current 9 billion dollars.

### DigiLocker

DigiLocker has successfully completed its second-level of integration with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The secure cloud-based storage platform of DigiLocker can be used now as a health locker for storing and accessing health records such as vaccination records, doctor prescriptions, lab

reports, hospital discharge summaries etc.



#### About:

- DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India programme.
- DigiLocker aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of citizen by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet.
- The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.
- Benefits to Citizens:
  - Important Documents Anytime, Anywhere!
  - Authentic Documents, Legally at Par with Originals.
  - Digital Document Exchange with the consent of the citizen.
  - Faster service Delivery- Government Benefits, Employment, Financial Inclusion, Education, Health

#### International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is all set for its 53rd edition in 2022 in Goa



#### About:

- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), founded in 1952, is among Asia's most prominent film festivals.
- It is held annually, currently in the state of Goa.
- Since 2004, starting from the 35th edition,

the International Film Festival of India, became globally competitive, and moved to its permanent venue Goa, and is being held during the months of November and December of each year.

- The festival is conducted jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and the Government of Goa.
- The idea of the International Film Festival of India is to celebrate films, the stories they tell and the people behind them.

#### Nikshay Mitra

Union Health Ministry designated Padma Shri, Khel Ratna Arjuna Awardee and the President of the Paralympic Committee of India Deepa Malik as Nikshay Mitra ambassador.

#### About:

- It is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- It is an initiative launched by President Droupadi Murmu which strives to provide aid to TB-afflicted patients on three levels of nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational support.
- Objective:
  - It aims to eradicate the existing societal stigma and discrimination against TB patients and provide them with much-needed nutritional and social support, and help them lead a normal life.
  - It also aims to encourage elected representatives, corporates, NGOs, and individuals to come forward as donors/sponsors to help the patients complete their journey toward recovery.
  - Ni-kshay 2.0 portal: The Ni-kshay 2.0 portal provides a digital platform for extending community support to persons with TB and leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities.
  - Timeframe: Support can be extended to persons with TB, for a minimum duration of one year and a maximum of three years, in any block or district across the country.

#### National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Gram Panchayats

A three-day National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats through Adopting Thematic Approaches: Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood Gram Panchayats is being organised during 14 – 16 November, 2022 at CIAL Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala.

#### About:

- The workshop aims to create awareness on



- the national level importance of addressing
- marginalisation – inclusion and access to basic services, social safety nets and protection systems – leveraging National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) through Panchayats, and
- livelihoods – the role of Panchayats in addressing income inequality & poverty, eradicating extreme poverty and improving employment opportunities for poor, vulnerable and marginalized sections and
- building resilience of vulnerable communities against the sudden shocks brought about by disasters and extreme climate events.

### Sustainable Development Goals:

- Sustainable Development Goals adopted by United Nations came into effect from January 1, 2016.
- Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has adopted thematic approach to SDGs – It is approach to ensure ‘local action’ for achieving ‘global plan’.
- The approach aims to localise SDGs in rural areas through PRIs, especially Gram Panchayats by clubbing 17 ‘Goals’ into ‘9 Themes’.
- Appropriate policy decisions and revisions have followed resulting into revamping of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPD) Guidelines which smoothens the process of Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Gram Panchayats.



### Indian Biological Data Bank

The ‘Indian Biological Data Bank’ has recently come up at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Faridabad.

#### About:

- The government has for the first time set up a digitised repository where Indian

researchers will store biological data from publicly funded research, reducing their dependency on American and European data banks.

- The digitised data will be stored on a four-petabyte supercomputer called ‘Brahm’.
- A petabyte equals 10,00,000 gigabytes (gb).
- The government has mandated that data from all publicly funded research should be stored in this central repository.
- So it will not only provide a platform to researchers to securely store their data within the country, it will also provide access to a large database of indigenous sequences for analyses.
- At present, most Indian researchers depend on the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and National Center for Biotechnology Information databases for storing the biological data.
- There are other smaller datasets available with some institutes, but those are not accessible to all. This will be the first national data repository, where the data will not only be submitted from across India but can be accessed by researchers from across India.

### In Our LiFetime” campaign

“In our LiFetime” Campaign was recently launched by India at COP 27, Sharm El-Sheikh.

#### About:

- National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched “In Our LiFetime” campaign.
- It aims to encourage youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.
- This campaign envisions to recognize youth from around the world taking climate action initiatives that resonate with the concept of LiFE.
- The campaign will involve more youth in the conversation about climate change, adaptation and mitigation, and provide them a platform to share their concerns, issues and solutions with the leaders of the world.

### Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy

India recently submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during the 27th Conference of Parties



(COP27).

### About:



### The salient features of the strategy are:

- The focus will be on the rational utilization of national resources with due regard to energy security. The transitions from fossil fuels will be undertaken in a just, smooth, sustainable and all-inclusive manner.
- The National Hydrogen Mission launched in 2021 aims to make India a green hydrogen hub.
- Increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol, the drive to increase electric vehicle penetration, and the increased use of green hydrogen fuel are expected to drive the low carbon development of the transport sector.
- Smart city initiatives, integrated planning of cities for mainstreaming adaptation and enhancing energy and resource efficiency, effective green building codes and rapid developments in innovative solid and liquid waste management.
- Improving energy efficiency by the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, National Hydrogen Mission, high level of electrification in all relevant processes and activities, enhancing material efficiency and recycling leading to expansion of circular economy, and exploring options for hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel, cement, aluminium and others.
- India is on track to fulfilling its NDC commitment of 5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional carbon sequestration in forest and tree cover by 2030.
- Provision of climate finance by developed countries will play a very significant role and needs to be considerably enhanced.
- India's approach is based on the following four key considerations that underpin its long-term low-carbon development strategy:
- India has contributed little to global warming, its historical contribution to

cumulative global GHG emissions being minuscule despite having a share of ~17% of the world's population.

- India has significant energy needs for development.
- India is committed to pursuing low-carbon strategies for development and is actively pursuing them, as per national circumstances

### India needs to build climate resilience.

- The two themes of “climate justice” and “sustainable lifestyles”, alongside the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of national circumstances, that India had emphasized at Paris, are at the heart of a low-carbon, low-emissions future.

### Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently said that CAG is among the most effective and prestigious audit institutions in the world.

### About:

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the apex authority responsible for external and internal audits of the expenses of the National and state governments in the country.
- The Constitution of India provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in Chapter V.
- The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.

### Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 148 broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- Article 149 deals with duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- Article 151 says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.
- As per Article 279 Calculation of “net proceeds” is ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate is final.
- Third Schedule of the Constitution of India

prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.

#### Appointment and Terms of Service:

- As per Article 148 of the Constitution, there shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President and can be removed from office only in the manner and on the grounds that a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed.
- He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

#### Functions of CAG:

- CAG audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated Fund of each state and UT's having a legislative assembly.
- He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the Contingency Fund and Public Account of each state.
- He audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and the state governments.
- CAG audits the receipts and expenditure of all bodies and authorities substantially financed from the Central or State revenues; government companies; other corporations and bodies, when so required by related laws.
- He audits the accounts of any other authority when requested by the President or Governor e.g. Local bodies.
- He advises the President with regard to prescription of the form in which the accounts of the Centre and States shall be kept.

#### Reports by CAG:

- The CAG submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to the President, who shall, in turn, place them before both the houses of Parliament.
- He submits 3 audit reports to the President-
  - Audit report on appropriation accounts
  - Audit report on finance accounts
  - Audit report on public undertakings
- He also submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of a State to the Governor, who shall, in turn, place them before the state legislature.

### SHAKTI Policy

Ministry of Power recently launched scheme for

Procurement of Aggregate Power of 4500 MW for five years under SHAKTI Policy.

#### About:

- The scheme will help states that are facing power shortage and help generation plants to increase their capacities.
- PFC Consulting Limited has been designated as the nodal agency. It has invited bids for the supply of 4,500 MW electricity.
- The supply will commence from April 2023.
- The utilities that have shown interest for the scheme are Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd, New Delhi Municipal Corporation and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd.
- It is for the first time that bidding is being carried out under B(v) of SHAKTI scheme.

#### SHAKTI Scheme:

- SHAKTI, or Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India, was launched in 2018.
- It aims to provide coal to stressed power units which lack coal supply.



### Draft digital data protection Bill

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) recently released the revamped draft data protection Bill.

#### About:

- The first draft of the Bill was presented by an expert panel headed by Justice B.N. Srikrishna in July 2018.

#### Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022:

- The new Bill now being called the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, has provisions on 'purpose limitations' around data collection, grounds for collecting and processing personal data, relaxation on cross-border data flows, and imposes




significant penalties on businesses for violating provisions of the Bill.

- Cross-border data flows: The proposed legislation offers significant concessions on cross-border data flows, in a departure from the previous Bill's contentious requirement of local storage of data within India's geography.
- According to the new draft, the Centre will notify regions to which data of Indians can be transferred.
- Penalties: The draft also proposes to impose significant penalties on businesses that undergo data breaches or fail to notify users when breaches happen.
- Entities that fail to take "reasonable security safeguards" to prevent personal data breaches will be fined as high as Rs 250 crore.
- If an entity fails to notify users about a data breach, the fine could go as high as Rs 200 crore.
- Data localisation: The new Bill would relax data localisation requirements and allow data flows to trusted geographies.

#### Exemptions:

- National security-related exemptions have been kept intact in the new Bill.
- The Centre has been empowered to notify such exemptions in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, maintenance of public order or preventing incitement to any cognisable offence relating to any of these.
- The government could also exempt certain businesses from adhering to provisions of the Bill on the basis of number of users and the volume of personal data processed by the entity.
- This has been done keeping in mind startups of the country who had complained that the previous version of the Bill was too "compliance intensive".

**Bill's ambit**  
The draft Bill narrows the scope of the data protection regime to personal data protection – a move welcomed by the industry

	<b>THIS ACT APPLIES TO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Personal data collected from users online</li><li>■ Data collected offline, but later digitised</li></ul>	<b>THE ACT EXCLUDES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Personal data processed by an individual for personal or domestic purpose</li><li>■ Recorded personal data in existence for at least 100 years</li></ul>
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- Data Protection Board: The Bill also proposes to set up a Data Protection Board to ensure compliance with the Bill.

- It can impose a penalty of up to ₹500 crore if non-compliance by a person is found to be significant.

### Battle of Rezang La

November 18, 2022, is the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Rezang La, one of the few bright spots in the War of 1962 with China.

#### About:



- The Battle of RezangLa is an epic battle Indian Army ever fought in hostile conditions in eastern Ladakh region.
- RezangLa showed sheer tenacity and valour of the soldiers of 'Charlie Company of 13 Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army.
- Sixty years ago on the morning of November 18th, fierce fight broke when over Five thousand Chinese with heavy artillery support have attacked Charlie Company, protecting the airfield of Chushul.
- 120 brave soldiers of Charlie Company of 13 Kumaon Regiment led by commanding officer Major Shaitan Singh had delivered the heaviest blow to the Chinese People's Liberation Army, by killing over thousand Chinese soldiers in the fight.
- As many as 114 soldiers of C company died fighting.
- The bravery of Indian soldiers in this battle forced China to declared ceasefire.

### Donyi Polo Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Greenfield airport in Arunachal Pradesh -- the Donyi Polo Airport at Itanagar.

#### About

- With Donyi Polo Airport, all eight northeastern state capitals will now have airports. This will be the third operational airport in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The name of the airport reflects the traditions and rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and its age-old indigenous reverence to the Sun (Donyi) and Moon (Polo).
- This is the seventh airport to have been built in the Northeast in the last eight years. This rapid development of airports in the region is in keeping with the government's



- emphasis on increasing connectivity.
- This is also the first greenfield project in northeast India.

### What are greenfield projects?

- A Greenfield project is a project built from scratch or from ground up and it lacks constraints of prior work. In a greenfield project there are no existing buildings or infrastructure, everything is built from scratch, and in such projects, there is no need to demolish or remodel any existing project.

### Kameng Hydro power Station

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station in Arunachal Pradesh.

#### About

- It is the biggest Hydro Power Project implemented by NEEPCO Ltd., a Mini Ratna Power PSU under Ministry of Power.
- 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station in Arunachal Pradesh will be a major step towards fulfilling Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the Govt. of India.
- The project will form part of projected hydro capacity addition of 30000 MW by 2030.
- This will make Arunachal Pradesh a power surplus state with huge benefits to the National Grid in terms of grid stability and integration and balancing of solar and wind energy sources in the grid.

### 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh to inaugurate the 25th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) to be held in Katra, Jammu & Kashmir on 26th November, 2022.

#### About:

- Theme: “Bringing citizens, industry and government closer”.
- Presented by: Department of Administrative reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG) presents National Awards every year during National conference on e-Governance.
- Objective: To recognize and promote Excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- Who are conferred the awards?
- The Award recognizes some of the best Government to Government (G to G), Government to Citizen (G to C), Government to Business (G to B) initiatives taken by government departments.
- It also recognizes initiatives in Start-ups, Academic Research Institutions as

well as initiatives in adopting emerging technologies.

- Categories:
- It will be presented under 5 categories of the NAeG Scheme - 2022 to 18 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State and District levels, Academic & Research Institutions and Public Sector Undertaking.
- This includes 9 Gold and 9 Silver Awards.

### National Suicide Prevention Strategy

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently announced a National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

#### About:

- It is the first of its kind in the country, with time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.
- The strategy broadly seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
- It aims to establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years.
- It also seeks to integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
- It envisages developing guidelines for responsible media reporting of suicides, and restricting access to means of suicide.
- The stress is on developing community resilience and societal support for suicide prevention.
- While the strategy is in line with the WHO’s South East-Asia Region Strategy for suicide prevention, it says it will remain true to India’s cultural and social milieu.

#### Suicides in India:

- In India, more than one lakh lives are lost every year to suicide, and it is the top killer in the 15-29 years category.
- In the past three years, the suicide rate has increased from 10.2 to 11.3 per 1,00,000 population.
- The most common reasons for suicide include family problems and illnesses, which account for 34% and 18% of all suicide-related deaths.

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### National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) recently celebrated the

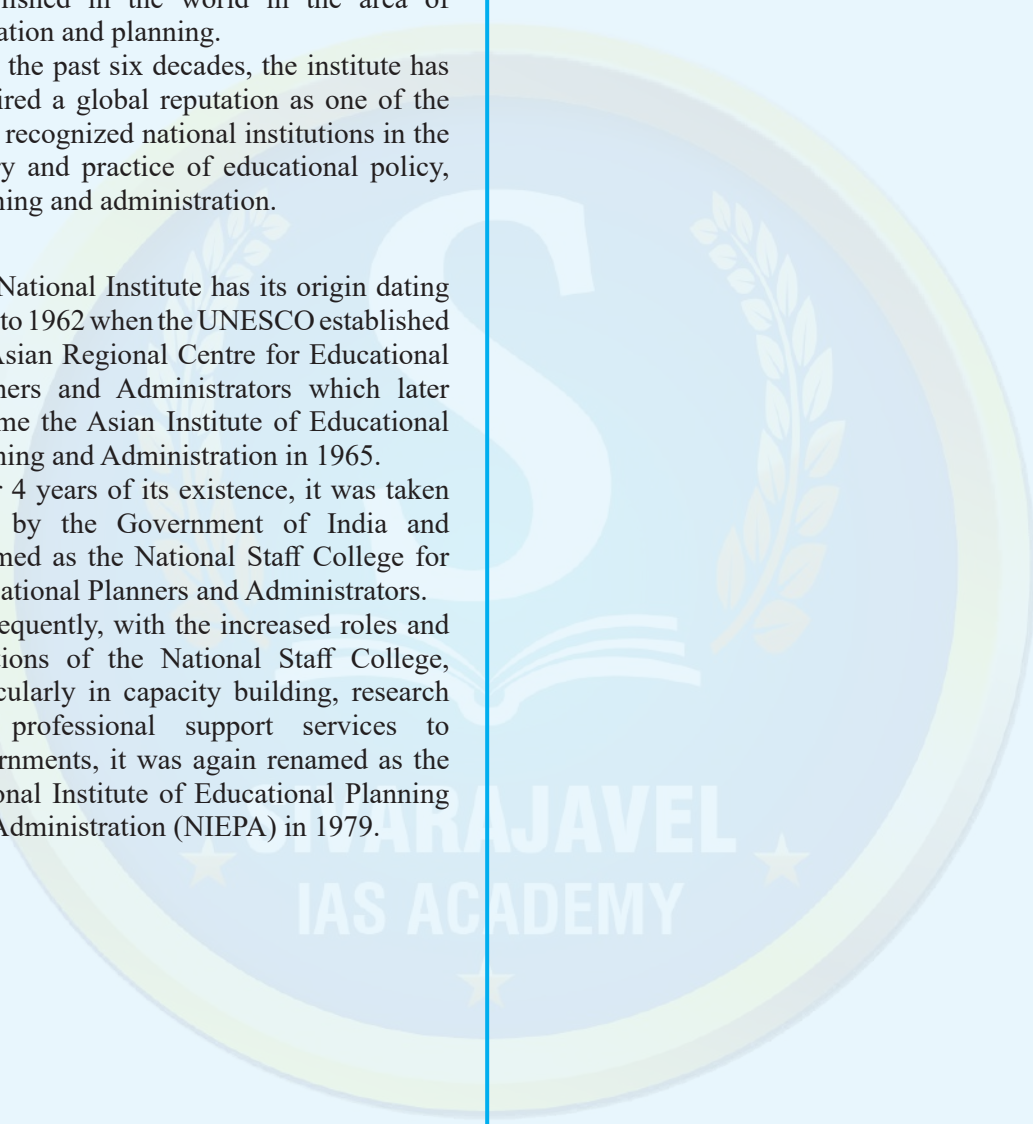
Diamond Jubilee anniversary of its establishment.

**About:**

- It was established by the erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India.
- It is a premier organization dealing with capacity building and research in planning and management of education not only in India but also in South Asia.
- The Institution is one of the first institutions established in the world in the area of education and planning.
- Over the past six decades, the institute has acquired a global reputation as one of the most recognized national institutions in the theory and practice of educational policy, planning and administration.

**History:**

- The National Institute has its origin dating back to 1962 when the UNESCO established the Asian Regional Centre for Educational Planners and Administrators which later became the Asian Institute of Educational Planning and Administration in 1965.
- After 4 years of its existence, it was taken over by the Government of India and renamed as the National Staff College for Educational Planners and Administrators.
- Subsequently, with the increased roles and functions of the National Staff College, particularly in capacity building, research and professional support services to governments, it was again renamed as the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) in 1979.





### **1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival 2022**

- The 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF) was inaugurated by Dr. Srivari Chandrashekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology on 27th October 2022 in Bogor, Indonesia.
- The inaugural event was felicitated by Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community, and Ambassador, Mr. Jayant Khobragde, Indian Mission to ASEAN (IMA).

### **Ghana to assume Presidency of UN Security Council**

- West African country, Ghana assumes the rotating monthly Presidency of the United Nations Security Council.
- During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (adoptions, debates and consultations) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

### **Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation Asia Pacific Conference**

- Goa to host three days Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) Conference from 1st to 3rd November 2022.
- In these three days, delegates and exhibitors from the Asia Pacific region and beyond will discuss and collaborate on the key issues that will help shape the future of Asia's aviation industry.

### **China Holds First China-Indian Ocean Region Forum Without India**

- China organized the first high-level China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, with 19 countries from the region except for India.
- The event was quietly held along with many other events including the 6th China-South Asia expo, and the China-Indian Ocean region thinktank forum in a hybrid format in Kunming, showcasing China's continuing quest for a larger presence and role in the strategically important Indian Ocean.

### **India Expresses Commitment to Peace, Security and Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific Region**

- India and Asean in a joint statement reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety, freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region, and also commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS.



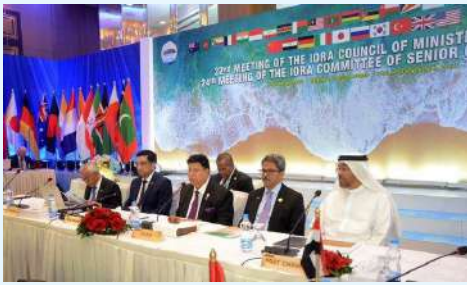
### **Qatar signed world's 'longest' gas supply deal with China**

- QatarEnergy announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China, calling it the "longest" ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia while Europe scrambles for alternative sources.
- The state energy company will send four million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec).

### **22nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers' Meeting**

- India participated in the 22nd Council of Ministers's meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held at Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.





### About IORA:

- The idea for IORA first surfaced during the late South African President Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India.
- IORA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region through its 23 Member States bordering the Indian Ocean and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- It is a regional forum that is tripartite in nature and brings together representatives of Government, Business, and Academia, in order to foster cooperation and closer engagement among them.

### It's Members :

- Commonwealth of Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Maldives, Republic of Mauritius, Republic of Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Singapore, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Africa, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Kingdom of Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Republic of Yemen.

### G7 Nations Launched Climate 'Shield' Fund

- Global Shield Fund coordinated by G7's president Germany and the V20 group of climate-vulnerable countries, it aims to rapidly provide pre-arranged insurance and disaster protection funding after events such as floods, droughts and hurricanes hit.
- A G7-led plan dubbed "Global Shield" to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters was launched at the U.N. COP27 summit, although some questioned the effectiveness of the planned scheme

### "In Our LiFEtime" Campaign Launched by India at COP 27

- National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), under the Ministry of Envi-

ronment Forest and Climate Change and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched "In Our LiFEtime" campaign.

- This campaign envisions to recognize youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.
- The campaign gives a global call for ideas from youth across the world who are passionate about living environment conscious lives.
- The youth will be encouraged to submit their climate actions that contribute to lifestyles for the environment within their capacity, which are sustainable and scalable, and serve as good practices that can be shared globally.

### ASEAN Agreed to Admit East Timor as 11th member

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11th member, the 10 member-bloc said in a statement, more than a decade after the country requested membership.
- East Timor province remained in Portuguese possession until 1975, when one of the major political parties there, Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor), gained control of much of the territory and in November declared its independence as the Democratic Republic of East Timor.
- Early in December Indonesian forces invaded and occupied the area, and in 1976 Indonesia declared it to be an integral part of that country as the province of East Timor (Timor Timur).

### Year 2022 declared as ASEAN-India Friendship year

- ASEAN-India Friendship year:
- The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership.
- A series of events has been planned to celebrate the occasion throughout the year. As a part of this programme, Indian media delegation is on a visit to Singapore and Cambodia under the ASEAN-INDIA Media exchange programme from 8th November to 13th November.

### Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO)

The SCO Member States recently confirmed their

commitment to formation of a more representative, democratic, just and multipolar world order based on universally recognized principles of the international law and multilateralism.

#### About:

- The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance and has been the primary security pillar of the region.
- History:
- It was established in 2001. It was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.
- It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.
- The organisation has two permanent bodies:
- the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing.
- the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.
- Membership:
- Eight member states: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.
- Four observer states: Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

### Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

The 9th round of India-Republic of Korea (ROK) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) up-gradation negotiation was held in Seoul from November 3-4, 2022.

#### About:

- India raised serious concerns on the growing trade deficit between the two countries and discussed market access issues. Both sides agreed to work closely to address tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepen the relationship in the services sector.
- It was agreed that the 10th round of CEPA upgradation negotiations will be hosted by India in early 2023.

### India – ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- ROK and India signed a CEPA in Seoul on 7th August, 2009.
- It commits both countries to lower or eliminate import tariffs on a wide range of goods, over the next 10 years. ROK is reducing

tariffs on 90 percent of Indian goods while India will do so on 85 percent of Korean goods.

#### Types of Trade Agreements:

- Free Trade Agreement: It is an agreement in which two or more countries agree to provide preferential trade terms, tariff concession etc. to the partner country. Here a negative list of products and services is maintained on which the terms of FTA are not applicable.
- Preferential Trade Agreement: In this, two or more partners give preferential right of entry to certain products. This is done by reducing duties on an agreed number of tariff lines. India signed a PTA with Afghanistan.
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement: It is comprehensive than an FTA. CECA/CEPA also looks into the regulatory aspect of trade.
- Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement: CECA generally covers negotiation on trade tariff and TQR rates only. It is not as comprehensive as CEPA. India has signed CECA with Malaysia.
- Framework agreement: It primarily defines the scope and provisions of orientation of the potential agreement between the trading partners. It provides for some new area of discussions and set the period for future liberalisation. India has previously signed framework agreements with the ASEAN, Japan etc.
- Early Harvest Scheme: It is a precursor to an FTA/CECA/CEPA between two trading partners. At this stage, the negotiating countries identify certain products for tariff liberalization pending the conclusion of actual FTA negotiations.

### India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) Scheme

Recently, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance notified Scheme for Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of PPP Projects – India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme)

#### About:

- What is it? It is a Central Sector Scheme which will aid the development of quality PPP projects by providing necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the Central and State Governments.

#### Funding:

- The corpus of the IIPDF shall comprise of



initial budgetary outlay of Rs. 100 Crore by the Ministry of Finance. This would be supplemented, should it become necessary, through budgetary support by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

- Funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme).
- Organisational Structure: The IIPDF will be administered by the Empowered Institution. The Empowered Institution will:
- Select projects for which project development costs will be funded.
- Set the terms and conditions under which the funding will be provided and recovered.
- Set milestones for disbursing and recovering (where appropriate) the funding.
- The Public Private Partnership Cell of the DEA will provide support functions examine the applications received for assistance under IIPDF.

### **Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)**

- Spearheaded by the UAE in partnership with Indonesia, MAC was launched at the COP27 Summit in Egypt to scale up and accelerate the conservation and restoration of the mangrove forests.

#### **About**

- The alliance will raise awareness about the role of mangroves as a “nature-based solution to climate change”.
- The alliance will be amplified at the G20 Summit that will be held between November 15 and 16, 2022 in Bali under the presidency of Indonesia.
- The MAC seeks to scale up, accelerate conservation, restoration and growing plantation efforts of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities globally, and recognize the importance of these ecosystems for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

#### **Mangroves:**

- A mangrove is a shrub or a small tree that grows along the coastlines and has roots in salty sediments, often underwater. They also grow in swamps.
- Mangrove forests can survive extreme weather conditions and require low oxygen levels to survive.
- The mangroves cannot survive freezing temperatures and thus are found mainly in tropical and subtropical latitudes.
- UNESCO celebrates July 26 as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem to raise awareness about mangrove ecosystems and to promote their conservation.

- According to MAC, Mangrove forests can store ten times more carbon per hectare than terrestrial forests. Also, they can store carbon up to 400 per cent faster than land-based tropical rainforests.
- According to Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA), when the mangroves are cut, the carbon stored in these plants gets released into the air. So, preserving them to keep the carbon emissions levels low is necessary.
- Once the plants die, they take the stored carbon into the soil. This is called “Blue Carbon”.
- Moreover, Mangrove forests act as natural barriers against rising tides and storms. Each year, they prevent property damages of over \$65 billion.

#### **Mangroves in India:**

- India contributes to nearly half of the total mangrove cover in South Asia.
- According to the Forest Survey report 2021 released in January, mangroves cover in the country is 4,992 square km, which is 0.15 per cent of the country’s total geographical area. Since 2019, the cover has risen by only 17 sq km.
- West Bengal has the highest percentage of mangrove cover in India, mainly because it has Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world. It is followed by Gujarat and Andaman, and Nicobar islands.
- Other states that have mangrove cover are Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala.

### **Energy Transition Accelerator (ETA)**

U.S.A recently unveiled a new carbon offset scheme called Energy Transition Accelerator (ETA) for climate finance.

#### **About:**

- It will be developed by the US along with the Bezos Earth Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation and receive inputs from public and private sectors.
- It is a new carbon offset plan that will allow companies to fund clean energy projects in developing countries and gain carbon credits that they can then use to meet their own climate goals, at least partly.
- According to U.S.A, the concept is to put the carbon market to work, deploy capital otherwise undeployable, and speed up the transition from dirty to clean power, for two purposes- to retire unabated coal fired power and accelerate renewables.
- The ETA is expected to deliver deeper and earlier emissions reductions, help developing countries achieve and strengthen



their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and help them advance broader sustainable development goals, including expanded energy access.

- The ETA is expected to operate through 2030, possibly extending to 2035.

### ASEAN-India Friendship Year

The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership

#### About:

- ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- It is a political and economic union of 10 Asian countries aimed at promoting the economic growth, political stability of individual countries, and regional stability among its members.
- Apart from economic and political growth it also focuses on social progress, social-cultural evolution among member countries, and provision of mechanisms and strategies to resolve differences peacefully.
- History: It was formed in 1967, by Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Membership has been extended to include Vietnam, Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei.
- It includes eight dialogue partners -- India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.
- Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia.



### Moscow format

Recently, India joined the latest meeting of the 'Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan' that was in the Russian capital.

#### About:

##### What is it?

- The Moscow format is one of the several dialogue platforms on Afghanistan — which began before the Taliban takeover of Kabul.
- It consists of Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and India.

- The key objective of the Moscow format of consultations is to facilitate the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan to establish peace.
- During the meeting, the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan, including the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government.

### Middle East Green Initiative Summit

Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change attended the Middle East Green Initiative Summit 2022 at COP 27 Egypt.

#### About

- The Middle East Green Initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions from regional hydrocarbon production by more than 60%.
- It also plans to plant 50 billion trees across the Middle East and restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land. The initiative will help reduce global carbon levels by 2.5%.
- The first Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit was hosted by HRH Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister in Riyadh on 25 October 2021.
- It facilitated a first-of-its-kind regional dialogue on climate, with leaders in attendance from 28 countries agreeing to work together to tackle climate change.
- Saudi Arabia plans to rely on renewables for 50% of its electricity generation by 2030, removing 44 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2035.

### G20

Prime Minister will unveil the logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency on 8th November 2022.

#### About:

- G20 Presidency offers India an opportunity to contribute to the global agenda on pressing issues of international importance.
- What is G20? G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

#### Origin and Evolution:

- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular. Its aim was to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in

Washington DC, US.

- The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

### Organizational Structure of G20

- The G-20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff.
- The chair rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries.
- The chair is part of a revolving three-member management group of past, present and future chairs referred to as the
- Working of G20: The preparatory process for the G20 Summit is conducted through the established Sherpa and Finance tracks that prepare and follow up on the issues and commitments adopted at the Summits.
- The Sherpas' Track focuses on non-economic and financial issues, such as development, anti-corruption and food security, while addressing internal aspects such as procedural rules of the G20 process.
- The Finance Track focuses on economic and financial issues.



### Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action recently launched Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2022.

#### About:

- This Yearbook of Global Climate Action, the sixth of the series, reviews the state and scope of global climate action in 2022.
- It outlines what is needed to accelerate sectoral systems transformation, features case studies of real-world climate action projects, highlights some key global climate action topics – particularly regionalization and accountability – and presents the High-Level Champions' contribution to

these issues.

### Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate

#### Action:

- 
- The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and the cities, regions, businesses and investors that must act on climate change.
- It was launched in November 2016 at COP 22.
- Its main objective is to strengthen collaboration between governments and key stakeholders to immediately lower emissions and increase resilience against climate impacts.
- These actions will be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### UN Climate Change High-Level Champions:

- At the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, governments agreed that mobilizing stronger and more ambitious climate action is urgently required to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- To connect the work of governments with the many voluntary and collaborative actions taken by cities, regions, businesses and investors, nations decided to appoint two High Level Champions.

Marrakech  
Partnership



### Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda

Seeking to minimise devastating impacts of climate change on vulnerable people across the globe, the COP27 Presidency has launched the Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda outlining 30 goals to enhance resilience for 4 billion people living in the most climate vulnerable communities by 2030.





## About:

- The 30 Adaptation Outcomes include urgent global 2030 targets related to:
- Transitioning to climate resilient, sustainable agriculture that can increase yields by 17% and reduce farm level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 21%, without expanding agricultural frontiers, and while improving livelihoods including of small-holder farmers
- Protecting and restoring an estimated 400 million hectares in critical areas (land and freshwater ecosystems) supporting indigenous and local communities with use of nature-based solutions to improve water security and livelihoods and to transform 2 billion hectares of land into sustainable management.
- Protecting 3 billion people by installing smart and early warning systems
- Investing USD 4 billion to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves through collective action to halt loss, restore, double protection and ensure sustainable finance for all existing mangroves.
- Expanding access to clean cooking for 2.4 billion people through at least USD 10 billion/year in innovative finance.
- Mobilising USD 140 to USD 300 billion needed across both public and private sources for adaptation and resilience and spur 2,000 of the world's largest companies to integrate physical climate risk and develop actionable adaptation plans
- The Agenda emphasises the urgency for counting with evidence-based, actionable adaptation plans for all actors, making climate risks visible and accessible, and to deploy the locally-led adaptation principles.

### CLIMATE TARGETS

Other key goals of the Sharm-el-Sheikh adaptation agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Protecting and restoring an estimated <b>400 million hectares</b> in critical areas (land and freshwater ecosystems) supporting local communities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ warning systems</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Use of nature-based solutions to improve water security and livelihoods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Expanding access to clean cooking for 2.4 billion people through at least \$10 billion annually in innovative finance</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Tap into nature-based solutions investment opportunities of \$354 billion per year needed by 2030</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Provide evidence-based actionable adaptation plans for 10,000 cities and 100 regional governments across the globe</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Transform 2 billion hectares of land into sustainable management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Increase global consumption of fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts and legumes by 1.5 times</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Protecting 3 billion people by installing smart and early</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Promote healthy alternative proteins, capturing 15% of the global meat and seafood market</li></ul>

## Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA)

Nine countries including Britain, Germany, the

United States and Japan joined an international alliance recently at the UN COP27 climate summit, to encourage the development of offshore wind power.

## About:

- The Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA), established to “remove barriers” to the energy.
- It was set up by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Denmark and the Global Wind Energy Council.
- The alliance is supported by a number of organizations which are actively promoting the offshore wind industry in their different regions.

## Objective:

- It aims to provide the growing offshore wind industry with a one-stop shop overview of all offshore wind industry events around the world.
- Both IRENA and the International Energy Agency (IEA) expect that offshore wind capacity will need to exceed 2000 GW in 2050, from just over 60 GW today, to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degree Celsius and achieve net zero.
- To reach this target, GOWA will aim to contribute to accelerating growth to reach a total of at least 380 GW installed capacity by the end of 2030.

## International Forum on ‘Right to Drug-free Childhood’

The UN-backed conclave will open in Thiruvananthapuram on November 16, featuring prominent voices against drug abuse from India and abroad.

## About:

- It is organised by Fourth Wave Foundation (FWF) in partnership with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD).
- Theme: ‘Children Matter-Right to a Drug-Free Childhood’ is the central theme of the meet.
- Fourth Wave Foundation’s initiative against substance abuse named ‘VENDA’ (No to Drugs), strongly advocates the ‘alternative pursuit’ model in Kerala on the lines of Icelandic Model (IM).
- Major activities of ‘VENDA’ include empowerment programmes for children, football training, summer camp, football tourney ‘Venda Cup’ and awareness classes for parents, teachers, counsellors, police and excise officers.
- ‘VENDA’ is active in districts that have a very high number of drug-addicted teens found by the National Action Plan for Drug



Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) survey conducted by the Narcotic Control Bureau.

- The increasing relevance of the Icelandic Model (IM) of intervention in bringing teenagers affected by drug use disorders back to normal life through alternative pursuits will be a key topic of deliberations at the International Forum on 'Right to Drug-free Childhood'.
- Around 30 years ago, Iceland was the hotspot of teenage drug consumption in Europe.
- Today, the country stands first on the European list of de-addicted teenagers.

### East Asia Summit

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently addressed the East Asia Summit.

#### About:

- Beginning in 2005, 16 participating countries comprised this grouping, with their first meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- These members were the 10 ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.
- ASEAN's 10 member countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The United States and the Russian Federation joined at the 6th East Asia Summit in 2011.
- The EAS is an ASEAN initiative and refers to the annual Meeting of Heads of States/Governments of these countries, where they are able to discuss common concerns and interests.
- Its creation was based on the idea of enhancing cooperation among East Asian countries and those in the neighbouring regions.

#### Priority areas of cooperation:

- Six priority areas of cooperation were identified – environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, and ASEAN Connectivity.
- In the past, the issues of claims over the South China Sea, the United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea, terrorism, the actions of North Korea and the conflict situation in Myanmar have been discussed by the countries.

#### EAS's links with India:

- This year marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and is being cel-

ebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

- Vice President recently announced an additional contribution of USD 5 million to the ASEAN-India science and technology fund to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.



### India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue

India and Australia recently convened their fifth bilateral Cyber Policy Dialogue in New Delhi.

#### About:

- The Cyber Policy Dialogue was held under the auspices of the India-Australia Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation and Plan of Action 2020-2025 for a comprehensive and deeper cyber cooperation.
- It provides a bilateral platform to discuss a range of high-profile issues of mutual interest.

#### Discussions:

- Discussions at this Dialogue included strategic priorities, cyber threat assessment, next generation telecommunications (including 5G technology) capacity building and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and the latest developments in cyber at the United Nations.
- Australia and India agreed to explore opportunities for further collaboration with the private sector and academia.

#### Cyber Bootcamp:

- Both countries will jointly conduct a Cyber Bootcamp, as well as Cyber and Tech Policy Exchanges, in collaboration with Indo-Pacific partners.
- The sixth India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue will be held next year.

### 10th International Tourism Mart (ITM)

The 10th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the northeast region will begin in Mizoram capital Aizawl on November 18, 2022.

### About:

- The 10th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the northeast region will focus on “priorities of G20 for tourism track”, since India will assume the yearlong Presidency of the influential group for a year from December 1 to November 30 next year.
- Mizoram is hosting this mart for the first time.
- The earlier editions of the event have been held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok, Agartala, Imphal and Kohima.

### International Tourism Mart (ITM):

- The International Tourism Mart (ITM) is an annual event organised in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
- It brings together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the 8 North Eastern States.
- The event has been planned to facilitate interaction between buyers, sellers, media, Government agencies and other stakeholders.
- The ITMs are organised in the 8 North Eastern States on rotation basis.



### India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA)

Recently, an Australian parliamentary committee on treaties has recommended to its government to ratify the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA).



### About

- AI-ECTA needs ratification by the Australia-

lian parliament before its implementation. In India, such pacts are approved by the Union Cabinet.

- The agreement, once implemented, will provide duty-free access to the Australian market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery.
- Under the pact, Australia is offering zero-duty access to India for about 96.4% of exports (by value) from day one. This covers many products that currently attract 4-5% customs duty in Australia.
- India's goods exports stood at USD 8.3 billion and imports aggregated to USD 16.75 billion in 2021-22. The agreement would help in taking bilateral trade from USD 27.5 billion at present to USD 45-50 billion in the next five years.
- The Agreement inter-alia covers areas like Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

### Rules of origin

- Rules of origin are the criteria needed to determine the national source of a product. Their importance is derived from the fact that duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports.
- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has no specific rules governing the determination of the country of origin of goods in international commerce. Each contracting party was free to determine its own origin rules, and could even maintain several different rules of origin depending on the purpose of the particular regulation.

### Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

India will take over the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, GPAI from France on November 21.

### About:



- GPAI is an international initiative to support responsible and human-centric develop-



ment and the use of Artificial Intelligence.

- It aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- Members: The GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries, including the US, UK, European Union, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, and Singapore.
- India joined the GPAI in 2020 as a founding member.
- Its Secretariat is hosted at the OECD.
- India occupying the chair also signifies how the world today perceives it as a Trusted Technology partner and one that has always advocated for the ethical use of technology for transforming citizens' lives.
- Artificial Intelligence: Artificial Intelligence is expected to add 967 billion US dollars to the Indian economy by 2035.
- It is also expected to add 450 to 500 billion US dollars to India's GDP by 2025 accounting for 10 per cent of the country's 5 trillion dollar GDP target.

### **International Committee for Weight and Measures (CIPM)**

Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta Director, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, has been elected as a member of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).

About:

- The CIPM is a supreme international committee which functions under the authority of General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM).

### **General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM):**

- CGPM is a highest intergovernmental international organisation created as diplomatic treaty called Meter Convention signed on 20th May 1875 in Paris.
- It is responsible for development and implementation of International Systems of Unites, universally abbreviated as SI, its wide dissemination; make necessary modifications time to time for the advancement of science and technology.
- Advancement of Industry in the country is directly dependent on the state of its metrology capabilities.
- This year CGPM has adopted 7 important resolutions including new SI prefixes ronna ( $10^{27}$ ), quetta ( $10^{30}$ ), ronto ( $10^{-27}$ ) and quecto ( $10^{-30}$ ).

- With this nomenclature, mass of the electron (1 quectogram) and weight of earth (1 ronnagram) can be expressed easily in SI units.

### **India's Standards of Weights and Measures Act:**

- The Government of India enacted the "Standards of Weights and Measures Act" for the first time in 1956 to ensure that every citizen has access to uniform standards of weights and measures those are traceable to the SI units.
- During the year 1957, India became member of the CGPM.

### **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue**

The fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) will start in Delhi on November 23, 2022

About:

- IPRD is an apex level international annual conference of the Indian Navy.
- The idea of an annual IPRD was first conceptualised and conducted in 2018, as the apex level conference of the Indian Navy.
- The National Maritime Foundation is Navy's knowledge partner and chief organizer of each edition of the event.
- The theme of IPRD-2022 is the 'Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative'.
- Objective: To provide a platform to focus attention on the Indo-Pacific, as a maritime geographical-entity, while deliberating aspects of great relevance to regional geopolitics.
- Permanent theme: Review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It is focused on seven interconnected spokes or pillars:
  - Maritime Security,
  - Maritime Ecology,
  - Maritime Resources,
  - Disaster Risk-reduction and Management,
  - Trade-Connectivity and Maritime Transport,
  - Capacity-building and Resource sharing, and
  - Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation.



## India and Gabon Relations

India and Gabon recently held the first Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi.

### About:



- Both sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations, including strengthening of cooperation in trade and economic relations, defence and maritime.
- The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora, climate change, International Solar Alliance and sustainable development.
- India and Gabon have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, which are based on shared democratic values and vision.
- The bilateral relationship has further strengthened in the past few years with opening of the Gabonese Mission in New Delhi and exchange of high-level visits.
- The bilateral trade between India and Gabon is growing at a healthy rate and has touched 1.12 billion dollars in 2021-22 from 440 million dollars in 2017-18.
- India is now the second-largest destination for Gabonese exports.
- Over 50 Indian companies have set up manufacturing units in the Gabon Special Economic Zone.

### Gabon:

- Gabon is a central African country, is rich in natural resources.
- Located on the Atlantic Ocean, it borders Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo.
- It is sparsely populated, with a population of 2.3 million (2021) and forests covering 85% of its territory.
- Gabon, the fourth largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa, posted strong economic growth over the past decade, driven mainly by oil and manganese production.

### Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Recently, India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decide to pursue resumption of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations.

- What it is? It is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. The GCC was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981.
- Objective: The purpose of the GCC is to achieve unity among its members based on their common objectives and their similar political and cultural identities, which are rooted in Arab and Islamic cultures. The Presidency of the council rotates annually.

### Organizational structure:

- The Supreme Council is the highest authority of the organization. It is composed of the heads of the Member-States. Its presidency rotates periodically among the Member States in alphabetical order.
- The Ministerial Council: It is composed of the Foreign Ministers of all the Member States or other ministers deputizing for them. It meets every three months to implement the decisions of the Supreme Council and to propose new policy.
- The Secretariat General: It is the administrative arm of the alliance, which monitors policy implementation and arranges meetings.

### India's trade relations with GCC

- GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc with bilateral trade in FY 2021-22 valued at over USD 154 billion.
- GCC countries contribute almost 35% of India's oil imports and 70% of gas imports.
- India's overall crude oil imports from the GCC in 2021-22 were about \$48 billion, while LNG and LPG imports in 2021-22 were about \$21 billion. Investments from the GCC in India are currently valued at over USD 18 billion.



### International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

India wins the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency and Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair for the 2023-25 term.

### About:

- IEC is an international standard setting body that publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. These are known collectively as “electrotechnology”.
- It is a global, not-for-profit membership organization that brings together 173 countries and coordinates the work of 20 000 experts globally. It was founded in London and held its first meeting on 26 and 27 June 1906.
- IEC Standards provide instructions, guidelines, rules or definitions that are then used to design, manufacture, install, test and certify, maintain and repair electrical and electronic devices and systems.
- Standardization Management Board (SMB) is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.

### Global Technology Summit

The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit will be held from November 29, 2022 till the 1st of December in New Delhi in a hybrid format.

### About:



- The Summit is India’s annual flagship event on Geotechnology and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India.
- The theme for this year’s Summit is ‘Geopolitics of Technology’.
- During the summit, the world’s leading minds in technology, government, security, space, startups, data, law, public health, climate change, academics, economy will gather and debate the vital questions related to technology and its future.
- They will discuss the advantages and challenges of technologies, sustainability, emerging geopolitics in the technology sector, and data for development and ideas for India’s G20 Presidency.



## Sovereign Green Bonds Framework

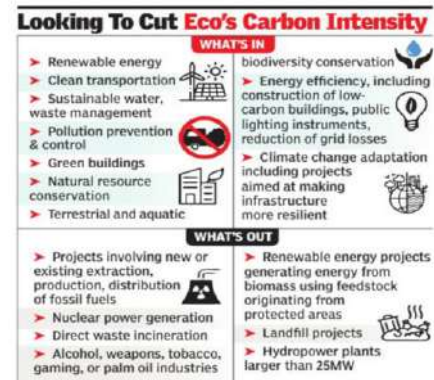
The government recently approved the final sovereign green bonds framework in line with the Budget announcement (Union Budget FY 2022-23).

### About

- Green bonds are financial instruments that generate funds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects.
- Also, green bonds command a relatively lower cost of capital compared to regular bonds.
- This approval will further strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution targets, adopted under the Paris Agreement. It will help in attracting global and domestic investments in eligible green projects.
- The proceeds generated from the issuance of such bonds will be deployed in Public Sector projects which help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy.
- The proceeds will be deposited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) in line with the regular treasury policy, and then funds from the CFI will be made available for eligible green projects.
- Every year, the finance ministry will inform RBI about the spending on green projects for which the funds raised through these bonds will be used.
- The framework comes close in the footsteps of India's commitments under "Panchamrit" as elucidated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 at Glasgow in November 2021.

### Exception:

- The government has excluded nuclear power and large hydropower projects of over 25 MW from the ambit of investments to be made through the issuance of sovereign green bonds.
- All fossil fuel-related projects have been kept out of the framework, along with biomass-based renewable energy projects that rely on feedstock from 'protected areas'.



## Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC):

- The Union Finance Ministry has constituted a Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) with representation from relevant Ministries and chaired by Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India.
- The committee will meet at least twice a year to support Ministry of Finance with selection and evaluation of projects.
- The allocation of the proceeds will be reviewed in a time-bound manner by the GFWC to ensure that the allocation of proceeds is completed within 24 months from the date of issuance.

## India's Economic Growth

Moody's Investor Services has lowered India's economic growth forecast by 70 basis points to 7 per cent for 2022. This is in line with the downward revision of the global growth forecast.

### About:

- The report titled 'Global Macro Outlook 2023-24: Global economy faces a reckoning over inflation, geopolitics and policy trade-offs'.

### Highlights:

- The downward revision assumes higher inflation, high interest rates and slowing global growth will dampen economic momentum by more than previously expected.
- The weakening of the rupee and high oil prices continue to exert upward pressure on inflation, which has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's '4 per cent +/- 2 per cent' target range for much of this year.



- Annual headline CPI inflation increased to 7.5 per cent in September, 2022 after dipping below 7 per cent in July.
- Wholesale price inflation, however, declined for four straight months, from a peak of 16.6 per cent in May to 10.7 per cent in September.
- From May to September, the RBI has raised the repo rate a cumulative 190 bps to 5.9 per cent to contain inflation risks.

#### Other revisions:

- This is not the first downward revision of the Indian economy, though all the revisions are for the fiscal year.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal (FY23) by 60 basis points to 6.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent estimated earlier.
- Before that, the World Bank cut the forecast by 1 percentage point to 6.5 per cent, ADB by 50 basis points to 7 per cent, Fitch by 80 basis points to 7 per cent and the RBI by 20 basis points to 7 per cent.
- S&P Global and OECD have maintained the forecast at 7.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively.

### Current Account Deficit

According to State Bank of India, current account deficit likely to be lower at 3% for this fiscal as against the minimum consensus of 3.5%, citing rising software exports, remittances and a likely \$5-billion jump in forex reserves via swap deals.

#### About:

#### Balance of Payments (BoP):

- The Balance of payments (BoP) records the transactions in goods, services and assets between residents of a country with the rest of the world.
- There are two main accounts in the BoP –
  - the current account and
  - the capital account.

#### Current Account:

- The current account records exports and imports in goods and services and transfer payments.
- Trade in services denoted as invisible trade (because they are not seen to cross national borders) includes both
  - factor income (payment for inputs-investment income, that is, the interest, profits and dividends on our assets abroad minus the income foreigners earn on assets they own in India) and
  - non-factor income (shipping, banking, insurance, tourism, software services, etc.).
- Transfer payments are receipts which the

residents of a country receive 'for free', without having to make any present or future payments in return. They consist of remittances, gifts and grants. They could be official or private.

- The balance of exports and imports of goods is referred to as the trade balance.
- Adding trade in services and net transfers to the trade balance, we get the current account balance.

### India's Exports

India's exports shrink 16.7% and imports rise 5.7% in October 2022.

#### About:

- Merchandise exports declined 16.7% on year in October, the first drop in 20 months and the worst slide since May 2020 when a nation-wide lockdown was imposed to contain the Covid outbreak.
- The curbs on exports of select steel products, iron ore and non-basmati rice and the ban on those of wheat to ease domestic inflation have also contributed to the export decline.
- Exports dropped below the crucial \$30-billion mark for the first time since March 2021 to hit \$29.8 billion. Imports, however, rose 5.7%, to \$56.7 billion.
- Consequently, trade deficit inched up to \$26.9 billion in October from \$25.7 billion in the previous month; but it still remained lower than July's record level of \$30 billion.
- The export decline in October was rather broad-based, as 24 of the 30 key segments—including petroleum products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles and garments, chemicals and pharmaceuticals—witnessed contraction, due to an economic slowdown in key markets that started to weigh down demand.
- However, the sustained rise in imports, albeit at a slower pace, suggests domestic consumption still remains stronger than in many parts of the world.
- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) recently warned of a darkened 2023 and projected that global trade growth will drop to only 1% next year from 3.5% in 2022.

### Global Slowdown

According to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), world economic growth would slow from 3.1% this year — slightly better than foreseen in September — to 2.2% next year, before accelerating to 2.7% in 2024

### About:

- Global growth has seen falling from 1% in 2022 to 2.2% in 2023.
- According to OECD, the global economy should avoid a recession next year but the worst energy crisis since the 1970s will trigger a sharp slowdown, with Europe hit hardest.
- With energy prices likely to remain high, the OECD said central banks should keep raising interest rates to fight inflation, with signs that early hikes in Brazil and the United States were paying off.
- National outlooks vary widely, with the U.K.'s economy set to lag major peers.
- The OECD said the global slowdown was hitting economies unevenly, with Europe bearing the brunt as Russia's war in Ukraine hits business activity and drives up energy prices.
- It forecast that the 19-country euro zone economy would grow 3.3% this year then slow to 0.5% in 2023 before recovering to expand by 1.4% in 2024.
- That was slightly better than the OECD's September outlook, when it estimated 3.1% growth this year and 0.3% in 2023.
- The U.S. economy was set to hold up better, with growth expected to slow from 1.8% this year to 0.5% in 2023 before rising to 1.0% in 2024.
- China, which is not an OECD member, was one of the few major economies expected to see growth pick up next year after a wave of COVID lockdowns.
- Growth there was seen rising from 3.3% this year to 4.6% in 2023 and 4.1% in 2024, compared with previous forecasts for 2022 of 3.2% and 4.7% for 2023.

### Digital Rupee

The Reserve Bank of India announced the launch of the first pilot for the retail digital Rupee on 1st December 2022.

### About:

- Eight banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in this pilot.
- The first phase will begin with four banks including State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank in four cities across the country.
- Four more banks, including Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank will join this pilot subsequently.
- The pilot would initially cover four cities, including Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar and later

extend to Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla.

- The scope of the pilot may be expanded gradually to include more banks, users and locations as needed.
- The pilot would cover select locations in a closed user group - CUG comprising participating customers and merchants.
- The digital Rupee would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.
- Users will be able to transact with digital Rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones.

### Transactions:

- Transactions can be both Person to Person and Person Merchant.
- Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations.
- The digital Rupee would offer features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality.
- As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.
- The pilot will test the robustness of the entire process of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real time.
- Different features and applications of the digital Rupee token and architecture will be tested in future pilots, based on the learnings from this pilot



## PROGRAMS AND YOJANAS

### Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

An internal study commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development has argued for decentralisation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), allowing for more “flexibility” at the ground level.

#### About:

#### Highlights:

- There should be a greater diversification of permissible works instead of listing the types of permissible works, broad categories of works may be listed out and flexibility should be given at ground level to select the type of works as per broad categories,
- The study also flagged the frequent delay in fund disbursement, and to deal with it suggested a “revolving fund that can be utilised whenever there is a delay in the Central funds”.
- The MGNREGS wages were far below the market rate in many States, defeating the purpose of acting as a safety net.
- At present, the minimum wage of a farm labourer in Gujarat is ₹324.20, but the MGNREGS wage is ₹229.

#### The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted on August 25, 2005.
- It provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the

rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India.



### Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

Recently, Aibawk cluster in the Aizwal, Mizoram becomes the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

#### About:

- What is SPMRM? It was launched by the Prime Minister in February 2016 with a vision to provide amenities to rural areas which are perceived to be urban and have the potential to stimulate local economic development.
- The Mission aim: Development of 300 Rurban clusters, in the next five years.
- What is a ‘Rurban Cluster’? It is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and with a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- Selection of the ‘Rurban Clusters’
- There are two categories of clusters under SPMRM: Non-Tribal and Tribal. The process of selection varies for each of these categories.
- While selecting the Rurban cluster, the State may identify a large village/gram panchayat that are growth centers with resources available in the area that could potentially lead the economic transformation of the region. These growth centres could also be block headquarter, villages or census towns.
- The clusters could then be formed by identifying geographically contiguous villages/gram panchayats within a radius of 5–10 km (or radius appropriate to the population density and geography of the region) around the identified growth centre.



## National SC-ST Hub scheme

Recently, the 5th meeting of High Powered Monitoring Committee (HPMC) under National SC-ST Hub scheme was chaired by Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

### About:



- Objective of National SC-ST Hub: Develop a supportive ecosystem for SC/ST entrepreneurs to achieve the mandated 4% procurement by the CPSEs from the SC/ST entrepreneurs as laid down in Central Government Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises.
- Scheme applicable for: Existing and Aspiring SC/ST Entrepreneurs.
- Key Benefits:
- To achieve 4% Public Procurement target from SC-ST entrepreneurs.
- Facilitating SC/ST Entrepreneurs to be part of vendor development programs and mentoring support.
- Collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs.
- Distribution of trade specific tool kits to trained candidates.
- The key action areas: Vendor development, participation in public procurement, building reliable database, credit facilitation, technology upgradation, marketing support, and special subsidies under various schemes etc.

## Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Recently, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare stated that it is open to taking pro-farmer changes in PMFBY in response to the recent climate crisis and rapid technological advances.

### About



- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is the government sponsored crop insurance scheme that integrates multiple stakeholders on a single platform.
- Highlights of the scheme
- PMFBY is a replacement scheme of NAIS / MNAIS, there will be exemption from Service Tax liability of all the services involved in the implementation of the scheme
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers. Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.
- Risks covered under the scheme: Risk of sowing, planting and germination failure, Risk of standing crop failure, Risk of post-harvest losses, Protection against calamities.
- Exclusions – Loss or damage to notified insured crops due to war, nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks is excluded from the scope of coverage.
- Coverage of Crops: Food crops (Cereals, Millets and Pulses), Oilseeds, Annual Commercial / Annual Horticultural crops.
- Premiums Under the Scheme:
- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.

## Seema Darshan Project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the citizens to visit Nadabet and other border areas as part of Seema darshan to further tourism.

## About:



- It was initiated with the aim to provide an opportunity to the people so that they can visualize the life and work of the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on our border.

### Nadabet:

- It is located in the Rann of Kutch region. It is also known as the 'Wagah of Gujarat'.
- The access provided to civilians at Nadabet to view the fenced international border with Pakistan at 'Zero Point'.
- Nadabet played a key role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War. It was in this region that the BSF not only stalled the enemy trying to invade from the west, but also captured 15 enemy posts.
- During the war, the BSF had captured 1,038 square km of Pakistan territory in Nagarparkar and Diplo areas. The area was returned to Pakistan after the Shimla Agreement was signed.

### Jaislamer:

- BSF has set up a unique memorial museum named Seema Darshan to create awareness about the duties of BSF to the general public and the incidents of bravery at Sam sand dunes in Jaislamer.

## Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

Over 1 lakh welfare projects completed in mining areas under PMKKKY so far.

### About:

- The Ministry of Mines launched PMKKKY in 2015 for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining-related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs).
- Objectives
- to implement various developmental and welfare projects in mining affected areas, complementing the existing ongoing schemes of State and Central Government;
- to minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts,

during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts; and

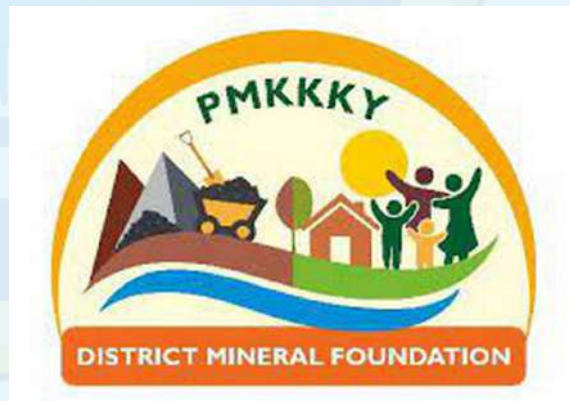
- to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

### Implementation:

- It will be implemented by DMFs of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, mandated the setting up of DMFs in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations.
- The Central Government has notified the rates of contribution payable by miners to the DMFs.
- In case of all mining leases executed before 12th January, 2015 miners will have to contribute an amount equal to 30% of the royalty payable by them to the DMFs. If mining leases are granted after 12.01.2015, the rate of contribution would be 10% of the royalty payable.

### Utilisation of Funds:

- At least 60% of PMKKKY funds to be utilized for High priority areas such as Drinking water supply, Health care, Education, Environment preservation etc.
- Up to 40% of the PMKKKY to be utilized for other priority areas such as- Physical infrastructure, Irrigation, Energy and Watershed Development etc.



## National Bio Energy Programme

Recently, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) said it will continue National Bio Energy Programme till 2025-26.

### About:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) notified the National Bioenergy Programme on November 2, 2022.
- The Programme has been recommended for implementation in two Phases. The Phase-I



of the Programme has been approved with a budget outlay of Rs. 858 crore.

- The programme will aid the use of huge surplus biomass, cattle dung, and industrial and urban biowaste available in the country for energy recovery.

### The National Bioenergy Programme will include the three Sub-schemes:

- Waste to Energy Programme (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) to support setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW to Power projects).
- Biomass Programme (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.
- Biogas Programme to support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.



### Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)

Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog recently launched the Women centric challenges under the 2nd edition of Atal New India Challenge (ANIC).

#### About:

- ANIC's Woman centric challenges address the major issues faced by women from all spheres of life.
- These include driving women hygiene through innovation, innovations to improve women's safety, professional networking opportunities for women, innovations that make working mothers' life better, and easing the life of Rural Women.
- ANIC is an initiative by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog targeted to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance through a grant-based mechanism of up to INR 1 crore.

#### Other initiatives:



- Indo-German development cooperation project 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her&Now)'
- The project was commissioned by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to train AIM business incubators with the knowledge, tools, and methods to boost women entrepreneurs.

### Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP):

- NITI Aayog currently runs the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), which was launched in 2018, to help women become entrepreneurs, scale up their innovations and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

#### Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme

Recently, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has approved wrestler Vinesh Phogat's proposal to train in Belmeken, Bulgaria, which is a High Altitude training area situated approximately 2600m above sea level.

#### About

- The funding is being provided under Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme.
- The TOPS Scheme has seen successes in the form of PV Sindhu (badminton) and Sakshi Malik (wrestling), who won the silver and bronze medals respectively in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

#### TOP Scheme

- What is it? It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) which is an attempt to provide assistance to India's top athletes.
- Launch: It was started in September 2014 and was revamped in April 2018 to establish a technical support team for managing the TOPS athletes and providing holistic support.
- Mission Olympic Cell: It is a dedicated



body created to assist the athletes who are selected under the TOP Scheme. The MOC is under the Chairmanship of the Director General, Sports Authority (DG, SAI).

- TOPS Elite Athletes' Identification Committee:
- It was constituted to identify the elite athletes who could achieve the Olympic podium.
- MYAS is responsible for appointment of TOPS members with emphasis on ensuring representation from 'High-Priority' sports (Archery, Badminton, Boxing Hockey, Shooting and Wrestling).
- The total members of the committee are to be decided by MYAS. TOPS constitution does not stipulate minimum/maximum members for the committee.



### Digital Shakti 4.0

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recently launched the fourth phase of Digital Shakti Campaign.



#### About

- Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- The Digital Shakti 4.0 is focused on making women digitally skilled and aware to stand-up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.
- NCW launched the campaign in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.

- Through this project, over 3 Lakh women across India have been made aware of cyber safety tips and tricks.
- It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefit.

### National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)

Recently, the Ministry of Textiles in partnership with Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) and Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA) organized a full-day event “National Conclave on Technical Textiles – Protech”



#### About:

#### What are Technical Textiles?

- Technical Textiles are textile products which are manufactured primarily for their functionality and use rather than the aesthetic appeal.
- These products are broadly classified into 12 different categories- Agrotech, Oekotech, Buildtech, Meditech, Geotech, Clothtech, Mobiltech, Homotech, Sportstech, Indutech, Protech, Packtech.

#### Technical Textiles Mission in India

- The Ministry of Textiles has launched NTTM to increase the penetration level of technical textiles in India while leveraging the extraordinary growth rate of the sector.
- The Indian Technical Textiles Sector has an Annual Average Growth Rate (AAGR) of 12% which is three times the world average of 4%.
- The aim of the mission is to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
  - The mission will comprise of the following four components:
  - Research, Innovation and Development
  - Promotion and Market

- Development
  - Export Promotion
  - Education, Training, Skill Development
- Implementation: The NTTM has been approved with an implementation period of four years starting from FY 2020-21 till FY 2023-24. The total outlay of the mission is INR 1480 Cr.
- Target: The Mission has a target to take domestic market size of technical textile sector to \$ 40-50 Bn by the year 2024 with an average growth rate of 15-20% per annum.

### **Bharat Gaurav Trains Scheme**

Recently, to give promotion of rail based tourism through provision of better quality coaches and viable tour packages, the Bharat Gaurav Trains Scheme has been reviewed.

#### **About:**

- In November 2021 the Indian Railways allowed private players to run theme-based Bharat Gaurav trains to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and historical places to the people of India, and from abroad.

#### **How does it work?**

- Any operator can lease trains from the Railways to run on a theme-based circuit as a special tourism package. The operator has the freedom to decide the route, the halts, the services provided and, most importantly, the tariff.
- The service provider can take custody of the trains for a minimum period of two years and a maximum period of up to the residual life of the coaches.

#### **Salient Features of Revised Policy:**

- Henceforth, only Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches will be allotted under the Bharat Gaurav Trains scheme.
- Ministry of Railways has decided not to levy the overhead components in the Fixed and Variable Haulage Charges for operation of Bharat Gaurav Trains under the scheme.
- The existing service providers, who have already been allotted ICF rakes would be given option to switch over to LHB rakes for the remaining period of agreement on the revised charges. However, if they opt to continue with already allotted rakes, benefit of revised charges would be available with prospective effect.

### **PM-Kisan**

The number of farmers who received the 11th instalment of funds from the Prime Minister's Kisan

Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) has fallen by 67%, according to the Agriculture Ministry's response to a Right to Information query.

#### **About:**

- PM Kisan is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.
- Objective: The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
- Benefits and Eligibility conditions:
  - Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
  - Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
  - State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
  - The fund will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

### **GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child)**

The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has recently launched the 'GHAR – GO Home and Re-Unite'.

#### **About:**

- It addresses the changed roles of CWCs and District Child Protection (DCPO) for children in need of care and protection.
- The portal was developed by the NCPCR.

#### **Features:**





- The portal has digital tracking and monitoring of children who are in the Juvenile Justice system and need to be repatriated to another country/state/district.
- Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned JJB/CWC of the State. It will help in speedy repatriation of children.
- List of Government implemented schemes will be provided, so that at the time of restoration the CWCs can link the child with the schemes to strengthen the family and ensure that child remains with his/her family.

### E-Court Initiatives

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched various initiatives under the e-court project.

#### About:

#### Virtual Justice Clock

- It is an initiative to exhibit vital statistics of the justice delivery system at the Court level giving the details of the cases instituted, cases disposed and pendency of cases on day/week/month basis at the Court level.
- The effort is to make the functioning of the courts accountable and transparent by sharing with the public the status of case disposals by the court.
- Public can access the Virtual Justice Clock of any court establishment on the District Court's website.

#### JustIS Mobile App 2.0

- It is a tool available to judicial officers for effective court and case management by monitoring pendency and disposal of not only his court but also for individual judges working under them.
- This App is also made available to High Court and Supreme Court Judges who can now monitor pendency and disposal of all the States and Districts under their jurisdiction.

### Digital Court

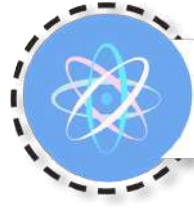
- It is an initiative to make the court records available to the judge in digitised form to enable the transition to Paperless Courts.

### S3WaaS Websites

- It is a framework to generate, configure, deploy and manage websites for publishing specified information and services related to district judiciary.
- S3WaaS is a cloud service developed for government entities to generate Secure, Scalable & Sugamya (Accessible) websites. It is multilingual, citizen friendly and disability friendly.







### **India's 1st Integrated Rocket Facility to be Based in Telangana**

- Telangana's IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao on said the state will have the country's first integrated rocket design, manufacturing and testing facility in Hyderabad by Skyroot Aerospace.
- The state IT Minister K. Tarakarama Rao has assured the start-up of complete support for establishing the facility to design, manufacture, and test rockets in the state.
- He participated in a programme organized at T-Hub to celebrate Skyroot Aerospace's successful launch of the Vikram-S rocket.

### **Europe announces name of world's first disabled astronauts**

- The European Space Agency has named the first ever "parastronaut" in a major step towards allowing people with physical disabilities to work and live in space.
- The 22-nation agency said it had appointed British Paralympic sprinter John McFall to take part in a feasibility study during astronaut training to assess the conditions needed for people with disabilities to take part in future missions.
- Notably: McFall, who lost his right leg due to a motorcycle accident at the age of 19, won a bronze medal in the 100 metres at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

### **PSLV-C54**

### **ISRO recently launched PSLV-C54 with Oceansat-3, 8 nano satellites.**

#### **About:**

- Satellites in PSLV-C54 includes EOS-06 (Oceansat-3) plus eight nano satellites (BhutanSat, 'Anand' from Pixxel, Thybolt, and Astrocast - four numbers from Spaceflight USA).

#### **BhutanSat**

- ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B) spacecraft is configured with INS-2 Bus. INS-2B will have two payloads namely NanoMx and APRS-Digipeater. NanoMx is a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by Space Applications Centre (SAC).

#### **Anand**

- The Anand Nano satellite is technology demonstrator to demonstrate the capabilities and commercial applications of miniaturized earth-observation camera for earth observation using a microsatellite in Low Earth Orbit.
- This is a three-axis stabilized satellite consisting of a satbus, accommodating all subsystems like telemetry, telecommand, Electrical Power system, Attitude Determination and Control System (ADCS), on-board computers etc.

#### **Astrocast**

- Astrocast, a 3U spacecraft is a technology demonstrator satellite for the Internet of Things (IoT) as the payload. There are 4 nos. of Astrocast Satellites in this mission. These spacecraft are housed within an ISISpace QuadPack dispenser.
- The dispenser protects the satellite from contamination.

#### **Thybolt**

- The Thybolt is a 0.5U spacecraft bus that includes a communication payload to enable rapid technology demonstration and constellation development for multiple users.
- It also demonstrates Store-and-Forward functionality for authorized users in the amateur frequency band. The satellites shall be deployed by using Dhruva Space Orbital Deployer to perform the specific mission operations for a minimum lifetime of 1 year.

### **Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)**

Recently the Supreme Court has voiced concerns over the increasing use of DNA to prove cases.

#### **About**

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) is a set of instructions found in a cell.
- These instructions are used for the growth and development of an organism.
- The DNA of a person is unique, and variation in the sequence of DNA can be used to match individuals and identify them.
- DNA technology, therefore allows for accurate establishment of an individual's identity.

- In addition, DNA-based technology helps in identification of victims in the event of terrorist attacks or natural disasters such as earthquakes.
- For example, DNA technology has been used to identify victims of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre in 2001, and disasters such as the Asian tsunami in 2004.
- Further, DNA profiling can be used in civil matters, such as parentage related disputes.

#### Precedents set by court:

- Bhabani Prasad Jena, 2010 & Banarsi Dass, 2005: Precedents set by the Supreme Court through the years show that judges cannot order genetic tests as a “roving enquiry” ( Bhabani Prasad Jena, 2010) and they must balance “the interests of the parties” ( Banarsi Dass, 2005).
- DNA tests should also not be ordered if there was other material evidence at hand to prove the case.

### Glyphosate

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently restricted the use of glyphosate, a widely used herbicide, citing health hazards for humans and animals.

#### About:

- Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that can kill certain weeds and grasses.
- Glyphosate works by blocking an enzyme essential for plant growth.

#### Application:

- In India, glyphosate use was approved only for tea crop and non-crop areas for control of weeds.
- Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major tea plantation states in India.
- But glyphosate consumption is higher in states that do not have tea crops.
- It is being widely and indiscriminately used in paddy fields by farmers.

#### Consequences:

- The surface casting activity of vertically burrowing earthworms almost ceased after three weeks and reproduction of soil dwellers reduced by 56 per cent within three months after herbicide application.
- There are long-term negative consequences for honey bee navigation, contamination of water bodies and serious health hazards.

### Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs)

Assam’s Bodoland University is part of collaborative research on fungus-powered biosynthesised nanogold particles that has received an international patent from Germany.

#### About

- Cordy gold nanoparticles (Cor-AuNPs) is the outcome of a collaborative experiment by scientists from four Indian institutions, has earned an international patent from Germany.
- These nanoparticles, derived from the synthesis of the extracts of Cordyceps militaris and gold salts, could make drug delivery in the human body faster and surer.
- Cordyceps militaris is a high value parasitic fungus, lab-grown at the Department of Biotechnology’s Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) in Bodoland University, one of the collaborators of the patented research work.
- Gold salts are ionic chemical compounds of gold generally used in medicine.
- Wild Cordyceps mushroom is found in the eastern Himalayan belt.

### Total Lunar Eclipse

A total lunar eclipse will occur on 8 November, 2022. The eclipse is visible from all places of India at the time of Moonrise.

#### About:

- An eclipse of the Moon (or lunar eclipse) can only occur at Full Moon – when Earth is located directly between the Sun and the Moon –, and only if the Moon passes through some portion of Earth’s shadow.
- That shadow is composed of two cone-shaped components -
- The outer or penumbral shadow is a zone where the Earth blocks part but not all of the Sun’s rays from reaching the Moon.
- The inner or umbral shadow is a region where the Earth blocks all direct sunlight from reaching the Moon.
- Types: Astronomers recognize three basic types of lunar eclipses –
- Penumbral Lunar Eclipse: The Moon passes through Earth’s penumbral shadow. These events are of only academic interest because they are subtle and hard to observe.
- Partial Lunar Eclipse: A portion of the Moon passes through Earth’s umbral shadow. These events are easy to see, even with the unaided eye.
- Total Lunar Eclipse: The entire Moon passes through Earth’s umbral shadow. These events are quite striking due to the Moon’s vibrant red colour during the total phase (totality).



## Malaria

In October 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) for the first time recommended the large-scale use of a malaria vaccine for children living in areas with moderate-to-high malaria transmission. The RTS,S/AS01 (Mosquirix) was developed by GlaxoSmithKline.

### About:

- It took more than 30 years and approximately \$700 million for this breakthrough.
- Malaria kills nearly 600,000 people every year, the majority of whom are children under the age of five in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Malaria is a disease caused by the Plasmodium parasite.
- The parasite can be spread to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes.
- There are many different types of plasmodium parasite, but only 5 types cause malaria in humans.
- Plasmodium falciparum – mainly found in Africa, it's the most common type of malaria parasite and is responsible for most malaria deaths worldwide.
- Plasmodium vivax – mainly found in Asia and South America, this parasite causes milder symptoms than Plasmodium falciparum, but it can stay in the liver for up to 3 years, which can result in relapses.
- Plasmodium ovale – fairly uncommon and usually found in West Africa, it can remain in your liver for several years without producing symptoms.
- Plasmodium malariae – this is quite rare and usually only found in Africa.
- Plasmodium knowlesi – this is very rare and found in parts of Southeast Asia

### Transmission:

- The plasmodium parasite is spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which are known as “night-biting” mosquitoes because they most commonly bite between dusk and dawn.

## Vikram-S

India's first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S, is poised to create history as it undergoes final preparations at the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) launchpad in Sriharikota for launch between November 12 and 16.

### About:

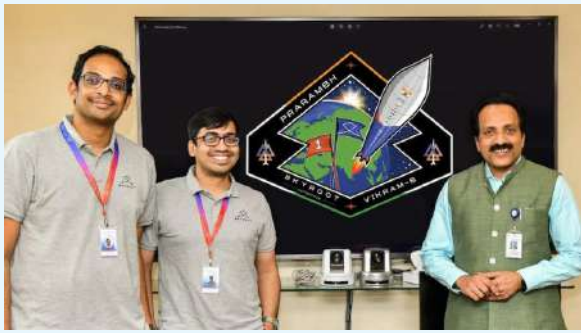
- It was developed by the Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace.
- The mission named ‘Prarambh’ (the beginning), since it is the first mission for Skyroot.
- With this maiden mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space.
- The launch mission will be a suborbital spaceflight, and will carry three customer payloads to the intended orbit.
- Suborbital spaceflight:
- A suborbital spaceflight refers to a height of around 100km from the Earth's surface, and is done at a lower altitude than an orbital flight, which reaches at least a low-Earth orbit — between around 200km to 2,000km from Earth.
- Suborbital flights are known to be important for conducting tests of space missions, before final commercial missions take place.
- Among the three payloads is a 2.5kg satellite of another space startup, Space Kidz India, which has been built by students from India, the US and Indonesia.
- Skyroot, a two-time national award winner, is the first start-up to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO in this regard.
- The Vikram series, named after the founder of India's space programme Dr Vikram Sarabhai, are all-carbon-fibre structures that can launch up to 800 kg of payloads to the Low Earth Orbit.
- Skyroot has designed the series for the small satellite market at low costs and with capabilities for multi-orbit insertion.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):

- The establishment of IN-SPACe was announced in June 2020.
- It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities.
- It also facilitates the usage of ISRO facilities by private entities.
- The programme also witnessed the exchange of MoUs between IN-SPACe and private sector companies working in



the field of space-based applications and services.



## India's First Private Space Vehicle Launchpad

Agnikul Cosmos sets up India's first private space vehicle launchpad at Sriharikota.

### About:

- The facility, which was designed by Agnikul and executed in support with ISRO and IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) has two sections to it:
- the Agnikul launchpad (ALP) and
- the Agnikul mission control center (AMCC).
- All critical systems connecting these two sections, which are 4 km away from each other, are redundant to ensure 100% operationality during countdown.
- The launchpad is specifically built keeping in mind the necessity to support liquid stage controlled launches, while also addressing the need for ISRO's range operations team to monitor key flight safety parameters during launches.
- Additionally, it has the ability to, as necessary, share data and other critical information with ISRO's Mission Control Center.
- Agnikul's first launch, which will be a controlled and guided mission, a vertical launch, using its patented engine will happen from this launchpad.
- The mission will be a technology demonstrator that will mirror Agnikul's orbital launch but at a reduced scale.

### Agnibaan:

- Agnibaan is Agnikul's highly customizable, two-stage launch vehicle, capable of taking up to 100 kg payload to orbits around 700 km high (low Earth orbits) and enables plug-and-play configuration.

### Agnilet:

- Agnilet is the world's first single-piece 3-D printed engine fully designed and manufactured in India and was successfully test-fired in early 2021, making Agnikul

the first company in the country to test its engines at ISRO.

- Agnibaan and Agnilet will be used in the Agnikul's first launch.

### Agnikul:

- It was founded in 2017 by Srinath Ravichandran, Moin SPM and Professor S.R. Chakravarthy from IIT Madras.
- Agnikul is an IIT Madras incubated startup.
- It became the first Indian company to sign an agreement with ISRO in December 2020.
- The agreement signed under the IN-SPACe initiative sanctioned Agnikul access to the Indian space agency's expertise and facilities to build Agnibaan and its launchpads.

## iNCOVACC

World's first Intranasal Vaccine iNCOVACC has recently received approval for Covid booster doses from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

### About:

- It is developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited.
- It was developed in partnership with Washington University, St Louis, which had designed and developed the recombinant adenoviral vectored construct and evaluated in pre-clinical studies for efficacy.
- The approval is under Restricted Use in Emergency Situation for ages 18 and above in India, for heterologous booster doses.
- iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
- It is the world's first intranasal vaccine to receive both primary series and heterologous booster approval.
- The vaccine candidate was evaluated in Phases I, II and III clinical trials with successful results and has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops.
- It is stable at 2-8 degrees Celsius for easy storage and distribution.

## CSIR-NGRI's Early Warning System

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has begun field studies to install early warning system against floods, rockslides, and avalanches in Himalayan States.

### About:

- The scientists in the institute have identified a few locations in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand for "densification" of seismometers and river gauges to take the

total number to 100 from 60.

- The objective is to closely monitor the river flows in specific areas along the catchment to detect any sudden rise in water levels or flooding threshold that can lead to a hazard.
- Scientists have decided to take cognisance of the vibrations or “noise” recorded by the seismometers, which need not be due to earthquakes but can also be because of vehicular traffic, animal movement, rain, river flows and so on.
- These instruments are crucial for the safety of large infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants in this region.
- Currently, scientists are able to detect and assess a sudden flow 30-40 km away since the seismic wave is faster than the flow, and hence, the advance warning comes at least half an hour before.
- The NGRI has started utilising Machine Learning to detect these observations faster than the normal approach.

### Initiative by Geological Survey of India (GSI):

- Scientists at the Geological Survey of India (GSI), a scientific agency established under the Ministry of Mines to conduct geological surveys and studies of India, in collaboration with the British Geological Survey, have been evaluating a prototype to predict landslides in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal and the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu.
- If the model proves successful, it is likely to be deployed in some parts of India as early as 2025.

#### Early warning systems:

- Early warning systems have been recognized as an effective tool to reduce vulnerabilities and improve preparedness and response to hazards, according to the United Nations Development Programme.
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), an international document adopted by United Nations (UN) member states in 2015, requires countries to set out an early warning system with a multi-hazard approach by 2030.

### Artemis 1

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States is set to launch the Artemis-1 mission, which will take humans back to the Moon.

#### About:

#### Objective:

- It is only a lunar Orbiter mission even though, unlike most Orbiter missions, it has

a return-to-Earth target — it is intended to lay the foundations for more complex and ambitious missions.

- The CubeSats it will carry are equipped with instruments meant for specific investigations and experiments, including searching for water in all forms and for hydrogen that can be utilised as a source of energy.
- Biology experiments will be carried out, and the impact of deep space atmosphere on humans will be investigated through the effect on dummy ‘passengers’ on board Orion.
- The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, the most powerful ever built, will also be on test for its potential for more ambitious missions in the future.

#### Importance:

- It’s been a half century since the six Apollo human Moon landings between 1969 and 1972.
- Since then, spacecraft have travelled beyond the solar system, exploratory missions have probed Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, more than 500 astronauts have made return trips to space, and permanent space labs have been set up.

### Shabd Shala

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology will soon launch Shabd Shala, a website to invite suggestions for translation of words that are recent additions to the English language.

#### About:

- People across India can log onto the ‘Shabd Shala’ website and provide suggestions for possible translations of these words or their most prevalent usages in their respective languages.
- After collating all the suggestions, the Technical Words Selection Committee will zero in on the most popular or appropriate translations for each word, following which a glossary would be brought out in all the respective languages.
- The committee, to be constituted in consultation with the Education Ministry, will comprise of subject experts in science and technology, and experts in linguistics and the Sanskrit language.

### The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology:





- It was established on October 01, 1961 in pursuance of a Presidential Order dated April 27, 1960.
- Presently, CSTT is functioning under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India with its headquarters at New Delhi.
- The main objective is to evolve standard terminology, propagate its use, and distribute it widely.
- The commission is mandated to collaborate with State governments, universities, regional textbook Boards, and State 'Granth Academies', which are nodal bodies in-charge of providing translations of English textbooks in local languages for institutions of higher education.
- Eighteen States were mandated to have Granth Academies.

### Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket

ISRO is set to launch India's first privately built rocket (Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket) from Sriharikota.

#### About:

- VKS rocket is developed by the the non-government entity/startup, Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd (SAPL).
- Apart from being the nation's first private launch, it will also be the maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh'. It will carry a total of three payloads in space, including one from the foreign customers.

#### VKS rocket



- It is a single stage spin stabilized solid propellant rocket with mass of approx. 550 kilograms.
- The rocket goes to the max altitude of 101 kilometers and splashes into the sea and the overall duration of launch is 300 seconds only.
- Skyroot was the first startup to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets.

### Hwasong-17

According to North Korea, it recently test fired its massive new Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

#### About:

- The Hwasong-17 is nuclear-armed North Korea's biggest missile yet.
- It is the largest road-mobile, liquid-fuelled ICBM in the world.
- Its diameter is estimated to be between 2.4 and 2.5 metres, and its total mass, when fully fuelled, is likely somewhere between 80,000 and 110,000 kg.
- Unlike North Korea's earlier ICBMs, the Hwasong-17 is launched directly from a transporter, erector, launcher (TEL) vehicle with 11 axles.

### Measles

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently decided to depute three high-level multi-disciplinary three-member teams to Ranchi, Ahmedabad and Malappuram (Kerala) to take stock of the upsurge in cases of Measles there.

#### About:

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease.
- Transmission: It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons.
- Symptoms: Initial symptoms include high fever, a runny nose and bloodshot eyes. Several days later, a rash develops, starting on the face and upper neck and gradually spreading downwards.
- Health Impact: It can cause life-threatening complications including encephalitis (an infection that leads to swelling of the brain), severe diarrhoea and dehydration, pneumonia, ear infections and permanent vision loss.
- Treatment: The disease is preventable through two doses of a safe and effective vaccine.
- Criteria for Measles elimination:
- Measles elimination is defined as the absence of endemic measles virus transmission in a region or other defined geographical area for more than 12 months.
- Conversely, a country is no longer considered to be measles free if the virus returns and transmission is sustained continuously for more than a year.
- Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI):
- M&RI is a partnership formed in 2001 of the American Red Cross, CDC, the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO)
- It is committed to achieving the Global Vaccine Action Plan goal of measles and



rubella elimination in at least five WHO regions by 2020.

### Agni-3

India recently test fired intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-3 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

#### About:

- The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.
- The launch was carried out for a predetermined range and validated all operational parameters of the system

#### Agni-3:

- Agni-3 is the third entrant in the Agni missile series and was first tested on July 9, 2006.
- But it developed a technical snag and had fell into the sea off Odisha coast without hitting the target.
- The Agni-3 missile was test fired successfully in its second flight in 2007 and then at its third consecutive launch in 2008.
- It has a range of 3,500 km and has the capability of carrying warhead weighing as much as 1.5 tonnes.
- Due to its high range of circular error probable (CEP), Agni-3 missile is known as world's most accurate strategic ballistic missile of its range class.
- The accuracy of the nuclear warhead also provides an opportunity of deploying larger number of nuclear force using less fusion material.
- The low weight of the payload has increased the target range of the missile to 3,500 kilometre.

#### Agni series:

- Agni series of missiles constitute the backbone of India's nuclear weapons delivery which also includes the Prithvi short range ballistic missiles and fighter aircraft.
- India has also completed its nuclear triad and operationalised its second strike capability, with nuclear ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant undertaking deterrence patrols.
- Recently, India also successfully test fired the new generation advanced version of Agni missile series, Agni Prime.
- Also known as Agni-P, the nuclear-capable new-gen advanced variant has a maximum range of 2,000 kilometre.

### Small Modular Reactors

Union Minister of State of the Ministry of Science & Technology recently said, India is taking steps for development of Small Modular Reactors

(SMR), with up to 300 MW capacity to fulfill its commitment to Clean Energy transition

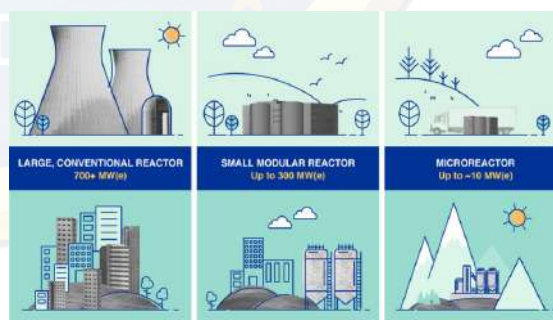
#### About:

What are Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

- SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors. SMRs, which can produce a large amount of low-carbon electricity, are:
- Small – physically a fraction of the size of a conventional nuclear power reactor.
- Modular – making it possible for systems and components to be factory-assembled and transported as a unit to a location for installation.
- Reactors – harnessing nuclear fission to generate heat to produce energy.

#### Advantages of SMRs

- SMR, with up to 300 MW capacity by nature are flexible in design and require smaller footprint. Given their smaller footprint, SMRs can be sited on locations not suitable for larger nuclear power plants.
- Being mobile and agile technology, SMR can be factory-built unlike the conventional nuclear reactors that are built on-site. Thus, SMRs offers significant savings in cost and construction time.
- SMR is a promising technology in industrial de-carbonization especially where there is a requirement of reliable and continuous supply of power. It is said that SMR is simpler and safer as compared to large nuclear plants.



### Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

According to a declaration released by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) conference, Climate observing system remains fragile and needs financing for strengthening and sustaining it.

#### About:

- The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) is a co-sponsored programme which regularly assesses the status of

global climate observations and produces guidance for its improvement.

- It is co-sponsored by the
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO),
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), and
- International Science Council (ISC).
- GCOS expert panels maintain definitions of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) which are required to systematically observe Earth's changing climate.
- The observations supported by GCOS contribute to solving challenges in climate research and also underpin climate services and adaptation measures.



### Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA yesterday approved mechanism for ethanol procurement by public sector oil marketing companies under Ethanol Blended Petrol programme.

#### About:

- The Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve blending of Ethanol with motor spirit with a view to reducing pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers.
- The EBP programme was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2003, to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels.
- Under this programme, starting with 5% blending, the government later increased the target of 10% ethanol blending by 2022.
- India's goal is to grow this ratio to 20% by 2030, but when the NITI Aayog released the ethanol roadmap in 2021, that deadline was advanced to 2025.

### RISAT-2 satellite

ISRO's radar-imaging satellite Risat-2 has finally landed on Earth after completing its 'job' for over 13 years and lands near Jakarta

#### About:



- It was launched on 20 April 2009 by a PSLV C-12 rocket following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.
- It was India's first "eye in the sky" to keep surveillance on the country's borders as part of anti-infiltration and anti-terrorist operations.
- It was also used to track enemy ships at sea.
- The main sensor of RISAT-2, which was able to observe in all weather conditions day and night, was Israel Aerospace Industries' X-band Synthetic Aperture Radar.
- It carried 30 kg of fuel for an initial designed life of four years.
- Due to proper maintenance of orbit and mission planning by the spacecraft operations team in ISRO and by economical usage of fuel, RISAT-2 provided very useful payload data for 13 years.

### Neelakurinji

Neelakurinji largely bloomed on the Kallippara hills in Idukki, Kerala from the first week of October.

#### About:

- Scientific Name: Strobilanthes kunthianus.
- Common Names: Neelakurinji; Kurinji.
- Distribution:
- It is a shrub prominently found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats.
- Besides it is also seen in the Shevroys in the Eastern Ghats.
- Blooming period: The blue flowers of Neelakurinji blossoms only once in 12 years.
- Conservation: Core area of Kurinjimala Sanctuary, in Idukki district of Kerala, protects the kurinji.
- Cultural significance:
- Nilgiri Hills (Literally meaning the blue mountains), got their name from the blue flowers of Neelakurinji.
- The Paliyan tribes (in Tamil Nadu) use it as a reference to calculate their age.





## Cryogenic Engine

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine.

### About:

- According to ISRO, CE20 cryogenic engine is indigenously developed for LVM3.
- This will enhance the LVM3 payload capability up to 450 kg with additional propellant loading.
- The Launch Vehicle Mark-III went through the hot test at an uprated thrust level of 21.8 tonnes for the first time.
- The major modifications carried out on this test article compared to previous engines was introduction of Thrust Control Valve (TCV) for thrust control.
- In addition to the hot test, a 3D printed LOX and LH2 turbine exhaust casings were inducted in the engine for the first time.
- The LVM3 is the heaviest launch vehicle of ISRO.

## CRISPR

According to a research published in the journal Nature, Scientists have, for the first time, used the CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technology to insert genes that allow immune cells to attack cancer cells, potentially leaving normal cells unharmed and increasing the effectiveness of immunotherapy.

### About:

- CRISPR is short for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, which is a reference to the clustered and repetitive sequences of DNA found in bacteria, whose natural mechanism to fight some viral diseases is replicated in this gene-editing tool.
- Its mechanism is often compared to the 'cut-copy-paste', or 'find-replace' functionalities in common computer programmes.
- A bad stretch in the DNA sequence, which is the cause of disease or disorder, is located, cut, and removed — and then replaced with a 'correct' sequence.
- And the tools used to achieve this are not

mechanical, but biochemical — specific protein and RNA molecules.

- The technology replicates a natural defence mechanism in some bacteria that uses a similar method to protect itself from virus attacks.

## Monkeypox

A study published recently in BMJ, which involves a larger cohort, found that pre-symptomatic transmission of monkeypox virus had taken place as long as four days before symptoms manifested.

### About:

- The researchers have estimated that 53% of monkeypox virus transmission have occurred during the pre-symptomatic phase.
- Pre-symptomatic transmission of monkeypox virus will mean that many infections cannot be prevented by isolating people showing symptoms. Also, the effectiveness of contact tracing and subsequent quarantine will not be sufficient to break the transmission chain since by the time all the contacts have been traced, they might have already spread the virus to other people.
- Monkeypox virus:
- The monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus, which is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox, and vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine.
- Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox, although they are less severe.
- While vaccination eradicated smallpox worldwide in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in a swathe of countries in Central and West Africa, and has on occasion showed up elsewhere.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), two distinct clade are identified:
  - the West African clade and
  - the Congo Basin clade, also known as the Central African clade.
- Monkeypox is a zoonosis, that is, a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans.
- Cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus.
- Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.
- Human-to-human transmission is, however, limited. Transmission, when it occurs, can be through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.





### **UP's Ranipur Tiger Reserve Becomes 53rd Tiger Reserve of India**

- Uttar Pradesh is set to have its fourth Tiger Reserve and 53rd tiger reserve in India.
- The tiger reserve is spread across over 529.36 sq km out of which the core area is 230.32 sq km and the buffer area is 299.05 sq km.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate change Bhupendra Yadav confirmed the development.

### **The Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)**

Indian scientists recently received international award on behalf of snow leopard conservation alliance.

#### **About:**

- Indian snow leopard experts received the Madrid-based BBVA Foundation's Worldwide Biodiversity Conservation Award on behalf of a 12-nation intergovernmental alliance -The Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP).

#### **What is The Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)?**

- The GSLEP is a first-of-its-kind intergovernmental alliance for the conservation of the snow leopard and its unique ecosystem.
- It is led by the environment ministers of 12 countries in Asia that form the home range of the snow leopard. These are Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The total range spans two million square kilometres.
- The GSLEP Program's secretariat is based in Bishkek, and is hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- GSLEP was created in 2013 when officials, politicians and conservationists arrived at a common conservation strategy enshrined in the Bishkek Declaration (2013) to cooperate in the conservation of this species and its habitat.



### **Gangetic Dolphin**

According to Uttar Pradesh Government, Dolphins have started coming back to the Ganga river with improvement in the quality of its water through the Namami Gange programme.

#### **About:**

- The Gangetic Dolphin is a fresh-water species, and one of the few river dolphins found in the world.
- It inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.
- Common Names: Blind dolphin, Ganges dolphin, Ganges susu, hihu, side-swimming dolphin, South Asian River Dolphin
- Scientific name: Platanista gangetica
- The Gangetic Dolphin has been recognized as India's National Aquatic Animal and is the official animal of the Indian city of Guwahati.

#### **Description:**



- A long thin snout, rounded belly, stocky body and large flippers are characteristics of the Ganges River dolphin.

- It feeds majorly on fishes and is usually found in counter current systems of the main river channel.
- Its eyes lack lens, and as a result, this species is also referred to as the “blind dolphin”.
- They have a highly developed bio sonar system that facilitates them to hunt for fish even in murky waters.
- Being a mammal, the Ganges River dolphin cannot breathe in the water and must surface every 30-120 seconds. Because of the sound it produces when breathing, the animal is popularly referred to as the ‘Susu’.

### Red Crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga)

India’s proposal for induction of fresh water turtle Batagur kachuga earned wide support at CoP 19 to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) being held at Panama City

#### About

- It is a freshwater turtle species, and found in deep flowing rivers with terrestrial nesting sites.
- Distribution:
- It is native to India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Historically, the species was widespread in the Ganga River, both in India and Bangladesh.
- It also occurs in the Brahmaputra basin. Currently in India, the National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary is the only area with substantial population of the species.
- Conservation Status:
- IUCN : Critically Endangered
- IWPA : Schedule I
- CITES : Appendix II
- Characteristics: In comparison to their female counterparts, the males are shorter and reach only half their length.
- Major Threats:
- Loss or degradation of habitat due to pollution and large scale development activities like water extraction for human consumption and irrigation and irregular flow from the upstream dams and reservoirs.
- Sand mining and growing of seasonal crops along Ganga River are majorly affecting the sandbars along the river that are used by the species for nesting.
- Drowning by illegal fishing nets.
- Poaching and illegal trade.

#### About CITES:

- CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic inte-

gration organizations adhere voluntarily.

- Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws.
- Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.



### Binturong

Police and forest officials in the Manipur’s Ukhrul town have been scanning “gambling dens” following reports of wild animals — dead or alive — being offered as prizes for raffle draws. Apart from wild boars and deer, animals such as binturong (an arboreal mammal also known as bearcat), squirrels and flying foxes (bats) have been found to be on offer.

#### About:

- The binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) is a medium-sized mammal, also known as a bearcat, of the Viverridae family, which includes civets, linsangs and genets.
- Its nine subspecies are the sole occupants of the genus *Arctictis*.
- They can weigh up to 50 pounds, but most often weigh in at between 25 and 35 pounds.

#### Range:

- Binturongs live in the rainforests of South-east Asia.
- Its range extends from Nepal, India, and Bhutan southward to the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java and eastward to Borneo.

#### Prehensile Tail:

- The animals spend most of their time hanging out in the treetops.
- The animal uses its tail—which is almost as long as its body—like a fifth limb as it climbs through the forest.
- This tail is prehensile, which means it’s capable of gripping things.



- The binturong is one of only two carnivores that has a prehensile tail.
- The other is the kinkajou.

#### Conservation:

- They are classified as a vulnerable species by IUCN.

### Mauna Loa Volcano

Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, erupted after 38 years recently.

#### About:

- Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago.
- It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but it's the largest and makes up about half of the island's land mass.
- It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is currently erupting from its summit crater.
- Kilauea is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean.
- Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago.
- In written history, dating to 1843, it's erupted 33 times.

#### Some famous volcanoes

- Any volcano that has erupted within the Holocene period (in the last 11,650 years) is considered to be "active" by scientists.
- "Dormant" volcanoes are those active volcanoes which are not in the process of erupting currently, but have the potential to do so in the future.
- Mauna Loa was a dormant volcano for the last 38 years.
- "Extinct" volcanoes are ones which scientists predict will never face any further volcanic activity.
- Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the UK, is an extinct volcano.
- Krakatoa, Indonesia

### The Great Barrier Reef

A UNESCO-tasks report recently said warming seas and agricultural pollution had put the reef at risk. According to UN experts, Great Barrier Reef should be added to a list of "in danger" World Heritage sites

#### About:

- The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's natural wonders and is the largest coral reef on Earth.
- Spanning 2,300km along the Queensland coast of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef's

3,000 coral reef systems contain a huge diversity of marine plants and animals, such as sea turtles, reef fish, sharks, hard and soft corals and migrating whales.

- It was placed on the World Heritage List in 1981 in recognition of its superb natural beauty and biological diversity.
- It was recognised in 1975 by the creation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act (GBRMPA) that was brought in later provides the framework for managing the reef as a large ecosystem.

### Rhinoceros

According to a study, published in the latest edition of People and Nature by the British Ecological Society, the horns of rhinoceroses may have become smaller over time from the impact of hunting.

#### About:

- The recent study analysed artwork and photographs of the animal spanning more than five centuries.
- Five species face threat:
- Rhinos have long been hunted for their horns. The five surviving rhino species are threatened by habitat loss and hunting.
- The study found that the rate of decline in horn length was highest in the critically endangered Sumatran rhino and lowest in the white rhino of Africa, the most commonly found species in the wild and in captivity.
- This observation follows patterns seen in other animals, such as tusk size in elephants and horn length in wild sheep, which have been driven down by directional selection due to trophy hunting.

#### The Greater One-horned Rhinoceros:



- The greater one-horned rhino (or "Indian rhino") is the largest of the rhino species.
- It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.
- It is one of the five species of Rhinos.
- The other four species are:
- White rhino: It is native to northern and southern Africa
- Black rhino: It is native to eastern and



southern Africa

- Javan rhino: It is also known as Sunda rhino or lesser one-horned rhino
- Sumatran rhino: Critically Endangered species of rhino

#### Habitat:

- Greater one-horned rhinos are grazers. When not grazing on land, they like to immerse themselves in water, where they also graze on aquatic plants.
- This species of rhino is commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and in Assam, India.

#### Protection Status:

- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

### Leith's Soft-shelled Turtle

India's proposal for transferring Leith's Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina leithi*) from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) has been adopted by the Conference of Parties (CoP) to CITES in its 19th Meeting at Panama.

#### About:

- Leith's Softshell Turtle is a large fresh water soft-shelled turtle which is endemic to peninsular India and it inhabits rivers and reservoirs.
- Distribution: Restricted to southern peninsular India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Tamil Nadu) in the Cauvery, Thungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Bhavani, Godavari, and Moyar drainages.
- Threats:
- The species has been subject to intensive exploitation over the past 30 years. It has been poached and illegally consumed within India. It has also been illegally traded abroad for meat and for its calipee.
- The population of this turtle species is estimated to have declined by 90% over the past 30 years such that the species is now difficult to find.
- Conservation Status:
- It is classified as 'Critically Endangered' by the IUCN.
- It is listed on Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Benefits of listing in The CITES Appendix I
- The CITES Appendix I listing of this Turtle species would ensure that legal international trade in the species does not take place for commercial purposes.
- It would also ensure that international trade

in captive-bred specimens only takes place from registered facilities and further that higher and more proportionate penalties are provided for illHimalayan Yak

- The Himalayan yak has recently earned the food animal tag from the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). The categorisation is expected to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.egal trade of the species.

### Himalayan Yak

The Himalayan yak has recently earned the food animal tag from the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). The categorisation is expected to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.

#### About:

- Yaks belong to the genus *Bos* and are therefore related to cattle (*Bos primigenius* species).
- Domestic Yak (*Bos Grunniens*) descended from the wild yak (*Bos mutus*).
- Distribution:
- Yak is found throughout the Himalayan region -- Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North Bengal, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir -- while wild Yak is found in Tibet.
- It is also found as far north as Mongolia and Russia.

#### National Research Centre on Yak:

- The Government of India established the ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak, in 1989 at Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh as a dedicated centre for research into yak husbandry.
- Yak Census 2019:
- According to a census carried out in 2019, India has some 58,000 yaks – a drop of about 25% from the livestock census of 2012.
- The drastic decline could be attributed to less remuneration from the bovid and discouraging the younger generations from continuing with nomadic yak rearing.
- The sale of yak milk and meat is limited to local consumers.

### Black Corals

Researchers at Smithsonian Institution, Washington recently discovered five new species of black corals living as deep as 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the surface in the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea off the coast of Australia.



#### About:

- Black corals can be found growing both in shallow waters and down to depths of over 26,000 feet (8,000 metres), and some individual corals can live for over 4,000 years.
- Many of these corals are branched and look like feathers, fans or bushes, while others are straight like a whip.
- Unlike their colourful, shallow-water cousins that rely on the sun and photosynthesis for energy, black corals are filter feeders and eat tiny zooplankton that are abundant in deep waters.
- Among the many interesting specimens were five new species – including one that was found growing on the shell of a nautilus more than 2,500 feet (760 metres) below the ocean's surface.
- Similarly to shallow-water corals that build colourful reefs full of fish, black corals act as important habitats where fish and invertebrates feed and hide from predators in what is otherwise a mostly barren sea floor.
- For example, a single black coral colony researchers collected in 2005 off the coast of California, United States, was home to 2,554 individual invertebrates.

#### **Senna spectabilis**

*Senna spectabilis*, an exotic tree, has taken over between 800 hectares and 1,200 hectares of the buffer zones of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in Nilgiris hill district.

#### About:

- *Senna spectabilis* is an invasive species.
- It is introduced as an ornamental species and for use as firewood from South and Central America.
- The species has become highly invasive in the Sigur plateau in both the core and buffer zones of the MTR.
- *Senna spectabilis*, along with *Lantana camara*, is among five major invasive weeds that had taken over vast swathes of the Nilgiris.

- Eucalyptus and pine, though exotic, do not spread as quickly as the other species and are considered easier to manage.

#### **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:**



- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.
- It is at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and it plays a unique role by forming part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, the first Biosphere Reserve in India, declared during 1986.
- It has a common boundary with Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the North, and the Nilgiris North Division on the South and East and Gudalur Forest Division on the South West, together forming a large conservation landscape for flagship species such as Tiger and Asian Elephant.

#### **Mauna Loa**

The recent incidents of ground shaking and swelling at Mauna Loa indicating that the largest active volcano in the world could erupt.

#### About:

- Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago.
- It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but it's the largest and makes up about half of the island's land mass.
- It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is currently erupting from its summit crater.
- Kilauea is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean.
- Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago.
- In written history, dating to 1843, it's erupted 33 times.

#### **Harike Wetland**

Migratory birds from different countries have started arriving at Punjab's Harike wetland.



## About

- Harike wetland, spread over 86 square kilometers in Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Kapurthala districts, serves as a home to rare species of migratory water birds during the winter season.
- Harike Wetland also known as “Hari-ke-Pattan”, with the Harike Lake in the deeper part of it, is the largest wetland in northern India.
- The wetland and the lake were formed by constructing the headworks across the Sutlej river in 1953.
- The headworks is located downstream of the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers just south of Harike village.
- It has been designated as one of the Ramsar sites in India.
- Apart from the Harike wetland, migratory water birds also arrive at Keshopur Miani wetland, Nangal wetland, Ropar wetland, Kanjli wetland and Beas river wetland in Punjab.

### Shiveluch Volcano

According to Scientists, the Shiveluch volcano in Russia’s far eastern Kamchatka peninsula may be gearing up for its first powerful eruption in 15 years.

#### About:

- Shiveluch is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in Kamchatka, having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years.
- It has two main parts:
- Old Shiveluch, which tops 3,283 metres (10,771 ft), and
- Young Shiveluch – a smaller, 2,800-metre peak protruding from its side.
- Young Shiveluch lies within an ancient caldera – a large crater-like basin that likely formed when the older part underwent a catastrophic eruption at least 10,000 years ago.
- The volcano has been continuously erupting since August 1999, but occasionally undergoes powerful explosive events, including in 2007.

#### Kamchatka:

- Kamchatka is home to 29 active volcanoes, part of a vast belt of Earth known as the “Ring of Fire” which circles the Pacific Ocean and is prone to eruptions and frequent earthquakes.
- Most of the peninsula’s volcanoes are surrounded by sparsely populated forest and tundra.
- Six volcanoes in Russia’s northeast are currently showing signs of increased activity, including Eurasia’s highest active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka.

## Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC)

Nagaland is hosting the first edition of the Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC) between November 4 to 7, a four-day documentation event to list birds in the state.

#### About:

- It is the first avian documentation exercise taken by Nagaland to go beyond Amur falcons.
- The event is being held during the Tokhü Emong post-harvest festival of the Lotha Nagas to spread awareness about Nagaland’s bird diversity.
- This event is being organised in collaboration with the Wokha Forest Division and the Divisional Management Unit, Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP), Wokha, and Bird Count India.
- The TEBC falls within the Salim Ali Bird Count, a nationwide event conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society.

### UNESCO World Heritage list

According to a study conducted by the UN body, a third of the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list are under threat, regardless of efforts to limit temperature increases.

#### About:

- The study said it was still possible to save the other two-thirds if the rise in global temperature did not exceed 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial era.
- In addition to drastically reduced carbon emissions, the UNESCO is advocating for the creation of a new international fund for glacier monitoring and preservation.
- Such a fund would support comprehensive research, promote exchange networks between all stakeholders and implement early warning and disaster risk reduction measures, the study said.
- Half of humanity depends directly or indirectly on glaciers as their water source for domestic use, agriculture, and power.
- Glaciers are also pillars of biodiversity, feeding many ecosystems.
- This study highlights the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and invest in nature-based solutions, which can help mitigate climate change.
- As many as 50 UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, representing almost 10% of the Earth’s total glacierised area.
- The UNESCO study, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), showed that these glaciers



have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO2 emissions, which are warming temperatures.

- They are currently losing 58 billion tonne of ice every year — equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain — and are responsible for nearly 5% of observed global sea level rise.

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- A World Heritage Site (WHS) is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the UNESCO under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1972.
- These sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance.
- The sites, classified as cultural, natural and mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria) heritage around the world, are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.



### Bellairsia gracilis

A study in Nature finds a near-complete skeleton of an early reptile from the Middle Jurassic period of Scotland.

#### About:

- The skeleton is of *Bellairsia gracilis*, a primitive squamate.
- Squamates are a group of reptiles that includes more than 10,000 living species descended from a shared common ancestor that lived 240 MYA.
- The fossil may improve our understanding of the anatomical transformations that led to the establishment of the body plan of reptiles such as modern lizards.
- If the anatomical interpretation is correct, then primitive squamates survived for tens of millions of years after the first lizards and snakes evolved and lived alongside them

### Indian Black Honeybee

A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The finding has been published in the September issue of Entomon, a

peer-reviewed journal brought out by the Association for Advancement of Entomology.

#### About:

- The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.
- It is after a gap of more than 200 years that a new species of honeybee has been spotted in the Western Ghats.
- The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius. Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now.
- The research team restored the status of *Apis indica* based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medial Index (RMI)'.
- While proving the distinct identity of *Apis indica*, led to the discovery of *Apis karinjodian*.
- *Apis karinjodian* has evolved from *Apis cerana* morphotypes that got acclimatised to the hot and humid environment of the Western Ghats.
- The distribution of *Apis karinjodian* ranges from the central Western Ghats and Nilgiris to the southern Western Ghats, covering the States of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

### Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India (SPAI)

The first-ever recording of the snow leopard from the Baltal-Zojila region has renewed the hope for the elusive predator in the higher altitudes of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

#### About:



- Snow leopard surveys have often focused in neighbouring areas of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The survey was expanded to the Baltal-Zojila region of Kashmir
- Camera trapping exercises also raised hopes for other important and rare species such as the Asiatic ibex, brown bear and Kashmir musk deer in the upper reaches of the northernmost part of India.

- Snow Leopard population estimation is part of the Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India (SPAI).
- The Department of Wildlife Protection has been conducting surveys with partner NGOs to understand presence and abundance of snow leopards under the SPAI project funded by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change.
- The Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India (SPAI) has been concluded so far in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The estimated population of the great cat is 50 and 100 in these two States respectively.
- Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI):
- It was launched on International Snow Leopard Day on 23rd October 2019.
- It has evolved from international effort to develop a global protocol for PAWS under the aegis of GSELP.
- Objective – To help the snow leopard double its population.
- Under SPAI, a two-step process is undertaken to estimate the snow leopard population.
- First step– An occupation-based assessment of snow leopard distribution, which involves identifying the area where the study will be conducted based on conducting preliminary surveys and using interview or sign-based methods.
- Second step– Population sampling for regional density estimation by carrying out a thorough review of already sampled areas.
- Online tools including a data-sharing portal, training app for identifying individual leopards through photographs and threat mapping tool would be utilized.
- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP):
- The GSLEP is a world first joint initiative that aims to conserve the endangered snow leopard within the broader context of also conserving valuable high mountain ecosystems.
- It unites all 12 range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organisations, local communities, and the private sector around this aim.

### Ranthambore National Park

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recently ordered that Ranthambore Festival, a musical extravaganza proposed to be conducted close to the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, can be held only if it is permitted by the authorities.

### About:

- Ranthambore National Park is located in Rajasthan.
- It is located at the junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges.
- It is the natural habitat to the significant number of Royal Bengal tigers.
- Apart from tigers, the major wild animals include Leopard, Nilgai, Wild boar, Sambar, Hyena, Sloth bear and Chital.
- The number of tigers and their cubs in the adjoining areas of Ranthambore has gone up from 66 in 2019 to 81 in 2021.

### History:

- Ranthambore National Park was established initially as Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955 by the Government of India.
- In 1973, it was declared as one of the Project Tiger reserves in India.
- It was on 1st November, 1980 that Ranthambore was declared a national park, while the forests located beside it were named Sawai Man Singh Sanctuary & Keladevi Sanctuary.



### Re-Hab Project

KVIC Chairman recently inaugurated the ambitious Re-Hab Project in Nainital.

### About:

- It is an initiative under Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- It is running this project in 7 states of the country, namely in Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa.
- Under this project fencing of bee boxes is installed in such areas from where elephants move towards the human settlements and farmers' agriculture.
- Fencing of Bee-boxes on the routes of movement of elephants blocks the path of wild elephants.
- In this way, through honey-bees, elephants can be prevented from attacking humans and destroying farmers' crops.

### National Honey Mission:

- Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of KVIC's National Honey Mission.



- The Honey Mission is a programme to increase the bee population, honey production and beekeepers' income by setting up apiaries.

### Jeypore Ground Gecko

Jeypore Ground Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis*), has been recently included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

#### About:

- The proposal to include the gecko in Appendix II was made by India at the recently-concluded 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) to CITES in Panama City. The proposal was adopted by the members of the Working Group.

#### CITES Appendix II:

- The animals listed under Appendix II may not necessarily be threatened with extinction, but trade in such species should be controlled to ensure it does not threaten their existence.

#### International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

- In 2019, the Jeypore Ground Gecko was assessed for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species and was listed as 'endangered'.

#### Distribution:

- This reptile is endemic to India.
- The wild reptile species is found in the Eastern Ghats and is known to be present in four locations including southern Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh.
- Its occurrence is estimated in less than 5,000 square kilometres of fragmented geographical area.
- The species resides below rock boulders in high forested hills at an altitude of 1,100-1,400 metres.
- Habitat loss and degradation, forest fires, tourism, quarrying and mining activity among the reasons for the species' decline.

### Carbon Emissions of the World's Richest People

An Oxfam report titled, Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people, has said the world's richest people emit "unsustainable amounts of carbon," as compared with an ordinary person.

#### About:

- This report is based on the fact that every human on Earth has a carbon footprint,

which can be divided into "personal consumption emissions, emissions through government spending and emissions linked to investments".

- An analysis of the investments of 125 of the world's richest billionaires was conducted by Oxfam International, and the report was published in November, 2022.
- It demonstrated that on average, billionaires are responsible for emitting "3 million tonnes" of carbon a year, which is, "more than a million times the average for someone in the bottom 90% of humanity".
- It further found out that the 125 billionaires taken as a sample fund about 393 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year.
- This is equivalent to the "annual carbon emissions of France," which is a nation of 67 million people.
- In comparison, it said, "it would take 1.8 million cows to emit the same levels of CO<sub>2</sub>e as each of the 125 billionaires," and "almost four million people would have to go vegan to offset the emissions of each of the billionaires".

#### Importance:

- The report comes at a time when discussions to meet the globally agreed target of limiting the world's temperature to below 1.5°C is underway at COP 27 in Egypt and has significant implications for climate policymaking.
- It takes a critical look at the relationship between economic inequality and climate crisis.
- The idea is that since billionaires hold significant wealth and stakes in globally recognised corporations, they hold the power to influence the ways in which those corporations behave.
- As people from low and middle-income backgrounds do not exercise much control over their energy choices, the report says it is imperative for world leaders to ensure that "those who emit the most carbon also do the most to reduce those emissions".
- The report suggests that a wealth tax on the richest could aid the urgent climate finance needs of developing countries and "raise hundreds of billions of dollars to help and protect those already suffering the impacts of catastrophic climate change".

### Selection of 'Conference of the Parties' to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Host

The United Nations Climate Change Conference



2022 — COP27 — opened recently in Sharm el-Sheikh with the aim of ensuring full implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015.

#### About:

- Sharm el-Sheikh, often called just Sharm, is a resort town in Egypt, situated at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula where the Gulf of Aqaba joins the Red Sea.
- It is a major tourist centre in Egypt, and also, like Cancun in Mexico, a preferred venue for international conferences.

#### Selection of COP host

- The venue for the COP meeting rotates among the five UN-identified regions:
- Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Western Europe and Others.
- The countries in the region propose a candidate, and a host is usually decided at least two years in advance.
- If no country agrees to be the host, Bonn, where the UNFCCC secretariat is headquartered, steps in as host.
- The rotation cycle has not been followed very strictly.
- The first and second COPs were held in western Europe (Berlin and Geneva), and so were the fifth and sixth (Bonn and the Hague).
- After the 2012 COP in Doha, the event has not yet returned to Asia.
- Countries are sometimes not enthusiastic to host the event. This is mainly due to two reasons.
- One, the host city incurs huge expenditure on the event, not all of which is reimbursed.
- There are many thousands of participants, a large number of high-profile visits by international dignitaries, and frequent disruptions by protesters who come from all over the world — all of which stretch the city's resources and are sometimes more trouble than they are worth.
- Two, the host country, which presides over the conference, is expected to demonstrate leadership in taking steps to combat climate change.
- This is the reason why countries like the US, China, or Russia, or even Japan, Australia, or Canada, are not keen to host COP.
- Japan hosted the 1997 event that produced the Kyoto Protocol, but it was also the first country to walk out of it in 2011.
- Australia, which too withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, has never hosted the conference.
- India, the third largest emitter, hosted the 2002 COP in New Delhi, much before climate change became a big thing.

### Himalayan Gray Langur

According to a study published in Journal of Threatened Taxa, differing elevations of habitation make one group of Himalayan Gray Langur prefer fruits and another group relish flowers.



#### About:

- The Himalayan Gray Langur or the Cham-ba Sacred Langur (*Semnopithecus ajax*) is a colobine, meaning leaf-eating monkey.
- It is considered an endangered species globally as its population is estimated to be less than 1,500 mature individuals in 15-20 groups.
- They inhabit areas between 2,200-4,000 metres above mean sea level in the sub-tropical, tropical moist temperate, alpine, coniferous and broadleaved forests and scrublands.
- It is endemic to the Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal regions of western Himalayas, where the ecosystem is vulnerable and susceptible to the impact of anthropogenic pressures.
- It is also reported from Pakistan and Nepal.

### Migratory Bird Species

With winter setting in, several migratory bird species have started flocking to the wetlands.

#### About:

- Delhi-NCR accounts for almost one-third of the total bird species found in India.
- The region has about 1,800 species of fauna out of which 446 are bird species.
- There are nine protected areas, including one national park, six wildlife sanctuaries, one reserve forest and one conservation reserve.
- There are eight important bird areas, including Okhla Bird sanctuary (Gautam Budh Nagar), Sultanpur National Park (Gurgaon), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary (Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bijnor), Basai Wetlands (Gurgaon) etc. None of them are in Delhi.
- Some of the major migratory ducks are

Northern shoveler, Gadwall, Greylag geese, Pallas's gulls, brown-headed and black-headed gulls, coots, etc.

- India is a winter home for most of the Siberian birds such as the Siberian Cranes, Greater Flamingo, and Demoiselle Crane, also numerous species of birds from other regions of the world.
- They migrate to India every year during the winter and summer season for food, breeding, and nesting.



### The major global flyway:

- Americas Flyway: three flyways that connect North America with Caribbean and Central and South America.
- African-Eurasian Flyway: three flyways that connect Europe and northern Asia with Mediterranean, Middle East, and Africa.
- Central Asian Flyway: connects northern Asia with southern Asia and Middle East.
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway: connects north-east Asia with south-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

### Indian Skimmer

Indian skimmer is seen in huge flocks during winter in Coringa wildlife sanctuary (Kakinada).

#### About:

- A thick, orange-yellow bill with a slightly longer lower mandible (jaw) is one of the most striking features of the Indian skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*).
- The Indian skimmer grows to a length of 40-43 cm.

#### Distribution:

- More widespread in winter, the Indian skimmer is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
- It occurs primarily on larger, sandy, lowland rivers, around lakes and adjacent marshes and, in the non-breeding season, in estuaries and coasts.
- About 20% of the total population of fewer than 2,500 birds nest along river Chambal.

#### Threat:

- Its population is declining primarily because of the degradation of wetland and riverine habitats.

- The damming of the Chambal River, in upstream Rajasthan, has adversely affected its population at National Chambal Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, due to the dropping water levels allowing predators and livestock access to breeding islands.

#### Conservation:

- IUCN: Endangered
- In 2020, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) have initiated a 'Guardians of the Skimmer' programme, which is a community-based conservation initiative.
- BNHS in collaboration with Bird Count India have also initiated 'Indian Skimmer Count'-a citizen science initiative.

### El Niño-La Niña Weather Patterns

A new study published in the Nature Communications journal on El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) projects that climate change will significantly impact El Niño-La Niña weather patterns approximately by 2030 — a decade before what was earlier predicted.

#### El Niño phenomenon:

- El Niño is the warming of sea water in the central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years.
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific rise, and trade winds — east-west winds that blow near the Equator — weaken.
- Normally, easterly trade winds blow from the Americas towards Asia.
- Due to El Niño, they falter and change direction to turn into westerlies, bringing warm water from the western Pacific towards the Americas.
- The phenomena of upwelling, where nutrient-rich waters rise towards the surface, is reduced under El Niño.
- This in turn reduces phytoplankton. Thus, fish that eat phytoplankton are affected, followed by other organisms higher up the food chain.
- Warm waters also carry tropical species towards colder areas, disrupting multiple ecosystems.
- Since the Pacific covers almost one-third of the earth, changes in its temperature and subsequent alteration of wind patterns disrupt global weather patterns.
- Impacts:
- El Niño causes dry, warm winter in Northern U.S. and Canada and increases the risk of flooding in the U.S. gulf coast and south-eastern U.S. It also brings drought to Indonesia and Australia.

#### La Niña:



- La Niña is the opposite of El Niño.
- La Niña sees cooler than average sea surface temperature (SST) in the equatorial Pacific region.
- Trade winds are stronger than usual, pushing warmer water towards Asia.
- On the American west coast, upwelling increases, bringing nutrient-rich water to the surface.
- Pacific cold waters close to the Americas push jet streams — narrow bands of strong winds in the upper atmosphere — northwards.
- Impacts:
  - This leads to drier conditions in Southern U.S., and heavy rainfall in Canada.
  - La Niña has also been associated with heavy floods in Australia.
  - Two successive La Niña events in the last two years caused intense flooding in Australia, resulting in significant damage.

#### Impact on India's monsoons:

- In India, El Niño causes weak rainfall and more heat, while La Niña intensifies rainfall across South Asia, particularly in India's northwest and Bangladesh during the monsoon.
- At present, India, like the rest of the globe, is witnessing an extended 'triple dip' La Niña.

### Great Knot

A great knot from Russia, belonging to the endangered *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsfield, 1821), has found its way to Kerala's coast, flying over 9,000 km for a winter sojourn. Recently many juvenile great knots have been tagged with MOSKVA rings in the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia.

About:

- The Great Knot is an international migratory wading bird that travels vast distances between the northern hemisphere breeding grounds and southern hemisphere summer feeding grounds.
- The Great Knot is a medium-sized shorebird with a straight, slender bill of medium length and a heavily streaked head and neck.

#### Scientific name: *Calidris tenuirostris*

- Species author: (Horsfield, 1821)
- Distribution
  - Great Knots occur around coastal areas in many parts of Australia during the southern summer.
  - They breed in eastern Siberia, and when on migration they occur

throughout coastal regions of eastern and South East Asia.

#### Habitat:

- In Australia, Great Knots inhabit intertidal mudflats and sandflats in sheltered coasts, including bays harbours and estuaries.
- They forage on the moist mud, and they often roost on beaches or in nearby low vegetation, such as mangroves or dune vegetation.
- Conservation:
  - IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Endangered.

### Loss and Damages' fund

COP27 established 'Loss and Damages' fund (L&D) for climate reparations.

#### About:

- It refers to costs the rich and developed countries, who are majorly responsible for industrial emissions that pollute the environment, should pay to poorer nations that have made negligible contribution to pollution but are more vulnerable to extreme climate events.
- The expected monetary compensation from the L&D fund is estimated to be nearly \$500 billion and rising by \$200 billion annually.
- Crucial questions such as who will manage this fund, whether contributions are expected from large developing countries and what the fair share of contributors will be — have been left to a "transitional committee" that will make recommendations for the adoption of the fund at the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN's Framework Convention for Climate Change, to be held in the UAE in 2023.

#### History:

### What is "loss and damage"?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

■ Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts

■ Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to

■ A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled



\$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go up to \$580 billion per year by 2030

■ Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

Source: Reuters

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 1994 international agreement that lays down the broad

principles of the global effort to fight climate change, acknowledges the differentiated responsibility of nations.

- It makes it clear that rich countries must provide both the finance and the technology to developing nations to help tackle climate change.
- However, the UNFCCC does not mention loss and damage.
- In 2009, developed countries agreed to provide US\$ 100 billion every year from 2020 to help developing nations fight climate change.
- Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM):
- The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damages, set up in 2013, was the first formal acknowledgment of the need to compensate developing countries struck by climate disasters.

### **Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Rajasthan forest department lodged an FIR against another state government body, the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC), for allowing a party after sunset inside Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary (NWLS).

#### **About:**

- It is located about 12 km from Jaipur.
- The sanctuary has been named Nahar, because it falls under Nahar Village (Nahad village).
- It encompasses a large area of 720 hectares and is situated under the Aravalli range.
- It is home to 285 species of birds, Asiatic lions, Bengal tigers, sloth bear, hyenas, panthers, deer, crocodiles etc.
- Nahargarh Biological Park (NBP) is famous for the lion safaris.
- It has now become a convenient breeding centre of lions.

#### **Nahargarh Fort:**

- Nahargarh Fort was made by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as a defence mechanism for the Jaipur city.
- It is a magnificent fort offering panoramic views of the Pink City.





### **India's Defence Ministry Is World's Biggest Employer: 'Statista' report**

- India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, according to a report in 'Statista'. A touch ahead of the United States equivalent, the Department of Defense.
- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure. The total global military expenditure reached USD 2113 billion in 2021.

### **103 million People Forcibly Displaced Worldwide, Reveals UNHCR Report**

- The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order globally surged to 103 million in the first half of 2022, meaning that one in 77 people on Earth is forcibly displaced, the UNHCR said in Geneva.
- According to the report, the total number of refugees and people in need of international protection worldwide rose by 24 per cent from 25.7 million at the end of 2021 to 32 million by mid-2022.
- At the end of June this year, more than half (56 per cent) of all refugees were Syrian, Venezuelan or Ukrainian

### **WHO Global TB Report 2022**

- The WHO released the Global TB Report 2022 on October 27, 2022. The Report notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the diagnosis, treatment and burden of disease for TB all over the world.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken note of the WHO Global TB Report 2022, and clarified that India has performed far better on major metrics as compared to other countries over time.
- India's TB incidence for the year 2021 is 210 per 100,000 population – compared

to the baseline year of 2015 (incidence was 256 per lakh of population in India); there has been an 18% decline which is 7 percentage points better than the global average of 11%.

- These figures also place India at the 36th position in terms of incidence rates i.e. from largest to smallest incidence numbers.

### **Performance Grading Index(PGI) for States/UTs**

- The Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2020-21, an evidence-based comprehensive analysis of school education system across states and Union Territories.
- The PGI structure comprises of 1,000 points across 70 indicators grouped into two categories –Outcomes, and governance management.
- These categories are further divided into 5 domains, viz, Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E) & Governance Process (GP).
- As was done in the previous years, PGI 2020-21 classified the States/UTs into ten grades viz., highest achievable Grade is Level 1, which is for State/UT scoring more than 950 points out of total of 1000 points. The lowest grade is Level 10 which is for score below 551.

### **Mumbai ranks 22nd in Global Prime Cities Index by Knight Frank**

- Mumbai stood at 22nd rank in a global index that measures annual price appreciation of premium residential properties, according to Knight Frank.
- In its report on 'Prime Global Cities Index Q3 (July-September) 2022', Property consultant Knight Frank said that all three Indian cities: Mumbai, Bengaluru and New Delhi, registered an increase in average annual prices in the third quarter of 2022.

### **Network Readiness Index 2022: India ranked 61st**

- India has moved up by six slots to improve its position and rank 61st as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022) report prepared by a US-based Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute.

- In a statement issued by the Telecom Ministry, it was stated that India's overall score has improved to 51.19 in 2022 from 49.74 in 2021.
- The NRI 2022 report ranks a total of 131 economies that together account for about 95 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### **Climate Change Performance Index 2023: India ranked 8th in the list**

- Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023:
- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 released which was published by three environmental nongovernmental organizations viz. Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International.
- India rose two spots to rank eighth out of 63 countries in the Climate Change Performance Index 2023 (CCPI).
- In the Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use categories, the country was rated "high".
- In the Climate Policy and Renewable Energy categories, it earned a "medium" rating.

### **India Set to Become World's Most Populous Country in 2023: UN Report**

- India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, with each counting more than 1.4 billion residents this year, according to the 27th edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects, 2022.

#### **More About The Report:**

- The world's population, estimated to reach 8 billion by Nov. 15 this year, could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, and 10.4 billion in 2100, as the pace of mortality slows, said the report released on World Population Day.
- The world's population was growing at its slowest pace since 1950, having fallen below 1% in 2020, UN estimates showed.
- In 2021, the average fertility of the world's population stood at 2.3 births per woman over a lifetime, having fallen from about 5 births in 1950. Global fertility is projected to decline further to 2.1 births per woman by 2050.

### **State of Food and Agriculture Report 2022 Published by FAO**

- The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) is one of the annual flagship report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- It provides comprehensive insights into the various issues related to the field of food and agriculture based on science-based assessment.

#### **About UN-FAO:**

- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16th October to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

#### **Important Initiatives Taken By FAO:**

- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).
- Monitors the Desert Locust situation throughout the world.
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

### **QS Asia University Rankings 2023: IIT Bombay top educational institution in Southern Asia**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay is the best educational institution in Southern Asia while IIT Delhi ranks second in the region, according to the QS Asia University Rankings 2023.
- The 15th edition of the QS World University Rankings: Asia features 757 institutions – up from 687 last year and making it the biggest rankings for the region yet.

#### **Emissions Gap Report 2022**

According to the Emissions Gap Report 2022, current pledges by countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions would still leave the world warmer by 2.4-2.6 degrees celsius by the end of the century.

#### **About:**

- The report was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- It is managed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre.
- It serves as a "scientifically authoritative source of timely and policy-relevant information to key decision-makers," guiding the UNFCCC process and implementing the Paris Agreement.
- The Paris Agreement, adopted by 196 countries in 2015 at COP 21, was aimed at



limiting global warming and maintaining the average global temperature rise, ideally, to below 1.5°C.

### Highlights:

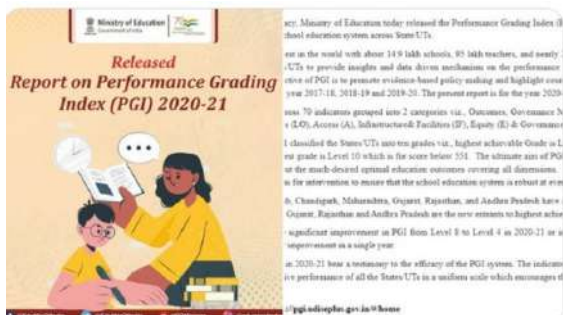
- The report found that the updated pledges by countries, also known as nationally determined contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, only reduce the projected greenhouse emissions by 1 per cent by 2030.
- It is roughly equivalent to 0.5 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- This is when a 45 per cent reduction is required for the world to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- The pre-industrial period is generally considered to be between 1850 and 1900.

### Performance Grading Index (PGI) for 2020-21

The Ministry of Education has recently released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and Union Territories for 2020-21.

#### About:

- It is a unique index for evidence-based comprehensive analysis of school education systems across States and UTs.
- The prime objective of PGI is to promote evidence-based policy-making and highlight course correction to ensure quality education for all.
- As per the index, a total of seven States and Union Territories namely Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh have attained Level -2 grading in 2020-21.
- Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh are the new entrants with the highest achieved level.
- Union Territory Ladakh has made significant improvements in PGI from Level 8 to Level 4 in 2020-21.
- No state, however, has been able to attain the highest level of L1 so far.



### Grading:

- PGI 2020-21 classified the States and UTs into ten grades of which the highest achievable Grade is Level 1 for the states scoring more than 950 points out of a total of 1000 points.
- The lowest grade is Level 10 which is for a score below 551.
- The PGI structure comprises 1000 points across 70 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz.,
- Outcomes,
- Governance Management (GM).

### Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE) 2021-22

Ministry of Education recently released a detailed report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2021-22 on school education of India.

#### About:

- According to the report, Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) has improved at primary, upper primary, and higher secondary levels of school education in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21.
- GER in higher secondary has made a significant improvement from 53.8 percent in 2021-21 to 57.6 percent in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) stood at 26 for primary, 19 for upper primary, 18 for secondary, and 27 for higher secondary showing an improvement since 2018-19.
- In 2021-22, over 12.29 crore girls are enrolled in primary to higher secondary showing an increase of 8.19 lakh as compared to the enrolment of girls in 2020-21.
- More than 20,000 schools were closed across the country during 2020-21 while the number of teachers also declined by 1.95% in comparison to the previous year.
- It pointed out that only 44.85% schools had computer facilities while nearly 34% had internet connection.
- While only 27% schools have special toilets for children with special needs (CSWN), more than 49% of them have ramps with handrails

### Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE):

- The UDISE+ system of online data collection from the schools was developed by Department of School Education & Literacy in the year 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to erstwhile practice of manual data filling in paper format.

- In UDISE+ system, improvements have been made particularly in the areas related to data capture, data mapping and data verification.
- In UDISE+ 2021-22, additional data on important indicators viz., digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in school library, etc have been collected for the first time to align with the National Education Policy 2020 initiatives.

### Grievance Redressal Index

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) tops Grievance Redressal Index third month in a row.

#### About:

- Grievance Redressal Index is published by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- UIDAI has launched its new AI/ML based Chatbot, Aadhaar Mitra to further enhance residents' experience. The new Chatbot comes with enhanced features like – check Aadhaar enrollment/update status, tracking of Aadhaar PVC card status etc.
- UIDAI is gradually rolling out advanced and futuristic Open-Source CRM solution.

#### UIDAI

- It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of Aadhaar act 2016 by the Govt. of India under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- Its aim to provide for good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of State to residents of India through assigning of unique identity numbers.
- Its mission is to ensure security and confidentiality of identity information and authentication records of individuals

### Air Quality Index (AQI)

Recently, the air quality in Delhi remained in the very poor category on Air Quality Index (AQI).

#### About:

- Launched by the central government in 2014 as part of the Swachh Bharat campaign, the AQI was to help simplify the common understanding of pollution.
- The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. The pollutants measured include PM 10, PM 2.5, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, Carbon, etc.

- The colour-coded AQI index helps the public and the government understand the condition of the air and what subsequent measures are to be taken to combat the situation, based on its severity.
  - Six categories of AQI:
  - 'Good' (0-50)
  - 'Satisfactory' (50-100)
  - 'Moderately polluted' (100-200)
  - 'Poor' (200-300)
  - 'Very Poor' (300-400)
  - 'Severe' (400-500)

#### Calculation of the index:

- There are six or eight pollutants in the affected air and each of these pollutants is given a weight based on a formula. That weight depends on the kind of impact it has on human health.
- The worst of these weights is given as composite air quality, so instead of giving six different numbers, and six different colours, it throws up one single colour, one single number to denote the overall impact. Monitoring stations across the country assess these levels.

### Rule of Law Index 2022

The report is a compilation of the 'rule of law' status across 140 countries worldwide.

#### About:



- It was released by an international civil society organisation, World Justice Project (WJP).
- According to the report, the rule of law has declined globally for the fifth consecutive year.
- It says that the checks on executive power are weakening, and respect for human rights is falling.

#### Top and bottom performers:

- The top-ranked country in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 is Denmark, followed by Norway (2), Finland (3), Sweden (4), and the Netherlands (5).
- The bottom ranked countries are Venezuela (140), Cambodia (139), Afghanistan (138), the Democratic Republic of Congo (137), and Haiti (136).
- India:
- India has been ranked 77 out of 140



countries with a score of 50 on the 'rule of law index'.

- Globally, India ranks 94 out of 140 as far as adherence to fundamental rights are concerned, 111 out of 140 in civil justice, 89 out of 140 in criminal justice and 93 out of 140 in absence of corruption.

#### Neighbouring countries:

- Bangladesh scored 0.39 in the 127th rank, Pakistan settled with a 0.39 score at the 129th rank, and China scored 0.47 in the 95th rank.
- Notably, Nepal has performed better than its neighbours, with a 0.52 score and 69th rank.

#### Factors:

- The index is prepared by examining these four principles through eight factors—constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

#### Rule of Law:

- The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, open government, and accessible justice.

#### World Justice Project (WJP):

- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.
- It was founded by William H. Neukom in 2006 as a presidential initiative of the United Nations.
- As the global population reached eight billion, the United Nations recently said that India's population growth appeared to be stabilising, which shows that the country's national policies and health systems, including access to family planning services, are working.

#### United Nations (UN) World Population Prospects 2022

As the global population reached eight billion, the United Nations recently said that India's population growth appeared to be stabilising, which shows that the country's national policies and health systems, including access to family planning services, are working.

#### About:

- The world population touched eight billion

on November 15, 2022 and India was the largest contributor to the milestone, having added 177 million people of the last billion people born in the world.

- The UN population report said the global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950, having fallen under 1 per cent in 2020.
- The world's population could grow to around 5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050. It is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.

#### India:



- India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023, "with prospects to reap the demographic dividend as the median age of an Indian this year was 28.7 years, compared to 38.4 for China and 48.6 for Japan against a global value of 30.3 years,".
- The population prospects report had said that India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared to China's 1.426 billion.
- India is projected to have a population of 1.668 billion in 2050, way ahead of China's 1.317 billion people by the middle of the century.
- According to UNFPA estimates, 68 per cent of India's population is between 15-64 years old in 2022, while people aged 65 and above comprise seven per cent of the population.
- As per UN estimates, over 27 per cent of the country's population is between the ages of 15-29. At 253 million, India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19 years).
- UNFPA has noted that India has its largest ever adolescent and youth population. According to UNFPA projections, India will continue to have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030 and is

currently experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, a “youth bulge” that will last till 2025.

## China:

Stabilising population	
Fertility rates in 2019-21 across States/U.T.s in India	
Fertility rates	States and U.T.s
>2.1	Bihar, Meghalaya, U.P., Jharkhand, Manipur
<=2.1 and >1.7	M.P., Rajasthan, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Arunachal, Chhattisgarh, D&N Haveli, Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, T.N.
<=1.7 and >1.4	Andhra, H.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tripura, Delhi, Punjab, W.B., Puducherry
<=1.4	Chandigarh, J&K, Lakshadweep, A&N Islands, Goa, Ladakh, Sikkim

Source: NFHS-5

- China added 73 million people; the projection is that its contribution to the next billion in the global population will be in the negative.
- China, which is weighed down by a rapidly increasing ageing population, is projected to enter a “severe ageing” phase in 2035 with 400 million people above 60 years. This can be blamed mainly on its decades of one-child policy.
- China’s population grew by less than half a million-last year to 1.4126 billion as the birth rates fell for the fifth consecutive year.
- Since last year, China has allowed couples to have three children and even announced incentives for people to have more children.

## World Bank Report on India’s Urban Infrastructure

According to the World Bank, India would need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years, that is, an average of \$55 billion each year, to meet the demands of its fast-growing urban population.

### About:

- Its latest report, titled ‘Financing India’s Urban Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action’, puts forth the urgent requirement to leverage greater private and commercial investments to meet the emerging financial gaps.

### Highlights:

- Financing on a repayable basis can be done either through debt, private lending or public-private partnership investments.
- These require a recurrent source of revenue to meet obligations, thus, mandating raising adequate resources.
- Much of the urban infrastructure in India is financed by tied intergovernmental fiscal transfers, that is, vertical and horizontal transfer of finance for attaining certain objectives sub-nationally.

- Of the finances needed to fund capital expenditures for Indian cities, 48% is derived from State governments, 24% from the Central government and 15% from urban local bodies’ own surplus.
- The rest includes public-private partnership (3%), commercial debt (2%) and loans from Housing and Urban Development Corporation, or HUDCO (8%).
- The report argues that the overall funding base to raise commercial revenues “appears to be low” owing to weak fiscal performance of cities and low absorptive capacity for execution of projects.
- The report states that city agencies have been unable to expand their resource and funding base to support private financing for services such as water supply, sewerage networks and bus services, as they are highly subsidised.

### Solutions:

- The central idea is to increase cities’ fiscal base and creditworthiness.
- For improving their fiscal base, it states, cities must institute a buoyant revenue base and be able to recover the cost of providing its services.
- The latter could be attained by revising property taxes, user fees and service charges, among other streams, from the current low base.

## Network Readiness Index 2022

India climbs up six slots and now placed at 61st rank as per Network Readiness Index 2022.

### About:

- The report has been prepared by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC.
- In its latest version of 2022, the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact covering a total of 58 variables.

### India’s status:

- India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score from 49.74 in 2021 to 51.19 in 2022.
- It is noteworthy that India leads in several indicators:
- India secured 1st rank in “AI talent concentration”
- 2nd rank in “Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country” and “International Internet bandwidth”
- 3rd rank in “Annual investment in



telecommunication services” and “Domestic market size”

- 4th rank in “ICT Services exports”.
- NRI-2022 report states that India has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level.
- India is ranked 3rd out of 36 in the group of lower-middle-income countries after Ukraine (50) and Indonesia (59). India has a score higher than the income group average in all pillars and sub-pillars.





### **French Open 2022 Badminton: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag won men's doubles title**

- India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the French Open Super 2022 badminton tournament men's doubles title after defeating Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in straight games 21-13, 21-19 in the final, in Paris. With this, Satwik and Chirag's also won their first-ever super 750 and second BWF World Tour title this year.

### **Paralympic medallist Lekhara receives Para Sports Person of Year award**

#### **Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards:**

- At the Turf 2022 and India Sports Awards of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), former Ranji cricketer Sarkar Talwar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award.
- Talwar, the Director-Sports, Manav Rachna Education Institutions, is also the recipient of the Dronacharya Lifetime Award, given by the President of India.
- Apart from Talwar, Avani Lekhara, who won two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, was recognized as the Para Sports Person of the Year, while Shrey Kadyan was recognized as the Special Sportsperson of the Year.
- Best Male Coach to R.B. Ramesh and Best Female Coach to Nonita Lal Qureshi.



### **Reliance Industries to make India's first multimodal logistics park in Chennai**

- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- A crucial cog in the Centre's logistics overhaul, the MMLP will be spread over 184 acres and cost Rs 1,424 crore.
- The project will get adequate connecting infrastructure support through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed between central and state agencies.

### **7th Edition of Amur Falcon Festival Celebrated in Manipur**

- The Manipur Forest Authority to celebrate the 7th edition of the Amur Falcon Festival in Tamenglong district, Imphal.
- The objective of the Amur Falcon Festival is to spread awareness about the protection and conservation of the Amur Falcon.
- Amur Falcon is the world's longest-flying migratory bird.
- It is a day-long festival that is generally celebrated in the first or second week of November to strengthen human-nature relationships and acknowledge the importance of the small raptor in the lives of people.
- The first edition of the Amur Falcon Festival was celebrated in 2015.

### **India to Build its First Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran Vessel**

- Cochin Shipyard signed an MoU with the Inland Waterways Authority of India to build the country's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- Another MoU was signed by the Shipyard for the construction of six electric catamaran vessels for Uttar Pradesh and two more such vessels for Guwahati.



## Indian Boxers won Gold Medals at Youth World Boxing Championships 2022

- Young Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj, and Devika Ghorpade recorded a commanding 5-0 win to bag gold at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.
- Vishwanath won India's first gold at the championship after defeating Ronel Suyom of the Philippines in the men's 48kg final

## Manika Batra: First Indian woman to win medal at Asian Cup Table Tennis

- Manika Batra, the Indian Table Tennis player, became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Asian Cup Table Tennis Tournament.
- Manika defeated World no.6 Hina Hayata of Japan in the Asian Cup 2022 in the women's singles bronze medal match in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju appreciated Manika Batra for her performance and spectacular achievement.

## Novak Djokovic Won 6th ATP Finals Singles Title

- Novak Djokovic won the sixth ATP Finals singles title win beating Casper Ruud from Norway.
- Novak Djokovic defeated the opponent by 7-5, 6-3 to walk away with a historic payday of \$4.7m.
- Novak Djokovic has equaled the record of six ATP title wins of Roger Federer.

## 22nd FIFA World Cup 2022 kick starts in Al Khor, Qatar

- The 22nd FIFA men's world cup was formally declared open at a colourful ceremony held at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar on 20 November.
- It is for the first time that an Arab country is hosting the football tournament.
- 32 teams will play for the most coveted prize in international football, with the final scheduled to take place on December 18 at the Lusail stadium, the biggest one among the eight stadiums being used to host the World Cup.
- On December 18, 2022, Qatar's National Day, the opening game takes place at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor between Qatar and Ecuador.

## Paris Olympics 2024: Phrygian cap chosen as Paris 2024 mascot

- The Phrygian cap, the symbol of the French republic but wearing sneakers as a nod to the present, was unveiled as the mascot for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- The Olympic Phryge ((pronounced fri-jee-uhs) is a bit smaller, the Paralympic Phryge is a bit slimmer and has a blade on his right leg because it is a Phyrge with an impairment.

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced National Sports Awards 2022

- Dhyanchand award
  - Shri Sharath Kamal Achanta - Table Tennis

## Kabaddi World Cup 2025 to be Hosted by West Midlands in England

- The Kabaddi World Cup will be held in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom.
- The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will be hosted out of Asia for the first time announced by the World Kabaddi Federation (WKF).
- The region will host the sport's most prestigious global tournament which will feature the world's best kabaddi players from leading men's and women's teams from India, Iran, and Pakistan.
- The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 will take place in the West Midlands during the first quarter of 2025

## India to Host IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022

- Kerala Governor Arif Muhammad Khan inaugurated the IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 at Kochi, Kerala.
- The IBSA Blind Football Women's Asian/Oceania Championship 2022 is being held from 11th November 2022 to 18th November 2022.
- This is the first time in India that a para football event will have 10 men's teams and 2 women's teams.
- This para football event is a qualifier for the World's Championships Birmingham 2022 and the Paris Paralympics 2024.

### **India to host Women's World Boxing Championships in 2023**

- India to host the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023. In a press conference held in New Delhi, an MoU was signed between the International Boxing Association (IBA) and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
- The MoU was signed in the presence of IBA President Umar Kremlev and BFI President Ajay Singh. The occasion was also felicitated by world champion Nikhat Zareen.

### **Pramod Bhagat-Manisha Ramadass won gold at BWF Para-Badminton Championships**

- Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass won gold medals in singles at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships in Tokyo.
- The reigning Paralympic gold medallist Bhagat beat compatriot Nitesh Kumar 21-19, 21-19 in 53 minutes in an all-Indian SL3 final.







### SEWA founder & women's activist Elaben Bhatt passes away

- Elaben Bhatt, a noted Gandhian, leading women's empowerment activist, and renowned founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) passed away at the age of 89.
- Elaben was the Chairperson of Sabarmati Ashram and recently resigned as the Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi-founded Gujarat Vidhyapith.
- In 2007, she became the part of a group of world leaders called the Elders, founded by Nelson Mandela to promote human rights and peace across the world.



### Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta

- The founding chairman of the popular drink Rasna, Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta has passed away.
- The 85-year-old industrialist, who was suffering from a prolonged illness.
- Decades back, his father Phiroja Khambatta started a modest business which Areez took to being the largest concentrate manufacturer in the world, with a presence in over 60 countries.
- He created affordable soft drink packs of Rasna in the 1970s as an alternative to soft drink products sold at high costs. It is sold at 1.8 million retail outlets in the country.



### Paddler Sharath Kamal becomes first Indian player elected to ITTF

#### International Table Tennis Federation:

- Star Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first player from India to get elected in the Athletes' Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- The online elections took place between 7 to 13 November 2022. 10 athletes were elected for the ITTF Athletes' Commission for a four-year term from 2022 to 2026.
- Eight athletes were elected from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America, and Oceania region and two were highest-voted para-athletes.

### Ela Ramesh Bhatt

Ela Ramesh Bhatt, popularly known as Elaben, a noted Gandhian, leading women's empowerment activist, and renowned founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) passed away recently.

#### About:

- She was known as the "Gentle Revolutionary" who changed the lives of lakhs of women through her organisation, providing them microloans for five decades.
- She was the founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA).
- SEWA was founded by her in 1972. It is one of the largest cooperatives working for women, with a base of over two million members from around 18 States in the country and in neighbouring nations.
- She headed the women's wing of Majoor Mahajan Sangh – the Textile Labour Association founded by Anasuya Sarabhai and Mahatma Gandhi.

- She was the chairperson of the Sabarmati Ashram Memorial and Preservation Trust, also co-founded the Women's World Banking, a global network of microfinance organisations, of which she was chairperson from 1984 to 1988.
- She was also nominated to Rajya Sabha, was a member of the Planning Commission, and was advisor to organisations like the World Bank.
- In 2007, she joined the Elders, a group of world leaders founded by Nelson Mandela to promote human rights and peace.
- She was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award and Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace among many other awards.

### Uda Devi

On November 16, events to commemorate the martyrdom of Uda Devi, a freedom fighter from the Pasi community, were held at various places in Uttar Pradesh.

#### About

- She was born in Ujirao, Lucknow.
- She was part of the royal guard of Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh.
- Uda Devi is remembered not only for her stories of valour but also for her skill as a leader who managed to mobilise people — specially Dalit women — to take up arms against the British.
- On November 16, 1857, Uda Devi was among the soldiers who clashed with the British regiment stationed near the Gomti River.
- She formed an all-women battalion, today called the Dalit Veeranganas, to take part in armed uprisings against the British.
- Devi belonged to the Pasi community, which was labelled a 'criminal caste' by the British administration under the Criminal Tributes Act, 1871.

#### Pasis:

- Pasis are traditionally pig-herders and toddy tappers and were listed as the second-largest Dalit group in Uttar Pradesh after the 2001 census.

### Rani Lakshmibai

Recently, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paid tributes to Rani Lakshmibai, the Jhansi queen known for her role in the 1857 Mutiny, on her 187th birth anniversary.

#### About:



- Rani Lakshmibai, one of the warriors of India's struggle for Independence, was born as Manikarnika Tambe in Varanasi.
- Lakshmibai got married to Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, the Maharaja of Jhansi and got the name of Rani Lakshmibai.
- Then Lakshmibai and Gangadhar Rao adopted Rao's cousin's son, Anand Rao, who was later renamed as Damodar. Soon after they adopted Anand, Maharaja died due to an illness.
- The East India Company took advantage of the Maharaja's death and applied the Doctrine of Lapse.

#### What was the Doctrine of Lapse?

- It was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856.
- According to this, any princely state under the direct or indirect (as a vassal) control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.
- As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom. This challenged the Indian ruler's long-held authority to appoint an heir of their choice.
- So, due to the Doctrine of Lapse, Britishers did not accept Damodar Rao as the legal heir. The plan of the Britishers was to annex Jhansi. They seized the state jewels, granted her an annual pension of Rs 60,000 and asked her to leave the fort forever.



## EK Janaki Ammal

November 5 marks the 125th birth anniversary of Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal



### About:

- She was born in Thalassery in Kannur district of Kerala in 1897.
- She was a pioneering botanist and the first Indian woman to be awarded a PhD in the botanical sciences.
- Janaki Ammal is known widely for her contributions to science – in the field of genetics, cytology, evolution, and more.
- She was invited by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to reorganise the Botanical Survey of India in 1951.
- Her association with the Save the Silent Valley movement – a campaign to stop a hydroelectric project from flooding the Silent Valley forest in Palakkad district of Kerala – was well-known.

## Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently unveiled a 108-foot tall bronze statue of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru. The ‘Statue of Prosperity’ was built to commemorate the contribution of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru.



### About:

- Nadaprabhu Hiriya Kempe Gowda (1510 - 1569) is also known as Kempe Gowda.
- He was an Indian ruler under the

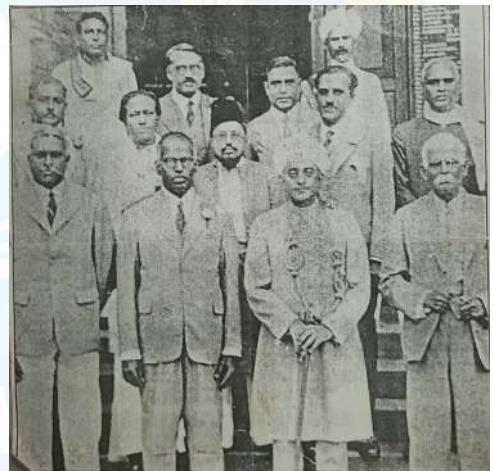
Vijayanagara Empire.

- Contributions:
- The city of Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka, was founded by Kempe Gowda in 1537. He was successful in planning and building Bengaluru Fort and Bengaluru Pete, the foundation of Bengaluru.
- He is also noted for his societal reforms and contribution to building temples and water reservoirs in Bengaluru.
- One of his social reforms was to prohibit the custom of amputating the last two fingers of the left hand of the unmarried women during “Bandi Devaru”, an important custom of Morasu Vokkaligas.
- He was a patron of art and learning.

## Sir CP Ramaswamy Iyer

Recently senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar and state education minister V Sivankutty traded allegations over erstwhile Travancore Diwan Sir CP Ramaswamy Iyer.

### About:



- Sir Chetput Pattabhiraman Ramaswamy Iyer, popularly known as ‘Sir CP’, was the Diwan of the erstwhile Travancore princely state from 1936 to 1947.
- He was a lawyer who served as the Advocate-General of Madras Presidency from 1920 to 1923.
- Serving as Adviser to the prince between 1931 and 1936, Sir CP was personally requested by Sri Chithira Thirunal in 1936 to be the Diwan of Travancore, an offer he accepted and served at the position for 10 years.
- Maharaja Sri Chithira Thirunal, who wished to stay independent when Britain announced its intention to quit India on June 3, 1947, was supported by Sir CP, who declared his intention of forming an independent state of Travancore that would be open to the idea of signing a treaty with the Indian union.
- His policies led to a massive uprising,

the Punnapra-Vayalar revolt, which was suppressed by the Travancore army and navy.

- The anger and discontent culminated into an assassination attempt on Sir CP on July 25, 1947, at a concert commemorating the anniversary of Swati Thirunal.
- On July 30, 1947, Travancore joined India.







## AWARDS

### Rajyotsava awards

- Former ISRO Chairman K Sivan, actors Dattanna, Avinash and Sihi Kahi Chandru are among 67 personalities who will be awarded Rajyotsava Award this year, by the Karnataka government.
- The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a gold medal and a citation, will be distributed on November 1, the state formation day.



### SKOCH Award

- The West Bengal government's Lakshmi Bhandar scheme has bagged the SKOCH award in the women and child development category.
- The award is a recognition for the government as well as the nearly two crore women of the state who have been empowered by the scheme.



### Friends of Liberation War'

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred the prestigious 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on former US Senator Edward M Kennedy posthumously in Dhaka for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh.
- The honour was handed over to his son Edward M Ted Kennedy Junior.



### Puneeth Rajkumar conferred 'Karnataka Ratna' posthumously

- The Karnataka government honored the late actor with the Karnataka Ratna award on 1st November 2022.
- The late Kannada Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar's last film, Gandhada Gudi, was released on 28th October 2022.
- Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, Puneeth Rajkumar's wife, received the state's highest civilian award on her husband's behalf.
- The event was also attended by Shiva Rajkumar, Appu's elder brother.
- Puneeth Rajkumar became the ninth recipient of the prestigious award with his posthumous honor.
- The award was presented by renowned actors Rajnikanth and Junior NTR, along with the Infosys

### Nobel laureate Venki Ramakrishnan honoured UK's royal Order of Merit

- India-born Nobel laureate Professor Venki Ramakrishnan has been awarded the prestigious Order of Merit by Britain's King Charles III in recognition of his distinguished service to science.
- The 70-year-old UK-based molecular biologist is among six appointments made to the historic order by the late Queen Elizabeth II before her death in September and the first to be appointed by Charles.
- The Order of Merit is an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign.

### Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya wins UNESCO Award

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was conferred with the

‘Award of Excellence’ at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022.

- In late 2019, the museum—in the run-up to its centenary celebration on January 10, 2022—initiated comprehensive repairs, restoration and refurbishment of the main and extension building, exterior and interiors and main dome in a phased manner.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922.

### Kuvempu national award

- Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Prathishtana Kuppali has selected Tamil poet V Annamalai aka Imayam for the Kuvempu National award for the year 2022 at the Kuvempu’s 118th birth anniversary program on December 29 at Kuppali in Thirthahalli taluk.
- ‘Kannada National Poet Kwembu Rashtriya Puraskar Award is presented annually in memory of the late poet Kwembu has been announced to Writer Institute for the Tamil language.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a silver medal and a citation.

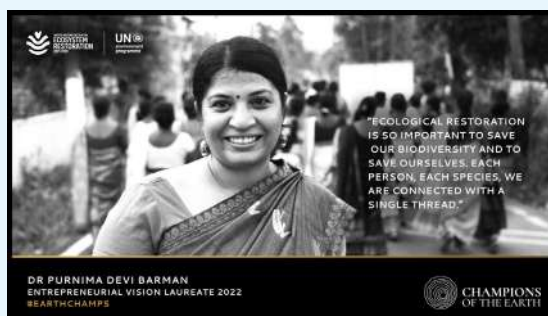
### Ravi Kumar Sagar honoured with the prestigious Dr. Kalam Seva Puraskar

#### Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar:

- Ravi Kumar Sagar, one of the youngest founders and CEO of RK’S INNO group was conferred with the most prestigious Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar.
- The award was presented to him for his persistent service to society and is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in India.
- A young entrepreneur from the twin Telugu states, Ravi Kumar Sagar also known as RK’S nailed it as a budding entrepreneur during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

### India’s Purnima Devi Barman is one of UNEP’s ‘Champions of the Earth’ for 2022

- India’s Purnima Devi Barman, an Assam-based wildlife biologist, is one of the five ‘Champions of the Earth’ for this year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced.
- The annual awards are the highest environmental honour that the UNEP confers on individuals and organisations whose actions have a “transformative impact” on the environment.
- She has been honoured in the Entrepreneurial Vision category.



### UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for 2022

- The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, for this 2022 Edition, has been given to Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong from Cameroon, President of the NGOs #Afrogiveness and Positive Youths Africa.
- The Prize is named after its benefactor, former Indian artist, writer and diplomat Madanjeet Singh (1924-2013) who was also a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

### 53rd IFFI 2022: Chiranjeevi honoured with Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022

- At the opening ceremony of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2022 award.
- Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur announced that the Indian Film Personality of the Year award will be conferred upon megastar Chiranjeevi.
- In a career spanning nearly four decades, Chiranjeevi has acted in more than 150 films, primarily in the Telugu film industry.



### Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama honoured with Gandhi Mandela award

- Gandhi Mandela Award 2022
- The 14th Dalai Lama was conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 at Thekchen



Choeling in Dharamshala's McleodGanj by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

- The Tibetan spiritual leader, receiving the peace prize from the New Delhi-based Gandhi Mandela Foundation.
- The event was attended by former Chief Justice of India Justice KG Balakrishnan and former Supreme Court Justice Gyan Sudha Misra.

### National Fisheries Development Board awarded "India Agribusiness Awards 2022"

- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, a vibrant organization under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India was one of the organisations to be awarded with "India Agribusiness Awards 2022" for the best Agribusiness Award under Fisheries Sector.
- During the event for commemorating the services & support extended to the fisheries sector by playing a crucial and exemplary role dedicated to the stakeholders for supporting various need-based projects for technology upgradation, species diversification in aquaculture, dissemination of new and improved fish varieties, promoting seaweed cultivation, ornamental fisheries, training & capacity building etc



### National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021

President of India recently presented National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021

#### About:

- The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted in the year 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by nurses and nursing professionals to society.
- The award is given to outstanding Nursing personnel employed in central, State/UTs, Private, Missionary and Voluntary Organizations.

### Florence Nightingale

- Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer, statistician and the founder of modern nursing.
- Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers at Constantinople.
- Her efforts to formalize nursing education led her to establish the first scientifically based nursing school—the Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

### Gandhi Mandela Award

The 14th Dalai Lama was recently conferred the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 at Thekchen Choeling in Dharamshala's McleodGanj by Himachal Pradesh governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.



#### About:

- A government of India registered Trust, the Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a non-profit organisation, formed with the motive to promote Mahatma Gandhi's and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela's values of non-violence.
- It has constituted an international prize, the Gandhi Mandela Award.
- The foundation instituted the award on the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, MK Gandhi.
- The award is given to personalities who have carried forward the legacies of Gandhi and Mandela by making significant contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation

## **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development of 2021**

Recently, the former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development of 2021 to Pratham, an NGO functioning in the field of education

## **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) was recently conferred with the 'Award of Excellence' at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation-2022.

### **About:**

- The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation is supported by a partnership between UNESCO and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation since 2021.
- UNESCO introduced the new category, 'Special Recognition for Sustainable Development', in 2020, together with an updated set of Awards Criteria to acknowledge the role and contribution of cultural heritage to sustainable development within the broader framework of the UN 2030 Agenda.
- Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognizing the efforts of private individuals and organizations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

## **Shilp Guru and National Awards**

30 Shilp Guru Awards and 78 National Awards for the year 2017, 2018 and 2019 were presented to master craftspersons.

### **About:**

#### **Shilp Guru Awards:**

- The Shilp Guru Awards are given to legendary master craftspersons in recognition of excellent craftsmanship, product excellence and the role played by them as gurus in the continuance of crafts to other trainee artisans as a vital part of traditional heritage.
- The Awards were started in 2002, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the resurgence of Handicrafts in India.
- The Award consists of a gold coin, 2.00 lakhs prize money, a Tamrapatra, a shawl and a certificate.

## **National Awards:**

- The National Awards are being awarded since 1965 for outstanding craftsmanship in different craft categories.
- The main crafts for which the Awards have been given are Metal Engraving, Chikan Hand Embroidery, Khurja Blue Pottery, Mata Ni Pachedi Kalamkari, Bandhani, Tie & Dye, Hand Block Bagh Print, Warli Art, Stone Dust Painting, Sozni Hand Embroidery, Terracotta, Tanjore Painting, Sholapith, Kantha Hand Embroidery, Palm leaf Engraving, Brass wire inlay on wood, Wood Tarkashi, Madhubani Painting, Gold Leaf Painting, straw craft etc.
- The Award consists of 1.00 lakh prize money, a Tamrapatra, a Shawl and a certificate.





### **HADR Exercise Samanvay 2022**

- Indian Air Force is conducting the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise ‘Samanvay 2022’ from 28 November 2022 to 30 November 2022 at Air Force Station Agra.
- To assess the efficacy of institutional Disaster Management structures and contingency measures, the exercise will comprise a seminar on Disaster Management, a ‘Multi Agency Exercise’ involving static and flying displays of various HADR assets, and a ‘Tabletop Exercise’.

### **Naseem Al Bahr-2022**

- The 13th edition of bilateral exercise between the Indian and the Royal Oman navies, Naseem Al Bahr-2022, commenced off the coast of Oman on 20 November 2022.
- The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase.
- The Indian Navy’s guided missile frigate Trikanth and Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra, with their integral helicopters, and the maritime patrol aircraft, Dornier, are participating in the exercise.

### **INS Trikanth participated in ‘Sea Sword 2’ counter-terrorism drill**

- INS Trikanth has participated in the Combined Maritime Forces led Operation “Sea Sword 2” in the Northwest Arabian Sea.
- The operation was held to prevent narcotics trade & stop smuggling entities from using the seas for their nefarious activities.
- Earlier, the 26th edition of the multinational maritime exercise “MALABAR 22” culminated in Japan on November 15th.
- This edition also marked the 30th anniversary of the exercise and was hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- This effort is part of the Indian Navy’s commitment to ensuring the safety of the seas and collective security in the region as espoused by the SAGAR vision of the Honourable Prime Minister of India.

### **AUSTRA HIND 22**

The bilateral training exercise “AUSTRA HIND 22” between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army is scheduled to take place at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan).

#### **About:**

- Aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other’s best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations in Semi deserts terrain under a UN peace enforcement mandate.
- This is the first exercise in the series of AUSTRA HIND with participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies.
- AUSTRA HIND” will be a yearly event that will be conducted alternatively in India and Australia.
- The joint exercise, besides promoting understanding and interoperability between the two armies, will further help in strengthening ties between India and Australia.

### **Ikshak**

Recently, Indian Navy launched ‘Ikshak’, the third of the four survey vessels (Large) project at Katupalli in Tamil Nadu

#### **About**

- The ship, named ‘Ikshak’ which means ‘Guide’, is being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Larson and Toubro (L&T).
- The ship’s name honours the role that Survey ships have played in ensuring the safety of mariners when at sea.
- The first of class ship ‘Sandhayak’ was launched on December 5, 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata. SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.

#### **About the ship**

- The Survey Vessel (Large) ships are 110 m long, and 16 m wide with a deep displacement of 3400 tons and a complement of 231 personnel.
- The ship’s propulsion system consists of two main engines with twin shafts, each capable of a maximum speed of 18 knots and a cruise speed of 14 knots.

## Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently conducted a successful maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

### About:

- The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.
- It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target that move at very high speeds.
- The fully functional ballistic missile defence system contained high-power radars and could potentially protect large areas from the adversary missile or other air attacks.

### Anti-ballistic missiles:



- The development of anti-ballistic missiles is said to have started by the DRDO around the 2000s in view of the development of ballistic assets by Pakistan and China.
- The phase-1 of the programme is said to have been completed towards the end of 2010s and consisted of the advanced air defence systems and air defence systems based on the Prithvi missile.
- The second phase, according to sources, focuses on the development of anti-ballistic defence systems like the US's Theatre High-Altitude Area Defence system, which can neutralise intermediate-range ballistic missiles.
- The AD-II, which is capable of neutralising missiles of even higher ranges, is also said to be under development

## The Malabar Exercise

The Navy chiefs of India, Australia, Japan and the

U.S., which comprise the Quadrilateral (Quad) grouping, met in Japan recently and exchanged views on “further enhancing interoperability” in future editions of the Malabar multilateral naval exercise.

### About:

- Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise that began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navy fleets of India and the United States.
- It includes simulated war games and combat manoeuvres.
- Since 2007, MALABAR has been held alternatively off Indian Coast and in the Western Pacific.
- The exercise has been held every year since 2002 (there was a gap after the 1992, 1995, and 1996 editions due to India's nuclear testing).
- It was expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.
- Currently, the Malabar exercise is among the navies of India, Japan, the US and Australia.



## Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization & Evaluation (SPACE)

Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) launched Hull Module of SPACE facility at Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) Kochi recently.



### About

- What is it? It is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems developed for use by the Indian navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.



- Design and Construction:
- The SPACE facility is based on the concept design and requirements projected by NPOL and has been constructed by M/s L&T Shipbuilding, Chennai.
- The design and construction of the platform meet all the statutory needs of Indian Register of Shipping and the vessel classifying authority and strictly adhere to the inspection and registration criteria as per Kerala Inland Vessel Rules.
- Use: This will be mainly utilized for evaluating Sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.
- Feature: The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform, which can be lowered up to depths of 100 meters using a series of synchronously operated winches.

### Garuda-VII Air Exercise

The chiefs of Indian and French Air Forces recently joined the Air Exercise Garuda-VII in Jodhpur.

#### About:

- It is a bilateral exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF).
- It provides a unique opportunity for both Air Forces to learn and imbibe each other's best practices during operations while also highlighted the growing interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- Ex Garuda-VII is also the first occasion for the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the light combat helicopter (LCH) Prachand to participate in any international exercise.
- It includes four Rafale fighters and one A-330 multi-role tanker transport aircraft from the French side.
- Apart from the LCA and LCH, the IAF contingent consists of Su-30 MK-I, Rafale and Jaguar fighter aircraft, as well as Mi-17 helicopters.

#### History:



- This is the seventh edition of the bilateral exercise.

- The first, third and fifth editions were conducted in India in 2003, 2006 and 2014 at Air Force Stations Gwalior, Kalaikunda and Jodhpur, respectively.
- The second, fourth and sixth editions were conducted in France in 2005, 2010 and 2019.

### Catamaran Vessel

Cochin Shipyard has recently signed an MoU with Inland Waterways Authority of India to build the country's first hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.



#### About:

- The Shipyard also signed another MoU for the construction of six electric catamaran vessels for Uttar Pradesh and two such vessels for Guwahati.
- The air-conditioned hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel will have a seating capacity for 100 passengers.
- It will be deployed at Varanasi after test and trial in Kochi.
- The air-conditioned electric hybrid vessels, designed for short-distance commute in riverine waters, will have seating capacity for 50 passengers.
- The vessels will provide onboard accommodation for the crew, besides toilet and washroom facilities for the passengers.
- The vessels will significantly contribute to the reduction in pollution levels in the National Waterways.

### Sea Vigil-22

The third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' will be conducted on 15-16 Nov 22.

#### About:

- This National Level Coastal Defence Exercise was conceptualised in 2018 to validate various measures that have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'.
- The concept of 'Sea Vigil' is to activate the Coastal Security apparatus across India and assess the overarching Coastal Defence mechanism.
- The exercise will be undertaken along the

entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the Coastal States and Union territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

- The exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and other ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.
- The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), which the Indian Navy conducts every two years.
- Sea Vigil and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum Maritime Security challenges.

### **Yudh Abhyas**

18th edition of India-US joint military training exercise Yudh Abhyas will begin on November 16, 2022 in Auli, Uttarakhand.

#### **About:**

- The 15-day-long exercise will focus on high altitude and extremely cold climate warfare.
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually between India and US with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.
- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.
- The schedule will include all operations related to peacekeeping and peace enforcement.
- The troops from both nations will work together to achieve common objectives.
- The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the Assam Regiment will be participating in the exercise.

### **Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI**

A contingent of Indian Special Forces troops are currently engaged in a bilateral joint training Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI.

#### **About:**

- It is a joint training exercise between Indian Special Forces and the Indonesian Special Forces.
- It is held at Sangga Buana Training Area, in
- The Exercise is the eighth edition of the series of bilateral exercises under this banner

and this is a part of military-to-military exchange programs.

- It aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.

### **Exercise Naseem Al Bahr - 2022**

The Indian Navy's guided missile stealth frigate, INS Trikand, offshore patrol vessel, INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft -Dornier, participated in the 13th Edition of the Indian Navy (IN) - Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze).

#### **About:**

- Ex-Naseem Al Bahr initiated in 1993, symbolises the long term strategic relationship between the two countries. This year marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises.
- Oman is the first country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which has been in conducting bilateral exercises with India jointly.
- Both countries already have Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) including on defence cooperation, between the Coast Guards to prevent crime at sea, on maritime issues and a protocol between their respective air forces on Flight Safety Information Exchange.

### **Exercise 'Samanvay 2022'**

Indian Air Force is conducting the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise 'Samanvay 2022' from 28 November 2022 to 30 November 2022 at Air Force Station Agra.

#### **About**

- It aims to assess the efficacy of institutional Disaster Management structures and contingency measures and involves static and flying displays of various HADR assets and a 'Table Top Exercise'.
- Samanvay 2022 will promote a synergistic approach towards HADR by various national and regional stakeholders involved in Disaster Management including the Civil Administration, the Armed Forces, NDMA, NIDM, NDRF, DRDO, BRO, IMD, NRS and INCOIS.
- It is expected to contribute in the evolution of institutional frameworks for effective communication, interoperability, cooperation and their application for successful conduct of HADR.
- The exercise also aims to provide a unique platform for exchange of domain knowledge, experience and best practices with the participating ASEAN member countries.





### **Nuclearization of Asia”**

- French Author Rene Naba has authored a new bilingual book in both French and English titled “De la Nucléarisation de l’Asie“(Nuclearization of Asia).
- The book discusses the nuclear emergency and threat posed by the nexus of Pakistan and China.
- The book published by Golias was released at the Geneva Press Club which was attended by the inperson participation of 35 people and 23 of them participated in virtual mode.

### **India: The Mother of Democracy**

- Union Education & Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the book ‘India: The Mother of Democracy’ prepared and published by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in New Delhi.
- The book is an attempt to showcase the democratic ethos ingrained in India since the dawn of civilisation. It is shown in this book that since the dawn of civilization, India has been imbued with democratic ethos.

### **Nalanada – Until we meet again’**

- Gautaam Borah, a senior management professional and the author of the widely acclaimed book ‘Monetising Innovation’, launches his new book ‘Nalanada – Until we meet again’.
- The book was launched by legendary writer Ruskin Bond. With his new book, Gautaam delivers a movie like experience that includes action, adventure, romance, passion, grit & intuition and mystery.
- The book will lead you to travel through all these in a jaw dropping race.

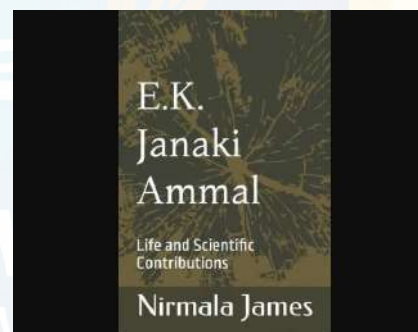
### **The World: A Family History’**

- British Historian Simon Sebag Montefiore has released a new book titled ‘The World: A Family History’.
- In ‘The World: A Family History’, Montefiore he tells how humanity evolved by the stories of different and famous families.

- The two-part book, which will be published by Hachette India, will tell the story of humankind in “a ground-breaking, single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve”.

### **“E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions” authored by Nirmala James**

- Retired school teacher Nirmala James has authored a new book titled “E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions”, featuring the life and remarkable achievements of Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal (E. K. Janaki Ammal), India’s first woman botanist.
- The book, published by Enview Research and Development, was released during the event organised on the 125th birth anniversary of E. K. Janaki Ammal. She was born on 4th November 1897 in Thalassery, Kerala.



- The event was organised by the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC) under the Botany Department, University of Kerala.

### **Innovations for You’ Coffee Table Book**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog recently launched the fourth edition of ‘Innovations for You’ coffee table book featuring 75 successful women entrepreneurs of India.

#### **About:**

- ‘Innovations For You’ is a Coffee Table Book series with 3 editions being released previously.
- The book captures success stories of start-ups supported through Atal Incubation Centres, Atal Community Innovation Centres and Atal New India Challenges, three flagship programs under the Atal Innovation Mission.
- Each edition showcases the journey of

entrepreneurs working in different sectors and is dedicated to creating new, disruptive, innovative products, services, and solutions that can pave the path for a sustainable future.

- The first edition was focused on the Healthcare sector; the second on Agriculture and the Allied sector and the third on Transport and Mobility.
- Out of the 2900 plus startups supported by AIM, more than 850 plus are led by women.

#### **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):**

- Objective: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship esp. in technology driven areas.

#### **Mission HQ: New Delhi.**

- Background: In 2016, Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog.
- It has two core Functions:
- (1) Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation wherein innovators will be supported to become successful entrepreneurs and
- (2) Innovation promotion to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.

#### **Components:**

##### **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):**

- ATLs were established in school across India as a workspace where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands-on do-it-yourself mode, and learn innovation skills.

##### **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):**

- Established across India to help start-ups expand quicker and enable innovation-entrepreneurship, in core sectors such as manufacturing, transport, energy, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, etc.

##### **Scale-up support to Established Incubators (EIC):**

- Under it, the start-up ecosystem in the country will be transformed by upgrading the Established Incubation Centres to world-class standards.

##### **Atal New India Challenge:**

- To promote the design and development of innovation-driven products based on cutting edge technologies.

#### **Mentor of Change Programme:**

- To guide and mentor students at the ATLs and AICs set up all over the country with a vision to enable them to develop the skills of strategic thinking, creation and innovation.

#### **Atal Community Innovation Centre:**

- The main aim is to cater to the underserved/unserved regions of India so as to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as creativity and innovation.
- Atal Research & Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE):
- To promote research and innovation and increase the competitiveness of Indian startups and small enterprises including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.





## APPOINTMENT

### First Woman Director Dr G Hemaprabha Takes Charge at ICAR-SBI

- ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) got its first-ever woman director in over a century of the Institution's existence.
- Dr. G Hemaprabha was appointed as the Director of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute up to 2024 on the recommendation of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

### Law Commission

Recently, the Retired High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi has been appointed as the chairperson of the Law commission.

#### About

- The appointment comes after more than two years after the 22nd Law Commission was notified on February 24, 2020.
- Status: Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body and is constituted by a notification of the Government of India.
- Background:
- The Charter Act 1833 which was enacted by the British Parliament provided for the establishment of a Law Commission for consolidation and codification of Indian Laws.
- In 1835, Lord Macaulay was appointed as Chairman of the First Law Commission.
- Tenure: The tenure of Law Commission is for three years.

#### Mandate:

- The Law Commission shall, on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu, undertake research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations.
- It shall also undertake studies and research for bringing reforms in the justice delivery systems for elimination of delay in procedures, speedy disposal of cases, reduction in cost of litigation etc.
- Composition & Eligibility: It has no fixed composition, no defined eligibility criteria for its chair and members, and no set functions.

### Election Commissioner (EC) of India

Retired Punjab cadre IAS officer Arun Goel recently assumed the office of Election Commissioner (EC), two days after President Droupadi Murmu appointed him to the post.

#### About:

#### Appointment of Election Commissioners:

#### 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.
- Tenure: The Commissioners are appointed for a 6-year period, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Qualification: There are no prescribed qualifications for their appointment, although convention dictates that only senior (serving or retired) civil servants, of the rank of the Cabinet Secretary or Secretary to the GoI or an equivalent rank, will be appointed.

### Indian Olympic Association

PT Usha is set to become the first woman President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She will also become the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95-year-old history.

#### About:

- The Indian Olympic Association is the governing body for the Olympic Movement and the Commonwealth Games in India.
- As an affiliated member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the IOA

administers various aspects of sports governance and athletes' welfare in the country.

- In this regard, the IOA oversees the representation of athletes or teams participating in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and other international multi-sport competitions of IOC, CGF, OCA and ANOC.
- The Indian Olympic Association is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

#### History:

- The IOA was established in the year 1927 with Sir Dorabji Tata and Dr. A.G. Noehren as the Founding President and Secretary General respectively. It is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

#### Governance:

- The Indian Olympic Association is currently governed by a 32-member Executive Council, headed by President.
- The election for the Executive Council is held once in every 4 years.



#### Ex-Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Virmani named as full-time member of NITI Aayog

- Former Chief Economic Advisor, Arvind Virmani has been appointed as a full time member of NITI Aayog.
- The other existing Members of NITI Aayog are VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand

and VK Paul. While Suman Bery is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran is the incumbent CEO of the think tank.

- The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Shri Arvind Virmani, Founder, Chairman, Foundation for Economic Growth & Welfare as Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog with immediate effect and until further orders, on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to Full-Time Members of NITI Aayog.





## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Vegan Day - November 1

- World Vegan Day is celebrated every year on November 1 to encourage people to follow the vegan lifestyle and spread awareness about veganism.
- The day is dedicated to the practice of abstaining from use of animal products and exploitation of animals.
- All across the world, World Vegan Day is celebrated a day after Halloween. Halloween falls on October 31.
- According to World Vegan Day, this year's theme will be based on the animal rights-focused campaign 'Future Normal'.

### International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists: 2 November

- November 2nd has been observed as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) since 2013.
- The day came into existence when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution in December 2013.
- The day draws attention to impunity, i.e., culprits going unpunished, to crimes against journalists.
- It took a couple of years of work and extensive lobbying from IFEX (formerly International Freedom of Expression Exchange) and others to get the Resolution for marking the day passed.

### The International Day for Biosphere Reserves

November 3 will be the first 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves', to be celebrated beginning 2022

#### About:

#### Biosphere Reserves:

- 
- Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large area of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof.
- They are sites for testing interdisciplinary

approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

- Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

#### World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was formed in 1971, as a backbone for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and living in harmony with nature.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves promotes North-South and South-South collaboration and represents a unique tool for international co-operation through sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences, building capacity and promoting best practices.
- There are now 738 properties in 134 countries, including 12 in India, four in Sri Lanka, and three in the Maldives.



### Central Vigilance Awareness Week is observed from 31st October to 6th November 2022

- Central Vigilance Commission observes Vigilance Awareness Week during the week in which 31st of October, the birthday of the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls.
- This year, Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed from 31st October to 6th

November 2022 with the following theme: "Corruption-free India for a developed Nation".



### International Open Access Week-2022

- International Open Access Week is celebrated worldwide to create awareness about open-access scholarly publishing among researchers and publishers by CSIR-NIScPR.
- It is celebrated globally during the last full week of October. To highlight the different aspects and opportunities of the Open Access Publishing, different outreach activities are organized including talks, seminars, symposia, or the announcement of open-access mandates or other milestones in open access.

### National Legal Services Day 2022: 9th November

- National Legal Services Day is marked every year on 9th November to celebrate the commencement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on this very day in 1995.
- This day was established with a mandate to offer support and help to weaker sections of society including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, women, disabled persons, natural calamities victims, and human trafficking victims.

### International Week of Science and Peace 2022: 9-15 November

- November 9 to November 14 is observed as the International Week of Science and Peace every year around the globe.
- This week is an initiative taken by the United Nations (UN), hoping to make people contribute towards the encouragement and promotion of peace across the globe.



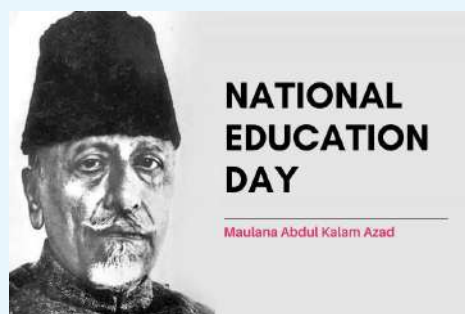
- During this week, people inspire and promote peace in their countries and also develop advanced technology for better living.
- Various events and activities are organized worldwide, and people participate internationally.

### World Science Day for Peace and Development observed on 10 November

- World Science Day for Peace and Development was proclaimed by the UN Educational, Scientific and UNESCO in 2001 under the UNESCO 31 C/Resolution 20.
- It is celebrated every year on November 10, around the globe, marking the significance of science in society.
- The day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

### Nation celebrates National Education Day on 11 November

- The National Education Day is observed annually on November 11 in India.
- In India, National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11 as it marks the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was India's first education minister after independence.
- He was awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously, India's highest civilian honour in 1992.





## World Usability Day 2022: “Our Health”

- Every year on the second Thursday of November, the world observes World Usability Day. The date is also mentioned on the UN calendar.
- World Usability Day, which will fall on November 10 this year, is also known as ‘Make Things Easier’ day.



- “Usability” is a quality that evaluates how efficiently and effectively a person can use a product, as well as how satisfied he or she is with the process.

## Odisha government observed 10th November as ‘Millet Day’ in the state

- The state government of Odisha is observing 10th November 2022 as ‘Millet Day’ in the state.
- The day is chosen according to the Hindu calendar, the 1st thursday of margasira month.
- The primary aim of celebrating the day is to promote millets as a highly nutritive and eco-friendly food product.
- The initiative started in 7 districts, till now the mission has reached 19 districts of Odisha so far. Besides, the government aims to promote the millet mission across 30 districts of Odisha.



## World Pneumonia Day observed on 12 November

- World Pneumonia Day is a global event observed every year on 12 November to spread awareness and educate people to combat Pneumonia disease, which is a world’s biggest infectious killer of adults and children, responsible for the majority of death of children below five around the world.



- The day is also focused on creating ample opportunity and encourage for the global action mainly in the low and middle income countries to fight the toll due to pneumonia and other respiratory infection.

## World Diabetes Day observed on 14th November

- World Diabetes Day is observed on November 14 every year to bring the attention of the people to health threats posed by diabetes and how to avoid that.
- On this day, the enormous achievement of insulin discovery by two outstanding scientists, Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best, is celebrated.
- The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) will be involved in coordinating activities on the day, so keep an eye out for an event near you! Any help or support you can give this cause will be greatly appreciated by everyone concerned.

## India celebrates Happy Children’s Day on November 14

### Happy Children’s Day 2022:

- India celebrates Happy Children’s Day on November 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- This year marks the 133rd birth anniversary of Pandit Nehru who was born in 1889 in Allahabad, India.
- Nehru was a great advocate for children’s right and for an all-inclusive education system where knowledge is accessible to all.
- He believed that children are the future of the country and the foundation of a society, and hence, everyone’s well-bring should be taken care of.
- Nehru was often called by the name “Chacha Nehru”. Children’s Day is also known as ‘Bal Diwas’ in India.



## Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2022 celebrates the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda

- November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas or Tribal Pride Day to honour tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda.
- On November 10, 2021, the Union Cabinet declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' marking the birth anniversary of the revered leader and saluting his contributions to India's freedom movement.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a museum in Ranchi in memory of Birsa Munda also known as Dharti Aaba.
- PM Modi said that observance of the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary will serve as an opportunity to celebrate the glorious tribal culture and contribution to national development.

## Andhra Pradesh Celebrates 55th National Library Week

- The 55th National Library Week will be celebrated in all libraries of Andhra Pradesh from 14th November 2022.
- The 55th National Library Week will be a week-long celebration and will be inaugurated in Tummalapalli Kalakshetram by State Ministers Taneti Vanita, Botcha Satyanarayana, and Jogi Ramesh.

## National Press Day 2022 Observed On 16 November

- National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to acknowledge and honour the Press Council of India (PCI).
- The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in the country.
- The Press Council of India also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.



## International Day for Tolerance observed on 16 November

- International Day for Tolerance is observed on November 16 every year with an aim to build tolerance among diverse cultures and spread the message that tolerance is an

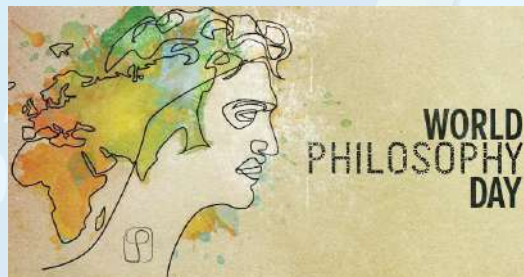
integral part of society.

- The day is specifically recognized to educate people about the harmful consequences of intolerant society and its impact on the nation.



## World Philosophy Day 2022 is observed on 17 November

- World Philosophy Day is commemorated on the third Thursday of November every year.
- This year it will fall on November 17. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed it an International day in 2005.
- However, that was not always the case. World Philosophy Day was first celebrated on November 21, 2002.
- UNESCO aimed to raise public awareness about philosophy and how vital it is, not only to connect the world today but to the past and present, as well as for a better understanding of the future.



## National Epilepsy Day Observed On 17 November

### National Epilepsy Day 2022:

- Each year, on November 17, National Epilepsy Day is marked in India to raise awareness of the condition.
- National Epilepsy Day 2022 is observed to raise public awareness of epilepsy.
- To raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of epilepsy, numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations will mark National Epilepsy Day in 2022.
- A persistent brain illness called epilepsy is marked by periodic "fits" or "seizures."
- According to the Epilepsy Foundation,

the theme of National Epilepsy Awareness Month (NEAM) 2022 is “There is no NEAM without ME”.

### World COPD Day 2022 observed on 16 November

- World COPD Day 2022:
- On the third Wednesday in November World COPD Day is observed. This year World COPD Day is observed on November 16.
- The day aims to create awareness about the condition and ways to reduce the burden of COPD worldwide.
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide.



- Its aim is to raise awareness, share knowledge, and discuss ways to reduce the burden of COPD worldwide.
- The 2022 theme for World COPD Day will be “Your Lungs for Life”

### World Toilet Day 2022 observed on 19 November

- The United Nations observes World Toilet Day on November 19 annually.
- The main aim is to raise public awareness of broader sanitation systems such as wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and hand washing.
- The 2022 campaign ‘Making the invisible visible’ explores how inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes and soil, polluting underground water resources.

### 5th Naturopathy Day is celebrated on 18 November 2022

#### National Naturopathy Day 2022:

- National Naturopathy Day is observed in India every year on November 18th, to promote positive mental and physical health through drug-free therapy.
- National Naturopathy Day was established on November 18th 2018 by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy,

Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India.

- On November 18th 1945, Mahatma Gandhi became the Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the agreement aimed at making the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people, therefore, this day was chosen to be observed as National Naturopathy Day.

#### About.

- Naturopathy techniques were brought to the United States from Germany in the 1800s.
- The term naturopathy was coined by John Schell in 1895 and popularized by Benedict Lust, also referred to as the ‘Father of Modern Naturopathy’.
- He was also credited for spreading the knowledge of naturopathy in the United States in 1992.
- The naturopathy movement started in Germany and other western countries with the ‘Water Cure System’, also called ‘Hydrotherapy’.

### World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18-24 November 2022

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) runs from 18 to 24 November every year.
- It’s an international initiative to increase awareness of the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines.
- The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance, encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.



**Antibiotics**  
**Antivirals**  
**Antifungals**  
**Antiparasitics**

### UNGA designates Nov 18 as World Day for prevention of child sexual abuse

- The UN General Assembly has declared November 18 as the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence.
- The new World Day is aimed at bringing global visibility to the trauma of child sexual abuse, with the hope that governments will take action to fight it.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), millions of children experience sexual violence each year.



## World Children's Day 2022 celebrates on 20 November

- World Children's Day is celebrated on November 20 annually. The day aims to promote international togetherness and awareness among children as well as to improve their welfare.
- November 20 marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly adopted a Declaration and Convention on children's rights.
- This year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wants to remind world leaders to "fulfil the promise of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".
- The theme for International children's day is, "Inclusion, for every child".



## World Television Day 2022 observed on 21st November

### World Television Day 2022:

- World Television Day is observed on 21 November, every year.
- It is a day that recognizes the value and impact of television in our lives. We all know television plays a crucial role in society and in an individual's life.
- It is our daily source of entertainment and information.
- All the entertainment and information that we receive from television helps us to stay updated about the world.
- To highlight the importance of television as something beyond an electronic tool, World Television Day is celebrated annually on November 21.

## World Fisheries Day observed on 21st November

- World Fisheries Day is annually celebrated on 21st November.
- This day is dedicated to highlighting the critical importance of healthy ocean ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world.
- World Fisheries Day also explores finding solutions to the increasingly interconnected

problems that the world is facing to follow sustainable models of our ocean ecosystems while safeguarding the interest and growth and development of the fisherfolk community all across the world.



- The first World Fisheries Day was celebrated on November 21, 2015.
- On the same day, it was the grand opening of the International Fisherman's organization was held in New Delhi.
- A forum for the World Fisheries consortium was established around 1997 and was famously called WFF (World Fisheries Forum)

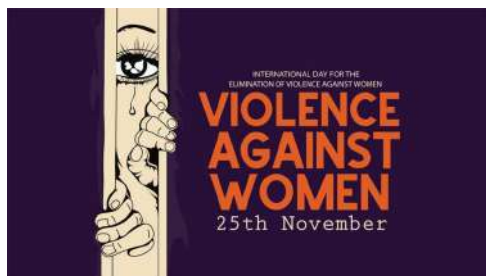
## World Heritage Week: 19–25 November 2022

- The Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is celebrating World Heritage week commencing from November 19 to November 25, 2022.
- The World Heritage Week is observed to promote the conservation of culture and heritage.
- The week – long celebration aims to create awareness about traditions and culture.
- The World Heritage Week is celebrated by UNESCO and several other international organisations.
- In India. The World Heritage Week is celebrated by the Archaeological Survey of India.

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2022: 25th November

- The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25, every year.
- It is a day to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, the Dominican Republic activists who were murdered at the order of Rafael Trujillo in 1960.
- The United Nations aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence against women.

- This year's campaign is a 16-day initiative starting on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women and concluding on International Human Rights Day on December 10.



- The 2022 theme of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.'

### India Celebrates National Milk Day on 26th November

- National Milk Day is celebrated on 26th November every year to signify the importance and benefits of milk.
- Milk day is a special day that is observed to spread awareness among people about the importance and need for milk.

#### About

- National Milk Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, who is also known as the 'Father of White Revolution'.
- The National Milk Day highlights the importance of milk in human life.
- The day was chosen as the National Milk Day by the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with the milk federation of 22 states.
- The Indian Dairy Association took the initiative of celebrating National Milk Day for the first time in 2014.

#### About Dr. Verghese Kurien

- Verghese Kurien is known as the "Father of the White Revolution" in India.
- He was a social entrepreneur whose vision of the "Billion-Litre Idea", Operation flood, made dairy farming India's largest self-sustaining industry and the largest rural employment sector providing a third of all rural income.
- This made India the largest producer of milk in the world.

### November 28 is marked as Red Planet Day

#### Red Planet Day 2022:

- Commemorating the day one of the most significant space missions to Mars was launched, November 28 is marked as Red Planet Day.
- After 3 previous attempts, Spacecraft Mariner 4 became the first successful flyby of Mars.
- The spacecraft was launched on November 28, 1964, and reached Mars on July 14, 1965.
- The successful mission produced 22 pictures of the Martian surface. These pictures were the first-ever close-up photos to come from deep space.
- This mission, along with several others that occurred afterward, has helped us learn much about the red planet.

### International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2022: 29 November

- November 29 is marked as the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People every year.
- Since 1978, the United Nations has commemorated the day as a way to express solidarity with the people of Palestine while the peace and resolution process remains stalled.
- The day aims to spread more awareness about the issues faced by the Palestinian people along with promoting a peaceful Palestine-Israel resolution.

### Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare: 30 November

- Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is commemorated on November 30 every year.
- This internationally marked day was adopted by the United Nations to remember the victims of chemical warfare.
- The day aims to encourage efforts for eliminating the use of chemical weapons and remember those who have suffered because of such warfare.





### National Newborn Week 2022: 15 to 21 November

- In India, National Newborn Week is celebrated every year from 15 to 21 November.
- This week aims to reinforce the importance of neonatal health as a priority area of the health sector and reduce infant mortality by improving health care conditions for infants in the neonatal period.
- The main purpose of celebrating this week is to raise awareness about the care of newborn babies.

### International Open Access Week-2022

- CSIR-NIScPR recently celebrated "International Open Access Week-2022".

#### About:

- International Open Access Week is celebrated worldwide to create awareness about the open access scholarly publishing among researchers and publishers.
- It is celebrated globally during the last full week of October.
- International Open Access Week is organized by SPARC in partnership with the Open Access Week Advisory Committee.
- It was founded in 2008 by SPARC and partners in the student community.
- This year's theme seeks to encourage connection and collaboration among the climate movement and the international open community.

#### CSIR-NIScPR:

- CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) has been formed following the merger of CSIR-NISCAIR & CSIR-NISTADS
- CSIR-NIScPR is the one of largest Open Access publishers of India which publishes 15 Diamond Open Access scholarly

journals.

- CSIR-NIScPR neither charges any publication fee to authors nor any subscription fee to the readers.

### India Water Week

President Droupadi Murmu recently inaugurated the 7th edition of India Water Week.

About:

- It was conceptualized and organized for the first time in 2012.
- It is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India
- The theme of the 7th India Water Week is 'Water Security for Sustainable Development and Equity'.
- The function is organised by the ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation in an effort to raise awareness and conserve and use water resources in an integrated manner.
- The event will address the issues of sustainability of water resources development and management in line with the sustainable development goals.
- Denmark, Singapore and Finland are the partner countries for IWW 2022.





### Cyber Intelligence Unit

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed that a dedicated cyber intelligence unit will be set up in Maharashtra to curb cyber and financial crimes.
- The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- It was a two-day contemplation camp of Home Ministers and Director Generals of Police of various states across the country organized at Surajkund in Haryana.

### Bharatiya Bhasha Divas

- The University Grants Commission has written to vice-chancellors and principals of all universities and colleges in this regard following recommendations of a committee constituted last year by the education ministry to promote Indian languages.
- All higher education institutions in India must observe a 'Bharatiya Bhasha Divas' on December 11 every year to create "language harmony" and develop a conducive environment for learning Indian languages.

### FSSAI approved Yak as a 'food animal'

- The Himalayan Yak has been approved as a 'food animal' by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The move is expected to help slow the decline of the high-altitude bovine animal population by incorporating it into the conventional milk and meat industries, according to an official at the National Research Centre (NRC) on Yak in Dirang, West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The 'food animal' tag will become official once it is notified in the gazette following approval by a competent authority.



### Vistara to Merge With Air India by 2024

- Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tata Sons announced that they have agreed to merge Air India and Vistara, with SIA getting a 25.1 per cent stake in the merged entity at an investment of Rs 2,058.5 crore (\$250 million) in Air India as part of the transaction.

### First science documentary made in Sanskrit 'Yanam' screened at the 53rd IFFI

- 'Yanam,' a non-feature film, was screened under the Indian Panorama section at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival at Goa.
- It is based on the autobiographical book "My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man Behind the Mangalyaan Mission" by former space chairman Padma Bhushan Dr K. Radhakrishnan.
- 'Yanam' movie portrays India's dream project Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan).



### Indelible Black Ink or Kali Syahi

Keeping alive a tradition dating back to the reign of the Kachhwaha rulers, a family in the Walled City of Jaipur makes an indelible black ink, or kali syahi, used 250 years ago for writing royal firmans (decrees) and ledgers.

#### About:





- The fourth generation of the family now produces the ink every Deepavali.
- While the erstwhile royal family used the ink for its official transactions, the businessmen of the princely State used it to write their accounts.
- Even universities established after Independence awarded degrees written with this ink. The ink was believed to ward off evil and bring prosperity to its users.

#### Features:

- The ink was made of natural ingredients using a traditional procedure handed down from generations.
- The black ink is prepared on a no-moon night with the chanting of mantras.
- It is made of kaajal (homemade mascara), gondh (edible gum) and other locally sourced herbal ingredients.
- The ink has medicinal properties, as some of its ingredients were used in the traditional Ayurvedic system for the treatment and healing of wounds.

### Andaman and Nicobar Tribes

In a first-of-its-kind bid to showcase the heritage of tribal communities, especially those of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recreated the huts of several communities at its different regional centres.

#### About:



- Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have originally been the abode of six aboriginal tribes i.e., the Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens.
- Except Nicobarese, the rest of the 05 tribes are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The tribes of the Islands belong to two different races.
- The Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges and the Sentinelese living in the Andaman group of islands belong to the Negrito group while the Nicobarese and Shompens, living in Nicobar Islands belong to the Mongoloid group.

- The tribes in the two regions have shown a marked difference in racial, linguistic and cultural terms as also the way of life adapted by them over the centuries.

### Walong Mela

Indian Army recently organised Walong Mela in continuation of Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Battle of Walong.

#### About:

- It aims to commemorate the unsurpassable bravery & sacrifice of the Indian Army while defending the Indian Territory against the Chinese aggression of 1962.
- The aim of the Mela was to familiarise the public with the Indian Army & to encourage a sense of belongingness & togetherness.

#### Battle of Walong:

- Walong is one of India's easternmost villages in Arunachal Pradesh.
- In the 1962 India-China War, the Indian Army defended against China in all sectors except one — Arunachal Pradesh's Walong.
- The Battle of Walong was the only counterattack India could manage in the war.
- Indian Army held back the Chinese troops for 27 days, which forced the Chinese to deploy its reserve division from Tawang to Walong

### MAARG Portal

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has recently launched a call for startup applications for registration on the MAARG portal, the National Mentorship Platform by Startup India.

#### About:

- MAARG portal, (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth), is a one stop platform to facilitate mentorship for startups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds.
- The objectives of the MAARG portal are:
- To provide sector focused guidance, handholding, and support to startups throughout their lifecycle
- To establish a formalized and structured platform that facilitates intelligent matchmaking between the mentors and their respective mentees
- To facilitate efficient and expert mentorship for startups and build an outcome-oriented mechanism that allows timely tracking of the mentor-mentee engagements.
- Startups can now effectively connect

with academicians, industry experts, successful founders, seasoned investors, and other experts from across the globe, through Artificial Intelligence (AI) based matchmaking, to get personalized guidance on growth and strategy.

- The key features of the portal include customizable mentorship programs for ecosystem enablers, mobile-friendly user interface, recognition for contributing mentors, video and audio call options, etc.
- The MAARG is being operationalized in three phases which include, Mentor Onboarding, Startup Onboarding, and MAARG Portal Launch and Mentor Matchmaking.

### **Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance**

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar will participate in the 'Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance' to be held in Muscat, Oman on 24th and 25th of November

#### **About:**

- Theme: 'The AMR Pandemic: From Policy to One Health Action'.
- It will enhance international cooperation to tackle AMR and build on the success of the two previous high-level ministerial conferences held in the Netherlands in 2014 and 2019.
- The conference is also expected to pave the way for nations to come out with bold and specific political commitments in the 2024 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR.

#### **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):**

- Antimicrobials – including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitic – are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants.
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
- As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

### **Major initiatives taken by India to combat AMR:**

- National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR):
- Government of India launched National Action Plan in 2017, two years after the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched its Global Action Plan on AMR.
- National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi is the focal point for implementation and coordination of the NAP-AMR.

#### **Red Line Campaign:**

- Under the Red Line Campaign, the Government of India urges people not to use medicines marked with a red vertical line, without a doctor's prescription.
- This campaign is aimed at discouraging unnecessary prescription and over-the-counter sale of antibiotics causing drug resistance for several critical diseases including TB, malaria, dengue, etc.





## Bonalu Festival

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recently joined the Budaga Jangalu community of Telangana and whipped himself as part of the 'Potharajulu' tradition. The custom is part of the state's acclaimed Bonalu festival.

### About



- Bonalu is a Hindu Festival where Goddess Mahakali is worshiped.
- It is an annual festival celebrated in the twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana state, India.
- Bonalu is celebrated usually during Ashada Masam that falls in July/August.
- Special poojas are performed for goddess Yellamma during the first and last day of the festival.
- The festival is considered as a form of thanksgiving to the Goddess after the fulfillment of vows.
- Bonam literally means Meal in Telugu, which is an offering to the Mother Goddess.

### Celebrations:

- Every year, the festival starts at Golconda Fort, and on the second Sunday, it moves to the Balkampet Yellamma temple in Balkampet, and the Ujjaini Mahakali Temple in Secunderabad. On the third Sunday, it moves to the Pochamma and Katta Maisamma temple of Chilkalguda and the Mateshwari temple of Lal Darwaza in Hyderabad.

## Mathura-Vrindavan Pilgrimage Centre

According to Uttar Pradesh government, Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041.

### About:

- Tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region, which includes famous

pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi.

- Instead, only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area.
- All 252 waterbodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived.
- According to the plan, the Braj region's annual pilgrim-tourist footfall is expected to multiply from the current level of 2.3 crore to six crore by 2041.
- To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.
- To facilitate this in Mathura-Vrindavan, the plan divides the entire region into four clusters, each containing two of the eight key cities.
- The plan proposes to form small circuits called 'Parikrama Paths' which the pilgrim can undertake either on foot or using electric vehicles.

### Mathura-Vrindavan:

- It is located on the banks of the river Yamuna.
- It is situated the birthplace of Lord Krishna.
- The entire land is dotted with magnificent temples, dedicated to various aspects of his life.
- Some of the famous temples are: Govind Dev Temple, Rangaji Temple, Dwarikadhish Temple, Bankey Bihari Temple and the ISKCON Temple.
- Gokul, Barsana and Goverdhan are the other township associated with the legend of Lord Krishna.

## Wangala Dance

Members of the Garo tribal community recently performed Wangala dance on the occasion of 'The Rising Sun Water Fest-2022' on the banks of Umiyam Lake in Meghalaya.

### About:

- The Wangala Festival, also known as the 100 drum festival is celebrated with much zeal and enthusiasm in India's north-eastern state of Meghalaya.
- Celebrated since 1976, it's the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists.

- During the Wangala, tribals offer sacrifices to please their deity Saljong, the Sun God.
- It marks the end of the long harvest season.
- The celebration also signifies the end of a long toil period in the field for the Garo tribe before the start of the winters.
- The first day of the festival is celebrated with a ceremony called Ragula which is performed in the house of the village's chief.



### Guru Nanak Jayanti 2022

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu has greeted fellow-citizens on the eve of birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



#### About:

- It will be observed as the 553rd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is observed annually on the full moon date of the Kartik month or Kartik Purnima
- Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539), also referred to as Baba Nanak was the founder of Sikhism and is the first of the ten Sikh Gurus.
- He was born on April 15, 1469 in Rai Bhoi di Talvandi, now Nankana Sahib, Pakistan.
- Guru Nanak Dev spread the message of 'Ek Omkar' which means that God is one and is present everywhere.
- Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed one can connect to the almighty through sincere prayers. All his teachings are composed together to form the sacred book called Guru Granth Sahib - the central holy religious scripture of Sikhism.

### Baliyatra

In his address to the Indian diaspora in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the annual Baliyatra on the banks of the Mahanadi in Cuttack, which celebrates the ancient trade relations between India and Indonesia.



#### About:

- It literally means 'voyage to Bali'.
- It is one of the country's largest open-air fairs that commemorates the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga (today's Odisha) and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- This year's Baliyatra, which concluded recently also found a place in the Guinness World Records for achieving an impressive feat of origami, the creation of beautiful paper sculptures.
- The festival is organised by the Cuttack district administration and Cuttack Municipal Corporation in association with several other government agencies.

#### Origins of the festival:

- The origins of the festival, which begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon night in the month of Kartik) can be traced back more than 1,000 years.
- The Bay of Bengal region had several ports, and sadhavas (traders) traditionally began their voyage across the sea on this auspicious day, when the winds were favourable for the boats, known as boita, to sail.
- According to historians, popular items of trade between Kalinga and Southeast Asia included pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, silk, camphor, gold, and jewellery.
- Even today, thousands of people across Odisha sail decorative miniature boats made



of banana stems, paper, or thermocol to celebrate boita bandana, or the worshipping of the boats.

### **Guru Tegh Bahadur**

November 24 is commemorated as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

#### **About:**

- Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675) was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion.
- Name: He was born as Tyaga Mal. He came to be known by the name Teg Bahadur (Mighty of The Sword), given to him by Guru Hargobind after he shown his valour in a battle against the Mughals.
- Family: His father was the Sixth guru, Guru Hargobind. His son Guru Gobind Singh, became the tenth Sikh guru.

#### **Life and works:**

- He built the city of Anandpur Sahib (in Rupnagar/Ropar district, on the edge of Shivalik Hills, near the Sutlej River, in Punjab). Here the last two Sikh Gurus lived and where Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699.
- He contributed more than 100 poetic hymns to Granth Sahib which cover various topics, such as the nature of God, human attachments, body, mind, dignity service etc.
- He resisted the forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits and non-Muslims to Islam.

#### **Martyrdom:**

- He was publicly beheaded in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for himself refusing to convert to Islam. He is remembered for giving up his life for freedom of religion.
- His martyrdom is remembered as the Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur every year on 24 November, according to the Nanakshahi calendar released by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee in 2003.

#### **Memorials in Delhi:**

- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib mark the place of his execution.
- Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib mark the places of cremation of his body.

### **National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**

- Chhattisgarh celebrates its 23rd State Foundation Day on 1st November 2022 and as a part of the celebrations,
- Raipur will host the 3rd National Tribal Dance Festival.

- The National Tribal Dance Festival will be celebrated from 1st November 2022 to 3rd November 2022.
- On behalf of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, other state representatives have invited the Chief Minister, and officials to be present in the National Tribal Dance Festival.

### **Lachit Borphukan**

A three-day celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of the legendary Assamese general and folk hero Lachit Borphukan began in New Delhi

#### **About**

- Borphukan has always been revered in Assam as the warrior who defeated Mughal armies in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671.
- He was chosen as one of the five Borphukans of the Ahom kingdom by king Charadhwaj Singha, and given administrative, judicial, and military responsibilities.
- Unlike the Mughals who preferred battles in the open with their massive armies, Borphukan preferred guerrilla tactics which provided an edge to his smaller, but fast moving and capable forces.
- Lachit Borphukan died a year after the Battle of Saraighat from a long festering illness.

### **The Ahom kingdom**

- The Ahom kingdom had been repeatedly attacked by the Turkic and Afghan rulers of the Delhi Sultanate and later by the Mughals.
- The Mughal-Ahom wars had been going on since 1615-16, with the first Mughal attack on Assam with a view to capturing the region. The Ahoms had ruled major parts of Assam for nearly 600 years, between 1228 and 1826.
- From 1615 to 1639, many battles would be fought between the two, and tired of war, both sides agreed to sign a treaty after the Mughals had advanced into Assam and captured Kamrup.

#### **The Battle of Saraighat**

- The Battle of Saraighat was a naval battle fought in 1671 between the Mughal Empire and the Ahom Kingdom on the Brahmaputra river at Saraighat, now in Guwahati, Assam, India.
- Borphukan was commander of the Ahom armies during the battle of Saraighat –. The battle, which took place during the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's reign, was seen as a decisive Ahom victory.

#### **Nankana Sahib**

The Union Home Ministry has recently facilitated the visit of Indian Sikh pilgrims to Nankana Sahib on the occasion of Gurupurab.

**About:**



- Nankana Sahib is a city in Pakistan’s Punjab province, where Gurdwara Janam Asthan (also called Nankana Sahib Gurdwara) is located.
- The shrine is built over the site where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was believed to be born in 1469.
- Besides Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib has several important shrines, including Gurdwara Patti Sahib, Gurdwara Bal Leela, Gurdwara Mal Ji Sahib, Gurdwara Kiara Sahib, Gurdwara Tambu Sahib — all dedicated to stages in the life of the first Guru.
- There is also a Gurdwara in memory of Guru Arjan (5th Guru) and Guru Hargobind (6th Guru). Guru Hargobind is believed to have paid homage to the town in 1621-22.
- The Janam Asthan shrine was constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, after he visited Nankana Sahib in 1818-19 while returning from the Battle of Multan.

**Veerangana Sewa Kendra**

Indian Army has recently launched a single window facility - Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris.



**About:**

- The system caters to registering grievances with tracking, monitoring, and regular feedback to the applicant.
- Veernaris / Next of Kin will have multiple

means for approaching the VSK through telephone, SMS, WhatsApp, Post, e-mail and walk-ins to seek assistance.

- Stakeholders can monitor the status of grievances through Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software.
- The facility has been launched as Veer naris are employed as VSK staff to maintain inherent connection and empathy with the beneficiaries.
- The VSK is one of its kind initiatives by the Indian Army towards extending genuine care and support to its widows and veer naris and NoKs.
- Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) will be available as a service to the Indian Army Veterans Portal.

**Megalithic Burial Sites**

Tirupati district is dotted with anthropomorphic burial sites, said to be the largest as a collection in Andhra Pradesh.



**About:**

- Anthropomorphic sites are those marked by a representation of human form above the megalithic burials.
- The most prominent one is the ‘pillared dolmen’ of the megalithic era, found at Mallayagaripalle, nestling on a hillock between Chandragiri and Dornakambala, in Tirupati.
- The structure locally referred to as ‘Pandava Gullu’ or ‘Pandavula Banda’ in memory of the Pandavas, is estimated to be 2,500 years old.
- There is another endangered megalith monument in Palem village near Kallur, which resembles a bull’s horn. It is called locally as ‘Devara Yeddhu’.
- Another megalithic burial site in Venkatapuram is the ‘stone circle’, where the tomb is surrounded by round stones arranged in a circle.

**Megalith:**

- A megalith is a large stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.



- The word megalithic describes structures made of such large stones without the use of mortar or concrete, representing periods of prehistory characterised by such constructions.
- The construction of these structures took place mainly in the Neolithic period and continued into the Chalcolithic period and the Bronze Age.



### Patan Patola scarf

Recently, PM Narendra Modi gifted 'Patan Patola Dupatta' (scarf) to Italian PM Giorgia Meloni.



#### About:

- The ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure silk dates back to the 11th century. The Patola fabrics bear an equal intensity of colours and design on both sides.
- This peculiar quality has its origins in an intricate and difficult technique of dyeing or knot dyeing, known as 'bandhani', on the warp and weft separately before weaving.
- One of the major practitioners of the dwindling art form is the Salvi family from North Gujarat.

- The weaving process: Patola is woven on primitive hand-operated harness looms made out of rosewood and bamboo strips. The loom lies on a slant. The other commonly worn Patola is the Rajkot Patola, woven on a flat loom.
- Price: The base price of a Patola saree in the Patan weave starts from Rs 1.5 lakh up and can go up to Rs 6 lakh.

### Mission Amrit Sarovar

The government has recently completed the construction of more than 25,000 Amrit Sarovars within the 6 months.

#### About:

- Under the Mission Amrit Sarovar, a target has been set to build 50,000 Amrit Sarovars by 15th August, 2023.
- Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched on 24th April, 2022 with the resolve to build 75 Amrit Sarovars during the 75th year of independence as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in every district to overcome the water crisis in rural areas of the country.
- This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach which involves 6 Ministries/Department namely:
  - Dept of Rural Development,
  - Department of land resources,
  - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation,
  - Department of Water resources,
  - Ministry of Panchayati Raj,
  - Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes.
- Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.

### Gutti Koya Tribals

A Forest Range Officer (FRO) was brutally killed allegedly by a group of Gutti Koya Adivasis with axes and sickles over a "podu land" issue in Errabodu forest area in Chandrugonda mandal of Telangana's Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

#### About:

- The Koya population is concentrated in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- The Koyas speak the Koya language, which is a Dravidian language.
- Most important fair celebrated by Koyas is the Sammakka Saralamma Jatra once in two years on full moon day of the Magha Masam (January or February) at Medaram village in Mulug taluk of Warangal district.

### Podu:

- Podu is a form of shifting cultivation, as practiced by various tribal groups in forest areas has for long been an economical survival versus environmental sustenance issue.

### National Gopal Ratna Award

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying recently announced the National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022. The awards to be conferred to winners on National Milk Day (26th November 2022).

### About:

- It is one of the highest National Awards in the field of livestock and dairy sector.
- Its objective is to recognize and encourage all individuals like Farmers rearing indigenous animals, AI Technicians and Dairy cooperative societies / Milk Producer Company / Dairy farmers Producers Organizations working in this sector.
- The Award is conferred in three categories, namely,
- Best Dairy Farmer Rearing Indigenous Cattle/buffalo Breeds,
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and
- Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk Producer Company/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organization).

### Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

- It is a project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development.
- Objective: Developing and conserving indigenous breeds through selective breeding and genetically upgrading 'nondescript' bovine population.
- Launched in:
- Agencies involved:
- It is managed by Department of Animal Health and Husbandry (DAHD).
- It is being implemented through "State Implementing Agencies (SIA) viz Livestock Development Boards.
- .

### The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

Sangeet Natak Akademi selects 102 artists of India for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2019, 2020 & 2021

### About

- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, given to artists below the age of 40 years, was introduced with the objective of

identifying and encouraging outstanding young talents in diverse fields of performing arts and giving them national recognition early in their life.

- The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar carries a purse money of Rs. 25,000/-

### Ustad Bismillah Khan

- The legendary shehnai player, Ustad Bismillah Khan was one of India's most celebrated classical musicians.
- Bismillah Khan has been credited with taking the shehnai from the marriage mandap to the concert hall. He brought Shehnai to the center stage of Indian classical music with his concert in the Calcutta All India Music Conference in 1937.



- He was a recipient of many honors and awards. These include: Padma Vibhushan (1980), Padma Bhushan (1968), Padma Shri (1961), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1956) etc.
- In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan became the third classical musician to be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

### Manipur Sangai Festival

- The Sangai Festival of Manipur begins, it is the largest tourism festival in Manipur.
- The festival is named after the State Animal which is found only in Manipur have been organized grandly this time after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the festival in the last two years.



## 2022 NOVEMBER MONTH QUESTIONS

- 1) Who released the Global TB Report 2022?  
a) WTO  
b) WHO  
c) UNESCO  
d) United Nations
- 2) which state decided to set up cyber intelligence unit?  
a) Madhya Pradesh  
b) Maharashtra  
c) Punjab  
d) Haryana
- 3) 'Bharatiya Bhasha Divas' is celebrated on  
a) December 11  
b) December 12  
c) December 13  
d) December 14
- 4) International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is observed on  
a) November 1  
b) November 2  
c) November 3  
d) November 4
- 5) Ranipur Tiger Reserve is situated in which state?  
a) Uttarakhand  
b) Uttar Pradesh  
c) Andhra Pradesh  
d) Telangana
- 6) Northeast's first fish museum is located in  
a) Assam  
b) Meghalaya  
c) Arunachal Pradesh  
d) Tripura
- 7) Choose the correct answer  
a) Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1956,  
b) Punjab and Haryana were carved out as separate states in 1966  
c) Chhattisgarh was granted statehood in 2002.  
d) all are correct
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ ranks 22nd in Global Prime Cities Index  
a) Mumbai  
b) Chennai  
c) Pune  
d) Hyderabad
- 9) India ranked \_\_\_\_\_ in Network Readiness Index 2022  
a) 60th  
b) 61st  
c) 62nd  
d) 63rd
- 10) India ranked \_\_\_ in the IClimate Change Performance Index 2023  
a) 8th  
b) 9th  
c) 10th  
d) 11th
- 11) According to UN report India Set to Become World's Most Populous Country in the year \_\_\_\_\_  
a) 2025  
b) 2023  
c) 2026  
d) 2028
- 12) State of Food and Agriculture Report 2022 Published by \_\_\_\_\_  
a) UN  
b) WHO  
c) WTO  
d) FAO
- 13) World Food Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_  
a) 15th October  
b) 16th October  
c) 17th October  
d) 18 th October
- 14) FAO was established in the year \_\_\_\_  
a) 1941  
b) 1942  
c) 1943  
d) 1945
- 15) 7th Edition of Amur Falcon Festival Celebrated in \_\_\_\_\_  
a) Manipur  
b) Assam  
c) Tripura  
d) Nagaland
- 16) National Legal Services Day 2022 is observed on  
a) 8th November  
b) 9th November  
c) 10th November  
d) 11th November

**17) World Science Day for Peace and Development observed on**

- a) 8th November
- b) 9th November
- c) 10th November
- d) 11th November

**18) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Education Day is observed annually on November 11 in India.
- 2) In India, National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11 as it marks the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was India's first education minister

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**19) Which state observed 10th November as 'Millet Day' ?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Tamil nadu

**20) World Pneumonia Day observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 12 November
- b) 13 November
- c) 14 November
- d) 15 November

**21) World Diabetes Day observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 12 November
- b) 13 November
- c) 14 November
- d) 15 November

**22) Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2022 celebrates the birth anniversary of \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Birsa Munda
- b) Guru nanak
- c) Guru Gobind Singh
- d) NetajiSubhas Chandra Bose

**23) National Press Day 2022 Observed On \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 16 th November
- b) 17 th November
- c) 18 th November
- d) 19th November

**24) International Day for Tolerance observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 16 th November
- b) 17 th November
- c) 18 th November
- d) 19th November

**25) World Philosophy Day is commemorated on the third \_\_\_\_\_ of November every year.**

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday
- d) Thursday

**26) National Epilepsy Day Observed On \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 16 th November
- b) 17 th November
- c) 18 th November
- d) 19th November

**27) 5th National Naturopathy Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 18 November
- b) 19 November
- c) 20 November
- d) 21 November

**28) World Children's Day 2022 celebrates on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 18 November
- b) 19 November
- c) 20 November
- d) 21 November

**29) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2022 is observed on**

- a) 21st November
- b) 23rd November
- c) 25 th November
- d) 27th November

**30) National Milk Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 23rd November
- b) 25 th November
- c) 27th November
- d) 26th November

**31) White Revolution is related to the production of**

- a) Milk
- b) Meat
- c) Egg
- d) Rice

**32) Red Planet Day is observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) November 27
- b) November 28
- c) November 29
- d) November 30

**33) International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2022 \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) 27 November
- b) 28 November
- c) 29 November
- d) 30 November



**34) Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on**

- a) 27 November
- b) 28 November
- c) 29 November
- d) 30 November

**35) Shaheedi Diwas or Martyrdom Day of 'Guru Tegh Bahadur' observed on \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**36) Consider the following statement**

1. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the GeoSmart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad.
2. Geospatial information has emerged as a key tool for development in the country

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**37) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign,
- 2) It is a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in cyberspace.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**38) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Commission for Women was established on January 31, 1992, under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990,
- 2) Its aim is to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate grievance redress, and advise the government on all policy matters affecting women.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**39) \_\_\_\_\_ becomes the World's Second Largest**

**Producer of Steel.**

- a) China
- b) India
- c) America
- d) Russia

**40) PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit to be held in \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Varanasi
- b) Mumbai
- c) New delhi
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

**41) Consider the following statement**

- 1) National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched "In Our LiFetime" campaign.
- 2) This campaign envisions to recognize youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**42) First Indian woman to win medal at Asian Cup Table Tennis is \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Manika Batra
- b) Sreeja
- c) Ankita das
- d) Neha Agarwal

**43) \_\_\_\_\_ to host Women's World Boxing Championships in 2023**

- a) India
- b) China
- c) Russia
- d) South Korea

**44) India's 1st Integrated Rocket Facility to be Based in \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**45) E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions" authored by \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Nirmala James
- b) Gautaam Borah
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Chandrasekhar

**46) whose birth anniversary is celebrated as the national education day?**

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Madan mohan Malviya
- c) Maulana abul kalam azad
- d) Radhakrishnan

**47) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Tamil Nadu government recently issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- 2) It aims to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage; the government, as recommended by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, has declared Arittapatti a biodiversity heritage site.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**48) Consider the following statement**

- 1) An e-NWR is available only in electronic form.
- 2) The single source of information for the e-NWR is the repository system where e-NWR is issued by registered warehouses.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**49) Consider the following statement**

- 1) WDRA was constituted in 2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.
- 2) It is under the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD).

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**50) Consider the following statement**

- 1) A micro-forest is a small, planted forest that maximises tree density and biodiversity.
- 2) The Miyawaki method, which was devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980s, is a technique to create micro forests over small plots of land.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct

- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**51) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Machchhu is a small river that rises in the Madla Hills and flows 130 km into the Rann of Kutch.
- 2) In 1979, a major tragedy occurred after a dam on the river failed, inundating Morbi town and killing a large number of people.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

**52) Consider the following statement**

- 1) EPFO was established in 1952.
- 2) It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**53) Consider the following statement**

- 1) According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, there should be at least one officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, as CWPO in every station.
- 2) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had requested that a Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city, which is headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, be established

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**54) Consider the following statement**

- 1) According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, there should be at least one officer, not below the rank of an Assistant Sub-Inspector, as CWPO in every station.
- 2) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had requested that a Special Juvenile Police Unit in each district and city, which is headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, be established

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct



- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**55) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Under Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution, a Governor is appointed by the President and holds office “during the pleasure of the President”.
- 2) If this pleasure is withdrawn before completion of the five-year term, the Governor has to step down.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**56) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The National Population Register (NPR) is a register of usual residents of the country.
- 2) It includes both Indian citizens as well as a foreign citizen.

Which of the above statement is are correct

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

**57) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) recently announced setting up the Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF).
- 2) It is a multi-donor trust fund, established with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

which of the above statement is are correct

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

**58) Consider the following statement**

- 1) CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in 2019.
- 2) It is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct

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

**59) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such

form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.

- 2) Article 151 says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**60) Consider the following statement**

- 1) SHAKTI, or Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India, was launched in 2018.
- 2) It aims to provide coal to stressed power units which lack coal supply.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct?

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

**61) Consider the following statement**

- 1) A Greenfield project is a project built from scratch or from ground up and it lacks constraints of prior work.
- 2) In a greenfield project there are no existing buildings or infrastructure, everything is built from scratch ,and in such projects, there is no need to demolish or remodel any existing project.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**62) Consider the following statement**

- 1) National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) recently celebrated the Diamond Jubilee anniversary of its establishment
- 2) It was established by the erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**63) Consider the following statement**

- 1) International Open Access Week is celebrated worldwide to create awareness about the open access scholarly publishing

- among researchers and publishers.
- 2) It is celebrated globally during the last full week of October

Which of the above statement is are correct

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

**64) Consider the following statement**

- 1) CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) has been formed following the merger of CSIR-NISCAIR & CSIR-NISTADS
- 2) CSIR-NIScPR is the one of largest Open Access publishers of India which publishes 15 Diamond Open Access scholarly journals.

Which of the above statement is are correct

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

**65) Consider the following statement**

- 1) It was conceptualized and organized for the first time in 2012.
- 2) It is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**66) As per \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution, there shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President and can be removed from office only in the manner and on the grounds that a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed.**

- a) Article 148
- b) Article 149
- c) Article 150
- d) Article 151

**67) Consider the following statement**

- 1) CAG audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated Fund of each state and UT's having a legislative assembly.
- 2) He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the Contingency Fund and Public Account of each state

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**68) Consider the following statement**

- 1) SHAKTI, or Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India, was launched in 2018.
- 2) It aims to provide coal to stressed power units which lack coal supply

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**69) Consider the following statement**

- 1) International Open Access Week is celebrated worldwide to create awareness about the open access scholarly publishing among researchers and publishers.
- 2) It is celebrated globally during the last full week of October

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**70) Consider the following statement**

- 1) India Water Week was conceptualized and organized for the first time in 2012.
- 2) It is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India

Which of the above statement is are correct

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

**71) \_\_\_\_\_ will be the first 'The International Day for Biosphere Reserves', to be celebrated beginning 2022**

- a) November 3
- b) November 4
- c) November 5
- d) November 6

**72) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) was formed in 1971, as a backbone for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and living in harmony with nature.
- 2) The World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.

Which of the above statement is are correct?



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

**73) Public Service Broadcasting Day was celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) November 12
- b) November 13
- c) November 14
- d) November 15

**74) National Press Day is observed on**

- a) November 13
- b) November 14
- c) November 15
- d) November 16

**75) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission.
- 2) It is a statutory body functioning under the Press Council Act, 1978.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**76) World Fisheries Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**77) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme focused on the development of the fisheries sector and doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
- 2) It is announced as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in May 2020.

which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**78) Consider the following statement**

- 1) National Milk Day is celebrated in India on November 26
- 2) It is celebrated to honour the memory of Dr Verghese Kurien, who is fondly known as the father of the White Revolution.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**79) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Constituent Assembly adopted the present-day Constitution on November 26, 1949 but it was decided that it will come into effect after a gap of almost two months i.e. on January 26, 1950.
- 2) The Constituent Assembly met for two years, eleven months and eighteen days, a total of 166 days, before adopting the Constitution.

Which of the above statement is/ are correct,?

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

**80) The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is observed on**

- a) November 26
- b) November 27
- c) November 28
- d) November 29

**81) International Jaguar Day is observed annually on**

- a) November 26
- b) November 27
- c) November 28
- d) November 29

**82) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The establishment of IN-SPACe was announced in June 2020.
- 2) It is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**83) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Agnibaan is Agnikul's highly customizable, two-stage launch vehicle, capable of taking up to 100 kg payload to orbits around 700 km high (low Earth orbits) and enables plug-and-play configuration.
- 2) Agnilet is the world's first single-piece 3-D printed engine fully designed and manufactured in India and was successfully test-fired in early 2021, making Agnikul the first company in the country to test its engines at ISRO.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

**84) Consider the following statement**

- 1) World's first Intranasal Vaccine iNCOVACC has recently received approval for Covid booster doses from Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- 2) It is developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited.

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**85) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Measles is a highly contagious viral disease.
- 2) It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

**86) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Agni-3 missile was test fired successfully in its second flight in 2007 and then at its third consecutive launch in 2008.
- 2) It has a range of 3,500 km and has the capability of carrying warhead weighing as much as 1.5 tonnes

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**87) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The GSLEP is a first-of-its-kind intergovernmental alliance for the conservation of the snow leopard and its unique ecosystem.
- 2) It is led by the environment ministers of 12 countries in Asia that form the home range of the snow leopard. These are Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

**88) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Gangetic Dolphin is a fresh-water

species, and one of the few river dolphins found in the world.

- 2) It inhabits the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

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Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**90) Consider the following statement**

- 1) The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) is a co-sponsored programme which regularly assesses the status of global climate observations and produces guidance for its improvement.
- 2) It is co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO),

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**91) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Monkeypox is a zoonosis, that is, a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans.
- 2) Cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**92) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Ela Ramesh Bhatt, popularly known as Elaben, a noted Gandhian, leading women's empowerment activist
- 2) She was a renowned founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Which of the above statement is are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct



- d) Neither 1 nor 2 are correct

**93) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Doctrine of lapse was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856.
- 2) According to this, any princely state under the direct or indirect (as a vassal) control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

**94) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted on \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) August 25, 2005
- b) August 15, 2005
- c) January 26, 2005
- d) January 16 2005

**95) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is the government sponsored crop insurance scheme that integrates multiple stakeholders on a single platform.
- 2) PMFBY is a replacement scheme of NAIS / MNAIS, there will be exemption from Service Tax liability of all the services involved in the implementation of the scheme

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**96) Garuda-VII Air Exercise is the military exercise between india and**

- a) France
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Russia
- d) Germany

**97) Yudh Abhyas is the military exercise between india and**

- a) US
- b) France
- c) Russia
- d) Bangladesh

**98) The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's natural wonders and is the largest coral reef on Earth is present in**

- a) Australia
- b) Britain

- c) America

- d) Russia

**99) Consider the following statement**

- 1) Senna spectabilis is an invasive species.
- 2) It is introduced as an ornamental species and for use as firewood from South and Central America

Which of the above statement is are correct?

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

**100) Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Tamil Nadu.**

- a) Nilgiris
- b) Villupuram
- c) Krishnagiri
- d) Dharmapuri

### Answers:

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